

Where Your Community News Comes First

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Pasadena Altadena Duarte Monrovia

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2012

VOLUME 6 NO 48

SIERRA MADRE EVENTS MARK BEGINNING OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Woman's Club Holds Annual Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast



The Honorable Dorothy Nelson (ret.) of the Bahai Faith speaks as Reverends Bamberger, Crisp and Caldenbach listen attentively.

Story and Photo By Bill Coburn

The day before Thanksgiving, the one-hundred five year old Sierra Madre Woman's Club again hosted its annual Prayer Breakfast at the historic Essick House...

Unofficial town historian (and Woman's Club membership Chair) Phyllis Chapman introduced all these folks. As everyone arrived, piano was played by Eunis Banis...

But the purpose of the meeting was to

hear the messages of thanks presented by Very Reverend Michael Bamberger of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Reverend Paul S. Beck, Senior of the Sierra Madre Congregational Church...

Reverend Bamberger led off, speaking about resilience, which he had witnessed firsthand recently when he was helping the Episcopal Church as a disaster consultant in the northeast areas affected by Hurricane Sandy...

Pastor Beck then got up and opened with the joke about the monk who entered a monastery where he was limited to two words per year, and after the first year, he said "Bed hard."

Santa , The Grinch and Snow Help Light Up The Night at the Who Ville Festival



Above - Santa, Mayor Pro Tem Nancy Walsh and The Grinch share a light hearted moment during the Tree Lighting Ceremony in Kersting Court at the Who Ville Festival. Photo by Dave Felt. Below, local boy scouts assisted with the snow slide. The Festival also included train rides, horse & carriage rides and booths with handcrafted goods from local non profits. Photo by Bill Coburn

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce held its' first annual Who Ville Festival to jump start the holiday shopping season last Saturday. The event was held in conjunction with Small Business Saturday...

In previous years, the Chamber has hosted Dickens Village, however a "change in the theme to the popular Who Ville from Dr. Seuss' books will hopefully attract more families"

Despite the unseasonably warm weather, 86 degrees when the festival opened at 1 pm, the event managed to keep a steady stream of shoppers and diners in the local shops and restaurants. MVNews



ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR & BOUTIQUE

Sierra Madre United Methodist Church is holding an Alternative Christmas Gift Fair & Boutique on Sunday, December 2, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

RED CROSS TO HOLD HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE

Save the date! On Thursday, December 20th the Sierra Madre Community Services Department and American Red Cross will host a Community Blood Drive from 12 noon to 6:00 pm.

Advertisement for Firefighter's Ball featuring Sierra Madre Volunteer Firefighter's Assoc., date Saturday December 8, 2012, location St. Rita's Church Hall, and details about live music, dancing, and a \$5 donation for toys.

Advertisement for Gem Plumbing with services for air conditioning, heating, and various plumbing repairs, including a phone number 355-3496.

This Week's Highlights:

- 3 SIERRA MADRE NEWS REMEMBRANCE: Rudy Wunderlin
4 PASADENA/ALTADENA Hikers rescued from Eaton Canyon

CALIFORNIA TO PARTICIPATE IN POWERBALL.....PAGE 16

- 5 AROUND SG Valley
6 ARCADIA NEWS
6 MONROVIA/DUARTE

- Calendar Sierra Madre News Pasadena/Altadena Around San Gabriel Valley Arcadia Monrovia/Duarte Holiday Happenings Education and Youth Good Food & Drink Page 2 Page 3 Page 4 Page 5 Page 6 Page 7 Page 8 Page 9 Page 10 Best Friends Sports Arts/Health Homes & Property The Good Life Business Today Left Turn/Right Turn Opinion Legal Notices Page 11 Page 11 Page 12 Page 13 Page 14 Page 15 Page 16 Page 17 Pages 18-21

PRESCHOOLERS AND PARENTS ATTEND ST. RITA'S KINDERGARTEN PLAY DAY

More than 50 parents and their prospective St. Rita students enjoyed an afternoon at the school on Thursday at the Kindergarten Play Day. The parents of preschoolers had the opportunity to meet the faculty and learn about St. Rita's high-quality education, while their children played and mingled in the classrooms.

After a brief welcome by Principal Joanne Harabedian, St. Rita parents Annie Blea and Ellen Radle spoke to the group, which reflected a wide representation of the religious and culturally diverse community, about the new-family mentoring program and their personal experiences with the welcoming spirit of the teaching staff.

"The afternoon was very informative and it was nice to have the whole faculty there," said Dennis Slavin, father of a prospective new kindergartner. "We definitely felt a warm, comfortable feeling with the speakers and were impressed with the up-to-date technology in the classrooms."

Faculty members were introduced to the parents, such as Art Instructor Moira Love, who touched on the importance St. Rita places on the arts in education, which was evidenced by a beautiful display of student artwork adorning the hall. Coach Randy Davies also shared his experiences on the school's award-winning CYO sports program.

Harabedian said she was thrilled with the high attendance at the event, which was advertised at local preschools, but said many were referred by word-of-mouth. She liked that many of the parents expressed interest in their after-school enrichment program



Children explore activities in the Junior Kindergarten classroom.

(L.E.A.P.S.), which includes 13-week courses in such areas as chess, skateboarding and Irish dance.

"Because we're a faith-based community, we place a lot of focus on each individual student's moral, as well as academic, development," she said. "Teaching collaborations build from year to year to ensure that each student's individual learning style and interests are fostered."

New student enrollment is now open at St. Rita and interviews will be held in January. Junior Kindergarten, like Kindergarten, is a full-day program available to 4 and 5-year olds. For a tour of the school or to receive a registration packet, contact the school office at (626) 355-6114.

St. Rita School, located at 322 N. Baldwin Ave. in Sierra Madre, is a Catholic parish school, ranked fourth in the Los Angeles Diocese, with a focus on faith, stewardship and academic excellence.

ALVERNO WELCOMES GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS TO CAMPUS

Alverno students and grandparents enjoyed Thanksgiving Liturgy and Mass together

On Tuesday, November 20 Alverno welcomed more than 90 grandparents and special friends to campus to participate in Alverno's annual Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day.

Grandparents and special friends were treated to a morning reception in the Alverno library before joining the rest of the student body for Thanksgiving Mass. The Mass, officiated by Father Dennis of St. Philip the Apostle, not only celebrated Thanksgiving but also called on students to be thankful for all of the wonderful lessons and memories they shared with their grandparents and special friends.

Following Mass, grandparents and special friends were invited to attend classes with their student hosts. While visiting classes, grandparents and special friends were encouraged to share stories about their own time as students, how the world has changed, and even how they got their grandparent nicknames! Grandparents and special friends shared how they spent their time as kids and how different it was then. Some classes even issued assignments encouraging students to live more like their grandparents and special friends for day by giving up technology and writing about their experiences.

Following their classroom visits, students and their grandparents and special friends were treated to a catered lunch in the Villa del Sol d'Oro.

"Our grandparents and special friends are not only important family members but wonderful teachers and role models," said Ann Gillick, Head of School. "Each of them has played an important role in the development of the young women in their life and each has helped to mold them into the individuals they are. We are thankful to have their support in empowering each young woman to be exactly the person she wants to be."

About Alverno High School

Alverno High School is a Catholic, private, college preparatory school for young women dedicated to preparing them to function in a society as informed, knowledgeable persons, who have the requisite skills to make and implement mature decisions about complex problems. Enlivened by the spirit of its Immaculate Heart Community sponsors, and mindful of the Franciscan roots of its founders, Alverno's program—academic, spiritual, aesthetic, social, and physical—is shaped by the staff, trustees, and students in light of the world for which the students are being educated. Alverno's mission is to empower each young woman to be exactly the person she wants to be and since 1960, Alverno has empowered more than 4,100 women to meet that goal. For more information about Alverno High School, please call 626-355-3463 or visit www.alverno-hs.org.



Joan, Katie and Gaston Taix

PUSD NEWS

The official filing period for candidates for Seats 1, 3, 5 and 7 on the PUSD Board of Education closes December 7, 2012. Interested candidates can only run for the seat that is in the geographic subdistrict where they reside. PUSD board districts became geographic subdistricts after the passage of Measure A last June, replacing the previous at large system. Board members will be elected to a four year term for subdistricts 1, 3, 5 and 7 in 2013 and subdistricts 2, 4 and 6 in 2015. Voters in Altadena, Pasadena and Sierra Madre will go to the polls March 5, 2013 for the primary nominating election and April 16, 2013 for the general election (if necessary). The map of the new geographic subdistricts is available at www.measurea.pasadenausd.org or www.cityofpasadena.net/cityclerk. Information for candidates is available online at the City Clerk's website or by calling the Pasadena City Clerk's Office at (626) 744-4124.

Priority open enrollment for the 2013-2014 school year begins Tuesday, December 4 and ends on December 18. Priority open enrollment is only for siblings of students already enrolled at a school of choice, children of current PUSD full time employees and Willard fifth grade students who wish to continue in the International Baccalaureate program at Blair Middle School. General open enrollment will begin on January 23, 2013. Please visit www.openenrollment.info to learn more about the open enrollment process.

Daniel Webster Elementary School is in contention for a \$50,000 Power a Bright Future grant from the Clorox Company for new and updated technology. The school with the most votes via text and/or online will win the grand prize. Anyone over the age of 13 can vote online and via text daily (two votes a day) until December 19. To vote, go to <https://powerabrightfuture.clorox.com/nominees/detail/?nid=1703>

Please join Mayor Bill Bogaard for the Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 6 at 5:30 p.m. There will be craft projects from around the world presented by the Armory Center for the Arts as well as photos with Santa Claus. New unwrapped toys will be collected for the Spark of Love Toy Drive.

Blair Culinary Arts & Hospitality Academy (CAHA) students prepared 144 Turkeys for the Pasadena Union Station Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Event at Central Park held on November 22, 2012. CAHA also donated 50 gallons of gravy to the Pasadena Union Station to help provide a delicious hot dinner to thousands of individuals throughout San Gabriel Valley on Thanksgiving Day. In addition, six Blair students accepted the challenge this year to create a "Side Dish Recipe" to represent Blair High School in the Mrs. Cubbison's Stuffing Recipe Contest. Staff and students served as tasters to identify the one recipe to represent Blair. Karl Kauhola's innovative idea was to create a "Stuffed Mushroom" recipe which was the entry for Blair High School this year. Karl placed fifth among all of the high school Culinary Arts Programs in Los Angeles County.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

Arcadia High School
180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee
bforsee@ausd.net

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

Barnhart School
240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Ethan Williamson
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.org

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

Foothill Oaks Academy
822 Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010
(626) 301-9809
Co-Principals Nancy Lopez and Diane Kieffaber
info@foothilloaksacademy.org
preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org

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

High Point Academy
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107
Headmaster John Higgins
626-798-8989
website: www.highpointacademy.org

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org
Principal Bro. Christopher Brady, FSC

Monrovia High School
325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darwin Jackson
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School
2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759
Principal: Marcatta Williams

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

Pasadena High School
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Gilbert Barraza
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

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

Sierra Madre Elementary School
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Esther Salinas
E-mail address: salinas.esther@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School
160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom
E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us

Walden School
74 S San Gabriel Blvd
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166
www.waldenschool.net

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

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

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

ARCADIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net

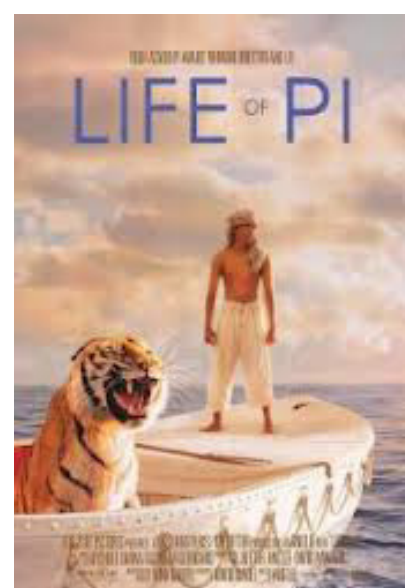
MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016
(626) 471-2000 Website: www.monroviashools.net

DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010
(626) 599-5000 Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show

Movie Reviews Especially for Teens & 'Tweens

LIFE OF PI



There is nothing better than to see a visually stunning, yet deeply powerful at the same time. 'Life of Pi' is exactly that. It shows that movies not only still amaze and inspire, but also allow you to step into a whole other world.

Pi Patel (Suraj Sharma) is a young boy growing up at a zoo in the French part of India, but when their family is on the edge of bankruptcy, they are forced to abandon the zoo and go to Canada, along with the animals. However, not everything goes perfectly and the huge freighter they leave on hits a storm and sinks. Pi ends up on a small lifeboat, with

limited supplies, and a zebra, hyena, orangutan, and tiger. How will he survive and find his family?

While this is an astounding movie, and a breakthrough in film making, it should not have been rated PG. There were some very disturbing moments (all including the animals). That said, this is a wonderful movie that will excite anyone that sees it.

IN A CLASS BY ITSELF

SERVING THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SINCE 1926



CLAIRBOURN SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL TO 8TH GRADE
8400 Huntington Dr., San Gabriel, CA 91775
626.286.3108 | www.clairbourn.org



Accredited by
NAIS, CAIS,
WASC, & NAEYC

Dates for Admissions and Informational Tours:

November 15, 2012

December 4, 2012

January 29, 2013

The meetings are from 9:00 - 11:00am. R.S.V.P. to 626.286.3108 is appreciated.

