

# HAPPY 2010 NEW YEAR

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## Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2009

SPECIAL EDITION VOLUME 3 NO. 52

### Treasures Of Sierra Madre: *Paul and Louise Neiby Chosen as Citizens Of The Year*

Photo and Story by Bill Coburn

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce on Thursday that for the first time, it has named two people as its Citizen(s) of the Year. Dr. Paul Neiby and his wife Louise were chosen to receive the Chamber's 2009 Citizen(s) of the Year award. Chamber president Matt Krantz presented the couple with a bouquet of flowers as the announcement was made by Susan Henderson, a member of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and president of Sierra Madre Kiwanis. The couple were nominated for the Chamber's annual honor by Kiwanis, of which Dr. Neiby is a long-time member and former president. Louise Neiby, while not officially a member of Kiwanis, is also actively involved with the organization. "Paul will sometimes volunteer for things, and then Louise makes it happen" said one Kiwanian, noting that Louise cooks the sausage for the organization's annual pancake breakfast, and the corn bread that is served with the chili annually when Kiwanis provides dinner for the volunteers at the Sierra Madre Rose Float barn during the Rose Float Association's decoration week.

Louise is a member of the Sierra Madre Garden Club, and sits on the Board of Directors of the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society. Dr. Neiby is also active with the Historical Preservation Society and has been described as one of the driving forces behind the Society's recently released history of Sierra Madre titled "Southern California Story: Seeking the Better Life in Sierra Madre" by Michelle Zack, a project that was eight years in the making.

Dr. Neiby is also actively supporting the Kiwanis and Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council's efforts to finance the town's new AM radio station, which will be used to update Sierra Madreans with the latest news and information during emergencies. He sat on the Library Board of Trustees, and spearheaded



the continuation of the Library's Oral History Project after the death of the project's originator Janie Kisstner. Over the last seven years, Neiby has overseen the interviewing of forty local Sierra Madreans of note, creating an important audio archive for local historians. Dr. Neiby also served on the Senior Commission, and enthusiastically supported the renovation of the Hart Park House, used as the town's Senior Center. Dr. Neiby in 2008 received the George Maurer Lifetime Achievement award for his contributions to Sierra Madre.

He received his medical education at the Universities of Iowa and Pennsylvania. In 1961, he joined the Navy and was assigned to Okinawa, prior to the Vietnam War. He was an attending surgery staff member at USC for seventeen years. Louise was also in the medical field, she is a retired nurse.

The announcement was made at the Ramada at a gathering of the couple's friends and members of Sierra Madre Kiwanis. The Ramada is the historic back house on the Neiby property, built in

1931 to enclose the (formerly) outdoor fireplace built by prior property owner Gutzon Borglum, the designer and sculptor of Mt. Rushmore. Dr. Neiby bought the property in 1976, prior to his 1983 marriage to Louise.

The Sierra Madre Chamber has honored a Citizen of the Year annually since 1966. The Neiby's will be feted at the Chamber's annual Citizen of the Year Dinner, which also serves as the Installation Dinner for the incoming Chamber Board of Directors. The dinner will be held in the Chandelier Room at Santa Anita Park on January 29, 2010. Tickets for the dinner are \$60, with a table for ten available at a reduced rate. Dinner will be preceded by a cocktail hour featuring jazz performed by the Mercy Powell Quartet.

For information about the dinner, contact the Chamber at (626) 355-5111 or visit the Chamber's website at [www.SierraMadreChamber.com](http://www.SierraMadreChamber.com) and click on the link to the "What's New" page.

### What A Smile!

#### Frosty Made His Annual Visit To Kersting Court



Photo by Bill Coburn

Once again, the citizens of Sierra Madre were privileged with the presence of Frosty during this holiday season. He came to town despite our hot winter weather and shared his contagious smile with all who laid eyes on him.

Children were delighted that he stopped by, all dressed up in his finest attire.

Before the wind choose to blow dust his way, Frosty was the most pristine,

gorgeous snowman in the entire San Gabriel Valley.

Thanks Frosty, see ya' next year!



Photo by Lina Johnson

### "California Girls" Sailing Soon Sierra Madre Rose Float Association Begins Critical Final Week

As New Year's Day approaches, the final touches are being added to this year's entry to the Rose Parade. The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association is working hard to make "California Girls" the fifth consecutive award winner for the SMRFA. The theme coincides with the Rose Parade's overall theme - "A Cut Above". Captain Chesley Sullenberger, America's Hero will serve as the 2010 Grand Marshal



Since 1917, the Sierra Madre community has been privileged to participate in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade. This year's entry, "California Girls," recognizes the beauty, fun and excitement of the California ocean experience as the float sails down Colorado Blvd on New Year's Day.

The float features a sailboat, 2 windsurfers, and a large sun. The float will be approx. 26 ft. tall, 42 ft. long and 16 ft. wide. The sailboat will ride upon an ocean of over 10,000 irises, roses and carnations. The bow spray will feature white roses and white phalaenopsis orchids. Sailing in the boat there will be 7 "California Girls". The sailboat will heel side to side with the mast matching the movement. 4 dolphins, covered in silver leaf, will frolic alongside the boat. The windsurfers will also be "California Girls". The cresting waves at the rear will feature white Spider Mums and white Dendrobium Orchids. The large sun behind the sailboat will have a corona that has two counter rotating sets of rays. At the rear of the float will be 5 tall stately palm trees, topped with dendrobium and oncidium orchids. Skating around the float will be 12-16 professional roller skaters, again "California Girls". The float will sail down Colorado Blvd. to the music of the Beach Boys, singing "California Girls".

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Princesses will ride on the float. They are: Bassant Ibrahim, a 17 year old senior at Alverno High School. Tiffani Trypucko, a 16 year old junior at Marantha High School. Tracy Sullivan, a 17 year old senior at La Salle High School. Filomena Pirrone, a 17 year old senior at Pasadena High School

#### One Winner Already Chosen:

The Association recently held a raffle to help raise money for the float. The prize...two front row Grandstand Seats and Parking located on Orange Grove Ave, just below Colorado Blvd. for the parade. Van Chu, a supporter of the association purchased the winning tickets and will have some of the best seats in the house on January 1st. The seats and parking were generously donated by Connie Sharp of Sharp Seating.

**Schedule of Events:** "California Girls: Parade Entry Number: 64

First Judging: Wednesday, January 30th @ 10:23AM-Float Barn  
Final Judging: Thursday, January 31st @ 10:23AM-Volleyball Court  
Float Dedication: Thursday, January 31st @ 5:30PM-Float Barn  
Kersting Ct Stopover: Thursday, January 31st @ 6:15PM-Kersting Court  
Rose Parade: Friday, January 1st @ 8AM-Orange Grove Blvd.,  
Post Parade: Friday, January 1st @ 1PM-5PM;  
Saturday & Sunday, January 2&3rd @ 9AM-5PM,  
Sierra Madre Blvd. & Washington, Pasadena (Early Open for Seniors/Handicapped)

California Girls  
Float Display:

Monday, January 4th @ 8AM-5PM-Kersting Court,  
Sierra Madre

### A Truly Meaningful Event: The Sierra Madre Candlelight Walk!

By Craig Hakola

Nearly, Forty years ago two wise visionaries, Pastor Bob VanderZaag and Pastor Richard Anderson "Dick," felt their community deserved a momentous celebration.

Maybe they both saw the beauty in the small towns that had gathered their people together in those many snow filled landscapes, huddling meekly in simple rooms, where a lone fireplace lent its heat. It was not lost on these two Pastors that it was not the splendor of the place that mattered but the people gathering together that created the collective depth to inspire the Spirit of Christmas.

In the Big City, the granting of ones personal space and privacy is considered a social politeness. That is predictable and understandable. It has remained our great fortune that two Pastors understood the Social Contract but also understood the human heart with a perceptive intuition, and so they did not accept the predictable and understandable.

In an age of power grids and lavish displays of electricity, we have not stolen away the charm of candlelight.

It remains eternal in its ability to inspire reverence, ever vigil in touching our heart in its simple and artistic beauty. So it is fitting that the light of a star that once guided Three Magi to a baby. Has been commemorated in a candlelight that guides a community to Christmas.

It has commenced in the same manner for forty years, at the steps of Saint Rita Catholic Church. The silence of the night is broken in the glorious notes of Christmas song. As the gathering people amass at Saint Rita's Church, they begin to light the candles within their hand. For those that wait below at the bottom of the street, the sea of lights begins its slow, picturesque descent down Baldwin Avenue until they arrive at Kersting Court. As scripture passages are read and the notes of Christmas hymns swirl around the nativity scene.

It is exactly as Linus, instructed Charlie Brown on the true meaning of Christmas. For each year two local children become Joseph and Mary and carry the statue of the baby Jesus and place the statue of Jesus in the crèche.



Susan Harrison and Elliot MacIntosh led the candlelight procession as Mary and Joseph, placing the statue of Jesus in the crèche in Kersting Court



Photos By Bill Coburn



New Japanese erasers have arrived!



Drop off a "toys for tots" donation!



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## Weather Wise



## 5-Day Forecast

## Sierra Madre, Ca.

**Mon:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s  
**Tues:** Sunny H 60s Lows 40s  
**Wed:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s  
**Thur:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s  
**Fri:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

The Mount Wilson Trail is now open to the public as of Wednesday, December 23, 2009. Please note the trail is subject to closure due to weather conditions or unforeseen natural occurrences. Please contact the Sierra Madre Police Department at 626-355-1414 for up to date trail status.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	City Council Meeting	Arts Commission Meeting	Barks and Books		Sierra Madre Little League Registration Arts Commission Excursion First day of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Third Thursday Book Club Planning Commission Meeting		Last day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Community Services Commission Meeting Winter Solstice	City Council Meeting	Library Board of Trustees Meeting Tree Advisory Commission Meeting	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31		
				New Year's Eve		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Holiday Decoration Award Judging	Holiday Decoration Award Judging Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Holiday Decoration Award Judging Senior's Holiday Breakfast Planning Commission Meeting	Recreation Commission Meeting Foreign Film Evenings			Breakfast with Santa Holiday Decoration Award Judging Brog About Your Bag First day of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Special Teen Program	City Council Meeting	Santa Squad Visits Tonight	Teen Movie Matinees		Barks & Books Family Fun Days Winter Wonderland Last day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Winter Solstice	Modification Committee Meeting Teen Zone Planning Commission Meeting		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31		
		Teen Zone		New Year's Eve		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
					Holidays in Old Town Starts	How to Thrive (Not Just Survive) During Changing Times
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Golden Age Club Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	Time for Two's Santa Visit Community Services Commission	Munchkin Visit Santa Planning Commission School Board	Blue Star Families	Family Festival	First day of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Santa Tours Monrovia Starts	Teen Gift Workshop	Youth Commission	Monrovia Historic Preservation Group	Family Festival Santa Tours Monrovia Ends	Last day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Golden Age Club Winter Solstice		Historic Preservation Commission	Blue Star Families Library Board Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	First day of Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31		
	Golden Age Club			Holidays in Old Town Ends New Year's Eve		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>December</b>					4	5
						Moonlight Basketball
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Mayor's Youth Council Meeting Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	City Council Meeting Greeting Card Workshop	CDBG Advisory Committee Meeting Santa Visits Beardslee Park			Moonlight Basketball First day of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting	Public Safety Commission Meeting Call Santa				Moonlight Basketball Last day of Hanukkah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Planning Commission Meeting Youth and Family Master Plan Advisory Committee Winter Solstice	City Council Meeting		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Moonlight Basketball First day of Kwanzaa
27	28	29	30	31		
				New Year's Eve		

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MONROVIA'S ROSE LEAF RAGTIME CLUB, will convene on Sunday, December 27, 2009 at the Aztec Hotel's Mayan Restaurant from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. The Aztec Hotel, a marvelous historic building built in 1925, is located at 311 W. Foothill Boulevard in Monrovia, 3 1/2 blocks west of Myrtle. Plenty of free parking at the west side of the hotel. Suggested donation -- \$2.00 (performers are not asked to donate). Ragtime and related types of music, classic and contemporary, played on one or two upright pianos, as well as on other instruments. Attendees are encouraged to support the hotel (which does not charge the club) by partaking of the reasonable all-you-can-eat buffet. Beverages including beer and wine are available for purchase. Performers, listeners and dancers (there's a small dance floor) are always welcome. Call Hal Leavens (626) 359-8648 or Ron Ross (818) 766-2384

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## EVERY DAY IS NEW YEAR'S DAY



Melinda J. Morgan, pictured above, shares her story of tragedy and triumph reminding us that every day is the first day of the rest of our lives.

