



# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Duarte — Monrovia

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013

VOLUME 7 NO 8

## A New Vine Comes To Life:

### VILLAGE VINE ONLINE - SIERRA MADRE'S INTERNET RADIO STATION LAUNCHED



Tina Salvatore and Carol Canterbury who broadcast Canterbury Tales each week, were on hand at the State of the City address for a live transmission. If you missed the event, you can go to [www.villagevine.org](http://www.villagevine.org) and hear the re-broadcast

Earlier this month, a new institution was introduced to the community. The successor to Radio Fishbowl, a local internet radio station that has been in operation for a little over a year, VILLAGE VINE ONLINE was launched at T. Boyles Sports Bar to a full house of supporters.

The station, which offers 24/7 radio programming, can be accessed anywhere there is an internet connection, including desktop computers, smart phones and tablets. In addition to a wide range of music for listeners, there are several thought provoking, entertaining shows. (See calendar on page two).

Live Broadcasts are also a part of the VVO experience. At the State of the City address this week, broadcasters Tina Salvatore and Carol Canterbury were on hand to broadcast the festivities to those unable to attend.

The station is owned by the Jim Moran Community Radio Foundation, Inc., a non profit agency named in honor of Moran who was the creator of Radio Fishbowl. Gene Goss is the Chairman of the Corporation and serves as its CEO and Jeff Rudisill is the interim General Manager.

To access the station, simply go to: [villagevine.org](http://villagevine.org). There you can listen to live broadcasts or access the archives and listen to programming that you may have missed.

#### PSA's

If you have a public service announcement for a non-profit organization or civic event, the station can webcast the announcement. VVO also has the ability to professionally produce announcements.

For more information, go to [www.villagevine.org](http://www.villagevine.org) and click on "Contact Us"

**SIERRA MADRE & THE PUSD:** Beginning March 2nd, the Mountain Views News will begin a series on the recent events involving the SM City Council, Sierra Madre Residents, Sierra Madre School Parents and The PUSD.

## School/City Work Plan Approved By Council, PUSD

by Dean Lee



Touting what officials called a plan to strengthen ties and align resources between the city of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) to improve students' education was approved Tuesday night during the annual joint meeting of the Board of Education and the City Council.

"Tonight we've taken some important steps in aligning PUSD and the City into a progressive 'community schools' program to help us work together to achieve stronger results for our students," Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard said. "The plan will be a living document that brings the City, the District, parents, teachers and community together to demonstrate how our joint efforts are producing accountable results."

Continued on page 5

## MAYOR DELIVERS STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

By Bill Coburn

The City hosted its 3rd Annual State of the City event on Tuesday in the Sierra Madre Room at the Rec Center. Mayor Nancy Walsh emceed the evening, introducing 3rd graders from Sierra Madre School who performed several songs from their recent spotlight assembly led by former principal Gayle Bluemel and their teachers, Girl Scout Troops 8471 and 13,731 from St. Rita, who presented colors as they have every year since the City first started doing the State of the City event, and then Mayor Josh Moran.

Mayor Moran began by noting that like former Mayors Mosca and Buchanan before him at the previous SOTC events, he was able to report that the City is still operating on a balanced budget, thanks in part to a staff reorganization that is projected to save the City a quarter of a million dollars annually, thanks to City staff not receiving their Cost of Living Adjustment increases for the third year in a row, thanks to the PD and the City reaching an agreement that did not call for raises for personnel, and thanks to a lot of cuts in every department. And unfortunately, the future looks like more of the same.

Noting that General Fund revenue, which pays for things like first responders, Library and Recreation services, streets and sidewalks, and administrative costs amounted to \$8,263,000, the Mayor added that the bulk of the funding for that (53%) comes from property taxes 31% comes from the Utility User Tax (UUT), and the remainder from sales, tax, franchise fees, business licenses and other fees. Unfortunately, only 22 cents on the dollar comes back to the City from the property taxes Sierra Madreans pay, and while trend of costs since the recession has been an annual 2-5% year over year increase in cost, property taxes over the last five years have increased only 3% total. According to the figures cited by the City, this negative ratio of revenue to expenses projects to a \$300,000 shortfall for FY 2013-2014, and \$400,000 shortfall for FY 2014-2015. If the UUT sunsets, which it will unless it is put back on the ballot and voters choose to extend it, the projections show a \$1.1 million deficit in FY 2015-2016 and \$1.7 million shortfall in FY 2016-2017.

On the plus side, at the beginning of this year's budget cycle, the City did still have \$4,860,000 in reserves, and the projections show that at the end of this year's budget cycle on June 30th, there will be a \$78,000 surplus.

Mayor Moran also briefly discussed the Water Fund, noting that "we have a huge hole literally and figuratively, in the water department. Right now we're operating at a deficit to the tune of about a half a million dollars." He said that the City has a rate study underway to look at the cost of covering not only the expense of pumping and delivering the water, but also the capital expenses involved with the water dept., which he said pumped nearly a billion gallons of water last year.

The Mayor pointed out that cuts have been so extensive that "we are at a point where expenditure reductions truly equal a reduction in services."

But a good part of the evening was spent celebrating the accomplishments of the City. He noted that the Library has more registered borrowers than there are people in the City, with more than 11,000. Community Services had more than 6,000 participants at the 4th of July festivities, and served more than 9,000 meals to seniors. Public Works repaired more than 12,000 sq. feet of sidewalks, curbs and gutters, cleaned more than 159,000 feet of sewer lines, replaced more than 2,000 sq. ft. of asphalt, and pumped 950,000 gallons of water. The Police Department responded to 14,000 calls for service and made more than 400 arrests, and while burglaries had increased, there were zero robberies. The Fire Dept. made more than 1900 inspections, and the FD and the paramedics responded to nearly 900 calls, nearly 80% of which were medical calls. He recognized the General Plan Update Steering Committee for their hard work and being close to completing the General Plan update. The



Above: Mayor Josh Moran delivers a serious, yet upbeat State of the City to a packed house on Tuesday evening. Quote of the evening, "One hundred year old houses are quaint. One hundred year old pipes, ain't", in reference to the state of some of the cities key water pipelines.

Below, the audience is captivated by 3rd Graders from Sierra Madre Elementary School.

Photos by S. Henderson/MVNews



City's technology has been updated, and now people can pay for their water bills and parking citations online, they can purchase overnight parking passes online, or download agenda packets for the City Council meetings. Grants have been received to help pay for not only replacement of trees destroyed in the 2011 windstorm, but also to create a Tree Master Plan.

Also listed as accomplishments were keeping the pool open year round through a public/private partnership with Waterworks, the new Police MOU, the completion of the remodeled Children's room in the Library, updating the City Hall and PD entries to be ADA compliant and the resurfacing of several streets in town, with more to come. He said we can anticipate replenishment of the East Raymond Basin water supply, the rebuilding of well 3 and the replacement of the Chlorine Analyzer, as well as the connection to the Metropolitan Water District pipeline for emergency use. The paramedics will be replacing the City's cardiac defibrillators to help keep residents safe, businesses will soon be able to purchase or pay for their business licenses online, and Phase III street improvements.

He closed by saying that it's been an honor to serve as Mayor for the last ten months, and adding that he looked forward to the upcoming discussions with City staff and the City Council to find the balance for our beloved City of Sierra Madre.

Excerpts of the Annual Report on Page 4

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Cal Tech President To Step Down

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## Weather Wise

## 5-Day Forecast

## Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Mon:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Tues:</b>	Rain	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Wed:</b>	Rain	Hi 50s	Lows 30s
<b>Thur:</b>	Sunny	Hi 60s	Lows 40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Sunny	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:

## STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

February 19, 6:30

The Sierra Madre Room  
Sierra Madre Recreation Center

February 26, 2013 6:30pm

Regular City Council Meeting

## COMMUNITY EVENT CALENDAR:

2/27 - Sierra Madre Woman's Club: 106th Birthday Tea & Sierra Madre Music

2/28 - Sierra Madre CERT Training

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).

VILLAGE VINE ONLINE  
(FORMERLY 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!!!

WEDNESDAY - Noon Carol Canterbury & Tina Salvatore  
'CANTERBURY TALES'

THURSDAYS - Noon Catherine Adde's  
OUR TRAVEL AFFAIR  
Lisa Workman from  
Micanto Safaris- We'll be  
Africa bound!

FRIDAY - Noon Gene Goss'  
VILLAGE INTERSECTIONS

Gene's guest on Village Intersections this week is Gordon Caldwell, longtime proprietor of GEM Plumbing and WW II Veteran of the Pacific Theater. Gordon will discuss his experiences on the USS Saratoga. This show is in conjunction with the reading of the book Unbroken this month for One Book/ One City. Don't miss this interview!

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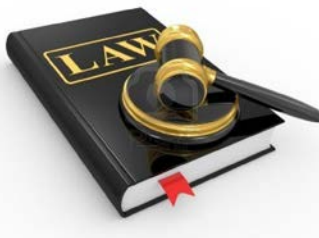
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## SIERRA MADRE LAW CLINIC

The free Sierra Madre Law Clinic will be open on February 20 and February 23, 2013, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at 19 Suffolk Avenue, Suite A, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

Local attorney, Noah Green, will be available during clinic hours for legal consultations on many areas of the law, including the following:

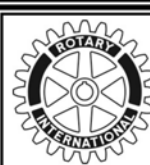
- Real estate contracts or disputes, including mortgages and leases
- Business disputes
- Employment law, including hiring/firing, harassment, and wage & hour issues
- Debt workouts or bankruptcy reorganization/liquidation
- Forming or dissolving a corporation or LLC
- Estate and/or business succession plans
- Work-related injuries or premises-related injuries.

If you have any questions regarding the clinic, please call Noah Green at (626) 568-8808, or by e-mail at [ngreen@ryanattorneys.com](mailto:ngreen@ryanattorneys.com).



## THE SIERRA MADRE KIWANIS CLUB

A PROUD MEMBER OF KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL SINCE 1927.  
THAT'S 85 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE!  
WE MEET WEEKLY AT THE LODGE (FORMERLY THE MASONIC TEMPLE) AT 33 E. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.  
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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## WISTARIA FESTIVAL SHUTTLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Shuttle tickets to ride up to view the Wistaria Vine at the annual Wistaria Festival will be available for purchase on February 15th. The 2013 Wistaria Festival will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The Festival features tours of the world's largest blossoming plant, certified by the Guinness Book of World Records. Each year, the property owners upon whose land the vine sits open their property to allow thousands to view the vine. Dozens of Sierra Madre residents volunteer to act as docents at the property, telling the story of the vine, which was originally planted from a 1-gallon pot that was purchased for \$0.75 in 1894. In addition to the tours of the vine, the two main downtown streets of Sierra Madre are closed to traffic so that crafters and artists can set up booths to display and sell their arts/crafts. Downtown village shops are open, and musical acts perform at multiple outdoor venues. Memorial Park is transformed into a combination Kids/Food zone, as bouncy houses, slides, rock climbing and other kids attractions set up in the park alongside food vendors, both for profit and non-profit alike.

The shuttle to the vine from downtown avoids a long uphill walk from downtown to the neighborhood in which the vine sits. "Day of" tickets for the shuttle are \$14 this year, and pre-sale tickets are \$12. Also this year seniors (over 65) and children (6 to 16) receive a discounted rate of \$7. Children under five ride for free. Families of 6 or more can ride the shuttle of \$30. (No more than 2 adults).

Go to [www.wistariatickets.com](http://www.wistariatickets.com) or call 626-355-5111 today!

## SPECIAL SIERRA MADRE POSTMARKS AVAILABLE AT WISTARIA FESTIVAL

The United States Postal Service and the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce announce a special postal cancellation to celebrate The Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival.

This special postmark will be available at the Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival, Sunday March 17, 2013 at the Wistaria Festival Postal Station located at Kersting Court in Sierra Madre at Sierra Madre Boulevard and Baldwin Avenue.

This special temporary postal station will be open 11 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Bring post cards or letters. You can send mail and post from this special event post office and surprise your friends when they receive mail with this extraordinary postmark.

The announcement of this postal cancellation has been printed in the U. S. Postal Bulletin which is distributed world wide. To accommodate collectors from out of the area the Sierra Madre Post Office will cancel postcards and letters upon request with the Wistaria cancellation for 30 days after the event.

To postmark a letter after the event go to Sierra Madre Post office and request The Wistaria Postmark on your mail.

For more information contact: The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce (626) 355-5111  
The U. S Post Office, Sierra Madre, California 91024

(Note: The Sierra Madre Wistaria Festival spells Wistaria with an "a" not with an "e").



## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

For the Period February 11-17, 2013

### Friday February 15, 2013

A resident from the 300 block of Sycamore Place reported that portions of her house had been vandalized by an unknown suspect. A light fixture had been pulled down from the front door area and a decorative item was damaged. Additionally, liquid and another unknown substance had been scattered on the front porch.

### Saturday February 16, 2013

During the early morning hours, unknown suspects removed property from seven parked vehicles. These vehicles were parked in the 100 block of East Laurel and Grandview Avenues. Five of the vehicles were left unsecured overnight. The suspects entered, ransacked the interiors and removed items such as money, and small electronic devices. During this same time period, a bicycle was reported taken from a back yard in the same general area. Preliminarily, it appears that the same suspects are responsible for all the crimes.

## Sierra Madre Playhouse' Production of 'Driving Miss Daisy' Receives OVATION RECOMMENDATION From L.A. Stage Alliance - Performances extended through March 30th

The Sierra Madre Playhouse production of "Driving Miss Daisy" has received an Ovation Recommended designation from L.A. Stage Alliance, the non-profit organization dedicated to building awareness, appreciation and support for the performing arts in Greater Los Angeles.

LA Stage Alliance Ovation Awards are the only peer-judged theatre awards in Los Angeles, created to recognize excellence in theatrical performance, production and design in the Greater Los Angeles area. Each year, 400 productions compete in 35 Ovation Categories, and are evaluated by a pool of 250 vetted Ovation Voters, who are all currently working theatre professionals. The Awards are presented at the end of each year.

Our "Ovation Recommended" says the votes we have received to date by voters who have attended are better than top 15% of all votes placed for Los Angeles theater. It is a good first indication of possible Ovation nomination as the 2013 season goes forward.



According to the show's producer, Estelle Campbell, several elements fell into place with this first production of the Sierra Madre Playhouse's 2013 season ensuring its success. Christian Lebano, who directed last season's L.A. Times Critics Choice production of Alan Ayckbourn's "Woman In Mind", was available to direct "Driving Miss Daisy". As well, Drama Desk Award winning actress, Mary Lou Rosato, veteran of eleven shows on Broadway; Drama Desk Award winner for her performance in "The School For Scandal" and nominated for a Tony and Drama Desk Awards for her role in Alfred Uhry's musical "Robber Bridegroom" chose this to be the moment to do her first Equity waiver production in Los Angeles where she now is co-head of the Cal Arts Theater Department. The role of Daisy Werthan's chauffeur is played by Willie C. Carpenter, from the new TV series "1600 Penn". Also a Broadway veteran, he auditioned for the original production of "Driving Miss Daisy" when, he claims he was too young to play the part that Morgan Freeman made his own. Brad Reed and Mitch Ward round out the cast beautifully. A final element was the decision to have Jonathan Beard compose original music for the show to lend a hand to the 25 year journey of this unlikely friendship through a period of great change in Atlanta.

Performances run Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2:30. There will be a 6 p.m. performance of the show on the day of the Wistaria Festival, March 18.

For further information and to purchase tickets go to [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org) or contact the box office at (626)355-4318

## 2013 HUCK FINN FISHING DERBY AND CAMPOUT - The Fishing Frenzy is about to begin in Sierra Madre!

The annual Huck Finn Fishing Derby and Campout will be here before you know it: Friday, April 5 – Sunday, April 7. The weekend long event is held at the Sierra Madre Settling Ponds next to Dapper Field and behind the Public Works Yard. The event is sponsored by the City of Sierra Madre Community Services Department, Sierra Madre Civic Club and the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club.

### Campout (Friday, April 5)

Participants must sign up in advance for campsites which are available on a first come, first serve basis. Camping registration is available starting Monday, February 25 through Friday, March 29 and must be done at the Community Service office located at 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The cost is \$55 per campsite which includes derby contest for four kids and family fishing on Saturday.

### Fishing Derby (Saturday, April 6)

Youths ages 3-15 years are encouraged to participate in the Fishing Derby which is held from 7:00 – 11:30 am on Saturday, April 6. Participation in the derby is \$10 per youth and registration will be accepted the morning of the event only. Participants will pay at the entrance located next to Dapper Field in Sierra Vista Park. All skill levels are welcome and experienced Fishing Guides will be on hand to assist all participants. The Kiwanis Club will provide food available for purchase.

### Family Fishing (Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7)

Family Fishing is open to all ages and will be held Saturday from 12:30-4:00 pm and Sunday from 7:00am-4:00pm. Admission is \$20 for a family of four.

For more information, please contact the Community Services office at 626.355.5278.

## DUARTE'S APPEAL OF AZUSA/VULCAN MATERIALS EIR DENIED BY STATE COURT OF APPEAL

DUARTE, CA – The City of Duarte appeal, filed August 5, 2012 with the State Court of Appeal as part of its ongoing battle to save Van Tassel Ridge from being destroyed by a massive Vulcan Materials Company mining expansion project, was denied today.

Duarte's lawsuit, originally filed in August 2010 and first heard in the Superior Court in late March of 2011, challenged the validity of the Environmental Impact Report prepared for the mining expansion project. Duarte's challenge was originally denied at the Superior Court on May 9, 2012. Today's Court of Appeal decision upholding the Superior Court judgment will not be final for approximately 30 days.

"We just received word from the Court of Appeal that our challenge to Azusa/Vulcan EIR has been rejected. We have not yet reviewed the court's opinion and will be discussing its impacts with the City Council in the near future. Duarte is to be commended for fighting Vulcan's mining expansion project and making the preservation of our mountains a priority for both our residents and the San Gabriel Valley as a whole," said Duarte City Manager, Darrell George.