TIPPING 101 ON CHANNEL 9 THIS TUESDAY

Please tune into Channel 9 News this Tuesday at 2 PM, I have been asked to answer a few questions on tipping. I have to tell you I am so impressed when a server or bartender remembers your name, heck what about remembers your drink. [Stopped by the Smitty's the other night and hadn't been there in months, bam!!! Hey Peter how are you, cold glass of bubbly? Patrick is his name and yes service is his game. Now that is service. Speaking of We all know them, the people that just can't bring themselves to leave a decent tip. What is the thinking behind tipping and what should be given, and when did it start in America? Tipping began to take hold in States in the late 19th Century after the Civil War. It was widely considered by many groups including the intellectuals of the day as an outright evil. Newspapers wrote vigorously against its vices. They reasoned that it established an aura of servitude, by offering a demeaning handout, or token. It implied a superiority of class and status that conferred on the lowly receiver of these offerings. There were groups such as bartenders that flatly refused tips as they considered it far below their status to receive these patronizing gifts. Now when someone says, "those were the good old days," you may know what they mean. In many ways the objections did make sense at this time in America. What about the places where you have to tip in advance. This does not insure good service, does it? Only at a place like a Starbucks does this seem to make any sense. There are very few times that I have gone to a restaurant and actually tipped in advance.



TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills
thechefknows@yahoo.com

When determining a tip at a restaurant, what are you to consider before settling your bill and factoring a tip? At the restaurant you are tipping on the speed, accuracy and usefulness of the servers, and not on the food. Is tipping at a fancy restaurant different than tipping at a coffee shop? Many people believe it is. I feel like I stepped in something when I hear that said. They are to be treated as the same.

Here are my guidelines for tipping but not necessarily the way I tip. I even give 10% for atrocious service. It seems with my picture in this paper, on my TV show "Dining with Dills," that I might get a bad reputation from the Server Syndicate, and be labeled a "bad tipper," which is a stigma that I carefully avoid. You on the other hand can wield far more influence than is availed to this restaurant critic. Here are my suggestions from the Coffee house to Spago. Fair to medium service 12 to 14% Good to Better then Average 15 to 18% Great Service 20% This should be applied to the food and beverage total before tax Can't figure the whole percentage on tipping. Best way is to just double the tax. Which falls in the Good range.

Have Kids? Of course I do. Luckily mine is as clean and tidy as they make them but they are not all created like her. If your children 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. Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com with your thoughts. Join me every Saturday afternoon at 6 PM on KABC Radio 790 AM.

Next Week: What is new in the San Gabriel valley, many movers and a few less shakers

DILLS LOCAL DEALS

Dine with Dills and save money dining at local restaurants.

Peter has some exclusive deals at peterdills.com

Listen to Peter Saturdays at 6pm on 790 KABC Radio.

Peter Dills is your Southern California food critic, helping find the best in dining experiences, extraordinary food and wine, and new culinary experiences.

Follow Peter on:

BEANTOWN

SIERRA MADRE, CA

COFFEE HOUSE & BAKERY

From Our Bakery
Holiday Pies, Pastries and Desserts

The apples for our pies are picked from the farms at Los Rios Ranch in the San Bernardino Mountains & all our pies are baked with a hand-made crust and with the freshest & highest quality of ingredients.

Taking Orders Now!
Bean Town's bakery is ready to help you with all your holiday bakery needs.

Fresh Baked Pies :

- 9" Pumpkin Pie \$9.95
- 9" Three Apple Pie \$12.95
- 9" Four Berry Peach Pie \$12.95

Order two or more pies & receive a 10% discount on your order.
*Not valid with any other offer.

Family Brunch Special

- Take Home Brunch Includes:
- 2 Blueberry muffins,
 - 1 Apple bran muffin,
 - 1 Banana nut muffin.
 - 2 Butter Croissants,
 - 1 Blueberry scone,
 - 1 Raspberry scone,
 - 1x 9-inch Quiche & 1x 1/2 Gal OJ
- Only \$39.95**

Open Thanksgiving Day until 2pm

45 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre Ca, 91024
(626) 355-1596



INGREDIENTS

- 6 extra large tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- 1 cup of chopped Vidalia, sweet or yellow onion
- 1 stalk of celery, chopped
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon of tomato paste
- 1 can of Rotel diced tomatoes, drained
- 2 cups of chicken stock
- 2-3 tablespoons of brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons of kosher salt
- 10 turns of the pepper grinder
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- Heavy cream, to garnish
- Shredded cheese, to garnish
- Chopped fresh basil, to garnish

DIRECTIONS

Remove the skins of the tomato and chop, reserving any juices. Heat olive oil in a stock pot and add the onion and celery. Saute until tender, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook another minute. Add the tomato paste; cook and stir 5 minutes. Add the chopped tomatoes with their juices, Rotel, chicken stock, brown sugar, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer for at least 30 minutes, or longer. Use an immersion blender, food processor, or blender to puree, if desired. Add butter, stir until incorporated, taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Garnish as desired.

Cream of Tomato Soup Variation: Add in 1/2 cup of heavy cream to soup pot, heat through, garnish and serve.

Grilled Cheese Croutons: For a change, add your grilled cheese sandwich in your soup as croutons. Use a thick sliced bread, at least 1/2 inch thick. Prepare two sandwiches as usual, except use a sandwich press or panini maker to cook and press the sandwiches. Cook until browned, let rest for 5 minutes and cut into 1 inch cubes. Garnish each serving with the cubes.

PASADENA

50% off

entree

buy 1 entree & get a 2nd entree of equal or lesser value at 50% off
lunch or dinner sun.-thurs. · dine in only

Domenico's Italian Restaurant
2411 E. Washington Blvd. | Pasadena | 626-797-6459
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases.

\$5 off

any purchase

of \$25 or more
take-out only | sun.-thurs.

Domenico's Italian Restaurant
2411 E. Washington Blvd.
Pasadena | 626-797-6459
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases.

MID-WEEK SPECIAL

\$20⁹⁵

plus tax

large 16" pizza with two toppings,
1-ltr. Coke® and 1 qt. salad
(can be substituted for antipasto for \$1)
take-out only

Domenico's Italian Restaurant
2411 E. Washington Blvd.
Pasadena | 626-797-6459
With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases.

2411 E. Washington Blvd. (626) 797-6459
Pasadena, CA 91104 Fax (626) 797-6140

SIERRA MADRE'S ONLY SPORTS GRILL

BURGERS, SALADS, SANDWICHES & MORE!

18 TAPS - FULL BAR
13 SCREENS

JOIN US FOR:

NFL SPORTS PACKAGE
BIG 10
PAC 12

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER
SANTA ANITA LIVE
HAPPY HOUR - MONDAY- FRIDAY 3-7PM
DROUGHT BEER AND APPETIZER SPECIALS
JOIN US FOR TRIVIA NIGHT THURSDAYS AT 8:30 PM!

HOURS

Sun - Wed
11:30 am - 12:00 am

Thurs - Sat
11:30 am - 2:00 am

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"

322 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.
SIERRA MADRE, CA 91024
626-355-8444
www.TBoylesSportsGrill.com

The Four Seasons Tea Room

Open
Tues - Sat
11am - 4pm
Sundays
open for
groups
of 20
or more

Private Space
Available
for Bridal &
Baby Showers,
Birthdays
and
Special
Occasions

Give your favorite tea or a gift card to a loved one for the Holidays!

RSVP (626) 355-0045
75 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024



by Chris Leclerc

"UNADOPTABLE" DOGS PERFORMING UNIMAGINEABLE TASKS

Every now and then, I hear someone say they went to a shelter, adopted a dog, did their best to make it work out, but ended up having to return the dog because it was simply "too hyperactive" or had "way too much energy" to fit into the dynamic of their home. I understand how that can happen, especially when there are children or other animals involved, and I give those would-be adopting families credit for giving it their best shot. Still, the sad side of the story is that when dogs are taken home only to be returned to the shelter, they often get labeled as "unadoptable," which means they stand a higher chance of falling to the fate of euthanasia, regardless of their age or physical condition.

According to statistics I found on the Humane Society of the United States website (updated Nov. 2009) approximately 3-4 million dogs and cats are euthanized in this country every year. In a civilized society such as ours, I find that fact simply disheartening and, quite frankly, unacceptable. How tragic it is that we as a nation – with so

many advantages and advances, both socially and technologically – are still allowing free reign on breeding dogs and cats, knowing how many will likely end up in shelters where they are put to sleep if not adopted within a few short weeks?

I recently read an article about shelter dogs that had been labeled as unadoptable due to hyperactivity, but were eventually rescued mainly because they possess that very trait. That's right – dogs with extreme and intense energy levels, who are considered uncontrollable for the average family, have proven to be of use in the search and rescue field. It warmed my heart to know that the reason a dog is more apt to be put to sleep could turn out to be the very reason its life is saved, and that they could be trained to save people. It is rather ironic, don't you think? Well, I think that is the kind of irony we can live with!

The Search Dog Foundation (SDF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Ojai, California, whose mission is to strengthen disaster preparedness in America by partnering rescued dogs with firefighters to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. Their teams (a dog and its handler) are provided at no cost to fire departments and other emergency service agencies throughout the country.

SDF was founded by Wilma Melville in 1995 in the wake of the tragic Oklahoma City bombing. Prior to the Oklahoma attack, Wilma had left the comfort of her cozy home on a beautiful piece of property in Ojai to live in a plane hanger where she thought she could simplify her life and indulge in her beloved hobby of small craft aviation. Now, 17 years later, "simple" is definitely not a word one would use to describe Wilma's life. After visiting the Oklahoma City disaster site, Wilma was compelled to forego her original plan of simplifying her life; she started an organization that provides canine search teams that are trained to rescue victims buried under the rubble of disasters such as the one that occurred that fateful day in Oklahoma City.

They are building a National Training Center 90 minutes north of Los Angeles in Santa Paula, CA, featuring a Disaster Training Zone where 1st responders will get highly advanced training to face the most challenging disaster deployments. When the project is complete, Search Teams from across the country and around the world will come to take advantage of the unique disaster simulation scenarios that will be available at the Zone.

The Zone will be a 3-acre, one-of-a-kind simulation site that will include collapsed buildings, part of a collapsed freeway, a giant rubble pile, mudslides, areas for deep victim searches and train derailments. Each of the elements will be changeable so the teams will encounter new challenges each time they visit the site. It will involve innovative design, engineering, construction and installation.

This important and unique project will require funding to complete, so SDF is appealing to new and existing partners to help complete the National Training Center. As potential beneficiaries of canine disaster search teams being provided through volunteer efforts, we should all be willing to help make this project happen. For more information about how you can partner with SDF to make the National Training Center a success, please visit their website at www.searchdogfoundation.org. Every bit counts, and most of us are indeed in the position to do at least a little. For the dogs, and for the victims of disaster, please do what you can!

PET OF THE WEEK: CUPID #A4514401

This dog will capture your heart. Meet the lovable Cupid (A4514401). Cupid is an exuberant two year old white male "Schnoodle" (Schnauzer/Miniature Poodle mix) who was found in Baldwin Park and brought to the shelter on November 21st. Weighing fourteen pounds, Cupid is intelligent and curious and will be easy to train. He is the life of the party, and loves everyone and everything - dogs, humans and most likely children and cats as well. Cupid will be a wonderful indoor pet for anyone in any living situation, and he would be especially good for a family living in an apartment or condo. To watch a video of Cupid please visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FykSxpdISQ



To meet Cupid in person, please see him at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center, located at 4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). He is currently available now. For any inquiries about Cupid, please reference his animal ID number: A4514401. The shelter is open seven days a week, 12 pm-7 pm Monday-Thursday and 10am-5pm Friday-Sunday. This is a high-intake shelter with a great need for adoptions. For more information about Cupid or the adoption process, please contact our Volunteer Adoption Coordinator at Samantha@hope4animals.org. To learn more about United Hope for Animals' partnership with the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dogs of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

Canyon Canine
Dog Walking & Sitting Services
Sierra Madre, California

Chris Leclerc
www.canyoncanine.com
chris@canyoncanine.com
626-355-8333 626-533-9536

HUNTINGTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL
626-357-2335
MON-FRI, 8:30AM-5:30PM
SAT, 8-2

535 West Huntington Drive in Monrovia

MEDICINE:
•Annual Exams •Behavioral Counseling
•Vaccinations •Dermatology
•Dentistry •In House Laboratory

SURGERY:
•Orthopedics •TPO
•Neurosurgery •Soft Tissue

Gary R. White, DVM

Full Service Dog & Cat Grooming
Doggie Daycare (indoor & outdoor area)
Boarding (cage free, home environment)
Shabby Cab (pick-up & delivery shuttle service)

THE SHABBY DOG GROOMING

(626) 836-5452
31 East Montecito Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024
www.shabbydoggrooming.com

\$5.00 OFF 1st time Groom for your pet!

SPORTS

IT WAS DARK VS. WHITE MEAT AT THE ST. RITA TURKEY BOWL

Sierra Madre, CA, November 30, 2012 – Early Thanksgiving morning at Sierra Madre Elementary School field set the scene for St. Rita School's 6th-annual Dad's Turkey Bowl.

Anticipation filled the air as "Team White" (meat), captained by Jim Gohrick, couldn't wait to avenge last year's devastating loss to Captain Joe Tupy's "Team Black" (dark meat.)

The popular flag football showdown has been a fun tradition for the St. Rita dads, both young and young-at-heart, to bond on the gridiron on Thanksgiving morning. Players take the game very seriously and family and friends of the St. Rita community all come out to cheer them on.

"Even though we stand to earn bragging rights for the entire year to follow," said Tupy, "the real winner is our athletic program which receives a generous donation from the event's participants."

This year, however, would not belong to Tupy's team, as Gohrick led his players to victory after a battle of epic "portions!" The beaten, but undaunted, Team Black says they'll be back in 2013 for the next win.

Stuffed with action-packed play making, good times and donuts, a great time was had by all! The final score was 32 white meat, 14 dark meat, with Jim Gohrick named MVP and Matt Birkett Most Valiant.

St. Rita School, located at 322 N. Baldwin Ave. in Sierra Madre, is a Catholic parish school with a CYO award-winning sports program.



