



# Happy Mother's Day

## Mountain Views News

Where Your  
Community News Comes First

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

SATURDAY MAY 8, 2010

VOLUME 4 NO. 18

### PUSD FUTURE BLEAK WITHOUT MEASURE CC

By Dean Lee

The tone was somber Friday afternoon as Pasadena Unified School District board members met during a special meeting to discuss the impact of the failure of Measure CC.

The proposed parcel tax received almost 54 percent of the vote, however passage required a two-thirds or 67% approval. Officials had hoped the tax would generate \$7 million a year to help preventing layoffs and library closures.

The meeting started with immediate criticism for its time 3 p.m. when many concerned citizens were still at work. However, the room was packed. Superintendent Edwin Diaz explained that the meeting was held Friday because they wanted to avoid asking district employees to work overtime.

Once the meeting started, the immediate impact of Measure CC on the budget was discussed. Diaz said that 50 classified employees would be let go, and another 25 would have their hours severely reduced. These reductions will be discussed at the next full board meeting. He also said there will be an action item on the agenda to go through with final layoff notification of certificated employees.

"If Measure CC had passed, this would have been an opportunity for us to not follow through with the certificated layoffs and reduction the of classified layoffs." He also explained that pink slips did not mean a teacher was actually let go. He said he supported the decision to let the school sites assess the situation.

According to Diaz for the most part,

nothing had changed. PUSD still has a \$23 million budget gap. He also said they had little flexibility for change. But there was some good news.

Because of a significant improvement in the worker's compensation program, the initial estimated savings of \$750,000 increased by \$1.7 million. He said there was also about \$500,000 saved in central office reductions.

"We actually went line item by line item through the district office budget, and looked at what was projected to be cut."

Diaz said they would not be able to maintain their class size reduction program.

"No matter what we do it appears that we are going to have much larger class sizes," He mentioned the possibility of at least a ratio 1 to 27 in kindergarten through third grade.

Board Member Renatta Cooper questioned the idea of laying off any Kindergarten teachers, "I know that to be an educationally unsound practice," she said. By so doing, it could raise class sizes



Parents listened carefully as the impact of the failure of Measure CC was discussed. Photo by Dean Lee

to over 31.

She also said getting rid of some counselors seemed counterproductive calling it detrimental. Other board members brought up cuts to transportation. Diaz also noted that there was no way around impacting school libraries.

One parent said that there was a list circulating around of schools about to be closed of which Jackson Elementary School was one. School Board Member Ed Honowitz asked where the information came from? "The notion that this is about to happen at Jackson is not actually true," he said. "So we want to get parents the correct information about where we are and what's going on."

### Energy Behind Sierra Madre's Art Faire

Photos and Story by Lina Johnson



Sierra Madre 2010 Art Faire was abundant with creativity and perfect weather. As I traversed around Memorial Park about 2:30 on Sunday, I noticed the atmosphere was upbeat and mellow with plenty of opportunity to talk to the exhibiting artists. The first artist I met at the Faire was an amazing woman named Carolyn Gravatte. She shared a booth with her daughter, Laura Wambsgans, and the oil paintings they were exhibiting and selling were stunning works painted with an exquisite palette. Upon seeing her paintings, I felt immediately compelled to take her photograph for the Mountain Views News. I was glad I did, because it gave me the opportunity to talk to her, discovering that her painting entitled "Showtime" had been chosen for the cover of the 2010 Spring edition of the Wisteria Vine. Carolyn shared her history as a resident artist of Sierra Madre, which includes many years of teaching sculpture in Memorial park. She showed me a photograph of marvelous large scale busts that she had previously worked on in Memorial Park in the 1970's. In the short time that I met with Carolyn, I discovered that the exquisite paintings that drew me in for a photograph were an elegant motif for a woman whose life palette is dense with color, light and the ability to see beauty and exude it onto a canvas.

Within a half hour of visiting the Faire I realized my past visits to the Art Faire were half visits, incomplete because I would visually address the art work but rarely engage the artist. It was not easy to decide which artist to visit next, as I strolled through the park. This year's creations and variety were exceptional and overwhelming. While moving toward the Veteran's wall, I met Monica Dybalski, who discussed with me her method of creating custom jewelry. Each of her distinctly beautiful pieces were unique handmade integrations of vintage jewelry blended with crochet. Monica told me that her studio was also located in Sierra Madre.

Across the walkway were some gorgeous fused glass pieces created by artist Jackie Steimke, for whom this was only her second year at the Art Faire and she was happy to participate. Jackie's glassworks were a feast for the eyes. As I continued strolling, my eyes were captivated by large scale paintings created by Michael Hall. These paintings' vibrant color and exuberance for life literally danced in the park. Michael was engaged in conversation so the photograph I took of his work really speaks boldly for itself. Next I paused by the work of Michael Crook, whose wildlife art pieces were so meticulous and riveting that it was difficult to fathom that a human hand could be so precise. He told me that the method he used for his work was woodcarving and water colour. As I admired his work, I could hear other people discussing just how amazing they also thought it was.

Walking around the entire park, embellished with art and sounds of music and laughter, was a joy while looking for elements about this event to share. It wasn't easy deciding who to engage next, as my time was limited. I spotted the official Sierra Madre Art Faire t-shirt blowing in the wind - black with a magnificent ship printed on it. Margaret Quigley, a volunteer at the Faire, told me that the design was created by artist David Darbyshire, who specializes in seascape and aviation art.

The last artist I spoke with was Michael Hanna, a newcomer to the Faire. His birdhouse creations were both fascinating and whimsical, and one was simply extraordinary. Michael told me that creating these are a hobby for him, with design help from his young son. He also spoke of his actual career as a hairdresser and his passion for growing orchids. Here was another artist with multiple expressions for the joy of life.

The Sierra Madre Art Faire 2010 was an opportunity to purchase art that enriches your whole life. It was also a chance to discover more about the artists themselves, their inspirations, and the fascinating energies that bring their work into memorable existence.



Carolyn Gravatte

### THIEVES TARGET SIERRA MADRE

Sierra Madre recently experienced a crime wave that included auto theft, thefts from vehicles, and burglaries. The department put together a Task Force in an effort to determine the patterns of the criminal(s) and develop a strategy to apprehend them. This included the use of plain clothes officers in unmarked vehicles.

Sierra Madre Police Department have made an arrest, however, further details are not available at this time, as the investigation is ongoing.

Another suspect was arrested by the Arcadia Police in the car stolen from Sierra Madre.

Chief Diaz wants to remind residents that, "It is important to keep cars locked during the daytime and overnight. Don't leave valuables in the car, even when they are not in plain sight." She also warned residents about the misconception that because we do live in a safe community, we are not subject to crimes. "Drug users and other criminals will go anywhere to commit crimes."



**Correction:** In the last week's edition, the caption for this photo was incorrect. The council's new majority is (left to right) Councilwoman Nancy Walsh, Mayor Mosca, Councilman Josh Moran and Mayor Pro Tem John Buchanan.

### 2010 Parade Marshal Sought for Fourth of July Parade on July 5<sup>th</sup>

The Sierra Madre Fourth of July Committee is seeking a Parade Marshal for 2010 to lead the historic Parade. The Parade will be held this year on Monday, July 5. Matt Bosse, chairman of the committee, reminded the community that we will still have celebratory activities over the weekend in spite of the necessary date change.

Candidates for the Parade Marshal should echo the spirit of Sierra Madre, should be active volunteers in the town in any local nonprofit organizations. Sierra Madreans should look to the Marshal as an apt representative of what characteristics Sierra Madre embodies.

To nominate the Parade Marshal, please send suggestions to: The Fourth of July Committee, P.O. Box 1073, Sierra Madre 91025, no later than Tuesday, May 25. The committee will meet the following evening to choose from the nominees.

Activities in Memorial Park over the holiday weekend begin at noon Saturday, July 3, with festivities in Memorial Park, a concert by Aluminum Marshmallow, and the famous Bubblewrap Fireworks for kids. The beer garden will be open from 5 to 10 p.m.

Sunday, July 4, marks Family Movie Night and the beer garden will be open again from 5 to 10 p.m.

The famous Hometown Parade starts at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 5, at Sunnyside and Sierra Madre Blvd., and the usual festivities, with games and the beer garden, will begin immediately after the parade, at about noon, and continue until 4 p.m. As usual, the Night Blooming Jazzmen will give a jazz concert under the shade trees on the east side of the park. Everyone is urged to bring chairs and blankets for open seating.

Chairman Bosse said, "This year's Fourth of July activities will again spark the community's patriotic spirit. We look forward to a long weekend of festivities. Nominate your choice of Parade Marshal now and let's get this celebration started."

Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association

## Annual Pancake Breakfast

**Saturday, May 15th, 2010**  
**Station 41 - 242 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.**  
**7:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

featuring . . .

### OUR SPECIAL FLUFFY PANCAKES

- Fresh Starbucks Coffee
- Savory Sausages
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- Educational Information

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All proceeds will benefit the Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Assoc. and its local charities.

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## & more!

Enjoy your coffee without rain hassles!

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## Niko & friends

Coffee - Deli

900 Valley View Ave, Pasadena, 91107  
626-610-6151 M-F: 7-6, S: 8:30-1:30, Closed Sunday



## Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast  
Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b> Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
<b>Tues:</b> Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
<b>Wed:</b> Ptly Cldy	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
<b>Thur:</b> Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
<b>Fri:</b> Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

## Inside This Week

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Page 2</b>
<b>Around San Gabriel Valley</b>	
<b>Pasadena/Altadena</b>	<b>Page 3</b>
<b>Safety</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Page 5</b>
<b>Good Food</b>	<b>Page 6</b>
<b>World Around Us</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Left Turn/Right Turn</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
<b>Opinion</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>Legal Notices</b>	<b>Page 10</b>
<b>Good Life</b>	<b>Page 11</b>
<b>Homes &amp; Property</b>	<b>Page 12</b>
<b>FYI</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
	<b>Page 14</b>

Night Walk at  
Descanso Gardens  
on May 14

Discover what goes on in the Gardens when the gates close and the stars appear. Join Descanso docents Jim and Joanne Jackson who will lead monthly Night Walks in the Gardens starting Friday, May 14 at 7:15 p.m. Learn botanical and historical highlights about Descanso and check out flora and fauna of the night. You never know what you'll discover!

Participants must be at least 12 years old. Wear sensible shoes and bring a jacket and flashlight. Space is limited so early registration is recommended. Cost per person for the night walk is \$15, \$10 Descanso members. To register, call (818) 949-7980.

Other scheduled Night Walks this summer are: June 18, July 16 and August 20.

## PASADENA ARTWALK CALL TO ARTISTS

*The 5th Annual ARTWalk is accepting artists submissions.*

The Pasadena Playhouse District Association is inviting artists to submit artwork for the 5th Annual ARTWalk. This year's ARTWalk will take place on Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 11 am until 5 pm at El Molino Ave. between Colorado and Green St.

All artists are welcome to apply to exhibit in ARTWalk. Artists submitting work must fall in one of the following categories:

- Drawing
- Mixed media
- New media
- Painting
- Photography
- Sculpture

Application fees\*:

- \$100 - early submittal fee for applications received before June 30, 2010
- \$150 - application fee submitted from July 1 - 30, 2010

\*Artists work will be juried. If not selected, application fee will be returned

Deadline for submission: July 30, 2010

Notification date: August 23, 2010

ARTWalk is a free multi-faceted celebration of the arts in the Playhouse District. The festival offers an eclectic selection of art ranging from visual, written and spoken word, to performance, and culinary art. ARTWalk is presented by the Pasadena Playhouse District Association.

For more information on how to participate in this year's ARTWalk, visit [www.playhousedistrict.org/artwalk](http://www.playhousedistrict.org/artwalk) or call 626.744.0340. Members. (818) 949-7980 or visit [www.descansogardens.org](http://www.descansogardens.org).

## Reception for Fran Garbaccio Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year, 2010

Friday, May 14, 2010 4:30 to 6:00 PM  
Hart Park House/Senior Center  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre 91024

For more information on the Older American Reception or on how you can assist with honoring Mrs. Garbaccio, please contact the Senior Services Desk at (626) 355-7394.

**FAMILY MOVIE FRIDAYS**

SPONSORED BY THE  
Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighters Association

**WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE**  
April 23, 2010

**HOTEL FOR DOGS**  
MAY 7, 2010

**CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS**  
MAY 21, 2010

**MONSTERS VS. ALIENS**  
JUNE 4, 2010

**LOCATION**  
**KERSTING COURT**

**START TIME**  
**7:45p**

**ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

For more information, please contact Community & Personnel Services at 626-355-5278.

## Lifeguard Training Course

The Sierra Madre Aquatic Center will be hosting an American Redcross Lifeguard Training Course. The course will be held on the following dates: April 24 and 25 and May 1 and 2. Participants will need to attend all four dates, from 9:00am-5:00pm. The cost of the program is \$171 per person. Call 626-355-5278 for more information and the registration process.

## Water Safety Instructor Course

The Sierra Madre Aquatic Center will be hosting an American Redcross water Safety Instructor Training Course. The course will be held on the following dates: May 9, 23, and 30 and June 6. Participants will need to attend all four dates, from 9:00am-5:00pm. The cost of the program is \$171 per person. Call 626-355-5278 for more information and the registration process.

SIERRA MADRE'S  
FARMERS MARKET!

Wednesday 3-7 pm

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.

Live from Burger Continental  
The Harvey Hyde Show

535 So. Lake Ave. Pasadena (626) 792 - 6634

Every Thursday 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Hard-hitting, High impact sports talk radio  
KSHIP Las Vegas - 1400 AM

## BE INFORMED.

The Arcadia Republican Woman's Club is hosting a forum for the republican Candidates for the 59th Assembly District and the 44th Assembly District. Everyone is welcome. Location is the Santa Anita Golf Course on Wednesday May 19th at 5:30. Cost is \$22.00 which includes dinner. All who live in Arcadia, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, and Bradbury are in those districts. The primary election is June 8th.

Travelers and Collectors  
Speaker Series

when pilots with his experience were needed to fly medical personnel and supplies into rural and remote areas.

For almost two decades "Dr. Bud", a Pasadena chiropractor and Sierra Madre resident, has been a member of the Flying Samaritans. He and other doctors bring chiropractic care to needy men, women, and children in Mexico. Dr. Bud is also a member of several "flying doctor" groups and works with Missions of Baja as a missionary pilot, translator, and chiropractor. He has treated thousands of impoverished Mexican nationals and flown much needed medications, clothing, and supplies to Baja clinics.