The appeal process included a new review of the case by a three-judge panel and involved preparation of an administrative record, the filing of three briefs, a hearing, and ruling which came down today. Duarte's appeal focused on its stance that the Azusa City Council's violated the California Environmental Quality Act and sought to overturn its certification of the Final Environment Impact Report and related entitlements for the mining expansion project. Duarte's challenge identified numerous deficiencies in the EIR, including insufficient analysis of project alternatives, insufficient analysis of air quality impacts from blasting and trucking activities, ignoring South Coast Air Quality recommendations on the location and number of air monitoring stations, and Azusa's failure to impose any mitigation measures for potential liquefaction impacts.

As approved by the Azusa City Council, the Vulcan mining expansion project is poised to destroy Van Tassel Ridge as Vulcan plans to extract 105.6 million tons of aggregate from the mountain between now and 2038. Over that same period, the City of Azusa stands to make more than \$65 million in mining fees and incentives from Vulcan at the expense of its neighbors in Duarte.

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# SIERRA MADRE

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## EXCERPTS FROM THE SIERRA MADRE ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY REPORT

### *The Departments That Keep Our Town A Pristine Village and What They Do*

#### Library Services Department

**PURPOSE:**

The Library Services Department provides public access to current and historical information through physical and electronic collections; delivers services and programs supportive of lifelong learning, critical thinking, cultural enrichment and community engagement; maintains the City's Website; and posts City documents and news. Public internet access is available through wireless connections and computers within the library. Library staff are trained to assist patrons in using technology effectively.

**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Six full-time, Eleven part-time

**COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OVERSEES:**

Library Board of Trustees

**STATISTICS:**

11,380 Registered Borrowers  
105,121 Books in Circulation  
55,747 Book Volumes Held  
13,312 Public Computer Sessions  
225 eBooks  
4000 adults & children program attendees

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Held I Love My Library Contest
- Completed Community Survey
- Received grant for assessing and preserving local history
- Received grant for digital storyboards to showcase "Sierra Madre Stories & Treasures"
- Installed Ancestry.com database
- New Book Alerts on Library website
- Remodeled Rotary Children's Room
- City Agenda Packets online; ordinances & resolutions to be online
- Advocacy Training for Library Trustees
- New Free Book Bench courtesy of Eagle Project



#### Development Services Department

**PURPOSE:**

The Development Services Department is responsible for the City's Planning and Building & Safety divisions. The Department provides efficient and effective professional planning and building services to the citizens of Sierra Madre and to development professionals while safeguarding life and property and enhancing the City's economic base and neighborhoods. The Department also maintains the City's list of historic landmark structures and monitors the City's historic preservation program.

**COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OVERSEES:**

Planning Commission  
General Plan Update Steering Committee

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Approved Kensington Assisted Living Facility
- Amended Measure V to except Kensington parcels from Measure V dwelling unit density limit
- Amended Historic Preservation Ordinance to allow adaptive reuse of historic homes to bed and breakfast inns
- Approved 5-unit condominium project at vacant site at Sierra Madre Blvd. /Sierra Madre Place
- Conducted two business community outreach meetings regarding the Market Demand Study
- Implemented Second Unit Amnesty Program
- Hired a part-time code enforcement officer

**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Four full-time, One part-time

**STATISTICS:**

9 Major CUP & Variance Applications  
9 Minor CUP & Variance Applications  
5 Zoning Code Text Amendment  
1 General Plan Amendment  
4 Second Unit Permits  
664 Building Permits

**CURRENT PROJECTS:**

1. General Plan Committee managing technical reports prepared by environmental consultants for the drafting of a comprehensive General Plan Update.
2. Completion of current Housing Element Update 2008-2014, begin update for next 5-year cycle
3. R-1 Single-family residential zoning amendments
4. Kensington Assisted Living Facility plan check review and building permit for construction
5. Processing 3 Hillside Development Permit applications for new home construction in the Stonegate/1 Carter site
6. From Market Demand Study sent pursuit packages to retailers that are a retail match to Sierra Madre

#### Police Department

**PURPOSE:**

For nearly 100 years, the men and women of the Sierra Madre Police Department have been committed to ensuring a safe environment for those who live, visit and work in Sierra Madre. Thanks to a partnership between the Police Department and the community, Sierra Madre has one of the lowest crime rates in California.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2012-2013**

- Continue to promote youth safety through the school partnerships
- Reduce Residential Burglaries
- Continue to increase safety through social media and public presentations.


**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Twenty full-time, Eleven part-time

**STATISTICS:**

14,146 Total Calls for Service  
411 Physical Arrests  
3,412 Parking Violations  
No Robberies  
Burglaries have increased slightly  
Vehicle thefts have double since last year

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Implemented the new "Online Parking Permit Program"
- Introduced "Officers on Campus" where the Police Officers visit our local schools on a daily basis.
- Police personnel participated in the creation and implementation of the West San Gabriel Burglary Task Force.
- Implemented new "Electronic Citation Writers" which saves the city money in processing parking citations.
- Continue to expand Neighborhood Watch Programs

#### Community Services Department

**PURPOSE:**

The Department is responsible for a variety of facilities and programs for all ages; operates the newly renovated Community Recreation and Hart Park House Senior centers, six parks; supports and coordinates the activities of the Community Services Commission, the Senior Community Commission, and a number of Citizen's Advisory and special event committees.

**COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OVERSEES:**

Community Services Commission  
Senior Community Commission  
SMTV3 Committee  
Arts Advisory Committee  
Special Event Committees  
Waterworks Aquatics Community Advisory Board

**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Four full-time, Eight part-time

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Updated Parks and Facilities Master Plan
- Expanded aquatics services to 12 month, year around program
- Extended Family Movie Program into summer
- Streamlined transportation reducing the budget while still maintaining services
- Created bi-monthly monthly Senior Movie Program
- Expanded Senior "Lunch and Learn" program

**STATISTICS:**

227 Park and Facility Reservations  
3,006 Recreation class and excursion enrollees  
304 Adult Softball participants  
7,237 Transportation users  
9,289 Senior Lunches Served  
89 Window Painting participants  
55 Oktoberfest Tournament participants  
242 Summer Fun in the Park participants  
2,000 (est) Concerts in the Park participants  
1,000 (est) Family Movie Series participants  
3,000 (est) Halloween Happenings participants  
1,000 (est) Mount Wilson Trail Race event participants  
6,000 (est) Fourth of July event participants  
250 (est) Community Yard Sale attendees  
580 (est) Huck Finn weekend participants



#### Public Works Department

**PURPOSE:**

Public Works is responsible for the production and distribution of potable water to the community as well as maintenance of all City infrastructure, including street, sewer, storm drain and water systems. The Department also maintains all City buildings, parks, landscaped areas, City owned trees and the City's vehicle fleet. Department staff administers the City's contract solid waste disposal, street sweeping, and tree trimming services as well as the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Nineteen full-time, One part-time

**COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OVERSEES:**

Tree Advisory Commission  
Green Advisory Committee

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Rehabilitated Well 6 improving pumping efficiency and production
- Painted Auburn Cement Reservoir
- Sediment and scarified settling basins to improve groundwater infiltration repaired
- Repaired Valves and cross-gutters at settling basins to improve water distribution
- Began rehabilitation of Well 3
- Trees Trimmed
- Re-striped cross walks


**STATISTICS:**

950,000,000 gallons of water produced  
950 Water Quality Samples taken  
48 leaking main and service lines repaired  
3 Fire Hydrants replaced  
2 6" distribution valves replaced  
23,550 Water Meters read  
194 Water Meters replaced  
624 Valves exercised  
100 Water Meters tested  
12,280+ sq ft of damaged sidewalks, curbs and gutters replaced  
2,000+ sq ft of damaged asphalt replaced, 170 tons  
159,917 feet of sewer mains cleaned  
456 Sewer Manholes inspected  
308.10 tons of trash (Materials Recycling Facility)  
483.59 tons of green waste (landfill)  
335.00 tons of asphalt and concrete (recycle)  
60.67 tons of cardboard (recycle)

#### Fire Department

**PURPOSE:**

The Sierra Madre Fire Department provides superior community service through the delivery of fire prevention, fire control, and emergency medical and public education services. The Department proudly protects those residing, working and visiting Sierra Madre and is committed to community service, customer support, cost effective operation, training, and education.


**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Four full-time, Thirty-two part-time  
Fourty-seven volunteers

**STATISTICS:**

881 Total calls for service  
27 Fire calls  
686 EMS calls  
168 other calls  
1900+ Fire Inspections

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Hired three Full time Captains
- Improved response times
- Held Annual Fire Awards Dinner in February 2012
- Held Community Fire Protection Festival
- Successful Auxiliary Fire program has resulted in the hiring of 12 Sierra Madre Firefighters by other Cities and outside Agencies
- Paramedic Program successfully audited by the Los Angeles County Department Health Services

#### Department Overview

The City is a full service municipality operating with a \$17 million budget that funds 66 full-time employees assigned to eight operating departments that offer a wide range of services to the community. Government services are primarily funded by property taxes, local taxes, and user fees. The local economy consists primarily of professional service providers and specialty retail shops and restaurants.

Each Department offers valuable services to the City of Sierra Madre and does so both efficiently and effectively. The following reports provide information on each department and showcases their accomplishments over the past year.

#### Administrative Services Department

**PURPOSE:**

Administrative Services is responsible for the day-to-day business affairs and administration of the City. The department provides quality administrative and financial services to the community and provides access to city information through highly efficient and technically appropriate means.

**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Six full-time, Two part-time

**COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OVERSEES:**

UUT Oversight Committee  
Successor Agency Oversight Board

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Completed City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
- Worked with City Management to reorganize citywide staffing levels to create efficiency and cost savings
- Implemented new fee schedule to meet the goal of full cost recovery for certain City services
- Responded to the State's dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency

#### Human Resources Department

**PURPOSE:**

Human Resources performs a variety of personnel and risk management duties including employee recruitment and retention, benefits administration, personnel file maintenance and security, workers compensation, as well as insurance and liability protection. The Department also provides citywide training for employees who exhibit professionalism, excel at customer service and promptly assist residents with their needs.

**NUMBER OF STAFF:**

Three full-time

**COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES OVERSEES:**

Safety Committee  
Municipal Volunteer Committee


**STATISTICS:**

10 Full time Recruitments  
833 Applications Received  
11 Hired  
19 Part-time Recruitments  
809 Applications Received  
16 Hired  
7 Recruitments not completed/filled due to budget reductions  
25 Liability Claims Submitted  
18 Open, 17 Closed  
17 Workers Compensation Claims Submitted  
8 Open, 9 Closed

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- Instituted City's first-ever Human Resources Department
- Implemented City-wide Re-organization for a savings of \$250,000
- Instituted new online employment application and interview process
- Completed Labor Negotiations
- Adopted a Classification Plan
- Expanded the Employee Recognition Program to allow for online submittal from employees and the community
- Created an employee newsletter



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## School/City Work Plan Approved By Council, PUSD

*Continued from page 1*

According to city staff, the action by the PUSD Board and Council to approve the 2013-16 School/City Work Plan positions the organizations to join the ranks of cities and counties across the country that have embraced a “community schools” concept of setting common goals and strategizing together to improve the quality of life for youth and families. The full plan is on the city’s website under human services.

PUSD Board President Renatta Cooper hailed the vote and the work plan as a “hallmark achievement” by PUSD and the City for acknowledging that learning starts long before a child begins school. “The hard work of implementation will show the community that this plan is not just words on paper but rather a roadmap to how the city and school district can best align services and attend to the needs of the community,” said Cooper. “Children and families, the constituents of all of us, deserve nothing less.”

Superintendent Jon Gundry said he was “very pleased” with the attention given to the plan by both jurisdictions. “The key to a vibrant local economy is having a strong public education system that prepares our students for the careers of tomorrow, and empowers our families with education and resources to support their students both in and out of school,” Gundry said. “The most effective education is the one that involves the entire community and this plan will help shape how both organizations operate and interact going forward.”

The plan will help PUSD and the City more effectively identify service gaps as well as avoid duplication of services. The plan will be implemented over the next three years. During the second year, in 2015, a long-range strategic planning effort will be undertaken to ensure the efforts approved Feb. 19 are sustained over the next 15 years to 20 years.

The plan is also consistent with the recent work of the City’s Economic Development Task Force which recognized in its final recommendations that PUSD’s steady progress to improve student achievement and to prepare them for the new innovation economy is critical to the City’s economic success, according to City Manager Michael Beck.

**Pet of the Week**

Bradley is a very sweet eight-year-old gray tabby. He enjoys being held and loves to roll around. Bradley’s regular adoption fee is \$70, 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. Bradley also qualifies for our Seniors for Seniors program in which his adoption fee is waived for 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 A321454, 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 held 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).

## Human Skull Found in Backyard

By Dean Lee

Although police have given little information about a makeshift altar, adorned with burned artifacts, animal bones, incense and candles found Saturday in the 800 block of North Oakland Avenue—including human bones and a human skull—numerous reports now suggest that neighbors had complained about the residents for years.

Neighbors said they would hear music coming from the house late at night and the street lined with cars. They also said an odd smelling smoke would sometimes come from the backyard.

One neighbor told a Los



Angeles Times reporter she had called authorities numerous times after finding a chicken with a severed head on her patio.

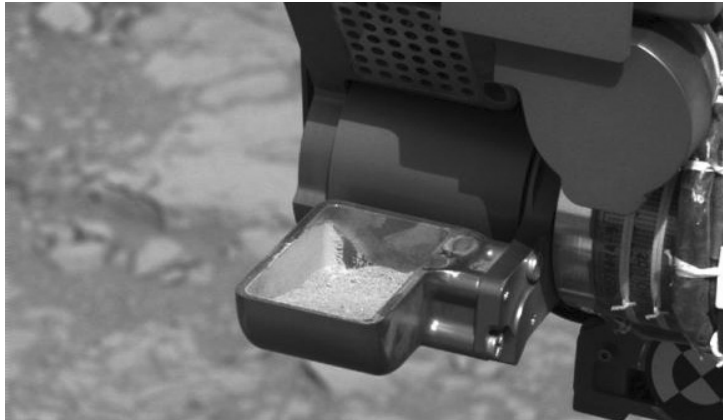
An unidentified resident, of the home, told reporters that his sister practices Palo Mayombe, a religion similar to Santeria. The faith is sometime referred to as the dark side of Santeria, practiced in Central America, Brazil and Mexico.

He also said the human bones were purchased on eBay something police said was not illegal. Reports also said the sister cooperated with police turning the bones over to the coroner’s office. Investigators said, as part of the investigation, they were looking into how the bones got onto eBay. No one at the home has been charge with a crime police also said adding that the focus of the investigation is on the bones.

Police found the altar while responding, at approximately 12:50 p.m., to a report of a possible trespasser in the area.

The price for a human skull on eBay ranges from \$228.50 to \$1,345.00 according to listings posed Friday. Most advertise them for medical purposes.

## NASA Rover Confirms First Drilled Mars Rock Sample



NASA’s Mars rover Curiosity has relayed new images that confirm it has successfully obtained the first sample ever collected from the interior of a rock on another planet. No rover has ever drilled into a rock beyond Earth and collected a sample from its interior.

Transfer of the powdered-rock sample into an open scoop was visible for the first time in images received Wednesday at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

“Seeing the powder from the drill in the scoop allows us to verify for the first time the drill collected a sample as it bore into the rock,” said JPL’s

Scott McCloskey, drill systems engineer for Curiosity. “Many of us have been working toward this day for years. Getting final confirmation of successful drilling is incredibly gratifying. For the sampling team, this is the equivalent of the landing team going crazy after the successful touchdown.”

The drill on Curiosity’s robotic arm took in the powder as it bored a 2.5-inch (6.4-centimeter) hole into a target on flat Martian bedrock on Feb. 8. The rover team plans to have Curiosity sieve the sample and deliver portions of it to analytical instruments inside the rover.

## Marching Bands Selected For 2014 Rose Parade

Pasadena Tournament of Roses President R. Scott Jenkins this week announced 18 of the 20 marching bands that will participate in the 125th Rose Parade, themed “Dreams Come True.” Jenkins said they come from all across the United States—including Alaska and Hawaii—as well as from outside the country. The two bands not yet announced will be from the universities competing in the Rose Bowl Game” presented by VIZIO. They will be added to the lineup when those schools are determined.

The 18 bands announced today are (listed alphabetically by school name):

Banda de Música Heriberto López Colegio José Daniel Crespo, Herrera, Panama

Carmel High School “Marching Greyhounds,” Carmel, Ind.

Claudia Taylor “Lady Bird” Johnson High School Marching Band, San Antonio, Texas

Colony High School Knights Marching Band “THEE Northern Sound,” Palmer, Alaska

Dobyns-Bennett High School Marching Indian Band, Kingsport, Tenn.

Glendora Tartan Band and Pageantry, Glendora, Calif.

Hawaii All State Marching Band “Na Koa Ali’i,” Kaneohe, Hawaii

Homewood Patriot Band, Homewood, Ala.

Liberty High School Grenadier Band, Bethlehem, Pa.

Los Angeles Unified School District All District High School Honor Band, Los Angeles

McQueen High School “Lancer Band,” Reno, Nev.

Nagoya Minami High School Green Band, Nagoya, Japan

Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band & Herald Trumpets

Rosemount High School Marching Band, Rosemount, Minn.

St. Augustine High School Marching “100,” New Orleans, La.

The Salvation Army Tournament of Roses Band, Los Angeles

United States Marine Corps West Coast Composite Band

Westfield High School Marching Bulldogs, Chantilly, Va.

Bands are selected by the Tournament of Roses based on a variety of criteria including musicianship, marching ability and entertainment or special interest value.

## Grant Helps Women at Work Keep Working

The organization, Women at Work, is slated to receive a \$15,000 grant from Bank of America on Monday. The check will be presented to Robin McCarthy and several of the board members at the Women at Work Career and Job Resource Center, 3871 E. Colorado Boulevard, in Pasadena by Ninfa Panameno, the Marketing Manager for Bank of America’s West San Gabriel Valley Region.