Group Shot: Players from both White and Black teams pose together before the St. Rita Dad's Turkey Bowl. Right: Gohrick: Team Black player, Kurt Vasquez, lunges at an unsuspecting Jim Gohrick. Photos courtesy Diane Johnson



THE LAW OFFICES OF DOUGLAS J. FARRELL

WILLS, PROBATE AND TRUSTS
DRAFTING, ADMINISTRATION
AND LITIGATION
REAL PROPERTY AND TITLE LITIGATION

37 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA
626-355-3401
SierraMLaw@cs.com

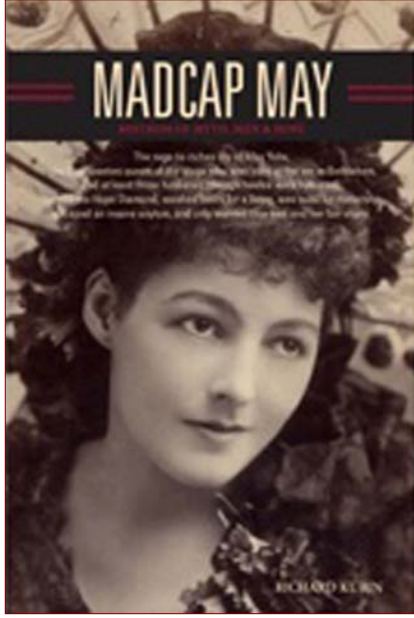
Your Ad Could Be Here!
Call Patricia at 626-818-2698 Today!

JASMINE'S CORNER

Book Reviews by Jasmine Kelsey Williams

MADCAP MAY: MISTRESS OF MYTH, MEN, & HOPE

By Richard Kurin



As the Christmas holidays approach, this next choice shall definitely be worth the read and time as it is a departure from the previous books selected. Although this selection is not exactly holiday-themed, it is still an enchanting read and with it being an excellent work of non-fiction, should be able to keep the reader's attention. 'Madcap May' is the biography of May Yohe, claimed as the drama queen of her time. Richard Kurin takes great care and details a classic "rags-to-riches" story of May Yohe, who lived a roller-coaster lifestyle which spanned the time periods of the Gay Nineties, the Roaring Twenties, and through the Great Depression. May's story is wonderfully crafted, with a total of sixteen chapters mapping out her humble beginnings in Bethlehem, her marriages, through her acting career to how she spent her final days. Kurin does not cut corners or sidestep at all when it comes to the detail and explanation of May Yohe, and goes above and beyond when explaining not just her backstory, but the backstories of all who were involved with May's life as well. There are passages, excerpts and

quotes that come from May, her family, friends and husbands, as well as theater critics of her time, that not only provide actual proof and insight, but also provide the reader an opportunity to be drawn into May's world. This is where the reader may find the enchantment factor: with such careful details and complete accuracy, readers will feel that they have taken a step back in time and are experiencing May's life as an observer, feeling what she felt though her words alone. Copyrighted in 2012 and receiving praise from Publishers Weekly and Library Journal, 'Madcap May' is a very lively new read, one that fleshes out an exciting tale of a famous theater legend and icon of her time, proving that one can carve out their own adventures in life and enjoying the zest that comes with it.



SEAN'S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

Review By Sean Kayden

NIGHT MOVES

The Twin Cities' natives, Night Moves, have a smooth take off on their first endeavor, "Colored Emotions," but their flight has some turbulence along the way. Luckily, there's no crash landing and come out of that rough patch in one piece. With the combination of 70s glam rock and pop-country flair of late 80s/early 90s acts to alternative rock of the early 2000s, Night Moves occupies a lot of style with a decent amount of substance to boot. At only ten songs, three of which are less than two minutes long, the album demands to be listened in its full entirety. Luckily, it's a breezy and mostly consistent voyage from beginning to end. There are a lot of transitions that are powerful and moving, but the sum of the album is greater than its parts. Despite that, there's a lot of fun to be had on the debut record. Not only does Night Moves connect to their generation, but also effortlessly evoke the sounds of previous one too.

A bit of country, a bit of soul, and a lot of soft rock, Night Moves feel like they're from another era and I am perfectly content with that. You can't really pinpoint the exact sound of the band, since they have discernable influences that are all over the board. In today's music Night Moves is a mix between glam-psychedelic rockers MGMT and free-wheelin' folk-rock aficionados, My Morning Jacket. The Eagles and Fleetwood Mac would fit the bill as the band's earlier influences. Listening to "Colored Emotions" doesn't require much attention, but if you do attentively take note, you're actually in for quite a refreshing sound for today's era. If you take it at face value, you may appreciate the sounds of the past three decades, but if you rather just listen to a band from those years, you might as well take heed and seek another different music outlet.

The best track is the opener, "Headlights." It begins like a classic 70s jam and simply hooks you in with its build ups and drop offs consistently running through the track. Lead singer John Pelant has quite the falsetto range. There is something quite charming underneath those vocals. He may not use them to the fullest extent, but nascent vocals nonetheless. While there is so much personality layered under "Colored Emotions," you start to wonder if it's entirely original or just mimicking those of others it admires. Nevertheless, with a solid combination of sensitive pop melodies, solid songwriting, and seasoned sound, Night Moves could be your guiding light to the past. What I mean is that they may make you seek out the sounds of earlier days.

Artist: Night Moves
Album: Colored Emotions
Label: Domino Records
Release Date: October 16, 2012

The album is full of mercurial hooks, warm undertones, and soulful vocals. The more you listen, the more you connect. It's the kind of record you wish there was just a little more to put it over the edge. With only 7 normal duration tracks, the album is short-lived. However, with wonderful arrangements and effervescent choruses, the record has great depth despite the relatively limited length. Night Moves' "Colored Emotions" is as compelling and tender as it is green and undercooked at times. Without a doubt it is a considerably solid first outing. Big ideas and mighty musical explorations leave the Minneapolis three-piece to be a gifted band seeking to ascend from the shadows and enter newfound light.

Grade 7.5 out of 10
Key Tracks: "Headlights", "Country Queen", "Only A Child", "Family Tongues"

COLBERT HAIR STUDIOS
HAIR
NAILS
SKIN CARE

10% Off All First Time Customers

Tauheedah Bahar
Manicurist



Gul Shah
Skin Therapist

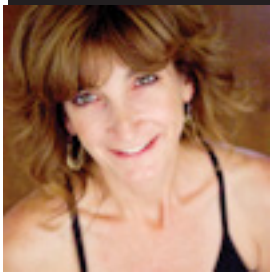
Allyn Colbert, Proprietor

94 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, CA 91024
(626) 836-8811

HEALTH & FITNESS

THE JOY OF YOGA

HOW TO CALM DOWN



Do you have trouble meditating? It can really be a challenge to stop all the chatter in the head and be quiet. Try this simple breath practice first. It is called Bhramari. It is like the sound of the buzzing bee and they say it is good for insomnia (at a low pitch), the thyroid (medium pitch) and sinus infections (med to high pitch). It activates the parasympathetic nervous system and is great for stress. It also helps stop the mental looping that we do. So it's great for people that have trouble meditating. Bhramari helps us turn the senses inward to the inner sounds. This stills, calms, and sensitizes our 3rd eye. Because we are lengthening the exhale, it is great for calming anxiety and alleviating depression.

You can sit in a chair or on the floor on a cushion. Sit up tall with a straight spine. Take a couple relaxing breaths to get in the mood. Then inhale and as you exhale make a soft buzzing sound, like a honey bee. Try it for several rounds.

You can enhance the effects by using a hand gesture (mudra). Place the thumbs on the cartilage by the ear to close the ears and lightly place the finger tips on the forehead and nose. The pinky fingers just outside the nostrils, the ring fingers on the upper sides of the nose by the eyes, the middle fingers at the inside edges of the brow and the pointer finger on the forehead. Do six rounds and then do six silent rounds. See if you can still hear the buzzing. Now try your meditation and just watch the regular breath in and out.

Have a great stress free holiday season. If you hear someone buzzing - you'll know why.

Namasté, René

COME SEE WHAT'S NEW IN TOWN AND GET A FREE YOGA CLASS IN OUR NEW LOCATION 16 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD UPSTAIRS, ENTER FROM BACK OF BUILDING CHECK ONLINE FOR CLASS TIMES & DIRECTIONS

Yoga Madre
yogamadre.com

626 355 2010

Yoga Studio and Wellness Center
Yoga Classes for all ages and all levels
Private Yoga Classes • Structural Yoga Therapy • Structural Integration • Reiki
16 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

REFLEXOLOGY CAN HELP!

Reduce Pain ☞ Promote healing ☞ Stress relief ☞ Improve overall well being



FootsmArts Reflexology

Bs. Lic. #21422
Despina Tsiknas-Arzuoman
Certified Reflexologist
Located in Sierra Madre
(626) 355-3414

By Appointment Only
Visit our website:

www.footsmarts-reflexology.com



June Chandler's FAIRY TALE THEATRE
CINDERELLA'S CHRISTMAS
A participation musical!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

SATURDAYS 11:00am
Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22
Special ASL performance Dec. 15th

TICKETS: \$18.00
Children 12 and under \$12.00
Call for special performances or group rates.

RESERVATIONS: (626) 355-4318

CREDIT CARD SALES
www.sierramadrepayhouse.org

The SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE • 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024
AUSD does not endorse or promote this program. Participation is voluntary and at the discretion of parents.

The Four Seasons Tea Room

Open Tues - Sat 11am - 4pm
Sundays open for groups of 20 or more

Private Space Available for Bridal & Baby Showers, Birthdays and Special Occasions

When you are thinking about your holiday parties think of us. Make reservations now for your events!

RSVP (626) 355-0045
75 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

FIFTEEN MINUTES COULD CHANGE YOUR Life

NEUROLOGIC RELIEF CENTERS OF SIERRA MADRE

is offering a **FREE non-invasive pain relief** test that can reduce the majority of symptoms in less than 15 minutes for those who suffer with:

**Chronic Pain • Fibromyalgia • Lupus
Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy • Migraines
Rheumatoid Arthritis • Multiple Sclerosis**

Finally something can be done to help end your suffering! There is no cost or obligation.

Results vary from person to person. Give yourself the chance to be free from pain, regain your strength, energy and sleep better. One call could change your life.

Call now for your FREE test!

(626) 355-2626

Dr. Theresa L. Smith, D.C.
80 Montecito Court
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
(626) 355-2626
www.hands2health.com

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

Story by Chris Bertrand Photography courtesy of the LA Arboretum



RARE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW LUCKY BALDWIN'S QUEEN ANNE COTTAGE DEC. 9TH

The Los Angeles Arboretum will hold a rare open house tour for the historic, Queen Anne Cottage located on the Arboretum grounds on Sunday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The structure is listed as a [California Historical Landmark](#) as well as on the [National Register of Historic Places](#).

Used many times as a site for television and movies, the structure is famous for its use in the opening scenes of the 1970's television movies and series, *Fantasy Island*, starring Ricardo Montalban and Herve Villechaize. Villechaize's character, Tattoo, was seen each week calling out the arrival of new guests from the top of the cottage tower, yelling "Da plane! Da Plane!" More recently, the cottage was used as the Florida residence of the elder Fokkers in the movie, *Meet the Fokkers*.

Most of the time, visitors can only peek into the windows of the charming, Victorian abode, believed to have been constructed as a honeymoon gift for Elias Jackson (Lucky) Baldwin's fourth wife, the sixteen year old, Lillie Bennett.

Bennett's father, architect Albert A. Bennett, designed the intricate and elaborate detailing of the structure. The structure's styling is a romantic, even feminine style of American architecture known for its lavish displays of ornamental spindles, brackets and other accoutrements. "Though it was named a Queen Anne, the Cottage is really the Queen Anne style transitioning to the 'stick style,'" according to Bishop.

Though his name is not well known today, Bennett was a rather prolific architect of public buildings. His works include the Folsom and San Quentin Prisons and many county courthouses across the state. He was also the supervising architect for the state Capitol building in Sacramento.

According to Mitchell Bishop, curator at the Arboretum, the cottage was "originally referred to as 'Baldwin's Belvedere' in the *LA Times* when it was first built and also as the 'Casino' which in those days didn't necessarily mean gambling so much as a variety of pleasure-related activities although Baldwin was fond of gambling and we know poker was played."

The elaborate home never became the intended honeymoon haven; however, as the Baldwin couple separated only a year later. Eventually, Lucky Baldwin turned the home into a memorial of sorts to the third Mrs. Baldwin, Jennie Dexter, who had passed away a few years previous, in 1881.

The cottage was used as the Santa Anita Ranch guest house, hosting theatrical celebrities from Baldwin's namesake theater in San Francisco and other Baldwin family friends and business associate guests. Baldwin himself never lived in the cottage, using the cottage "essentially as a party house," laughed Bishop. Baldwin quartered in the nearby adobe home until his death in 1909.

Unfortunately, after Lucky's passing, his daughter shuttered the cottage and disposed of the furnishings. Several other large buildings

on the ranch, also designed by Bennett, didn't survive, according to Bishop.

Luckily, the home's black walnut doors, stained glass windows, marble fireplace mantels, and even the original bath fixtures and a marble walkway were packed up and stored for nearly half a century in the nearby Coach House.

A restoration project from 1951-53 restored these items to their original fittings inside the cottage, now preserved for the public. "The cottage was one of the first restorations of a Victorian house," according to Bishop, "very unusual in that time. In the 1950's, Victorian restorations weren't popular. People weren't in that mindset. Modern architecture was prevalent. These forward thinking people preserved that history."

Later, in 1993, an Eagle Scout project by Erik Wanson from a San Marino troop restored the intricate x-pattern fencing surrounding the cottage.

Regarding additional renovations, Bishop indicated, "The Cottage was recently given a new red decorative shingle roof based on photographic documentation of the original roof from the 19th century. Imbricated roofs have sometimes very elaborate patterns of overlapping shingles cut into diamond, half round and other shapes. The term imbrication refers to the scales found on fish and reptiles. It also makes a very effective waterproof covering. Today, we still see these patterns on the siding of Victorian houses but it is rare to see it still on roofs. The Coach Barn is currently closed for the installation of a similar roof taking it back to its original appearance that Mr. Baldwin and his architect intended."

