

## FINISHING TOUCHES - With A Few Days Left Before The Big Parade, Volunteers Work Around The Clock To Finish Sierra Madre's Self Built Rose Parade Entry, "The Sky's The Limit"



The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association's 81st entry in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade is in the final stages of production. The self built float, one of only six in the Parade is called, "The Sky's The Limit" in keeping with the overall parade theme which is Dr. Suess's "Oh The Places You Will Go". Compare the artists rendering (below) with the work in progress as of Thursday evening. Over the next few days, the live flowers will be added. The design concept was submitted by Maria Murray and Kait Walsh. The designer for our 2013 float is Charles Meier, who also created the rendering. The parade will take place on Tuesday, January 1, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. A complete schedule of the movement of the Sierra Madre float, before and after the parade can be found on page 3.



All photos by Susan Henderson/MVNews



Live New Year's Day

## Rose Parade Live

"The best seat on the route"

### Watch the Rose Parade Live 8 a.m. New Year's

As we know it, our [roseparadelive](#) is still the only live streaming of the Rose Parade to take place within TV Corner. We are not part of any Television Station which we hope will give you a "real" feeling of being at the 124th Rose Parade in person. Watch the parade at [ustream.tv/channel/roseparadelive](#) or [roseparadelive.com](#)



Scan This QR Code To Watch The Parade on New Year's Day

## SIERRA MADRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the 2012 Citizen of the Year. To be eligible, a person must be a resident of Sierra Madre. The accomplishment(s) or project(s) for which they are being nominated must have been of benefit to the community of Sierra Madre and its citizens during 2012. They must have served without remuneration on the project for which they are being nominated, and members of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are not eligible.

If you would like to nominate someone, please e-mail your nominee to Noah Green at [ngreen@ryanattorneys.com](mailto:ngreen@ryanattorneys.com). You can also mail in your nominations to the Chamber of Commerce at 19 Suffolk Avenue, Suite A, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

APPLICATIONS MUST RECEIVED BY JANUARY 4, 2013.

The winner will be selected by members of the Chamber Board of Directors, and will be honored at the annual Citizen of the Year/Board of Directors Installation Dinner to be held on January, 25, 2013.

## DRUNK DRIVING PREVENTION AND OVERNIGHT PARKING PERMIT MORATORIUM

By Bill Coburn

According to Sierra Madre Police Chief Larry Giannone, the PD will not be enforcing the overnight parking restriction through the holidays, so your out of town guests do NOT need to go online and pay for an overnight parking permit, at least until after the New Year.

Also, for those who might find themselves a little overly "spirited" the next few days - there is an alternative to driving drunk. The City's contracted towing agency, Jan's Towing, has a no cost "Don't Drive Drunk" program. They'll give you AND YOUR CAR a lift home, up to 7 miles in their service area. Call (626) 334-1383 for more information.

## EXPLORE HOLISTIC GARDENING

The Sierra Madre Garden Club is presenting Gisele Schoniger, Category Manager and Organic Gardening Educator at Kellogg Garden Products, who will discuss simple and sound horticultural practices using materials that are natural & organic.

In her 33 years in the Garden Industry, Gisele earned a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo. She has owned an interiorscape company, worked for the State Department of Agriculture, practiced as a horticultural therapist with senior citizens, and launched an outstanding sales career by helping establish top-selling organic gardening products throughout California.

Anyone interested in holistic gardening or gardening in general is invited to attend the January 14 meeting of the Sierra Madre Garden Club. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program at 7:15 p.m. The catered dinner is \$10 and reservations for dinner must be made by January 9, at 626-836-4945. There is no charge for attending only the program. Location: Hart Park House, Memorial Park, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. For more information, call the reservation number or visit [www.smgarden.org](http://www.smgarden.org).

### This Week's Highlights:

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## Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast

## Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Tues:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Wed:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Thur:</b>	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Ptly Cldy	Hi 60s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

CITY OF SIERRA MADRE  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings listed below are held at City Hall  
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, Ca.  
626-355-7135

NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:  
January 8, 2013 6:30 pm

## HOLIDAY HOURS

The Sierra Madre Public Library will be open to the public on New Year's Eve day, Monday, December 31, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. City Hall and the Community Services Office will be open 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The City Hall, the Community Services Office, and the Library will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

12/26 to 12/31 - ROSE FLOAT DECORATING WEEK

12/31 - Library's Storytime New Year's Party Hats at 10am

1/3 - 3:00	Senior Community Meeting Council Chambers
7:00	Planning Commission Mtg Council Chambers
1/8 6:30	City Council Meeting at the Council Chambers
1/9 1:00	Senior Movie Program Council Chambers
1/16 7:00	Tree Advisory Commission Council Chambers
1/17 7:00	Planning Commission Mtg Council Chambers
1/22 6:30	City Council Meeting at the Council Chambers
1/23 1:00	Senior Movie Program - Council Chambers
1/23 7:00	Library Board of Trustees Mtg at the Council Conference Room
1/28 6:00	Community Services Commission Meeting at the Council Chambers (6:30pm)

1630 AM  
EMERGENCY RADIO &  
Free on-air publicity for local events

Sierra Madre's EMERGENCY radio station is now accepting scripts for Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about community events. PSAs will be broadcast on the air at no charge. The station operates 24/7 and can be heard at 1630 on the AM dial.

Any local non-profit or non-commercial organization can have their event information broadcast to the public on *Sierra Madre Community Information Radio*. The station covers the city of Sierra Madre, plus surrounding areas of Pasadena, Arcadia, and Monrovia.

Your event must:

- Benefit a non-commercial or non-profit entity
- Be open to the public
- Be of general interest to local citizens

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

RADIO FISHBOWL  
THIS WEEK

MONDAY - 10 - 11 am  
Barry, Rich & Lisa Show  
Trivia and Humor at it's finest. Just try to keep up with their wit!  
JOIN THE FUN!!!

SUNDAY - 1 - 3 LIVE!  
Carol Canterbury's,  
'CANTERBURY TALES'

Carol and Tina Salvatore will broadcast LIVE from the Sierra Madre Rose Float Building and the SMRFA puts the finishing touches on this year's float.

THURSDAYS - Noon  
OUR TRAVEL AFFAIR December 27th Catherine Adde celebrates with listeners a traditional British Christmas Trivia and Carols we Americans don't hear to often.

FRIDAY - Noon  
VILLAGE INTERSECTIONS - January 4th  
Gene's guest is Dr. Kris Mohandie. Dr. Mohandie is a forensic psychologist and is an internationally recognized expert on school violence, mass murderers, and threat management. He was recently interviewed on CNN and BBC about the Newtown tragedy.

Set your smart phone and or computer browsers to  
[www.RadioFishbowl.com](http://www.RadioFishbowl.com).

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MEETINGS ARE EACH TUESDAY AT NOON.

EXCEPT FOR THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH,

WHEN WE MEET AT 7:45AM. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

JOIN US, MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, HELP YOUR COMMUNITY,

AND HAVE SOME FUN!



## Sierra Madre Rotary Club

Meets Tuesdays 7-8:30 a.m.

222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

The Hart Park House



As part of our club's lively weekly meetings, dynamic speakers are scheduled on Rotary's service interests, local community topics and general appeal subjects.

Sierra Madre Rotary operates an active high school service group, the Interact Club, participates in Rotary scholarship, music and essay competitions, raises funds for local and Rotary Foundation causes, recognizes exemplary teachers, offers mini grants for worthy projects, hosts the yearly Elvis in the Park concert and donates hundreds of service hours to community events like the Wistaria Festival, Dickens Village and July 4th Parade.

Visitors are heartily welcomed to meetings. From more information, please visit our website or contact Peggy Beauregard at [peggybeau@gmail.com](mailto:peggybeau@gmail.com) and visit our Facebook page Rotary of Sierra Madre.

[www.SierraMadreRotary.com](http://www.SierraMadreRotary.com)

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Dec. 25 – Jan. 1

Winter Session Begins  
January 21, 2013

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## HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 'REMEMBERS WHEN'



Over sixty members and invited guests were in attendance at the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society's December Holiday Dessert Celebration at the Hart Park House on the evening of December 20th. Attendees were treated to a sampling of delectable desserts, wassail, coffee, and cranberry punch. President Amy Putnam began the evening by welcoming everyone and introducing local city officials and landmark homeowners. The evening's entertainment was provided by Remember When, a Big Band/Vocal Jazz Group. They sang a variety of modern Christmas songs. The evening concluded with a raffle of four succulent plant wreaths donated by the Sierra Madre Garden Club. The



proceeds from the raffle will fund the City's museums' landscaping project. The museums, Lizzie's Trail Inn and Richardson House, are operated by the Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society (SMHPS). The landscaping project is a joint project between the Sierra Madre Garden Club and the SMHPS.

If you are interested in joining the SMHPS, please visit the website at [www.smhps.org](http://www.smhps.org) for more information and a membership application. Photos by Dixie Coutant

## 41ST ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT WALK DRAWS HUNDREDS

Photo and history by Bill Coburn



On Sunday, Dec. 23rd, at 7pm, the 41st annual Sierra Madre Candlelight Walk was held, beginning at St. Rita's and proceeding down Baldwin Ave. to Kersting Court. There, the baby Jesus was placed in the creche, and caroling took place along with reading of Scripture. This year also featured live jazz.

and agreed upon, and Fr. Gara's parishioners were added to the mix.

Interestingly, there's some back history that makes the evening even more special. Back in about 1918 or so, some members of Congregational Church had split with the Church, forming Bethany Church and for many years, things weren't always real friendly between the two churches. Shortly after Rev. Anderson's arrival at Congregational Church, the two churches had a mass of reconciliation, and over time, Pastor Vander Zaag and Rev. Anderson became very good friends. The Candlelight Procession, which was started shortly after the mass of reconciliation, is undoubtedly one of the factors that, in the Christmas tradition of old friends coming together after a long separation, helped the two churches to set aside their differences and work together with their common goal of serving Christ.

### History of the Candlelight Walk

The first Candlelight Procession was in 1971. In 1970, Pastor Bob Vander Zaag of Bethany Church had held a holiday concert in Kersting Court, with the church choir on risers singing hymns and carols for the people shopping in the local shops. In a conversation shortly thereafter with Rev. Richard Anderson of Congregational Church, Vander Zaag suggested that as nice as the concert had been, it might be even better if local pastors gathered their parishioners in a procession through town. Starting at St. Rita's and walking down to Kersting Court was suggested,

## AND FROSTY CAME TO TOWN TOO!



Andrew Graper, Dave Forrester and Augie Eck continued the tradition of building a snowman in Kersting Court, this year on the same day as the candlelight walk. The snowman has come to town since 1988 (with the exception of 2010), and people look forward to it each year. Enjoy the photo gallery of the building of the snowman. - By Bill Coburn

## BURBANK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AND GLENDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE VOTE TO OPPOSE STORM WATER TAX

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The effort to defeat the Flood Control District's parcel tax is growing in momentum as both the Glendale Chamber of Commerce and the Burbank Unified School District voted to oppose the new tax, announced Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich.

This opposition comes on the heels of the West Covina School District, the Long Beach Unified School District, the San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers and the United Chambers of the San Fernando Valley voting to oppose the proposed parcel tax, announced Supervisor Antonovich. "The new tax effort continues losing the support of school districts and businesses despite the fact that the flood control district is making deals with schools with promises of funding in exchange for support."

The "Official Notice to Property Owners of Public Hearing" was mailed early this month. County property owners may protest this new fee by returning the enclosed protest form. "While the mailing looks like junk mail, it is an important document that allows one to protest the proposed parcel tax," Antonovich added.

Residents have until January 15 to file their objection by returning their protest form or protesting at the public hearing on January 15, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Board of Supervisors at the Hall of Administration. If a majority of the property owners do not object, the Board of Supervisors can approve a mail-in-ballot to be sent to all property owners in March. Passage requires only a simple majority. If the mailer has been misplaced, a new mailer may be requested by calling (800) 218-0018 or emailing water.info@dpw.lacounty.gov.

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# Shooting, Deadly Crash, Dampens Christmas

By Dean Lee

Although police said they have not made a solid connection between two Christmas day tragedies, one involving a shooting of two people in the morning, and then later, a car chase that killed two innocent passengers after suspects fled officers, they are investigating a series of events that led up to the tragedies.

According to police shortly after 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, officers responded to Newport Avenue and Wyoming Street of gunfire in the area. At the scene police found two gunshot victims. Victor McClinton a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department technician was pronounced dead after being rushed to a local hospital. Damion Taylor, a suspected gang member remains hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries.

Police said there was no connection between Taylor and McClinton except that they were in the same general area when the shooting occurred. Police said later at about 8:00 p.m. officers observed a sliver SUV commit a traffic violation in the area of Claremont Street and Marengo Avenue. The driver failed to yield accelerating away from the officers at a high rate of speed.

A short time later the suspect vehicle collided with a minivan, with five occupants, at the intersection of Marengo Ave and Maple Street.

Tracey Ong Tan, of Glendale and 11-year-old Kendrick Ng, of Daly City were both killed in the crash.

The suspect vehicle contained four occupants. Police said they are investigating Hannah Demauria of Pasadena, Brittany Washington, of Los Angeles, Darrell Williams, of Pasadena, and Jayda Mays, also in connection with the McClinton shooting. All four could face multiple murder charges. Police said Williams, the driver, is a parolee with gang ties. A gun was also thrown from the car during the chase according to reports.

Hundreds of people, including family, friends and Police Chief Phillip Sanchez, held a candlelight vigil for McClinton Thursday at City Hall.

## Pet of the Week



Sparky is a playful seven-year-old, tricolor Parson Russell terrier. He's been out on our Mobile got along with everyone he encountered. He loves toys too!

Sparky's adoption fee is \$120, which includes his neuter surgery, a microchip, the first set of vaccinations, as well as a free follow-up health check at a participating vet. New adopters will receive complimentary health and wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information on how to care for your pet. Sparky does qualify for our Seniors for Seniors program for eligible adopters 60 years old or older. Ask an adoptions counselor for more information during your visit.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at 626.792.7151 to ask about A319045, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11-4 Sunday, 9-5 Tuesday -Friday, 9-4 Saturday. Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters from phone calls or email. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at [www.pasadenahumane.org](http://www.pasadenahumane.org)



## Rose Parade Countdown is On



*Pictured (top), Banner presenting the theme "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" kicks off the 124th Tournament of Roses Parade. The artwork representing the parade's theme poster is brought to life through flowers and other organic materials. (Above) Nurse volunteers prepare bark for the Nurses' Float titled "A Healing Place" (Left) a deer and fawn from "A Healing Place." Photos D. Lee/ MVNews*

## Dos and Don'ts for Staying Safe along the Parade

As this year's Rose Parade approaches, the Pasadena Fire and Police Departments are issuing safety tips for the thousands of overnight campers who line the route on New Year's Eve. The parade route will be a safer place if everyone follows the rules and regulations intended for the safety of all parade-goers.

### What You Can Do:

Overnight camping is permitted only on the night of Dec. 31.

A permanent position on the sidewalk may be maintained along the parade route beginning at noon on Dec. 31. The "Blue Line" is the honor line. All persons and property such as blankets, chairs, etc., must remain on the curb until 11 p.m. on Dec. 31. At that time spectators may move out to the honor line.

Small, professionally manufactured barbecues elevated at least one foot off the ground are allowed on the parade route 25 feet from buildings or other combustibles. A fire extinguisher and water must be readily available.

Minors under the age of 18 may be on the parade route from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. only if they are under the supervision of adults.

Dress for cold weather. Children and seniors may need extra layers of clothing to avoid hypothermia.

Stay hydrated and consume nourishing meals to avoid dehydration.

Report any suspicious activities and packages to emergency authorities along the parade route.

In case of emergency call

(626) 744-4241 from a cellular phone or 9-1-1 from a landline phone and know the cross streets from which you are calling.

### What You Can't Do:

Open containers of alcohol are illegal on public streets, sidewalks and all other public areas.

Tents, sofas and boxes of any type that can be used as stools or seats are prohibited are not permitted along the route.

Unoccupied chairs are not allowed.

Bonfires are strictly prohibited and considered "illegal burns."

Fireworks are prohibited except as part of scheduled official events.

No items may be sold along the parade route without a permit.