“Awards like these are significant and the help to insure that we continue to keep the door open to anyone who needs our services,” says

Marsha Rood, Women At Work Board President. “We have seen a notable increase in women and men seeking our services on a regular basis and this will help us in the continued effort to meet their needs.”

The check will be presented at the same time the Center’s Orientation, one of the most popular programs is beginning. Anyone interested in finding out more about Women At Work, the services provided and how to help is encouraged to drop by the Center to learn how this grant will benefit not only the clients, but the communities Women At Work serves.

## Chameau to Step Down as Caltech President

Jean-Lou Chameau, the eighth president of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), announced his intent to step down from the position in a letter to the Caltech community today. Chameau plans to leave later this year.

“President Chameau has served Caltech with excellence and distinction, stimulating innovation and expanding resources for high-risk, high-reward research,” said David Lee, chair of the Board of Trustees. “We are extremely grateful for his leadership as president, and we wish him success in his next endeavor.” Chameau informed the full Board of Trustees of his decision today.

Caltech was named #1 on the Times Higher Education World University Rankings in 2011 and 2012. The international publication noted that Caltech’s faculty have the highest research citation rate in the world and are regularly recognized with the top honors in their fields. Since 2006, Chameau has promoted Caltech’s multidisciplinary approach to research and education, supporting the development of programs in areas of societal impact, including energy, information technology, medical science, and the environment. Chameau also led initiatives to enhance students’ educational experiences, increase the



*Jean-Lou Chameau*

diversity of the community, advance entrepreneurial opportunities for faculty and students, and enhance the partnership between Caltech’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and NASA.

As Chameau reflected on his tenure at Caltech, he identified the greatest accomplishments as belonging to the Institute’s faculty and students, whom he described as talented colleagues who share a commitment to excellence and the desire to have a disproportionate impact on science and society. “The discoveries, recognition, and impact of the Caltech faculty in a typical year are the envy of our peers. The opportunity to interact with such a special group, and to support their endeavors, is a reward in itself,” said Chameau.

Upon his resignation, Chameau will lead the recently created King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.

## Dead Man Found On Area Horse Riding Trail

Altadena Sheriff’s Station deputies were called out on Saturday morning and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death of a man whose body was discovered along a horse trail in Altadena.

Lt. Dave Dolson of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s

Department- Homicide Bureau says horseback riders discovered the deceased around 8 a.m. Saturday near Canon Boulevard.

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500

Parolee Arrested in Stolen Car

Deputies from the Altadena Station arrested Cesar Antonio Soto, a parolee, after he was found driving a stolen vehicle in Altadena Tuesday. Soto was driving southbound Raymond Avenue near Montana Street when a deputy noticed that the vehicle’s taillight was inoperable. As the deputy drove toward the suspect’s vehicle, Soto suddenly pulled over on his own. When contacted, the suspect told the deputy that he was on parole for burglary. When the deputy

## Fire Station 39 Ground-breaking Ceremony Set

Preliminary work has begun on the seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of Pasadena Fire Station 39 in advance of the formal groundbreaking ceremony planned for 11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 2. The public is invited to join Mayor Bill Bogaard, Councilmember Steve Madison, Fire Chief Calvin E. Wells and other city officials for the ceremony.

Fire Station 39, at 50 Avenue 64, was originally constructed in 1952 and, together with Station 37, is the oldest of the department’s eight fire stations. The brick exterior of the two-story, 4,400-square-

foot building has historic significance and improvement work was specifically planned to retain the exterior while completing the extensive interior remodel and seismic upgrade.

The \$1.78 million construction project is managed by the Pasadena Department of Public Works.

Funding comes from the City’s Capital Improvement Project Fund. The project will be completed by local general contractor Mallcraft Inc.

For more information, contact Assistant City Engineer Steve Wright at (626) 744-4695.

## Learn How to Produce Your Own TV Show

Pasadena Media offers a free television-training program for volunteers. Various Areas of training are available to Pasadena residents. Plan to attend an orientation to discover the right classes for you. Producers’ Training teaches citizens how to produce their own show for The Arroyo Channel. Studio Production/Equipment training is also offered for volunteer crewmembers. In addition, on-going training and



**PASADENA MEDIA**

memberships are available in our citizen journalism and digital film groups. Call the office (626) 794-8585 or go to [PASADENAMEDIA.ORG](http://PASADENAMEDIA.ORG) explore all that Pasadena Media has to offer.

Class Offerings 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Nightly	
<b>Orientation:</b>	1st & 3rd Monday
<b>Producers’ Training</b>	2nd & 4th Monday
<b>Camera</b>	1st & 3rd Tuesday
<b>Character Generator</b>	2nd & 4th Tuesday
<b>Lighting</b>	1st & 3rd Wednesday
<b>Audio</b>	2nd & 4th Wednesday
<b>Video Tape Operator</b>	1st & 3rd Thursday
<b>Technical Director</b>	2nd & 4th Thursday
<b>Stage Manager</b>	1st & 3rd Friday
<b>Teleprompter</b>	2nd & 4th Friday
<b>Citizen Journalism</b>	Every Tuesday
<b>Digital Film Group</b>	Every Thursday



**“What’s Going On?”***News and Views from Joan Schmidt***REMEMBRANCE****MARY PAT CROWLEY**

February 12, 1950-February 7, 2013

**A Short Life, but Well Spent**

At the beginning of the Memorial Mass celebrating the life of Mary Pat Crowley, Father Eugene Herbert, Pastor of Annunciation Parish, Arcadia, said, “This wasn’t supposed to happen.” Mary Pat was so vibrant and giving, and had so much to share with others. She was a remarkable woman with a mischievous twinkle in her eyes when she smiled, which was all the time!

Her life began February 12, 1950. Daughter of Jim and Erla, she was born between two brothers, Tom and Joe. She was devoted to her family and was thrilled after her brother married and had two daughters, Doris and Helen. As years went by, Mary Pat became a great-aunt with the birth of Azize, Darcy and Logan. All the children loved their “Aunt Patty.”

I met Mary Pat when I began teaching at Annunciation Church. My first two years there, she was my mentor and friend. What impressed me was that she was a fantastically fair teacher and a really caring person. Mary Pat then went to Los Angeles Unified School District and taught at Gage Middle School. At her services, their retired Principal raved about Mary Pat and called her “Counselor”. She had started out as a teacher, but she was so respected and trusted that students came to her for advice or just to vent. Soon Mary Pat assumed Counseling duties.

All the years since I met Mary Pat in 1985, she has been a very integral part of our Music Ministry at Annunciation Church. There she united her love of music with her love of God. Within this ministry she found many friends and considered them part of her family.

Annunciation Parish was an important part of Mary Pat’s life. A few years back, the school had to merge with Immaculate Conception, because of hard economic times. Mary Pat worried about the Parish and it was her idea to begin the 300 X 300 campaign to help restore the financial health of the parish. She inspired groups to come together in this effort and to date, \$39,800 has been raised. Thank you, Mary Pat, for showing us the way.

After her passing, in lieu of flowers, the family asked for donations to the 300 X 300 campaign to help the school and parish. Anyone wanting to remember Mary Pat, please make a donation to Annunciation Church (Memo: 300 X 300 campaign) 1307 East Longden Ave., Arcadia. Thank you. Mary Pat is no longer with us, but her kind, generous and loving spirit will remain in the hearts of all who were so blessed by her presence in their lives.

**LIVING WITH OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS****By Christopher Nyerges**

*[Nyerges is the author of “How to Survive Anywhere,” “Self-Sufficient Home,” and other books. He leads self-sufficiency classes, and does a weekly podcast at Preparedness Radio Network. He can be reached at School of Self-reliance, Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041 or [www.ChristopherNyerges.com](http://www.ChristopherNyerges.com)]*

**“The Character of a Nation is determined by how its animals are treated” Ghandi**

and food raising, and recycling, and gardening, and self-reliance, in our book called “Extreme Simplicity, Homesteading in the City.” It’s a great book, and I still see copies of it for sale on Amazon and Ebay.

Each time I read this paper I am amazed at the broad spectrum of different and talented writers that Susan Henderson has managed to cobble together as her “staff.” I have frequently said that my favorite columnist is Stuart Tolchin whose observation about the world and his life have often made me laugh, and even nod an empathetic nod.

I also read with great enjoyment the column by this newspaper’s “dog columnist,” Chris Leclerc, about different animals that become friends. This struck home because the various members of my menagerie over the years have become quite close, often to the amazement of friends.

Popoki was a very friendly cat, and though the dogs didn’t like her at first, she held her own, and eventually would squeeze in when the dogs were eating and eat out of their dish! That’s no small feat, considering how jealously most dogs guard their food, and will often snap if another animal gets close. But Popoki often would be seen eating with Cassius Clay, who was a stout Staffordshire terrier, also known as a pitt bull.

Out back, Otis our pot-bellied pig had his own yard, and in the winter, Popoki would go out there and sleep in the straw with Otis. When it was really cold, Otis would burrow into the thick layers of straw, and only his back or belly would be sticking out. Frequently, we’d all go out back to see Popoki sleeping on the warm little patch of Otis’ big body that was sticking out of the straw. It was quite a sight, but we all thought that the two of them became good buddies. We only had the one pig, and the one cat, and perhaps the two odd fellows stuck together.

We also had a snow goose for the 17 years of her life. Blue Girl was pretty much a loner, but she too would warm up to Popoki during the spring when she was laying eggs. And occasionally in the early morning, when the roosters got going, she would attempt to crow along with the roosters, which gave her the nickname “Gooseter.”

By the way, I had all these animals when I was living in Highland Park, and wrote about animal

In addition, we became so close to most of our animals that we conducted funerals for nearly all of them. In other words, they were not mere “pets” or “livestock” or “animals.” They were part of our family, sentient beings who shared our life and to whom we experienced mutual upliftment.

When Cassius Clay died on Easter Sunday of 2008, I remember that same feeling I get when anyone close to me dies – the feeling of hopelessness, emptiness, experiencing the void, and a sense of inner darkness. I spent a week being with Cassius mentally, and preparing a gathering where I would honor our life together. It didn’t matter that some people would laugh and ridicule. Nevertheless, I invited several friends, and prepared the site where I’d buried him.

On the Saturday after he died, I was a bit amazed that over 30 people showed up and sat in the quickly-dug outdoor amphitheater. I talked about the high lights of my life with Cassius, and felt a great joy that there were others I could share this with. And each person present shared their experience with Cassius, or something about their own personal pet.

The overall experience was more moving than many of the people funerals I’d been to. There was a little music, some soft drinks, and then everyone got to plant some herb or flower over Cassius’ grave, and then water it.

In death, my close canis pal had brought so many like-minded people together. It was a real blessing.

Again, I am reflecting upon these events because of the diversity of this newspaper’s writers, and due to the ability of this paper’s editor and publishing in bringing all these folks together.

*[By the way, my experiences with the dog funerals is described in great detail in my book, “Til Death Do Us Part?”, available from Kindle, or at the Store at [www.ChristopherNyerges.com](http://www.ChristopherNyerges.com).]*

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For More Survival Products

*“Where there is no struggle, there is no merit.”*

# Looking Up

with Bob Eklund

**ASTEROID 2012 DA14 SPEEDS AWAY FROM EARTH**

(NOAO) On February 15, asteroid 2012 DA14 passed extraordinarily close to the Earth—at about 17,500 miles, well within the orbits of our stationary satellites. Unlike the unexpected asteroid collision over Russia that same day, this encounter never presented any danger, but astronomers were eager to observe the event.

An international team led by Nicholas Moskovitz (MIT) observed asteroid 2012 DA14 with a number of telescopes, including the 2.1-meter telescope at Kitt Peak National Observatory: the accompanying video shows the asteroid as it was leaving the vicinity of the Earth. As Dr. Moskovitz said, “Flybys like this, particularly for objects smaller than 2012 DA14, are not uncommon. This one was special because we knew about it well in advance so that observations could be planned to look at how asteroids are affected by the Earth’s gravity when they come so close.”

The solar system is home to myriads of asteroids, small bodies left over from its formation. More are discovered every year. Only the largest asteroids are truly spherical, drawn into this shape by their self-gravity: most appear to be completely irregular in shape. They rotate with periods that are generally a matter of hours. And they have a wide range of compositions, from dense iron metal to low density rocks rich in organic compounds. Asteroids are often described as rubble piles, or loosely bound collections of smaller rock fragments. But these characteristics are not well understood, which is what led Dr. Moskovitz and his team to their study.

The team is analyzing the data to measure any changes in the rotation rate of the asteroid after its close encounter with the Earth. Although asteroids are generally too small to resolve with optical telescopes, their irregular shape causes their brightness to change as they rotate. Measuring the rotation rate of the asteroid in this way allows the team to test models that predict how the Earth’s gravity can affect close-passing asteroids.

The first asteroids were discovered orbiting the Sun in the space between Mars and Jupiter, but recent discoveries make it clear that they are found throughout the solar system. Of particular interest from most people’s point of view are those characterized as near-Earth asteroids. These are objects whose orbits cross that of the Earth and allow them to make a close pass to our planet, with the potential of colliding on one of those passes.

Earth-crossing asteroids include 2012 DA14, which was discovered just a year ago. Its orbit is similar to the Earth, with a period of 366 days, but with a more elliptical shape and an inclination of 11 degrees to the plane of the Earth’s orbit around the Sun. Following its discovery and the recognition that it would make a very close pass on February 15, 2013, the team planned an observing campaign using telescopes in both the northern and southern hemisphere, including facilities in Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, South Africa, Spain, Israel, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Arizona.

2012 DA14 is not expected to visit the vicinity of the Earth any time for at least the next century, but as we saw with the devastating impact of a much smaller, 10-ton asteroid in Russia on the same day as the flyby, there are many thousands of near-Earth asteroids out there that can be dangerous. Observing campaigns like the present one will mean that scientists will have a much better understanding of the properties of near-Earth asteroids, and their potential for making trouble should they get too close!

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

KPNO 2.1m  
N. Moskovitz (MIT)

Asteroid 2012 DA14

UT 2013 Feb. 16



# ARCADIA

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

## CITY OF ARCADIA SENIOR SERVICES NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Nomination forms are available at the Arcadia Community Center and the Recreation Department office for the 2013 Senior Citizen of the Year! Do you know someone who is:

- 55+ years of age
- Arcadia resident
- Actively involved in volunteer work
- Have made significant contributions to improve the community

If so, please stop by one of these locations or log onto the city website at [www.ci.arcadia.ca.us](http://www.ci.arcadia.ca.us) and download the nomination criteria and nomination form. Recipient of the award will be honored at the Arcadia Rotary Club Salute to Seniors luncheon on Tuesday, May 14, at the Arcadia Community Center. 365 Campus Drive, Arcadia. Nomination forms must be submitted to Dan Belling, Recreation Supervisor, by Thursday, February 28 by 4:30pm. For more information, please call 626.574.5130.

### About the City of Arcadia

Nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Arcadia is an 11.38 square mile community with a population of just over 56,000. Located approximately 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, Arcadia is known for combining small-town charm with the conveniences and amenities of a mid-size city. Arcadia is a full-service charter city governed by a five-member City Council, elected at large. Recognized for exceptional education and recreation opportunities and beautiful neighborhoods, Arcadia is also defined as the "Community of Homes" and has twice been designated the "Best City in California in which to Raise Kids" by Business Week Magazine.

## ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

*For the period of Sunday, February 10th, through Saturday, February 16th, the Police Department responded to 899 calls for service of which 98 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.*

Sunday, February 10:

1. At approximately 11:59 a.m., officers were dispatched to Extended Stay America, 401 E. Santa Clara Avenue, regarding a petty theft. Investigation revealed that a suspect stole a television from a hotel room. The suspect matched the description of a suspect possibly involved in a similar burglary the night before. There were no witnesses and no signs of the suspect(s) in the area.
2. At about 11:18 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a broken brake light on Huntington Drive and Santa Anita Avenue. Upon contact with the driver, the officer discovered the driver had a suspended license. A consensual search of the vehicle revealed the driver was in possession of methamphetamines and drug paraphernalia. The 32-year-old, Hispanic male was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia, and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, February 11:

3. At approximately 4:10 p.m., officers responded to Macy's at the Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a female suspect in custody for theft. The suspect concealed several accessories inside two purses, and exited the store without paying for the items. The 41-year-old, Hispanic female was arrested for petty theft and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for processing.
4. At approximately 10:34 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 200 block of Altern Street in regard to a residential burglary. Officers discovered the suspect(s) forced open a rear door, and entered the home. Further investigation revealed the bedrooms were ransacked, and jewelry was stolen. There were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.

Tuesday, February 12:

5. At approximately 11:50 p.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a broken brake light on 8th Avenue and Camino Grove. Investigation revealed the driver was unlicensed. The 24-year-old, Hispanic male was cited and released in the field.
6. At about 11:38 p.m., officers were dispatched to LA Fitness, 1325 S. Baldwin Avenue, in reference to theft. The male victim reported his iPhone had been stolen from his gym bag while he was using the basketball court. There were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.

Wednesday, February 13:

7. At about 12:07 p.m., an officer was dispatched to the 900 block of S. Mayflower Avenue regarding possible fraudulent activity. Investigation revealed the victim's son had stolen her debit card, and was in possession of narcotics and a glass pipe. The victim was not

desirous of prosecution for the theft. The 32-year-old, White male was arrested for possession of methamphetamines and drug paraphernalia, and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

8. At approximately 2:46 p.m., officers responded to Westfield Shopping Town, 400 S. Baldwin Avenue, regarding a child found walking alone in the parking lot. Investigation revealed the child had been left alone in a vehicle, while the mother entered the mall to shop. The 30-year-old, Black female was arrested for child endangerment and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for processing. The child was subsequently released to the father.