Visitors on December 9th will have the chance to view paintings of the Baldwin family, which were donated to the Arboretum over the years, including two portraits of Baldwin by Joseph Greenbaum and two portraits of Lucky's wife, Jennie Dexter. Another painting, hung in the cottage, this one by H.H. Cross, depicts Anita Baldwin, Lucky's daughter, sitting across the lake, near the cottage with the ranch's bull mastiff guard dogs.

Bishop chuckled, "Originally, there were no railings on the veranda,



if you fell off the porch in those days, it was your own fault. The railings are a concession to the modern era."

Bishop also indicates the Arboretum continues to seek photos of the cottage interior, to get a better idea of what it looked like at the time. The cottage will be decked out in Victorian holiday splendor, to put guests in the spirit for an old fashioned holiday. Docent led tours, at a suggested donation of \$3, will be available throughout the day on Sunday, December 9 for an up close and personal view of the cottage and its history. The nearby Coach Barn and the old Santa Anita Depot will also be open to visitors.

Admittance to the cottage is included with regular admission to the Los Angeles Arboretum, located at 301 North Baldwin Avenue, in Arcadia. For more information, visit the Arboretum website at www.Arboretum.org or call 626-821-3222. Research information was obtained from the Arboretum website.



Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou Realtor®

CREATE A COMFORT ZONE

While experts may debate the value of holding an open house, your home may be a good candidate for this marketing tool. If your agent offers to show off your home on a Sunday afternoon, apply some elbow grease and take advantage of the opportunity.

Obviously, get things tidy inside and out. Give all of your countertops a spacious feel by hiding your toiletries under the sink in the bathroom, and by stashing your kitchen appliances in the cabinets. Clean and clear make a great impression.

Also remove photographs, appointment cards, school artwork, etc. from the refrigerator and other areas of the house. Yes, it's your home, but you want buyers to picture it as their home, so don't intrude on the fantasy!

You can encourage buyers to linger by simply putting out refreshments, like fresh baked cookies (the aroma can be a powerful intoxicant!), and a pitcher of iced tea or minis of bottled water - anything to make them pause and take a closer look around.

The one thing that shouldn't be in the home during an open house is... you. No offense meant, but buyers are there to see the home, not the owner, and they may feel uncomfortable asking probing questions if you are within earshot. Make your visitors feel at ease, and trust your agent to take care of the rest!

Luther has been licensed and practicing real estate since 1992. He specializes in residential and income property in the Greater San Gabriel Valley. Luther Tsinoglou has again been named a top producing sales agent with Podley Properties for 2011, making the top 10% at the company overall. Luther can be reached at his direct line (626) 695-8650 or at luther@tsinoglou.com

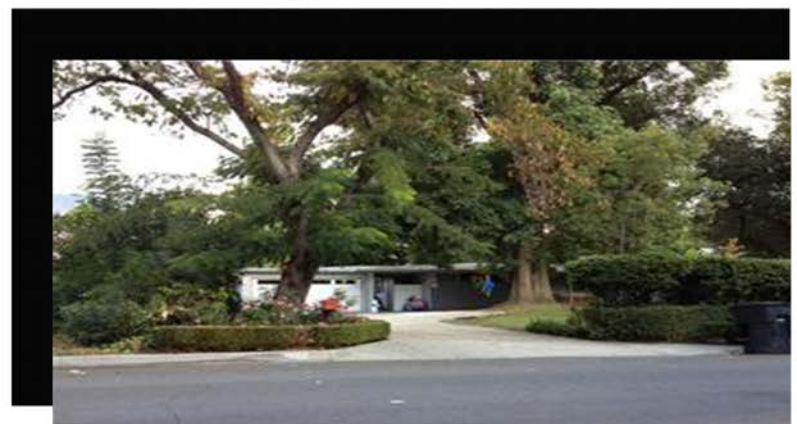


Prudential
California Realty

CAROL CANTERBURY
115 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
626-355-1600 ext. 146
626-252-6322 Cell



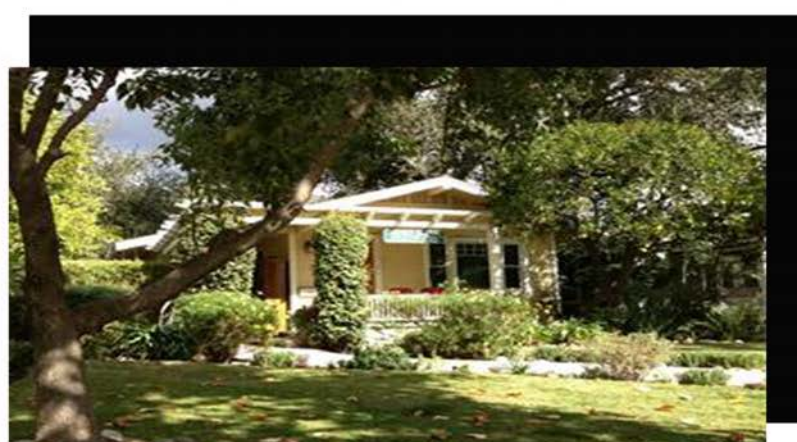
615 E. Orange Grove Sierra Madre



\$859,000

This home is in need of some 2013 pizzazz! The lot is tree lined with mature landscaping. There is a pool in center of yard with a fully permitted over 600 square foot guest house/maybe office! You also have a large garage and a driveway that can hold many cars. The main house is 3 bedroom 2 bath, there are hardwood floors and some vinyl flooring. This would be a great project for the right Buyers!!!

373 W. Sierra Madre Bl. Sierra Madre



\$775,000

Perfect for live work BUYERS!! Zoned Residential Professional! Adorable craftsman type cottage with newly built addition that has 2 master suites and a den (all built in 2007), there is also a 3rd bedroom with another bath. Porch surrounds the front yard with pretty garden; back yard has private garden setting.



CAROLYN PAPP
626-353-7443



OPEN SUN 1-4

537 SOMBRERO ROAD, MONROVIA \$499,000
BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPED WIDE LOT. THIS 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME OFFERS LARGE DEN, 2 FIREPLACES, HARDWOOD FLOORS THROUGHOUT AND THE BEDROOMS HAVE LOTS OF CLOSET SPACE. SEE QUICKLY!

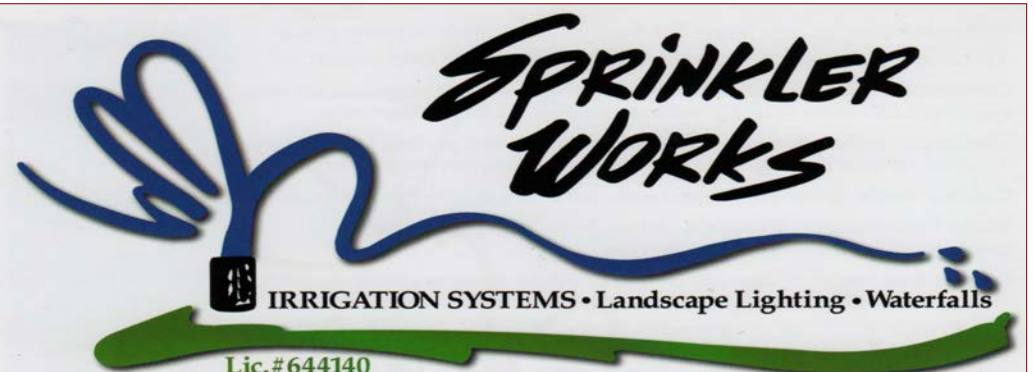


Carolyn Papp
Coldwell Banker Arcadia
626-353-7443

SIERRA MADRE FARMERS MARKET

The Sierra Madre Farmer's Market hours have changed to 3:00pm through 7:00pm every Wednesday in fall and winter. Vendors include Dry Dock which has fresh and wild caught fish, Rustic Loaf with artisan breads, Cutie Pie with fresh pies and much more!

For those interested in being a vendor contact Melissa Farwell with Raw Inspirations at 818-591-8161 ext. 806.



IRRIGATION SYSTEMS • Landscape Lighting • Waterfalls

Lic.#644140

Save Water (800) 414-1004

Sprinkler Works has been Southern California's experts since 1992 in the design, installation, troubleshooting and repair of:

Complete Irrigation Systems. Save money by saving more than 10,000 gallons a year with a new SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLER and Rotating Sprinklers with Compensating Nozzles.

Landscape Lighting Systems. Add value, beauty and security to your home, landscape, patio or pool deck with a new low voltage lighting system. All copper lighting fixtures have a 10 year warranty.

Outdoor Audio Systems. Enjoy your favorite music on the deck, by the pool, or in the garden.

Water Fountains and Waterfalls. Relax to the soothing look and sound of a fountain, waterfall or pond in your front or backyard.

Custom Built Decks. Entertain your family and friends this summer on a brand new deck made of redwood or maintenance free, environmentally friendly materials such as Trex®. We install and repair planter boxes and fences, too!

SAVE up to \$250 or More with Water District Rebates Ask for Details.

30 Minute Service Call Extended to an Hour with this card.

©2012 SWP 0810

By Pat Birdsall

HOW TO FIND A LOST PENSION

Dear Savvy Senior: How does one go about tracking down a lost pension? About 35 years ago, I worked at a manufacturing company for a few years that offered employee pensions, and I want to find out if I'm eligible for any money now that I'm about to retire. Searching Steven

Dear Steven:

Losing track of a small pension from years ago is actually quite common, especially if you've had a lot of jobs throughout your working life. To help you locate a lost pension, here are the steps to take along with some free resources that can help you search if your previous employer has gone out of business, changed names or merged with another firm.

Pension Proof

If you think you have a pension from a previous employer, and the company is still in business, your first step is to call their human resources department and ask them to give you the contact information of the pension plan administrator. Then you'll need to contact them to find out how much your pension is worth and how to claim it.

Depending on how complete the plan administrator's records are, you may need to show proof that you once worked for the company and that you are pension eligible.

Your old income tax returns and W-2 forms from the years you worked at the company will help you here. If you haven't saved your old tax returns from these years, you can get a copy of your earnings record from the Social Security Administration, which will show how much you were paid each calendar year by each employer.

Call 800-772-1213 and ask them to mail you the "Request for Social Security Earnings Information" form SSA-7050, or you can download it at www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-7050.pdf. You'll pay a small fee for the report, depending on the number of years of data you request.

Some other old forms that can help you prove eligibility are your Summary Plan Descriptions (SPD) that you should have received from your employer when you worked there, or any individual benefit statements.

Check the PBGC

If you can't find your former employer because it went out of business, or, if the company ended its pension plan, you need to check the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's (PBGC) online pension search directory at search.pbgc.gov/mp/mp.aspx. Or, you can call 800-400-7242 and get help over the phone.

The PBGC is a federal agency that guarantees pensions of bankrupt companies. The agency also maintains information on any pension plan that has been terminated, even if the company is still in business.

The PBGC, however, does not cover or have information on lost pensions that are still active, nor will they help you locate lost 401(k) plans.

Get Help

The best resource to help you track down a lost active pension from a company that has moved or merged with another firm is the U.S. Administration on Aging Pension Counseling and Information Program. This free program encompasses seven pension assistance programs around the country that serve workers in 30 states. To get the contact information of these counseling programs and the states they serve, visit the Pension Rights Center website at pensionrights.org.

If your pension happens to be outside the area served by the pension counseling centers, or if you're trying to locate a federal or military pension, use Pension Help America at pensionhelp.org. This resource can connect you with government agencies and private organizations that provide free information and assistance to help your search.

For more information, the PBGC has a free publication called "Finding a Lost Pension" that provides in-depth information that can aid in your search. See pbgc.gov to see it online, or call 800-400-7242 and ask them to mail you a copy.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



FYI: Some of Con Artists' Favorite Ways to Scam the Elderly

1) "You've already won..." Official-looking documents designed to trick recipients into thinking they've won money are worded carefully so as to stay legal. These documents hide crucial information (e.g. the fact that they're not really prize announcements) in tiny italic type, because reading italics is much harder for people with limited vision. Following "instructions," recipients send checks that they believe are processing fees to far-away post offices. The amounts are small...from \$5 to \$50...but they add up, given that individual scammers typically operate several fake sweepstakes simultaneously. Addresses of those who send checks are sold to other scammers; more sweepstakes letters pour in. It plays on emotions. In one recent case the National Telemarketing Victim Call Center handled this: an 88 year-old widow spent over \$60,000 on fake sweepstakes in just two years!

2) **Readymade Repairs...** A doorstep scam entails "gardeners" or "handymen" offering to do "necessary" repair work—on cracked driveways, say, or dangling tree limbs. (As part of *this* scam, they have often secretly done the tree damage themselves.) Claiming that these conditions, if unrepaired, will damage the homes or violate city codes, these scammers scare seniors into hiring them on the spot. They soon demand to be paid in advance for labor plus materials. Once paid, they drive off...allegedly to buy those materials, and they never return. Some actually do the work but without specifying a fee beforehand. Once finished, they demand exorbitant fees, threatening to call the police if the victim doesn't pay. These scams too often end with lucrative trips to the ATM.

3) **In the House...** Granted unlimited access to senior's homes, caregivers "top the list" of those who exploit the elderly... Although caregiver's agencies are required by law to do background checks on all potential employees, many don't bother. Usually this type of "perp" often has no criminal record, but simply can't resist the temptation to snatch unattended cash, credit cards, medications, checkbooks, jewelry, electronics and personal information. Once caught, these culprits rationalize their own crime, saying that the victim wanted them to have the items because they love them. Forgetful seniors face another scam when employees who have been paid claim that they haven't. Forgetting the previous checks, the senior's write more.