No public areas (sidewalks, curbs, gutters, streets) may be cordoned or roped off.

No ladders or scaffolding may be used as elevation for viewing the activities.

It is illegal to buy, sell or give away horns on the parade route.

Pets are not recommended along the parade route because they are easily frightened with sudden, loud noises.

Selling space along the parade route, other than grandstand seating, is illegal.

Throwing any projectile into the parade, including seemingly harmless items such as tortillas, marshmallows, flowers, etc., is prohibited.

Vehicles obstructing emergency lanes will be towed.

## Caution on Streets Due To Rose Parade Preparations

Motorists are asked to use caution while driving on Pasadena's surface streets, especially Colorado Boulevard and adjacent intersections, as traffic signals are changed or adjusted to accommodate the floats for the 124th Rose Parade on January 1, 2013. Crews will be in the field doing this important pre-parade work Dec. 27 through Dec. 31.

City work crews will be busy adjusting 15 traffic signals to enable enough clearance for the Rose Parade's floats. Every year at this time, crews from the Department of Public Works modify, remove or replace a variety of traffic signal mast arms. At some intersection, the arms will be replaced with poles. City officials are asking motorists to use caution while the crews are working and to be observant of new signals being temporarily used.

## College Launches Graduation Initiative to Help Students

Pasadena City College has launched the Graduation Initiative designed to make it easier for students to identify the courses they need in order to achieve their academic goals.

At [www.pasadena.edu/](http://www.pasadena.edu/) complete, users can fill out an online form to submit a request for a PCC counselor to review their academic records. In turn, students can determine how many classes they need in order to petition for graduation, transfer, or earn a CareerTech certificate. The online initiative also eliminates the need for students to come to PCC in person.

Students who have completed at least 40 units at PCC and are nearing completion are encouraged to submit a request. A counselor will review the information and send an email with a response in 4 weeks.

"We are committed to helping students obtain the courses they need, refer them to support services to assist them in successfully completing their classes and ultimately to helping them realize their educational goals," said Dr. Cynthia Olivo, Counseling and Career Services associate dean.

The deadline for spring 2012 graduation petitions is Feb. 1, 2013. PCC commencement exercises will be on Friday, May 3, 2013.

For more information, visit the Counseling and Career Services office in Building L, Room 104, or call (626) 585-7251.

## Detectives Seek Info; Shots Fired at Off Duty Deputy

Altadena deputies continued to search this week for a gunman suspected of firing three rounds at the vehicle of an off-duty deputy in Altadena.

The shooting occurred near Harriet Street and Lincoln Avenue at about 3:40 a.m. Saturday.

According to sheriff investigators, the deputy was traveling in his personal vehicle with his brother in

the passenger seat when a vehicle pulled alongside his and fired several rounds from a handgun.

The suspect vehicle — described as a dark-colored Lexus sedan — sped off.

Neither the deputy nor his brother was injured.

The Altadena Station is seeking the public's help in locating the vehicle involved or the persons responsible call 626-798-1131.

## City Sets Up Recycling Christmas Tree Services

Pasadena residents can help protect the environment by recycling their Christmas trees with services from the Pasadena Department of Public Works, including convenient curbside pickup and two designated, drive-up recycling stations.

The Pasadena Public Works Department is promoting this important holiday tradition of environmental stewardship in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts.

Curbside pickup for Christmas trees will be available to Pasadena's solid waste customers on their regularly scheduled collection days and routes beginning January 2 through January 18.

Residents also can drop off their trees for recycling from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., through January 4, at the



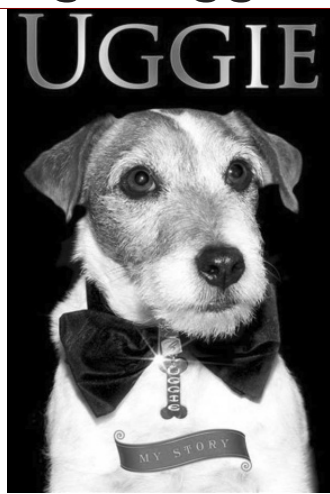
following locations:

Eaton Blanche Park, 3100 E. Del Mar Blvd., parking lot on Millicent Way

Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave., parking lot on Morton Street

The Public Works Department turns the recycled trees into mulch for landscaping use instead of the trees going to the landfill.

## Jack Russell Terrier Uggie Signs Uggie: My Story



Uggie, the lovable Jack Russell Terrier best known for his roles in the movies The Artist & Water for Elephants, signs with a paw, his new memoir this Sunday at Vroman's Books. The event starts 2 p.m.

"I'm fond of a good romp, and this candid canine tell-all zips along with revealing tales of celebrity encounters

and how I cope with fame. Of course there's some sad stuff too, including the health problems that forced me into early retirement. I've given my all in this honest-to-dog Hollywood memoir, because that's what I always do. I hope you'll gobble up every word, just like I wolf down sausages."- from Uggie: My Story.

Uggie will also be riding in this year's Rose Parade, along with actress Elaine Hendrix, on the Beverly Hills Pet Care Foundation, "Follow The Stars - Adopt A Pet" float. All of the participants on this float: the producers, riders and out walkers have adopted pets and have dedicated their lives to improving the homeless pet problem.

Uggie was born in 2002 and was rescued from being sent to a dog pound by Omar Von Muller, animal trainer.

## White House to Honor Cal-tech Chemical Engineer

Frances H. Arnold, a leader in the field of protein engineering and a member of the faculty at the Caltech has been named one of 11 inventors who are the recipients of the 2011 National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The announcement was made by the White House on December 21.

I am proud to honor these inspiring American innovators," President Obama said in a press statement. "They represent the ingenuity and imagination that has long made this Nation great—and they remind us of the enormous impact a few good ideas can have when these creative qualities are unleashed in an entrepreneurial environment."

Arnold says her work is strongly motivated by a desire to find ways to produce fuels that can help lower carbon dioxide emissions. "I would like my children to grow up in a world that is even better than the one that I grew up in," she says. "For that to happen, we have to stop wasting precious resources and learn to live in a sustainable fashion. Biology can and should be one of the solutions."

"Professor Arnold's work has led to a radical transformation in the way people understand protein engineering and what it can accomplish," says Caltech president Jean-Lou Chameau. "We are very proud of all that Professor Arnold has achieved and celebrate this recognition



of her contributions."

Arnold says her discoveries and accomplishments were made possible by her position at Caltech, whose structure encourages work that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries. Indeed, her work spans chemistry, bioengineering, biochemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, and chemical engineering.

She also thanks her colleagues and students. "I'm thrilled because this is a recognition not just of my work, but of the work of many people around the world who have developed and applied these methods," Arnold says. "I've also been privileged to work with a brilliant and enthusiastic group of young people over the years."

Arnold and fellow medal recipients will receive their awards at a White House ceremony in early 2013.



“What’s Going On?”

News and Views from Joan Schmidt



We are really fortunate to live the San Gabriel Valley. There is a lot to do and see in different subject areas. Arts enthusiasts MUST go to the **Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena**. All the years I taught sixth grade that was an annual field trip. How many people can boast that they have seen firsthand works of Rembrandt, Degas, Monet, Manet, Van Gogh (Currently his Self-Portrait is on loan there.), Gauguin, Diego Rivera, and Henri Rousseau? There are pieces of modern sculpture by Moore and modern works by Picasso, Kandinsky and many more. Then, one can go downstairs and see Eastern art. There is a MUST for students of Ancient History as there is so much from India and China. (The late Norton Simon and his wife, actress Jennifer Jones traveled to Asia on their honeymoon, and this is how they acquired the works located on the lower level on the museum.) Norton Simon was an amazing man who amassed a great fortune at an early age and loved art. He wanted to share his art with many and that is why we are blessed with the Museum. They also have tapestries to die for and altar pieces from Middle Age Churches.

Science buffs must go to the **California Science Center** to see the Endeavor and a lot more.

What has fascinated me about our area is all the cities have a different founder and such interesting history. Many years ago, my mom came to California each year from New Jersey. It was too much and too crowded to deal with Disneyland. I wanted close by interesting excursions so I went to the yellow pages and looked under museums. Her very favorite was the **El Monte Museum**. Signs call the city, “The End of the Santa Fe trail”. That’s because several wagons continued past Santa Fe and ended up in the current city. It was such a lush, fertile area. In the Museum on one side are several little “cubicles” that include two bedrooms, barber shop, apothecary, music shop, dress shop, classroom area, general store, living room, kitchen and much more!



Workman House

Walking to the other side, the hall has a display from “Gay’s Lion Farm”. The circus couple came from Europe and began this popular farm. Celebrities and even a president came to visit! There are display cases throughout with dresses, jewelry, memorabilia from different wars, a tribute to the El Monte Police and Fire Departments and a Rolls Royce Winston Churchill rode in!

“Learning or Living History” is the theme for the **Homestead Museum, 15415 East Don Julian Road, City of Industry**. This museum covers the history of the LA Region from the 1840’s when it was still part of Mexico through the 1920’s when Los Angeles was known world-wide as a metropolitan city. Encompassing three acres there are three sites to see, the **Workman House**, an 1870’s Victorian country home constructed around an 1840’s adobe, **La Casa Nuevo**, a Spanish Colonial Revival mansion, and **El Campo Santo**, one of the region’s oldest private cemeteries. (Pio Pico is interred there)

There are three other must-sees in the area. **Arcadia’s Ruth and Charles Gilb Historical Museum (380 West Huntington Drive, Arcadia, (626-574-5400)** has a tribute to Anita Baldwin (Lucky’s daughter), Veterans, famous Arcadians in addition to tracing the history of the local area.

Washington Irving, Mount Wilson, and General George Patton are connected to Alhambra’s founder, Benjamin Davis Wilson. To find out how, visit the **Alhambra Museum, 1550 W. Alhambra Road, Alhambra. (626) 300-8845**. Call ahead for days/hours.

Monrovia’s founder, William Newton Monroe played an important role in railroad construction! He was born in Lexington, Indiana, and fought in the First Iowa Calvary during the Civil War. He and his wife came to California in 1884 and was the Superintendent of Construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad for twelve years. A successful businessman, he bought 240 acres of land from Lucky Baldwin in 1886 for \$30,000! He also built railroads in Mexico and the first one in Alaska. The museum covers his life, the history of the city and more. **Monrovia Historical Museum, is at 742 East Lemon Ave, Monrovia. (626) 357-9537**

WHAT TO DO WITH THE KIDS DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK?



Carel Struycken has long been interested in the principles in Permaculture not only as it relates to growing fruits and vegetables but also in the perspective he takes on most human activities.

Struycken, who lives in Southern California, is an actor who played Lurch in the Adam’s Family, as well as roles in Star Trek, Men in Black, Witches of Eastwick, and others. He was born in Holland, and grew up in Curacao in the Caribbean, and moved back to Holland at age 15. We met at his home to discuss home food production and permaculture.

He shows me the Bible of Permaculture, Bill Mollison’s “Permaculture: A Designers Manual” which details a way in which we can grow food and live with the land in accord with nature’s principles. (“Permaculture” is a coined term meaning “permanent agriculture.”)

“The whole idea of permaculture is to put in as little work as possible, and allow nature to find its balance,” says Strucken, who produced all the vegetables for a family of 5 for many years using these principles.

“I’m also a big fan of Fukuoka, author of ‘The One Straw Revolution’. If I had the time, I’d love to go to Japan and work on his natural farm, and work there and learn about his methods,” says Struycken.

Both Mollison and Fukuoka are advocates of natural farming, which means planting what is appropriate for the area, tilling as little as possible, letting all the leaves and old plants serve as fertilizer for the new plants, and using natural methods for bug control.

Using permaculture methods, Struycken grew lots of Asian greens, mostly those members of the mustard family that had the highest nutritional value. He grew herbs, tomatoes, yard-long beans, and 14 fruit trees.

His yard is terraced with cement rubble, pieces of old cement walkways that have been neatly stacked to form impressive and long-lasting walls using a material that is normally discarded. He also experimented with raised beds because the soil in his garden area was so bad.

The smaller the plot, the harder it is to practice permaculture methods. Still, Struycken never raked up and discarded leaves. Under his avocado tree, he allowed the leaves to accumulate into a thick layer of mulch. “The layer of avocado leaves is well over a foot thick, and when you look into the bottom of the pile, it is all naturally

CAREL STRUYCKEN: LEANING TOWARDS THE PALEOLITHIC

By Christopher Nyerges [Nyerges is the author of “Self-Sufficient Home,” “How to Survive Anywhere,” and other books. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.ChristopherNyerges.com.]



producing rich soil,” he explains.

All the kitchen scraps are recycled in many compost heaps, and he worked at cultivating the earthworms that naturally occurred in his yard so that they would do the tilling that farmers ordinarily do.

“I didn’t go out and purchase those redworms that many gardeners use, but rather I worked at cultivating the natural earthworms and keeping them happy. Sometimes, I would use this device with long tines that I would step on and it aerates the soil without actually tilling,” he explains.

He purchased ladybugs years ago since they eat the “bad” insects, and he found that the ladybugs like the fennel plants. So the secret to keeping ladybugs around is to grow fennel, explained Struycken.

Permaculture does not involve raking away leaves or garden scraps, but using them for the next generation of fertilizer. Although Struycken has tried to produce all of his needed fertilizer from his own back yard, he has found the need to occasionally bring in chicken and horse manure for his crops. “I stopped using the horse manure, though,” he says, “since I found that it produced too many weeds.”

“I was always amazed that I never had to do anything to my lettuce, and it was always perfect. The ecosystem took care of itself,” explained Struycken. He said that though there were many spiders and bugs in the garden, whatever bugs that ate his lettuce got eaten by some other bug. This is one of the basic principles of permaculture – that nature, largely left alone, will find its own balance. In this case, rather than use insecticides (which would kill all the bugs), mulching and providing a home for all life forms means that the desirable bugs will deal with the undesirable bugs, and Struycken will still have food.

Struycken advises beginning gardeners to start small, and to select plants that are appropriate to their environment. He explains that there are sustainable agricultural communities throughout the world which can be emulated.

For example, he gives the example of the traditional Hopi garden where the “three sisters” are planted. Blue corn is first planted, and then squash planted. The squash shades the ground so less water is evaporated. Then after the corn is a foot or two tall, desert beans are planted at the base of the corn. The corn serves as a pole for the beans, and the beans add nitrogen to the soil via their roots.

Struycken, who has been in the movie business for about 30 years, wants to do a series of documentaries where he shows sustainable communities throughout the world so that the principles can be preserved for others to learn from.

“The Amish are the most successful sustainable farmers and they are using early 18th Century technologies,” he says with a smile.

Struycken pauses to explain the difference between paleolithic and neolithic in order to make a point.

“Humanoids have been around for at least a million years,” he explains, “and modern humans have been here maybe 500,000 years. The paleolithics were the hunter/gatherers, and the neolithics were those who were settled in one place and who began agriculture,” says Struycken.

“When we settled, we had to make the effort to force ourselves into the new mindset, but our true nature is paleolithic,” Struycken explains. He then shares a few comparisons to make his point.

The paleolithics lived in the here and now, they were more primitive by our standards, but they controlled their populations, had fewer taboos and laws, had less possessions, and managed to live on what the forest provided. He cites the Bushmen of the Kalahari as an example.

“Now, when you had agricultural and cow-raising people who lived adjacent to the primitive people, the Bushmen would rarely die of hunger, though the agricultural people would die of hunger. This is because the agricultural people learned to rely on, and expect, much more. When cattle died, due to drought, for example, the agricultural people suffered far more than the Bushmen. The farmers also had to work a lot harder, usually 7 days a week, whereas hunter/gatherers worked maybe 3 days a week.”

Struycken cites the Bushmen and many others to illustrate that one of our “problems” is that we are so advanced that we have lost our primal paleolithic nature. Today, systems for gardening, farming, commerce, building, etc., are all essentially neolithic and therefore unsustainable into the future, according to Struycken.

In this sense, Struycken believes that the details of our very survival can be gleaned by looking to the past at the details of sustainable societies.

Struycken mentions a great essay that he read, “Agriculture is the Engine of Destruction” by John Zurzon, as an example of what’s wrong with the path our society is taking. Struycken is optimistic, idealistic, and believes that the solution to our problems is to properly understand the living principles of (so-called) primitive peoples.