Travelers and Collectors meets at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. This program is free and open to the public. This is the final program of the 2010 season. The series will resume in February 2011. Travelers and Collectors is funded by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

Sierra Madre  
Chorale  
Spring  
Concert

Under the direction of Fred Copeland and accompanied by Stephanie Wan Hsiu Lan the chorale will celebrate their 15th Anniversary  
*With Songs Of The Old and New*

Friday May 21, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.  
and  
Sunday May 23, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church  
695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd,  
Sierra Madre, Ca

Donations:  
\$7.00 Advance  
\$8.00 at the door  
children under 12 - free

Choir rehearsals are on Monday evenings 7:30 to 9:30 at 695 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre if you enjoy singing please join us (no tryouts necessary)  
For further information please call Susan Beach at 626-357-0560

## CINDERELLA" AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE ON MAY 12 &amp; 13

WHAT: "Cinderella." The classic fairy tale, adapted for the stage.  
WHO: Adapted and directed by Christina Harris and Kristen Cox. Presented by Acting Up!, a resident youth company at Sierra Madre Playhouse.  
WHERE: Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Abundant free parking behind theatre.  
WHEN: May 12 and 13, 2010, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m.  
ADMISSION: \$5. RESERVATIONS: (626) 355-4318.

ONLINE TICKETING: [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org)

"Cinderella," the world's oldest fairy tale, is adapted for the stage and performed by juvenile artists (kids and teens) with a cast including Sophie Johnson (as Cinderella), Meg Momsen, Ashlyn Davini, Sierra DuNah, Paul de Jesus, Paula de Jesus, Nate Edgar, Sophia Davis, Lauren Tapert, Jessica Tupas, Brynn Higdon, Siobhan Murphy and Justice Davis.

Adaptor/directors are Christina Harris and Kristen Cox. Harris is the drama teacher at The Frostig School in Pasadena and 2009 winner of "Master of Dance"; a dance competition on The Learning Channel (TLC).

Acting Up! is their company for young performers, resident at Sierra Madre Playhouse. Acting Up! presents entertainment for the whole family. A 3 week summer workshop will culminate in a production of "Disney's Aladdin" in August. For enrollment information, go online at [www.ActingUpsmp.com](http://www.ActingUpsmp.com)

## Church of the Ascension

the Episcopal church in Sierra Madre--Your Village Church.

A place to meet God and your neighbors

Save the date!  
Sunday, May 16

Sierra Madre Church of the Ascension  
Celebrating 125 years  
of its founding.

Special choral evensong, 5 p.m.  
Free to the public.

Buffet dinner 6:30  
\$5 person

Special Program on the History of Ascension

Call (626) 355-1133

Corner of Baldwin and Laurel

(626) 355-1133 \* [www.ascension-sierramadre.com](http://www.ascension-sierramadre.com)

**HUNTINGTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL**  
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MON-FRI 8-6PM  
SAT 8-2

535 West Huntington Drive in Monrovia

**MEDICINE:**

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- Dermatology
- In House Laboratory

**SURGERY:**

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- Neurosurgery
- TPLO
- Soft Tissue

Gary R. White, DVM

2010 Mount Wilson  
Trail Race

8.6 mile course, begins and ends on pavement, in between it's a dirt path no more than 3 feet wide.

Elevation gain of more than 2,100 feet. Turnaround point is at Orchard Camp, 4.3 miles from race start. Much of the race is on the Mt. Wilson Trail, with occasional vertical drop-offs of several hundred feet. Emergency support is stationed along the course to provide aid, if needed. Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops provide water at two locations, the 2.3 and the 4.3 (turnaround) mile marks.

Registration forms for the Mount Wilson Trail Race are now available at the following locations: Sierra Madre City Hall, Sierra Madre Library, Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, and Community and Personnel Services Office. Electronic registration forms can be downloaded at [www.mountwilsontrailrace.com](http://www.mountwilsontrailrace.com) and is attached to the email. Be sure to register early as the Mount Wilson Trail Race is limited to 300 participants. For more information call 626-355-5278.

## Volunteer Opportunities

## RACE COMPONENTS:

## Pasta Feed Dinner - May 28, 2010

- The pasta feed dinner is held the Friday before the Mount Wilson Trail Race. The dinner is sponsored by Café 322, which provides the food for the event. The dinner is open to anyone, not just race participants and costs \$7.00 per person. The pasta feed dinner is held in Kersting Court from 5:30pm-7:00pm.

- Arrive at 3:00pm, Kersting Court  
- Assist with table and chair setup, distribution of food, and event clean up.

## Race Day Set Up - May 29, 2010

- The Mount Wilson Trail Rae begins at 7:30am; however setup for the event will start at 5:00am. The registration area, kids' art show, and trail race booths will need to be set up prior to the event along with barricades and other miscellaneous race components.

- Arrive at 5:00am, Kersting Court  
- Assist with set up of: kids' art show, booths, and registration area.

## Kids Fun Run - May 29, 2010

2010 marks the 5th year of the Kids Fun Run. Youth ages 3 and up will race one mile, starting at Kersting Court, running up Baldwin Ave., and back down to Kersting Court. The race begins at 7:45am for the older youth, and 7:50 for the younger youth. The race is open to any child that wants to participate and the first 150 youth receive a free t-shirt as well.

- Arrive at 7:00am, Kersting Court  
- Organize youth into two groups; 6 and under, 7 and up.

## Beer Garden - May 29, 2010

- The beer garden is sponsored by Spaten West, with all proceeds donated to the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue. The Spero Foundation will provide the ABC License for the event. The beer garden will be held in Kersting Court, from 9:00am - 11:30am.

- Arrive at 8:00am, Kersting Court  
- Assist with checking of ID at entrance, setup of beer garden tables and chairs.

## Kids Art Show

For 2010, the Kids' Art Show will utilize old running shoes as the canvas for the art show. We are seeking donations of old running shoes in order to have enough for youth to decorate. Please drop off old running shoes at the Community Services Office.

If you are interested in assisting with the Mount Wilson Trail Race please call Adam Matsumoto, Recreation Supervisor at 626-355-5278 or by email at [amatsumoto@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:amatsumoto@cityofsierramadre.com).



## Sierra Madre

### Adopt a Bow-Out

The Sierra Madre Public Works Department announces an opportunity for your group or organization to contribute to the beauty of downtown Sierra Madre. There are 19 bow-outs in the City along W. Sierra Madre Blvd. and N. Baldwin Ave. Volunteers are sought to maintain the plants and keep the grounds free of debris. A recognition sign in the bow-out will be provided to acknowledge the efforts of the group or organization.

#### TYPICAL DUTIES

- Clean bow-out of all trash and debris at least every two weeks.
- Maintain plants and trees with instruction from the Public Works Department.
- Maintain structures such as benches with instruction from Public Works Department.
- Keep gutters, and adjacent storm drains clean and free of debris.
- Report any plant or tree condition problems to the Public Works Department.
- Immediately report any and all safety concerns to the Public Works Department.

#### ORGANIZATION

Groups and organizations are encouraged to build a dedicated team and designate a team leader that would work under the direct supervision of Public Works Staff. The team leader would also help coordinate the activities and act as a spokesperson for the team. All members of the volunteer team must complete the application process.

For additional information on volunteering please contact De Alcorn, Secretary of Service and Volunteering at 626-355-4793.

### CITY ANNOUNCES ON-LINE REGISTRATION

Driving value and convenience for the local community, the Sierra Madre Community & Personnel Services Department has a new look for our online registration. With online registration capabilities, recreation participants will now be able to view, register and pay for the department's many class activities, from any Internet-enabled computer. Additionally, online users can tentatively reserve City facilities and parks. Best of all, there are no additional fees to register online! As an added convenience, you will receive an e-mail immediately following an online transaction to confirm your enrollment in a program.

How to create your new account:

1. Click on the "Create Account" button.
2. Fill out the form for New Create Account request completely; including all required fields and click submit. Please submit your request only once. \*Note: If you are registering a child for a program, please use your own information when filling out an online registration account request form, NOT the information of the child you wish to register. Once you have an online registration account, you will have the opportunity to "Submit and Add Family Members".
3. After creating your new account, you may search and enroll in any activities. \*This new registration service allows you to register from the convenience of your own home or any location with internet access.

To access Sierra Madre Community & Personnel Services Department online registration service, please visit [www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/onlineregistration). For more information call (626) 355-5278.

### Thousands Expected Again for Yearly St. Rita Pilgrimage in Sierra Madre



Continuing their yearly tradition of honoring the Christian feast day of St. Rita of Cascia, St. Rita Parish in Sierra Madre is preparing to host the yearly pilgrimage of thousands honoring this patron saint and advocate for seemingly impossible causes.

Particularly beloved by the Pacific Islander and Armenian faith communities, St. Rita of Cascia, Italy was the mother of twins, and lived during a time of great rivalry and turmoil between two political factions, losing her own husband to the political wars and then her sons, due to natural causes a short time later.

Entering the Augustinian religious order at 36, she devoted her life to service, prayer and fervent work toward local peace, amid great pain late in life, including a "stigmata" on her forehead. Though confined to bed for many years, she became an inspiration to her visitors leading to requests for intercession. The anniversary of her death in May, 1457 is now celebrated with pilgrimages and visits at St. Rita shrines all over the world.

Roses became the symbol of these visits and pilgrimages, as a lone rose was brought to her by a devotee from Cascia in the bloomless time of January. Today, roses are traditionally delivered to St. Rita shrines by those seeking intercession or in thanksgiving, especially for family and marital troubles plus infertility visit shrines such as St. Rita in Sierra Madre, year round. Visitors are encouraged to "leave a rose, and take a rose" from the flowers left behind by other pilgrims.

This year, several events surround the St. Rita Feast Day observance. Sunday, May 16 at the Noon Mass, the Pacific Islander Community Celebration will include a special procession by this group. Saturday, May 22, the 8 a.m. Mass will include a dedication of the new St. Rita Meadow on the campus of the parish and blessing with a relic of St. Rita throughout the day. Sunday, May 23, the parish will welcome visitors, some of whom travel great distances for the yearly observance. Additional school and religious education observances will take place, as well

St. Rita Church is located at N. Baldwin and Grandview in Sierra Madre. For more information about St. Rita Parish or the St. Rita feast day observances, visit the parish website: [www.St-Rita.org](http://www.St-Rita.org) or call 626-355-1292.

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MON - FRIDAY 8AM - 6 PM | SAT 9 - 3 | CLOSED SUNDAY

## New Online Application for Veterans Benefits

### New System Will Help Veterans Access the Benefits They Have Earned

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in announcing the launch of its new and improved online form, "Application for Health Benefits," which will make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits.

"This is good news for veterans in Southern California and across the nation," Rep. Schiff said. "Our men and women in uniform put their lives on the line for us. We owe it to them to provide the support and benefits they have earned, and these improvements will make it easier for veterans to access their health care benefits." This revised online application form (10-10EZ) provides enhanced navigation

features that make it easier and faster for veterans to use. The new version also allows veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records.

The most significant enhancement allows veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over. Previously, veterans had to complete the form in a single session.

The updated online form, along with the revised VA Form 10-10EZ, reduces the collection of information from veterans by eliminating some of the questions. Additionally, minor changes have been made to simplify the wording of

questions and provide clarity in the instructions. Further enhancements to the online application are expected to be delivered in increments throughout 2010.

Veterans may complete or download the 10-10EZ form at the VA health eligibility Web site at <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/>.

Veterans may also contact VA at 1 (877) 222-VETS (8387) or visit the VA health eligibility Web site at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).

## Pasadena

### PASADENA YOUNG MUSICIANS ORCHESTRA PRESENTS LIGHTS! CAMERA! MUSIC!

A Tribute to Movie Music  
Sunday, May 23, 2010; 3:30 p.m.  
Sexson Auditorium, Pasadena City College

Whether they prefer action films, historical adventures, space odysseys, comedies or blockbuster musicals, audience members attending the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra's (PYMO) spring concert – Lights! Camera! Music! – on Sunday, May 23 at 3:30 p.m. at Sexson Auditorium on the campus of Pasadena City College will not leave disappointed. On the program is a wide array of works by composers ranging from John Williams to Edvard Grieg.

"Our tribute to movie music covers virtually every film genre," says Jo Raquel Stoup, Music Director. "We selected music that was either a part of a movie, in a movie or became popular because of a movie. "For instance, Richard Strauss never thought his work Also sprach Zarathustra would be immortalized as the opening to 2001 A Space Odyssey rather than as a tone poem."

In addition to Strauss' popular work, PYMO, an orchestra of high school and college musicians from throughout Southern California, will perform excerpts from soundtracks of such films as Lord of the Rings, Chicago, Gladiator, Robin Hood Prince of Thieves, The Pink Panther, and Children of Sanchez.

"Each piece was picked by one of our coaches. That coach will introduce the piece to the audience and then conduct it," says Stoup, who selected the Grammy winning and Golden Globe nominated soundtrack from Children of Sanchez.

"The piece is very popular for combos, for marching bands, for everything," Stoup adds.

A work that may surprise many because it is included in the program is Grieg's Piano Concerto, performed by Estelle Chae, winner of PYMO's Instrumental Competition.

"Estelle competed by playing the Grieg concerto," says PYMO Board President Lisa Gladstone. "But, interestingly enough, this

work has appeared on the silver screen as well as in concert halls. The concerto was featured in The Seventh Veil in 1945 and, in 1997, in the film, Lolita. Excerpts have also been heard in commercials for Nike and Range Rover."

Tickets for "Lights! Camera! Music!" may be purchased at the door for the suggested donation price of \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors. Children under age 12 are free.

For more information about PYMO or its upcoming performances, call (626) 403-1086 or visit the orchestra's website, [www.pyomo.org](http://www.pyomo.org).

Pasadena City College is located at 1570 East Colorado Blvd in Pasadena, with parking available at any PCC student lot for \$2.

#### ABOUT THE PASADENA YOUNG MUSICIANS ORCHESTRA:

Founded over 50 years ago, the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra (PYMO) has provided musical training for gifted young instrumentalists in high school and junior college. This season, students from 32 schools throughout Southern California and from a variety of economic and ethnic backgrounds are taking part in the program. As diverse as the musicians are, however, they share one common goal: to learn how to play in a symphony orchestra.

PYMO rehearses and performs at Pasadena City College, where Music Director and conductor Jo Raquel Stoup is a member of the music faculty. All orchestra members must belong to a performance group at their school, thus making PYMO an extension of their school music program. PYMO rehearses once a week and performs three different concerts yearly in addition to its annual tour.

The mission of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra is to provide excellence in music education and performance for young musicians and to enrich the cultural experiences of the community by presenting music at a high level of artistic achievement.

PYMO is operated by the PYMO Association, a non-profit organization dependent on a network of volunteers and donors, including parents, friends and area businesses. PYMO is particularly grateful for the many benefits derived from its close association with Pasadena City College, the Pasadena Symphony and POPS, and the many high schools in the area.