There are many spaces left for new plaques at the Veteran's Memorial Wall. If you or a friend, family member or neighbor served in any of the United States military branches the criteria for inclusion is simple: You must have lived in Sierra Madre for at least one year sometime in your life and have a picture of yourself in uniform. **Please call Dave Loera, Commander of VFW Post 3208, to be included and for more information: (626) 355-3382. We'd be proud to have you!**

You can help: This week the Veteran's group is: **Operation Shoebox** Founded in 2003 in an effort to send support, snacks and much needed personal care items to our troops deployed outside of the USA. Please visit their website: www.operationshoebox.com



~MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS DECEMBER 7~

HELPFUL HINT Murphy's Oil Soap is not just for floors. It's a *great* stain remover for fabrics too. From "ring-around-the-collar" to melted butter and various food stains...especially around the holidays. Just pour directly on the stain, let stand for a few minutes and then wash as usual.

FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE

The Smiths were shown into the dentist's office, where Mr. Smith made it clear that he was in a big hurry. "No fancy stuff, doctor," he ordered. "No gas or needles or any of that stuff. Just pull the tooth and get it over with." "I wish more of my patients were as stoic as you," said the dentist admiringly, "Now which tooth is it?" Mr. Smith turned to his wife Sue. "Show him honey."

.....
Little Johnny wanted to go to the zoo and pestered his parents for days. Finally his mother talked his reluctant father into taking him. "So how was it?" his mother asked when they returned home. "Great," Little Johnny replied. "Did your father have a good time?" asked his mother. "Yeah, Daddy especially liked it," exclaimed Little Johnny excitedly, "Especially when one of the animals came racing home at 30 to 1."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Alberta Curran, Carmela Frontino, Lena Zate, Joe Pergola, Janice Kacer, Flo Mankin, Valerie Howard, "Mike" Ruggles, Lois Stueck, Joan Ruggles, Jean Wood, Shirley Yergeau, Kathi Jefferson, Pat Krok, Irene Nakagawa, Anna Ross, Mary Steinberg, Christine Durfort and Sue Quinn . To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required.

Quote of the Week: Because we don't think about future generations, they will never forget us. ~ Henrik Tikkanen~

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

YMCA San Gabriel Valley Intervale Senior Café: Monday-Friday at 12:00 Noon

(Participants are urged to arrive no later than 11:45 A.M.)

All seniors 60 and up can take part in the lunch program. There is a suggested donation of \$2.00 for those 60 and over and \$3.75 for non-senior guests. Daily reservations are necessary as space is limited. Please call 24 hours in advance...626.355.0256

Free Blood Pressure Testing: On the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am-12:00 pm: A nurse from Methodist Hospital, Arcadia volunteers to do the readings. No appointment necessary.

Bingo: Every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm Cards are only .25c each!

Free Chair Yoga: Every Wednesday morning from 11:00 am-11:45 am. Volunteer Teryl Willis offers this class that focuses on senior yoga techniques. It is geared toward gentle movements, breathing techniques and balance improvement. No reservations are necessary.

Free Legal Consultation: Pasadena attorney Geoffrey Chin volunteers on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. He focuses on estate planning, trusts, wills, probate, conservatorships and business law. * **Appointments are a must.** Please call 626.355.7394 to make yours.

* *Conflicting court schedules can occasionally cause cancellations.*

Birthday Celebrations: The 2nd Thursday of the month the Senior Center celebrates the birthdays of our patrons at 12:30 pm. Please join us for free cake and ice cream and **"celebration."** (The cakes are provided due to a generous donation from the Sierra Madre Civic Club.)

Game Day: Game Day: **Every Thursday** at 1:00pm. Poker is usually the game of choice, or should I say chance? Board games and other card games are also available. Outside, on the patio, a beautiful, one-of-a-kind chess table is anxious for players.

Free Strength Training Class: Free Strength Training Class: **Every Friday** from 1:00 pm -1:45 pm Conducted by long-time volunteer Lisa Brandley. The class utilizes light weights for low-impact resistance training. Weights are provided by the Sierra Madre Senior Center. It's a great way to stay in shape and to socialize with your peers. (Gossip included)

Senior Citizens Club: Every Saturday-at the Hart Park House (Senior Center) Brown bag lunch at 11:30am; Club meeting at Noon; Bingo at 12:30- 3:30 pm. For more information call Pat at 626.355.7290

EXCURSION: CALIFORNIA SCIENCE CENTER- CLEOPATRA EXHIBIT AND IMAX MOVIE (LOS ANGELES, CA.)

Date: Friday, December 14, 2012
Departure: 9:00am from the Hart Park House
Lunch and Activities: 10:00am- 2:00pm
Return -Hart Park House: 3:30 pm (time approximate)
Cost: \$32.00 (does not include lunch)

Come discover more than 150 priceless Egyptian artifacts from nearly 2,000 years ago. For more information visit www.californiasciencecenter.org Reservations or more info call the Park House at (626) 355-7394



SENIOR MOVIE PROGRAM: Free Movies are shown on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The films, one contemporary and one vintage, are chosen by the seniors themselves.

Movies are shown in the Sierra Madre Council Chambers (222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.) at 1:00 PM.

KATIE TseThis and That
THE THRILL OF THE HUNT

When was the last time you went hunting? Was it an exotic safari spanning the Serengeti. Did you load a rifle to take down an endangered elephant or rhino? Perhaps you enjoyed an English fox hunt, with beagles, bugles, and those silly flared pants. Maybe you took your son out for his first buck in the wilds of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

"That's preposterous!" you say. "What kind of sick sadist would derive pleasure from tracking down and killing helpless prey?" I completely agree with you. By the same token, I also see "Black Friday" as fulfilling the blood lust within most of us, in a politically-correct way. (I say "most of us" because I LOATH shopping, and I trust some of you out there have similar feelings.)

With a few exceptions, Black Friday brings out the worst in humanity. We've all read about the fights at Walgreens and malls across the nation. What better way to celebrate peace on earth and good will toward men than to slug each others' teeth out? Nothing says "silent night" like a good shiner and an accompanying comatose concussion. I hate shopping even under the best of circumstances, so you can imagine my trepidation about going within a mile of a mall, Walmart, or Best Buy on that dreaded weekend.

Last year I made the mistake of procrastinating too long when buying a gift for one of my closest friend's gift. This friend, we'll call her Cassandra, frequently chooses clothing for my Christmas and birthday gifts. I'm the first to admit that I need wardrobe help, so I wholeheartedly welcome any of her suggestions.

But last year I made the mistake of trying to buy HER some clothes. I asked a mutual friend what brands of clothing Cassandra prefers. Our friend recommended the Gap and Banana Republic outlet stores at the Citadel. Noting my puzzled look, she patiently explained to me what the Citadel is. My familiarity with clothing outlets is as likely as Paula Dean's knowledge of fat-free, vegan cuisine.

My husband gallantly drove us out to the Citadel at a day dangerously near Christmas. I've never witnessed such utter chaos in a store before. There were children running around, tripping over piles of shirts, pants, and sweaters, all while strewing mounds of display clothing onto the floor. The checkout "line" snaked around the aisles and climbed over heaps of clothes. One would assume that vast numbers of items were stolen that night. This insight prompted the question: just how much these products are marked up above their true market value? Obviously, the Gap can afford to lose a quarter of its merchandise during one holiday sale and still make a profit.

These thoughts and others swirled through my over-stimulated mind that night, as I dodged running children and tried to avoid tripping over piles of discarded clothes. At the end of the night, reaching the parking lot was like embracing the promised land. Although, the lingering stress caused me to unconsciously clench my bag of clothing for a good half hour after the lights of the Citadel faded into the distance. My friend probably didn't fully appreciate my sacrifice in buying her gifts last year --which is why, this year, I'm ordering all her stuff online. Any shipping expenses are worth their weight in gold as far as my mental health is concerned. Merry shopping!



PASADENA SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE CHANGES HOURS

Effective November 19, 2012, the Pasadena Social Security office will be open to the public Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday. In addition, beginning January 2, 2013, the office will close to the public at noon every Wednesday. On November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, all Social Security field offices will be closed to the public.

Most services do not require a visit. Applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or a change of address or telephone number can be done online at www.socialsecurity.gov or by calling 1-800-772-1213. Hearing impaired may call our TTY number, 1-800-325-0778.

Unlimited Homecare Services

159 E Huntington Dr. Unit 4 Arcadia, CA 91006 Tel: (626) 446-5468 Fax: (626) 446-7068

We provide:

- Skilled Nursing Care
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Home Health Aide Services
- Dietary Counseling
- Medical Social Services

Licensed By:



Accredited By:



Certified By:



Leonara Moss

9 Kersting Court Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
626-355-1180

EXTRAORDINARY
CUSTOM FLORAL
ARRANGEMENTS

DOLLARS AND CENTS

By Carl Davis, CIMA

PLANNING FINANCIALLY TO ADOPT

November 17th is National Adoption day, and while adopting a child is one way to grow a family, it can be very expensive – with significant upfront costs. When you factor in travel and time off from work, the costs can run even higher. And for gay, lesbian and bisexual couples seeking to adopt a child, they may face special financial and legal hurdles.

If you're considering adopting a child, whether in the United States or abroad, explore your resources and consider alternatives that can make the adoption process more affordable.

Employer adoption benefits

Some employers offer an adoption benefit as part of their employee benefits package. These "adoption-friendly" perks may include partial reimbursement of adoption fees as well as paid time off to complete the adoption process. Talk to the human resources contact where you work to review the benefits available to you.

Changes in the Adoption Tax Credit

Unless something changes at the federal level, the Adoption Tax Credit will no longer apply in 2013. For the remainder of 2012, adoptive parents may be eligible for a tax credit up to \$12,650 to help offset the high cost of adoption. But if congressional action isn't taken to extend this tax credit, starting in 2013, it will be reduced to \$6,000 and will only apply to special needs adoptions. If you're beginning the adoption process now, you may be eligible for full or partial credit even if your adoption is not completed before the end of the year, but you will be required to provide documentation of your qualified adoption expenses to earn the credit.

Special needs and foster care adoptions

Many states offer additional financial incentives to encourage special needs adoptions or the adoption of older children waiting in foster care. If you are planning to adopt a special needs or older child, find out under what conditions your state offers this financial help. You can find information for your state online at the Child Welfare Information Gateway.

Borrowing to adopt

If your credit is in good shape, you may be able to get an adoption loan to help with the costs of the adoption. You may also consider alternative borrowing options, but be careful about overextending yourself, as adding a child to your family will raise your cost of living. Daycare expenses will also impact your family's finances, and income-earning potential can be affected if one parent chooses to stay at home or take a job that is less demanding so he or she can be more available for child care.

Other options

If you are worried your finances fall short to complete an adoption today, consider what it would mean to postpone your adoption plans. You can try to increase your income by reducing expenses where you can and budgeting carefully. Find out if organizations you're involved in will provide financial assistance. Search for private grants and put the word out that you are in need of financial help, and you may just find it.

The importance of financial planning

The cost of adopting a child begins when you initiate the adoption process, but it certainly does not end there. Raising a child is costly too. An experienced financial planner can help you examine your finances and make plans to achieve the goals you have for you and your family, now and in the future.

Carl H Davis, CIMA®, CRPC® is a Financial Advisor and Vice President with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Los Angeles, CA. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 36 years. To contact him at 310-954-2566 or via email @ carl.h.davis@ampf.com, or at 10880 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90024

Brokerage, investment and financial advisory services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC.

This communication is published in the United States for residents of California only

© 2012 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.
File # 146743



YELPING AND YODELING IN HAWAII

For Thanksgiving this year, I decided I'd rather be in Hawaii than in the kitchen. My parents, my brother and some friends also joined in. We had a blast.

It seemed everyone in our crew was relying on recommendations to make our trip better or more exciting. At some point, Yelp.com became one of our primary "go-to" resources for recommendations on where to dine and what to do for fun and relaxation.

My parents got very excited about good old-fashioned, face-to-face recommendations from locals or other tourists they met along the way. One morning my brother and I woke up before everyone else to get in an early snorkel and search for turtles. Although my ears were covered by ocean I heard a faint, familiar sound in the distance. As I lifted my head out of the water I saw my mom and my 80-year-old dad standing on the shore of *Anaeho'omalu* Bay yodeling (yes yodeling) at high volume and directing us to come in. Worried that someone was hurt, we swam in as fast as we could. "Hey guys, we have some really exciting news! We just talked to this guy and he said the locals say the snorkeling is better in the next bay a mile away!"... Sigh.

Well, we reluctantly went to the next bay and it turns out that the snorkeling was better. But the real lesson here is that a recommendation, even from a stranger, is a powerful thing!

My husband was also on a mission and very hard to keep track of during this trip. He'd often go missing for hours and suddenly turn up with fake tattoos on his arms lapping 3-foot, neon-orange, shaved ice drinks. He took it upon himself to be the food finder for the trip because he has a new hobby called Yelp. He was in paradise traveling through Hawaii with Yelp at his side. He searched for hot malasadas, Portuguese sausage and all things Spam.