On March 30, 2007, my life changed forever. For the previous 14 years I had managed recovery houses for men and women addicted to drugs and alcohol. I have a good heart, good intentions but am a lousy business person. Therefore, my houses ran in the red the entire time I ran them. I was always taking in people with no money, and couldn't kick them out when they couldn't help pay for the bills. And so it went. I had been extremely ill for several months with a disease that the doctors could not diagnose. My sister Laurel Wood (of *Treasures, Laurel's Apparel Service*) saw how ill I was and suggested I take one of my residents and my dog, Shadow, and go to her ranch in Morongo Valley, California, near Palm Springs to recuperate. Once there, we decided to use my last \$25 and go to one of their casinos. Since I was ill, my client did the driving. I feel asleep in the passenger side on the way there. The last thing I remember about the whole incident was packing to go while at my house in Simi Valley. The rest is gleaned from police reports and stories from those involved.

Apparently, my client was using drugs, and when the police tried to pull her over for reckless driving she lead them on a high speed chase. She hit a few cars and then rolled the truck. I was thrown 74 feet. I was smashed on the side of the road in the darkness. Thank god for a man who stopped and asked the police, "Where is the passenger? I saw someone frantically trying to get out of the truck." They searched and I was finally found. I was then air-lifted to the Desert Regional Hospital. I had 17 broken bones, they had to remove my spleen and I was sewn together with multiple mechanisms by an incredible group of Surgeons lead by Dr. Frank Ercoli and Orthopedist, Dr. James Bell. I was also in a deep coma. They discovered I had contracted both MRSA and CDIF from picking up clients at prisons and hospitals and personally nursing them back to health. I was told if the accident hadn't killed me the diseases certainly would have.

My family from the East was notified and flew and drove out to arrange for my funeral and burial or, if they were lucky, my continuing care. They were told that if I was to awaken, I would most probably be a vegetable.

I heard that the American Indians I had helped were holding healing circles for me; the Buddhist were chanting for me, the Mormons were praying and all the Christians I had met and helped were praying for me in meetings all over the United States. A miracle happened. I awoke on the seventh day to find Laurel standing beside me. I couldn't see (they'd removed my

contacts), couldn't talk (tracheotomy tube) and was bandaged from throat to feet. I whispered, "Where's the bathroom?" Laurel startled, said, "Do you know me?" I whispered, "Of course! You're Laurel. Where's the bathroom?" She was to say they were the four most beautiful words she'd ever heard.

Once stable enough I was moved to a nursing home. I asked if there were any alcoholics or addicts in the hospital. One nurse told me there was one two doors down, addicted to crystal methamphetamines. I asked her to wheel me over to his room and for 53 days I met with Richard, twice a day and I counseled and held his hand through the process. I also got into the habit of visiting as many of the lonely residents I could on a daily basis, telling jokes and stories and anything else I could think of to lighten their day. I was happy to be alive, but was in pain that my little dog had been lost in the desert. He's a Yorkie, and as his name states was my Shadow ever since I first adopted him. Miraculously, my mother put out ads, put up signs and put a message on the local radio station. I finally got a phone call. Shadow had been found! If you've ever been in the desert, you can attest that this was a miracle.

When I asked the doctors if I would be able to walk again or use my limbs again and how long it would take to heal, they all told me the same thing: They'd never heard of anyone who lived with all the traumas I had sustained.



From left to right: My sisters-Genevieve, Laurel, Mom and me

It has been two and a half years. I was unable to get any kind of aid from any State, City, County or Federal agency. I taught myself how to stand, how to walk, speak, and slowly learned how to use my limbs. Shadow is with me. My mother and father have stayed here in the desert with me to take care of me in all ways. My family has taken turns helping me all along the way. I am so grateful to be alive. It lays heavily on my heart that I am living off of my parents' pension. I also lost my house and my car and most of my possessions. These losses turned out to be totally unimportant to me.

I live each day as if it were my last. I am certainly aware that each day is a gift. I'm surrounded by love and feel such love for everyone. Prayer must play a huge part in my remarkable story. I've never been religious but I have changed in that way too. Someday I hope to work. I hope to become self-supporting and continue to give back. I really want to say thank you. Thank you to everybody for their prayers and good wishes. Every day is a miracle. And every day is New Year's day for me.

By the way, Richard called me on Christmas day. He is still sober! He thinks I had something to do with it but I know, it had nothing to do with me and everything to do with whatever each one of us calls our Higher Power. I wish everyone could be as contented and excited to be alive as I am without having to go through a catastrophe to obtain it. To you all I say, sincerely, Happy New Year!

## Around Monrovia

by Pat Ostrye

### Annual Survivor's Celebration Tea

Editor's Note:

Our beloved Pat suffered an injury that put her arm in a sling, so she won't be able to write her weekly column for the next few editions. We miss you very much Pat, but please don't rush your recovery! We'll be waiting for your return! Get Well and have a very Happy New Year! In the meantime.....An Invitation from Relay For Life Monrovia

Relay For Life of Monrovia invites all cancer survivors to its annual Survivor's Celebration Tea. Whether you are currently fighting your battle, or have been cancer-free, you are a survivor. YOU are the main reason we continue to Relay.

Please join us to begin the New Year by enjoying some entertainment, refreshments and each others company! Relay for Life event also celebrates the many Caregivers who provide countless hours of care and support. So do bring your support group, and invite other survivors to be a part of this informal get together. Tell us about your experiences and be inspired by others'. Learn about programs & services that American Cancer Society provides to support you & your families, meet the Relay for Life of Monrovia committee and have a great time connecting with other survivors.

An important part of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life® is the celebration of nearly 11 million cancer survivors who are alive in the United States today. They show that we are making great strides in our fight against cancer.

Refreshments, cakes and tea/coffee will be provided, while finger foods are being donated by local restaurant Chicken King Express. Yvette Brandy, storyteller from Pasadena, will present entertainment. Yvette was born and raised on the rich storytelling traditions of the Caribbean and has been featured on the National Public Radio's, "Living on Earth", the television talk show, Literary Speak, the Los Angeles Storytelling Festival to name a few.

If you need transportation, have questions or need directions please contact Marie at 626-358-4904 or email her at mametsker@hotmail.com. We look forward to seeing you all there!

What: Survivor's Celebration Tea  
Host: Monrovia Relay for Life 2010  
When: Saturday, January 9, 2010  
Time: 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Where: Monrovia Community Center, 119 W. Palm Ave, Monrovia, CA  
Contact: Marie at 626-358-4904 or mametsker@hotmail.com

## Winter Break Mural



Sierra Madre teens proudly display their work in Kersting Court.

A really wonderful thing happened in Sierra Madre last week that everyone in town should stop by and see.

The Wyland Foundation (as in the world famous marine artist Wyland) and Good Social Network teamed up with the youth of Sierra Madre to paint a beautiful 8 ft. X 20 ft. marine mural on canvas in Kersting Court on December 18th. Many of the kids just got out for their winter break and were excited to do something special. Around 100 kids participated, with a constant stream of about 25 painting at a time. The mural was painted at the intersection of Baldwin Ave. and Sierra Madre Blvd. and caused a bit of a traffic jam. It was a sunny day filled with smiles and creative expression.

The background of the giant 20 ft. X 8 ft. mural was painted by Matt Moran (cofounder of Good Social Network and YAC) and other local artists. (See photo below). The mural will be on permanent display in a prominent area around town (TBD).

Artist Robert Wyland has started a foundation that is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and preserving the world's oceans, waterways, and marine life. The foundation encourages environmental awareness through education programs, life-size public arts projects, and community events.

Good Social Network is a Sierra Madre based social networking website designed to help promote and raise funds for great nonprofit organizations. The online community is comprised of individuals collaborating with one another with the universal goal of helping to make a difference in the world. In addition, the members interact as they would on any other social network. For more information contact: matt@goodsocialnetwork.com



Matt Moran works on the background before the teens get started.

## Where It All Began

### Couple Becomes Engaged At The Site Of Their First Date



When Alexandra Julian walked into Ugo's with her boyfriend Michael Hillman, she had no idea that when she walked out she would be a little heavier. A carat or two heavier in fact! Michael took her to Ugo's where they had their first date prepared to ask for her hand in marriage. Lucky for him, she said yes!

Photo by D.Lee

SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE

JAN 15 - FEB 27

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# Mountain Views News

# Pasadena Altadena

News Form Your Community For Your Community

## County Fire Chief Delay's Retirement



County Fire Chief Michael Freeman has delayed his retirement for one year to ensure that the department continues to provide quality fire service in uncertain financial times.

"This is an early Christmas gift to Los Angeles County," said Supervisor Michael Antonovich. "I am pleased that Chief Freeman will continue to provide strong and effective leadership to our Fire Department for another year."

## Antonovich Calls for Congressional Investigation into Station Fire Delays

Supervisor Michael Antonovich released a statement Monday calling for answers into what he calls the forest service's failure to utilize air support on the station fire.

"Recent press reports indicate that the Forest Service was not forthright in reporting why water-dropping aircraft was not employed in the earliest stage of the Station Fire," said Supervisor Antonovich in a letter to U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein requesting a congressional investigation. "Originally the Forest Service reasoned that mountainous terrain prevented aircraft water drops. However, their logbooks reveal that their own incident commanders repeatedly asked for air support. What's needed is a congressional investigation into the false reports by the Forest Service and its failure to stop the fire before it spread -- taking the lives of two firefighters, burning over 160,000 acres and destroying over 100 homes and structures."