## Monrovia

### Walk around the clock: 24-hour Relay For Life of Monrovia moves to fight cancer

June 5-6 overnight relay will raise awareness, funds for American Cancer Society

On Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6, the Monrovia community will come together for a 24-hour, family-friendly fundraising event that celebrates those who have battled cancer, remembers loved ones lost, and teams up to fight back. Proceeds will support the American Cancer Society's research, education, advocacy and services for patients and families.

Teams will gather at 11 a.m. Saturday at the city's Library park for the overnight relay walk, which ends at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Activities will include a Survivor's Breakfast, a 24-hour campout, kids' activities, DJ and live entertainment, food, games, contests and prizes, a Luminaria Remembrance Ceremony, and a closing pancake breakfast served by Monrovia firemen.

An evening highlight will be the Luminaria Ceremony, held to honor cancer survivors and remember those who lost their battles. The luminaria, placed along the track, are left burning through the night.

"Relay For Life is as much about raising awareness of the progress against cancer as it is raising funds," said event chair Mike Laban. "The many survivors who participate underline the progress that's been made in lowering mortality rates and raising the quality of life after treatment."

Thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors, the money we raise goes directly to the American Cancer Society's vital

programs." **Gold Level sponsors** are Citizens Business Bank, Dr. Domotor's Animal House Veterinary Hospital, Gentile, McCloskey & Company, Two Dogs Petsitting, Monrovia Weekly and 'Surgical Group for Animals' -Edward B. Leeds, D.V.M., D.A.C.V.S. **Silver Level sponsors** are Sierra Autocars, Laidlaw's Harley Davidson, DJ on the Move, and The Whistling Diva —World Champion Whistler.

**Bronze Level sponsors** are Donna Baker - Dickson Podley Realtors, Monrovia Police Department, Paragon at Old Town, Ramona Property Managers, ServPro of Monrovia, The Loose Teas Cafe and Gifts, and B&H Sign Co.

For information on how to form a team or get involved in Relay For Life as a volunteer, sponsor or provider of needed items, call Mike Laban, (626) 627-5230 or visit [www.relayforlife.org/monroviaca](http://www.relayforlife.org/monroviaca).



A team steps off at the Fifth Annual Relay for Life of Monrovia in 2009.

#### Dogs pitch in at Bark for Life of Monrovia May 16

The second annual Bark for Life of Monrovia, a fundraising event for Relay for Life of Monrovia, will be held on Sunday, May 16, at Recreation Park, 620 South Shamrock Avenue. The 12 noon to 3 p.m. event gives dogs and their humans a chance to have fun and raise funds to fight cancer. Highlights include an agility course for dogs, a "Best in Show" contest, dog massages and more. Registration fee is \$10 per dog; details at [www.relayforlife.org/barkmonroviaca](http://www.relayforlife.org/barkmonroviaca).

## Arcadia Students Enlightened by Blindness at Camino Grove Elementary

By Helen Simmons Conroy

On Friday, April 30, my blind friend, Jo Anne Seaman, wowed 144 Camino Grove Elementary School fourth graders and teachers (including myself), as she let us into her world of blindness. My teaching team and I had invited Jo Anne to bring real-life meaning to the issues of blindness and acceptance of differences, entwined in the book,

"The Cay," by Theodore Taylor – part of our district-selected Language Arts curriculum.

Seaman, 61, entered our assembly room, carrying her green-bound Braille copy of the "The Cay." She had read it in anticipation of her visit and was eager to discuss the book with our students. "He did an excellent job!" Jo Anne exclaimed, sharing her take on Taylor's depiction of a blind boy. As Jo Anne read aloud a passage from "The Cay," hands roving across each Braille page with jet-like speed, student necks extended like curious peacocks to get a better look. Students then asked Jo Anne several questions, such as, "How do you use your cane?" (which she demonstrated), "Was it hard to learn Braille?" and "What caused you to be blind?"

In revealing how she became blind, Jo Anne explained that she was born sighted, but premature. Oxygen, which had been given to keep her alive, had been administered too forcefully on her eye vessels, causing them to rupture. This led to complete blindness, by the time she was three months old. As a young child, Jo Anne attended a public grammar school in Chicago, where her mom spearheaded an effort to begin a program for blind students. From there, she went to the Perkins School for the Blind in Massachusetts. When her family decided to move to Arizona for its warmer climate, Jo Anne transferred to the Arizona School for the Blind in Tucson. After graduating from high school, she went on to Tuller Episcopal College in Tucson, where she earned an AA degree in Russian Language and Russian Literature.

During our assembly, Jo Anne displayed her Russian language adeptness as she struck up a spontaneous conversation in Russian with my Russian-speaking student, Anastasia. She demonstrated how to write in Braille, with her wooden, mushroom-shaped stylus. She also whipped out her pride and joy, a slick, black Ham radio. As she turned it on to a weather station for students to hear,



JoAnne Seaman gives Camino Grove 4th graders an up-close look at her Ham radio -- (back row/left to right) Christine Li, Stephanie Chan, Andia Bruce, Matthew Ngo; (middle row/left to right) Anastasia Rozenbaum, JoAnne Seaman, Nicole Zang; Bottom right – Joseph Kim.

she explained that as a licensed Ham radio operator, she is ready and able to provide our community with emergency and disaster communications as a public service. A highlight of the assembly came at the end, when Jo Anne strode over to the piano to play a song she had composed. Called "C.L.I.M.B.," the piece honors the facility for people with blindness and other disabilities located in Sierra Madre, where Jo Anne has lived since 1977. Her melodious, sweet voice filled the room as she sang, "C.L.I.M.B., C.L.I.M.B., we climb all the time. We're just like anyone else, except that we can't see. And we're climbing with people who show us the way." I reflected on those lyrics, as the song ended and students gave Jo Anne a boom-like ovation. Jo Anne had been the one who had shown us the way that day – the way of loving life, overcoming obstacles, and making the most of what life deals you.



# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community     For Your Community

## Jeanette Mann Elected State Trustee Vice Presidency

Dr. Jeanette Mann, Pasadena Area Community College District Board of Trustees member, has been elected first vice president of the California Community College Trustee Board. Mann will serve on the 21-member board whose members are elected by the 72 local governing boards.

The CCCT provides guidance for the districts and 110 colleges that constitute the system. The board meets five times a year to take action on education policy issues. It develops and recommends policy, and also reviews and comments on policies developed by other groups, locally elected boards, and the California Legislature.

“The CCCT is working diligently to find federal grants and alternative funding sources for the community college system,” Mann said. “We are also looking at best practices to help foster student success and not just student access.”

Mann, who represents Area 2, covering Northeast Pasadena and Sierra Madre, served as president of the PACCD Board of Trustees in 2008 and has been a member of the board since 1983. She also served as director of affirmative action programs for California State University, Northridge before retiring.

In 2009, Mann was awarded the CCCT Fulfilling the Trust Award in recognition of her enduring dedication and service.

In 2008, Mann was also honored as the “Woman of the Year” for the 21st District by state Sen. Jack Scott. Members of the state Legislature annually recognize a woman from each Senate and Assembly district at a ceremony in the state Capitol. It is an opportunity to honor outstanding community activists throughout the state.

Her many other educational and civic contributions include the YWCA, Foothill Family Services, 211 Los Angeles, and the City of Pasadena Committee on Youth Development and Violence Prevention. She was past president of California Women in Higher Education and has been a longtime member of the political group ACT. Mann also regularly consults on affirmative action programs, sexual harassment prevention, and has written extensively on women in the workforce.

## Pet of the Week



Francesca, a lively and sweet, seven year old Jack Russell Terrier mix needs a loving home! She is outgoing and loves to play. Francesca would love to be adopted by someone who has had active little dogs before. Come visit with her today!

The regular dog adoption fee is \$120, which includes medical care prior to adoption, spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and a follow-up visit with a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A268400 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)



## A Doo Dah Sensation

By Dean Lee

It seems that a gamble made by the organizers of this year’s 33<sup>rd</sup> occasional Doo Dah Parade Saturday paid out substantially well—with no shortage of a crowd—after the choice was made to move the iconic event from Old Pasadena east. The parade was also moved from January to May Day.

Although some said they felt the parade’s new route along Colorado Boulevard between Sierra Madre and San Gabriel Boulevards was short, Doo Dah Spokesperson Patty Hurley said it was actually longer than before.

What made it feel smaller was the route occupied both sides of the street in a loop she said calling it the “paper clip.”

Pasadena Public information officer Ann Erdman and

long time Doo Dah devotee said she very skeptical about the move.

“I was telling Tom Coston, the Czar of Doo Dah, earlier this morning that the idea to bring the parade to East Pasadena was either brilliant or completely screwed up,” Erdman said during the event. “I am hear attest that it was brilliant.”

She said there was a real sense of community among parade goers many who were also armed with tortillas and Silly String.

Coston is cofounder of the Light Bringer Project that oversees the parade.

He said this year had the most entries ever, which included, “Boo-Boo Kitty,” oddly-attired sound inventors known as “The Highland Park Thursday Evening Gentlemen’s Society Circuit



Bending Marching Band & Ladies’ Auxiliary,” the “Pasadena Zombies,” as well as a real Doo Dah Wedding and Her Royal Highness Queen Erica Valentine.

“Some of them indescribable,” He said. “And other’s just very unique and colorful.”

When asked about the new route, a napper, from the Men of Leisure Synchronized Napping Drill Team said, “You know, I don’t think the asphalt’s quite as hard here as it is down there. But were asleep when we lay down, so?”

## Superintendent Discusses Battle Saving The Mount Wilson Observatory

By Dean Lee

Dave Jurasevich, superintendent of the Mount Wilson Institute went day by day Wednesday night through the 34 days of the Station Fire, the largest fire in the history of L.A. County, and the fight to save the historic Mount Wilson Observatory.

The fire started August 26 and burned until September 25, 2009 Jurasevich said. It was finally put out through a process he lightheartedly called, “winter.” The fire burned more than 161,000 acres according to the U.S. Forest Service.

The presentation was highlighted with a spectator slideshow with photographs showing everything from the Pyrocumululus clouds that Jurasevich said caused the fire to spread so quickly to group photos the firefighters he explained were, “the true heroes at the end of the day.”

He said the first responders at the Observatory were firefighters from the Calaveras County units of the California Division of Forestry and Fire Protection.

“In order to get these guys oriented to the historical significance of the Mount Wilson Observatory we had to do a little politicking,” Jurasevich said. “We took them into the 60 inch dome, the 100 inch dome to get their picture taken.” He showed the group photo he said now hangs in the Calaveras County Firehouse. He also spent a great deal of time explaining who, and what, the Helena Hot Shots do.

“These are a really tough bunch,” he said which

included six women. He said the Hot Shots cut the fire lines hiking miles with 50 pound back packs, chainsaws, and axes.

Jurasevich talked in depth about the air support showing photos he took of a P2V Neptune following a “lead plane.” He explained the lead plane directs the tankers by releasing smoke over the drop area.

DC 10s along with the P3 Orion were also used he said. And although he did not have a picture of one, 474s were also used.

Jurasevich stated out his presentation explaining a rollercoaster like series of events in which they were evacuated numerous times, “believe it or not, the number one reason for evocation was a lack of communication,” he said with an ironic photo of the all the communication towers in the background.

The program was held by the Pasadena Sierra Club at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. A number of people, after the meeting, asked Jurasevich if there was any information on who caused the fire. He said it has gone very quite on the issue. “I’ve heard a lot of rumors,” he said. “I’ve even heard firefighters say that this could be set by one of there own because of the sophistication of the device.”

*The Observatory was opened back up to the public April 1 although Angeles Crest Highway remains closed. Jurasevich said he was told the road would be open this summer. For more information call 626-440-9016 or visit [mtwilson.edu](http://mtwilson.edu).*

## POPs Kick off Summer Series, Free Concert



The Centennial Square at Pasadena City Hall will again be transformed May 22 into an outdoor concert space for Music Under the Stars featuring the Pasadena POPS led by Maestra Rachael Worby. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m..

Vocalist Dennis McNeil

will join the orchestra for this free concert and sneak peek at the POPS’ season to come. Pre-concert family fun begins at 5:30pm and will feature Kidspace Children’s Museum activities along with performances by Los Angeles Children’s Chorus and The Donald Brinegar Singers.

“The Place LA, The Green Truck and The Sweets Truck will also be on site selling culinary delights of all kinds,” organizers said.

Music Under the Stars repertoire will include: Star Wars Suite, Circle of Life from The Lion King, Ragtime, Pink Panther,

There’s No Business Like Show Business, a Duke Ellington medley, Firebird Suite and much more, they added.

Pasadena City Hall-Centennial Square is on the corner of Holly Street and Garfield Avenue.

Patrons may bring chairs and blankets or rent folding chairs for \$3 each.

The event is sponsored by Parsons, Target and the City of Pasadena.

For more information about Music Under the Stars visit [PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org](http://PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org) or call 626.793.7172.

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## Explosion Rocks Pasadena Power Plant

By Dean Lee

Thick black smoke could be seen for miles Tuesday in what city officials now say was an explosion in a gas turbine GT-1 containment unit at the Pasadena Power Plant.

“When the explosion happened, alarms sounded immediately, a Halon fire suppression system turned on automatically, and all safety and communications protocols and procedures were implemented by power plant crews,” City Spokesperson Ann Erdman said in a statement released moments after the accident.

She added, “The explosion blew off one of the doors to the containment unit, so the Halon system, which ordinarily removes all oxygen, could not work effectively.”

Both Pasadena Fire and South Pasadena Fire Department, responded within four minutes of the blast and extinguished the fire in about 15 minutes, after which firefighters remained on scene while the hot oil cooled she said. There were no injuries.

Phyllis Currie, General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power, said Thursday that GT-1 is a backup generator along with a twin GT-2.

Erdman said as a precaution GT-2 will not be operated until Wood Group Pratt & Whitney had completed an inspection of the facility. They were there Wednesday she said. The company manufactured the turbines which Currie said were built in the 1970s adding that they had been upgraded



in 2005 as part of a permitting process.

She said PWP customers would see no disruption in services. “This is not the first piece of equipment we call on for supplying our energy,” Currie said. “It’s kind of the last in the stack.”

Currie said the backup generators are primarily use in summer when peak energy consumption is the highest. Erdman said the explosion occurred during testing for the upcoming summer use. Currie said GT-1 was not a total loss.

“The generator is inside a huge metal structure,” she said. “And it’s the inside that we are going to have to repair. The structure itself is still in tacted.”

She said the generator is insured something Erdman had said was up to \$10 million. Currie said they were working with both Wood Group Pratt & Whitney and the insurance company to asses the damages. She added that it was likely that the generator would be fixed by summer. ‘If it doesn’t then we will by replacement power,’ she said. “We have to buy some power anyway.”

## Don’t Just Be a Blogger, Be A Citizen Journalist

Get hands-on multimedia journalism training! What makes news? Is it better to use a video instead of a still photo? How can I get this story out?