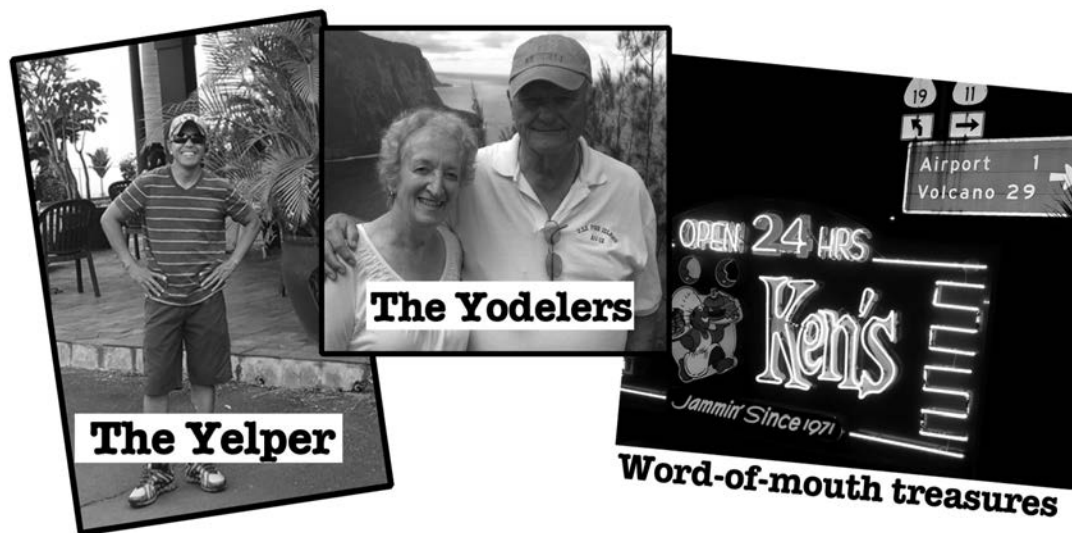
One night, he found the treasure he'd been looking for, a restaurant the locals like called "Hawaiian Style Cafe." He spent an evening showing us photos other yelpers posted of eggs and spam on rice topped with gravy, 3-foot pancake stacks and pineapple sausage. We ate there the next morning after a 30-minute wait. The food was amazing. There was even something for a vegetarian like me! The restaurant has hundreds of good Yelp reviews plus a new photo and recommendation from my husband.

What I find interesting is that this kind of business probably doesn't need to do much on-line marketing because everyone does it for them! If a business like this can deliver the goods, their Yelpers will take it from there.

Figure out how your business can influence word of mouth, on-line and off. People trust recommendations much more than they trust an ad. On our vacation, we didn't trust ads in the local tourist hand-outs, we were influenced by people on Yelp and on the beach.

About MJ: MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that specializes in Social Media Education for business owners. Join their conversation on Facebook and get good tips and tricks about social media, www.facebook.com/hutdogs.

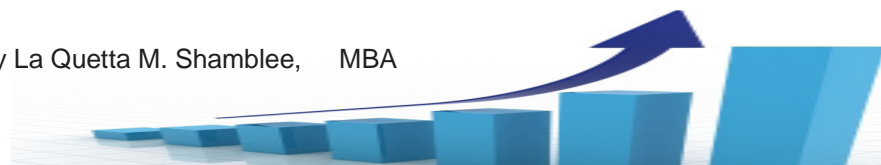
Sign up for their upcoming classes and presentations at: www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule.



BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA



HOLIDAY CHEER CAN PAY OFF ALL YEAR

Business owners, you still have time to sow seeds of generosity to customers and the community this holiday season. After all, "it's the thought that counts," and if you'll give it some thought, your expression of generosity doesn't have to cost a lot of money to make an impression that may translate into more sales in the upcoming year. Short on funds or have no budget to do something nice? Think again. Here are a number of recommendations to fit budgets (and non-budgets) of all sizes:

No budget? For businesses with physical locations, it begins with a few decorations to tap into the holiday theme that your customers are enjoying at other establishments. Hopefully you have some ornaments, tinsel or lights to add a festive accent to your store. If not, take a stroll to local parks and collect fallen pine cones and sprigs from trees to create a basket. Find red and green cloths or scarves to use as a table cover and as a sash to tie around the basket or container. Have someone with nice penmanship to write a "Happy Holidays from (Your Company Name)" or prepare and print one from your computer. Place this sign on, or near your display.

See if you have any inventory items that you have not been able to sell, and that you may have thought about discarding. Wrap each item in packing paper and tie a ribbon around it, or attach a colorful card or small decoration to each package. You may want to use see-thru wrapping to allow customers to select particular items. If you don't have room for a small Christmas tree, create a "gift area" and direct each person visiting your store to select a gift. You may wish to have a different selection of gifts as an extra thank you for customers who make purchases.

Place a small basket filled with small wrapped candies or small gifts, on the sales counter or small table. Punch a small hole through your business cards, lace a small piece of ribbon through each one and tie it to your holiday take-away. Customers are more likely to keep your business card, as opposed to a paper tag or flyer.

Small budget? A "12 Days of Christmas" theme can be used to countdown your final sales day up to December 25th. Offer a different small gift or treat each day. It may be a "free" item, or included with a purchase. Examples: A coffee shop offers a different tasting of tea, free or with the purchase of a pastry. A restaurant offers a free mini-portion appetizer with each bar purchase.

A few extra bucks to spare? Host a holiday open house, which will serve the purpose of thanking your customers, but will also give them another reason to visit your establishment. Apple cider, cookies, fruit tray or a more elaborate spread of refreshments or hors d'oeuvres will add liveliness to any gathering. Your open house can be scheduled as a time-limited gathering on a specific day or evening, or you may decide to host a weeklong open house that offers refreshments to everyone who visits during certain hours. The purpose is to give you or your staff an opportunity to greet and connect with everyone who walks through your doors.

There are recommendations for home-based entrepreneurs or those who perform work at their clients' places of business as well. No budget? Make a personal phone call to thank each customer for business during the year, then follow-up with an animated e-mail holiday greeting. If possible, invest in a box of greeting cards to send the old-fashioned way, or deliver in person, with a candy cane or other sweet treat attached with a ribbon. Small budget? Purchase a bottle of sparkling apple cider and invest in an attractive wine gift bag available at your local "99c" or "Dollar" store and make your rounds in person or have the items delivered. Extra cash to spare? Hopefully you have gleaned some information about the personal tastes or hobbies of your clients, so it's time to look at how much you plan to spend and make your shopping list. Be sure to include a greeting card with a personal note from you. These gifts can be mailed in advance or delivered in person.

The celebratory nature of the holiday season presents opportunities to connect and strengthen relationships with existing customers and to provide an introduction to potential customers. So get into the holiday spirit with a little generosity toward your customers, you may find these small gestures as the "gift that will keep on giving" to your success throughout the following year.

SAFE N' READY EMERGENCY SUPPLIES
Disaster Preparedness

THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY'S RESOURCE FOR PREPARING YOUR FAMILY BEFORE YOU NEED IT.

EVENTS: EARTHQUAKES, POWER OUTAGES, FIRES, STORMS
PRODUCTS: FOOD, STORAGE, WATER, FIRST AID

Safe N Ready
245 S. Rosemead Blvd.
Pasadena, Ca. 91107
626-744-9095

Photography by Walt

PORTRAITS ■ WEDDINGS ■ PASSPORTS ■ RESTORATION

Holiday Special
20% Off All Photography
Does not include passports, weddings, & studio sitting fee
Located at Lake Ave. & Mariposa St.

FAMILY PORTRAIT

Call for your appointment today!
(626) 797-7207

RESTORATION

875 E. Mariposa St. Altadena, CA 91001 • www.photographybywalt.com

HOWARD Hays As I See It



"This is a big giant prize for unions, this is a big giant prize for those who are anti-capitalism . . . Don't think that the people in Bangladesh who perished didn't want or need those jobs."

- Fox Business host Charles Payne, on the 129 mostly female workers who died earlier this month in the fire at a garment factory producing clothes for Walmart.

Charles Payne commented not out of sympathy for those who died, but out of defensiveness - miffed there were those who might exploit the tragedy by drawing connections to the Walmart workers who walked off their jobs in protest on Black Friday here at home. Some might draw such connections because, explained Payne, "the unions in this country are desperate."

There were, in fact, connections drawn by Scott Nova of the Workers' Rights Consortium in an interview with The Nation: "Walmart is supporting, is incentivizing, an industry strategy in Bangladesh: extreme low wages, non-existent regulation, brutal suppression of any attempt by workers to act collectively to improve wages and conditions . . . This factory is a product of that strategy that Walmart invites, supports and perpetuates."

From the factory's perspective, Nova observes, "if they allowed workers to organize and bargained a contract, if they invested in necessary health and safety equipment, if they restructured the building to make it safe, put in place sprinklers and outside fire escapes, their costs would rise, they would have to charge more for their product, and they would immediately lose Walmart and their other customers."

Jon Stewart on The Daily Show drew his own connections - suggesting the fire in Bangladesh should make those ungrateful Walmart employees here in the U.S. feel fortunate, because "at least where you work, there are exits!"

Charles Payne of Fox and others complain that everybody picks on Walmart, the nation's largest employer with 4,500 stores and 1.4 million workers. A study put out this month by the public policy center Demos shows that the attention is well-deserved.

The study shows how Walmart's race-to-the-bottom goes back to the 1960s, when founder Sam Walton was forced by the courts to give up his scheme of setting up shell companies to avoid federal minimum wage laws. It cites a 2005 study from New York University that Walmart pays its workers 28% less than other big retailers, and one from UC Berkeley describing how the effect of Walmart on a community is to replace higher-paying jobs with lower-paying ones. According to that study, average retail wages in those communities are 10% lower, and health coverage 5% less, than if the Walmart had never opened.

The Demos study takes figures from the U.S. Department of Labor to show that over the next decade retail will be the second largest source of new jobs in the U.S., an industry where the average income for a full-time worker is \$21,000 a year. It analyzes what would happen if lower-paid workers at the large retailers (at least 1,000 employees) were given an average 27% raise, bringing their annual income up to at least \$25,000. The study finds that in so doing:

1.5 million families would be lifted from in or near poverty.
Between 100,000 and 132,000 jobs would be created from more disposable income pumped into the economy.
GDP would go up by \$11.8 to \$15.2 billion annually.

The cost of the raises would be about 1% of the industry's \$2.17 trillion in total annual sales, or about \$4 billion less than the \$24.8 billion the industry currently spends on stock buybacks.

If the cost were passed on to consumers, it would amount to an extra 15 cents per shopping basket. Most of the costs, though, would be recouped by higher productivity. Sam's Club, for instance, has only half the per-employee sales as Costco, where the wages are 40% higher. Trader Joe's is another company where higher-paid employees results in more productivity, better training, and lower turnover.

It's not that the companies can't afford it. Walmart, for instance, is 23% more profitable than it was before the Recession - but keeps employees at minimum wage.

Whatever the advantage of lower prices, the community ends up paying in other ways. The UC Berkeley study shows that in 2004 when Walmart reported \$9.1 billion in profits, California taxpayers foot the bill for \$86 million in public assistance for its employees. Democratic Congressional staffers calculated that in 2004, each 200-employee Walmart store costs taxpayers an average \$400,000 yearly in public assistance (Medicaid, food stamps, WIC, etc.)

Last June, immigrant workers at Walmart supplier CJ Seafoods in Louisiana walked off the job picking crawfish, complaining of 24-hour shifts with no overtime, and threatened beatings to speed up work. Workers at Walmart warehouses in Illinois and California staged walk-outs last October complaining of unsafe conditions, no overtime pay and temperatures reaching 120 degrees. The group OUR Walmart (Organization United for Respect) staged walk-outs throughout the country on Black Friday - and the movement's not going away.

It's not that everybody at Walmart is barely scraping by. While Mitt Romney famously spoke of the bottom 47%, the Demos study states that if you were to take the bottom 42% of Americans and combine their wealth, it would be less than the combined wealth of the six heirs to the Walton fortune (\$90 billion).

Eight months ago, the body of Bangladeshi labor activist Aminul Islam was found, showing signs of torture. He'd been working to organize garment factory workers and bring dangerous conditions to the attention of international media. According to Scott Nova of the WRC, "It's virtually certain that somebody acting at the behest of the government or industry killed him." As for those 129 who died in the garment factory fire, their families each received compensatory payments of \$1,250.

By the way - did you know we have a bunch of dandy non-big-box merchants stocked with all sorts of gift ideas right here in Sierra Madre? Happy shopping!

WE CAN'T AFFORD POLITICS AS GREG Welborn USUAL MR. PRESIDENT



President Obama won his re-election and is entitled to say that the American people voted for him, and by extension, the policies he has trumpeted. But the American people also voted for the very same composition of the House of Representatives. That is to say, they've kept in office both Democrats and Republicans at about the same ratios they started with before the election. If there is a mandate here, it is to deal with the damn issues that confront this country. That reading of the election results is only reinforced by a review of Obama's campaign promises. As he did in his first campaign, he has promised to be a uniter, to seek bi-partisanship, and to grow the economy. The current fiscal cliff negotiations are a perfect venue to prove those promises are real. Sadly, that's not what the President is trying to do.

Over the last 40 years or so, the debate between Republicans and Democrats has resulted in a seesaw between tax rate changes and spending increases that were both within a range that kept our deficit at a tolerable size. Think of the deficit as you would your house mortgage. The size of it is not itself important. Its size relative to your income is absolutely important. In our modern era, deficits in the \$200 billion range are certainly tolerable. We can afford them, pay the interest on the resulting debt and continue to grow the economy which further allows that federal debt to be paid back. That will sound like heresy to some of my more conservative, fiscal hawk compatriots, but as a trained economist I know of what I write.

To provide just a bit more perspective on this, let's consider federal revenue and expenditures for 2007. As they often say in the wine business, 2007 was a good year. Rounded off, revenue was \$2.5 trillion, expenditures were \$2.7 trillion, and the deficit was \$200 billion. This year's projected deficit is \$1 trillion. This is a deficit in a league of its own. It has no precedent.

Now some would say that the economic collapse is at fault, that economic activity and revenues have shrunk so much that the burgeoning deficit was inevitable. Unfortunately, cold hard facts don't support this view. 2012 revenues are \$2.4 trillion, just barely under their 2007 level. Were this just a revenue issue, our deficit should only be a measly \$100 billion more than it was in 2007. Ahhhh, for the good old days!!

The problem is expenditures, not revenue. Federal expenditures for 2012 are \$3.5 trillion. That's about \$1 trillion more than 2007, and we're surprised that our deficit has ballooned? More amazingly, some in our punditry class - and apparently some among the voters - believe that expenditures have nothing to do with today's problems. I can only refer them back to the last six sentences. But let me make it easy for them. Revenues are back to where they were. Expenditures are out of control!!!