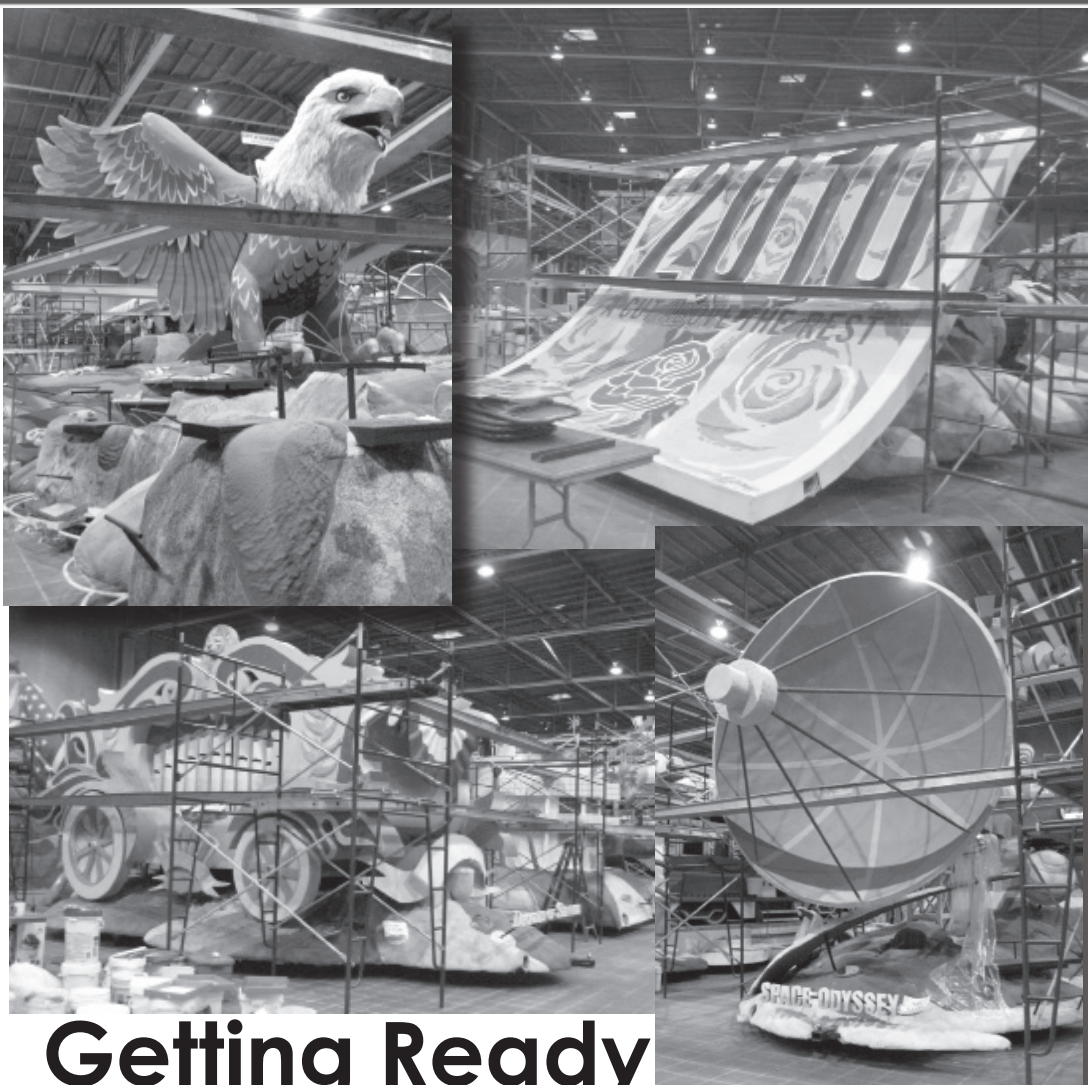
## Pet of the Week



Gabby, a two year old, brown tabby is so much fun! She is outgoing, affectionate, and gets along with other cats. Gabby has a lot of personality and would love a new home for the holidays!

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. Currently, you can adopt two cats or kittens for just \$85.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A258258 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.pasadenahumane.org](http://www.pasadenahumane.org)



## Getting Ready

Float builders spent the last week putting on dry seed and other non perishable decorations getting ready for the final week before the Rose Parade. Hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers will cover the floats with fresh flowers starting December 27 staff from Phoenix Decorating Co. said Wednesday.

Pictured clockwise, an American bald eagle highlights

the City of Glendale's 96th entry. The float is a tribute to those who contribute to the strength of the country on a daily basis – the police officers, fire fighters, educators, medical professionals and members of the military.

The 2010 Theme Float, presented by Wells Fargo with supporting sponsor NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants). With red and yellow roses, the logo unit announces the theme, 2010: A Cut Above

the Rest. A floral space shuttle transports youngsters on a "Space Odyssey" to a fantasy galactic space station as part of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Southern California float. The float's riders are children who have benefited from Ronald McDonald House. The Lions Clubs International's gigantic and colorful calliope is getting ready to entertain parade viewers. This is the group's 24th Tournament of Roses entry.

## PCC Seeks Honorees for California Nisei College Diploma Project

Pasadena City College is seeking honorees as part of the California Nisei College Diploma Project. The aim of the project is to provide honorary degrees to Japanese Americans who were forced into internment camps due to Executive Order 9066 during World War II.

The project is the implementation of AB 37, a bill introduced by Assemblyman Warren Furutani (D-Long Beach), passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The California Community College, California State University and University of California systems are all involved.

PCC seeks to identify former Japanese American students, or family representatives, who



Manzanar, CA, July 3, 1942

are eligible to benefit from AB 37 so that they may be honored during the college's commencement exercises in June. It is estimated that 123 PCC (formerly Pasadena

Junior College) students were affected by Executive Order 9066.

For more information, please visit [www.pasadena.edu/pccnisei/](http://www.pasadena.edu/pccnisei/).

## NCAA Donates \$50,000 for New Football Field



Robinson Park

NCAA Football's Youth Initiative, in conjunction with the Rose Bowl Committee, has donated \$50,000 to the City of Pasadena to build a new football field as part of the plan to upgrade the aging Robinson Park. The revitalization effort also includes a state-of-the-art recreation center, a baseball field and other amenities. To dedicate the new football field, a press conference will be held at the park on Jan. 5, 2010, just two days before the 2010 Citi BCS National Championship game.

Robinson Park, which was part of a 1970s Northwest Pasadena redevelopment effort, was named for Jackie Robinson, who broke

baseball's color barrier in 1947 and grew up just blocks from the public park. It is one of the most heavily used public recreational facilities in the City of Pasadena and is located in one of the City's most densely populated areas. After many years of intense use and evolving community needs, Robinson Park is receiving a facelift. The master redevelopment plan, which was approved in 2002, encompasses approximately 9.5 acres and will cost \$19.5 million.

NCAA Football's donation on behalf of its Youth Initiative is the latest legacy gift awarded to the host city of the BCS National Championship game. Last

year, a donation was made to Miami's Moore Park project, led by the Orange Bowl Committee, and in past years the New Orleans Recreation Department has received funds and support from the Youth Initiative.

"Once complete, the upgrades to Robinson Park will create a revived area for local residents to enjoy sports, build camaraderie and teach sportsmanship to young athletes," said Bob Vecchione – chair, NCAA Football Youth Initiatives Committee. "We are honored to have the opportunity to contribute to such a vital project for the City of Pasadena, and hope that some of NCAA Football's future stars will find their passion for football at the new park."

"The Tournament of Roses is pleased and honored to partner with NCAA Football in arranging this contribution to youth football in Pasadena," said Mitch Dorger – CEO, Tournament of Roses. "We believe strongly in the role youth football can play in developing the business and community leaders of tomorrow, and we congratulate NCAA Football for their initiative in contribution to this import cause. Robinson Park will be a center of leadership development long into the future."

## Rose Parade Fans to Join Industry Professionals in Awarding Float Trophies

The Tournament of Roses announced that Rose Parade fans will join 2010 float judges Jim Coiner, Ann Daly and Christine Knoke in awarding the trophies for the 2010 Rose Parade Float Awards. Together with KTLA, the Tournament of Roses offers the Viewers' Choice Award allowing Rose Parade fans to choose their favorite float from one of the 39 eligible entries. The Viewers' Choice Award is one of 25 awards presented to float participants on behalf of the Tournament of Roses.

Voting for the Viewers' Choice Award will take place online (visit <http://www.tournamentofroses.com/roseparade/viewers-choice-award.asp> for more information) from 10:00 a.m. (PST) to 5:00 p.m. (PST) on January 1. The winner of the award will be announced via press release on the morning of January 2 and will be presented with a trophy the same day during the KTLA evening news at 6:00 p.m.

Video of the Rose Parade in its entirety will also be available on the KTLA website for viewers to relive the Parade or to catch the floats for the first time if they missed it on television.

## Rose Parade Live Stream Colorado/Orange Grove

See the Rose Parade streaming live as if you were there at [roseparadelive.com](http://roseparadelive.com). All the excitement without the hassles, pre parade coverage starts at 6:30 a.m. Parade officially begins 8:00 a.m.

"Thousands of Rose Parade fans from around the world participated in the 2009 Viewers' Choice Award voting. Making the decision of bringing the award back for a second year was an easy one," said Laura Farber, chairperson of the Tournament of Roses Judging Committee. "The award is very special to the float participants given the fact that the judging panel consists of thousands of fans from around the world." Parade fans chose Cal Poly Universities as the winner of the inaugural Viewers' Choice

Award in 2009. The float, themed "Seaside Amusement," was self-built, and received 3,219 votes out of a total of 10,618 votes submitted.

For all awards other than the Viewers' Choice Award, the 2010 Tournament of Roses float judges will have the traditional task of judging the beautiful floats from a professional perspective. The judges' scores are based on criteria such as creative design, floral craftsmanship, artistic merit, computerized animation, thematic interpretation, floral and color presentation and dramatic impact.



## Equestfest to Feature Roses Parade Acts at LA Equestrian Center

Equestfest, an exciting show featuring the 2010 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade equestrian participants, will once again come to life at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center Tuesday, December 29, 2009. The action-packed show provides a rare opportunity to see the Parade's equine acts up close and personal in a wide variety of performances, including many not presented on the parade route.

Equestfest 2009 features Equestrian units which reflect this year's Rose Parade theme "A CUT ABOVE THE REST". New groups this year will include; the Amigos de Anza Equestrian Drill Team, Calizona Appaloosa Horse Club, Giddy Up Gals, Painted Ladies Rodeo Performers, the Region 1 Versatile Arabians and the Western Haflinger Association. We also welcome roping artist and MC, Mr. Montie Montana, Jr.

Equestfest will host an entertaining lineup of equestrian talent from the famous parade, in addition to providing a fun, family-friendly afternoon of exhibits, horsemanship activities, horse petting, music and food. The 2009 show will include roping acts,

jousting demonstrations, high speed precision drill teams, miniature horses, and the ever exciting California Cowgirls who are bringing with them the horse, which recently won the Mountain Valley Extreme Mustang Makeover. Also scheduled to appear are Scripps Miramar Saddlebreds, the ever-popular All-American Cowgirl Chicks Trick Riding Team, the Shire Riders, Medieval Times and the world famous Anheuser-Busch Clydesdales. A special thanks is extended to Equestfest's long-standing supporter Wells Fargo who will display the historical Wells Fargo Stagecoach and more.

Equestfest will be open from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm (rain or shine) at the LA Equestrian Center (12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. special performances in the covered Equidome). Tickets are \$12 per person (children under 5 are free) and can be purchased prior to the show online at [www.sharpseating.com](http://www.sharpseating.com) or by calling (626) 795-4171 or at the Ticket Kiosk the day of the event. The LA Equestrian Center is located at 480 Riverside Drive in Burbank.

There is a parking fee of \$5 per car.

## Healthy Eating With Lynn Griffith

Lynn Griffith of Chefs 4 Your Life will present a culinary educational seminar especially for parents on Thursday, January 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Hastings Branch Library, 3325 E. Orange Grove Blvd.

Don't miss this opportunity to start the year off right and learn; how to put whole food



back into your diet, how to protect your family's health through proper nutrition and how to help your child fall in love with vegetables and more. Call (626) 744-7262 for reservations.



## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, December 13th to Saturday, December 19th, 2009, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to about 300 calls for service.

Sunday, December 13th

11:37 AM – Vehicle Tampering 100 Block Vista Circle Dr. Suspect(s) slashed all four tires on the victim's vehicle that was parked in his driveway. This occurred between 11:00 PM on Saturday, 12-12-2009 and 5:00 AM on Sunday 12-13-2009. Total damage is estimated at \$400.00.

1:03 PM – Petty Theft, 1 Kersting Court. Between 11-23-2009, and 12-09-2009, suspect(s) stole a wooden dreidel and wooden menorah from the Dickens' Village Holiday display. No suspect description is available at this time. Total loss is valued at \$15.00.

Tuesday, December 15th

10:09 PM – Public Intoxication Arrest, 100 Block Esperanza Ave. Officers were dispatched to a burglary in progress call and instead found an intoxicated man in the rear yard. Officers arrested the man for public intoxication and took him to the Pasadena Police Department for remand.

Wednesday, December 16th

10:52 AM – Vandalism, 600 Block East Sierra Madre Blvd. Between 3:45 PM and 6:30 PM on 12-16-2009, suspects vandalized the men's restroom by destroying the privacy partitions and multiple wall tiles. The repair cost is about \$500.00.

12:08 PM – Vandalism, 200 blk. E. Mira Monte (Mt. Wilson Trail Park) Suspects vandalized the men's restrooms between 12-14-2009 and 12-16-2009, by etching obscenities into the mirrors. The repair cost is about \$100.00.

Friday, December 18th

10:09 AM – Vandalism, 200 blk. E. Mira Monte (Mt. Wilson Trail Park) Suspect(s) vandalized the restrooms between 3:30 PM on 12-17-2009, and 10:00 AM on 12-18-2009, by spray painting words and designs on the walls. The repair cost is unknown at this time.

Saturday, December 19th

11:17 AM – Vandalism, 200 Block W. Sierra Madre Blvd. (Memorial Park) Suspects vandalized park restrooms between 6:30 PM on 12-18-2009, and 6:00 AM on 12-19-2009, by spray painting words on the walls and on a trash bin behind the building. Total damage is estimated at \$250.00.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, December 13, through Saturday, December 19, the Police Department responded to 995 calls for service of which 146 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 13:

Shortly after 1:30 p.m., a private person's arrest was made at Macy's. A 33-year-old female Asian was taken into custody for concealing merchandise in her purse and a shopping bag while in a fitting room.

A victim came to the station around 3:00 p.m. to file a fraud report. A bank representative advised that between October 7 and November 3, unknown suspect(s) had accessed the victim's account information, created counterfeit checks, and withdrew over \$377,700.

Monday, December 14:

A traffic stop was initiated at First and Christina around 1:37 a.m. for driving without lights. A 22-year-old male Caucasian driver was contacted and a field sobriety test revealed that he was operating the vehicle while intoxicated and was arrested for DUI.

Units responded to JC Penney around 3:35 p.m. in reference to an employee detained for grand theft. Loss prevention personnel advised that from November 11 through December 12 an 18-year-old male Hispanic employee took over \$2,700 from various cash registers.

Tuesday, December 15:

Around 1:23 p.m., officers were dispatched to Embassy Suites, 211 East Huntington, in regards to a battery that just occurred. The manager advised that a 96-year-old woman was struck in the face multiple times by her caregiver. The 64-year-old female Caucasian suspect complained of health issues and was transported to a hospital for treatment. The elderly victim was taken into adult protective services.

A strong-arm robbery occurred in the 1100 block of West Duarte around 6:19 p.m. A female victim was about to enter her home when two male suspects approached from behind. One suspect grabbed her purse, causing her to fall to the ground, and then both suspects fled on foot. An area search was conducted, but the suspects were not located.

Wednesday, December 16:

Around 5:10 p.m., a victim came to the station to file an embezzlement report. He advised that a business partner had written business checks to himself totaling over \$19,400. The suspect is a 39-year-old Asian.

Officers responded to the 5400 block of Peck around 8:12 a.m. in reference to an assault that occurred around 9:30 p.m. on December 15. The 22-year-old female Caucasian victim advised that during an argument with her boyfriend, he punched her in the mouth, splitting her lip. He then drove her to the hospital to have her lip stitched. A record check of the victim revealed that she had a \$35,000 outstanding warrant and was taken into custody. Units then went to the suspect's

home in El Monte and he was detained. A search of his person revealed a baggie of methamphetamine, and a digital scale and ziplock baggies were found in his vehicle. The 40-year-old Caucasian was arrested for assault, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of narcotics for sale.

Thursday, December 17:

Units were sent to Subway, 100 East Foothill, around 2:26 p.m. regarding an attempted robbery that occurred at 7:30 p.m. on December 16. The victim advised that a male African-American suspect confronted him in the parking lot and asked for money. When the victim indicated that he did not have any cash, the suspect pushed the victim to the ground. The victim was able to get the upper hand and punched the suspect in the face several times. Once the suspect got up, he reached into his waistband and produced a large butcher knife. He waved the knife around and then fled on foot.

Around 11:31 p.m., officers were called to Macy's regarding a theft by an employee. A 23-year-old male African-American assisted a woman in stealing items from the store, and he also took a Bluetooth charger. A private person's arrest was made, and the suspect was taken into custody for embezzlement and grand theft.

Friday, December 18:

Units responded to the 00 block of Christina around 11:00 a.m. on the report of several juveniles loitering and possibly smoking marijuana. Officers detained the juveniles and a bag containing marijuana and pipes were found. Five juveniles were cited for daytime loitering, and a 15-year-old female Caucasian was arrested for possession of marijuana and loitering. After being booked at City jail, she was cited and released.

Around 5:56 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 300 block of Torrey Pines in reference to a child abuse incident that occurred on December 14. A live-in nanny slapped a three-year-old boy in the face for unknown reason, causing redness and swelling. The 46-year-old female Indonesian nanny was asked to leave that night, but the parents wanted the incident documented.

Saturday, December 19:

Shortly after 8:30 a.m., a caller advised that there was a male driver slumped over the steering in the 1200 block of North Santa Anita. Units responded to the location and the driver was seen leaving the area. Officers followed the driver and tried to conduct a traffic stop, but the driver sped away and a pursuit ensued. The driver stopped his vehicle in the 700 block of Country Oaks and fled on foot. A DMV check revealed that the car was a reported stolen, so a perimeter was established and an area search was conducted; however, the suspect was not found.

Between 4:00 a.m. on December 18 and 7:30 a.m. on December 19, a residential burglary occurred in the 00 block of West Floral. Unknown suspect(s) pried open a door, ransacked rooms, and stole a computer monitor and an iPod.

## A Weekly Spotlight on Sierra Madre Volunteers

### Arlie Hahn Volunteer and Everyone's Grandmother

All women living in Sierra Madre want to be like 95-year-old Arlie Hahn when they grow up. She's the super volunteer, talented, and extremely enthused about life in general.

"I'm very fortunate. I've lived a full, wonderful life," she said.

The list of volunteer activities is long and full: PTA at Menlo Avenue Elementary School (treasurer and president), Civilian Defense, block warden; Sunday School teacher, Knox Presbyterian Church; Deaconess, Bethany Church; Band Boosters, Pasadena High School; Red Cross -- Disaster Relief, Blood Banks, troop greetings; Boy Scouts of America; secretary/treasurer, East Pasadena/Sierra Madre Republican Women's Club; secretary of Sierra Madre Woman's Club; secretary of Verdugo/Metropolitan District, California Federated Woman's Clubs; Sierra Madre Garden



Club, hosted "potting parties: for club fundraiser.

Arlie was membership chair and treasurer for Sierra Madre Civic Club, and recording secretary of the 4th VP Federation, 1st VP, Spiritual Values, Huck Finn Day, legislation, attended Civic Club General Meeting on her 50th wedding anniversary, and hosts "Knitting with Arlie" every Friday. When she gave up driving her car, she started the Knitting Club and it thrives today.

Arlie and John Dee Hahn were married May 15, 1934, and were the second couple to move a house into Sierra Madre. "We found a house at the Fairgrounds that needed to be moved. I drove around the area, from Pomona to Sierra Madre, looking for a lot, and I spotted a for-sale sign on a vacant lot in Sierra Madre. We bought the lot and hired a housemover." They were quickly ensconced in this foothill town.

While John worked in the County Clerk's office, she served in Red Cross disaster relief for about 10 years. Arlie was sent to Hawaii when two hurricanes hit the Islands at the same time. The National Guard and FEMA and she (representing the Red Cross) worked on shelter and help for the survivors. After the Landers earthquake, Arlie was located in Big Bear, and in Missouri it was flood disaster relief.

John's health began failing, and Arlie wasn't able to pick and go where the Red Cross needed her, so she resigned. John died in 1994, and a son, Robert, died five weeks later.

Before John's death, both he and Arlie were

honored as Sierra Madre Older Americans of the Year by the County Commission on Aging.

She had her first heart bypass surgery in 1980, her second in 1984, and her third in 1997, for a total of 12 bypasses. She has also had carotid surgery and a shoulder replacement.

The Sierra Madrean was born on Dec. 21, 1914. She was sales clerk at Woolworth's and was in the gift wrapping department at Bullocks and Broadway. In 1970 she was product demonstrator for Cool 'n' Creamy Pudding and for Scarf Clips. She also demonstrated food products in local grocery stores and jewelry in department stores throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

In reviewing her life, the Sierra Madre woman said she met Prince Charles of England at the Page Museum dedication. He patted her shoulder and said, "Good going, Mama." She also met Presidents Harry Truman, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan.

The Sierra Madrean's children include Margaret Switzer and Charlie Hahn of Sierra Madre, Dr. Beth Hahn of Santa Monica, and Winnie Westberg of Placentia.

Arlie Hahn has 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. A 15th great-grandchild will be born in 2010.

"I'm a volunteer advocate," she said. "People who don't get involved lead a sad life."

Arlie Hahn is everyone's grandmother. And she likes the role.



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## National Honor Society Adds Sixteen From Alverno



Featured in the above photo: Back row - Melissa Miranda, Julia Morreale, Emily Near, Annemarie Norton, Karisha Quioque, Lillya Roldan, Sascha Rosemond, Nicole Salvador. Front row - Miranda Akkari, Julie Bailey, Kristina Cortez, Djanelle Estacion, Bassant Ibrahim, Liliana Jacobs, Marissa Jones, and Karineh Minissian.

(Sierra Madre) At a school-wide ceremony, sixteen students from Alverno High School were inducted into the National Honor Society, one of the oldest and most prestigious national organizations for high school students.

New members are selected by a faculty council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Students with qualifying grades must also complete a

detailed application. The new NHS members are: Miranda Akkari, Julie Bailey, Lena Carino, Kristina Cortez, Djanelle Estacion, Megan Hofilena, Bassant Ibrahim, Liliana Jacobs, Marissa Jones, Karineh Minissian, Melissa Miranda, Julia Morreale, Emily Near, Annemarie Norton, Karisha Quioque, Lillya Roldan, Sascha Rosemond, and Nicole Salvador.

National Honor Society mem-

bers are chosen for their exemplary contributions to school and community, says Chapter advisor Sandy Bogan. "These are the girls we believe will continue to these contributions not only throughout high school, but throughout their lives." She also praised NHS members for their recent work bell ringing for the Salvation Army.

Congratulations to all these young women for the contributions they are making to our

world.