Pasadena Community Network and this newspaper are holding a seminar on Citizen Journalism. Putting the news in your hands. Learn how to find the story, the tools needed to capture the story and the means to tell the story using the power of video, audio and

print along with the internet. Free orientation.



## Assemblyman Portantino Is Guest On ‘City Beat’

California Assemblyman Anthony Portantino is the guest elected official on the latest edition of “City Beat” airing on KPAS, the city of Pasadena cable channel.

Topics of discussion include Portantino’s bills related to state reforms and tax breaks for victims of wildfires and natural disasters, as well as the search for Pasadena’s next police chief.

Moderator Ann Erdman is also joined by John Stephens, editor of the Pasadena Independent, and Dean Lee, reporter with

Mountain Views News. “City Beat” replays Mondays at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m., Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

KPAS is on channel 3 on the Charter Communications cable system in Pasadena. Streaming video of all KPAS programming can be accessed in real time by going to [www.cityofpasadena.net/publicaffairs](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/publicaffairs) and clicking on Video Streaming.

For more information call (626) 794-8585.

## JPL Events Calendar, Open House, ‘Camera that Saved Hubble Twice’ On Display

MAY 15: The JPL-developed and -built Wide Field and Planetary Camera 2 will go on display at the JPL von Karman Auditorium in time for the Lab’s annual Open House, May 15-16. A year ago, spacewalking astronauts extracted the camera from NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope. The baby grand piano-sized camera took some of the most famous space portraits in history during its record-breaking 15-plus years aboard the space telescope. The camera will remain at JPL for about three months before returning to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., where it will be on permanent display. <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/wfpc2/news.cfm>  
Contact: DC Agle 818-393-9011

MAY 15 AND 16: **JPL OPEN HOUSE:** JPL welcomes the public for its annual Open House, being held this year on Sat., May 15; and Sun., May 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The popular free event includes exhibits, demonstrations and children’s activities that highlight JPL’s ongoing research and space exploration. Some star attractions will be the unveiling of JPL’s new Visitor Center, the Hubble Space Telescope’s historic WFPC2 camera on display, and replicas of the Mars rovers moving and on display. <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/events/open-house.cfm>  
Contact: Elena Mejia 818-393-5467



Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>:

12:31 PM – Auto Burglary, 200 block Old Oak Lane. Suspect(s) smashed a car window and stole a Pentax camera and several music CDs. The crime occurred between 6:00 pm, Saturday, 4/24/2010 and 1:00 pm, Sunday, 4/25/2010. The combined loss was estimated in excess of \$1050.00.

1:12 PM – Auto Burglary, 100 block West Orange Grove Ave. Suspect(s) smashed the driver's side car window stealing the following: a Garmin GPS, Garmin Antenna and Nikon binoculars. The crimes occurred between 8:00 pm, Saturday, 4/24/2010 and 1:10 pm, Sunday, 4/25/2010. The loss was estimated at \$2837.00.

1:52 PM – Theft from Auto, 100 block West Orange Grove Ave. Suspect(s) ransacked an unlocked car stealing the following: a pair of Ray Ban Sunglasses, a pair of Mark Jacobs Sunglasses and a Mercedes first aid kit. The crimes occurred between 7:30 pm, Saturday, 4/24/2010 and 10:15 am, Sunday, 4/25/2010. The combined loss was estimated in excess of \$350.00.

2:13 PM – Auto Burglary, 100 block South Lima St. Suspect(s) smashed the rear passenger side car window stealing \$25.00 cash. Additional property was stolen from the Lima Street resident's open carport, which included a saw table, two mountain bikes, a Razor scooter, a hand drill and assorted hand tools. The crime occurred between 1:30 am, Sunday, 4/25/2010 and 11:30 am, Sunday, 4/25/2010. The loss was estimated to be at least \$1675.00.

*Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup>:*

6:33 PM – Residential burglary, 300 block West Carter Ave. Suspect(s) forced open a bathroom window to gain entry. The suspect(s) took an H & K semi auto .40 cal. handgun, a Mac Book Pro computer, a platinum wedding ring, a Canon camera, a Sony camera and cash. The crime occurred between 7:30 am and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 4/28/2010. The total loss was estimated at \$7,700.00

Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>:

6:55 AM – Auto Burglary, 00 block East Highland Ave. Suspect(s) smashed the window of a car parked in a carport, activating the vehicle's alarm. The owner heard the car alarm sound off, inspected his car and found the damages. A computer bag containing a set of earphones was taken. The crime occurred between 10:30 am, Thursday, 4/29/10, and 5:02, Friday, 4/30/2010. The loss was estimated at \$50.00.

7:14 AM – Theft from Vehicle, 100 block Merrill Ave. A resident reported a wallet, debit cards and cash was taken from her unlocked car. The crime occurred between 10:30 pm Thursday, 4/29/2010 and 7:00 am Friday, 4/30/2010. The loss was estimated at \$23.00.

7:51 AM – Stolen Vehicle, 00 block of East Highland Ave. Suspect(s) stole a black 2001 Toyota Camry from the apartment's carport area. The crime occurred between 7:00 pm, Thursday, 4/29/2010 and 7:30 am, Friday, 4/30/2010.

11:15 AM – Arrest, Suspicion of Residential Burglary. Officers were dispatched to the area of North Lima Ave. and West Carter Ave. regarding a suspicious man seated in a car. The resident saw the suspect standing near his car with the hood up and talking on a cell phone. The car had a Mexico license plate. The suspect looked down neighbors' driveways and was not from the area. Due to a burglary on the street a day earlier, the resident notified police. The suspect told officers that he was in the area to look at the snow-capped mountains, and to look for discarded items in wealthy neighborhoods. He had burglary tools in the car and the correct license plates. was arrested for suspicion of burglary. The suspect was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

3:38 PM – Theft from Vehicle, 100 block East Highland Ave. A resident reported her unlocked car was ransacked while parked in her driveway. The loss was her child's diaper bag. The crime occurred between 7:00 pm, Thursday, 4/29/2010 and 8:45 am, Friday, 4/30/2010. The loss was estimated at \$40.00.

Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>:

6:39 AM – Attempted Theft from Vehicle, 400 block Grove St. Suspect(s) entered the unlocked car, but did not take anything. The crime occurred between 4:00 pm, Friday, 4/30/2009 and 8:00 am, Saturday, 5/1/2010. No loss.

8:15 AM – Theft from Vehicle, 500 block North Hermosa Ave. Suspect(s) entered an unlocked car and stole tickets to a carnival and a carnival wrist band. The crime occurred between 4:00 pm, Friday, 4/30/2009 and 8:00 am, Saturday, 5/1/2010. The financial loss was \$150.00.

8:44 AM - Attempted Theft from Vehicle, 400 block Grove St. Suspect(s) entered an unlocked car rifling through the interior, but did not taking anything. The crime occurred between 3:30 pm, Friday, 4/30/2009 and 8:30 am, Saturday, 5/1/2010. No loss.

9:14 AM – Theft from Vehicle, 500 North Hermosa Ave. Suspect(s) entered an unlocked car and stole a Pep Boys auto road side emergency kit. The crime occurred between 4:00 pm, Friday, 4/30/2009 and 8:00 am, Saturday, 5/1/2010. The financial loss was estimated at \$80.00.

## Sierra Madre Individual Preparedness Project Kicks Off a 4 Part Series of Community Meetings.

The Sierra Madre Individual Preparedness Project is entering the second phase of its plan by launching a four part series of community meetings. The focus of these gatherings will be to educate and inform Sierra Madre residents on the need and importance of “being prepared” for disasters when they strike. All community meetings will feature a guest speaker who will present on current emergency preparedness topics and/or share personal experience when responding to a major catastrophe.

The first community meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers. The presenter will be Sierra Madre Fire Marshall, Richard Snyder and the title of this presentation is, "*Are YOU ready for the next earthquake?*" and deals with being mentally prepared for a disaster. The presentation will last about an hour with time for questions and answers along with free informational handouts and door prizes.

The June community meeting is scheduled for Friday evening, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers. This meeting will feature structural specialist Mikael Gartner and paramedic Robert Nowaczynk from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Urban Search and Rescue team. Both Mikael and Robert will share their experiences as first responders to the recent earthquake in Haiti along with providing an overall view of the incident.

The last two Sierra Madre individual Preparedness Project community meetings are scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in City Hall Council Chambers. Presenters and topics will be announced at a later date. For further information about S.M.I.P.P., check out the project website at [www.site.SMIPP.org](http://www.site.SMIPP.org) and plan to attend one of the upcoming community preparedness meetings.

Remember, preparedness is a shared responsibility -- everyone plays a role. Emergencies will occur in Sierra Madre, but taking action now can help individuals and families minimize the impact of such situations. Preparedness is contagious. What starts with one family can spread throughout a neighborhood, and every prepared neighborhood frees up emergency responders to care for those in dire need. We must all embrace our individual responsibility to be prepared. In doing so, we contribute to the safety and security of the City of Sierra Madre as well its citizens.

# Arcadia Police Blotter

# Arcadia Police Blotter

*For the period of Sunday, April 25, through Saturday, May 1, the Police Department responded to 919 calls for service of which 139 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

*Sunday, April 25:*

1. Around 12:35 p.m., an automated license plate reader alerted officers to a stolen vehicle, and a high risk traffic stop was made at Baldwin and the 210 Freeway. A 20-year-old female driver was arrested for vehicle theft, suspended/revoked license, and four outstanding misdemeanor warrants, totaling \$101,438. An inventory search of the vehicle was conducted and an impact weapon/billy club was found, so she was also charged with possession of a weapon.
  2. Loss prevention personnel from Macy's advised that they had detained a woman for theft around 5:18 p.m. The suspect cut the price tags off merchandise while in a fitting room and concealed the items in a shopping bag. A private person's arrest was made, and a 36-year-old Hispanic was taken into custody for grand theft.
- Monday, April 26:*
3. Shortly after 1:00 a.m., a 39-year-old male African-American was stopped for erratic driving at Fifth and Huntington. Officers noticed the odor of an alcoholic beverage on his breath, his speech was slurred, and he had an unsteady gait. The driver was uncooperative and refused to perform the field sobriety test. He was arrested for DUI, and an inventory search of the vehicle revealed a loaded revolver in the trunk. He was also charged with carrying a loaded firearm in vehicle.
  4. An auto versus pedestrian accident occurred at 100 West Duarte around 3:09 p.m. A 14-year-old male juvenile ran into the street without looking for oncoming traffic and was struck by a vehicle. He was transported to a hospital as a precaution for possible head trauma, and luckily he did not sustain any broken bones or a concussion.

*Tuesday, April 27:*

5. Two male Caucasian drivers were arrested for DUI. A 36-year-old was arrested around 12:32 a.m. at First and Wheeler; a 27-year-old was arrested at Live Oak and Lenore.
6. Units responded to Santa Anita Inn, 130 West Huntington, around 2:33 a.m. in reference to a possible injury traffic collision. Investigation revealed that an intoxicated 17-year-old male Hispanic drove over a front lawn and damaged a motel sign. A witness advised that he saw the driver throw two cans of beer into a trash can located outside the front lobby area, which was later retrieved. An inventory search of the vehicle also revealed two more open cans of beer and marijuana. The juvenile was arrested for DUI, unlicensed driver, possession of alcohol in vehicle, possession of marijuana in vehicle, minor driving under the influence, and driving with open alcohol container. He was noncompliant and cursed at officers and slammed his head against a car window. While in a non-secured detention room at the station, he continued to bang his head against the walls and spat at the window. He was later released his parents.

*Wednesday, April 28:*

7. Around 2:51 p.m., loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised that they had detained a woman for theft. She took clothing item into a fitting room and hid the item in her purse. A private person's arrest was made, and an 18-year-old Hispanic was taken into custody for commercial burglary. Additional stolen items from Old Navy and Anchor Blue stores were recovered.
8. Between 2:00 p.m. and 7:25 p.m., three auto burglaries occurred at Westfield Mall. A radar detector, an iPod, and rear seats were stolen from a Chevy Tahoe; an iPod and GPS unit were stolen from another vehicle; a witness saw two male Hispanics break a car window and took a laptop computer and GPS unit from a third vehicle. An area search for the two suspects was conducted, but they were not found.

*Thursday, April 29:*

9. A residential burglary occurred in the 1300 block of North Michillinda between 10:30 a.m. on April 28 and 9:15 a.m. on April 29. Unknown suspects gained entry into the house that is under construction via an unlocked side door. The suspects took all the interior doors, plumbing hardware, sinks, bathtub, microwave, and building material for a total reported loss of about \$21,000.
10. An armed robbery occurred at Metro Style Hair Studio located at 1005 North Santa Anita around 5:28 p.m. A male Hispanic suspect, 20-30 years of age, 5'8", 160 pounds, wearing a bandana over his mouth, entered the business through the rear door. He pointed a handgun at the owner and demanded cash. Fearing for his safety, the victim gave money to the suspect.

*Friday, April 30:*

11. Around 3:36 p.m., officers were dispatched to AMH in reference to a battery victim being treated at the emergency room. The victim indicated that he was punched and kicked by two male Hispanic suspects at County Park. During the assault, the suspects took his pocket radio and cash.
12. Units were dispatched to Drive-In Liquor, 10 East Huntington, around 6:14 p.m. regarding a subject who was verbally aggressive towards customers and refused to leave the location. An intoxicated 35-year-old male Caucasian was contacted and he refused to comply with officers' instructions. A record check indicated that he had four outstanding misdemeanor warrants totaling \$103,000. The man was arrested and while in custody, the subject kicked a police officer and attempted to kick a custodial officer during a cursory search. He was charged with battery on peace officer, assault on custodial officer, disorderly conduct/drunken in public, obstructing/resisting, and outstanding misdemeanor warrants.

*Saturday, May 1:*

13. Loss prevention personnel from Sport Chalet notified police that they had detained a man for theft around 6:00 p.m. Three suspects, two men and one woman, entered the store to steal softball and baseball bats and then sell them to another sporting goods store. A male Hispanic hid two softball bats in his shorts and left the store with the female suspect; however, the bats were dropped in the parking lot as they fled in a silver Mitsubishi. A 20-year-old male Caucasian had hidden a baseball bat in his pants and was later apprehended.
14. A 17-year-old male Hispanic was arrested for possession of marijuana around 8:30 p.m. at the racetrack during the Claremont High School prom. A drug K-9 was hired by the school for the prom, and the dog alerted to marijuana that was hidden in the juvenile's pocket. Additional marijuana was found in his sock.

Sierra Madre Individual  
Preparedness Project  
Presents...

"Are **YOU** Ready  
for the next  
**Earthquake?**"

Sierra Madre Individual Preparedness Project  
<http://site.smipp.org>

**Presenter**

Sierra Madre Fire Marshall  
Richard Snyder

**Date**

Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

**Time**

7:00 p.m.