Thursday, February 14:

9. At about 12:54 a.m., an officer made consensual contact with a subject driving in the Motel 6 parking lot, 225 Colorado Place. Upon contact with the driver, the officer noticed objective symptoms of intoxication. Further investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of a controlled substance, and was in possession of methamphetamines and drug paraphernalia. The 50-year-old, White male was subsequently arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.
10. At about 2:09 p.m., an officer contacted a subject staggering in the area of Baldwin Avenue and Las Tunas Drive. Upon contact with the subject, the officer smelled a strong odor of alcohol on the subject's breath, and noticed other objective symptoms of intoxication. The officer determined the 52-year-old, White male was unable to care for his safety, and arrested him for public intoxication.

Friday, February 15:

11. Shortly after 2:00 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of S. First Avenue in reference to a stolen vehicle. Investigation revealed the vehicle was stolen from the location between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The vehicle was a gray, 2010 Ford F150, license plate number 42904E1. There were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.
12. At about 11:29 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 900 block of Wigwam Avenue in regard to a residential burglary. Officers discovered the suspect(s) removed a rear window screen and entered through an unlocked window. Further investigation revealed all the rooms were ransacked, and jewelry, along with a television, were stolen. There were no surveillance cameras or witnesses.

Saturday, February 16:

13. Around 1:31 a.m., officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a broken brake light on Baldwin Avenue at Duarte Road. Upon contact with the driver, officers detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from inside the vehicle. An investigation revealed the driver was under the influence of alcohol. The 36-year-old, Hispanic male was arrested for driving under the influence and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

# MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

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## M.A.D. TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: FEBRUARY 20TH NEW SITE, NEW DAY, BUT SAME GREAT VENUE

By Joan Schmidt

All Council Members were present at the February 20th Monrovia-Arcadia-Duarte Town Council Meeting at All Nations SDA Church: Gloria Huss and Terrence Williams, representing Monrovia; David Halland Yvonne Bullock, Duarte; John Nicoloro and Linda Sells, Arcadia. Much information was shared. The Sheriff's Department had THREE speakers. Deputy Ramirez passed out crime statistic charts for the Unincorporated Areas, including "MAD", East Pasadena, North San Gabriel, South San Gabriel, and East El Monte. In January, there were five assaults in our area, five residential burglaries, one commercial burglary, four thefts from vehicles, and three grand theft autos.

Captain Nee, Temple Station Commander, explained the terrible scam targeting elder Chinese. A perpetrator tells them a "curse" has been put on their family, but he/she knows a "wizard" who can break the spell. The victims are told to bring a bag with jewelry and money, the "wizard" will bless it, and then the innocent take the bag home and wait eight weeks to open it. When the bag is opened, of course there's no money as there's been a switch. Captain Nee asked us to warn our elderly friends/acquaintances of this scam. He again emphasized locking cars and NOT leaving valuables in sight!

The last Sheriff's speaker was Deputy Art Valenzuela, Youth Athletic Director at Pamela Park. But his job is more-"to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the community". The "etiquette class" graduated 19 students, there's a Book Club and a Teaching Character Class. The latter - including respect - is taught by three teens to younger youths. Deputy Valenzuela worries about kids who are not too athletic, with obesity among them. He is beginning a softball program, has taken a group ice-skating in Pasadena, and wants to begin a tennis program. There's a Wednesday film class at the Duarte Library from 4-6pm and in April six kids will go to Anaheim for three nights for "Practice Teamwork". At the Park, there is homework assistance and kids are taught about "anti-bullying".

Kevin Paris, a LA County Probation Officer, spoke of his work with At-Risk Youth, beginning at a young age. Girls, twelve and up learn Life Skills and how to deal with Peer Pressure. Boys learn to be more responsible. Mr. Parrish also teaches a Parenting Class (No charge) for people with out-of-control kids, three hours each week. (They are broken into two groups, Elementary and Junior High/



Gloria Huss, Terence Williams, Yvonne Bullock, Dave Hall, Linda Sells, John Nicoloro High School.) (Call 626-357-1619 for further info.)

Brian Mejia from Supervisor Antonovich's office reminded everyone that on March 12th, the water fee issue will be brought again to the Board of Supervisors, and on Saturday May 25, the 16th Annual Veterans Fair will be held.(More info as the date gets closer.)

Laurie Lile, Monrovia City Manager, came to offer support and see how the Town Council operates. Live Oak and Duarte Library sent their representatives to share all upcoming events and programs. Don't miss Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party, Saturday March 2, 2:00pm-3:00 pm at the Live Oak Library. Great Teen Programs in March include Felt Phone Snuggles, Monday, March 11 from 6pm-7pm and Game Night, Monday, March 25, 5:30pm-7:30pm at Live Oak Library. (Please go to the Live Oak and Duarte Libraries' web sites for further info)

Also attending were Monrovia Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Linda Wagner, President Chris Rich and Member Ed Guilliland. Dr. Wagner informed us that Monrovia School grounds have been opened as Public Parks during after-school hours so families/children can enjoy the grounds/play equipment. March 7th, is *Read Across America*. Everyone was encouraged to volunteer to read at a local school that day! A brand new Performing Arts Center has opened at Monrovia High School-not just for students, but for the community to enjoy! Watch for the *Music Man* this coming summer! Dr. Wagner also said that Monrovia Unified School District was one of six across the nation that will participate in a special science project! For twenty minutes, students will have a chance to communicate with Astronauts from the Space Station! How exciting is that?

## 2013 MONROVIA OLDER AMERICAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

The City of Monrovia, Department of Community Services, is accepting nominations for the 2013 Older American of the Year Award. This award is presented to a Monrovia 60 years of age or older, working or retired, and still actively involved in volunteer service in Monrovia. The purpose of this award is to honor and encourage older individuals to remain active in the community. Nomination applications must be returned by Monday, April 1, to the Department of Community Services, 119 West Palm Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 - Attention: Rebecca Romero. A committee will review the applications and select an award recipient by Monday, April 8. Individuals who submit nominations must provide their name, address and phone number so staff may contact them if further information is necessary. For additional information, please contact the Department of Community Services at (626) 256-8246.

The City of Monrovia will recognize the Older American Award recipient at the following events:

Senior Recognition Luncheon  
Date: Thursday, April 18  
Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Location: Monrovia Community Center  
119 West Palm Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016

The 48th Annual Older Americans Recognition Day Awards Program  
Date: TBD  
Time: 11:30 a.m.  
Location: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Music Center Grand Hall  
135 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90012

For additional information, please feel free to contact me at (626) 256-8232 or via e-mail at [rromero@ci.monrovia.ca.us](mailto:rromero@ci.monrovia.ca.us).

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## SIERRA MADRE SCHOOL CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR

On February 13th and 15th, Sierra Madre School celebrated Chinese New Year with Shaolin Kung-fu performances by the kung-fu masters from the Shaolin Cultural Center of America (shaolinus.com). Spontaneous gasps of amazement erupted from the audience as the Shaolin Kung-fu masters, Shi Yanxu, Shi Yanyue, Shi Yanji, and Shi Yanyi dazzled students and teachers with martial arts forms of over 1,500 years' tradition. SMS students, Celeste Tan (Gr 6), Tristan Tan (K), and Ian Monroy (K), and parent Jennie See also demonstrated Shaolin kung-fu. During the brief question and answer session, the kung-fu masters emphasized the goals of martial arts for teaching focus, self-control, and self-defense. The entire audience was up on their feet as the masters concluded their spectacular performance with a dynamic Kung-fu lesson.



SMS parents, Jennie See and Dr. Amy Peng, organized the assemblies to share the joy and festivity of the Chinese New Year holiday with the SMS community. Fellow parent Fred Thomas served as the master of ceremonies and provided audio-visual and lighting expertise for the assemblies while parent Izumi Kusabuka helped with the stage set.

## LOCAL STUDENT STARS IN INDEPENDENT FILM

*Sierra Madre Middle School's Miles Elliot stars in "CAMP"*

On Friday, Miles Elliot had a really big day. It was the premiere of the independent film CAMP which - as displayed on the screen says, "introducing Miles Elliot" in his first starring lead role.

Elliot plays "Eli", a troubled/abused youth sent to a summer camp only to be matched up with a reluctant volunteer counselor. Both Eli and the counselor are transformed as they battle through their relationship and discover the power of unconditional love.



The movie is based on real events and rated PG-13. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Royal Family Kids, Inc., a non-profit, is the nation's leading network of camps for abused, neglected and abandoned children. By mobilizing local churches to sponsor a one-week camp for abused and neglected children ages 7-11 in their local community, RFKC gets caring adults involved in the lives of children who need them most. Each camp has two very simple goals: make positive childhood memories for the kids and let them experience unconditional love from an adult. Many volunteers who go to camp are inspired to become mentors, become foster parents and even adopt children who need a loving, caring family. Founded by Orange County natives Wayne and Diane Tesch over 25 years ago, Royal Family Kids is now a network of over 150 churches across the country that provide camps, clubs and mentorship programs for abused and neglected kids.

The !lm, a sophomore project for Roebuck Media, will be released in more than 100 theaters in select markets over two months. "CAMP" is a !sh-out-of-water story about investment advisor Ken Matthews (Michael Mattera), who volunteers to go to camp to impress a client, but !nds himself paired with an angry, troubled 10 yearold camper named Eli (Miles Elliot, "The Mentalist"). "The movie shares the story of hope on the big screen that camps provide to these forgotten children," said writer/director Jacob Roebuck, who thought of the idea for the script when volunteering at a Royal Family Kids camp. "It's wild to see 25 years of heartache and hope captured and woven into a movie," said Glenn Garvin, Vice President of camps for RFK. "CAMP" transports you

to a place where good people want to help children who have to deal with the collateral damage of adult's bad decisions." "It's a powerful drama that really captures the heart of what we do at camp," said Tamara Wolf, volunteer director for the Pasadena Lake Avenue Church Royal Family Kids camp, one of the camps that will benefit from the !lm.

"To be able to host more kids from the system, camps need more volunteers and funds," said Emily Shubin, 'CAMP' producer. "We hope this !lm inspires people to volunteer a week of their time to counsel a kid at camp. To help with the !nances, we are donating 40 percent of our revenue from all the showings Los Angeles to the local RFK and ten percent to the national office to start new camps." In addition to Mattera

and Elliot, the ensemble cast includes adults Asante Jones (Parenthood), Grace Johnston (Beaches), Meredith Thomas (Nip/Tuck), Casey Leet, Janet Wood ("Law & Order: LA"), Elissa Kapneck ("Marley & Me"), Michael Otis ("The Young and The Restless"), Michael Kenyon, Josh Berry ("Crash"), Betsy Roth ("The Trivial Pursuits of Arthur Banks"). The movie features child actors Matthew Jacob Wayne ("New Girl"), Elizabeth Tripp ("The League"), Gianna Gomez ("Pop Star"), Conrad Bluth ("Criminal Minds") and Taylar Holloman ("The Office").

**NOW PLAYING in Burbank, February 22-27 AMC 6 (818) 562-1401**

## Looking for spiritual answers to help your children?

*Explore God's presence and the positive direction it will provide for parenting*

**WHY:** In our lives today, parents long for much more than demands, uncertainties and fears for our children. Many people are discovering there is a way to know a connectedness to a very present, higher Source, who is intelligently and clearly guiding. International speaker, Suzanne Riedel, says, "You should never believe you can't hear God speaking to your consciousness. It is more than possible, it is happening. We need only to gain a more spiritual view of ourselves and our children, in order to hear the biblical 'still, small voice' and its healing answers for their lives and ours."

**WHAT:** In Ms. Riedel's talk, "A spiritual answer for parents," she shares ideas based on the book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy, a book that gives confident responses for daily challenges and opportunities for parenting.

## In this talk audiences will discuss ideas on:

- How to recognize God's presence and care, bringing answers for your children's welfare
- How to practice effective prayer to positively direct parental guidance and realize healing

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 24, 2013 at 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Christian Science Church  
80 South Oakland Ave.  
Pasadena, CA

**WHO:** Suzanne Riedel, a practitioner and teacher of Christian Science healing, was introduced to this healing system when she was in college. Then immediately healed in an emergency, she found a closeness to God she had been searching for which radically altered her view of spiritual possibilities. While teaching public school for 20 years and raising five children, she relied on Christian Science to heal everything from broken bones to contagion, found protection from robbers to rattlesnakes, and found how practical the understanding of God's influence in her life actually was.

Ms. Riedel earned a masters degree at the University of Texas-Austin. After teaching secondary school English, math, and history, she worked six years in national communications work in Boston, Massachusetts. Ms. Riedel has been published in Christian Science periodicals, on [www.spirituality.com](http://www.spirituality.com), and in local newspapers. Ms Riedel speaks internationally as a member of The Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

**For an interview or more information contact (Barbara Rocha, 626-792-8075).**

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

**Alverno High School**

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

**Arcadia High School**

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

**Arroyo Pacific Academy**

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

**Barnhart School**

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Ethan Williamson  
Kindergarten - 8th grade  
website: [www.barnhartschool.org](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@bcsliions.org  
website: [www.bcsliions.org](http://www.bcsliions.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  
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**

74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
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**

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

**ARCADIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 821-8300 Website: [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net)

**MONROVIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016  
(626) 471-2000 Website: [www.monroviashools.net](http://www.monroviashools.net)

**DUARTE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010  
(626)599-5000 Website: [www.duarte.k12.ca.us](http://www.duarte.k12.ca.us)

## THE REEL DEAL: by Ben Show

*Movie Reviews Especially for Teens & 'Tweens*

## BEAUTIFUL CREATURES

**Movie Review:**

I loved this book and was skeptical about the movie. How would they keep the massive plot intact, as well as maintain the characters and their development? This is the question posed to all crews who attempt to turn a book into a movie, and I felt the people who worked on this stayed as true to the book as they could.

The plot is essentially the same: Lena Duchannes (Alice Englert) enters the small town of Gatlin, South Carolina already hated because of her uncle, Macon Ravenwood (Jeremy Irons). Ethan Wate

(Alden Ehrenreich), a local boy, immediately knows that he's seen her before and they embark on a dangerous journey into Lena's unknown past, and the South's dark future.

There were many things that were changed from the book. Some characters were gone and some events were not there. However, I felt that the basic themes from the book were upheld, as well as the plot being basically the same. 'The Lightning Thief' is the perfect example of bad book-to-screen work and it is very fortunate that 'Beautiful Creatures' did not end up that terrible.



BRAZIL IN BURBANK + ARE YOU LISTENING?

Ever feel that you aren't being listened to when you are dining out? I am with you!! Just this past week I was having happy hour in Old Pasadena, and mentioned to the server that I didn't want cheese with my sliders, see, I have a problem with digesting milk protein, I know TMI!! So when my sliders were brought to me the waiter said " Just so you know, the buns are made with Milk!! What the Heck, I digress, just went to a great Churracaria in Burbank, here is my review.

So first, what is a Churracaria? A churracaria is a Brazilian Steak House. I have come to find that in the Los Angeles area that means all you can eat meat. I have fond memories of the Greenfields in West Covina. But for this adventure I traveled on a Sunday Night to the Picanha in Burbank. We were able to find street parking, but if you go on a Weekend night I suggest going to one of many city parking structures. The restaurant itself was over half full. We sat near the bar so that we could keep an eye on the game. The room is divided into two different sections with the salad bar in the middle.

How is works, for those of you that haven't been to one of these. They start you off with a plate for the salad bar and bring you these tasty little cheese bread balls. The salad bar offers over 20 hot and cold items with even a fettuccini. But my friends you know better to fill up on bread and lettuce. Commit yourself to the meat. And boy oh boy they have lots of it. On your table is a three inch high piece of wood one end green and one end red, think as is as go and stop. More food green, stop or I'm on a break Red. How much on our recent visit it is \$34.50 for all you can eat. I think that this is great deal. They aren't going to let you eat all you can eat at The Arroyo Chop House for that, no it's not the same cut of beef either. Another plus that tipped my review to a positive note, was that the owner of the restaurant was there, walking around making sure that everyone was happy and full. He didn't know me from Adam, but came by about three times, we didn't have to wait long for the guy in the gauchos to come by with the selections of meats either. Once at your table the guy in the gauchos offers you the selection that he has, then cuts it off with a sharp knife almost till it falls off, then its up to

you with your tongs to grab off the metal skewer, it might have been that the restaurant wasn't that busy, but we never waited that long for any food item. Some of the selections are Pork Loin,

Skirt Steak, a very tasty chicken drumstick, leg of lamb, and my favorite the petit filet mignon. I was full within twenty minutes, but you can also go back to the salad bar and get more side items including dessert. Of all the meats that are offered, the garlic chicken was my favorite. Yes, this is a novelty, but if you are into lots of food, check it out!!!

Picanha Churrascaria 269 E. Palm Ave Burbank (818) 972-2100

Email me at thechefknows@yahoo.com



"Dining with Dills" airs SUNDAY at 5PM this week, on KABC 790AM Talk Radio



INGREDIENTS

- 4 pounds fatty pork shoulder, cut into 2-inch pieces
- 3 cups water
- 1 medium white onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 orange, cut into 2 pieces
- 1/4 cup pork lard or vegetable oil
- 8 garlic cloves, peeled
- 3 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano, preferably Mexican, crumbled
- 2 teaspoons fine salt, or 4 teaspoons kosher salt

DIRECTIONS

Put all the ingredients in a wide 6-to 7-quart heavy pot (don't worry if the pork is not completely covered) and bring the water to a boil, skimming the surface as necessary. Lower the heat and simmer vigorously, stirring occasionally, until the pork is fork-tender and the liquid has completely evaporated, 1½ to 2 hours. Discard the orange pieces and bay leaves. If the liquid hasn't evaporated after 2 hours, transfer the pork pieces to a bowl and let the liquid continue to bubble away, stirring often, until it has.

Preheat the oven to 450°F. Transfer the pork and fat to an ovenproof dish, if necessary, and brown the pork, uncovered, in the oven for 20 to 30 minutes. There's no need to stir.

Carnitas keeps in the refrigerator for up to three days.

*Note:*  
If you want to make half a batch, cut the amount of pork, salt, and oregano in half, but use the same amount of the remaining ingredients and water. You will need to use a slightly smaller pot.

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This material was made possible by funding from the Department of Health and Human Services through the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.