Alverno High School is the independent, Catholic college-prep high school for girls in Sierra Madre. Its college-prep curriculum and emphasis on leadership attracts students from public and private schools throughout the San Gabriel Valley. The school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of preparing young women for the future with a series of events during the 2010-2011 school year.

## PUSD SET TO ELIMINATE \$21 MILLION FROM BUDGET

Pasadena, CA - Facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis caused by a catastrophic reduction of state funding for public schools, the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education acted on a fiscal stabilization plan on Tuesday that includes approximately \$21 million in reductions to the general fund, which pays for salaries, supplies, and most services. The Board approved the preliminary plan in order to fulfill its obligation to submit a two-year balanced budget to the Los Angeles County Office of Education by December 15, 2009.

"The substantial loss in state revenue will affect every person in the PUSD system, from children and teachers in the classroom to the personnel that makes sure that schools function opti-

mally," said Board of Education President Tom Selinske. "While we will make every effort to minimize the impact on student achievement, core programs and personnel, the state's ongoing fiscal instability still poses a significant financial threat."

Difficult reductions in staff, programs, and activities are inevitable in the face of a \$20 million budget deficit for PUSD over the next two years. Cuts in state funding have caused school districts throughout California to lay off teachers and other employees, increase class size and trim arts, music and athletic programs.

Also at Tuesday's meeting, three of the four groups who represent District employees stepped forward to save jobs and preserve rising student achievement by agreeing, in

concept, to support five furlough days in 2010-11.

"We recognize the fiscal concerns of our budget gap and the need for immediate action," said California School Employees Association President Rosemarie Riley. "We agree in concept to five unpaid furlough days, but ask that these be spread over multiple pay periods in order to minimize the impact on our employees."

CSEA represents approximately 500 instructional aides, school secretaries and receptionists, and health clerks in PUSD.

"If it helps to decrease layoffs and preserve the current upward momentum of student achievement, then we agree to five unpaid furlough days," said Kathy Onoye, PUSD's Executive Director of Elementary Instruction,

and representative of the Association of Pasadena School Administrators. "Our concern as educators is that severe cuts will eliminate academic programs, reduce staff and have a negative impact on student achievement."

APSA represents 170 managers, administrators and coordinators, most of whom are teachers who have moved into leadership positions.

"A solid majority of our members is in support of the furlough concept to save jobs. This says a lot about the people that work here and are committed to this district. They care about one another and they care about the kids, so they're willing to make a shared sacrifice," said Ray Whitmer of the Teamsters, representing maintenance, operations and food service employees.

## FIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS PASADENA SHOWCASE HOUSE GRANT

The Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) announced today that Eugene Field Elementary School is the recipient of a grant from the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts to help fund the school's "Teaching Jazz to Kids" program. Blair IB School and Don Benito Fundamental also received Showcase House grants this year. The PSHA awards gifts and grants to schools to support musically oriented programs, including music education and the underwriting of concerts.

"Our students had an amazing learning experience during this program," said AnaMaria (Ria) Apodaca, principal of Field Elementary. "They not only learned the elements of jazz music but were able to hear the elements performed live and see the passion of the musicians. Our kids were engaged and inspired."

Field Elementary's "Teaching Kids How Jazz Works" program serves 160 students in grades four through six during school; seven children participated in a guitar class after school. The program provides students a rare opportunity to experience and learn about jazz music with the help of professional musicians. Children learn about instrumentation, swing vs. Latin rhythm, improvisation and scales, composition and arranging, and a career in jazz music. Field's grant totals \$10,000.

Blair IB School was also awarded a grant to help stage its annual "Ovations" musical showcase. Don Benito Fundamental School's PTA also won an award to support the school's choral music program.

Since its founding in 1948, the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts has donated over \$17 million to the musical arts.

"We always look forward to hearing from former recipients as well as learning about new musical programs in our community," said Phyllis Wilburn, this year's Gifts and Grants chairman. "Our ultimate goal is to fund programs that help enrich the lives and touch the hearts and minds of our community."

## 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. Vannasdal

### 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](http://www.barnhartschool.com)

### Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl  
E-mail address: jml@bcsclions.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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

### High Point Academy

1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
626-798-8989

website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

### LaSalle High School

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

### Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
(626) 471-2000, email: [schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.odysseycharterschool.org)

### Pasadena High School

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

### Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 795-6981 website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

### Pasadena Unified School District

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## TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

### The Happiest Of Holidays To You All!!

I hope that you were able to spend valuable time during Christmas with your family and friends. Next up on the calendar, The New Year! I think time is speeding up on me.

One of my favorite subjects is joyfully known as "Bubbly." I do not wish to be a referee with zebra stripes but I think it is important to discover some of the more intriguing historical elements of the liquid that tingles within our glass upon the stroke of midnight. There is a difference between "Champagne" and "Sparkling Wine." Champagne is a distinct region in France and by strict French Law, only grapes grown and produced in the region can be called Champagne. Many states and countries produce a sparkling wine using very similar methods as the French. In California the procedure is called, "Championne Method." In Spain they call it *Cava*, and South Africa uses *Cap classique*. An Italian sparkling wine is called Asti. In Germany, *Sekt* is a common sparkling wine. Other French wine regions cannot use the name Champagne, i.e. *Burgundy* and *Alsace* produce *Crémant*. Sparkling wines mislabeled Champagne can be and are often seized and destroyed by legal authorities.

How did this wonderful bottle of Bubbly come into our world? Most believe that the monks of France developed and began the process some four hundred years ago. It appears that these guys have a lot of free time on their hands. Like some many of our greatest discoveries, Champagne was actually a mistake. Can you believe that! Most wines were drunk very early, but some were transported long distances and through the journey, the casks would warm and set off a secondary fermentation. A strange bubbling would be noticed when these casks were opened. Dom Perignon gets the credit for one of the first successful deliberate capture of the "mousse" in a bottle. Since then many a ship have set sail and many weddings have started and ended with Champagne. Here are a few of the funnier quotes I found...

- "I only drink Champagne when I'm happy, and when I'm sad. Sometimes I drink it when I'm alone. When I have company, I consider it obligatory. I trifle with it if I am not hungry and drink it when I am. Otherwise I never touch it - unless I'm thirsty." (Lily Bollinger)
- "I drink Champagne when I win, to celebrate . . . and I drink Champagne when I lose, to console myself." (Napoleon Bonaparte)
- "In victory we deserve it, in defeat we need it." (Winston Churchill)
- "Champagne makes you feel like it's Sunday and better days are just around the corner." (Marlene Dietrich)
- "My only regret in life is that I did not drink more Champagne." (John Maynard Keynes)
- "Champagne is the only wine that leaves a woman beautiful after drinking it." (Madame De Pompadour)
- "Three be the things I shall never attain: envy, content and sufficient Champagne." (Dorothy Parker)

So, if this has got you in the mood for bubbly, I can't blame you. In fact, I toast you!! Drink responsibly! Wear eye protection if you insist on letting the kiddies rocket the cork with a bottle opening! Come join me this Tuesday at Pop Champagne Bar for a night of Bubbly!! Reservations required. Email me [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com) for further information. Thanks to Google for helping me research this.

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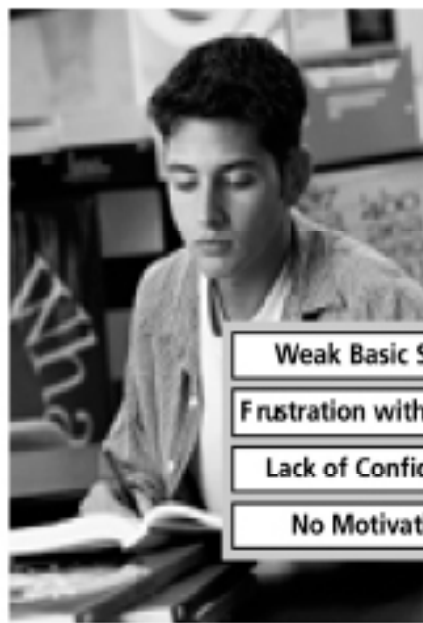
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Current work includes writing the column, "Looking Up with Bob Eklund," in Mountain Views News, and writing newsletters for the Mount Wilson Observatory. I recently published a book, First Star I See Tonight: an Exploration of Wonder, and am finishing a second book, Winds Aloft.

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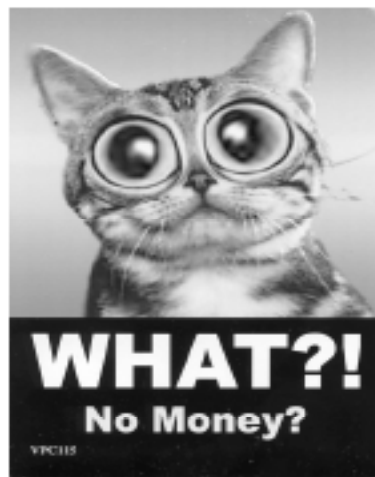
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**Mountain Views News Mission Statement**  
The traditions of the community newspaper and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

## HAIL Hamilton



not one thing on my wish list has been accomplished. You inaction has only make matters worse. But like a good parent trying to correct a wayward child, I thought I'd take this opportunity to repeat my recommendations in the form of a list of New Year's resolutions.

- Create WPA-style jobs program with the \$200 billion TARP savings. Priming the pump with public works jobs will go farther than anything else to fill the more than \$3 trillion hole in our economy. These public works jobs should be used to rebuild our decaying infrastructure, relieve financial strapped state and local governments, and school districts. Moreover, what economists

Mr. Obama, two months after you were sworn in as our 44th president, I wrote an editorial recommending a "wish list" of actions that should be taken in your first year in office. It's now been nearly a year and

call the "multiplier effect" will create private-sector jobs as these public employees spend their incomes buying goods and services in the private sector.

- End the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan now—redirecting money from one failed state to another is money that could be better spent at elsewhere. Moreover, the whole Global War on Terror should be reevaluated. The current tactics and strategies are not working. The proposed 30,000 troop "surge" in Afghanistan is doomed to failure. Al Qaida and the Taliban are in Pakistan, not Afghanistan, and are more emboldened than ever. Furthermore, by stretching our military so thinly abroad, we are limiting our resources to defend the nation at home and abroad against other threats.

- Charge, try, sentence, or release all "enemy combatants". And this should be done in federal court with all the safeguards the Constitution and federal law provides. Those that are guilty of plotting against the United States should be incarcerated in federal prison or executed. Those that are not guilty should be immediately released

## STUART Tolchin On...LIFE



No, I don't think it's just the Health Care Bill that's the cause but lately thinking about America is making me sick, When George W. Bush was President it just felt like a bad dream. Evil, uncaring rich people had stolen one or two elections and had temporarily seized power and plundered the nation. I knew that after they stole everything they could steal they would lose interest and their party of evil would collapse and things would be put back together and we all would have learned a lesson that in the end would result in a better nation. Hooray let the good times roll!

Well the good times aren't rolling. Obama the peace candidate, may have inspired the world and even won a Nobel Peace Prize based upon his rhetoric, but, as he said himself, he's deeply involved in running two wars. The war in Afghanistan is particularly irksome because it seems based upon the fact that we just don't like the way the Taliban runs the country. The rights of women are completely ignored and there is no freedom or civil liberties. First of all I am old enough to remember when segregation and sexism were the de facto laws of this country. Really it wasn't so long ago and I doubt that many Americans in the 1960's would have welcomed a foreign invasion demanding freedom

for minorities and women. Really that's not the point. I

know that we are not in Afghanistan in order to improve the lives of the Afghanistans and I know that we are not in Iraq to improve the lives of Iraqis. Why are we there then? Is it for economic reasons? If this is the truth it is probably too despicable a truth to share with the public that might take exception to the unnecessary killing of thousands, tens of thousands, of innocent people in order to raise the Dow Jones Average.