**Location**

City Hall Council Chambers

**Costs**

Free for all ages

**Join Us!**

The Sierra Madre Individual Preparedness Project is entering the second phase of its plan by launching a four part series of community meetings. The focus of these gatherings will be to educate and inform Sierra Madre residents on the need and importance of "being prepared" for disasters when they strike.

**Door Prizes!**

**Contact Name**  
**Email Address**

Donna Cayson  
[Donna.Cayson@fema.gov](mailto:Donna.Cayson@fema.gov)



## Alverno High School “Girls Lead” Awards Recognize the Leadership of Middle School Girls



Honorees Anna Lopez for the Gooden School (above) and Sarah Troescher of St. Rita School (below) each pose with Alverno Head of School Ann Gillick. Photo Courtesy Alverno HS



Twenty-five middle school leaders gathered with their families and teachers on the terrace of the historic Alverno Villa for the 2010 Alverno High School “Girls Lead” awards. This new tradition recognizes 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls who are making a difference through leadership in the community or their schools.

“As you know, at Alverno we pride ourselves on guiding girls to discover their leadership potential,” says Ann Gillick, Alverno Head of School. “The purpose of “Girls Lead” is to recognize and encourage young women who are already making their mark in middle school.”

Teachers and principals from independent, Catholic, and public middle schools were asked to nominate one girl each from their 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes to be recognized. Patricia Patano, Head of The Gooden School in Sierra Madre, enjoyed everything about “Girls Lead.” “It’s such a positive, affirming way to acknowledge leadership in young girls,” she said. “It shows them how important strong, positive leadership in young ladies is and it also reminds them of the importance of adults, especially parents, in their lives.”

The speaker was Sierra Madre Police Chief Marilyn Diaz. “I’m inspired by you,” she told the gathered honorees and their families, and congratulated the girls’ families and schools as well. “The values instilled by your parents and your teachers are the values that will be with you for a lifetime.”

Alverno’s own leaders were on hand for the awards. Current President of the Alverno Student Union, Lana El-Farra, and Julia Morreale, incoming ASU president, gave the “Girls Lead” honorees tips on effective leadership in their own schools, and took charge of announcing the honorees as they received their medals.

The girls honored and their schools are:

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Erin Barr (La Cañada Prep), Sophia Coffey (St. Rita School), Ashley Duell (St. Philip the Apostle School) Juliana Gallegos, (St. Therese School), Nina Hernandez (Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal), Cassidy Jung (Clairbourn School), Anneka Lars (High Point Academy), Anna Lopez (The Gooden School), Emma Parris (St. James the Less School), Isabella Rios (Assumption of the BVM School), Katelyn Stone (St. Luke School), Julia Rae Villamater (Holy Angels School).

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Yzabel Arambulo (St. Elizabeth of Hungary School), Marissa Bussone (Assumption of the BVM School), Claire Courtney (The Gooden School), Meg Diehl (St. Philip the Apostle School), Jasmine Gritton (Clairbourn School), Juliana Hrovat (Holy Angels School), Tala Ismail (La Cañada Prep), Sarah Lopez (Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal), Haley Mitchell (St. Luke School), Kristen Schirmeister (St. James the Less School), Jenna Tran (St. Therese School), and Sarah Troescher (St. Rita School).

*Nestled on a 13 acre campus in the foothills of Sierra Madre, Alverno High School is a highly regarded independent, Catholic high school for girls. 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 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of preparing young women for the future with a series of events during the 2010-2011 school year.*

## HARRISON, COOPER SELECTED TO LEAD PUSD BOARD

The Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) voted to elect Bob Harrison Board President for the 2010-11 school year, and Renatta Cooper as Vice President.

As the father of five current and former PUSD students, Bob Harrison has a long history as an advocate for public education. Elected in 2007, Harrison’s priorities include accountability to teachers, parents and the community, partnerships with local colleges, organizations and employers, and transparency in budget procedures.

“I appreciate the support and I am honored to serve as the President of this body. I will use the culture statement that we approved last week as a compass as I lead Board meetings and go out into the community,” said Harrison. “I believe that culture starts with the Board, in how we go about our business and how we treat each other and our community. As the moment by moment behaviors of the Board and the senior staff spread throughout this organization, I am confident we will be effective in bringing about the change that we’ve talked about.”

Board members selected Renatta Cooper to serve in the role of Vice President. Cooper was also elected in 2007. Cooper formerly taught graduate-level child development programs at Pacific Oaks College, and has been a member of the First 5 Los Angeles Board of Commissioners.

“I thank my colleagues for supporting me in this candidacy. This has been a very difficult cycle, and I think it will continue to be difficult,” Cooper said. “I am hopeful that we will be able to pull together in a strong and ethical manner to do what’s best for the district. Everyone has a right to be represented in relationship to school issues, but no group’s representation should come at the expense of another’s.”

The new officers will assume their positions immediately.

## TREASURE ISLAND



This May Long John Silver is recruiting kids of all ages to join his treacherous pirate gang as June Chandler’s Fairy Tale Theatre offers up “Treasure Island,” a participative play written by Steve and Kathy Hotchner.

Audience members will be led through an exciting and terrible storm at sea, a mosquito infested jungle, and into a treasure cave filled with eerie ghosts. The cast includes many favorites from previous productions. Donna Ieraci, our Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz, plays the adventurous Jamie, whose discovery of a treasure map lures her into this adventure. Trevor Clark plays her uncle, Captain Smollet. Barry Schwam, loved for his portrayal of Scrooge in Sierra Madre’s Christmas show, plays the notorious swashbuckling pirate Long John Silver. Andy Kovac is his colorful sidekick. And Shirley McConnell, known to many as Glenda the Good Witch in the Wizard of Oz production, does a character turn portraying Bertha Ben Bulba who returns for revenge on Long John Silver.

Kids from the audience participate, playing the crew on the ship. And everyone meets the cast for autographs after the show.

This Robert Louis Stevenson masterpiece is the 3<sup>rd</sup> in a series of 4 participative children’s plays produced for the Sierra Madre Playhouse Fairy Tale Theatre. Our next play will be the musical “The Frog Prince” Opening June 26<sup>th</sup>. All four plays will then go into repertory and run every Saturday at 11 am and 2 pm through September 25<sup>th</sup>.

There will only be 4 performances of “Treasure Island.” Saturday, May 15th at 2 pm and the following Saturdays May 22, 29, and June 5 also at 2 pm. Tickets are \$18 for adults, and \$12 for children under 12.

[www.sierramadrepalyhouse.org](http://www.sierramadrepalyhouse.org). Phone: (626) 355-4318 The Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA, 91024

Photo by John Gibson

## Local Students Graduate from Azusa Pacific University

*The following students graduated from Azusa Pacific University on Sat., May 8. They were joined by more than 1,300 graduates at the spring commencement ceremonies.*

### ALTADENA:

Tamar Alice Aroyan  
Aleta L. McMurray  
Veronica Lynnette Jones  
Victoria Anne Silverman

Master of Arts in Education: Teaching  
MA Human Resource/Organizational Development  
Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership  
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and English

### ARCADIA:

Jeremy John Brown  
Yolanda Roche’ Cunegin  
Ya-Han Chung

Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership  
Master of Arts in Leadership and Organizational Studies  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

### MONROVIA:

Amber Lisa Burdick  
Creighton R. Dent  
Catherine I. Hackworth  
David Keio Takahashi  
Kenra Marie Walker

Master of Music in Performance: Instrumental  
MSc College Counseling/Student Development  
Master of Music in Performance: Voice  
Master of Music in Performance: Cello  
Master of Social Work

### PASADENA:

Jerry Jack DeLaurie  
Eric J. Johnson  
James Philip McDermott  
Jon Rizk  
Jeremy W. Aaron  
Michelle K. Matisohn  
Marlena N. Montesione  
John Henning Sojka  
Stephanie Ann Vandehey

Master of Science in Physical Education  
Master of Arts in Leadership and Organizational Studies  
Master of Arts in Religion: Theology and Ethics  
Master of Social Work  
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration  
Bachelor of Arts in History  
Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration  
Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

### SIERRA MADRE:

Brittany Michiko Taylor  
Krista Jolene Castagna

Bachelor of Arts in History  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Azusa Pacific University is a comprehensive, evangelical, Christian university located 26 miles northeast of Los Angeles. APU is committed to God First and excellence in higher education. Offering more than 60 areas of undergraduate study, 26 master’s degree programs, and 7 doctorates to a total student population of more than 8,500 on campus, online, and at seven regional centers across Southern California, APU has been recognized as one of U.S. News & World Report’s Best Colleges for six years running and by Princeton Review as one of the Best in the West. APU graduates are known for professional excellence, the highest ethical standards, and their desire to make a difference in the world.

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<b>Ceramics</b>	<b>Ceramics</b>	<b>Silk Screening &amp; Game Design</b>	<b>Silk Screening, &amp; Game Design</b>
Ages 14-18	Ages 10-14	Ages 14-18	Ages 10-14
8am to 1pm	8am to 1pm	8am to 1pm	8am to 1pm

**For application or inquiry please call (626) 791-1255 or email Gerrie Raven at [Gerrie@frostig.org](mailto:Gerrie@frostig.org)**

**The Frostig School, 971 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, CA 91107**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
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## TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

### Tipping In Times Of Trouble

I don't claim to be an economist, (even though Economics was my major in College), I have noticed a cutback at many of the restaurants I frequent. Seems there is one less busboy, one less hostess, and service has slowed to the speed of molasses at some of the usually more prompt restaurants. So what to do? Is there a new strategy in the tipping dept? I don't believe there is. You are still tipping on quality of service. Empathy seems to be the word of the day, so you may take pity on shorthanded workers.

Tipping is to insure good service, period. When at a restaurant, you are tipping on the speed and accuracy of service, not on the food. So with that being said, let's continue on. I have heard that tipping at a fancy restaurant and tipping at a coffee shop are different. There is no truth in that statement! It is the same from paper table covers to fine china.

These are my tips for tipping - not necessarily the way I tip. I even give 10% for atrocious service. Seems with my picture in this paper and on my TV show "The Chef Knows" that I might get a bad rep.

Here are my suggestions for you. Again no matter where you are.

**Fair to medium service 12 to 14 %**  
**Good to Better then Average 15 to 18%**  
**Great Service 20%**

**Can't figure the whole percentage on tipping?**  
**Best way is to just double the tax.**

Let me answer a few other questions from the past about tipping. Valet Parking... If there is no charge and it's only a tip, I suggest at least (\$5), again depending on speed of service. What if there is a (\$5) fee? I will give at least (\$1) extra and maybe even (\$3) if my car is brought to me quickly. How about Wine or a drink at the bar? A full bottle of a (\$10) wine takes as much energy as a bottle of Dom Perignon to open. If the bartender keeps my glass full and clean, and if the wine is kept cold and is poured for me, I suggest a 10 to 12% with a minimum of (\$3) for the bartender. Have Kids? Sure I do. Sometimes they make a mess, throw food and crayons on the floor. I always leave the busboy at least (\$3)!!! If you don't, well you could consider cleaning it yourself.

**Helpful?** We review tipping again in a few weeks.

Email me at the [chefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:chefknows@yahoo.com) with your thoughts. Join me every Sunday Night at 8 PM on KABC Talk Radio, starting in a week!!!

Watch Peter Dills' TV Show every Sunday night at 9 p.m. on KJLA / LATV. If you like to dine out, Tune in to Dining with Dills, LA's only Restaurant TV Show.



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- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM  | Lisa Finnie & Freinds                                |
| 4 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM   | Quiz Nite Trivia Game                                |
| 5                     | Pianist & Jazz Vocalist Gaea Schell Jazz Jam Session |
| 6                     | New Astro Turf                                       |
| 7 9:00 PM - 11:55 PM  | Mercy & the Marketts                                 |
| 8 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM  | Cheryl Barnes & Philip Cabasso                       |
| 11 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM  | Quiz Nite Trivia Game                                |
| 12 7:30 PM - 11:00 PM | Guitarist Steve Creason                              |
| 13 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Cow Bop featuring Bruce Forman                       |
| 14 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | The Jack Sheldon Quartet                             |
| 15 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Jazz Crooner Rick Blessing                           |
| 18 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM  | Quiz Nite Trivia Game                                |
| 19                    | The Song Sirens                                      |
| 20 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Guitarist Pete Anderson !!                           |
| 21 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | VR Smith & Putter Smith with Gary Foster, & others   |
| 22 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Jon Mayer Quartet featuring Pete Christlieb          |
| 25 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM  | Quiz Nite Trivia Game                                |
| 27 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | The Judy Wexler Quartet                              |
| 28                    | Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom                      |
| 29 8:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Cuban Jazz, Funk & Salsa with ILIANA ROSE...         |
- SALSA DANCING !!



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## Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

## NASA's New Eye On The Sun Delivers Stunning Image



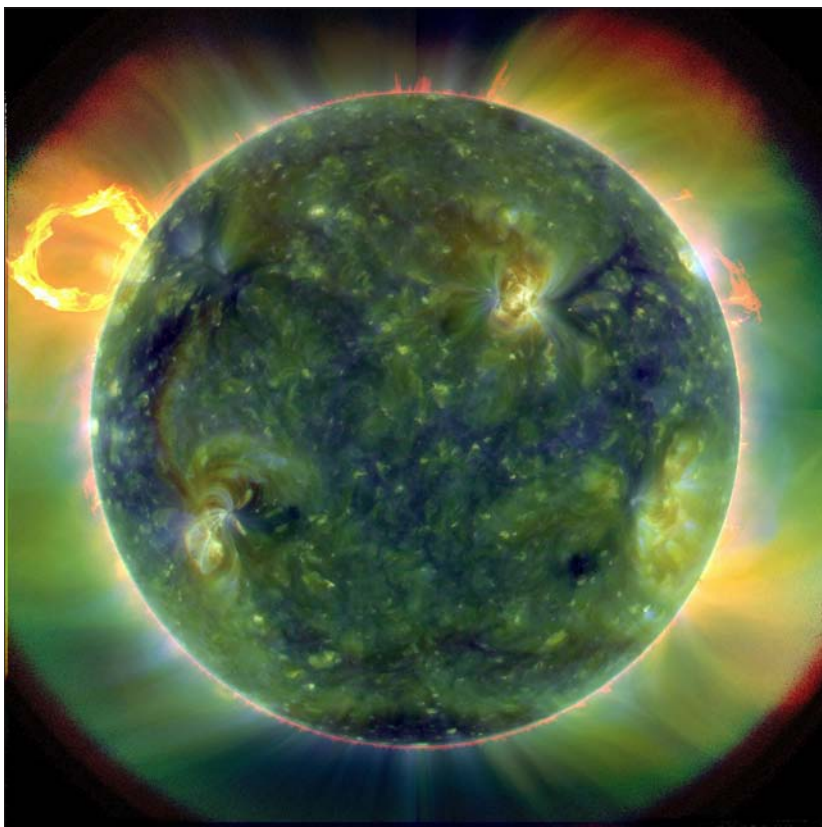
NASA's recently launched Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, is returning early images that confirm an unprecedented new capability for scientists to better understand our Sun's dynamic processes. These solar activities affect everything on Earth.