There will still be some who hold fast to the belief that even if expenditures have risen, they are justified - necessary even - and we must raise tax rates (on the rich only, of course) to make up the \$1 trillion deficit. History has always been a cruel task master, and here again it offers a severe wrap on the knuckles.

A recent George Mason University study (here's the URL for those that insist: <http://mercatus.org/sites/default/files/publication/historical-revenue-path-plus-top-marginal-rates-analysis.pdf>) shows very clearly that tax rates on the wealthy have little affect on the amount of tax revenue collected by the federal government as a percentage of GDP. From 1945 to the present, we have had income tax rates from the low 90% range to today's 35% range. The amount of revenue that has been collected has rarely grown above about 18% to 20%. You can raise tax rates all you want, but you will NOT increase revenues as a percentage of the economy. The wealthy have the luxury of deciding when and where to recognize income by deciding when and where to start businesses and employ other people.

We are not going to solve this problem with higher taxes. We will solve this problem by keeping expenditures within the same range as revenue. When we keep federal expenditures at about 20% of GDP, we either balance our budgets or run fairly small, manageable deficits. Today's revenue is at the 2007 level of about 20% of GDP. Today's expenditures are 25% of GDP, and are projected to rise to 46% of GDP by 2050. And that's without a single increase in the number of government programs. God only knows what that expenditure level will look like when Obamacare is fully implemented.

Into this national crisis and debate, steps President/candidate Obama. He's a smart guy; I don't doubt that for a second. So I know he has been shown these very same numbers and trends. He knows what's going on. The only way we solve this problem is to lower expenditures and grow the economy. With his second term assured, his response is to deep six the bipartisan homilies and olive branch and tell the Republicans A) we need to spend more, B) he will not touch any entitlement program at all, ever, and C) we need to tax the rich even more. He doesn't want to fix the deficit or grow the economy. He wants to take more from everyone. He knows he will eventually have to increase tax rates on the middle class to pay for his vision of government.

This is not bipartisanship. It's not honesty with the voters. It's not graciousness in victory. It's not principled negotiation. It's politics as usual, and it's going to be a disaster for the country. No matter what the President says, no matter what spin the media put forward, we cannot afford the same old politics as usual.

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 Pasadena area with his wife and 3 children and is active in the community. He can be reached at gregwelborn2@gmail.com.

TINA DUPUY

REPUBLICAN WOMEN: SEEN BUT NOT CHARMEN



I blame feminism for why I feel entitled to equal rights. I have no qualms seeing the toil and struggle of my foremothers allowing me opportunities not available to them.

For example, my generation doesn't have to be married. This is the product of our mothers' saber rattling. Being married is no longer necessary; now it's a choice. And with a choice, there's leverage and you get to negotiate your own terms. Free market!

Because of federal legislation, specifically the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA) of 1974 ensuring single women could obtain their own credit card, we can now be financially independent. It's not just Roe v.

Wade, it's women demanding birth control access and informed health care decisions. It's women lobbying for gender parity and equal protections.

Due to feminist victories, this country has changed. Our mores have changed. Women have changed. Marriage has changed.

Nothing illustrates the quagmire this has made for Republicans more than Congresswoman Michele Bachmann's campaign for the GOP nomination for president. Bachmann stated in a speech in 2006 that she hated taxes but studied tax law in order to be "submissive to her husband." During the primary, at a debate in Iowa, she was asked if she were president would she, in fact, be submissive to her husband. The question drew boos from the crowd, but it was on point: She was running to be commander-in-chief, but claimed to have this conservative traditional Christian marriage. For women to be the Republican ideal, they have to be unqualified to be president.

It's a weird balancing act. Republican women are required to enjoy the fruits of feminism while championing every force that's ever opposed it. This was made clear when Sarah Palin was tapped to be the first-ever female GOP veep candidate. Members of her own party criticized her for running for office with such young children. Palin tried out the short-lived phrase "conservative feminism," which is up there with giant shrimp and authentic copy.

It's an impossible standard for female Republican politicians: They have to be coy and a leader; feminine and effective; homemaker and career woman; traditional and radical feminist pioneers.

Republicans have lost battles in the war on women they initially (and unsuccessfully) launched as a war on religion. They have a woman problem. They have also maintained the majority in the House. How do these two things mesh up? The Speaker of the House chose committee chairs that are all men. A sea of white Grand Old Party dudes.

This illustrates the dichotomy of gender equality for Republicans: They want women to vote for them; they want to say they have women in their caucus; they want women to be Republicans; but they clearly don't prefer them as leaders.

Before the GOP committee chair choices looked like the mug shot lineup for a white middle-aged groping suspect, this wasn't as obvious, but now it's undeniable: Republicans treat Republican women like tokens. Palin was used as an "us too" shield combating a diverse Democratic ticket. Just like Governors Nikki Haley and Susana Martinez get mentioned as a comeback to the criticism of a way too homogeneous party.

Brian Kilmeade, host of "Fox and Friends," summed up the Republican opinion on women perfectly. When asked how Fox News, the entertainment wing of the Republican party, finds such stunning conservative stars to be on their network, Kilmeade offered, "We go into the Victoria's Secret catalogue and we said, 'Can any of these people talk?'"

Binders full ... of women.

Tina Dupuy is an award-winning writer and the editor-in-chief of *TheContributor.com*. Tina can be reached at tinadupuy@yahoo.com.

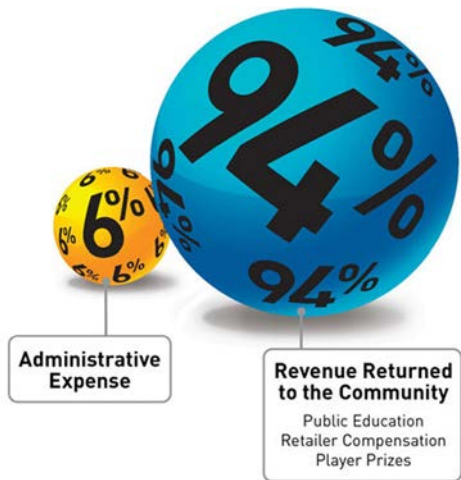
California Lottery Commission Approves Popular POWERBALL® Game

SACRAMENTO - The 5-member California Lottery Commission today unanimously voted to formally adopt the multi-state mega-jackpot lottery game, POWERBALL. The Lottery conducted extensive research regarding the viability of offering a second multi-state game and concluded that POWERBALL would enhance the organization's current portfolio of games. POWERBALL sales will begin in California on April 8, 2013, the first draw will take place on April 10, 2013.

"We have to continually offer our loyal players a variety of entertaining Lottery games, and we firmly believe that POWERBALL is a right fit for the California Lottery," Lottery Director Robert T. O'Neill said. "I expect POWERBALL to add anywhere between \$50 to \$100 million additional dollars to supplement public education funding, which is our one and only mission. Plus, our customers were pretty clear that they wanted us to bring POWERBALL to California."

The \$2 POWERBALL game is played much like the popular MEGA Millions® game. Players would choose five numbers from 1 to 59 and one red POWERBALL number from 1 to 35. Players can choose their own numbers or opt for a Quick Pick. Draws are held every Wednesday and Saturday at 7:59 p.m. PST. Unlike MEGA Millions and SuperLotto Plus®, POWERBALL's pool closure occurs promptly at 7 p.m. PST each draw day. Besides the jackpot, there are eight additional ways to win prizes. The amounts will vary due to the State's pari-mutuel rules. A major difference between California's existing draw games is that the POWERBALL jackpot begins at \$40 million and increases by at least \$10 million every roll. The POWERBALL draws take place in Tallahassee, Florida.

The mission of the California Lottery is to provide supplemental funding to California schools while simultaneously supporting local communities. More than 94 cents of every dollar spent by our players goes back to local communities in the form of contributions to public schools and colleges, prizes and retail compensation. Since 2000, Lottery players have contributed \$1 billion to public schools each year, and, since we began in 1985, Lottery players have contributed a total of more than \$24 billion to education. The California Lottery urges its customers to play responsibly and within their budgets. If you feel you have a gambling problem, or know someone who does, you can get help at 1-800-GAMBLER.



Service & CENTURY ROOTER Plumbing

The Thinking Person's Plumber

Fully Licensed & Certified
California License #707409

24-Hour Service Available
(800) 782.4744

www.centuryrooter.com customerservice@centuryrooter.com

- * Apartment Complexes
- * Single Family Houses & Condos
- * Stores & Offices
- * Commercial Buildings of all Sizes
- * Manufacturing Plants
- * Municipalities & State Agencies
- * Churches & Synagogues
- * Restaurants & Food Service Companies
- * You, Your Family & Friends

CLIFFORD SWAN

INVESTMENT COUNSEL

www.cliffordswan.com | (626) 792-2228

Mountain Views News

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR
Susan Henderson

CITY EDITOR
Dean Lee

EAST VALLEY EDITOR
Joan Schmidt

BUSINESS EDITOR
LaQuetta Shamblee

SENIOR COMMUNITY EDITOR
Pat Birdsall

SALES
Patricia Colonello
626-355-2737
626-818-2698

WEBMASTER
John Avery

CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Leclerc
Bob Eklund
Howard Hays
Paul Carpenter
Stuart Tolchin
Kim Clymer-Kelley
Christopher Nyerges
Peter Dills
Hail Hamilton
Rich Johnson
Chris Bertrand
Ron Carter
Rev. James Snyder
Bobby Eldridge
Mary Carney
Katie Hopkins
Deanne Davis
Despina Arouzman
Greg Wellborn
Dr. John Talevich
Ben Show
Sean Kayden
Jasmine Kelsey Williams

Mountain Views News has been adjudicated as a newspaper of General Circulation for the County of Los Angeles in Court Case number GS004724; for the City of Sierra Madre; in Court Case GS005940 and for the City of Monrovia in Court Case No. GS006989 and is published every Saturday at 55 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., No. 302, Sierra Madre, California, 91024. All contents are copyrighted and may not be reproduced without the express written consent of the publisher. All rights reserved. All submissions to this newspaper become the property of the Mountain Views News and may be published in part or whole.

Opinions and views expressed by the writers printed in this paper do not necessarily express the views and opinions of the publisher or staff of the Mountain Views News.

Mountain Views News is wholly owned by Grace Lorraine Publications, Inc. and reserves the right to refuse publication of advertisements and other materials submitted for publication.

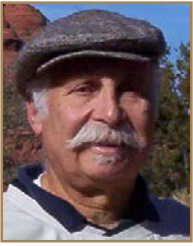
Letters to the editor and correspondence should be sent to:

Mountain Views News
80 W. Sierra Madre Bl.
#327
Sierra Madre, Ca.
91024
Phone: 626-355-2737
Fax: 626-609-3285
email:
mntviewsnews@aol.com

Mountain Views News Mission Statement

The traditions of community newspapers 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.

STUART Tolchin..... On LIFE THE HOLIDAYS



The past couple of weeks have really been confusing for me. The only thing I clearly remember is UCLA beating and demeaning USC. Last year they beat us 50-0 and this year we got back at them. Almost at the end of the game one of our guys caused injury to the beautiful and successful USC quarterback, thereby completely ruining their season—a season which had started out for them so positively. On this day the Rose Bowl and its hundred thousand seats were packed the day was beautiful and we happy Bruin fans congratulated each other and felt like we really showed 'em. For me this victory was directly connected with OUR victory in the Presidential election. Everyone knows that all UCLA grads are Democrats and all USC (University of Spoiled Children) grads are Republican Bankers who are lucky to have escaped prison. (I know this is a completely unfair, inaccurate generalization but who cares – it's only football right.) I sort of know that all the anger we Bruin fans direct at USC is kind of falsely created and all in fun, but it doesn't feel that way. My feelings about USC and Republicans are kind of similar that way. I really don't like them.

I really think Bush and Cheney and Rumsfeld and Condoleezza Skeeza are War Criminal who should be placed on trial and publicly forced to defend their lies. This past week Republicans have vigorously attacked UN Representative Susan Rice for appearing on Sunday talk shows and describing the attacks in Bengasi as being spontaneous demonstrations rather than planned terrorist attacks. As far as I am concerned her statements were not only inaccurate but also inadequately researched. I do think it is irresponsible for high for high level members of the administration to mouth statements without making a serious attempt to determine what is true. Otherwise don't say anything.

Still, as I hope most of you remember, this kind of error pales in comparison with the willful misrepresentations made by Bush Administration officials who knowingly spoke of non-existent Iraqi WMDs and pushed the country into an unnecessary war resulting in unnecessary hundreds of thousand deaths. Poor Secretary of State Colin Powell was used to manipulate the United Nations by presenting inaccurate information. It makes me sick and probably also made him sick. As you should know, this acclaimed War Hero and Republican Secretary of State endorsed the Democrats in the last week of the election campaign, perhaps as some attempt at atonement.

Really there is no possible atonement. We are constantly lied to and constantly lie to ourselves. I don't really hate USC, I just like to pretend I do and I fool myself. Similarly and more importantly, I really don't care that the government constantly lies to the public—I just like to pretend I care. I keep writing about the need for transparency but I am

willing to forget that the Wiki Leaks people, Corporal Bradley Manning solitarily confined in prison and Julian Assange, are unable to leave the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Their underlying alleged crime is an attempt to present the truth to the world. There is little in the recent news about these men, which only emphasizes that Wiki Leaks provided more revelatory information than the combined efforts of all other news media. While these men are kept in virtual isolation and are forgotten by many of us, others, like me, are involved in Turkey Day celebrations and are happily distracted while rooting for their Home Team. One more cheer! Go Bruins! Beat SC.