SPORTS

THE BEST SPORTS PHOTO OF 2012 - In Our Opinion



Horses train for the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita Park. (October 31, 2012, Jae C. Hong/AP)

OPENING DAY AT SANTA ANITA.... Excerpts From the Santa Anita Press Box

GRADE I, \$300,000 LA BREA FOR 3-YEAR-OLD FILLIES & GRADE II, \$150,000 SIR BEAUFORT AT ONE MILE ON GRASS COMPLEMENT DEEP PROGRAM

ARCADIA, Calif. (Dec. 26, 2012)—Although The Lumber Guy disappointed as the heavy 4-5 favorite in the day’s main event, the weatherman cooperated as skies cleared by mid-morning and Santa Anita was every bit it’s majestically iconic self as The Great Race Place opened Wednesday for the 76th time and treated fans to a graded stakes triple header headed by the 60th running of the Grade I, \$300,000 Malibu Stakes, for 3-year-olds at seven furlongs.

The Malibu provided fans with a near record-setting performance as longshot Jimmy Creed powered home under Garrett Gomez to win by three quarters of a length in a rapid 1:20.36—less than two fifths of a second off Spectacular Bid’s 1:20 flat Malibu clocking in 1980, a track and stakes record that stood for 30 years. Trained by Richard Mandella and owned by B. Wayne Hughes’ Spendthrift Farm, Jimmy Creed had trained

well since running an even ninth in the Breeders’ Cup Sprint on Nov. 3, a race in which The Lumber Guy had run second. Ridden for the sixth consecutive time by Gomez, the son of Distorted Humor tackled pacesetter Private Zone and Martin Pedroza at the top of the stretch, gradually wearing him down in game fashion.

“Garrett gave him a great ride, kept him out of the dirt as best he could,” said Mandella. “The horse doesn’t like dirt in his face and that’s basically what bothered him in the Breeders’ Cup. We trained him behind horses and schooled him as much as we could, so I just told Garrett it was up to him to do what he thinks best... We’ll probably look at the Strub (Feb. 2) and the Santa Anita Handicap (March 2), all that kind of stuff.”

Although significant rain fell overnight and into early morning, the main track was listed as fast for the Malibu, with splits of 22.74, 44.77 and 1:08.27 serving



as ready indicators of a glib surface. Jimmy Creed more than doubled his career earnings, picking up \$180,000, which ran his bankroll to \$313,000. His record stands at 7-3-2-1.



From Arcadia's Best:

## TENNIS CHAMP WILANDER IN ARCADIA



L-r: Mats Wilander, Mo Ridaoui, Dick Leach, Rick Leach, John Letts, Brian Teacher, Cameron Lickie. Photo by Rich Jones, San Marino Tribune.

The top tennis pro in the world in 1988, Mats Wilander of Sweden, was in Arcadia last weekend as part of his Wilander on Wheels (WOW) tour at the Arcadia Tennis Center at the County's Arcadia Park.

WOW delivers the fantasy of hitting with the former seven-time Grand Slam champion (plus an eighth title in doubles) in your backyard.

Rich Jones of the San Marino Tribune and a

representative of the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce, attended the event and snapped the photo below. In addition to Wilander, also with Jones were Mo Ridaoui, Head professional at Arcadia Tennis Center; Dick Leach, USC Head Coach (1980- 2002) and Arcadia High School Head Coach (1965-1969); Rick Leach, former #1-ranked doubles player and none-time Grand Slam Doubles winner; John Letts, iTennis owner/founder; Brian Teacher, Australia Open Winner 1981 and top 10 in the world; and Cameron Lickie, Wilander's WOW clinic partner.

## ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Police Department responded to 1096 calls for service of which 166 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 16:

1. At approximately 7:05 p.m., officers responded to Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a male suspect using counterfeit money. Investigation revealed the suspect was in possession of over 30 counterfeit bills. A records check and a consensual search of the suspect revealed the suspect was also in possession of heroin, and had a warrant out for his arrest. The 41-year-old, Hispanic male was arrested for commercial burglary, possession of narcotics, and for having an outstanding warrant.

2. Around 7:24 p.m., an officer responded to Sport Chalet at Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a juvenile male subject in custody for theft. Upon arrival of the subject's father, the father yelled at his son, and punched him in the face. The 55-year-old, Hispanic male was consequently arrested for battery and transported to Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, December 17:

3. At about 6:45 a.m., officers responded Highland Oaks Elementary School, 10 Virginia Road, regarding vandalism. Investigation revealed that suspect(s) smashed a window to the teachers' lounge, and vandalized one of the walls with black paint. No other damage was found, and no property was missing.

4. At approximately 8:35 a.m., an officer responded to Ann Karen Day Spa, 1215 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary. Surveillance footage revealed the male suspect broke the front glass door, entered the location, and stole the cash register before fleeing the scene. The suspect had curly hair, and was wearing dark clothing and gloves.

Tuesday, December 18:

5. Around 8:18 a.m., officers were dispatched to Par 3 Golf Course, 620 E. Live Oak Avenue, in regard to theft. Investigation revealed that several range mats, golf bag racks, a golf club washer and a garbage can had been stolen. There were no signs of the suspect(s) in the area, and there were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.

6. At approximately 9:09 p.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Vaquero Road in reference to a residential burglary. Officers discovered the suspect(s) entered the home through a broken bedroom window. Further investigation revealed the bedrooms were ransacked and several pieces of jewelry were stolen. There were no witnesses or surveillance cameras.

Wednesday, December 19:

7. Around 5:12 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 1700 block of Orangewood Lane regarding a residential burglary. Investigation revealed that the suspect(s) entered through an unlocked sliding door, ransacked the bedrooms, stole several pieces of jewelry, a laptop, and a cell phone. There were no surveillance cameras or signs of the suspect(s) in the area.

8. At about 11:10 p.m., officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a missing front license plate in the area of E. Duarte Road near Santa Anita Avenue. During their investigation, officers discovered the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The 41-year-old, White male was subsequently arrested for drunk driving and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for processing.

Thursday, December 20:

9. Around 9:52 a.m., officers responded to Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a suspicious package. Upon arrival, a safety perimeter was established. Investigation revealed the package contained marijuana. No suspect(s) were arrested and there were no injuries to officers or bystanders.

10. Shortly after 12:05 p.m., officers were dispatched to Arcadia High School, 180 Campus Drive, in reference to a male student making threats about killing his teacher, parents, and himself. Based in the suspect's mental state of mind and on his violent behavior directed at his teacher and parents, officers determined the suspect was a danger to himself and others. The 16-year-old, Asian male was transported to Arcadia Methodist Hospital and placed on a 72-hour evaluation.

Friday, December 21:

11. At about 9:19 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for driving with a shredded, driver's side front tire in the area of Huntington Drive and Second Avenue. Upon pulling the vehicle over, the driver exited the vehicle and fell to the ground. Investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The 36-year-old, Hispanic male was subsequently arrested for drunk driving and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for processing.

12. At approximately 10:48 p.m., officers responded to the 300 block of N. Old Ranch Road regarding a loud explosion. During their investigation, officers discovered a detonated, homemade pipe bomb in the bushes in the area. There were no injuries or property damage, and no suspects were seen or heard during the incident.

Saturday, December 22:

13. Around 10:45 a.m., an officer responded to the 1000 block of W. Huntington Drive regarding a commercial burglary. Investigation revealed that suspect(s) forced opened a door leading into the community laundry room, pried open two coin vaults on laundry machines, and stole an unknown amount of coins. No suspects were seen or heard during the incident.

14. At about 4:38 p.m., officers was dispatched to Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a male suspect flashing gang signs at mall patrons. The suspect fled from mall security by foot, and was subsequently located and detained by officers. A records check revealed the suspect was wanted by Monrovia Police. The 19-year-old, Black male was arrested, transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking, and later released to Monrovia officers.

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**Happy New Year!**



## LAS POSADAS IN DUARTE

By Joan Schmidt



Reyna Dias and Father Ramon Marti

On last Saturday morning, we attended a Simbang Gabi Mass in Arcadia and enjoyed a celebration in the Hall provided by our wonderful Filipino community. That evening, we went a few blocks to Duarte where Reyna and Ruben Dias hosted a Posadas celebration.

If you are not aware of this wonderful Mexican/ Latin custom, it begins on December 16th and lasts nine days. The word "posadas" means lodging and marks the journey that St. Joseph and Mary took to Bethlehem and searched for lodging. I had a vague idea/knowledge of the custom when we moved to California. However it wasn't till after the Town Council formed and I met my friend, Reyna Diaz did I completely grasp how it was observed.

First I need to say Reyna is the awesome member of the Duarte School Board (First Latina elected to the position) and one of the funders of our Town Council. She was the interpreter at early meetings and has done SO MUCH to pull our community together.


Reyna, with her husband Ruben, was the catalyst who started the Posadas in the Duarte County area. Each night, the celebration was hosted by a different family. The procession would begin at the host's house. Many came at the beginning and others joined the procession along the way. Sometimes there would be children dressed as St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother. At each house, they would sing the question, in Spanish, "Is there lodging"? At each house, the answer was "no" until they had returned to the host's house. There would be prayers or a rosary said, followed by refreshments. It could be simply Mexican Hot Chocolate and sweet rolls or a fantastic spread like this past Saturday at Reyna's. There also could be a piñata.

Years ago, three hundred showed up for Reyna's posada. Usually Margaret Finlay, Duarte's Mayor and her family. Even then- State Senator Bob Margett attended. This past Saturday's celebration also had a great crowd. Attending were Monrovia Council Member Becky Shevlin and Ulises Gutierrez from the Life Project, Monrovia. I also saw Samuel and Martha Martinez, the parents of Francisco Martinez of Duarte- I believe he was the fourth to die in Iraq and the Duarte Post Office has been renamed for him. (It's been eleven years since Francisco died.)

Assisting Reyna were Pepe and Norma for the delicious tacos and many others brought food. What is so gratifying to me is that this amazing couple has done so much for the less fortunate all these years. It began with taking 2000 toys to either Mexico or El Salvador and their charity spread. I remember Margaret Finlay's children one year asked for only ONE Christmas present. They wanted the money that would be spent on many gifts to go to the poor children in Latin America. In fact I remember Margaret, her husband Brad, her parents Ed and Helen Fergusson and her brother and his family trekked down there themselves- they were a caravan- it was awesome. Vicki Gutierrez of Temple City and her late husband Ruben donated all kinds of baseball equipment- kids there had their first baseball, a mitt and bat.


Joining Reyna and Ruben at Saturday's celebration were Fr. Ramon Marti from our Church; he was so relaxed and having a great time. (Father Marti is originally from Spain so participating in this special evening meant a lot to him.)

In keeping with the spirit of giving, donations were made to the Duarte Kiwanis or Rotary Clubs. Thanks to ALL readers for these contributions and also to toys' drives, Foothill Unity Center, Salvation Army and your local Church. *Feliz Navidad* and may God bless you and your family in the New Year.



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## LOOKING FOR PLANS TO RING IN 2013? TRY NEW YEARS EVE IN OLD TOWN!

Head to Old Town Monrovia on Myrtle Avenue for the 2nd Annual Monrovia New Years Eve celebration! Ring in 2013 from 7p.m. to midnight with a live band, ball drop and a beer and wine garden. Bring the whole family!


## FOR YOUR CALENDAR - MONROVIA HOLIDAY CLOSURES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31- NEW YEARS EVE; CITY HALL, CORPORATE YARD, COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY CLOSED

MONDAY, JANUARY 1- NEW YEARS DAY; CITY HALL, CORPORATE YARD, COMMUNITY CENTER & LIBRARY CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 CITY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELLED


Tuesday, January 15, 7:30 p.m. City Council Meeting





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<p>Triumphing over a tough job market takes skill. Motivational career coach Benjamin Brus gives you the tools to tackle the</p>  <p>process. This segment also includes an introduction to the Library's new job and career center, a demonstration of new job online resources, along with short presentations from the Foothill Workforce Investment Board, L.A. Works and Monrovia businesses offering job opportunities.</p>	<p>Start with a catchy cover letter and move on to a resumé that really rocks by emphasizing strengths and minimizing weaknesses.</p> <p>Learn formats, key phrases, and show an employer what you can do for them.</p> <p>Bring your resume to this workshop for helpful advice.</p> 	<p>Understand the rules of the interviewing game and how to dress appropriately to make a good impression.</p>  <p>Karen Hudson leads mock practice interviews and tells you how to prepare for telephone interviews. She also defines proper business attire, including business casual environments.</p>
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Walk-ins welcome

## Monrovia Police Blotter

*Highlighted Activity for the Weekdays of December 17-19, 2012*

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 410 service events, resulting in 76 investigations. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/monrovia> for crime mapping. For Police Department news and information, visit our website at <http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city-government/departments/police-department-homepage> and follow us on Twitter for police notifications.

Monrovia Police Department Providing Police Presence at City Schools  
Our hearts go out to all touched by the tragedy that has occurred in Newtown, Connecticut. This horrific event has affected us all. Safety in our schools has always been, and continues to be, a high priority for law enforcement. In response to this senseless act of violence, the Monrovia Police Department is providing an increased police presence at schools throughout the city. Patrol officers have been instructed to periodically visit and touch base with all schools in the city during daytime hours. The visits will be random and will occur at various times and locations. This increased visibility is meant to help comfort and calm the fears of the children, parents, and school staff, alike.

The Monrovia Police Department trains annually to deal with incidents of violence that might occur at a school. The department has a tremendous collaborative working relationship with the Monrovia Unified School District. Police Department and school staff meet and train regularly to ensure employees are prepared to deal with these rare, but critical, types of incidents. Police officers conduct scenario training, yearly, at actual school campuses throughout the district, and each school in the district has prepared a crisis response box for the Police Department with information necessary to deal, immediately, with any incident at any school.

### Theft of Packages

December 17 at 3:15 p.m., a theft of packages was reported in the 500 block of Terrado. The victim had packages delivered and they were left on the front porch. A neighbor saw a white Chevy Silverado drive up quickly to the front of the victim's home. The suspect exited the truck and ran up to the home, grabbed the two packages and ran back to the truck. The vehicle fled southbound, out of sight. The suspect is described as a young, male, African American. Investigation continuing.

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## ALVERNO HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY BLOOD DRIVE FOR CITY OF HOPE



Participants after giving blood: Back: Nicolette Tuscany, Ileana Vior, Lucy Gervais, Audrey Luna, Lauren Moore-Sanchez, and Ariana Shafai Front: Analise Hull and Maia Samerjan  
Photo courtesy Alverno High School

On Friday, December 14, Alverno High School hosted a Holiday Blood Drive with City of Hope to benefit their patients—most of whom are fighting cancer.

For many Alverno students, Friday was the first time that they give blood and while it was a daunting process for some of them—they were able to overcome their fears. At the end of the day, the Alverno community contributed 24 pints of blood to City of Hope. Since 1 pint of blood can save the lives of 3 people, Alverno's donation alone could prove to be life changing for nearly 75 people.

"At Alverno, our Franciscan and Immaculate Heart roots place an important emphasis on giving back to those in need," said Ann Gillick, Head of School. "City of Hope provides exceptional care to thousands of patients fighting cancer every year and as a community Alverno has been deeply affected by cancer. I am proud to see so many of our young women make the decision to give back to those who need it, especially during the Christmas season. They are shining examples to all of us and truly exemplify the Alverno philosophy and spirit."

### 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](http://www.alverno-hs.org).

## THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show

Movie Reviews Especially for Teens & 'Tweens

### CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: - World's Away



I have seen many, many Cirque shows. All are amazing and, while only the story is new, 'Worlds Away' is an amazing feat of filmmaking and flaunts its stunning 3D, which James Cameron did a fantastic job with.

Mia (Erica Kathleen Linz) stumbles upon an old circus. She wanders around, seeing the many wonderful sights, until a clown gives her a flyer for a mysterious man called the Aerialist (Igor Zaripov). When the two see each other, they instantly connect. However, this causes the Aerialist to miss his trapeze, and he falls to through the ground, with Mia following

him. They find themselves in a whole other world, and go on a quest to find each other.

'Worlds Away' is like a wonderful dream: you feel like you disappear into the world that has been created. And, like all other dreams, it must be seen to be believed.

### SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY ANNOUNCES:

#### Picture Book Apps for iPad (Library)

How does a good parent sort out the good and the bad, the useful and harmful for their children in today's electronic world? The Sierra Madre Public Library has an app for that! Several, actually.

Parents of young children are invited to Apps for Toddlers on Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. This workshop will cover how to get children's apps on iPads, will look at different picture book iPad apps, will review sites that review apps, and look at how iPads support early literacy.

Children are welcome to accompany their parents and play in the Children's Room but the workshop itself is designed for grown-ups.

For more information, contact the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024 (626) 355-7186, [www.cityofsierramadre.com/departments/library](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/departments/library)

### I LOVE MY LIBRARY ESSAY & DRAWING CONTEST

Cash prizes await some talented children who enter the I Love My Library drawing and essay contest. Children in grades K – 2 can create a drawing showing how they love the Library. Those in grades 3-8 can write an essay telling why they love the Library. The contest begins January 7 and entries are due by January 31, 2013 at the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Entry forms are available at the library and on the Library homepage [www.cityofsierramadre.com/departments/library](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/departments/library) beginning January 7, 2013.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

**Arcadia High School**  
180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007  
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee  
[bforsee@ausd.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.barnhartschool.org)

**Bethany Christian School**  
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl  
E-mail address: [jml@bcsllions.org](mailto:jml@bcsllions.org)  
website: [www.bcsllions.org](http://www.bcsllions.org)

**Clairbourn School**  
8400 Huntington Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172  
FAX: 626-286-1528  
E-mail: [jhawes@clairbourn.org](mailto:jhawes@clairbourn.org)  
**Foothill Oaks Academy**  
822 Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809

Co-Principals Nancy Lopez and Diane Kieffaber  
[info@foothilloaksacademy.org](mailto:info@foothilloaksacademy.org)  
[preschool@foothilloaksacademy.org](mailto: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](http://www.goodenschool.org)

**High Point Academy**  
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Headmaster John Higgins  
626-798-8989  
website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

**LaSalle High School**  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://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](mailto:schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us)

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

**Pasadena High School**  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Gilbert Barraza  
website: [www.pasadenahigh.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:newsom.garrett@pusd.us)

**Walden School**  
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Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
[www.waldenschool.net](http://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](mailto:resseln@pusd.us)

**PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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(626) 795-6981 Website: [www.pusd@pusd.us](http://www.pusd@pusd.us)

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**MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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(626) 599-5000 Website: [www.duarte.k12.ca.us](http://www.duarte.k12.ca.us)

# Happy 2013!



## Happy New Year!

Yawn...I'm so worn out!

New Year's Day is a wonderful time. This first day of January and of the new year is a time to remember the past, celebrate, and hope for a happy, healthy future.

In our country, some people have parties or attend church services at midnight. Others go to Times Square in New York City to listen to music, enjoy the crowds and wait for the magical stroke of midnight.

In other countries people exchange gifts or open their homes to neighbors or visitors. Many people honor parents or relatives and try to pay all their debts so they will not owe anything at the start of the new year.

I'm full of energy and ready for the new year!

New Year's Day is a time to think back – and ahead!

## 2013

celebrate 3 health 5 party

2 bells 4 visit 9

1 toast 6 January resolution 12

11 horn 14 calendar

15 new midnight

10. people getting together to have a good time

11. to honor or praise something

12. instrument, makes a loud noise

13. condition of your body and mind

14. twelve o'clock at night

15. first month of the year

I love drinking eggnog and staying up until midnight!

**List 2 things that you will remember about 2012!**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Now list 2 things you think will be important in 2013.**

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the clues to fill in the crossword:**

- hollow, metal objects that ring when struck
- beginning, for the first time
- pleasing sounds made by voices or instruments
- to call on or stay with someone
- present, something given
- chart of the months, weeks and days of the year
- a promise or decision
- to raise glasses to drink in honor of a person or thing
- worn out, time gone by

Print out our new puzzles: **A New Year!, Santa Claus, Holiday Decorating Fun, and December ABC** crossword.

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THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!!!

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

One of my favorite subjects is joyfully known as “Bubbly.” I do not wish to be a referee with zebra stripes but I think it is important to discover some of the more intriguing historical elements of the liquid that tingles within our glass upon the stroke of midnight.

There is a difference between “Champagne” and “Sparkling Wine.” Champagne is a distinct region in France and by strict French Law, only grapes grown and produced in the region can be called Champagne. Many states and countries produce a sparkling wine using very similar methods as the French. In California the procedure is called, “Champione Method.”

In Spain they call it *Cava*, and South Africa uses *Cap classique*. An Italian sparkling wine is called Asti. In Germany, *Sekt* is a common sparkling wine. Other French wine regions cannot use the name Champagne, i.e. *Burgundy* and *Alsace* produce *Crémant*. Sparkling wines mislabeled Champagne can be and are often seized and destroyed by legal authorities.

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

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

So, if this has got you in the mood for bubbly, I can’t blame you. In fact, I toast you!! Drink responsibly! Wear eye protection if you insist on letting the kiddies rocket the cork with a bottle opening!

Come join me this Tuesday at Pop Champagne Bar for a night of Bubbly!! Reservations required. Email me [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com) for further information. Thanks to Google for helping me research this.

Tune into my Live Radio Show 6 PM Saturday 790 AM KABC



INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup minced shallot
- 2 large garlic cloves, minced
- 3 tablespoons panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 3 tablespoons whole milk
- 3/4 cup drained sauerkraut
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard plus more for serving
- 3/4 teaspoon caraway seeds, toasted, lightly crushed
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 8 ounces ground pork
- 1 14-ounce package Dufour Pastry Kitchens frozen puff pastry, thawed
- All-purpose flour (for dusting)
- 1 large egg, beaten to blend

DIRECTIONS

Melt butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Add shallot and cook, stirring occasionally and reducing heat if needed to prevent burning, until soft, 4-5 minutes. Add garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until aromatic, about 1 minute. Transfer shallot mixture to a large bowl and let cool.

Combine panko and milk in a small bowl; let stand until milk is absorbed, 2-3 minutes. Add to bowl with shallot mixture. Squeeze any excess liquid from sauerkraut; coarsely chop and add to bowl. Stir in 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard and caraway seeds; season with salt and pepper. Mix well. Add pork; using a fork or your hands, gently mix until just combined (do not overmix).

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll out pastry on a lightly floured surface to a 14x10” rectangle. Cut lengthwise into three 14x3 1/3” strips. Transfer strips to prepared baking sheet. Using one-third of sausage filling and leaving a 1” border at each end, pat sausage to form a thin log of filling down the center of 1 pastry strip. Fold pastry over sausage mixture to enclose, then press pastry together to seal. Fold seam under to ensure that sausage is tightly wrapped. Repeat with remaining pastry and sausage mixture.

Cut small diagonal slits at 1” intervals along top of pastries (to help release steam). Brush top and sides of pastry with beaten egg; chill in freezer for about 30 minutes. DO AHEAD: Pastries can be made 2 weeks ahead. Cover tightly with plastic wrap, then foil, and keep frozen.

Preheat oven to 425°F. Bake pastries (if frozen, no need to thaw) until puffed and light brown, about 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F; continue baking until sausage is cooked through and pastry is golden and completely puffed, about 25 minutes. Let cool slightly. Cut sausage rolls crosswise into 1” pieces. Serve with a bowl of Dijon mustard for dipping.

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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.

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Looking Up

with Bob Eklund



NEW NEIGHBORS? Closest Single Star Like Our Sun May Have Habitable Planet

An international team of astronomers led by the University of Hertfordshire has discovered that Tau Ceti, one of the closest and most Sun-like stars, may host five planets—with one in the star’s habitable zone.

At a distance of twelve light-years and visible with the naked eye in the evening sky, Tau Ceti is the closest single star that has the same spectral classification as our Sun. Its five planets are estimated to have masses between two and six times the mass of the Earth—making it the lowest-mass planetary system yet detected. One of the planets lies in the habitable zone of the star and has a mass around five times that of Earth, making it the smallest planet found to be orbiting in the habitable zone of any Sun-like star.

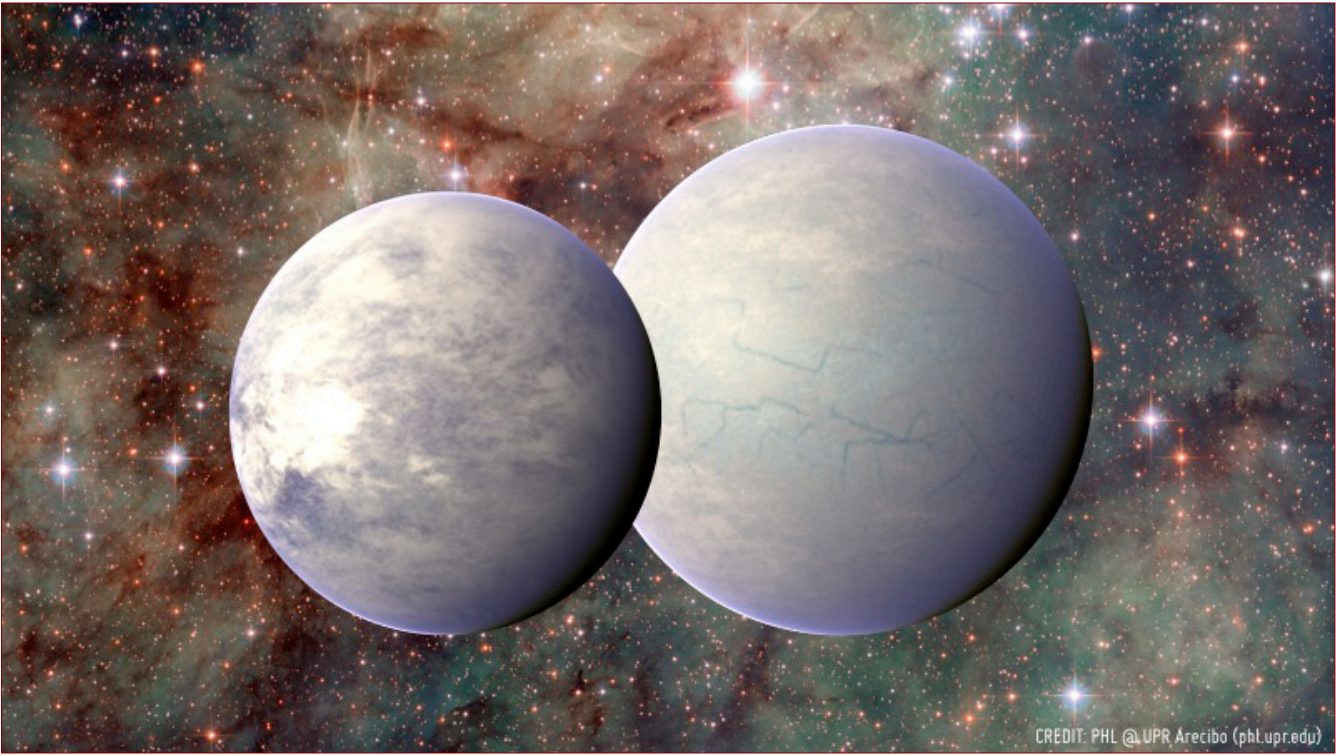
The international team of astronomers, from the UK, Chile, the USA, and Australia, combined more than six-thousand observations from three different instruments and intensively modeled the data. Using new techniques, the team has found a method to detect signals half the size previously thought possible. This greatly improves the sensitivity of searches for small planets.

Mikko Tuomi, from the University of Hertfordshire and the first author of the paper, said: “We pioneered new data modeling techniques by adding artificial signals to the data and testing our recovery of the signals with a variety of different approaches. This significantly improved our noise modeling techniques and increased our ability to find low-mass planets.”

“We chose Tau Ceti for this noise modeling study because we had thought it contained no signals. And as it is so bright and similar to our Sun, it is an ideal benchmark system to test out our methods for the detection of small planets,” commented Hugh Jones from the University of Hertfordshire.

James Jenkins, Universidad de Chile and Visiting Fellow at the University of Hertfordshire, explained: “Tau Ceti is one of our nearest cosmic neighbors and so bright that we may be able to study the atmospheres of these planets in the not-too-distant future.”

Over 800 planets have been discovered orbiting other worlds, but planets in orbit around the nearest Sun-like stars are particularly valuable. Steve Vogt from University of California Santa Cruz said: “This discovery is in keeping with our emerging view that virtually every star has planets, and that the galaxy must have many such potentially habitable Earth-sized planets. They are everywhere, even right next door!” “As we stare the night sky, it is worth contemplating that there may well be more planets out there than there are stars—some fraction of which may well be habitable,” added Chris Tinney from the University of New South Wales.



CREDIT: PHL @UPR Arecibo (phl.upr.edu)

\*\*\*\*\*  
JOY TO THE WORLDS  
  
In each galaxy  
A trillion new wonders wait...  
Joy to all the worlds!  
  
--Bob Eklund  
\*\*\*\*\*

You can contact Bob Eklund at: b eklund@MtnViewsNews.com.

JUST FOR BEST FRIENDS

Happy Tails  
by Chris Leclerc

LOVE ‘EM & LEASH ‘EM

As a youngster growing up in a rural town in the deep south, I was blessed to have had lots of farm animals and domestic pets in my life throughout my childhood. I remember enjoying the luxury of allowing my dogs to roam freely, knowing that they would most likely have fun wandering through the woods behind our back yard, or head off to the neighbor’s house to play with their dogs and beg for left over scraps, then return home and beg in at the back door just in time for supper!

It was quite a privilege to have had so much freedom as a kid for both myself and my pets, and I imagine there are many Sierra Madre locals who have similar childhood memories of their own. With acres of undeveloped land, plenty of ample space between developments, and a heck of a lot less traffic passing through on our neighborhood streets, the risks were minimal for a pet who wanted to explore the great outdoors. It just seems natural, right?

Well, now it is almost 2013, and the fact is, that the open acres and land gaps that existed between our homes back in the day have shrunk dramatically in most parts of America over the past several years, and few & far between are the moments of silence without the noise of a vehicle passing swiftly by on the boulevards and streets where we live. Lets face it folks, as American citizens, or at least citizens of Los Angeles County, the days of “free-range” pet ownership are far-and-away long-gone. Not only is it extremely risky to allow a dog to run free on the streets these days, it is against the law. Even pet owners in Sierra Madre today hopefully know better than to let their dog roam freely and assume it is safe.

I actually learned my lesson about leashing several years ago, while living in Hermosa Beach with my dog, “Lady”. She was such a friendly pup, so I was never concerned that she might get into a doggie tussle, or be hurt herself by roaming free and off-leash. I lived 2 blocks from the beach, and I loved to let Lady play on the sand, particularly during the off-season months when I knew there would be less traffic and few tourists touting about in town. However, one day I let Lady walk along with me on my way to get a coffee at the local breakfast nook and a cop stopped and cited me for having her off-leash. The leash law was new to me, so I was taken very much by surprise when I was told I had to take a day off work to appear in court and pay a fine. That was the last time I ever allowed my dog to roam free in L.A. Although I admit that it seemed ridiculous at the time, I have since learned to respect the leash laws, and I guess I have become a self-appointed advocate for full compliance, mainly for the sake & safety of the animals.

While we would all love to assume that our own dog is smarter than most it is never really a safe assumption, because you never know what the “other guy” might do and it only takes one time for a tragic accident to happen. Ultimately, allowing your dog to roam in spite of the law and obvious risks amounts to nothing less than negligence. A domestic dog is a creature driven more by instinct than taught intelligence or allegiance to it’s master, regardless of how much training he has received. In fact, the human’s delusion of owning the perfectly obedient dog is an excellent example of how, in some ways the dog is indeed smarter than the human being. No offense to those responsible owners who have taken the time to properly train and discipline their pets, it’s just that humans need to come to grips with the fact that a canine will do what comes naturally to itself, and much of the time the instinctual behavior of the canine is not in tune with the behavior of the human, particularly when the human is behind the wheel.

Even a well-trained, obedient domestic dog will have a tendency to chase a squirrel scrambling up a tree, a bird taking flight or a cat meandering by on the opposite side of the road, and when that happens, it’s instincts are likely to override any obedience training it may have had, prompting it to cross the street and take chase after whatever it was that caught it’s attention.