## Happy Tails

by Chris Leclerc



Few pet owners I know are fortunate enough to say that their dog or cat has had no need to go to the vet for anything other than annual checkups or vaccinations. For whatever reasons that may apply, it seems we animal lovers are often off to the doggie doctor due to symptoms that require more healthcare attention than we ourselves feel qualified or knowledgeable enough to give. On the other hand, there are times when we might find an alternative that works even better than what the veterinarian recommends, but it just doesn't come to mind. This is not so much because the doctor wants to keep things a mystery, but more because medicine is not necessarily a perfect science. We are all individuals with bodies that react uniquely to medications and treatment, therefore there are times when we must try various potential remedies before finding the one that works best for us.

My bloodhound Tater has had an ear condition all her life. It is a perfect example of the point I attempt to make regarding potential alternative cures for canines. Bloodhounds tend to have ear infections more than most dog breeds, because their ears are so long and they have lots of extra skin around the scruff of their necks keeping moisture trapped inside the ear canal. This past year, we had quite a quandary with trying to clean up a vicious infection in Tater's ears, mostly on the left. It started with a relatively mild yeast infection which rendered a rather disgusting black pasty substance that eventually made its way out of the ear canal, down the cheeks and to the chin, where it eventually infected the skin. Of course, I took Tater to the vet and followed all the proper protocols to get the infection cleared up, but at one point I got very busy with other things and let it go longer than I should have. As a result, Tater's left ear ended up so sick with a green mucous growing in there, that I had to take her to emergency.

Following that ordeal, there were yet more months of going to the vet to have Tater's ears tended to and trying a plethora of meds with little or no lasting results. Finally,

## HELPFUL HOMEOPATHIC HINTS FOR YOUR PET'S HEALTH

I decided to seek out some alternative remedies in hopes of finding a permanent cure. It's a good thing I did, because I found something that not only helped heal Tater's ears, but it also helped clear up the mucous that tends to gather around her eyes, as well as the itchy spots on her skin. The "miracle" remedy is so basic that it was hard to convince my fellow pet owners it actually worked. The solution turned out to be nothing more than a pro-biotic powder for domestic animals, designed to help maintain a healthy balance in the digestive system. "Geneflora" from [cycles-of-life.com](http://cycles-of-life.com) came highly recommended by my trainer, Connie Mackie (Dream Dogs Training Co. 310-927-1508) and at first I was skeptical, having tried every anti-biotic available from my vet, and the product being so affordable it seemed there was no way it could possibly make a difference. Well, let me tell you, it worked!

Allow me to clarify that I can't give credit strictly to the pro-biotic product for the success I had with Tater's ears, but I know it played a major part. I also continued to administer the ear drops recommended by the vet, and I added a daily regimen of cleaning her ears with a home-brewed concoction I conjured up myself. The home brew starts with about 5 cups of tap water in a pot on the stove, then I add a tablespoon of Dr. Bronner's liquid peppermint soap along with clippings of fresh rosemary, bay leaf and eucalyptus from my yard. Finally, I add a few drops of bergamot essential oil (available at Carob Tree on Santa Anita Ave.) and a dash of white vinegar. I bowl the brew for a minute or two, then drop a soft cotton rag into the pot and let it soak. I use tongs to ring out the rag slightly and while it's still steaming, I place it inside Tater's ear until it cools, then I repeat the process until the ear appears clean. Afterwards, I apply the medicine prescribed by the vet, and give Tater a hug and a treat for being so patient with the process.

Having had such a positive experience with an alternative treatment

for Tater, I was inspired to look up more home remedies that might help keep our beloved pets healthy and happy. Here are a few morsels of holistic health wisdom I found. (Credit: [animals.howstuffworks.com/pets/home-remedies-for-dogs.htm](http://animals.howstuffworks.com/pets/home-remedies-for-dogs.htm))

- **Bad Breath** - Digestion can be partly to blame for a dog's bad breath, so it can't hurt to pep up the digestive process with whole grains. Try adding a little brown rice to your dog's daily rations. Parsley is always a great way to hold halitosis at bay, if your dog is willing to eat it, so why not add a handful of that healthy leafy green to your dog's dinner bowl?

- **Constipation** - Try adding a teaspoon of oatmeal or high-fiber cereal to your pet's favorite nighttime delight. Pumpkin also helps keep things regular and most dogs love the taste of it, so including a tablespoon of cooked pumpkin is bound to do the trick. (No pun intended!) Also, don't forget to fill Fido's water bowl regularly and, one more helpful hint, give milk in limited rations.

- **Worms & Other Parasites** - Pets get parasites either from eating something containing the eggs of the perpetrator or being bitten by a carrier such as a fly or mosquito. As disgusting as it sounds, sometimes they contract worms from eating their own feces. Over the counter de-worming meds work pretty well, if administered correctly and consistently. In terms of prevention, clean up your pet's poop immediately, add small portions of garlic to the diet to deter insects, and don't allow your pet to drink from ponds, streams or lakes where insects and microscopic parasites breed.

## PET OF THE WEEK

JESSOCA: #A4541628



Lovely things do come in small packages! Meet Jessoca (A4541628). Jessoca is an endearing two year old red spayed female Teacup Chihuahua who was brought to the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center on February 8th. Weighing only four pounds, this well behaved girl trots well on the leash and is highly treat motivated so she will learn tricks quickly. Jessoca is initially timid when meeting new people, but once she gets to know someone, she is a non-stop kissing machine! She is an affectionate and sweet little girl. Good with other dogs, we think Jessoca is so tiny that she should not be around little children. Jessoca is the ultimate purse and lapdog, and will make a phenomenal pet for an adult in any living situation. To watch a video of Jessoca please visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AOhhnbWd2Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AOhhnbWd2Q)

To meet Jessoca in person, please see her at the Baldwin Park Animal Care Center, located at 4275 N. Elton St., Baldwin Park, CA 91706 (Phone: 626-430-2378 or 626-962-3577). She is currently available now. For any inquiries about Jessoca, please reference her animal ID number: A4541628. 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 Jessoca or the adoption process, please contact United Hope for Animals Volunteer Adoption Coordinator Samantha at [Samantha@hope4animals.org](mailto:Samantha@hope4animals.org). To learn more about United Hope for Animals' partnership with the Baldwin Park Shelter through its Shelter Support Program, as well as the many dogs of all breeds, ages, and sizes available for adoption in local shelters, visit <http://www.unitedhope4animals.org/about-us/shelter-support-program/>.

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## HEARTWORM DISEASE IN DOGS AND CATS

By Dr. Nicole Gueniat

Household pets can be hosts to many different parasitic organisms, internally and externally. A parasite that is potentially lethal occurs in both dogs and cats in Southern California. This parasite was not found west of the Rockies for many years, but as long ago as the 1980's it began its insidious and silent migration to the west coast. The parasite is the heartworm, its hosts

are dogs and cats, and its carrier is the mosquito. Heartworm disease is also found in coyotes, foxes, and wolves and these wild animals serve as a reservoir for our pets.

Dogs and cats become infected when they are bitten by a mosquito that carries the larvae. After the bite, it takes about 7 months for the larvae to develop into adult worms that live in the heart, filling the chambers, obstructing blood flow and causing blood clots to form. A heavy infestation can be fatal. In cats, 2 worms are enough to cause the death of the cat. The worms can get up to 7 inches long. The treatment is unpleasant

and has some risk as well, and in dogs consists of several doses of an arsenic compound. There is no specific treatment for cats. The adult worms lay eggs in the blood and these hatch into microscopic organisms called microfilaria.

When a mosquito bites the infected dog or cat, it ingests the microfilaria in the blood and becomes infected.

The best way to protect your dog and cat is to start giving the preventive at 2-3 months of age and continue for life of your pet. There are oral monthly tablets and spot-on products that protect your pet for one month per dose. They should be given year-round as mosquitoes can be present any time of the year in our climate. Heartworm preventatives are usually combined with products that treat pets for roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms, and sometimes external parasites too. Dogs should be tested every year to make sure an infection hasn't occurred. Because heartworm tests for cats are not always reliable, the disease is commonly underdiagnosed. Sometime, sudden death is the only sign.

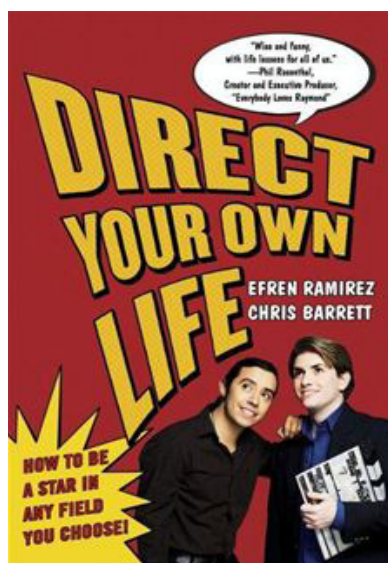
Your veterinarian is the best person to educate you about parasitic diseases in pets, the risks parasites present to people, and prevention strategies. The use of combination products that cover multiple parasitic organisms makes heartworm prevention simple and economical.

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



## JASMINE'S CORNER

Book Reviews by Jasmine Kelsey Williams



## DIRECT YOUR OWN LIFE: HOW TO BE A STAR IN ANY FIELD YOU CHOOSE

By Efrén Ramirez &amp; Chris Barrett

As we draw closer towards the end of February, this next selection will be a pleasant pick-me-up to not only get motivated, but to stay motivated, and is the perfect choice for many readers in their different phases in life.

'Direct Your Own Life' takes a different approach from the typical self-help book, and instead these two incredible authors map out steps, examples, and the benefits that come with knowing what you want to achieve, but sometimes may not know how to get there. A bonus that comes with reading this book is one that should be able to keep the reader engaged quite easily; rather than just examples from the authors, the authors and their other associates mentioned recall experiences that helped shaped who they are, the obstacles encountered, and the pros and cons between what they individually wanted. 'Direct Your Own Life' has a unique quality of

its own, and to add to its appeal is that rather than just experiences, the book in its entirety has the tone of a movie script. "Director's Notes", movies and characters used as examples, and using a script as a metaphor for the goals you want to achieve in life are just a few of the unique tidbits that readers will come across in this book and it will not disappoint at all. In fact, readers will be able to enjoy the "movie" feel of it, along with picking up the humorous narrative that is presented by Ramirez and Barrett.

Copyrighted in 2008, and receiving praise from movie sources and book critics, as well as various readers, 'Direct Your Own Life' is an excellent choice for not just directing your life, but a chance to really shine at what you wish to pursue to achieve your dreams.

SPECIAL EVENT  
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Following the regularly scheduled performance of the critically acclaimed production of "Driving Miss Daisy" on Saturday, February 23, at 8 pm, there will be a discussion with U.S. District Judge Ralph Fertig, who was a Freedom Rider during the Civil Rights Era, moderated by Marianne Szegedy-Maszak, award-winning journalist, author and board member of the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C.

"Driving Miss Daisy" is the Pulitzer Prize winning play about the developing friendship between an elderly Jewish widow in Atlanta and her African American chauffeur. Set between the years of 1948 and 1973, the narrative occurs during the turbulent early years of the Civil Rights Era, and issues of race are brought front and center.

Performance of "Driving Miss Daisy." Written by Alfred Uhry. Directed by Christian Lebrano.

Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Ample free parking behind theatre. Admission: \$25. Seniors (65+) \$22. Youth (13-21), \$15. Children 12 and under, \$12. Reservations: (626) 355-4318. Online ticketing: [www.sierramadreplayhouse.org](http://www.sierramadreplayhouse.org)

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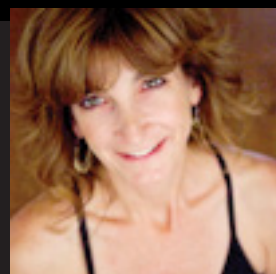
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## HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



## HOW CAN YOGA HELP

## GET UPSIDE DOWN!

Going upside down is what we call the "anti-aging" and "anti-depressant" secret of yoga. Going upside down changes your mood in seconds and leaves you with a smile, every time. You do not need to stand on your head. There are surprising techniques that can help you get all the benefits without the fear or the strain on your neck. Going up side down or inversions, change the way the prana flows. It gets that vital life energy moving upward toward the head and it lifts the corners of the mouth and the corners of the eyes. It lifts your spirits and it's great for the immune system. Yogis have been doing inversions for years. If you are in a bad mood and need an immediate change, go upside down. I never dreamed I would be able to do a hand stand. I could not do one when I was a kid. But I soon learned it's possible and fun! Shoulder stand is easier, especially with a block under your low back. But you can just do what we call legs up the wall.

Sit right next to a wall, with your hip touching the wall. Roll onto your side keeping that hip at the wall, so you are in a tight little ball on your side with your bum at the wall. Then swing your legs up the wall and come onto your back. Close your eyes and slow your breath for 5, 10 or 20 minutes. Come out by rolling back onto your side and pressing to your hands and knees. 'Legs up the wall' pose is better than a nap. It will leave you feeling rejuvenated and fresh, not groggy like a nap. Everyone can do legs up the wall. It's safe and relaxing. For other inversions you need the instructions of an experienced teacher. There are some medical conditions that are not good for going upside down. Be sure to tell your teacher if you have glaucoma or blood pressure issues.

Going upside down gives us a new perspective. You will love it. It can be scary to those of us that have never done it. You are never to old to try it and you will soon learn that it is natural and fun.

Give 'legs up the wall' pose a try and let me know what you think. *Namasté, René*

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SEAN'S SHAMELESS  
REVIEWS:

Review By Sean Kayden

## ATLAS GENIUS

2013 may very well turn out to be a huge year for Atlas Genius. Originally from Australia, the four-piece indie-pop group has been riding high with their 2012 buzz song, "Trojans." While the song has been percolating since 2011, it wasn't until last June when brothers Keith, Michael, and Steven Jeffery, along with keyboardist Darren Sell were signed onto Warner Bros. Records that it became known stateside. The hit song appeared on their debut EP record, "Through the Glass" while garnering much praise and popularity. However, now that we're in 2013, Atlas Genius, the Foster The People/Phoenix type of band before them, is still banking on "Trojans" alongside ten other tracks (only eight being brand new) on their debut LP, "When It Was Now." The songs found on the record exude pure summer vibes that are dance inducing, high energy, and pack a mighty punch. While Atlas Genius could turn into merely a one hit wonder group, the brothers and friend will have to prove they're not just another pop rock band with nothing much to offer besides one catchy tune.

Artist:	Atlas Genius
Album:	When It Was Now
Label:	Warner Bros. Records
Release Date:	February 19, 2013

"When It Was Now" isn't treading any new ground. It sounds like any other band in the genre, but that's not to say there isn't anything to take away from it. For the most part, the record is incredibly catchy and very accessible to connect with. Majority of the album borrows from an 80s style that incorporates both synths and rhythmic guitar riffs. "Through The Glass" is toned down compared to the other tracks since it's more of an acoustic tune and piano-driven. The title track "When It Was Now" is a combination of the sounds of both Twin Shadow and Phoenix. "If So" might as well be the second hit single for the band. It's just as infectious as "Trojans" even if it's somewhat derivative. The slower tempo standout track is "All These Girls." It's easily the band's best song and shows the band in a very sensitive light. The super charged, full-fledged dance anthem known as "Electric" is probably the most uninspiring tune. "Electric" is a rather generic opener that may give the listener the wrong idea from the get-go even if it doesn't sound all that much different than subsequent tracks. Fortunately, things improve rather quickly. The thing is, these slick, electro-pop driven songs work very well most of the time. However, separating this band from others alike is a difficult undertaking.

At the end of the day, the music here isn't going to change your life. It's great workout music or just playing in your car in the windows down. "When It Was Now" is a fun album—nothing more and usually nothing less. When it tries to be something deeper, it comes off amateurish despite relatively fun, cool, summery beats. There's sort of a dichotomy to a band like Atlas Genius. On one hand they're on their way of becoming the "it" band and some would say rightfully so. They've mastered the art of expanding on something (synth-pop) that's been beaten to death. On the other hand, they're really not doing anything revolutionary. They have some nice tunes to their catalogue and their presence alone will have them opening up for bigger acts and performing on late night talk shows. However, Atlas Genius isn't leading the pack and despite merely following the herd, they somehow might find themselves closer up in the mix than those who tried to do the same thing previously before them. At any rate, I wouldn't get too invested in band like this, but enjoy it for what it is and certainly not for what it could have been.

Grade: 7 out of 10

Key Tracks: "If So", "Trojans", "Centered On You", "All These Girls"

## SIERRA MADRE ARTIST HONORED

18-year Sierra Madre resident, Djibril N'Doye, Fine Artist, was presented with the Featured Artist Award at the 21st Annual Pan African Film & Arts Festival Filmmaker's Award Brunch on Monday, February 18, 2013 at the "pop up" PAFF Filmmakers Lounge, located in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza. The festival handed out jury, audience and special prizes during the awards brunch held on Presidents Day, the final day of the 12-day festival.

In his acceptance speech, Djibril said, "The Pan African Film & Arts Festival is where board members, directors, filmmakers, writers, festival staff and volunteers, and fine artists from all over the world come to share the same history, an African heritage, and get to know each other, and that really makes us feel like family. To me, we are a family. There is a very strong, spiritual connection which makes me feel like I am in Africa."

He also said he is looking forward to share the honor of his award with his daughters Fatou and Salya in Senegal, and with his hometown of Bargny, who take great pride in his accomplishments, especially the youth who do a lot to uphold his legacy there. The "Diplome d'Honneur" award for service and value the youth organization called 'Association Promo - Family' recently presented to him was accepted on his behalf by Salya while Djibril was away exhibiting in Arizona.

The PAFF Awards Brunch took place in the Lounge which Djibril remarked on how thenatically well-decorated it was done by the Artfest Director/Curator, Allohna Agbenya. The walls had large hand-woven tapestries and wood carved African masks.

After receiving his award, Djibril expressed how on behalf of his family, particularly his wife, Mary, and on behalf of his country and Africa, he was very grateful to Babu, Executive Director of PAFF, and Asantewa, Director of Programming, all the technical staff and volunteers, and Allohna the art curator, for choosing Djibril as the Featured Artist for a second time, the first having been in 2006.