Some of the images from the spacecraft show never-before-seen detail of material streaming outward and away from sunspots. Others show extreme close-ups of activity on the Sun's surface. The spacecraft also has made the first high-resolution measurements of solar flares in a broad range of extreme ultraviolet wavelengths.

"These initial images show a dynamic Sun that I had never seen in more than 40 years of solar research," said Richard Fisher, director of the Heliophysics Division at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "SDO will change our understanding of the Sun and its processes, which affect our lives and society. This mission will have a huge impact on science, similar to the impact of the Hubble Space Telescope on modern astrophysics."

Launched on Feb. 11, 2010, SDO is the most advanced spacecraft ever designed to study the Sun. During its five-year mission, it will examine the Sun's magnetic field and also provide a better understanding of the role the Sun plays in Earth's atmospheric chemistry and climate. Since launch, engineers have been conducting testing and verification of the spacecraft's components. Now fully operational, SDO will provide images with clarity 10 times better than high-definition television and will return more comprehensive science data faster than any other solar observing spacecraft.

SDO will determine how the Sun's magnetic field is generated, structured, and converted into violent solar



*A full-disk multiwavelength extreme ultraviolet image of the sun taken by SDO on March 30, 2010. False colors trace different gas temperatures. Reds are relatively cool (about 60,000 Kelvin, or 107,540 F); blues and greens are hotter (greater than 1 million Kelvin, or 1,799,540 F).*

Credit: NASA SDO/AIA

events such as turbulent solar wind, solar flares and coronal mass ejections. These immense clouds of material, when directed toward Earth, can cause large magnetic storms in our planet's magnetosphere and upper atmosphere.

SDO will provide critical data that will improve the ability to predict these space weather events. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., built, operates, and manages the SDO spacecraft for the agency's Science Mission Directorate in Washington.

"I'm so proud of our brilliant work force at Goddard, which is rewriting science textbooks once again," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., chairwoman of the Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations Subcommittee that funds NASA. "This time Goddard is shedding new light on our closest star, the Sun, discovering new information about powerful solar flares that affect us here on Earth by damaging communication satellites and temporarily knocking out power grids. Better data means more accurate solar storm warnings."

Space weather has been recognized as a cause of technological problems since the invention of the telegraph in the 19th century. These events produce disturbances in electromagnetic fields on Earth that can induce extreme currents in wires, disrupting power lines and causing widespread blackouts. These solar storms can interfere with communications between ground controllers, satellites and airplane pilots flying near Earth's poles. Radio noise from the storms also can disrupt cell phone service.

SDO will send 1.5 terabytes of data back to Earth each day, which is equivalent to a daily download of half a million songs onto an MP3 player. The observatory carries three state-of-the-art instruments for conducting solar research.

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



There is currently a large-scale project underway upgrade the upgrade the physical connections that make up the Internet as we know it. "Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan" aims to deliver 100 Mbps internet service to 100 million American homes by 2020. Under this ambitious plan all schools, libraries and hospitals will have 1 Gbps service. The ultimate aim of all of this upgrading is to put America in the position of being the most wired country on the planet. Contrary to popular opinion America is not the most Internet-integrated nation on Earth, although it often appears that just about everything in our lives is connected to the Internet in some way or another. The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) measures the broadband penetration

costs, country size and national policies, Denmark ranks #1 as the most wired country in the survey. The US comes in further down the list, ranking at #15.

The main difference between the countries that made the top ten in the survey and the US is that all the leading countries have a comprehensive national broadband policy that make broadband access a national priority and support that broadband infrastructure with committed resources. In the US, these priorities have largely been left to the big telecommunications to manage and dictate policy. In this particular instance our free market economy has been either unwilling to or unable to keep pace with those countries that outdistance the US in terms of broadband access. In a

of participating countries by using several different factors but when these factors are summed up and the results are seen, Americans may just be in for a bit of a shock. After adjusting for population, urban density, subscription

free market economy decisions about priorities are driven by motives of profit, supply and demand. If it doesn't make dollars, it doesn't make sense. National policy directives can be and often are implemented without the constraint of the profit motive and can therefore concentrate on effecting critical changes in areas of national significance. The "Connecting America" plan aims to raise our current status in the world as far as broadband penetration is concerned. The free market economy, with its lavish incentives, however, has made the US #1 in terms of innovation when it comes to content available on the web. The large majority of the most visited sites on the web originate in the US and many of the most advanced developments on the web, including the creation of the web itself, happen right here in America. To speak of the web in terms of individual nations is a bit weird when one realizes that all of this inter-connectedness has had the net effect of making this world a smaller place. The task that now remains is to make this world a friendlier place. If we're very lucky that just be the end result of getting more.



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## HOWARD Hays As I See It

What's up with Arizona? Some thought it was a problem with illegal immigration. To address it, then-Governor (now Secretary of Homeland Security) Janet Napolitano and the Arizona State Legislature put through a bill targeting the underlying cause - the lure of available employment.

The Arizona Legal Workers Act took effect January 1, 2008. It encouraged state employers to take advantage of the national E-Verify program and provided sanctions for knowingly hiring undocumented workers - a possible 10-day business license suspension for a first offense, and possible permanent revocation for a second.

Businesses fretted over losing the leverage they had over their workers, "legal" or not. Should any complain about lack of a decent wage, job security, benefits or (dream on) collective bargaining, it was handy to be able to remind them there were plenty available to take their place (and who would remain rather docile under threat of being turned over to the authorities).

The owner of a window cleaning business observed that the approximate five minutes necessary to verify a new hire is "increasing the burden of paperwork". A Flagstaff janitorial service operator complained about a diminished labor pool; "For the last eight years, I have only had three people work for me that were white, and they didn't work out." A Flagstaff masonry business owner said "I had to shut down the business" after laying off workers, "They probably all went back to Mexico."

Employers needn't have worried. According to the Judicial Watch Blog last November, the number of firms punished under the law after almost two years was exactly zero. Much of the \$5 million allocated for enforcement remained unspent. In Maricopa County, 22 businesses were caught hiring undocumented workers, but none were punished - though 300 employees were arrested for having fake IDs.

Prosecutors complained that lack of civil subpoena power in the law made it hard to enforce; personnel records containing possible evidence could only be obtained voluntarily. Whether that loophole was put in the law accidentally-on-purpose has not been determined. Going after employers who provide the incentive for illegal immigration, though, is somehow not as viscerally satisfying as going after the immigrants themselves.

This was recently done through Arizona's SB1070, the "show me your papers" bill which encourages citizens to sue neighborhood cops whom they suspect are not doing enough to bust those presumed-illegals down the street. As Greg cautioned in his column last week, though, we shouldn't assume racist motivations behind the legislation. (The bill's chief sponsor, State Sen. Russell Pearce, apologized in 2006 for circulating an e-mail from the white supremacist National Alliance that criticized black and white intermixing and Jewish control over the media. In 2008 he sponsored an amendment that bans instruction at public schools that would "denigrate American values and

the teachings of Western civilization." It also prohibits race-related organizations at public colleges and universities, such as the Black Business Students Association at ASU and Native Americans United at Northern Arizona University.)

Sheriff Ralph Ogden of Yuma County is concerned about citizens filing lawsuits when they feel his officers are "not doing enough"; "Suddenly you find yourself in court, and you're taking resources, you're taking people off the road, you're hiring attorneys to defend those actions." He wonders what happens after pulling over a "suspect"; "how long can I sit there and detain him while I try to determine whether he's an undocumented alien? And if it takes a long period of time and he's a U.S. citizen, what am I doing to him? Because as a citizen, you don't have to carry your documentation with you."

Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik (52 years in law enforcement) describes a "damned if we do, damned if we don't situation" where deputies would engage in racial profiling simply to cover their bases and avoid being hauled into court. "They'll find some flimsy excuse like a tail light that's not working as a basis for a stop, which is a bunch of baloney." "It's just a stupid law." The Tucson and Flagstaff city councils have already sued their state government over it.

The law reportedly arose from Arizonians' fear of crime. Daniel Griswold of the Cato Institute, however, reported that "... it is a smear to blame low-skilled immigrant workers from Latin America for creating a crime problem in Arizona. The crime rate in Arizona in 2008 was the lowest it has been in four decades. In the past decade, as the number of illegal immigrants in the state grew rapidly, the violent crime rate dropped by 23 percent, the property crime rate by 28 percent."

That fear of crime was also behind another recently-enacted law allowing those over 21 in Arizona to carry a concealed weapon - no permit, no background check, no training, no nothin'. Arizonians had already been permitted to openly carry, like the wacko who brought his semiautomatic rifle to a speech by President Obama in Phoenix last year. Separately, a law signed by Governor Jan Brewer allows concealed weapons to be carried into bars and restaurants where alcohol is served, though the person carrying isn't allowed to drink (we'll see how that's enforced).

Another situation stipulating required paperwork was addressed a few days after the immigration bill was passed, when the Arizona House passed a bill requiring President Obama to show his birth certificate should he wish to appear on the Arizona ballot in his bid for re-election.

So - if your knowledge of firearms comes from nothing more than re-runs of "Gunsmoke", you're free to have a loaded .38 tucked in your belt under your jacket as you venture to the local mall or corner bar, no questions asked. If, however, you somehow look like you don't belong (and that includes you, President Obama), you'd better have your papers in order.

Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D - Phoenix) frets that her state is becoming "the laughing stock of the nation". And I wonder - What's up with Arizona?

## GREG Welborn



## Immigration Insanity

It's not normal for me to take up the same topic two weeks in a row, but the recent case of Faisal Shahzad's almost-perfect terrorist bombing of New York's Time Square forces us to recognize once again just how insane our immigration laws are. I'm labeling his attempt as almost perfect because there were only two small errors which prevented the bomb from detonating and him escaping. First, he bought the wrong fertilizer. The next terrorist won't make that mistake. Second, a random citizen reported the auto as being suspicious. We can't count on that as our first line of defense. The reality is that if Faisal had purchased the right fertilizer and a passerby not noticed the vehicle, more time would have passed, the bomb would have detonated and Faisal would have been in Pakistan.

Why is this an immigration issue? Because a suspected Islamic terrorist sympathizer was allowed to game our immigration rules by marriage and then to board a Pakistan-bound flight even though he was on the do-not-fly list and purchased his one-way ticket with cash. Pardon me for pointing out the obvious, but when this guy can get into the country in the first place and then simply hop on a plane despite his status as described above, and yet I'm bounced from a flight because I question whether my shampoo exceeded the 3 ounce limit, we have a real problem.

Perhaps this will sound odd to some of you, but I am a conservative who is absolutely pro-immigration. This stems from both my political philosophy and my personal experience. As a matter of philosophy, I understand, appreciate and desire the benefits to this great country which immigration has supplied. We are a nation birthed by and built by immigrants. Before 1875, we had no immigration laws. If you could make the trip here and if you were healthy, you got to stay. If you then worked hard, made a life for yourself, passed a fair test and pledged your allegiance to our country, you could become a citizen. Personally, that's exactly how my grandparents came here. My wife's family, immigrating more recently in the latter 20th century, had to apply to come, but they did so legally and then followed the time honored course to proud citizenship.

Lastly, perhaps more than most, I realize just how atrocious the conditions are south of our border and elsewhere in the world. I've traveled to 56 countries in my life and seen living conditions that aren't fit for animals, let alone humans. I've seen wretched poverty up close and seen brutality metered out by government officials against their own citizens. I've seen the desperation and hopelessness that is created by governments that shackle their citizens with excessive regulation, punitive taxation and judicial arbitrariness. If I lived in a country which consigned me to physical or economic deprivation, I would do anything in my power to get myself and my family out, and I would certainly set me goals on the United States. I get it!

Having said all that, I also acknowledge that we have to be able to properly manage the immigration to this country. Controlling our borders and controlling the process by which people come to our country is 21<sup>st</sup> century necessity and absolutely critical given the dual threats of radical Islamic terror and the wanton cruelty and lawlessness of drug lords. My heart weeps for those who want nothing more than a better life for their family; but my heart seethes when I think about the family of an Arizona rancher who was murdered, or when I think about the thousands of families that could easily have lost someone had the Time Square bomb detonated. It is possible, logical and beneficial to distinguish between one type of immigrant and the other. There is an absolute moral imperative to control our border and immigration process so as to protect ourselves and to continue our great tradition of welcoming those poor, but industrious, outcasts of other nations.

But let me bring this back to Faisal Shahzad and, in so doing, to thank Michelle Malkin for her fine research in documenting how our current immigration system is being abused to our detriment. Our political leaders are so wrapped up in political correctness that they are unable

to make normal, rational distinctions about who should be allowed to use marriage as a legitimate reason to stay in the country vs those who should be expelled for mocking the system. Consider the following example from Ms. Malkin's recent column.

- El Sayyid A. Nosair married Karen Ann Mills Sweeney to avoid deportation for overstaying his visa. He was later convicted for conspiracy in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that claimed six lives.

- Ali Mohamed became an American citizen after marrying a woman he met on a plane trip from Egypt to New York and a six week courtship. Mohamed became a top aide to Osama bin Laden and was later convicted for his role in the 1998 United States embassy bombings in Africa that killed 12 Americans and more than 200 others.

- Embassy bombing plotter Khalid Abu al Dahab obtained citizenship after marrying three different American women.

- Embassy bombing plotter Wadhi el Hage, Osama bin Laden's personal secretary, married April Ray in 1985 and became a naturalized citizen in 1989.

- Mohammed Hammoud married three different American women. He was later convicted on 16 counts that included providing material support to Hezbollah.

- A total of eight Middle Eastern men who plotted to bomb New York landmarks in 1993 — Fadil Abdelgani, Amir Abdelgani, Siddig Ibrahim Siddig Ali, Tarig Elhassan, Abdo Mohammed Haggag, Fares Khallafalla, Mohammed Saleh, and Matarawy Mohammed Said Saleh — all obtained legal permanent residence by marrying American citizens.

Controlling our borders and controlling our immigration process is not anti-immigrant. In fact, I can't think of anything more pro-immigrant. Americans of all origins — whether they came through the hospital delivery room or one of our airports — should be protected from terrorists and drug lords. The left in this country is absolutely insane in their claim that any attempt to control immigration is racist or somehow violates our civil rights. There is no room in their fever-swamp mindset that allows for reasonable precautions and controls to be implemented.

Let me make two reasonable observations. First, when I can't get on a plane but Faisal Shahzad can, we're screwing up and need to fix that system fast or Times Square, Washington DC or Los Angeles is going to be showered in flames and body parts. Second, it just so happens that Canada is a well functioning country and Mexico is all but ungovernable at this time, so one of these borders needs real attention real fast.