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It only takes one time for a fast-moving vehicle to pass by in the wrong place at the wrong time, to end the life of a beloved pet. So I say, please set your “pet pride” aside, and take proper precautions. The risks are simply not worth it, and it would be you, not your dog to be blamed if such a tragic accident should happen. A truly loving, caring pet owner will always protect their pet from harm, and that kind of unconditional love includes educating ones-self and forfeiting some of the freedoms that we would all love to enjoy, such as roaming off leash like we did in the good old days. If you love them, you will leash them!

PET OF THE WEEK: CUTTER: #A4520504



Cutter is a charming two year old gold male Long Haired Chihuahua who was forsaken at the Downey Animal Care Center on December 7th with his sister Foxy (A4520506) because his former owners moved and made no provisions for their pets. Weighing fourteen pounds, this handsome dog walks well on leash and we believe he may be housebroken. He gets along well with other dogs and we think he will do beautifully with children. Cutter has a wonderful personality and will make a terrific indoor pet for anyone in any living situation.

To meet Cutter please visit him at the Baldwin Park Shelter, located at 4275 N. Elton, Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378). For any inquiries about Cutter, please reference his animal ID number: A4520504. 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 Cutter or the adoption process, contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at samanthasayon@gmail.com or 661-309-2674.

To learn more about United Hope for Animals’ partnership with the Baldwin Park Shelter through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dog of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

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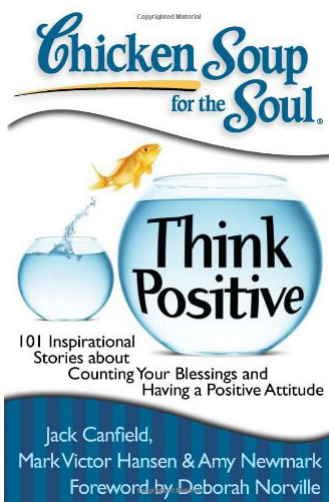


# JASMINE’S CORNER

Book Reviews by Jasmine Kelsey Williams

## CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL: THINK POSITIVE

By Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen & Amy Newmark



With Christmas come and gone, we now look to the new year and this next selection should definitely help you to get into the positive mindset that comes along with the start of a new year. 'Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive' will do just this, by bringing forth over 101 stories that convey the importance of counting your blessings, keeping a positive attitude, and always trying to find a way to make the best out of a negative situation. Each story contains a different category that addresses how different individuals experience the trials and triumphs that life throws at them: overcoming adversity, health challenges, silver linings, and moving forward, just to name a few.

With a foreward from Deborah Norville and copyrighted in 2010, 'Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive' is not just a new read, but one that should bring out the optimism in readers of all ages and to make them appreciate all that they have in thier lives. These stories will prove even more beneficial to one's well-being and attitude if any of the stories help to strike a chord in their perspectives and as a result, will be able to sympathize with the individuals from these stories. Each individual from this edition of 'Chicken Soup for the Soul' recounts their experience with clear and vivid detail, with their exact words and thoughts being expressed for the reader (and all the world) to know. It is not just their details on a negative situation or circumstance, but also if said situation or circumstance occurred to them directly; one example is from Saralee Perel who recounts her experiences of living with paralysis in her legs in "Walking Through My Paralysis", which speaks volumes to the reader of how one can overcome the obstacles of a medical condition.

'Chicken Soup for the Soul: Think Positive' is the perfect book for anyone , who is a fan of the Chicken Soup series or for those who need a positive pick-me-up and for those who enjoy a daily reminder of learning to count your blessings and appreciating the gift of your life, whatever that may come your way.



# SEAN’S SHAMELESS REVIEWS:

Review By Sean Kayden

## FLIGHT

“Flight,” the latest film from Denzel Washington starts off riding high. As the journey continues, however, it takes a slow nosedive barely lifting itself up before a total crash landing. Washington stars as Whip Whitaker, a commercial airline pilot who is an alcoholic. He’s a pretty selfish guy that has an ex-wife and a son he rarely sees. The night before the flight, Whip consumed what appeared to be a considerable amount of alcohol. He proceeded the following morning by doing a line of coke to help him sober up. Despite what should have been an impaired physicality, Whip was seemingly okay to pilot the plane. He even gets through a heavy storm under severe turbulence with a sense of ease and composure, while reassuring his passengers not to worry acting as if everything is now copacetic (although he clandestinely pours two mini vodka bottles into his bottle of orange juice). He additionally informs the passengers there will be no meals or bottle service on the flight. Long story short, there is a malfunction with the engine, among other parts of the plane. This leads Whip to do whatever it takes to try to land this thing, but as his options start to run out quickly, he has no choice but to turn the plane upside down to slow it down.

Acknowledging the fact the plane was going to crash, Whip does everything in his power to keep it from nose-diving and possibly killing everyone on board. When the dust settles, the plane goes down, but only 6 out of the 102 passengers died. Whip is deemed a hero, but even heroes have fatal flaws. After going to a remote getaway on his farm, Whip empties all his alcoholic bottles and cans stored there. It looked like he was about to have a clean slate. However, when the toxicology report comes back, alcohol and substances were found in his blood. Whip becomes knowledgeable of the fact that there will be an investigation into the crash, which may cause severe implications for him. From there, Whip returns to the dark side.

The second act is dedicated to clearing Whip’s name of any liability for the crash. Whip knows he’s the only one who could have landed that plane and in doing so, only a few died while a large number did miraculously survive. Don Cheadle plays Hugh Lang, the appointed attorney for Whip. Actor Bruce Greenwood is Charlie Anderson, a friend and colleague of Whip, who is on the board of the union for commercial airline pilots. These two men are trying help Whip, but he continues to be a problem. Along the way, Whip starts an unlikely romantic relationship with Nicole, a woman he met at the hospital. She is a heroin addict trying to sober up. Despite her breakthrough in that department, Whip doesn’t follow her lead and refuses to get any help. Fearful she’ll start to use drugs again, she leaves Whip. The entire second act is long and turns into a series of scenes of watching Whip become worse with his alcoholism. He never can man up to anything and tries to manipulate people in helping him clear his name since he has an upcoming meeting with the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board).

Washington’s performance is strong and is easily one of the most complex roles he’s tackled in years. Unfortunately, the supporting cast doesn’t get a whole lot to work with. They’re all fine, but the juiciest role is the one for the protagonist. John Goodman shows up in a few scenes and steals the show. He brings an unexpectedly humorous side to a rather ominous story. There’s also a terrifically written scene where Whip, Nicole and a cancer ward patient at the hospital share a late night smoke in the stairway talking about life, cancer, smokes and God. It’s a rather moving and profound scene, but sadly no scene after that comes close to being on par. The thing with Flight is how straightforward it is.

As a viewer, you may sympathize for Whip but that feeling wears thin. In the end, he has to make a decision and you’re not sure how it’s going to play out. I did like the ending, especially the very last sequence with Whip and his estranged son finally making amends. Overall, Flight tackles the themes of alcoholism and obsession. It does a somewhat commendable job, but nothing new or insightful was revealed about the “disease.” With a protagonist that becomes increasingly more and more difficult to root for, “Flight” soars lower than initially intended and doesn’t recuperate quickly enough for a smooth finish. You’re in for a jarring trip that’s acceptable this time, but you’re unlikely inclined to come back to visit a second time around.

Directed by: Robert Zemeckis  
Written by: John Gatins  
Release Date: November 2nd, 2012  
Rated R for drug and alcohol abuse, language, sexuality/nudity and an intense action sequence.

Grade: 3 out of 5

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Breathing is a simple act that we do without thinking about it. We breathe because we are alive, and we’re alive because we breathe. Therefore, pranayama is life. In your yoga class, your teacher will explain for you the various breathing exercises that are an integral part of your yoga practice. There’s Ujjayi, the ocean breath, and that one will see you through a lot of poses. There’s Kapalabhati, the fire breath and you’ll love it. There’s Dirga, the three-part breath, soothing and relaxing. And still more...

Why do we need breathing exercises with fancy, exotic names? Because we don’t pay enough attention to our breath. We hold it, we shorten it, we run out of it, caught up as we are in our ever-increasing pace of life. So, come to a yoga class. Sit down on your mat, close your eyes for a moment, and take a deep breath in. Do you feel it? Your life. Your breath. Pranayama.

Namasté, René

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



### MADELINE ESTATE IN PASADENA - *Once Part of the 14 Acre Craven Compound*

Tucked away at the end of a long private driveway of overarching mature trees, lies a storied property. Situated amidst the Millionaires Row mansions of a century and lifetime past, elegant abode just listed for sale, was actually once the servant's quarters for John and Mildred Myers Cravens. The locale, so named, featured the expansive tony homes of over 100 millionaires' families along approximately 1.5 miles of South Orange Grove in Pasadena.

Listing agent, Pauli Morin of Coldwell Banker, calls the home a "private secluded sanctuary with a wonderful history."

Mrs. Craven's father was a tobacco baron, and she brought her family fortune to the marriage. In 1897, the Cravens, Midwesterners, became part time residents, basking in the warmer California climate over the winter months. They decided to move to Pasadena full time in 1904, and John Craven went on to found the Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, after the sale of the Myers Tobacco company. Craven also played a major role in developing Chino, Fontana, Westchester and Torrance.

The Cravens divested their initial "wintering" property to Adolphus Busch, who used some of the land to partially recreate his famous Florida Busch gardens. For their permanent residence, the Cravens purchased a nearby fourteen acre parcel between Madeline and Grand and fronting Orange Grove. The firm of Hunt and Eager built the main structure, according to area historian, Tim Gregory and [www.TheBuildingBiographer.com](http://www.TheBuildingBiographer.com).

Over time, many additional buildings and garden structures dotted the acreage, including a natatorium, which was a swimming pool structure they called "The Plunge." After the childless Cravens passed away in the 1940's, the original estate home eventually became the headquarters of the local Red Cross organization in 1962. Mrs. Craven was a long standing board member. The main Craven Estate Red Cross Headquarters was recently featured as a Pasadena Showcase House in 2010, after extensive renovations by local designers.

In the 1940's, Louisa Jane Church took ownership of several of the "outbuildings" including "the old natatorium at 500 (Madeline), servants' quarters at 520, original greenhouse/wine cellar at 530, and the garage/servants' quarters at 580," according to Tim Gregory. Church and her husband built a home on 3.4 acres of land sold off by the Cravens, and used the "outbuildings" such as the home just listed at 520, as guest houses.



The 520 building was built by the same firm that constructed the main Craven estate, Hunt, Eager and Burns, as well as notable buildings as the Doheny residence in Los Angeles, the California Club and the Annandale Country Club. Originally in a Craftsman style, the home's style now reflects an English cottage style and is surrounded by mature trees, especially magnificent sycamores.

Many of the former owners of 520 Madeline, including an actress, and a U.S. District Judge who handled high profile cases, were no doubt attracted to the consummate privacy afforded by the long driveway and the generous, .62 acre flag lot.

Today's home enjoys the tradition of the past and elegance abounds in the 3701 square feet of living space, with four bedrooms and three baths. The foyer opens to a gracious dining room, plus a grand formal living room, as well as a sumptuous family room. French doors open to the yard and pool, and a semicircular breakfast area provides natural lighting from the encircling windows.

A generous master suite with adjacent sitting area is conveniently located on the first floor, while three additional bedrooms plus an office area are located upstairs. Outside, expansive patios abound, perfect for outdoor entertaining and private relaxation in the shade of the heritage trees.

The particular attraction of this property is the "location, location, location," as the adage goes. As the next generation of magnificent homes evolves in this elegant neighborhood, the home at 520 Madeline stands in pedigreed stead amid magnificent grounds and unequalled privacy.

The home is offered at \$1,685,000 by Pauli Morin of Coldwell Banker. For more information, visit the home's website at [www.520Madeline.com](http://www.520Madeline.com) or contact Morin directly at 626-233-2047. Many thanks for the research information from Tim Gregory, The Building Biographer.



### Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou Realtor®

### DON'T FORGET THE VARIABLES

You're ready to make an offer! You've done your homework by reviewing a CMA (Comparative Market Analysis), local DOM (Days On Market), and even the LP:SP (List Price to Sales Price) ratio to formulate your offer based on the numbers, and you have confidence in the mathematics.

However, there may be "non-tangible" factors that don't fit neatly into the equation. Your representative will endeavor to discover variables like the seller's motivation and your possible competition.

If the home you want has been listed much longer than the average DOM, the sellers may have become more realistic and more motivated to accept lower offers. Sometimes the sellers are motivated by the pressure of having purchased, or offered to purchase, another home. Then time becomes more important than money. No one wants to pay two mortgages or risk their ability to close on another purchase because they can't sell their first home.

Also try to find out if other buyers are making offers on your chosen property. If so, make your first offer your best offer, because sellers are unlikely to counter in this situation. But... never offer more than your representative believes the home will appraise for, or your financing will fail and you'll be back at Square One. Talk to your agent about the facts and the variables, and then make your offer with confidence.

*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](mailto:luther@tsinoglou.com)*

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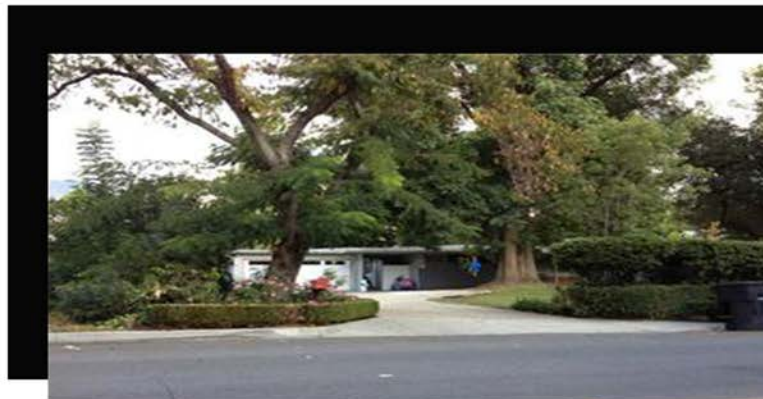
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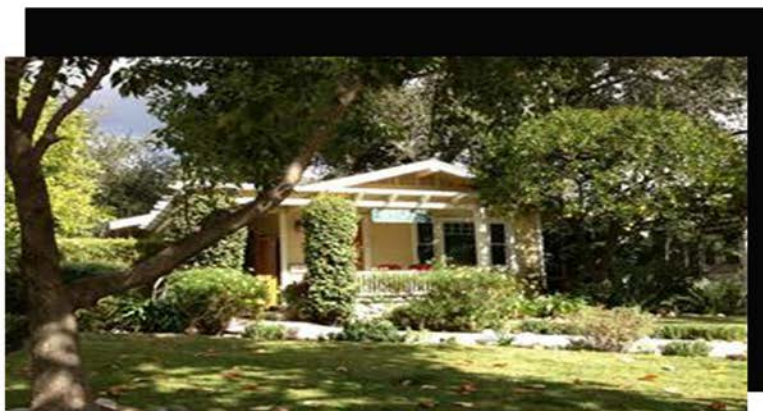
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This home is in need of some 2013 pizzazz! The lot is tree lined with mature landscaping. There is a pool in center of yard with a fully permitted over 600 square foot guest house/maybe office! You also have a large garage and a driveway that can hold 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



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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 a another bath. Porch surrounds the front yard with pretty garden; back yard has private garden setting.



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## HOW TO FIND AND HIRE A GOOD HOME CARE WORKER

Dear Savvy Senior:

What's the best way to find a good in-home caregiver for my elderly mother? Looking for Care

Dear Looking:

Finding a good in-home caregiver that's dependable, likeable, trustworthy and affordable can be challenging, to say the least. Here are some tips and resources that can help.

#### Know Your Needs

Before you start the task of looking for a caregiver, your first step is to determine the level of care your mom needs (see [NCLneedsassessment.org](http://NCLneedsassessment.org) for a checklist). If, for example, she only needs help with activities of daily living like preparing meals, doing laundry, bathing or dressing, a "home-maker" or "personal care aide" will do.

But, if she needs health care services, there are "home health aides" that may do all the things a home-maker does, plus they also have training in administering medications, changing wound dressings and other medically related duties. Home health aides often work under a nurse's supervision.