The PAFF was widely publicized in Senegal by the newspapers, both print and online, and Djibril provided festival information to H.E. Mr. Cheikh Niang, Ambassador at the Senegal Embassy in Washington, D.C., and to the President of Senegal, Mr. Macky Sall, and the Minister of Culture, Mr. Youssou N'Dour, as well as to the governor of Dakar, Mr. Cheikh Ahmet Tidiane N'Doye. Established in 1992, The Pan African Film Festival (PAFF) is a non-profit corporation dedicated to the promotion of cultural and racial tolerance and understanding through the exhibition of film, art and creative expression.

It is PAFF's goal to present and showcase the broad spectrum of Black creative works, particularly those that reinforce positive images and help to destroy negative stereotypes. We believe film and art can lead to better understanding and foster communication between peoples of diverse cultures, races, and lifestyles, while at the same time, serve as a vehicle to initiate dialogue on the important issues of our times.

Each year, PAFF presents:

- Over One Hundred Fifty (150) quality films from the United States, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, the South Pacific and Canada, all showcasing the diversity and complexity of people of African descent.
- One of America's largest fine art shows featuring prominent and emerging Black artists and fine crafts people, including local, national and international poets, musicians and storytellers. For further information, please contact the Pan African Film & Arts Festival, 310-337-4737, or [www.paff.org](http://www.paff.org).

Djibril N'Doye, [djibrilartist@gmail.com](mailto:djibrilartist@gmail.com), or [www.djibrilndoye.com](http://www.djibrilndoye.com).

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## EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES FOR OLDER JOB SEEKERS

*Dear Savvy Senior: What resources can you recommend to help older job seekers? I'm 62 and have been out of work for nearly a year now and need some help. Looking For Work*

Dear Looking:

While the U.S. job market has improved slightly over the past year or so, challenges persist for many older job seekers. Fortunately, there are a number of free online tools and in-person training centers scattered across the country today that can help you find employment. Here's what you should know.

#### Online Resources

If you have Internet access, there are a number of 50-and-older online employment networks that can help you connect with companies that are interested in hiring older workers.

Two of the best are workreimagined.org, a resource developed by AARP that combines career advice, job listings and online discussion tied to LinkedIn's professional networking platform. And retirementjobs.com, which offers a job search engine that lists thousands of jobs nationwide from companies that are actively seeking workers over the age of 50. It also provides job-seeking tips and advice, helps with resume writing and allows you to post your resume online for companies to find you.

Some other good 50-plus job seeking sites to try are workforce50.com, retiredbrains.com, retireeworkforce.com, and encore.org a resource that helps older workers find meaningful work in the second half of life.

#### In-Person Help

Another good place to get help finding a job is at a Career One-Stop center. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, these are free job resource centers that can help you explore career options, search for jobs, find training, write a resume, prepare for an interview and much more. There are around 3,000 of these centers located throughout the country. To find one near you, call 877-348-0502 or go to [careeronestop.org](http://careeronestop.org).

Depending on your financial situation, another program that may help is the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). Also sponsored by the Department of Labor, SCSEP offers access to training and part time job placements in a wide variety of community service positions such as day care centers, senior centers, governmental agencies, schools, hospitals, libraries and landscaping centers. To qualify, participants must be over 55, unemployed and have



poor employment prospects. To learn more or locate a program in your area visit [www.doleta.gov/seniors](http://www.doleta.gov/seniors) or call 877-872-5627.

#### Work at Home

If you're interested in working at home, there are many opportunities depending on your skills, but be careful of rampant work-at-home scams that offer big paydays without much effort.

Some of the more popular work-at-home jobs include "customer service agents" who fields calls from their employers' customers and prospective customers – you don't place telemarketing calls. Agents earn an average of \$8 to \$15 an hour and many also receive incentives and commission, too. To find these jobs see [arise.com](http://arise.com), [alpineaccess.com](http://alpineaccess.com), [liveops.com](http://liveops.com) and [workingsolutions.com](http://workingsolutions.com).

If you have good typing skills there are "transcriptionist" jobs that pay around \$10 per hour for typing verbatim accounts of board meetings, presentations, conference calls, etc. Companies that hire transcriptionists are [tigerfish.com](http://tigerfish.com), [ubiquis.com](http://ubiquis.com), [ctran.com](http://ctran.com).

And if you have a college degree, online "tutoring" or "proofreading" jobs are always available. See [tutor.com](http://tutor.com) to find tutoring opportunities which pay between \$10 and \$15 per hour. Or, if you have some writing or editing experience, proofreading pays \$12 to \$20 per hour. See [first-editing.com](http://first-editing.com) and [cactusglobal.com](http://cactusglobal.com) to look for proofreading jobs.

For more work at home ideas and resources, see [retiredbrains.com](http://retiredbrains.com) and click on the "Work from Home" tab on the left side of the page.

#### Start a Business

If you're interested in starting a small business but could use some help getting started, the U.S. Small Business Administration offers tips, tools and free online courses that you can access at [sba.gov](http://sba.gov).

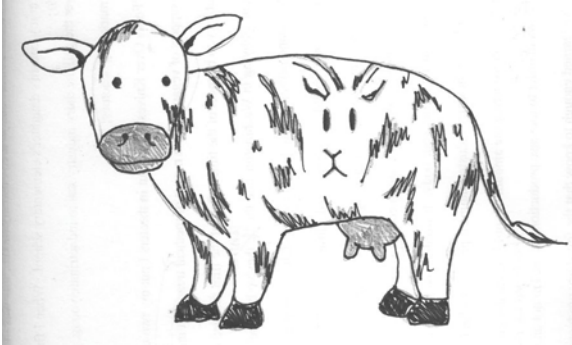
Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.



## KATIE Tse .....This and That MOBILE DAIRY

"Mobile" and "dairy" aren't usually thought of together, but they were on display at the latest assembly presented at my cousin's daughter's elementary school. When I first heard of this event I was a bit appalled; the gall of the dairy industry to indoctrinate young, impressionable minds with their marketing schemes!

When "Forks Over Knives" came out in theaters I put my two cents in my little column in support of veganism as a means of medical prevention and treatment. (I'm not 100% vegan, but I try to be most of the time.) Part of the film focused on the dairy industry, its influential lobbying in Washington, and the untruth they've been selling to Americans since the 1950's (and perhaps earlier). Namely, the dairy council claims that consuming milk is a vital means of building calcium, and subsequently healthy bones and teeth, etc. The only problem is that the casein in milk spikes the acidity of your blood, which necessitates your bones to secrete calcium to correct your body's pH balance. Yes, milk consumption saps calcium from your body. It wouldn't be so disturbing if it wasn't the exact opposite of what the dairy industry claims it promotes --healthy teeth and bones. Not to mention the great amount of antibiotics and hormones cows are subjected to in order to increase production. I'm not an expert in these matters, but I've learned enough to know that the few dairy products I do consume should be seen as a calculated risk, rather than a nutritional enrichment.



All these thoughts were seething in my mind when my cousin started to describe the mobile dairy's presentation for her first grader's class. Apparently the mobile dairy consists of a handful of dairy "experts" and a large trailer carrying a heifer and her calf. When I say "large," I mean LARGE! The school deposits the cattle and their keepers on the field (the only place on campus where cows can be cows...) Kindergarten through fifth graders gets to hear the dairy presentation. The upper graders didn't attend. They have either heard it before or no longer care.

Vegan-wise, I was happy to hear that the children saw an actual cow. Though I somehow doubt the presenters said, "Here's where your 'Big Macs' come from!" I looked at the website for the "Dairy Council of California," which provides tips for "healthy eating made easier" (or dumber). Admittedly, I didn't scourer the site for it's standing on snacks, parent modeling, etc.

While listening to the account of the dairy presentation from my cousin, I was able to glean a general sense of what the dairy council had taught the students in a forty-five minute presentation and the experience of seeing a real cow and calf. Hopefully this cow and her young will positively influence the younger generation. If the kiddos didn't make the connection that "Bossie" was to become their Carl's Jr. hamburger, at least they saw that a living creature contributed to the milk, cheese, and yogurt they consume on a daily basis. With that, I encourage you to live long, prosper, and get your calcium from leafy greens!

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## SENIOR HAPPENINGS

By Pat Birdsall

**FYI:** If I hear the word "patience" uttered by *anyone* I will scream myself to death. *Maybe that's a tad too dramatic...* Suffice it to say, patience is not one of my virtues. It's a word that actually pains my Irish soul. (It must be the "drama" of the Academy Awards that has this effect on me)...With the physical limitations of a fractured hip on top of the hip replacement surgery, "*patience*" is a word I need to add to my vocabulary and use frequently. In all actuality, those of you who really me, know that I would rather set my hair on fire... but, that's what life has thrown in my path and I have to make the best of it. There is *always* someone worse off as we know, but a "pity party" is okay once in a while isn't it?

I have to thank my son, Chris, and my truly wonderful friends and neighbors. Without all of them, I honestly don't know what I would have done at the inception of this ordeal and its continuing stages. It does get better...Right?

I can't go further (or is it farther)? without mentioning a local organization that has played a large part in *my* healing process. I have to give the Convalescent Aid Society on East Foothill Boulevard in Pasadena, my sincerest thanks and appreciation. I can't tell you the great relief I felt when my son located my much needed medical equipment and that it was just a phone call away. **An FYI in the FYI...**the Convalescent Aid Society is a non-profit organization totally funded by private donations and endowments. They have been in continuous operation since 1923 and provide medical equipment for at-home at no charge and no time constraints to the residents in the San Gabriel Valley. Call them a call for more information: (626) 793-1696.

**HELPFUL HINT:** Good weather sealing around your doors and windows not only saves money on heating and cooling, but also cuts down on dusting dramatically.

## FOR YOUR FUNNY BONE

A man returns from Africa feeling very ill. He goes to see his doctor and is immediately rushed to a hospital to undergo a barrage of extensive tests. The man wakes up after the tests in a private room at the hospital and the phone by his bed rings. "This is your doctor. We've got the results back from your tests and we've found you have an extremely nasty virus which is very contagious!" "Oh, my gosh," cries the man. He's in a panic now. "What are you going to do doctor?" "Well, we're going to quarantine you and put you on a diet of pizzas, pancakes and pita bread." "Will that cure me?" asked the man hopefully. The doctor replied, "Well no, but...it's the only food we can get under the door."

A woman called 911 complaining of difficulty breathing. My husband, Glenn and his partner... both EMTs... rushed to her home. Glenn placed a sensor on her finger to measure her pulse and oxygen. The he began to gather her information. "What's your age?" he asked. "Fifty-eight," answered the patient, eyeing the beeping device on her finger. "What does that do?" "It's a lie detector," said Glenn with a straight face. "Now, what did you say your age was?" "Sixty-seven," answered the woman sheepishly.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ... February Birthdays...

Anne-Marie Stockdale, Gordon Caldwell, Peter Lippincott, Georgia Lippincott, Janet Emery, Sharon Lefler, Lorraine Bush, Mary Beth Knox, Vickie Vernon, Hilda Pittman, Susan Henderson, Sylvia Lorhan Ann Luke, Janet O'Day, Ana Ptasinski, Jan Reed, Allie Atay, Ursula El-Tawansy, Winifred Swanson, Marian DeMars. \*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:** *Shin: A device for finding furniture in the dark. ~Author Unknown*



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

YMCA San Gabriel Valley Intervale Senior Café: Monday-Friday at 12:00 Noon (Participants are urged to arrive no later than 11:45 A.M.)

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

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

**Free Income Tax Assistance:** Wednesdays through April 10th from 1pm to 2pm Don Brunner will provide is available to all seniors for income tax consultation. Appointments are required, call 626-355-7394.

**Birthday Celebrations:** The **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 CLASS - Hawaiian & Polynesian Dance:** Starting Feb 25th, this six week introductory course will teach hand, hip, and feet movements for one full dance. Classes will be held on Mondays from 1:00pm to 2:00pm for six weeks. Sarongs and leis will be provided. Class taught by Sierra Madre resident Cheryl Mason.

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE** This class focuses on learning current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques, and how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment. You'll also learn how you can manage and accommodate common age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. Manystates including California offer discounts on auto insurance rates for those who complete this course..



## EXCURSIONS:

**Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise** Date: Friday, February 22, 2013

**Description:** View actual costumes from movies released in 2012, including 2012 Academy Award Winner for Best Costume, The Artist.

**COMING UP: Whale Watching Trip - 2 hour boat ride (Long Beach, CA)** Date: Saturday, March 2, 2013 Time: 10:00am - 3:30pm Meeting Location: Community Recreation Center Cost: \$31.00 (does not include lunch) Register by: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 Join the Community Services Department on its annual whale watching excursion. The 2013 excursion will visit the same whale watching Charter Company as 2012, which features a 2 hour cruise narrated by Aquarium of the Pacific staff and a boat that features indoor and outdoor seating. Participants can bring their own lunch to enjoy on the boat, or purchase snack items on-board. Bus leaves from the Community Recreation Center.

**Jeopardy Taping at the Sony Lot** Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013

**Description:** Attend a taping of America's favorite quiz show. Test your knowledge while host Alex Trebek challenges the contestants.

**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. All movies are shown in Sierra Madre's City Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Everyday is an open house:

**HUNTINGTON VETERINARY HOSPITAL**  
626-357-2335  
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TUES 8-8PM  
SAT. 8-1PM  
535 West Huntington Drive in Monrovia

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



**Coming Soon!**

### A CENTURY OF CHARM WITH ALL THE MODERN AMENITIES!

One of Sierra Madre's century "young" homes is soon coming to market in this, the year of its centennial! With the dramatic San Gabriel Mountains as a picturesque backdrop, this beautiful home was originally constructed in 1913, then extensively remodeled and substantially expanded in 1993. The resulting "merger" offers the quintessential hometown feel... complete with white picket fence and boulder detailing... in a modern home with today's amenities. The current owners knew this was just the home for them when they viewed the stunning mountain views from the balcony off of the master suite. The 1993 remodel expanded the home to 1808 square feet with three bedrooms plus two baths, with the second floor addition. The main floor was also extensively updated at this time, as well, blending a century of tradition with new amenities. The home has been remodeled with the finest materials and is in pristine condition. Matching bay windows flank the welcoming front door painted in a cheery red. A step inside allows one to take in most of the main floor, for an open airy feel. The first floor ceilings soar over twelve feet, while crisp white-painted woodwork pays homage to tradition, providing a bright backdrop for furnishings. Granite counters in the kitchen and baths match the granite fireplace surround in the living room.

Recessed lighting throughout provides modern lighting and plantation shutters provide both sunlight, privacy control and most importantly, substantial savings on year round utilities. The separate laundry room/mud room off the kitchen leads to the breezeway and out to the back yard. The delightful breezeway enjoys cooler temperatures during the hot weather months. Hand scraped hickory stain engineered wood flooring was recently installed, combining a both durable and appealing "foundation" for the main floor living spaces and the stairway. New carpeting was just installed in the master suite. New 13" porcelain, San Marcos Sicilian White tile bath floors were also just installed in both baths this year. The home's 7524 square foot homesite, set high above the street, provides additional privacy, while creating a charming curb appeal. The white picket fence extends to the automatic gate for the driveway, creating additional outdoor living and entertaining space in the fenced front yard. It also leads to the finished, two car garage. Out back, the private yard is very secluded, and offers nary a view of any neighbors. Newly fenced in 2012, it offers a generous lawn area, a vegetable garden, plus several citrus trees including tangerine, grapefruit and lime trees, for fresh fruit many months of the year. After a long day's work, it's easy to picture oneself relaxing in the front yard. Seat yourself in a couple of Adirondack chairs with a favorite beverage, chat with neighbors ambling by, and, of course, taking the time to smell the roses! The seller shared a poignant moment. "This



383 W. Grandview - Sierra Madre

morning I woke up and looked out the window of my second story bedroom at the Angeles Mountains that are so beautiful this time of year. As I watched, a beautiful Red-tailed hawk soared into view and landed on top of a telephone pole behind the house. She appeared to be looking at me for a moment and then in the golden light of the early morning sun she fully displayed her wings as if to fly but instead she perched there in all her glory. As I yearned for my camera she slowly lifted off and circled once and flew away toward the mountains. Such is the essence of the special experience of everyday life in a community

that might be the best kept secret in Los Angeles... Sierra Madre." The wonderful neighborhood always offers a pleasant shaded walk into downtown, full of unique shops and bistros, many with al fresco dining. Take a breath and take it all in... wonderful Sierra Madre! 383 W. Grand View in Sierra Madre is listed at \$929,000, and offered by Eileen Benson of Coldwell Banker, Pasadena. It will be available for showings beginning March 16. For more information, contact the agent at 626-278-0187.



### Tips of the Trade: Real Estate Revealed

by Luther Tsinoglou Realtor®

#### LISTINGS LINGO

As if the language of real estate weren't confusing enough, the wave of bad lending practices and loan defaults of recent years have added more terms that have subtle but important shades of difference. When you prepare to speak with an agent about buying or selling, make sure you understand the lingo. First, realize that the word "foreclosure" does not describe a property, but the legal process by which a homeowner loses their interest and the bank or lender assumes ownership. It's a legal term, not a property description.

If you're buying, you go to tour "foreclosures," per se. You're probably going to look at "Real Estate Owned" listings, or REOs. These are properties that the lender has taken back after the foreclosure process is complete. You may see these advertised as "bank owned." Then there's another type of listing described as a "short sale." This may qualify as a "distressed" property, but it is not yet in the hands of the bank or lender. The homeowners and the lender have reached an agreement to sell the property for less than the owners owe on their mortgage.

The short sale is an attempt at compromise between the two parties, keeping the sellers out of foreclosure and credit history ruin, and keeping the lender out of the costly process of foreclosure and expensive business of property management.

*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)*

### CITY OF DUARTE AND ARCADIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® TO HOST FREE SPRING HOME BUYERS FAIR, APRIL 13

Potential home buyers can get a leg up on the home buying process at the Spring Home Buyers Fair, Saturday, April 13, hosted by the City of Duarte and the Arcadia Association of Realtors®. The free community event will provide valuable information and opportunities to connect with industry professionals, including Realtors®, lenders, non-profit housing and other agencies. The free Home Buyers Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Duarte Community Center, 1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte.