We can argue legitimately about how many immigrants this country can handle at one time. We can argue legitimately about the inequities between how Cubans are treated (easily granted entrance) and how other nationalities are treated (no so easily granted entrance). We can legitimately argue whether we should control the northern border as tightly as we should control the southern border. We can, and should, have all these debates, but without labeling anyone in the debate as racist, bigoted or anti-immigrant. Poor little Arizona had the audacity to suggest that its law enforcement personnel simply enforce existing federal law, which the feds have all but abandoned. They have called out the emperor, shown that he wears no clothes and now are being pilloried in almost every public media forum in this land. We seriously need to rethink our immigration process. But the simple fact of having a process which is then diligently followed does not make us anti-immigrant, anti-Hispanic, or anti-any-ethnicity. It simply makes us wise.

About the author: Gregory J. Welborn is a freelance writer and has spoken to several civic and religious organizations on cultural and moral issues. He lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at [gregwelborn@earthlink.net](mailto:gregwelborn@earthlink.net).

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**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.

## The Publisher and Staff of the Mountain Views News Wishes All Mothers, a most joyous and wonderful Mother's Day!

### THE HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

**History of Mother's Day: Julia Ward Howe** - The idea of official celebration of Mothers day in US was first suggested by Julia Ward Howe in 1872. An activist, writer and poet Julia shot to fame with her famous Civil War song, "Battle Hymn of the Republic". Julia Ward Howe suggested that June 2 be annually celebrated as Mothers Day and should be dedicated to peace. She wrote a passionate appeal to women and urged them to rise against war in her famous Mothers Day Proclamation, written in Boston in 1870. She also initiated a Mothers' Peace Day observance on the second Sunday in June in Boston and held the meeting for a number of years. Julia tirelessly championed the cause of official celebration of Mothers Day and declaration of official holiday on the day. Her idea spread but was later replaced by the Mothers' Day holiday now celebrated in May.

**History of Mother's Day: Anna Jarvis** - Anna Jarvis is recognised as the Founder of Mothers Day in US. Though Anna Jarvis never married and never had kids, she is also known as the Mother of Mothers Day, an apt title for the lady who worked hard to bestow honor on all mothers. Anna Jarvis got the inspiration of celebrating Mothers Day from her own mother Mrs Anna Marie Reeves Jarvis in her childhood. An activist and social worker, Mrs Jarvis used to express her desire that someday someone must honor all mothers, living and dead, and pay tribute to the contributions made by them.

A loving daughter, Anna never forgot her mothers word and when her mother died in 1905, she resolved to fulfill her mothers desire of having a mothers day. Growing negligent attitude of adult Americans towards their mothers and a desire to honor her mothers soared her ambitions.

To begin with Anna, send Carnations in the church service in Grafton, West Virginia to honor her mother. Carnations were her mothers favorite flower and Anna felt that they symbolised a mothers pure love. Later Anna along with her supporters wrote letters to people in positions of power lobbying for the official declaration of Mothers Day holiday. The hard work paid off. By 1911, Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state in the Union and on May 8, 1914 President Woodrow Wilson signed a Joint Resolution designating the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.



**History of Mother's Day: Present Day Celebrations** - Today Mothers Day is celebrated in several countries including US, UK, India, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, Mexico, Canada, China, Japan and Belgium. People take the day as an opportunity to pay tribute to their mothers and thank them for all their love and support.



## STUART TOLCHIN A Moment In Time

Among my Birthday gifts I received from my wife a copy of the Wayfinders by Wade Davis. The subtitle of the book is, Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World. The substance of the book is fascinating and compares the manner in which different societies deal with the problems of living. The book describes our present Western way of living as a marvel of technical wizardry that has been utilized to generate a protective shell "to insulate our lives against the vicissitudes of nature".

Lately it seems that our protective shell is cracking. Of course it's not just nature that is threatening us but, instead, the problem seems to be Man's (and Woman's too) effect upon Nature. As I write the oil keeps spilling into the Gulf of Mexico and the ever-increasing slick is threatening the Louisiana Coast. Just last week President Obama had assured us that off-shore drilling was a completely risk-free procedure. This unwarranted confidence together with the unfortunate timing of the Presidential remarks illustrate, at least to me, the weaknesses of our culture as compared to other cultures described by Mr. Davis in Wayfinders.

Really, Barack Obama as President seems to be much more than we deserve. He is hard-working, intelligent, seemingly of sincere, focused and may be doing the best job he possibly can. Still, most of us do not feel protected and safe at this very moment in time. I do not think this insecurity is completely caused by our awareness of the continued existence of terrorists, (although that unexploded car bomb in Times Square yesterday was quite scary); nor do I think the fear is necessarily connected to our perception of the threats posed by climate change, water shortages, volcanoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. I don't think it's necessarily the economy either nor do I think it's necessarily the threat posed by the possibility of weapons in Iran or a change in the controlling power of nuclear-armed Pakistan. This list of horrors could continue, I guess, and already I'm kind of freaking myself out, but unsettling as all of this is, I do not believe even the totality of these threats are the real source of our modern discontent.

I think what matters most is the lack of a

sense of belonging and connection. Connection, I believe is a dynamic force, a power source if you will, that is transformed by human imagination into a circuit of resilience and strength. Individuals who are divorced from their communities, from their families, from their own memories and traditions, even from their own sense of right and wrong, are fighting against the current of their loss of identity and often are drowning in their confusion. Often the only life preserver is the pursuit of wealth and the diversions associated with the belief in a kind of perpetual adolescence empowered by drugs and medical "advancements". Television commercials pander or even create the confusion. Take these pills and you'll never grow old or if you do you won't realize it. Forget reality—sixty is the new thirty. You don't need anyone. You can always meet a new person at the beach or through modern electrical technology.

Modern technology seems to recognize that people have a need to connect but just don't seem to know how. I'm afraid we can e-mail, text, and twitter all day and still feel disconnected and lost. In the Wayfinders it is explained that certain cultures, such as the Aboriginal People of Australia, have utilized their human potential, wisdom, intuition, and insight to create a kind of alternative reality wherein the individual is enveloped in a matrix of connectivity. At every moment in time each individual knows how he or she is expected to behave. To comprehensively explain this manner of existence is well beyond the limits of this article and this writer. My purpose here is to comment on the confusion, the disconnectedness which pervades our own culture. I feel very fortunate that this morning I happened to switch on my computer to the New York Times link and to be informed that at a specific moment this Sunday morning the entire world was encouraged to take a photograph and send it on to the Times for publication. I quickly woke my wife, called my kids, and raced around the neighborhood at 8:00 a.m. I notified neighbors, took some pictures and experienced each familiar view anew. Really for "This Moment in Time" (the name of the New York Times Project) I felt connected and exhilarated. I knew exactly what I was supposed to do which for the moment at least was to be alive and aware. Perhaps this moment will last forever and possibly even technology can put us all back together.

## RICH Johnson



Not all that long ago I wrote a column on the art of the repartee. What is repartee? "A quick and witty reply." Repartee also refers to the skill in making such replies. In layman's terms, it is what we wish we had said on most occasions. And what we are most

proud of when we do hit the bulls eye, verbally speaking.

One of my favorite professors in college managed to fire a bit of repartee off at a business luncheon years ago. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> of five speakers. Unfortunately, the 4<sup>th</sup> speaker went long, robbing Dr. Mayers of his allotted time. Given no time Dr. Mayers managed to fire off one sentence. It was a classic bit of repartee aimed squarely at the 4<sup>th</sup> speaker. He said, "Like the speaker before me, I too have nothing to say."

Repartees do not have to be biting and sarcastic. They can actually be complimentary. When newly appointed ambassador to France, Thomas Jefferson, presented his papers to the French foreign minister, the minister asked him if he was here to replace Dr. Franklin (Benjamin.) Jefferson retorted, "I succeed Dr. Franklin. No one can replace him." When actor Christopher Reeve was asked what it was like to have acted with Katherine Hepburn, he responded, "People say I acted with Katherine Hepburn. The truth is I acted near Katherine Hepburn."

## REPARTEE

Muhammad Ali was flying on Eastern Airlines back in the 1970s when the flight attendant noticed his seat belt wasn't fastened. When asked to buckle up, Ali kiddingly boasted, "Superman don't need no seat belt." The flight attendant, without missing a beat shot back, "Superman don't need no airplane either."

Singer/actress Jennifer Lopez displayed a quick mind when, during an interview, was asked what she got on her high school tests (SATs.) Her answer? "Nail polish."

In the late 1800's Hermann Adler, then the chief rabbi of London, attended a luncheon and found himself seated next to Herbert Vaughan, then the Roman Catholic cardinal and archbishop of Westminster. Herb the cardinal looked over at Herm the rabbi and playfully said, "When may I have the pleasure of helping you to a slice of this most excellent ham?" A hush fell over the room due to the Jewish prohibition about eating pork. Was the rabbi insulted? Apparently not, as Rabbi Hermann quickly responded, "How about at your eminence's wedding?"

You can exercise that repartee muscle. The right clever comment at the right time can be great fun. Just avoid those comments where you feel obligated to follow with: "Just kidding."

Thanks to Peter Dills for trying out Corfu. And for considering me a colleague. I feel a bit more classy now (I just hope his association with me doesn't tarnish his image.) If you haven't been to Corfu in the last few years, you haven't been to Corfu. Give it a try. Have a good week.



## SUSAN Henderson

*The other day, I received an email from a reader that was so 'on point' in terms of what was going to be my next editorial, that I thought I would share it (edited) with you.*

## Freedom Isn't Anything Goes

The local newspaper in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia published an interesting Editorial recently. (Bold text from original editorial)

While addressing anonymous internet postings, it speaks to the notion that freedom of speech gives people the right "to shoot off their mouths with no boundaries," as they put it.

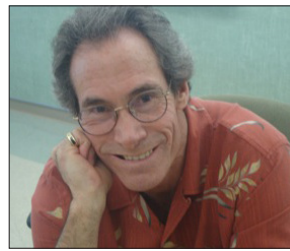
**Freedom of speech doesn't mean anything goes. It comes with a responsibility to use discretion and make statements that are verifiable or fair comment.**

Isn't that reference similar to some of the outlandish behavior Sierra Madre seems to be rolling over to accommodate? For instance, the "Public Comments" agenda item at City Council meetings should be the forum for citizens to discuss the business of the City, to comment on items before the Council, and/or to suggest items that Council should address. Over time, however, those in control have abdicated their authority to limit comments and have let this forum become an open-ended soap box where anyone can shoot off their mouths with no boundaries. They have allowed it to become a one-ring circus, complete with clowns and tabloid-like name-calling that does nothing to further the business at hand. That's not right, and it needs to end. City Council chambers and Council members are the most local level of our democratic government, and as such an appropriate level of decorum needs to be enforced.

**It's about time this kind of behavior sees some reining in."**

To paraphrase Spiderman, "With great freedom comes great responsibility." Isn't it about time that everyone participating in our City Council meetings started exhibiting a more responsible and respectable demeanor?

*Well, Isn't it?*



## HAIL Hamilton Arizona's New Immigration Law State and Local Governments don't like what the Feds are offering

Illegal immigration has become a major challenge for Arizona. It is now the home of more than 500,000 illegal immigrants--mostly from Mexico. The past decade has witnessed an alarming rise of property and violent crimes committed by illegal immigrants, as well as rapidly increased demands for health care, social services, and public education. With the state's dwindling coffers threatened by the added costs of illegal immigration and feeling ignored by the federal government, Arizona has decided to take matters into its own hands.

On April 23, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed SB1070 into law, a law that would make it a state crime to be in the U.S. illegally and would allow state law enforcement to require individuals to produce proof that they are in the U.S. legally. This decision is a major stepping stone in terms of encouraging other states, as well as local governments, to assert themselves in terms of immigration policy.

Under the Tenth Amendment which preserves the traditional police powers of the states to control their own jurisdictions. Anti-illegal immigration experts have long advocated for extensive innovation at the lowest levels of government in terms of immigration enforcement. A 2009 report by the Heritage foundation highlights how "state and local governments must [and can] do more" to do something about the illegal immigration problem.

Arizona is not the first state to grow tired of waiting for the federal government to get serious about immigration enforcement. States like California and cities like Valley Park, Missouri have enacted laws and ordinances to enforce the law. In fact several states have enjoyed legal victories despite a significant number of court challenges on their ability to take such actions. Arizona itself enacted a law in 2007, which would crackdown on illegal hiring and require employers to use the federal employment check system, E-Verify, a law which has withstood significant legal challenges.

Not surprisingly Hispanic groups and open border activists are outraged by Arizona's new law. They claim it is a civil rights issue, and have vowed to fight it. They say the law is unconstitutional because it unfairly profiles Hispanics regardless of their status as citizens, legal residents, or undocumented migrants. They say the law is also unconstitutional because it usurps what is exclusive federal jurisdiction over immigration policy.

On May 1, a demonstration was held in Los Angeles protesting the new law and demanding amnesty for all undocumented immigrants. An estimated 50,000 people poured into downtown Los Angeles for Saturday's annual May Day immigration rights rally. Much of the march focused on Arizona's stringent new immigration law that requires police to check whether people are in the country legally. Speakers included L.A. mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Cardinal Roger Mahony.

"We are a nation of laws," the mayor exclaimed. "Laws that are tough yet fair minded, not heavy handed and unenforceable...." The cardinal called the law "the country's most retrogressive, mean-spirited, and useless anti-immigrant legislation...."

One particularly incensed observer said afterwards: "The immigration protests are a waste of time. Americans are fed up with illegal aliens' bitching about 'their rights' and acting like a bunch of 'squatters.' Americans expect our government to enforce our immigration laws. Other states will follow Arizona in creating similar laws. This is not a civil rights issue; it's a legal rights issue. Americans will never allow another amnesty!"

Whatever your opinion about illegal immigration one thing is certain. In terms of resources and in terms of political will, it has become abundantly clear that the federal government refuses to make the right decisions in terms of enforcing the law and making the critical reforms necessary to drive down illegal immigration. Sadly, efforts in Congress have been more about gaining political votes through an unnecessary amnesty than on honest and effective reforms.

Americans shouldn't have to wait on Congress to start enforcing the laws on the books. Governor Brewer should be applauded for preserving the rule of law and taking the power out of Washington to direct the debate on immigration reform. The federal government should listen clearly: state and local governments don't like what you are offering.









## The Senior Spot

By Bruce LaMarche

### FINDING YOUR ROOTS

#### Editor's Note:

Mountain Views columnist and good friend, Bruce LaMarche, will be taking a leave of absence from "The Senior Spot" while he focuses on recuperating from surgery on his shoulder and other important matters.

We want to thank him for all he has done and wish him a speedy recovery. Please know that your 'Spot' will always be here!