Once you settle on a level of care, you then need to decide how many hours of assistance she'll need. For example, does your mom need someone to come in just a few mornings a week to help her cook, clean, run errands or perhaps bathe? Or does she need more continuous care that requires daily visits or a full-time aide?

After you determine her needs, there are two ways in which you can go about hiring someone. Either through a home health agency, or you can hire someone directly on your own.

#### Home Health Agencies

Hiring a certified home health agency to supply and manage your mom's care is the easiest but most expensive option of the two. Costs run anywhere from \$12 up to \$40 an hour depending on where you live and the qualification of the aide. This is also usually a better way to go if your mom requires a lot of in-home health care.

How it works is you pay the agency, and they handle everything including an assessment of your mom's needs, assigning appropriately trained and pre-screened staff to care for her, and finding a fill-in on days her aide cannot come.

Some of the drawbacks, however, are that you may not have much input into the selection of the caregiver, and the caregivers may change or alternate, which can cause a disruption in care and confusion.

You also need to know that while Medicare does cover some in-home health care services if it's ordered by a doctor, they don't cover homemaker services, nor will they cover personal care services, such as bathing and dressing, provided by a home health aide if that is the only care required. But, if your mom is low-income and qualifies for Medicaid, some services are covered.

To locate and compare Medicare-approved home health agencies visit [www.medicare.gov/hhcompare](http://www.medicare.gov/hhcompare), and call 800-633-4227 and request a free copy of the "Medicare and Home Health Care" publication (#10969) that explains coverage and how to choose an agency.

#### Hiring Directly

Hiring an independent caregiver on your own is the other option, and it's less expensive. Costs typically range between \$10 and \$20 per hour. Hiring directly also gives you more control over who you hire so you can choose someone who you feel is right for your mom.

But, be aware that if you do hire someone on your own, you become the employer so there's no agency support to fall back on if a problem occurs or if the aide doesn't show up. You're also responsible for paying payroll taxes and any worker-related injuries that may happen. If you choose this option make sure you check the aide's references thoroughly, and do a criminal background check.

To find someone, ask for referrals through friends, doctor's offices or hospital discharge planners, check online job boards like [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org), or try [carelinc.com](http://carelinc.com) or [carescout.com](http://carescout.com). Some states even offer registries ([PHImatchingservicesmap.org](http://PHImatchingservicesmap.org)) to help you locate good caregivers. Or, for a fee, a geriatric care manager ([caremanager.org](http://caremanager.org)) can help find someone.

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



## KATIE Tse .....This and That SAY IT WITH A MASHER!

2012 is winding down. By now your tree is probably browning on the curb, waiting to be recycled. You've already exchanged the gifts that didn't quite make the mark. You're tired of Christmas. But I'm writing this on 12/24, so please bear with me as I revisit this topic. One nice thing about Christmas shopping this year was that I didn't have to wrack my brain to come up with gift ideas. My husband showed me the exact helmet and pump he wanted to go with his new bike. My mom sent me links to the weaving video she wanted (at least I knew I wouldn't need to duke it out with other shoppers for that one). And my dad is easy. I always buy his favorite beer, a special tar-black concoction from a micro-brewery available only in a few select locations. He's requested that I not share its name, for fear he'd have competition.

Yes, for the most part, I didn't need to worry about presents. But then I recalled that my cousin from the Netherlands was visiting. It's not as if I had no idea what he likes, but it gets complicated when you consider the TSA rules for carry on luggage. That blew my first idea, Waldo Ward's garlic stuffed olives, out of the water. I could just imagine some airport employees gleefully popping the confiscated olives into their mouths. Hmm...

What about getting him a gift card for an American shop in the Netherlands? I was pondering this during work on the Friday before Christmas. Usually I barely have time to check the Yahoo headlines at work, but this was a very slow day. Searches for American stores in Holland produced a couple of markets boasting American fare for expatriates. "Barbeque sauce, Tinned Campbell's soups, Aunt Jemima's maple syrup, Rotel salsa, and Jell-O!" These are just a sample of the great variety offered at several of these places. Great, I'll order him a gift card! Then I imagined my credit card number floating around Amsterdam. Visions of Dutch people selling my identity to some Eastern Block country flitted through my mind. Maybe an international transaction wasn't the best way to go...

The minutes ticked by. My typically bustling office was eerily quite. After a while my meandering searches brought me to a truly hilarious blog written from an American point of view, "Stuff Dutch People Like: 16,629,200 people can't be wrong, right?" I learned, generally speaking, that the Dutch are blunt and enjoy lively debates about politics, religion, and any other delicate topics us wussy Americans shy away from. American indirectness in the land of windmills is seen as dishonesty and hypocrisy.

Dutch food, the blog claims, can be summed up in any one, or combination of, these three cooking methods: Boil it to lifeless mushiness, Mash out any remaining fibrous bits, or Fry the life out of it. The Dutch are also apparently fond of fitting their homes with impossibly steep stairs. There were a couple pictures of staircases that could've passed for a Navy Seal obstacle course. A little history offers explanation. Back in the day, canal houses were taxed according to their width. So, thrifty homeowners built tall, skinny and cheap homes, rather than low, wide, and expensive ones.

The author went on to describe the Dutch's propensity for suspending bikes, strollers, and other wheeled objects from the ceiling in a network of carefully knotted ropes. I'm even afraid of carpeted stairs, having taken a few tumbles in stocking feet. But to daily risk falling and having a three-kid stroller crush you, that's just too much! I'm not one to laugh a lot at jokes. I rarely even open forwarded "funny" emails. But there was something about being alone, reading about 16 million people proudly mashing their fried food and traipsing up near vertical staircases. It was probably the first time I was actually cracked up over a blog. And I had no one to share it with --until now! Happy New Year and see you in 2013!



## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

By Pat Birdsall

**FYI:** As I write this, Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa have come and gone, but the New Year is still looming. I don't make New Year's resolutions anymore because they end up being a futile exercise of unrealistic expectations. One however, I know I can and will keep...stay tuned.

Years ago I wrote a *Bird's Eye View* column that expressed my views on what I call, the "conveyor belts" of life. The largest conveyor belt of all is of course, the "Holiday Season." Usually right after Columbus Day the retailers break out the Halloween decorations and from that point on the snowball effect never stops, it just picks up speed. Before the Halloween decorations are even off the shelves it's time to move on to Thanksgiving, hustle, hustle, hustle! Here's the Butterball hotline number...don't put the stuffing in your turkey while it's cooking or you'll kill your entire family. Dinner over, good! Cue the Black Friday sales blitz people. Move it, move it people, this merchandise has to sell to make ready for the Christmas gifts that just arrived from China. Then, you hear it...*Chi, chi, chi, Chia...* God help me; the Clapper ads can't be far behind. Next, the Little Drummer Boy plays ad-nauseum wherever you go. *Rat-a-tat-tat* ...Before the actual day arrives we have to wade through some very time-worn Christmas specials on television...Burl Ives and his "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" by Fred Astaire. Fred Astaire? My wish for some new Christmas specials would imply that I still believed in Santa Claus wouldn't it? Christmas Day is over in a flash...The gifts are opened, smiles flashed, hugs proffered, etc. Then the gifts are re-packaged, receipts exchanged and the presents are "good-to-go" for return to the stores. Of course, bigger and better sales will be taking place. Whew!

I remembered how I scoffed when my mother told me that when she was a little girl in Omaha, Nebraska, she was so happy to receive an orange in her Christmas stocking. Hmm,progress, ain't it grand?



**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!**

**This is the last segment in this series...** There are so many veterans groups that need your help and there are so many veterans groups that can help *you*. For starters go to [www.veteransnetwork.net](http://www.veteransnetwork.net) I'm sure you will find the perfect match!

**HELPFUL HINT:** ~ Make giant ice cubes in muffin tins or plastic margarine bowls. These are perfect for that New Year's Eve punch bowl. They keep your drinks cold longer and of course are great for the picnic cooler in the summer.

#### FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE

Finding a bottle on the beach, Jake uncorked it and released a genie. "You get three wishes," the genie said. "Yes!" Jake replied. "First, I want one billion dollars." Poof! A bank account statement appeared in his hand. "Next, I want a house in Hawaii." Poof! He was holding the deed to property in Hawaii. "Finally, I want to be irresistible to women." Poof! Jake turned into a box of chocolates.

A couple was discussing buying a new automobile. He wanted a new pickup truck. She said, "Tomorrow is my birthday and I want something that goes from zero to 190 in 5 seconds." The next day he gave her a bathroom scale. Services are set for Friday...



#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... December Birthdays...

Pat Karamitos, Joan Hufnagel, Marie Pedersen, Mary Alice Cervera, Carole Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Mignon Grijalva, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Bonnie Garner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Woehler, Arlie Hahn, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher and Cindy Baran. \*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:** Keep your Christmas-heart open all the year round. ~ Jessica Archmint

**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

LUNCH CAFE CLOSED

The Intervale Lunch Cafe will be closed for the holidays on the following days:  
Tuesday, January 1, 2013

Free Blood Pressure Testing: On the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

**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: **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: **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 12:30- 3:30 pm Only .25c per card... For more information call Pat at 626.355.7290



**NEW! On the Move Physical Therapy-** Join local physical therapist, Shannon Vandeveld, at the Senior Center on **Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM for a free consultation.** Shannon will be volunteering her time once a month to help seniors identify any possible physical therapy needs as well as providing basic tips. To make an appointment call the senior services desk at (626) 355-7394.

**Senior Movie Program: Free Movies are shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month.** The films, one contemporary and one vintage, are chosen by the seniors themselves.

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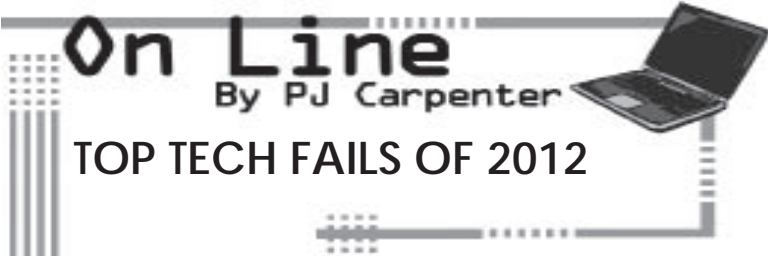
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There has been a lot written about what constitutes the 'Best/Worst' of 2012 where technology is concerned. Here are a few from Doug Gross of CNN:

#### Facebook's IPO

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in New York before his company's initial public offering.

Everybody uses Facebook. And everybody likes to make money. So everybody's going to gobble up Facebook stock, right?

So went the conventional thinking -- at least among those of us who spend more time thinking about mobile phones than mutual funds. But on Wall Street? Not so much.

It's hard to remember a stock opening more hyped than Facebook's when it hit the market in May. The stock began the day worth about \$38. Then, after what everyone predicted to be a dynamic day of trading for the social media superstar, it closed at ... well ... about \$38.

It wouldn't take long for the pinstripe-suit types to decide it wasn't even worth that. Facebook's stock bottomed out in September, falling below \$18. Since then, it's been steadily rebounding and currently sells for about \$28.

Facebook says it has solid financial plans for the future. And the stock may well keep climbing, eventually turning a profit for folks who bought early.

But that fateful day in May will be a reminder that Wall Street and Silicon Valley don't always play well together.

#### Airtime

When the man who created Napster and helped launch Facebook talks, the tech industry listens.

And when Sean Parker and partner Shawn Fanning tease something new called Airtme, techies fall all over themselves to see what the next great innovation will be.

But then, at a fancy launch event featuring celebrities such as Alicia Keys and Snoop Dogg, Parker announces that it's ... basically, a random Web chat tool.

Cue the collective, "Huh?"

It didn't help that, at that fancy event, Airtme crashed over and over again. Or that folks had a hard time seeing how it would be different than Chatroulette (although Parker promised more users would actually be wearing pants).

In October, Parker admitted that Airtme, launched with more than \$33 million in backing, had just 10,000 active users. (That's \$3,300 spent per user, if you're scoring along at home.)

"Running a startup is like eating glass," he said at the All Things D conference. "You just start to like the taste of your own blood."

Ouch.

#### Online coupons

"These aren't your grandma's coupons!" the digital generation so brashly declared.

With their mobile apps and irreverent style, daily-deal offerings such as Groupon and Living Social were all the rage as 2012 dawned.

Now? Um, not so much.

Groupon, perhaps the best-known player in the field, watched its value plummet 79% in 2012. Its stock value dropped about three-quarters since opening in November 2011 as high-profile investors washed their hands of it.

And this is the company Google reportedly tried to buy for \$6 billion in 2010.

LivingSocial, meanwhile, announced last month it was laying off 400 people. That's after announcing months of revenue losses.

So what happened? Inbox fatigue made some users stop checking the deals. A glut of offers you don't care about (pottery classes?) can make your eyes glaze over. And some businesses quit making offers, saying they never saw the promised returns on their investment.

#### Nexus Q

When Google gets something right, they get it really, really right.

Redefining Web search? Yep. World's leading mobile system? Check. A car that drives itself? Vroom!

But some of the Big G's outings in the gadget world have hit with a thud. Enter ... the Nexus Q.

The size and shape of a Magic Eight Ball, the Nexus Q is (or was ... it's hard to say) a media streamer that uses Android to play audio and video. It's also made in the United States, no small thing in a world where virtually all gadgets come from China.

Unfortunately, in the grand tradition of Google Wave, nobody really knew what it was when it was released in June. Its release date was pushed back and, eventually, Google just gave everybody who pre-ordered a free one.

The Q has not officially been canned. But on Google's online store, the never-released gadget is listed as "not available at this time."

#### Stop Online Piracy Act

People protest the proposed Stop Online Piracy Act outside lawmakers' offices in January in New York.

The new law was supposed to be about fighting online piracy. Who's going to be against that, right?

Answer: Pretty much the whole Internet.

Members of Congress sponsored the Stop Online Piracy Act, or SOPA, and related bills to make it easier to shut down websites that illegally share music, movies and other content.

But opponents argued it went too far and could end up shutting down legitimate sites while stifling free expression in the process.

Unfortunately for backers of SOPA, Web heavyweights such as Google, Facebook, Reddit and Wikipedia joined the fight against the bill. Sites went black on January 18 to raise awareness. Members of communities such as Reddit put intense pressure on lawmakers (including soon-to-be GOP vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan) until they dropped their support or went on record opposing the bill.

The unprecedented backlash eventually caused supporters to shelve SOPA, and quite possibly ushered in a new age of Web activism.

## BUSINESS TODAY

*The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques*

By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA



## YEAR-END BUSINESS PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Are you satisfied with what you have been able to accomplish with your business during the past year? Twelve months ago when you envisioned what was ahead, certainly you envisioned where you'd like to be with your business. Now is an ideal time to review your progress and develop a major gameplan for the next twelve months.

A review of your most recent annual plan is the first step. Did you reach your goals? If yes, pat yourself on the back. Congratulations are still in order if you took steps to make progress that was meaningful and measurable. It is important to pinpoint where you are now in relation to those goals, then recommit to the ones that remain relevant to your business success. It is equally important to eliminate goals from the list that are no longer relevant to what you want or what you're willing to do.

Win or lose, after every professional sports competition everyone with some significant role participates in some type of review process. Whether it is an individual or team sport, athletes understand the importance of taking a look at what they did, and how they did it throughout the game. It always begins with the post-competition reflection that happens immediately following the game.

Coaches and player alike are bombarded with questions about the game before they can even leave the venue where the game was played. You can conduct the same type of "on the spot" interview with yourself to reflect on your performance as an entrepreneur. How do you feel about how you executed your plan? What did you do well? What can you do better? Are you satisfied with the outcome?

In the area of finances, how did you do? For the year, how were sales? When were they highest? What is the profit for the year? Do you need to upgrade your accounting system or update your records to answer these fundamental questions?

How do you think you did in other areas like staffing, inventory, marketing, etc.

The next step in the process is typically a more formal, structured review that includes all primary stakeholders. In sports, this usually entails a review of footage from the game, which allow the participants to isolate specific plays and moves, rewinding and freezing frames. It allows for meaningful discussion about ways to improve the next performance. By the same token, as a business owner, you should schedule time to conduct a thorough review of each major aspect of your business, asking more indepth questions.

You can start by answering three questions for each major area of your business operations. What did I feel good about? What will make it better? What am I willing to do to correct or improve in this area? This seemingly simple process will provide valuable information to help you set the stage for a better, stronger business over the next twelve months.