Learning sessions throughout the day will provide attendees with what they need to know to be successful in today's challenging home buying market. They can also learn about what the City of Duarte has to offer. Raffle prizes will be awarded at the event and a free lunch will be provided from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the Arcadia Association of Realtors® at (626) 446-2115 or visit [www.TheAAR.com](http://www.TheAAR.com) and click "upcoming events".

Representing local Realtors® in the San Gabriel Valley for 89 years, the Arcadia Association of Realtors® is one of the oldest trade organizations in California. The AAR is dedicated to the advancement of professionalism in real estate and is an advocate for private property rights. A.A.R. is headquartered in Arcadia.

### TIPS FOR BUYING A HOME IN TODAY'S MARKET

(StatePoint) If you're considering buying a home, some experts think you should get a move on it. Interest rates are at 65-year record lows and national home prices have finally hit bottom and are on the rise. Despite what you may be hearing, loans are available for those with good credit histories, stable income and sufficient savings. But don't jump right in unprepared. Whether you're a seasoned buyer or a newbie, there are strategies that can help you throughout the home-buying process:

#### Stick to Your Budget

Determining how much "home you can afford" depends on several factors, including your annual gross income, credit history, current mortgage rates and the amount of your down payment. In today's market, you can expect a down payment to generally be between 5 to 20 percent of the purchase price for a conventional mortgage. Lenders recommend that your mortgage payment (principal, interest, taxes and mortgage insurance)

be less than 28 percent of your monthly gross income.

Before looking for a home, consider calling a Department of Housing and Urban Development-approved housing counselor for free and confidential financial assistance.

#### Avoid Borrowing Pitfalls

Unscrupulous lenders can damage your credit and cause you financial hardship. Here are some ways to avoid becoming a victim:

- Say 'no' to easy money. Beware if someone claims that your "credit problems won't affect the interest rate." If a solicitation is really appealing, get it in writing and seek a second opinion.
- Talk to several lenders to find the best loan.
- Know if the loan offered to you charges a fee if you pay it off early. If it's a requirement of the loan, ask about other products that don't contain this type of penalty.
- Ensure documents are correct and complete. Beware of anyone offering to falsify your income information to qualify you for a loan. Never sign documents that have incorrect dates or blank fields.
- Ask for written estimates that include all points and fees. When

you get to the closing table, if any fees or charges differ from what was previously disclosed, delay closing until all terms are understood.

- If you're taking equity out of your property, only take the minimum. Equity typically builds slowly over time, so it's important to try to preserve it.
- If you're not sure, don't sign! Get advice first from a reputable consumer credit counseling agency or housing counselor.

#### Know the Mortgage Process

Mortgages are serious long-term financial commitments. Selecting the right mortgage may make a big difference in your monthly payments and overall cost of your loan.

To determine the best term for your personal situation and one that aligns with your financial goals, talk with your lender or financial professional for guidance.

The prospect of making such a big investment can be intimidating, especially if you're a first time homebuyer. Do your research, reach out to the professionals, stick to your budget and be sure you're ready to take on the financial responsibilities of being a homeowner.

### CENTURY 21 LUDECKE AGENT HELPS CLIENTS WITH LESS-THAN-OPTIMAL CREDIT

Arcadia, CA.- New full time Realtor-Associate Stephanie Parker, is not a new comer to providing her clients with phenomenal customer service, and Mike Ludecke- broker-owner of Century 21 Ludecke is happy to welcome her aboard!

Stephanie's expertise includes many aspects of the real estate dynamic including giving assistance to potential new home owners whose credit may be less-than-stellar find an affordable and desirable home to buy. Parker carefully guides her customers through the maze of contingencies, inspections and paperwork all the way to the successful close of escrow. "I just love the moment when I get to hand over the keys to a happy family's new home" says Parker. "Making my client's dreams come true is what I'm all about, and is so personally rewarding", she adds.

Parker lives in nearby Duarte and comes from a large and loving family. She is a 1996 graduate of the University of La Verne and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management. Amongst her hobbies, travel is number one and it has taken her throughout Europe, the Caribbean, and many countries in between. Stephanie has been in the real estate business for several years. Prior to her real estate career, she worked 28 ½ years as an AT&T Service Representative which helped hone and prepare her in meeting and exceeding the future customer service and detailed transaction needs of her many real estate clients. Call Stephanie Parker at (626) 833-9094 or E-mail: [Stephanie.Parker@Century21.com](mailto:Stephanie.Parker@Century21.com)



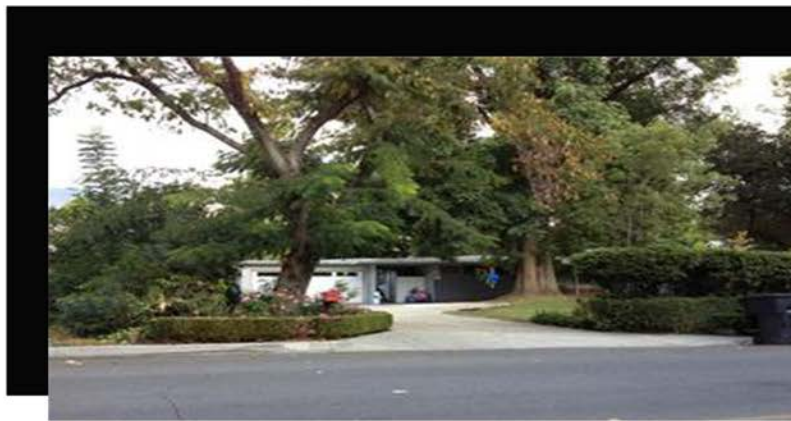
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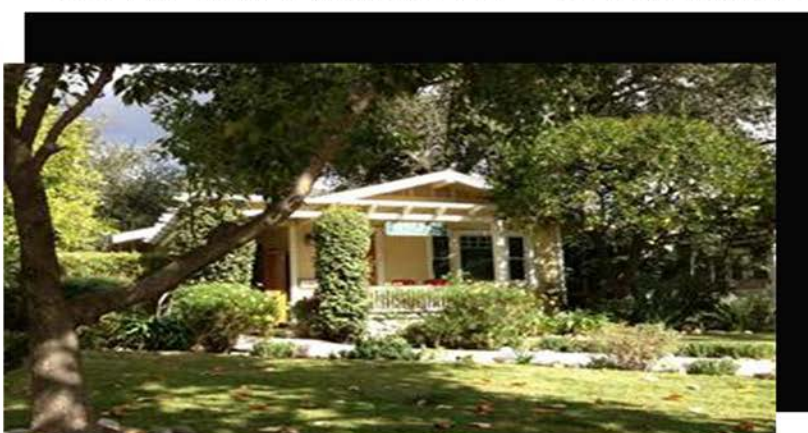
#### 615 E. Orange Grove Sierra Madre



**\$859,000**

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

#### 373 W. Sierra Madre Bl. Sierra Madre



**\$775,000**

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

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



# HOWARD Hays As I See It



*"a positive step forward that begins to rein in federal spending"*  
- House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH), 2011

*"It is a product of the president's own failed leadership."*  
- Speaker Boehner, 2013

*"significant move . . . will finally begin to change the way Washington spends taxpayer dollars"*  
- House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA), 2011

*«Clearly, this is not the best way to go about controlling spending.»*  
- Majority Leader Cantor, 2013

*"victory for those committed to controlling government spending and growing our economy"*  
- House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), 2011

*"Don't forget it's the president who first proposed (it)"*  
- Chairman Ryan, 2013

No, those last two quotes aren't signs of Rep. Ryan breaking character and gushing over President Obama – but more on that later.

Last week I wrote of my having jotted down impressions of the State of the Union after hearing the speech, but before being exposed to subsequent media commentary. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) in his response did me one better; he prepared his own remarks on President Obama's address before even being exposed to the speech.

Sen. Rubio offered a feverish rebuttal to statements the president didn't make, from a speech the president didn't give. Listeners were undoubtedly reminded of the talking points which doomed Mitt Romney's presidential campaign last year. They also recalled similar remarks made during the eight years under President Bush; remarks used to justify policies leading to the biggest economic collapse of our lifetime.

Memories aside, one need only look at the situation today here at home – with employment, economic growth, deficit reduction and the stock market showing the effects of President Obama's policies, and comparing it with those European countries suffering under enforced "austerity" regimes; countries not only denied the economic recovery seen in the U.S., but that face the prospect of "double-dip" recessions.

Americans remember earlier efforts to raise the minimum wage, as President Obama advocated in his speech. They remember arguments that it would cause employers to cut jobs, and how those arguments proved bogus.

(A paper put out this month by the Center for Economic and Policy Research finds four major effects from raising the minimum wage: 1) Increased Efficiency, 2) Increased Demand for goods and services; 3) Lower Turnover, with employers recouping costs by savings on recruitment and training, and 4) Higher Prices, though merely a 0.4% increase overall for a 10% increase in the minimum wage. The impact on unemployment is negligible, if anything. (Joel Benoliel, Senior VP at Costco, puts it this way; "We'd all be better off in our country if the lowest-paying jobs paid enough for people not to be on food stamps and not to be on welfare when it comes to going to the hospital.")

Americans remember Republicans claiming credit for the Budget Control Act of 2011 and now, with its "sequester" provision due to kick in March 1, see them trying to blame the whole thing on President Obama. The quotations opening this column show how the party line can change in less than two years – especially when political strategy takes precedence over principle.

Americans remember how back in 2011, Republicans, for the first time in history, attached conditions to their raising the debt ceiling allowing us to pay our bills – a move the president's top economic advisor called "quite insane". President Obama sought a "clean" up-or-down vote on the debt ceiling, but House Republicans stood opposed. The president offered a combination of spending cuts (a lot) and revenue increases (a few) as part of a deal to avoid our nation defaulting on its debts. Republicans, however, insisted on all cuts or nothing – and the White House realized they were crazy enough to crash the economy if they didn't get their way.

The "sequester" proposal, with automatic spending cuts (not exempting the military) kicking in should a deficit-deal not be reached, was offered to get over the obstacle of Republicans' holding hostage the "full faith and credit" of the United States. As Michael Tomasky put it in *The Daily Beast*, it was an "idea" of President Obama's in the same way it would be the "idea" of a parent to pay ransom to a kidnapper holding a child hostage. In either case, it's something you do when you realize the other side is nuts.

Whoever's idea it was, it didn't receive any Democratic votes in the House. It got the votes of 174 House Republicans, 28 in the Senate, and they bragged about its passage. But now that we're about to experience real-life consequences of this sequester, it's all the president's fault.

Americans remember the record-high deficit of \$1.41 trillion for fiscal year 2009, which began four months before President Obama's inauguration, and now learn the CBO projects it to come down to \$845 billion for the current fiscal year ending September 30 – a 40% drop since Obama's been in office.

Americans with long memories probably don't recall the Eisenhower years as being marked by out-of-control spending, so might find interesting last month's Bloomberg article noting that the growth in federal spending over the past three years has been the slowest since 1953-1956.

A long memory isn't required to recall Republican leaders insisting the problem isn't tax rates, but deductions and "loopholes". Americans remember as they see Republicans willing to gut care for our seniors and veterans, education, infrastructure repair and military preparedness in order to protect taxpayer subsidies for our most profitable companies (Exxon/Mobil, Chevron) and loopholes benefiting corporations moving jobs overseas.

In a new Pew Research / USA Today poll, President Obama's approval rating is 51%, with Republican congressional leaders' at 25%. 79% of Americans favor a deficit deal consisting of both spending cuts and tax increases; 19% agree with Republicans that tax increases be kept off the table. Should there not be a deficit deal, 31% would blame President Obama, and 49% would blame Republicans. That's something Republicans themselves should remember as they continue blocking the president's agenda.

# WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD SEQUESTER? GREG Welborn

I'll make this week's article pretty short and to the point, because the facts on this matter are pretty short and to the point. Despite the reams of paper and barrels of ink spilled in the cause of scaring the American public about the imminent sequester, the truth is that it won't hurt us. In fact, it's probably going to do a world of good.

Quick refresher: The sequester is a term that applies to the results of recent congressional budget negotiations in which both sides agreed that if they couldn't come up with a budget compromise, then spending would be automatically cut by 10%, more or less across the board. Domestic spending and military spending were going to get the axe. Sounds pretty menacing and potentially devastating until you translate it from politic-speak into normal English. Let's do that now.

First and foremost, not all spending is going to be cut. Social Security and Medicare and other entitlement spending items are NOT going to be cut. Gramma's and Grampa's checks will arrive. I repeat, they WILL ARRIVE. Medicare WILL BE PAID. The list of items not going to be reduced goes on awhile.

Second, the sequester is not a reduction in spending like you and I think about the word "reduction". If I spent \$100 last year and tell you that I'm going to reduce spending, you'd probably think I'll only spend \$90 or \$85 this year. In other words, you'd think I'll really reduce spending from whatever I spent last year. That's not how it works in D.C.

Here's the Potomac Shuffle. If the government spent \$1 trillion last year and plans to spend \$1.2 trillion next year, then a "reduction" is anything under the \$1.2. So if spending goes up from last year's level, but goes up by less than what was planned, then politicians call it a "reduction".

In D.C. spending cuts are decreases in the amount of the increase!!!!!!

Third, the amount of the spending cuts is ridiculously small. They're only going to reduce spending by 2.8% from the projected amount. The projected amount of spending is about 30% greater than it was in 2007. Nobody is really cutting back. Here are the numbers:

Year	Revenue	Expenditures	Deficit	Sequestration "Reduction"
2007	\$2.5 trillion	\$2.7 trillion	\$200 billion	Doesn't apply to this year
2012	\$2.4 trillion	\$3.5 trillion	\$1.1 trillion	Spending would be \$3.4 trillion

The "cuts" will not adversely impact the economy, gramma, grampa or most Americans. The argument that they will hurt us gravely is a bunch of @#\$%#@#%\* to scare us into allowing politicians to spend what they want. Spending is what they do best because it brings them power.

As to why we should worry about all this spending, again the numbers are pretty simple. At our present rate, we are spending \$1 trillion more each year than we receive in tax receipts, and tax receipts are back up to 2007 levels. This isn't a taxation problem, it's a spending problem. The government has to borrow the amount of the deficit each year to keep itself in business. It is future generations who will have to pay this back.

We are engaging in generational theft: stealing from future generations in order to pay for bloated, inefficient spending today. Here's what it looks like for your kids, my kids, your grandkids, and my grandkids.

Social Security estimates that young people entering the workforce now will lose 4% of their lifetime wages by participating in the Social Security system.

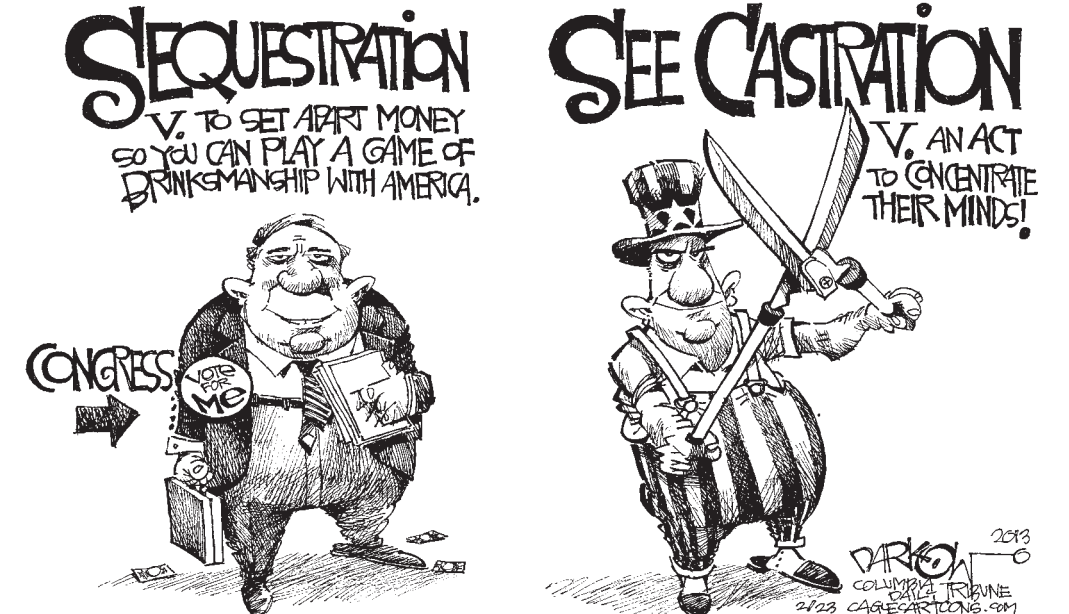
Third graders today will lose 25% of what he or she contributes into Social Security.

The total national debt at this time is \$14 trillion dollars. The entire U.S. economy is \$15 trillion. None of us in our right mind would spend like this or incur debt at this level. We wouldn't be allowed to. Sadly, all of this gets worse if/when interest rates rise. When they do, the amount of interest the government has to pay on the debt will skyrocket, deficits will grow and the problem will escalate. Spending has to be reduced (and I mean reduced like you and I have to actually reduce things) now.

In conclusion, anyone who does not insist that the spending be brought under control – anyone who does not flood their Congressman's and Senator's phone lines and emails with complaints – is guilty of aiding and abetting grand larceny from all of our kids.

When your grandkids ask you what you did to make their life better, let's hope you don't have to say, "nothing honey, absolutely nothing!"

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



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## African-American Connections

When I fly over the majestic continents of North America and Africa, I marvel at their physical beauty. African Americans have a rich history, traditions and culture that have influenced American culture. Some contributions are:

- rice farming • iron working • basketry
- weaving • pottery • cattle raising
- folk tales • foods • wood carvings

Complete the facts to fill in the puzzles.

**North America:**

1. is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest continent
2. has Mount McKinley as its highest \_\_\_\_\_
3. is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest in population
4. physically includes Greenland, the world's largest \_\_\_\_\_
5. has Lake Superior, the world's largest freshwater \_\_\_\_\_
6. has a mainland made up of \_\_\_\_\_ countries.