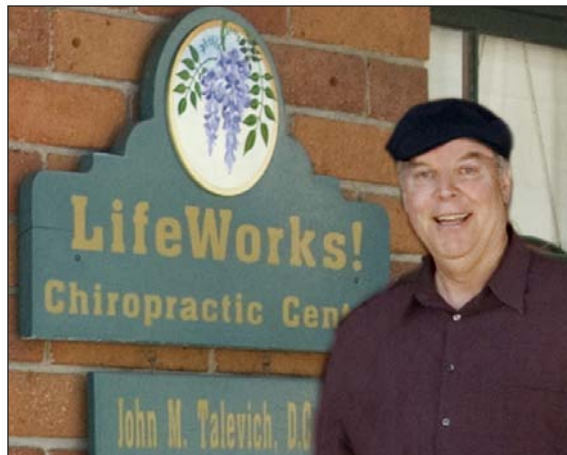
-S. Henderson, Publisher/Editor

## YOUR HEALTH MATTERS

### Today's Subject:

## Getting a Good Night's Sleep

### Health Tips From Dr. John Talevich



Dr. John Talevich, D.C. has practiced in Sierra Madre for thirty years. His clinic, LifeWorks! Chiropractic, offers patient-specific approaches to the alleviation of pain and individually tailored wellness programs.

there is a strong possibility you are sensitive to something you ate. Repeat this test after lunch and dinner and, if your pulse rate remains elevated, begin the process of examining which foods may be problematic.

While any food can be suspect, the most common offenders include: coffee, wheat, corn, milk, eggs, chocolate, sweeteners, even nightshade vegetables (bell peppers, eggplant, tomatoes and potatoes). For many people, caffeine contributes to powerful headaches. If you get a headache when you don't have your morning cuppa joe, chances are coffee is a problem. Reduce your caffeine intake slowly over several days. For example, if you always have morning coffee, gradually reduce the amount you drink until, in roughly two weeks, you no longer consume it. Sadly, chocolate is another caffeine-containing food, as are many sodas. All can be slowly tapered off.

Regarding other foods, eliminate one at a time and check your pulse. For example, you might eliminate all gluten-containing foods from your diet for a couple of weeks and see if your pulse rate normalizes. If you resume eating gluten and your pulse rate increases, you have successfully identified a problem food. If your headaches have been reduced or eliminated, that one food may well have been the primary cause of your discomfort.

If you tend to experience headaches in the morning at the back of your head, regulate your elimination. Constipation is a common culprit for these headaches. Psyllium husks or cellulose fiber can be added to water or juice daily; well-ground flax seeds are another nutritious source of fiber.

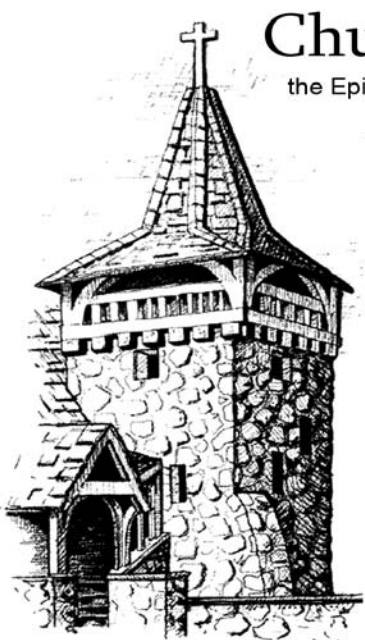
Dehydration is a significant contributor to headaches. The headache is a reminder to drink water. Additional indicators of dehydration include fatigue, grouchingness, joint pain, a hoarse or squeaky voice, dizziness or false hunger. Drink up and drink regularly!

More next week ~ Dr. John

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# The Good Life

## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

### FYI:

## How Elders Can Avoid Scams

*From the Elder Financial Protection Network's 6th Annual Call to Action event in San Francisco:*

- A young man sells a 75-year-old woman an expensive vacuum cleaner and comes back weeks later and asks to use the phone. He ties her up with duct tape, stuffs her in her own car, beats her repeatedly, makes charges on her credit card during her 26 hours in the trunk and has plans to kill her. She is found when an alert sheriff's deputy follows the car and stops it for running a red light.
- A Las Vegas waitress befriends an elderly customer and then tells him the sad tale of her life. The customer gives her a \$500 check. In conversation, she also gets his date of birth and his Social Security number. Eventually, she gets \$750,000 through use of the identifying information she has coaxed out of him.
- A caregiver starts out working at a house a couple of hours a day and then says he could give better care by moving in. He gains the homeowner's trust by cooking, cleaning, taking care of whatever needs doing. Eventually — in this case, it was several years — he controls the finances, takes title to the house and cleans out the bank accounts.

"It can happen to all of us," says Cynthia Healy, president and founder of Security Financial Advisors Inc. in Monterey. She'd like seniors to remember the acronym, SCAM:

- S** — Surround yourself with family and friends. Do not isolate yourself.
- C** — Caregivers. Do your own checks of caregivers even if they come from an agency.
- A** — Ask for assistance from professionals such as accountants, attorneys, bankers, doctors. Build a team so there are checks and balances.
- M** — Maintain security over your personal information.

Paul Greenwood, head of Elder Abuse Prosecutions for the San Diego District Attorney's Office, successfully prosecuted the young man who kidnapped the 75-year-old woman on charges of attempted murder, torture and kidnapping. An international speaker on elder abuse, he offers 10 tips for avoiding financial elder abuse:

- Choose a caregiver with caution and make your own checks even if the caregiver comes from an agency.
- Keep an inventory of all jewelry.
- Use a shredder for everything with your name, address or any other identifying information on it.
- Protect your incoming and outgoing mail.
- Do a credit search on yourself at least two or three times a year.
- Install caller I.D. to determine if a call is private or unknown and don't be afraid to hang up or use a whistle you keep by the phone.
- Remember: You will never, ever win a foreign lottery.
- Consider letting your bank send a duplicate of your monthly statement to a trusted family member or an accountant or attorney.
- Don't assume that people doing work on your home are licensed. Check and also get three estimates in writing and a written contract.
- Have a second line of defense, such as a locked screen door or a security chain guard, at your front door.

### Recipe of the Week:

## Cornbread & Crab Stuffed Fish

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (6-oz.) package buttermilk cornbread mix
- 1 cup fresh lump crabmeat, drained (about 1/2 lb.)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon Old Bay seasoning, divided
- 2 white bread slices, toasted and cut into cubes (about 1 cup)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 1 (3- to 5-lb.) striped bass or red snapper, dressed
- Kitchen string

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Prepare cornbread mix according to package directions. Let cool 30 minutes; crumble into a large bowl.

2. Meanwhile, pick crabmeat, removing any bits of shell.

3. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat; add celery and onion, and sauté 10 to 12 minutes or until tender. Stir in 1/2 tsp. Old Bay seasoning. Stir celery mixture, crab, bread cubes, parsley, and lemon zest into crumbled cornbread, stirring gently until blended. Add broth, and stir gently until moistened.

4. Sprinkle cavity of fish with remaining 1/2 tsp. Old Bay seasoning. Spoon stuffing mixture into fish, and secure with kitchen string. Place fish in a large, lightly greased roasting pan.

5. Bake at 350° for 45 to 50 minutes or until fish flakes with a fork.



### May Birthdays

Juanita Loera, JoAnn Serrato-Chi, Barbara Siyakukkem Dorothy Tillquist, Joanne Anthony, Carole Axline, Kika Diwney, Shirley Hall, Dorothy Murphy, Annie Scalzo, Janet Ten Eyck

### 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 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

### NEW Box Meals at the Senior Lunch Café

The senior lunch program is pleased to offer special box meals that can be ordered & taken home. Participants must be 60 years or older, make a reservation 24 hours in advance, come to the Hart Park House to sign & make a \$2 donation and bring an insulated container to carry out the box meal. There is a special box meal menu available at the Hart Park House - for more information or to reserve a meal, please call (626) 355-0256.



### 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 \*\*ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY\*\*

Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.6220 or (626) 355-0256.



### MONTHLY EXCURSIONS

Friday, May 14 - LA Central Library Tour & Lunch - 9 am to 3 pm; \$7 for transportation only - lunch on your own.

June TBA - Cheese Factory Tour & Lunch at a Temecula Winery

May excursions are open and reservations can be made by filling out a registration form & making payment. For questions, please call the Sierra Madre Senior Desk at (626) 355-7394.

### SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

### Wednesdays 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.





Chris Bertrand

## One Of A Kind: *Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them* Story and Photos By Chris Bertrand

### Just Listed: 1908 Queen Anne Victorian Radiates Charm

There is something ever so captivating and cheerful about buttery yellow, Victorian homes. As I paged through the new listings in Sierra Madre, the sunny color artfully delineating the pleasing lines and textures of this Victorian beauty literally grabbed me.

The character and visual interest created a friendly street presence. The picture book charm drew me to the front porch, where I could envision a glass of iced tea and a good book on a balmy weekend afternoon. The diamond shaped windows provide a visual delight in the front facing windows on the main floor.

Entering this home was like stepping back into a gentler, kinder time... with a modern kitchen. The hardwood floors and millwork, including intricate ten inch baseboards, provides a lovely foundation for many of the rooms. Wide room entrances to the living and dining rooms create an airy feeling in the formal rooms, yet pocket doors can provide privacy when needed. The floorplan allows for easy indoor to outdoor entertaining to take maximum advantage of our Southern California lifestyle.

The high ceilings are beautifully bisected by picture or

chair rail and tasteful dual colors in many rooms. As a result, the height of the rooms doesn't feel out of scale. A particular favorite is the master bedroom, done in a muted fern green and crisp white. The stage is all set for a pickup game of ping pong on the porch off the living room, or a game of pool in the carport.

A stunning brick faced fireplace in the foyer is the focal point on the main level, counterpointed by the beautiful oak staircase. Along the back of the home, a 1997 remodeled kitchen offers all the modern amenities built around a vintage gas stove, including a tile floor, planning desk, deep double sink, glass front display cabinets, roll-front appliance storage and more. The adjacent breakfast room opens to a wonderful patio in the private and deep back yard.

Upstairs, the master bedroom includes a wonderful, tiled balcony that enjoys substantial shade. Another bedroom opens to the front balcony. The fourth bedroom has currently been garnished for use as a closet room for the master bedroom. One of the two screened porches is located off the



hall. Life a century ago called for "sleeping porches" to enjoy the cool evening breezes.

The meticulous front yard speaks volumes about the care and maintenance evident throughout the home. I can imagine the time when orchards surrounded the home's neighborhood. The back yard orchard includes eight different fruit varieties, so you can just step outside nearly every month of the year

for fresh, homegrown avocado, peach, fig, persimmon and more.

287 East Montecito Avenue in Sierra Madre offers four bedrooms and 2155 square feet of living space and a .40 acre deep, gated lot with plenty of room for a pool. It was just listed for \$1,068,000 by Emily Duggan of Century 21 Village. She can be contacted at 626-695-1206 or 626-355-7201.



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8561 Duarte Rd.	Pasadena		Peggy Fong Chen	\$1,838,000
3027 N Naomi St.	Burbank	Open Saturday 2-5pm	Song Liem	\$688,000
273 N Magnolia Ave.	Monrovia	Open Saturday & Sunday 2-4pm	Susan Stone Rey	\$1,050,000
1011 Rodeo Rd.	Arcadia	Open Saturday & Sunday 3-5pm	Peggy Fong Chen	\$1,388,000
332 Cabrillo Rd.	Arcadia	Open Sunday 2-4pm	Cynthia Tilleman	\$768,000
121 Marion Ave.	Pasadena		Jean Valiquette/Blanca Jenkins	\$611,000
819 Los Olivos Dr.	San Gabriel		Phil Daniels	\$639,000
299 E Laurel Ave.	Sierra Madre		Marsha Fields	\$1,175,000
9240 Hecla Ave.	Temple City		Phil Daniels	\$599,000
1328 Oakwood Dr.	Arcadia	Open Sunday 2-5pm	Amy Ellis	\$950,000



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### God's Gift

My mother is a special gift,  
A special gift that God gave to me.  
I'd be lost and lonely without her,  
If God took her away you see.  
I love her so very much,  
That I couldn't bear to live without her healing touch.  
Thank you God for giving me such a loving mother,  
For I wouldn't want to be a part of no other.

- Melanie Reid

My mommy  
and daddy wish  
you and your family a  
Happy Mother's Day  
this Sunday!



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My last column discussed how real estate is beginning to recover, although not everywhere yet. Whether you're buying or selling, you need to be aware of local conditions, and adjust your strategy according to the value of your home. We've already covered a couple tips for the least expensive homes on the market, and now we'll

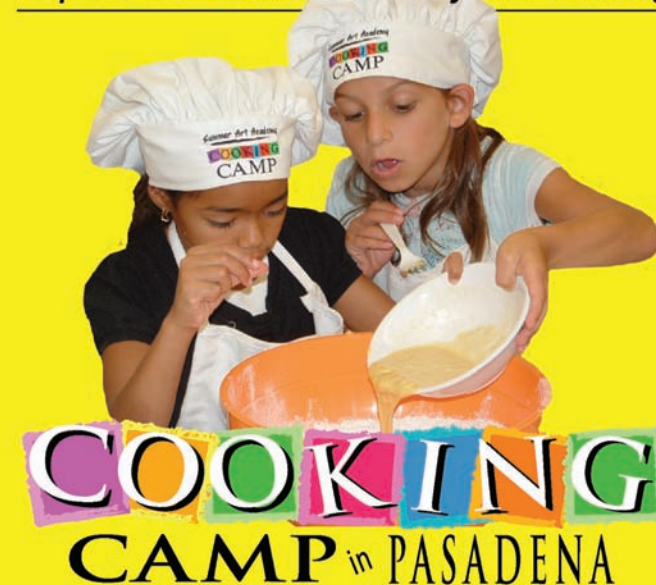
look at the middle tier of properties. While these listings are seeing more activity than luxury homes, demand is still soft compared to the often bargain "distressed" properties on the market. Buyers are facing some difficulty in trading up, because their equity has taken a hit over the last few years. As a buyer, it's best to list your current home for sale and get it under contract before making an offer on the home you want. When you're ready, reason dictates that you're safe offering 10% under the asking price in a still lukewarm market.

As a seller in the mid-price range, you'll need to make your listing stand out from the competition. Forget about incremental price drops and go for a big cut, which will draw the most attention. Or offer incentives like paying closing costs or a decorating allowance.

If the home you're selling or want to buy is in the luxury range, you'll want to read my next column for some tips in that market.

Luther Tsinoglou has just been named the top producing sales agent in Dickson Podley Realtor's Sierra Madre office for 2009, making the top 10% at the company overall. Luther has been licensed and practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and income property in Southern California. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at [luther@tsinoglou.com](mailto:luther@tsinoglou.com).

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