**Social Media Tips & Tricks**  
By Merri Jill Finstrom

**YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO COME UP WITH ORIGINAL CONTENT**

People tend to "like" Facebook pages and follow tweets that keep them informed and entertained. Businesses that share trending, interesting news relevant to their target audience tend to have a stronger following on social media. If you keep this in mind, then coming up with the right content for your audience is a lot easier.

Creating content can be a time consuming and difficult task for some, but providing and sharing information that your audience will eat up is easy. You don't always have to come up with original content. Sometimes, sharing relevant news or an interesting blog that someone else wrote is enough to help you build a strong social media presence.

Google Alerts is a handy tool that will help you find good material. It allows you to monitor the web for specific content. For example, let's say you own a fitness studio. You might position your Facebook page to be a source of trending news about health, fitness and nutrition. You could either write your own articles or share some content that Google Alerts found for you.

Although my brother and I write a lot of our

own material, we recently added a "news room" feature to our Facebook's page ([www.facebook.com/hutdogs](http://www.facebook.com/hutdogs)). It basically crawls the web for trending news stories in our industry. Not only has it helped us build 500 more "likes," it also provides us with great "shareable" content. It's given people a reason to "Like" our page because there is something in it for them...trending, informative news.

If your social media needs a boost this year, try positioning your sites as a source for trending news in your specific area. The news you provide will depend on they type of business you have. For example, if you sell shoes, you might provide trending fashion news or information from podiatrists, etc.

*About MJ:* MJ and her brother David own HUTdogs, a creative services business that specializes in Internet Marketing strategies and Social Media Education for businesses and non-profits. In 2012, they delivered 50 complimentary presentations on Social Media and email marketing to over 1,725 attendees. Join their conversation on Facebook and get good tips and tricks about social media, [www.facebook.com/hutdogs](http://www.facebook.com/hutdogs). Sign up for their upcoming classes and presentations at: [www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule](http://www.hutdogs.com/workshops/schedule)

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## HOWARD Hays As I See It



*"Is this the math you do as a Republican to make yourself feel better?" Fox News host Megyn Kelly, responding to Karl Rove's claim it was too early to call Ohio for Obama*

I heard a radio show where participants tossed out their "favorite" quotations of the year. (The above is a favorite of mine.) There was Mitt Romney's allusion to the "forty-seven percent", and his infamous, "Corporations are people, my friend!"

There was New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R), and his response to Fox and Friends when, after having given President Obama an up-close look at the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, he was asked about arranging a photo-op for Mitt Romney: "I've got 2.4 million people out of power. I've got devastation on the shore. I've got floods in the northern part of my state. If you think right now I give a damn about presidential politics then you don't know me."

For President Obama, there's "Proceed, Governor" and "Louder, Candy" – phrases which might puzzle future researchers, but for those who watched the second presidential debate, will recall the dispelling of any remaining doubts regarding the outcome of the election.

On that radio show, there was barely time for Primary-season gems from Santorum, Cain, Gingrich, et al. (I have one filed away somewhere of Michele Bachmann asserting that a problem the president has going up against Romney is that average voters can't identify with the Obamas' great personal wealth. Yes, she really said it.)

Every fourth year is noted for two major events: a Summer Olympics and a Presidential Election (although for those my age, the Tokyo Olympics and LBJ's landslide over Goldwater carry less prominence than the appearance that year of the Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show.) 2012 will be remembered for President Obama's re-election (and Paul McCartney's appearance at the London Olympics).

It was the year Democrats expanded their majority in the Senate, and kicked out camera-obsessed tea-baggers from the House. Nation-wide, Democratic candidates for House seats got 1.5 million more votes than Republicans. The Center for American Progress notes other developments from 2012 that change history:

The War on Drugs is ending. Spurred by the success of marijuana decriminalization measures in Colorado and Washington State, leaders are emerging from a prohibition and incarceration mindset to shift enormous funds from an unwinnable "war" to focus instead on health, safety, and combating the cartels and true criminals.

New mileage standards issued under President Obama will nearly double fuel efficiency in Made-in-America automobiles by 2025. Consumers are helped by lower gas costs, our environment is helped by lower carbon emissions, and our auto industry is once again competitive with foreign manufacturers who'd assumed an advantage in fuel-efficiency. The big winners are American workers producing cars once again in demand the world over.

More than a million young people who live here, study here, obey the laws here, have families here and wish to contribute to our country and envi-

sion their futures here, need no longer fear deportation for being "undocumented", and will instead be welcomed here to pursue their DREAM.

Throughout the country, voters rejected candidates who felt their having signed Grover Norquist's "pledge" somehow relieved them of responsibility for seriously dealing with taxes, the budget and our economy.

Candidates who sought to impose control over women's choices, like Todd Akin (R-MO), who asserted women rarely get pregnant from "legitimate rape"; Richard Mourdock (R-IN), who referred to pregnancy from rape as "a gift from God"; Linda McMahon (R-CT), who characterized Catholic hospitals' denial of emergency contraception to rape victims as a matter of "separation of church and state"; Tom Smith (R-PA), who equated pregnancies from rape with his daughter's out-of-wedlock motherhood; and John Koster (R-WA), who, in discussing "the rape thing", said allowing access to abortion for rape victims would only "put more violence on a woman's body" – these candidates all lost.

President Obama came out for marriage equality, the first sitting president to do so. From now on, any president who doesn't will be seen as moving backwards.

Voter suppression laws were defeated at the polls and by the courts. It was made clear that however it is Republican strategists intend to win future elections, making it harder for people to vote is not an acceptable way of doing it.

The Affordable Care Act has been upheld by the Supreme Court. The United States now joins the rest of the developed world in moving towards accessible health care for all.

Last week I was in Seattle for some not-fun court business. On an upper floor of the King County Courthouse, I found an assemblage of beaming adults and well-scrubbed children, lots of cameras, group posing, and hugging. An attorney explained to me that Friday is "adoption day" at the court.

I was particularly drawn to a close quartet of four ladies whose smiles were radiant, whose joy was palpable. Two appeared to be a couple in their mid-late-30s. The other two appeared to be sisters, maybe 5-6 years old. The older ones got two new daughters. The younger ones got two new mommies.

The older ones were bundling up the younger ones for Seattle weather. As I walked past, I overheard something about picking up hot cocoa and going home to decorate a tree. I said to them the two words that seemed most appropriate: "Merry Christmas!"

I left the courthouse, turned on the car radio and heard Wayne LaPierre of the N.R.A., who'd called for arming teachers in the wake of the Sandy Hook massacre, described as "crazy", a "loon" and dangerously out-of-date – by Republicans.

LaPierre and the gun fetishists he represents were being discarded as unlamented anachronisms. The new families I'd seen a few minutes earlier, especially those four ladies heading off for hot cocoa and an afternoon of tree-decorating, were being embraced as representing a joyous future. I said to myself the three words that seemed most appropriate: "Happy New Year!"

## JOE GANDELMAN Independent's Eye



## THE BEST, WORST AND MOST OF 2012

Here's my annual list looking at 2012:

**Worst Political Primary Performance of the Year:** Texas Gov. Rick Perry's run for president. It wasn't just his lackluster performance, forgetting his own program during a debate, or that

video suggesting he had either an attack of giddiness or more than a few drinks. Perry never lived up to his advance mainstream and conservative media hype. He was not ready for the national stage. There are signs he will try it again in 2016 and maybe by then he will.

**Best Political Comeback:** California Gov. Jerry Brown. He was once California's youngest governor, and if he's re-elected will be its oldest. Some considered him a political goner as his referendum to raise taxes seemed sagging, but it won. The Politico notes that Brown "has staged a comeback this year that Bill Clinton could appreciate."

**Worst Political Pundit Since the Time of Moses:** Fox News' Dick Morris. He has no shame.

**The Best TV Show:** "Breaking Bad." Better than The Sopranos. A work of art on several levels.

**The Second Best Political Comeback:** Former President Bill Clinton, who laid to rest perceptions that he might have lost his political chops. His Democratic Convention speech confirmed him as one of the most talented politicians of his generation.

**The Most Obnoxious Phrase of 2013:** "Thanks for having me," uttered like a mantra by cable news and ideological talk show guests. I've said that to my mother on Mother's Day.

**The Talk Show Hosts with the Most Annoying Habits:** Both on MSNBC. Rachael Maddow seems to think she needs to repeat a phrase or idea four or five times before going onto the next one. Four or five times she'll say the same phrase but repeat it. A phrase – she'll take it and repeat it four or five times. Runner up: Martin Bashir (increasingly the left's equivalent of Fox News' Sean

Hannity) who constantly uses the word "indeed" like a parrot. (Indeed.)

**The Best Example of a Serious Problem-Solver:** Mitt Romney surrogate New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's willingness to actually say something nice about President Barack Obama. Christie's working with him in Hurricane Sandy's devastating aftermath is how our politics used to work -- when partisan hackery was put aside during crises.

**The Most Clear-cut Examples of Trying to Get Someone Because They Disagree:** More than 30,000 Americans signed a petition to try and get CNN's Piers Morgan deported because of his strong gun-control stand. Some conservatives suggested NBC's David Gregory should be arrested for violating D.C.'s ban of possession of a high capacity ammunition magazine by showing one during his aggressive interview NRA bigwig Wayne LaPierre. So they want Morgan out of the U.S. and Gregory in jail. This does seem a bit of a shift from how we used to conduct our political debate — doesn't it?

**The Worst Thing to Happen:** The murder of virtual babies and dedicated educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

**The Most Predictable Thing to Happen:** The Newtown massacre spawned statements decrying the butchery, and vows that assault weapon laws would be adjusted. The NRA kept mum until LaPierre gave a guns-are-blameless, caricature-affirming, press conference saying no to changing laws. Now the political class may be getting back to "normal": pro-NRA politicians are falling into line and little or nothing may be done. The answer to "how quickly they forget" may be: "Very." The American public's will be: "Never."

**The Best Pizza:** STILL Pepe's Pizza in New Haven, Conn..

*Joe Gandelman is a veteran journalist who wrote for newspapers overseas and in the United States. He has appeared on cable news show political panels and is Editor-in-Chief of The Moderate Voice, an Internet hub for independents, centrists and moderates. CNN's John Avlon named him as one of the top 25 Centrists Columnists and Commentators. He can be reached at jgandelman@themoderatevoice.com and can be booked to speak at your event at www.mavenproductions.com.*

## WOLVES AMONGST THE LAMBS GREG Welborn



The mass shooting at the Newtown school has saddened us beyond the ability of words to convey. But sad also has been the left's knee-jerk reaction to both remind us that this shouldn't be politicized while they use the event to politic for more gun control laws. Their hypocrisy never ceases to amaze me nor does their denial of the one truth in this whole issue – a truth which would do more to prevent future massacres than any set of laws that could be crafted.

First, let's deal with the assertion that guns have anything to do with this. To understand this, we need to understand the differences between gun homicide, mass killings and random killings. The overall homicide rate has fallen by over half in the last 30 years - we are safer now than ever before – and gun homicides have also fallen with the overall rate. Mass killings (defined as 4 or more fatalities) have fluctuated over the years, but there has been absolutely no long-term increase or decrease in mass killings. Random killings, however, show a different trend altogether. Random killings are a subset of mass killings. They represent the killing of 4 or more people in which at least some of the victims are chosen randomly. The killer who returns to his old employer's office is not targeting people randomly. A killer who goes to a school looking for victims who have no connection to him is committing a random killing. Random killings have increased over the last 30 or so years, and we need to understand why they, as opposed to other murders, have increased. The answer is not gun control. Gun control laws have become more extreme over the last half century. Before 1968, there were no federal gun restrictions in place, and very few states had restrictions. Our history prior to the 1970s is a history of gun ownership but very few random killings. Our history since has been one of increasing gun restrictions and increased random killings. Some would argue that the type of weaponry is different. "Assault weapons" and/or larger magazine clips are somehow to blame. Here again, the facts don't fit the claim. First of all, no assault weapon restrictions were in place until California issued one in 1989, yet the existence of these weapons before that date did not result in lots of random killings. Even the much maligned AR-15 semi-automatic "assault rifle" was openly available to anyone prior to the 1970s but is heavily controlled today. Magazines which can hold 10 or more bullets are also not a new phenomenon. They've been around for a half century or so. Neither the existence of automatic weapons or of multi-round magazines can in any way be the cause of our increased frequency of random killings.

What can possibly be the explanation, then, of the increase in random killings? One reason is the existence of gun control laws in the first place. As professor John Lott has copiously documented in his book, *More Guns Less Crime*, guns are more often used for self defense and to stop violent crime than they are to kill innocent people. In fact, the more that states restrict gun ownership, the higher the crime rate goes. This flies in the face of the trend toward trying to create "gun-free zones". Many of the attacks that we find so abhorrent are in fact being committed in gun-free zones for the very reason that the attacker knows his intended victims are unarmed. We rarely hear about the public venues where armed citizens actually stopped a would-be killer (Anniston AL 1991, Edinboro PA 1998, Colorado Springs CO 2007), but they are compelling. Just last week, an armed citizen stopped a murderer who had just killed two people in an Oregon mall.

The difference in how guns are used brings us to the truth which so disturbs the left: the importance of morality – a sense of right and wrong. Could it possibly be that the reason we're seeing more random mass killings – a particularly heinous act because the victims are truly innocent and unrelated to the killer – is because fewer people today subscribe to the traditional Judeo-Christian concept of a sovereign God who established absolute rules of right and wrong? Up until about the mid 1960s, our schools taught, and our culture widely accepted, a shared God-ordained meaning of right and wrong, and character development was an important part of education. Students at all levels were taught the virtue of self-control. Now they're taught about the importance of their own self-esteem. Divorced from the concept that there is any absolute moral judgment of their actions, we shouldn't be surprised to find that more people are willing to murder truly innocent victims just because they're having a bad day. Nor should we be surprised by the fact that most violent criminals in prison have high self-esteem.

The last refuge of those who don't want to acknowledge the importance of universal moral values is to ascribe these killings to mental illness. To my knowledge, we have no higher a percentage of mentally ill people in society today than we had 50, 100, or 200 years ago. Arguably, society was less tolerant of mental illness or extreme emotional distress in the past than it is today. Where are the statistics showing that more people "snapped" and murdered during the Great Depression or as a result of being sent to ghastly prison camps in WWII?

No, the answer to our problem is that we have weakened our emphasis on morality. Too many of our elites buy into the leftist notion that there are no absolutes and/or that evil doesn't exist. The truth is there are wolves among us, and we have become all too willing to allow them to roam amongst the lambs.

*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](mailto:gregwelborn2@gmail.com)*

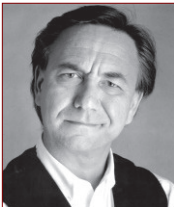


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## THE TOP TEN COMEDIC NEWS STORIES OF 2012



Raging Moderate, by Will Durst

First a disclaimer: The Top Ten Comedic News Stories of 2012 should not under any circumstances be confused with the Top Ten Legitimate News Stories of 2012. They are as different as red satin cummerbunds and Liar's Dice. Duck liver and Spanish moss. Matched pearl necklaces and motorcycle handlebars.

For those of you itching to point out that some stories, especially those involving death, destruction, devastation and disaster are not proper subjects for this sort of fanciful folderol -- way ahead of you. Totally agree. Exactly why the Aurora, Colo. movie theater massacre, Hurricane Sandy, Jerry Sandusky and the movie John Carter failed to make the cut.

Also left off the list are a few of the fiendishly frivolous footprints despoiling the sands of this annus horribilis such as Lindsay Lohan's continuing struggles with sobriety, that curious craze called Gangnam Style, the introduction of the iPhone 5 and Facebook's roller-coaster IPO.

That said; here they are, the key stories from the past year providing the purest opportunities for major mocking and scoffing and taunting as determined by the executive council of the Comics, Clowns, Jesters & Satirists Union. Me.

10. Donald Trump. Assumes figurehead post of Birther Movement. Then refuses to shut up all year long, including several embarrassing tweets on Election Day. An ever-gushing political comedy material fountain with all the grace and elegance of tumbling dumpsters.