While I have been ruining my health feasting on Thanksgiving delicacies and visiting old friends, I have completely forgotten my concerns about gun control. I don't seem to be the only one who has forgotten. Did either candidate mention much about gun control? All I can remember is non-stop talk about the bewildering subject of taxes. This talk went on while Americans keep killing each other with guns and while we supply the rest of the world with weapons and ammunition. What is the solution? Do I stop caring about football or watching sports? What about Thanksgiving and Christmas and Halloween decorations? What about planned vacations. Aren't those times important?

What about my work? What about my health? I'm not getting any younger you know, and will I ever be secure enough to retire? Hey, what about my kids—I still worry about them every day.

You must get my point. Why do I worry about gun control and governmental transparency and education and ecology and immigration and health care? Why worry about the future at all? Don't I have enough problems without thinking about Israel and Syria and the starving infected Africans? You know, many people don't seem to worry about the future of the planet or of mankind. Many people content themselves with becoming involved in Community Activities and charities and Holiday celebrations.

If one has community concerns, it is possible to do things that are helpful in the short run. It is not what I do. I watch the news and read the paper and write my articles and feel guilty that I am not saving the planet—oh, and I root for UCLA and local sports teams. I get together with my kids all the time and my wife and I and our dog are generally pretty happy. When I have a little extra-time, like during these holidays, I see myself in this different perspective. Why I have I allowed myself to be distracted from the true purpose of my life? Or can the purpose be GO BRUINS BEAT SC?

Maybe what's missing is another way to keep score? GO PLANET GO!!

And we need people freed to keep us aware of the present score and future implications---and we need to keep our eyes on that scoreboard even on HOLIDAYS.

RICH Johnson 1939



Time to get back to highlighting years of note. And if you are a movie buff, 1939 should be a banner year for you. It's considered the greatest year in the history of Hollywood. This is due to the unbelievable number of good, no, extraordinary movies that came out.

Normally, 5 or so movies are nominated for best picture in a year, 1939 had 10 movies nominated for best movie. Among

them include:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Gone With the Wind | The Wizard of Oz |
| Wuthering Heights | Mr. Smith Goes to Washington |
| Stagecoach | Goodbye Mr. Chips |
| Ninotchka | Of Mice and Men |
| Dark Victory | Love Affair |

Other famous and successful movies of 1939:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jesse James | Gullivers Travels |
| The Little Princess | The Hunchback of Notre Dame |
| Beau Geste | Destry Rides Again |
| Intermezzo | The Man in the Iron Mask |
| Stanley & Livingston | Babes in Arms |

Among the significant events of 1939:

World's Fair opened in New York. The last public execution took place in France. And yes, it was with a guillotine. World War II began when Germany invaded Poland and Russia invaded Finland. Einstein wrote President Roosevelt a letter suggesting we develop an atomic bomb

So, how much did things cost in 1939?

- | | |
|----------|---------------|
| \$3,800 | new house |
| \$28.00 | house rent |
| \$1,700 | wages |
| 10 cents | gallon of gas |
| 8 cents | loaf of bread |
| \$700 | new car |
| \$16.00 | toaster |

Famous births:

Francis Ford Coppola, George Hamilton, Lily Tomlin, John Cleese, Frankie Avalon, Marvin Gaye, Paul Hogan, Ralph Lauren, Lee Majors, Lee Harvey Oswald, and the Ayatollah Kameini.

Most popular Christmas gifts for kids?

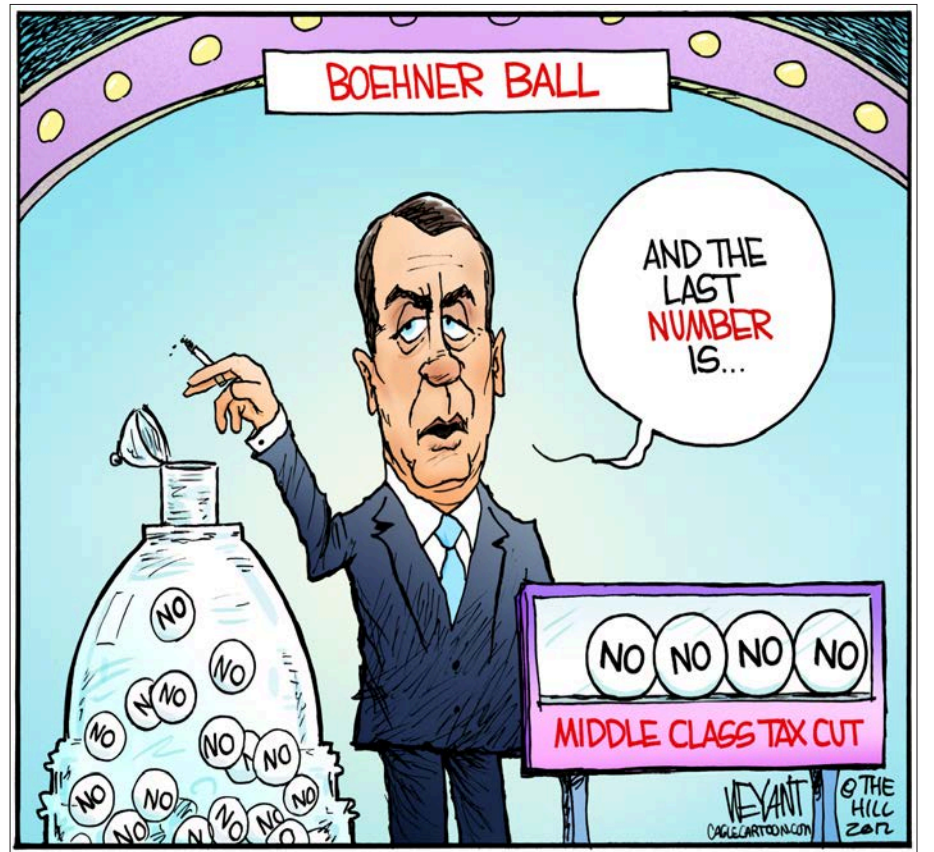
Batman Comics and View-Masters. If you could afford it, you could buy the first car with air conditioning. The car? A Packard.

The biggest hit songs of 1939:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Over the Rainbow. | Judy Garland |
| Moonlight Serenade | Glenn Miller |
| God Bless America | Kate Miller |

I hope you include Jane Fuller's "The Arctic Express" one woman Christmas Show 7:00 pm Sunday night, December 9th, at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. Tickets can be purchased by calling (626) 355-4318 or visiting Janefuller.com. \$20.00 a ticket and includes her wonderful full length Christmas CD. The show is family-friendly but geared more toward the child hiding inside us adults. And if Santa Claus looks a little like me, it's really just coincidence.

"A Cinderella Christmas" is being performed the next few Saturdays. Showtime is 11:00 am, also at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. Is the show good? I've seen it 9 times. My eyes tear up several times during the performance because the show involves the young kids in the audience creating wonderful memories these young'uns will never forget. Tickets can also be ordered by calling (626) 355-4318. The Playhouse is at 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd in Sierra Madre.



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

OKAY, THAT WASN'T FUNNY

Let me make it very clear right up front that I am in favor of as many "ha ha moments" as possible. I could not get through a week without my daily dose. I firmly believe that laughter is the appropriate medicine for the soul. Some people, according to their demeanor, need a little more laughter than they are presently getting.



That said, let me quickly point out that some things are not funny. Of course, most things in my life and about my person are marvelous targets of humor. I do not take myself very seriously. I am not sure any wise person would take me seriously either. In fact, I would highly suspect a person who took me seriously. I can take a joke as well as the next person and I can give it back as well as the next person.

I have had some weeks when, if it were not for a little bit of humor I do not know how I would have gotten through. So, if you can't do anything you can at least laugh. I firmly believe that the best laugh is when you can laugh at yourself. You might as well laugh at yourself, everybody else is.

Then, there are those serious moments in life that beg for no laughing. I would recommend that warning signs are put around these areas reading, "Positively No Laughing Zone." With this sign should come a severe penalty for those who violate it.

That said; let me explain an area in my life where the sign should be permanently erected.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were having supper with another couple. We try to do this at least once a month and keep up with each other's progress or lack thereof.

We were having a great meal and as we came to the end, I stopped the waitress and said, "I would like some ice cream for dessert." As far as I am concerned, that is a rather reasonable request and quite in keeping with the environment I was in.

"What kind of ice cream," she queried, "would you like?"

When it comes to ice cream, ice cream is simply ice cream to me. If there is a flavor of ice cream I do not like, it has yet to be invented. I love ice cream. My favorite song is, "I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream." In my date book, there is no better ending to a wonderful meal than ice cream.

I remember my grandfather's favorite ice cream was vanilla. He would not eat any other ice cream; he thought they were polluting it with colors. To him an ice cream sundae was as close to blasphemy as he ever would get. "Why ruin," he objected, "the ice cream with all that slop?" He wanted nothing coming between him and the purest experience of ice cream he could get.

Me, I love ice cream regardless of the flavor or color or "slop."

I looked at the waitress and simply said, "I don't care what flavor you bring me. Surprise me. As long as it isn't broccoli." That was supposed to be a joke. Ha ha ha.

As the waitress left our table, we resumed our conversation and shortly she returned with the ice cream.

Upon her arrival, I looked at her and then the ice cream she was bringing and almost screamed aloud. Of all the blasphemous things to do to a customer, this has to take the cake.

First, she had an ice cream bowl with three scoops of ice cream, vanilla, strawberry and chocolate. No problem. However, on the side of the dish in plain view for everybody to see, especially me, was a piece of broccoli. Broccoli! The forbidden fruit or whatever it is.

My dining companions thought this was the funniest thing they had ever seen. Particularly, the dining companion that was going to come home with me that night.

Not only did they laugh. The waitress laughed. The table next to us began to laugh. The table next to them began to laugh. It was not long before everybody within 173 miles was laughing at my ice cream/broccoli dessert.

Actually, not everybody was laughing. I was not laughing. Broccoli, no matter the presentation, is no laughing matter in my book.

If matters could not be worse, my wife, through her hilarity spasms, reached over, picked up the broccoli and began eating it in my presence. Talk about adding insult to injury, my injury was vastly insulted.

I may have been smiling on the outside, but I assure you I was more than frowning on the inside. Some things are funny; broccoli is not one of those things.

Driving home amid the muffled chuckles on the other side of the front seat, I thought of what the apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (KJV), "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I know that when Paul said, "In every thing," it included things like broccoli. I must say that there are some things in life, like broccoli, where the thanksgiving is a matter of faith. I will never learn to love broccoli, but I can muster up enough faith to thank God for all things, including broccoli.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net (mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). His web site is www.jamesnyderministries.com (http://www.jamesnyderministries.com/)

Trust and experience you can depend on . . .

Podley PROPERTIES
Top Producers 2011

JUST LISTED



This spacious Mid Century Ranch home was built in 1953 and is situated in Kinneloa Canyon on a large and private lot. As you enter from the front door you are welcomed into the large formal living room with its wall of windows that fill the home with morning sunlight.

JUST LISTED



This beautiful modern home was built in 1978 and offers a spacious single-level floor plan offering 3 bedrooms and 2 baths measuring approximately 1,983 Sq Ft.

IN ESCROW



1728 square foot single family home has 3 bedrooms and 2.0 bathrooms. Contact Luther for more info.

JUST LISTED



Spacious and updated, this Pasadena home offers 2,061 sq.ft. with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, large living room with fireplace, formal dining room, updated kitchen with custom cabinets, granite counters and built-in appliances.

1845 Kinneloa Canyon Rd., Pasadena

512 W. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia \$858,000

2266 Midwick Dr., Altadena

1490 E Del Mar, Pasadena \$839,000



Luther & Georgina TSINOGLOU
Working on Common Ground

30 North Baldwin Ave,
Sierra Madre, CA 91024 | 626-507-3029
luther@tsinoglou.com | www.Tsinoglou.com

DRE# 01135433 DRE# 01393982



Eileen Benson

REPRESENTING ADDRESSES OF DISTINCTION

If you are thinking about Buying or Selling, call Eileen. I will be happy to provide you with a free confidential market analysis of your current home.



626-278-0187
DRE# 01880650



225 Monroe Pl. Monrovia
Represented Seller

625 Oak Crest Sierra Madre
Represented Seller



252 E. Grandview Sierra Madre
Represented Seller





278 E. Alegria Sierra Madre
Represented Buyer

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEW'S INTERNATIONAL

SHEN YUN 2013
REVIVING 5,000 YEARS OF CIVILIZATION
ALL-NEW SHOW WITH LIVE ORCHESTRA



"5,000 years of Chinese music & dance in one night!"
— *The New York Times*

"Incredible! Groundbreaking!"
— *msnbc*

"Brilliant choreography... extravagantly beautiful."
— *Broadway World*

"An extraordinary experience..."
— *Cate Blanchett, Academy Award-winning actress*

"So inspiring... I may have found some new ideas for the next Avatar movie."
— *Robert Stromberg, Academy Award-winning production designer for Avatar*

BEST HOLIDAY GIFT

JAN 18-20
Segerstrom Center for the Arts

JAN 22-23
Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza

JAN 25-27
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

tickets: 1.800.880.0188
LAspectacular.com; ShenYun.com/LA

prices: \$60, \$70, \$80, \$100, \$150, \$180, \$200



PazNaz's
Worship & Celebration Arts
presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL REVISITED

Saturdays, December 8 & 15, at 7:00 pm
Sundays, December 9 & 16, at 6:00 pm

A fully staged musical drama for the whole family, including choir and soloists

All Performances in the Sanctuary
Free Admission • Open Seating • Free Will Offering

For more information, contact Leslie Cheng at 626.351.2433

First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena
3700 East Sierra Madre Boulevard | Pasadena, California 91107 | 626.351.9631 | www.paznaz.org

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
DINNER
CATERING

CORFU
Fresh and Healthy Mediterranean Dining

LUNCH BUFFET \$10⁹⁹

48 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. | Sierra Madre, CA 91024 | (626) 355-5993 | www.eatatcorfu.net