The major justification for government, as I understand it, is the need for personal security. We all kind of agree to give up certain freedom of action and to follow rules in exchange for promises by our rulers that they will keep us safe. In fact, it's okay with us to not know the truth as long as we know that we are being kept safe. This sounds pretty simplistic but political science was my major at one of the best schools in the country (at least that's what they told us) and I got all A's repeating this kind of stuff. So why don't I feel safe?

No it's not just 911; although it's kind of amazing that a few guys could hijack a couple of planes and threaten a whole country. No it's not just that we can't find, CAN'T FIND. Bin Laden after eight years. No it's not just that we were all so fooled by Enron and Bernie Madoff and Tiger Wood. No it's not just that we don't know how that couple snuck into the White House Dinner and it's not just that we aren't sure who killed

# New Year's Resolutions for President Obama

and sent home. Guantanamo Bay and all the other US-sponsored "detention camps" should be closed down. Their very existence is a black mark on our name as a free nation and leader of the free world.

- Repeal the Patriot Act and throw it on the junk-heap of history where it belongs. There is no place for such draconian measures in a free society. It doesn't matter what the crisis may be, the Bill of Rights is the great bulwark against tyranny. It also doesn't matter that past presidents have tried to elude the Constitution while "defending" the nation; the oath they take upon becoming president is to "preserve, protect and defend" the Constitution, not to circumvent it.

- Strictly enforce Federal and international laws against committing war crimes and crimes against humanity. Anyone in the previous administration, regardless of their rank, who ordered, encouraged or in any way condoned the use of torture against persons in the custody of the United States or held overseas at our request should be investigated and prosecuted to

the full extent of the law. I would begin with George Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, John Ashcroft, and Alberto Gonzalez.

- Make access to state of the art health care a right for all Americans. This means Americans need a vigorous "public option" to compete with private insurance companies. It also means expanding Medicare to those 55 to 65 years old. Make private insurance companies compete for the health care dollar. The cost of a public option and the added Medicare costs could be paid with the added value tax like is done in Canada, Europe and Japan. Quality healthcare is just too expensive and access too limited to continue with the current system.

Oh, one more resolution you might consider: Promise your wife a new wardrobe for her travels. Seeing her jump off Air Force One in shorts and a tank top maybe ok for some going to the beach but it certainly isn't befitting the First Lady of the United States visiting other countries on our behalf.

# I Feel Sick to My Stomach

JFK or RFK, or MLK, or Marilyn Monroe, or Anna Nicole Smith, or Michael Jackson or anyone. The only

thing most Americans are sure about is that OJ killed his wife and Ron Goldman and was found not-guilty. How come the fall of the Soviet Union was such a surprise and how could the Democrats have nominated a spiteful small person like Joe Lieberman to be Vice-President. I guess the same way they nominated John Edwards, currently admitted lying father of a love-child. Remember when we all believed that security in Washington was so tight that it was impossible to believe that an unsophisticated intern could ever get close enough to a President to seduce him. Really it's no surprise that our system is so dysfunctional that an effective health bill cannot be passed, or that California State government is such a mess and that unemployment is still rising and that a college education is becoming unaffordable to all but the children of the very rich.

I'm afraid it's the Emperor's New Clothes all over again and I don't think that Sara Palin will be the child who will bring us back to common sense. It looks like we are all naked and about to realize that if we don't get some clothes on we are all going to freeze or more likely be imperiled by global warming and other complicated problems brought on by our own selfishness and ignorance. All right—ready for a big ending—I don't have one; I'm just scared and I think you should be too.

## HOWARD Hays As I See It



Columns like this one, and the one to the right, are usually and unavoidably depressing - often intentionally so. They're meant to draw attention to problems, predicaments and perversions afflicting our community, country and the world we live in. When dealing with our leaders, the focus is more often on failings than on accomplishments. We bring attention to wars, corruption, irrational ideologies and the dishonesty and venality found at all levels of political, social and economic institutions. This is done in the hopes of raising enough concern to inspire curiosity, reflection and ultimately discussion and involvement. A column based on the premise that everything is fine and bound to get better would be unlikely to accomplish that. I'm approaching this week's column, though, feeling upbeat and optimistic.

A couple of weeks ago my wife and I attended two graduation ceremonies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Spending time in Boulder, a captivating town beneath the Rocky Mountain foothills, in itself is enough to make anyone upbeat. (Sort of like Sierra Madre, but not within driving distance of the beach.) We met up with a couple who are very close family friends. Although they live just across the Michillinda border, for all the occasions sharing good times at Lozano's, Ugo's and 322, and regular attendance at Fourth of July and Pioneer Days events, they could be considered de facto Sierra Madreans.

The four of us, along with our son, attended their son's graduation from the University's Leeds School of Business. In the main graduation address, the comment was made that these graduates are entering the business world under circumstances neither of their making nor of their choosing - that of a painfully slow emergence from the worst global economic collapse in eighty years. Such a depressing observation might be expected to elicit varying degrees of disillusion and discouragement, but among those receiving their diplomas that night it clearly had the opposite effect. Rather than difficulties to be feared, there were challenges to be relished. I'm sure they spent ample class time hearing how their elders had screwed things up, and while listening were no doubt thinking of all the ways they would do things better. Despite all the stereotypes, these were business school graduates who seemed no more concerned with the size of their potential salaries than with the size of the contributions they could make in helping to get us, and to keep us, on the right track towards a prosperity beyond anything we'd seen before. Regardless of uncertainties and seemingly long odds, there was a palpable eagerness to head out and show the world what they themselves were capable of.

The next morning, we attended the graduation ceremony where our son

# Left Turn / Right Turn

GREG Welborn

## A Christmas Story



When we think about Christmas, a fairly idyllic scene probably comes to mind. We might imagine a small-town main street recently dusted by

snow and quaintly decorated with lights, wreaths and garland, or we might imagine a more crowded major city center overwhelmingly decorated with a larger-than-life Christmas tree. People hurry about, but they are friendly, smiling at one another. It's easy to see that the Christmas spirit is alive and well. But this year with a war raging, the economy in turmoil, unemployment growing and foreclosures accelerating, many people are finding the Christmas spirit more elusive. I want to again dedicate this week's article to those who are hurting and to the rest of us - their neighbors and friends - to remind us all that Christmas is a time for joy even when the landscape seems dark and hopeless.

I would like to share a story from a Christmas season long ago which was also buffeted by turmoil. A very costly, and seemingly endless, war raged on, and the country's very survival was in question. It was also a time of scandal, and the economy limped along. The occasions for joy seemed few and far between.

The year was 1863, the civil war was in full carnage, it had badly impacted the economy, and it had already cost hundreds of thousands their lives, maimed even more, and the end was not yet in sight. Casualties were reported in the newspapers, but it had gotten to the point where most people took in the information with little outward emotion. So many deaths had been reported that people had grown jaded. It was only when they learned that their own son, brother or father was among the dead that the news truly struck with the horror it deserved.

It was just such news of personal tragedy that struck a middle-aged poet who had already lost a wife merely two years before. He was already well on his way to cynicism, having not yet finished mourning his first loss. Now on this cold December morning he had to face the prospect of losing his son, whom he had learned was gravely wounded at the front. This poet had loved his wife and son dearly. They were the center of his life, the very reason for his life, or so it seemed to him.

Not unlike the rest of us I imagine, this widower and father was shaken to his core. With the people he loved most gone, he asked himself what was the point of life. Where was there a reason to believe in goodness? How could he embrace his faith or take solace from it when so much pain had already crossed his path and still more seemed ready to envelope him? We

can scarcely blame Henry Wadsworth Longfellow that an early stanza of the poem he wrote that day took a solemn and depressed tone.

"And in despair I bowed my head: 'There is no peace on earth,' I said, 'For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth, good-will to men'".

Had the poem continued in that vein, it is doubtful we would remember it today. It might even have ended his career so deep was the darkness that he began expressing in verse. But if hatred, self-pity, and depression gripped him, they did not last for long. Something else filled his heart that day. It may have started with the vagueness of a long-forgotten memory fighting for recognition, but soon it had sufficient strength to lift his spirits and remind him of the central promise of his faith and most specifically of the Christmas season in which he found himself.

As our poet heard the bells ringing that Christmas day, he remembered that God Himself had experienced great loss. God had given a son of His own. God also had suffered previous loss in the separation from the people He had created and loved dearly. Mankind's sin had caused that separation. It was our responsibility to repair it and atone for it, but it was an impossible task, so great was the void. Instead, God chose to sacrifice more, to give up a son who would take on that sin and die for it. The price was paid. God provided the atonement. He gave up His son in order to reclaim relationship with us.

Our poet remembered that God's spirit could dwell within us, and that with it we could never be defeated. Even during the darkest of times, we could stand fast in the face of great human evil, knowing that the ultimate battle had already been won, and good would ultimately triumph.

In the darkest moment of his life, God's promise offered Henry Wadsworth Longfellow hope and strength far surpassing anything he or any of us could muster on our own. So with a renewed spirit, his faith encouraged him to persevere, and our poet continued.

"Then peeled the bells more loud and deep: 'God is not dead: nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men'. Till ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men!"

Today, more than 135 years later, we find ourselves in another war whose end is not yet in sight. We face a struggling economy, and many have lost their jobs. Some readers may be facing personal loss in their lives as I have in Christmases past. I am sure that there is ample human reason for sadness and cynicism right now, and I know that it *(continued on page 11)*







## Looking Up with Bob Eklund

### A Glint of Sunshine on a Very Distant Lake



NASA's Cassini spacecraft has captured the first flash of sunlight reflected off a lake on Saturn's moon Titan, confirming the presence of liquid on the part of the moon dotted with many large, lake-shaped basins.

Cassini scientists had been looking for the glint, also known as a specular reflection, ever since the spacecraft began orbiting Saturn in 2004. But Saturn's northern hemisphere, which has more lakes than the southern hemisphere, has been veiled in winter darkness for several years. The Sun only began to directly illuminate the northern lakes recently as it approached the equinox of August 2008, the start of spring in Titan's northern hemisphere. Its hazy atmosphere also blocked out reflections of sunlight in most wavelengths. This serendipitous image was captured on July 8, 2009, using Cassini's visual and infrared mapping spectrometer.

"This one image communicates so much about Titan—thick atmosphere, surface lakes, and an 'otherworldliness,'" said Bob Pappalardo, Cassini project scientist, based at JPL. "It's an unsettling combination of strangeness yet similarity

to Earth. This picture is one of Cassini's iconic images."

Titan, Saturn's largest moon, has captivated scientists because of its many similarities to Earth. Scientists have theorized for 20 years that Titan's cold surface hosts seas or lakes of liquid hydrocarbons, making it the only planetary body in the Solar System besides Earth believed to harbor liquid on its surface. While data from Cassini have not indicated any vast seas, they have revealed large lakes near Titan's north and south poles.

In 2008, Cassini scientists using infrared data confirmed the presence of liquid in Ontario Lacus, the largest lake in Titan's southern hemisphere. But they were still looking for the smoking gun to confirm liquid in the northern hemisphere, where lakes are also larger.