9. First Presidential Debate. Turned what was becoming a slam-dunk into a horse race. Seventy million Americans tuned in. But for some unknown reason, President Obama was not among them.

8. The entire GOP primary campaign. Party plays Candidate Whack-A-Mole for five months. Everybody takes turns beating Romney like a red-headed stepchild, including some folks who aren't even running.

7. London Olympics. Ann Romney's horse Rafalca competes in Dressage. Event where the horse and the rider perform predetermined movements. Which you would think would be illegal in Utah. But horse fails to medal and probably gets shipped home strapped to the fuselage of a 747. McKayla Maroney remains unimpressed.

6. Vice Presidential Debate. Joe Biden goes all Malarkey on Paul Ryan. Two words -- decaf. Bold Choice Ryan blames Obama for GM plant closing in '08. Fails to implicate POTUS in fall of the Roman Empire. But just barely.

5. Barack Obama comes out in support of gay marriage. Emerges from his own personal policy closet like a butterfly emerging from a conflicted cocoon.

4. Mitt Romney vows to get rid of Big Bird, losing him pivotal pre-adolescent vote.

3. Democratic National Convention. Specifically, Bill Clinton laying out the precise reasons why America should re-elect as president... Bill Clinton.

2. Republican National Convention. Specifically, Clint Eastwood upstaging the nominee's acceptance speech by getting into an argument with an empty chair. Which he proceeded to lose. Probably upset him so badly he rushed back to the hotel room where he got into a squabble with his armoire.

1. Mitt Romney. All the charisma of a plastic picnic fork with three of the tines snapped off. May have run the worst campaign ever. And that includes New Coke, McCain/Palin and France in '39.

Five-time Emmy nominee Will Durst's new e-book, "Elect to Laugh!" published by Hyperink, now available at Redroom.com, Amazon or any fine virtual book retailer near you.

And don't forget the 20th Annual Big Fat Year End Kiss Off Comedy Show, Dec. 26-Jan. 1. 6 comics. 7 cities. 8 shows. Details at facebook or willdurst.com.

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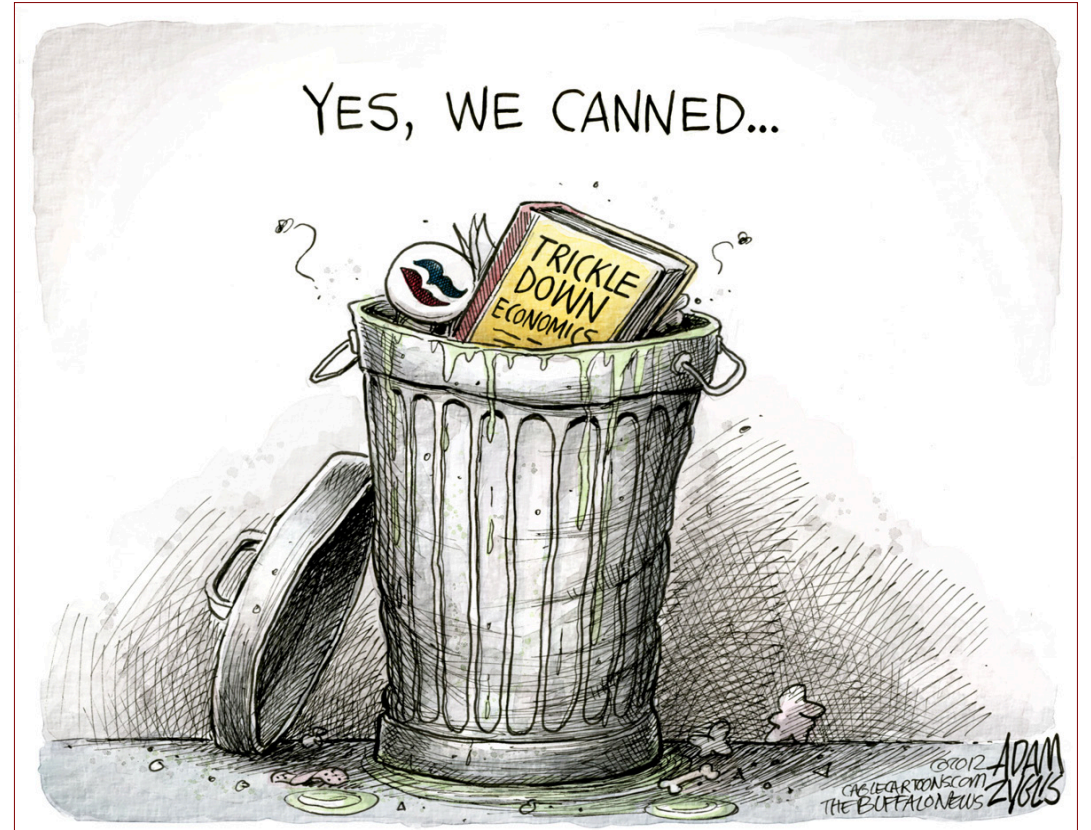
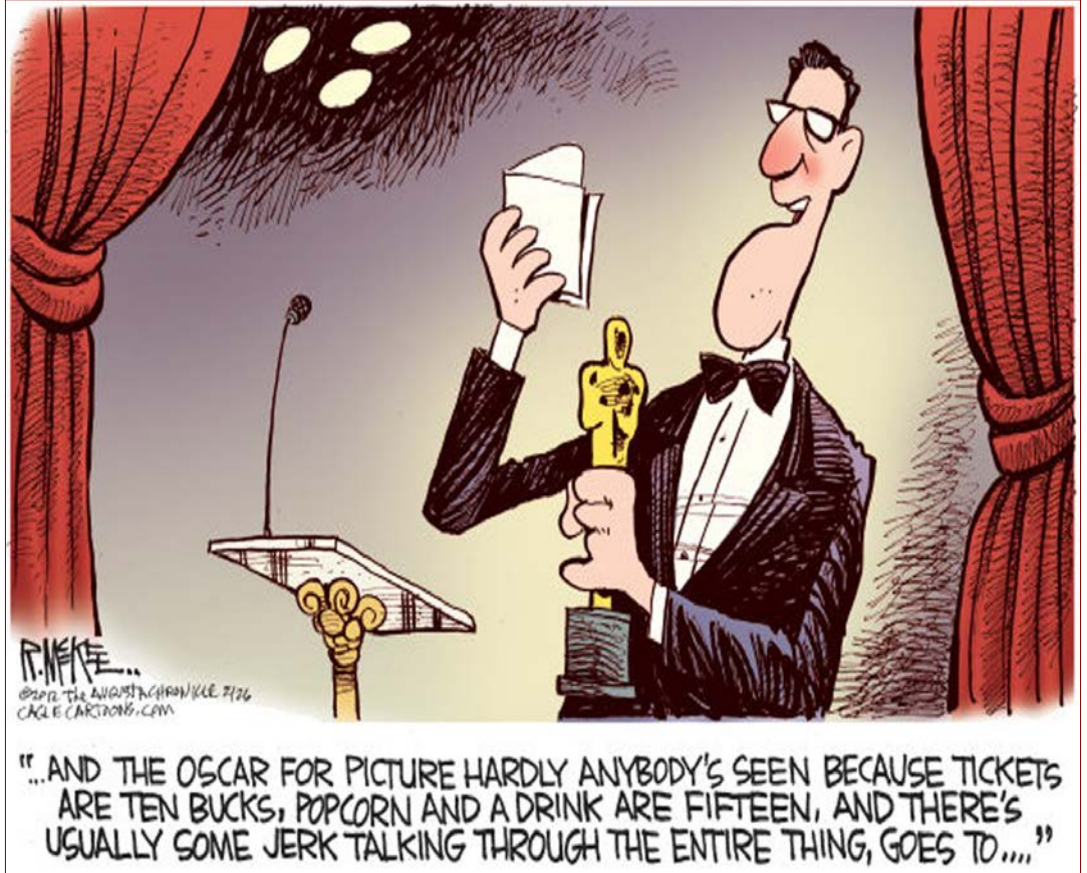
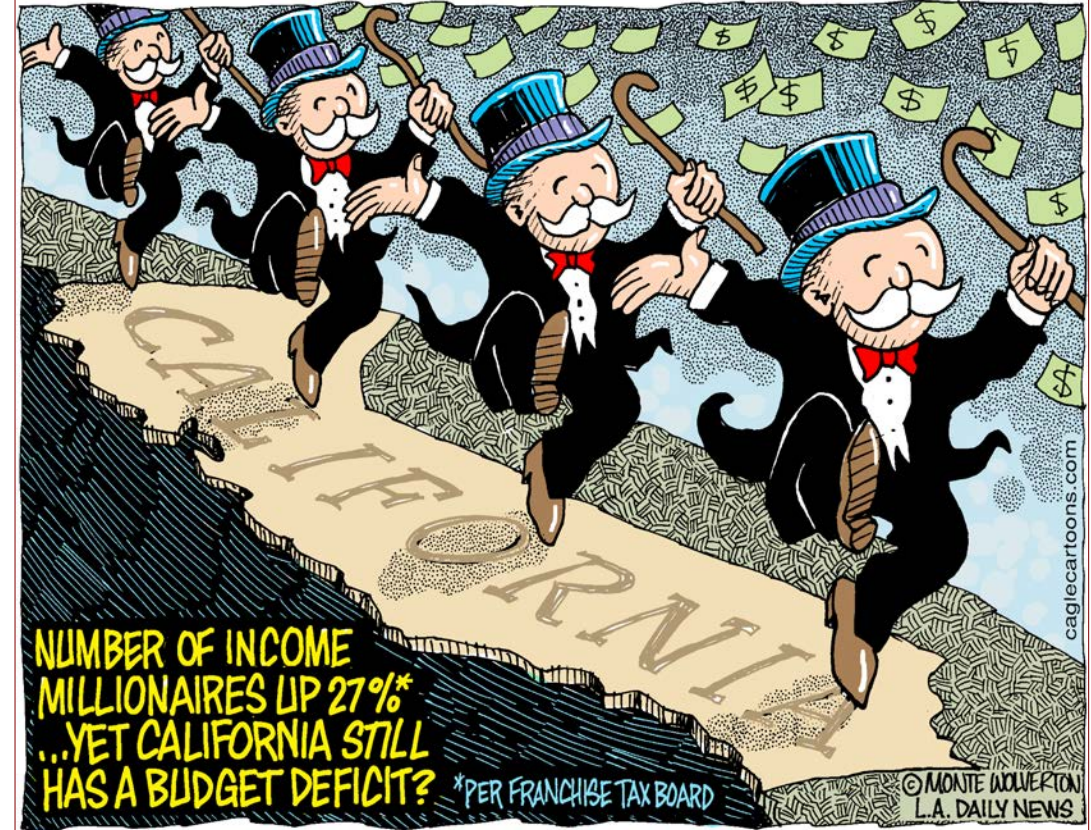
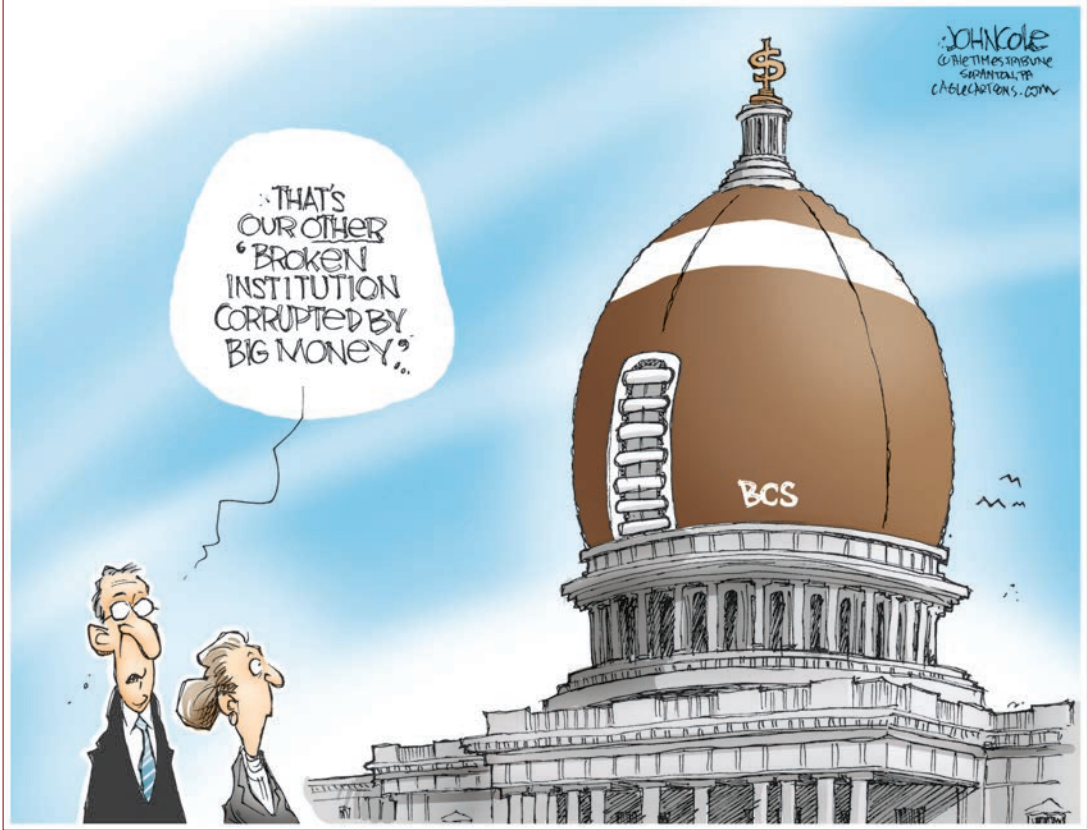












OUR FAVORITE 2012 POLITICAL QUOTES: SOME TRUTHFUL, SOME COMEDIC AND THE RIDICULOUS

(Not in order of significance)

- \* "There are a whole bunch of hardworking people out there. If you were successful, somebody along the line gave you some help. There was a great teacher somewhere in your life. Somebody helped to create this unbelievable American system that we have that allowed you to thrive. Somebody invested in roads and bridges. If you've got a business — you didn't build that." — Obama
- \* "(Florida Gov.) Rick Scott doesn't seem to have any political skills at all. I'd give him a 'B' for governing. I'd give him an 'A' for strangeness." — Former Florida GOP chairman Tom Slade
- \* "Osama bin Laden is dead, and General Motors is alive." — Vice President Biden
- \* "There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president no matter what. All right, there are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe that government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it." — Romney
- \* "Before we get started, let's all say 'Happy Birthday' to Elvis Presley today." — Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-MN)
- \* Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, on the veracity of Obama's birth records. "The representative we have now is reprehensible and Republican and retarded." — retired Cass County judge Carl Gum, on Rep. Vicky Hartzler of Missouri
- \* "I'm also unemployed." — Mitt Romney
- \* "[Speaker of the House] John Boehner has been re-elected, a stirring victory for orange Americans across the land." -- Current TV anchor John Fugelsang

BUT THE VERY BEST QUOTE OF 2012 CAME FROM PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA: "There's not a liberal America and a conservative America. There's the United States of America."



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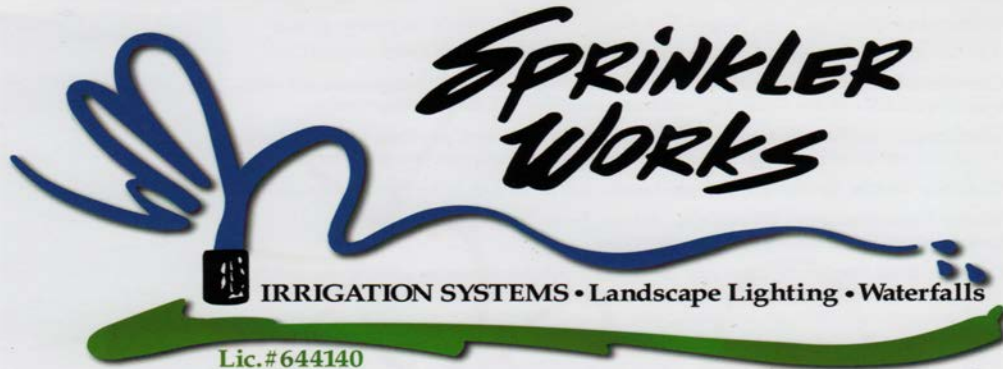
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