Katrin Stephan, of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) in Berlin, an associate member of the Cassini visual and infrared mapping spectrometer team, was processing the initial image and was the first to see the glint on July 10, 2009.

"I was instantly excited because the glint reminded me

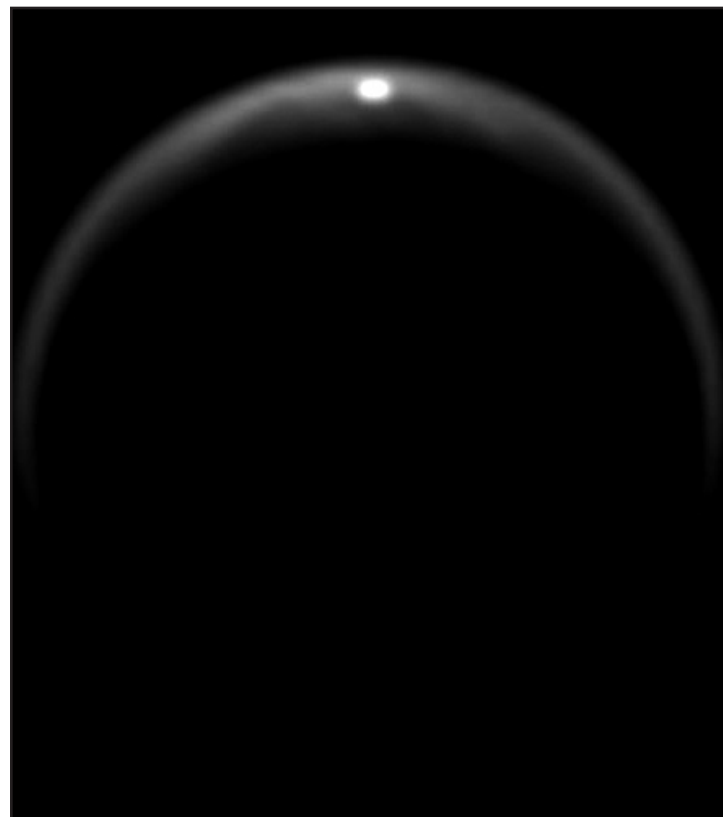
of an image of our own planet taken from orbit around Earth, showing a reflection of sunlight on an ocean," Stephan said. "But we also had to do more work to make sure the glint we were seeing wasn't lightning or an erupting volcano."

Team members at the University of Arizona, Tucson, processed the image further, and scientists were able to compare the new image to radar and near-infrared images acquired from 2006 to 2008.

They were able to correlate the reflection to the southern shoreline of a lake called Kraken Mare. The sprawling Kraken Mare covers about 150,000 square miles, an area larger than the Caspian Sea (the largest lake on Earth).

"The finding shows that the shoreline of Kraken Mare has been stable over the last three years and that Titan has an ongoing hydrological cycle that brings liquids to the surface," said Ralf Jaumann, who leads the scientists in Berlin who work on Cassini. But in this case, the liquid is methane (commonly known as natural gas) rather than water.

You can contact Bob Eklund at: [beklund@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:beklund@MtnViewsNews.com)



### On Line

By PJ Carpenter

### BlackBerry and the 5 9's: A Perspective

For the second time in a week, users of the popular RIM BlackBerry were subjected to a service outage which for all practical purposes turned their expensive handsets into an annoying reminder of just how dependent upon the service they've become. Today's modern e-services consumer has little patience for downtime and even the slightest interruption of service has the potential to unleash a backlash that may cost the business lost revenue or at least subject them to the wrath of customers. This wrath most often comes in the form of unending public analysis and criticism online and in other media. If the offending entity is lucky all of this unpleasantness will only result in a bruised ego and maybe a hit to the reputation that time and distance from the scene of the crime will

hopefully make all better for all concerned. Whatever the outcome, outages bring the subject of service reliability into public view in a way not normally experienced in the consumer arena. Normally things work. They work all of the time or close enough to all of the time to where we don't notice too closely when they don't. In the world of Online Service Provision and the accompanying Networking Technologies support, outages come in two varieties. The first type is called a Planned Outage and this type is what is normally experienced when certain types of maintenance activities need to be carried out in order to ensure the smooth and continuous operation of the service provided. During planned outages, any hardware or software upgrades that need to be carried out are implemented at this time and service is usually restored in a timely manner. Customers are usually alerted to planned outages in advance and they are typically scheduled during off-peak hours so service is less likely to be missed.

the last week.

The gold standard in datacenter services availability is called the "5 9's" or 99.999% uptime. In English, 99.999% uptime is translated into service downtime of 5.26 minutes per year (or 25.9 seconds downtime in a month or 6.05 seconds in a week). It is a very high standard and few, if any, large service providers ever reach it. This measurement only (usually) covers unplanned outage time and doesn't take into account planned, publicized outages, regardless of length. According to the web site "Site Uptime" ([www.siteuptime.com](http://www.siteuptime.com)) the RIM BlackBerry server has an uptime of 99.895% for the month of December 2009, including the two unplanned outages that occurred within the last week. This translates to 86.23 minutes for this month. These stats were for the main west coast server and do not reflect total uptime for the entire BlackBerry system. The uptime statistics for this particular server are exemplary and for the entire year the BlackBerry West Coast reported an uptime of 99.976% or down time of 8.76 hours for the year. Total downtime, including planned outages, is not reported so we have no publicly available accurate measure of total down time for the BlackBerry system. Any creative accounting that would move downtime incurred as a result of unplanned downtime to the planned downtime column would also skew any accurate measurement of true service availability.

The main point of all this number parsing is to point out the disparity between actual system downtime and experienced system downtime. Much like what is known as the Wind Chill Factor, system outages often feel to the end user much worse than they actually are.

### WRITING SERVICES

Could you use help in preparing written communications for your business? I have extensive experience in writing and editing business documents including brochures, proposals, newsletters, resumes, customer success stories, press releases, and articles for newspapers and magazines.

Current work includes writing the column, "Looking Up with Bob Eklund," in Mountain Views News, and writing newsletters for the Mount Wilson Observatory. I recently published a book, First Star I See Tonight: an Exploration of Wonder, and am finishing a second book, Winds Aloft.

For writing samples and resume, see my web site: [www.bobeklund.com](http://www.bobeklund.com).  
Bob Eklund [beklund@sprynet.com](mailto:beklund@sprynet.com) (310) 216-5947

### "In My Father's Footsteps"



Great news! Our savior has been born! Now what? Come hear Youth Director Paul Blakesley explore Luke 2:40-52 - the story of the boy Jesus at the Temple - and get a taste of what is about to come.

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### SIERRA MADRE

#### Committee Vacancies

The City of Sierra Madre's Community Services Commission is looking for three motivated, enthusiastic, creative, and friendly volunteers to serve on the City's Ad Hoc Transit Committee and SMTV3 Committee (2 vacancies for the SMTV3 Committee and 3 vacancies for the Ad Hoc Transit Committee). The

City welcomes any interested residents to apply. Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2009. Submit applications to the Community & Personnel Services Department at the Community Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Boulevard. For an application, please visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com) look for commission/committee applications. For more information please call (626) 355-5278.

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WELBORN ( continued from page 9)  
is easy to wallow in it. It is easy to see ourselves the victim and to think that the darkness which surrounds us will not end.

But I am reminded of Longfellow's message that God is not dead, and he does not sleep. He cares for us deeply, has walked where we walk, suffered what we suffer. He offers us His undying love and to walk with us into the shadow of the valley of death. He offers us a reason to celebrate this Christmas no matter the course of our earthly journey. So, I offer you a heartfelt Merry Christmas and a promise to pray that you will find peace and strength in the face of your adversity and that God's spirit will fill your life today, this season and for the rest of your life. Take heart for God is not dead nor doth he sleep.

Gregory J. Welborn is an independent opinion columnist. He writes and speaks frequently on political, economic and social issues. His columns have also 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 [gwelborn@mtviewsnews.com](mailto:gwelborn@mtviewsnews.com).

### 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.**

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# The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

## Reverse Mortgage - The Answer?

Those among us who are retired and living off our investments may be shaking our heads and wondering how to make ends meet. If you are age 62 or older and are “house-rich, cash-poor,” a reverse mortgage (RM) may help increase your income. However, because your home is such a valuable asset, you may want to consult with your family, attorney, or *Certified Senior Advisor* before pursuing an RM. Knowing your rights and responsibilities as a borrower can help you make an informed decision.

A reverse mortgage is a type of home equity loan that allows you to convert some of the equity in your home into cash with no monthly payments, while you remain on title at all times! RM’s work like traditional mortgages, only in reverse. Rather than making a payment to your lender each month, the lender pays you. Unlike conventional home equity loans, most RM’s do not require any repayment of principal, interest, or servicing fees for as long as you live in your home. Funds obtained from an RM may be used for any purpose, including meeting housing expenses, paying off bills, home maintenance or helping family. To qualify for an RM, you must have enough equity. Depending on the arrangement, the RM funds may be paid to you in a lump sum, in monthly advances, through a line-of-credit, or a combination of the three. The amount you are eligible to borrow generally is based on your age, the equity in your home, and the interest rate.

Because you retain title to your home with an RM, you remain responsible for taxes, repairs, and maintenance. Depending on the plan you select, your RM becomes due with interest either when you permanently move, sell your home, or die. The lender does not take title to your home when you die, but your heirs must pay off the loan. The debt is usually repaid by refinancing the loan into a forward mortgage (if the heirs are eligible) or from the proceeds from a sale.

One of the best protections you have with RM’s is the Federal Truth in Lending Act, which requires lenders to inform you about terms. Lenders must disclose the Annual Percentage Rate (APR), costs, and all terms. Costs are shown in detail and none are paid out of pocket for the borrower. You should deal only with an approved H.U.D. Correspondent for Insured Reverse Equity Mortgages. These professionals are specially trained to meet the financial needs of seniors. The government also requires independent counseling to insure understanding of the entire transaction.

AARP provides a friendly website to do preliminary calculations on how much you might be eligible. ([www.aarp.org/money/revmort](http://www.aarp.org/money/revmort)) While AARP does not endorse any particular lender or program, they actively support the product and encourage homeowners to look carefully at the facts. Many senior homeowners can benefit from the features of this unusual loan. All facets of this loan should be carefully considered before a decision is made. **ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:** You show me a man that says he can do at 60 what he did at 25, and I’ll show you a man that didn’t do much at 25.

*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. He can be reached at (626) 335-2564 or by e-mail - [blamarche@verizon.net](mailto:blamarche@verizon.net).*

REVERSE MORTGAGE INFO

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Bruce Lamarche - Walter Clayton

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See the “Senior Spot” column weekly!

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Schedule for the Season

Opportunities for Confession: By appointment.  
The Third Sunday of Advent, December 13th:  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20th:  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.  
Candlelight Walk 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th:  
Family Service (with a Pageant!) 5:00 p.m.  
Hymns and Carols 10:30 p.m.  
Solemn Christ Mass (Rite I) 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th:  
Eucharist 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 27th:  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Second Sunday after Christmas, January 3rd:  
Eucharist 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

The Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6th:  
Eucharist 6:00 p.m.

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## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

### FYI: Creating Meaningful New Year Resolutions

Here is how you can make good New Year’s Resolutions.

As we begin a new year we get a new opportunity to have a fresh beginning. Some of us take this for granted, but the real power comes when we take the full advantage of this opportunity. By setting up good 2010 resolutions and following through will ensure that you make 2010, your best year ever.

Here are the three key steps to set good New Year resolutions:

1. *Decide what you really want*  
Take a piece of paper and write down what you actually want to accomplish in 2010. Make sure these are the dreams that you really want to live in and not just fantasies. Don’t write down going on a trip to Thailand, if you never intend to go there. Be honest with yourself. If you write down nothing, you will probably end up achieving nothing.

2. *Set S.M.A.R.T. goals*  
Many people set ambiguous New Year’s resolutions. Goals such as ‘have more money’ or ‘lose weight’, do not have any meaning or power. They are too general and too broad to even begin with. Make sure your goals are Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Time Bound.

A good New Year resolution will be ‘I will each \$2000 of passive income per month by August 2010. That goal has exact numbers, a deadline and is attainable for many people who are willing to put some effort.

3. *Measure your success*  
Just writing down your 2010 resolutions and perfecting them will not bring your dreams to life. You must be willing to take action change your course as required. If you must drive from New York to Washington and see few road blocks, will you change your route or will you give up? Keep the end goal in your mind and not how you achieve it.

You must measure your progress for your 2010 resolutions to succeed. Many people will set their new year’s resolutions on January 1st and then they check them again on December 31st. You can improve the odds of reaching your dreams by 52 times if you measure your progress and adjust your approach every week.

Set your 2010 new year’s resolutions not because everyone else does, but because you really want to make a difference in your life, and in the lives of others.



**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:** 1:00 pm to 1:45 pm: Strength training with Lisa Brandley. FREE class of stretching with light hand weights while you sit.

**Tuesday:** 2nd Tuesday of each month FREE blood pressure checks by Methodist Hospital; 11 am to 12 noon 3rd Tuesday of each month FREE financial consulting; 10 -12 noon call 355-7394 for an appointment 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm: BINGO; cards are only 25 cents each so stop by & play 5:30 pm to 7 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information

**Wednesday:** 11 -11:45 am: Balance Class with Teryl. FREE class designed to improve balance & refresh the joints 2nd Wednesday of the month: FREE Legal

### Senior Excursions

*Thursday, December 17th - Christmas Show - 10:30 am to 4 pm* Join us at the Candlelight Pavilion Theatre in Claremont To register for future excursions, please call (626) 355-7394. \*Payment required to reserve space\*

### 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.*

### Recipe of the Week:

**Suzu Q’s Good Luck Black Eyed Peas**  
*A dish of black eyed peas is a New Year’s tradition thought to bring luck and prosperity for the new year. Greens, thought to symbolize folding money, are often eaten with the peas. Hoppin’ John, a dish made with black-eyed peas and rice, is one of the more popular ways of serving them, but many serve them in salads or simply cooked as a side dish. Regardless, they are best when consumed with a side of cornbread.*

**Ingredients:**  
1 pound dried black-eyed peas  
1 large onion  
1 ham bone or hock or smoked turkey part  
1 large onion  
1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper, or to taste  
1 fresh clove garlic  
1/2 teaspoon salt

**Directions:**  
*Using Ham Bone:*  
In a large saucepan, add ham bone, onion, garlic and seasonings. Rinse dried black eyed peas thoroughly and pour drained beans into pot. Add water to cover all, about a 1/2 inch above the peas.  
*Cover and cook on medium high until peas are tender.*  
*Using a Ham Hock or Smoked Turkey:*  
Put ham hock (or turkey leg) in a large pot with water and bring to a boil, reduce heat, then simmer for 45 minutes to 1 hour.  
Add onion, garlic and seasonings. Rinse dried black eyed peas thoroughly and pour drained beans into pot. Add water to cover all, about a 1/2 inch above the peas.  
*Cover and cook on medium high until peas are tender.*  
Serve with or without rice and look forward to a happy and prosperous New Year!

*\*Notes - 1. Be careful when adding seasonings. Smoked meats such as ham hocks and smoke turkey usually have enough salt to that you don’t have to add much more.  
2. If you use fresh black eyed peas, use less water - Fresh peas will cook faster.*

December Birthdays

Shirley Anholt, Mary Alice Cervera, Sylvia Curl, Rose Fafach, Lucile Flanders, Bonnie Garner, Arlie Hahn, Eleanor Hensel, Carole Horejsi, Joan Hufnagel, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Nan Beverly Murphy, Marie Pedersen, Pat McGuire, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian

### Helpful Hints: Holiday Stains

**COFFEE STAINS**  
To remove coffee (or tea) stains, rinse area with cold water immediately. Rub in a couple of drops of a mild, white dishwashing liquid and rinse well. Then treat with a mixture of one-part white household vinegar and three-parts water. Rinse again and launder as you normally do. Note: If cream was used in the coffee, you may have to sponge the stain with dry-cleaning fluid.

**CRANBERRY STAINS**  
To eliminate cranberry stains, scoop up as much of the sauce as you can—as quickly as you can—and then rinse with cold water. Pretreat the stained area and then wash—as the care label for the fabric indicates.

With all the dinner parties and family gatherings during the holidays, your tablecloth can take a beating from the drips, spills and stains. Here are removal solutions for the most common party-related stains:

- To get rid of candle wax from the tablecloth, let the wax harden—a quick way is to put it in the freezer. Then scrape it off the tablecloth with a dull knife. Place paper towels on both sides of the stain and set the iron on the warm setting, then iron (no steam) over the stained area. Change the towels often to absorb all of the wax. Launder as usual.

- To clean up gravy, spoon it up as fast as you can. Sprinkle artificial sweetener or flour over the stained area to absorb the grease. Put the tablecloth into a sink and soak in a mixture of one teaspoon of a mild, colorless detergent with each cup of lukewarm water for at least 20 minutes. Then wash as usual and let air dry—don’t put in the dryer.

- To remove red-wine stains, pour a big dose of salt on top of the stain to absorb the liquid. Put the tablecloth into cold water and try to rub out the stain. Use an enzyme detergent in the hottest water safe for the fabric, soak for 30 minutes and launder.

Consultations: 10-11:30 am. Appointments call 355-7394

Wii Wednesday - 1:00 pm or call the senior desk at 355-7394 to arrange another time & day to learn how to play. No previous **experience or skills required** and it is **great exercise**.

**Thursday:**  
**1:00 to 3:30 pm: Game Day. Join us for UNO and Poker with Bridge on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays; so please call for more information.**  
**5:00 pm to 6:30 pm: Yoga; \$7.00 - 50 & over. Please call 355-5278 for more information**  
**Friday:**  
**1:00 pm: Ping Pong**  
**Saturday: 11:30 am: Senior Club brown bag lunch and BINGO at 12:30 pm**

**Free Lawn Bowling Lessons:** The Santa Anita Bowling Green Club will have beginning lawn bowling lessons each Saturday morning starting at 10:00 AM.

Located just north of the golf course at 405 S. Santa Anita Ave.< free parking> For information call Gene at 626.351-5327.

### Meals-On-Wheels

Meals are delivered to home-bound seniors by volunteer drivers through the YWCA Intervale Lunch Program M-F (with frozen meals for the weekend.) Call the YWCA at (626) 214-9460 or Darlene Traxler at (626) 355-0256 for more information.

**MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS**  
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**Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.6220 or (626) 355-0256.**





Chris Bertrand

One Of A Kind:  
*Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them*

Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

Holiday Decorations in  
Huntington Beach:



A great evening getaway is to enjoy the waterside holiday lights in Huntington Beach. If you don't happen to have a generous neighbor to give you the tour, a couple of local companies will happily guide you via gondola. The navigable channels are lined with tony, multi-million dollar abodes. which this year is musical. You'll see "rockin' Santas", thirty foot guitars strung of LED lights, animation, humorous



decorations and a lot of sightseers in private and hired craft. The reflection of the holiday lighting on the nearly calm waters of the canals is absolutely mesmerizing.

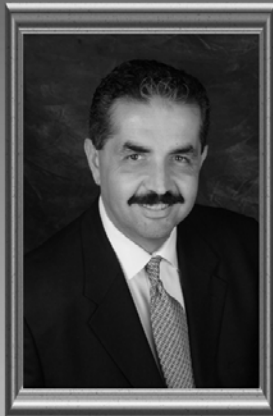
Lights are available through New Year's Eve, but I'm told that fewer light their homes as New Year's approaches. For your own personal gondola and gondolier to wind you slowly through the twinkling lights, try these companies:

Gondola Getaway at 5437 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. [www.GondolaGetawayInc.com](http://www.GondolaGetawayInc.com) 562-433-9595

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Know of an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them, that might interest our readers? Contact Chris Bertrand by email at [C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com](mailto:C.Bertrand@MtnViewsNews.com)



Tips of the Trade:  
Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou

Myth  
Busting

When a homeowner faces default on their mortgage, there may be two options: foreclosure or short sale. Foreclosure can be devastating, both emotionally and financially. A short sale, or one in which the lender accepts a selling price less than the amount owed, is a better option for both the lender and the homeowner.

Regrettably, nearly seven out of ten homeowners proceed through foreclosure without ever listing their home for sale. This is due largely to perceived myths about the process, and we need to put a few of these misconceptions to rest.

First, homeowners assume the bank would rather foreclose than accept a short sale. Not true - foreclosure is often more costly for the lender, and short sales often sell for more than foreclosed listings. The banks are trying anything possible, within reason, to avoid the foreclosure process.

Next, homeowners believe there is a stigma attached to short sale listings, and that buyers have no interest in such properties. Not true - to the contrary, many smart buyers are specifically seeking out such offerings for the value they present compared to traditional listings.

Finally, homeowners often assume that there's not enough time to close a short sale before foreclosure is final. Not true - foreclosure is a lengthy process and there is time to negotiate a better result, but you need to start today.

"Luther Tsinoglou has been practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and residential income properties in Sierra Madre and the surrounding communities. Luther can be reached at (626)695-8650 or at [Luther@Tsinoglou.com](mailto:Luther@Tsinoglou.com).

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improvement. Kwanzaa is neither political nor  
religious and despite some misconceptions, is not  
a substitute for Christmas. It is simply a time of  
reaffirmation. Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of  
the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili, has  
gained tremendous acceptance. Since its founding in  
1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa has come to  
be observed by more than 18 million people worldwide,  
as reported by the New York Times. When establishing  
Kwanzaa in 1966, Dr. Karenga included an additional  
"a" to the end of the spelling to reflect the difference  
between the African American celebration (kwanzaa)  
and the Motherland spelling (kwanza).  
Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba (seven guiding

principles), one for each day of the observance, and is  
celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

**Umoja** (oo-MO-jah) Unity stresses the importance of  
togetherness for the family and the community.

**Kujichagulia** (koo-gee-cha-goo-LEE-yah) Self-Determination requires that we define common  
interests and make decisions that are in the best  
interest of our family and community.

**Ujima** (oo-GEE-mah) Collective Work and  
Responsibility reminds us of our obligation to the past,  
present and future, and that we have a role to play in  
the community, society, and world.

**Ujamaa** (oo-JAH-mah) Cooperative economics  
emphasizes our collective economic strength and  
encourages us to meet common needs through mutual  
support.

**Nia** (NEE-yah) Purpose encourages one to look within  
oneselves and set personal goals that are beneficial to  
the community.

**Kuumba** (koo-OOM-bah) Creativity makes use of our  
creative energies to build and maintain a strong and  
vibrant community.

**Imani** (ee-MAH-nee) Faith focuses on honoring  
the best of our traditions, draws upon the best in  
ourselves, and helps us strive for a higher level of  
life for humankind, by affirming our self-worth and  
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