**Africa:**

1. is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest continent
2. has gold, copper and \_\_\_\_\_
3. has \_\_\_\_\_ countries
4. has the Sahara, the world's largest \_\_\_\_\_
5. has Mount Kilimanjaro as its highest \_\_\_\_\_
6. has the \_\_\_\_\_ passing through it
7. is \_\_\_\_\_ largest in population
8. has many major \_\_\_\_\_
9. has the Nile, the longest \_\_\_\_\_ system in the world

Africa is rich in wildlife – elephants, tigers, giraffes, lions, gorillas and zebras!

The words in bold print show connections between the people of the two continents.

Find and circle words that begin with the letter 'c'!

Chicken Little



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### Mountain Views News Mission Statement

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

## JOE GANDELMAN

Independent's Eye



## AMERICA'S POOP DECK POLITICS

It's the ultimate stomach turner: how Carnival's 893-foot long cruise ship Triumph, along with its 4,200 passengers, was stranded due to a fuel engine leak for five days with no food, little water and few working bathrooms. Passenger cell phone photos showed slews of plastic bags brimming with human waste, and lumpy, raw sewage floating in big puddles.

It gave a new meaning to the phrase "poop deck."

You have to now wonder: is that a metaphor for what's now happening in American politics?

Folks, it ain't getting better. Shortly after the 2008 Presidential election, pundits wrote all kinds of columns about how America was entering a new "post-partisan" era. W-r-o-n-g. And after the 2012 election, pundits suggested Republicans would re-evaluate and no longer be the party constantly opposed to everything Barack Obama proposed. Why, they'd surely temper over the-top, breathless political polemics. W-r-o-n-g.

In the frenzied effort by some GOPers to scuttle the nomination of former Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel, Sen. John McCain finally articulated what all the GOPers' political huffing and puffing, all the evident personal anger and near-rage displayed during Hagel's confirmation hearings was really about. McCain told Fox News:

"But to be honest with you... it goes back to there's a lot of ill will towards Senator Hagel because when he was a Republican, he attacked President Bush mercilessly and [said] he was the worst President since Herbert Hoover and said the surge was the worst blunder since the Vietnam War, which was nonsense," McCain explained. "He was anti-his own party and people — people don't forget that. You can disagree but if you're disagreeable, then people don't forget that."

So Hagel was mean to GWB and he must pay the price with a Republican filibuster that Republicans insist isn't a filibuster (like "pre-owned cars" are not "used cars"). Meanwhile, if McCain was doing his best Michael Corleone

impression, Texas' Republican Sen. Ted Cruz was doing his best Joseph McCarthy imitation, demanding Hagel reveal where \$200,000 income came from, declaring: "It is at a minimum relevant to know if that \$200,000 that he deposited in his bank account came directly from Saudi Arabia, came directly from North Korea. I have no evidence that it is or isn't."

Although Hagel is likely to be confirmed, this shows how political waste is now our politics' motor. A Washington Post-ABC News poll found that six in 10 Republican voters would support a pathway for undocumented immigrants' citizenship. That is, unless Obama proposes it -- which would reduce GOP support by 21 percent.

This view was confirmed by former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who noted: "An Obama [immigration] plan led and driven by Obama in this atmosphere with the level of hostility towards the president and the way he goads the hostility I think is very hard to imagine that bill, that his bill is going to pass the House." But a bill originating in the Senate, Gingrich said, "could actually get to the president's desk."

Once upon a time, American politics was about issues; now it's about hyper-partisans and hyper-ideologists having issues. American politics was once about politicians studying problems and acting; now it's about politicians and partisans acting out.

American politics is increasingly less about governance and taking sound policy positions than determining a political response based on hate, revenge or partisan spite. What will it take to change this? A newer, smarter generation? Gridlock that leads to catastrophe? Can this trend be reversed?

If not, America's poop deck politics will continue to flow.

*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](mailto:jgandelman@themoderatevoice.com) and can be booked to speak at your event at [www.mavenproductions.com](http://www.mavenproductions.com).*



## RICH JOHNSON

## WHILE I WAS OUT.....



## While I was Out...

Hello everyone! Miss me? Oh, I sincerely hope so. My absence even generated a compliment or two on the Tattler. Thank you.

My absence was not part of a sinister plot hatched by the hierarchy here at Mountain View News Headquarters. Quite the contrary, they tell me they don't like it when I don't submit a column. I suspect it has something to do with the city's need for comic relief.

My absence was self-imposed. And actually, I sat down most every week to write a column and got diverted by having to play CEO at my company. The company, and me, are going through transitions and changes which have been demanding of my time. What's worse, conditions are actually forcing me to think. I didn't get into business to have to think. I hired people to do that for me.

Which of you out there really likes change? No, not spare change. Who was it who said, "Change is inevitable — except from a vending machine"? I know it was George Carlin who said, "I put a dollar in one of those change machines. Nothing Changed."

Just a peek into my recent distractions: In the course of two weeks (a month ago) this is what changed:

My company's health care insurance was terminated (due to reporting requirement changes brought on by the Affordable Care Act)

1. My major client of 30 years is taking what we have done for them in-house. (Can't be too upset. It makes sense and they still like me, or so they say.)
2. My business landlord of the last 27 years gave me 60 days notice to find new facilities (they like me too but they are changing my once dorm-room converted offices back into office-converted dorm rooms.)
3. I had to move my apartment. (By the way, my landlord, Dave Howard is one of the great men on the planet. Thanks Dave for being such a great guy!)

Confucius once said, "Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change." Huh? I must be somewhere in between the wisest and stupidest 'cause I is changing. If you see me stationed on the freeway off ramp with a "Will work for food" sign, be kind.

Now there is a silver lining in all of this. My new offices are much nicer than the old ones (and about one-third less in rent); I have the potential of replacing my old client with a flurry of new ones (your prayers are coveted in that potential opportunity); the new insurance may be less expensive; and I like my new apartment better than the recently vacated one.

So, what's new with you?

## STUART Tolchin..... On LIFE PROTESTS AND VIOLENCE



For the past thirty years I have advocated the return of the draft. Perhaps coincidentally this period coincides with my own aging as for these past thirty plus years I have been well beyond draft age. Really though I believe my own age is not relevant to my desire to see the draft return. During my own draftable years I, for once in my life, was completely focused on something. I did not want to go to war. The reasons for this unique clarity were so obvious that I have never even bothered to enumerate them to myself.

There are many who seem to love the idea of going to war. Think of that young adventurer Prince Harry. My wife pointed out that he seems like a real throw-back to British Royalty as typified in Shakespearean plays. He is like Prince Hal, a wild-partier - bring on the naked women - who loves serving in Afghanistan in the ridiculously dangerous role of helicopter-pilot. He is a wild and crazy guy beloved by Brits and maturing into his future potential position as King of England.

Unfortunately, this is not my kind of guy. I hate the idea of war and the actuality is even worse. War is about killing people. It kills innocent civilians along with teenage boys away from home for the first time. It creates cripples and orphans and leaves even those who survive physically, mentally, and emotionally damaged for the remainder of their lives. The continuing existence of wars are a graphic demonstration of the indisputable fact that we human beings have not risen very far from our animal cousins and actually remain an embarrassment to our own sense of high ideals and human worth. Simply put war is ridiculous and it seems like a good idea to try and put an end to wars.

So, why don't we, the nations of the world do more to try and end war? One of my favorite speeches was made by General Eisenhower as he left his eight year long Presidency. Beware the growing military-industrial complex. Somehow, I remember hearing that speech. I was sixteen years old and I knew what the ex-General meant. It meant, and still means that some people get rich from wars. I think I knew from that point on that I did not want to die so somebody else would get rich. I even think that to

me that sentence meant something like people who are rich got that way because other people have died. For my whole life I have kind of equated great wealth as arising only from evil. I know that this is not a particularly popular viewpoint and I also know that capitalism is a system fueled by greed which is something that is probably hard-wired in our human DNA. Still, other things like compassion, and a sense of justice and fairness, and the ability to be touched by the awesome cuteness of newborns and children, and our surprising affection for other species are probably also contained in that same human DNA. These are the qualities that that should be nurtured and extolled. UP WITH CATS AND BABIES and DOWN WITH WARS AND THE WORSHIP OF VIOLENCE.

All right I think I've made my point about war. Still I think the reinstallation of some kind of universal draft is a very good idea. I do not think that the existence of the draft would automatically mean that there would be more senseless wars than there already are. I believe Scandinavian countries maintain universal drafts and yet do not regularly enter wars other than to participate as part of peace-keeping forces. In fact many of these countries have huge gun ownership without having the kind of overwhelming violence that is so present in this country. Perhaps this goes to prove that the problem is not guns but is behavior related to national attitudes toward violence. I want the draft to be reinstituted because of the way it affects people's attitudes. When a population is subject to a draft they care about what is going on in the world. People pay attention to the news. This is very different from our present time wherein wars are fought in distant places. Millions of people die and most of us barely notice. Many of us today do not even know anyone who has served in the military during the past three decades.

I remember the 60's when people protested and there was change. If our lives were on the line we Americans would not tolerate the disgraceful inefficiency of our legislatures. An informed involved electorate is an absolute requirement for a Democracy. We don't have one. I would rather risk the possible negative consequences of the draft in exchange for an informed, active, protesting population. Of course I'm too old to be drafted but I'm not too old to still care--- and I do—and so should you!!

## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

## AS BRILLIANT SCHEMES GO, MINE DIDN'T



Throughout the years, I have come up with a few schemes. None of

which has ever done me anything good, and yet I still spend the energy to try to come up with one that will.

It all began quite innocently enough as a Christmas present. When it comes to shopping for Christmas presents I just flop triumphantly. I was not made to go shopping. When I get into a mall, I begin to feel the walls closing in on me. I develop a panic, begin sweating profusely and then head for my car without looking back.

About the Christmas present. Aha, that was the solution to my Christmas shopping and a brilliant scheme that would benefit both of us.

This past Christmas I purchased for my lovely wife a round-trip ticket to New York to visit her family for a week. A week of her enjoying her family and they reciprocating the enjoyment. I did mention it was a "round-trip ticket." I do not mind sending her away as long as it includes a plan to return.

Now, the brilliant side of my scheme.

While she is in New York visiting with her relatives, I would be king of the castle. I have been looking forward to this for a long time. She gets to have fun with her relatives, and I get to have fun with myself.

For the week, I will turn our rather pleasant little domicile into a rip, snorting man cave. Ah, the thought of it was wonderful. The house would be mine for a week, and nobody would be supervising me. Nothing I like more than a week of no supervision. Oh sure, I could get into a lot of trouble, but what's life for if we cannot sample a wee bit of trouble occasionally.

For one, I would be in charge of the menu for the week. I was really looking forward to this.

Before she left, my wife made me promise that I would eat my fruits and vegetables and I would have a balanced diet every day. With a twinkle in my eye, more twinkly than normal, I agreed to her stipulations. I had my diet already planned in my head.

For a whole week, there would be no such things as salads for every meal. How she can come up with the variety of salads she serves is beyond my aching head. She honestly believes that a salad makes the world go round. Now, no salads in this house, correction, man cave, for a whole week. I love it when a plan comes together.

I shall be faithful to the fruits and vegetable regimen she made me promise. After all, one woman's vegetable is another man's speculation.

My main vegetable of the week would be [drum roll] carrot cake. Don't try to tell me carrot is not a vegetable. I will sick Bugs Bunny on you if you do. I plan to have a carrot every day of the week.

And for fruit? You guessed it. Apple fritters. You know the old saying, "An Apple fritter a day makes any man happy." I have made every plan to be happy this week. I am not sure if the bakery is going to be able to keep up with my orders this week. A man has to have his fruit.

My basic philosophy during this week is summed up in the old saying, "The world could end at any minute. Eat dessert first!" My dessert of course is fruit by nature. A banana split. Any meal that begins with a banana split is going to be an awesome meal to be sure.

It was only Thursday when I became aware of something. There was this smell in the house. I looked into the kitchen area and dishes were piled upon the counter. The table where I usually sit down to eat was filled with all kinds of stuff. I do not want to know what it was. I looked in the bedroom, the laundry basket was full and overflowing and I could not see the bed.

I thought to myself, why are these things piling up? They would not do that if my wife were here. Are they trying to embarrass me or what?

I stood in the kitchen with my hands on my hips and I was about to give this man cave a good piece of my mind. Then I stopped. At that moment, I realized I had become my wife.

Perhaps, and I am just making a suggestion here, I have gained a new appreciation for my better half. Things just do not happen around the house. Somebody has to make them happen.

By Friday, I had come to my senses and realized the old saying I did not quite appreciate until this week. "Two can live cheaper than one." I am not sure about the cheaper part of it, but I know two can live cleaner than one, especially if that one is Yours Truly.

I thought of a Bible verse throughout the week, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered" (1 Peter 3:7).

After all these years, I am just beginning to understand what it means to "dwell" with my wife.

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## BUSINESS TODAY

The latest on Business News, Trends and Techniques

By La Quetta M. Shamblee, MBA



## Lessons From The Geese

## Teamwork &amp; Leadership Lessons from Nature

(adapted from a 2009 article written by Sue Widemark)

Nature provides us with a bounty of lessons that can be applied to business. Simple, yet profound, the following presentation about migrating geese provides some poignant insight into what it takes to work together successfully as a team. This analogy includes five facts relating to geese in-flight, with lessons that we can apply to our personal and professional lives.

Fact 1: As each goose flap its wings it creates an "uplift" for the birds that follow. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater range than if each bird flew alone.

Lesson: People who share a common sense of direction and community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

Fact 2: When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

Fact 3: When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

Lesson: It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's skill, capabilities and unique arrangement of gifts, talents or resources.

Fact 4: The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

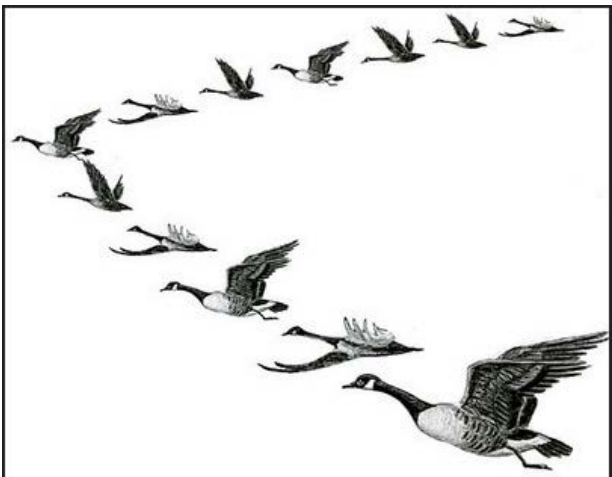
Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the productivity is much greater. The power of encouragement (to

stand by one's heart or core values and encourage the heart and core of others) is the quality of honking we seek.

Fact 5: When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay until it dies or can fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

Lesson: If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.

This rendition of "Lessons from Geese" was transcribed from a speech given by Angeles Arrien at the 1991 Organizational Development Network, which has been broadly touted as being based on the work of Milton Olson. However, in a 2009 article written by Sue Widemark, she learned that the original version was written in 1972 by science teacher, Dr. Robert McNeish for a sermon he delivered in his church. Widemark discovered this information while conducting additional research that resulted in a personal conversation with the daughter of Milton Olson.



## FIVE TEAMWORK STRATEGIES TO PREVAIL OVER ANY CHALLENGE

(StatePoint) An extraordinary level of teamwork, cooperation, trust, planning and execution can equal your survival and triumph in the face of perilous conditions.

No clearer were these principles tested than when the crew of the AFR Midnight Rambler, facing hurricane-force winds and monstrous waves, piloted their tiny vessel through the storm to win the Sydney Hobart Race, known as the "Everest of ocean racing."

A new book, "Into the Storm: Lessons in Teamwork from the Treacherous Sydney to Hobart Ocean Race," co-authored by Dennis N.T. Perkins and Jillian B. Murphy, and published by AMA-COM Books, chronicles the crew's nearly four-day ordeal, shedding light on critical strategies for teamwork at the edge, and drawing parallels to the world of business through case studies.

"Whether your competition is better equipped than you matters far less than having the right attitude and teammates," says Perkins. "Teamwork is a powerful thing."

The year was 1998. While bigger, better-equipped boats attempted to maneuver around the deadly storm, Ed Psaltis, skipper of the Midnight Rambler, made the daring decision to head directly into its path. In a race in which six sailors perished, Perkins attributes the crew's success to the power of teamwork.



Perkins is offering the same five strategies the crew used on the water to survive and win, to those seeking success in the business world:

- Make the team the rock star: Business teams that aspire to excellence may not have the same physical challenges as ocean racing crews, but lofty goals require sacrifice, dedication, and ability to

persevere. Select teammates with the right levels of confidence and motivation and a commitment to putting team unity first.

- Remove all excuses for failure: Preparing in advance is crucial, but so is continuing to prepare while navigating through crises. "Successful teams master the art of bifocal vision," Perkins attests. "They have the ability to focus on current challenges, while at the same time preparing for longer-term threats and opportunities."

- Find and focus on the winning scenario: Whether winning means being the first in your field to achieve a breakthrough result or coming in under budget, a team needs a clear, shared understanding of its goals.

- Build a gung-ho culture of learning and innovation: Everyone, regardless of rank, should have a right to speak up. The ability to talk honestly about what works, what doesn't work and what might work is critical to effective teamwork.

- Be willing to sail into the storm: Test your limits before challenges come your way to learn what hits you can sustain as a team. "Only by taking small risks will teams be able to assess their ability to take on big ones -- and to sail into the storm when need be," says Perkins.

More insights about effective teamwork and leadership can be found at [www.SyncreticsGroup.com](http://www.SyncreticsGroup.com).

The business world can be fraught with adversity and formidable competition. But whether you're leading the team or part of one, take cues from those that have prevailed over the hardest-hitting challenges to help you build a culture of success.

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# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Duarte — Monrovia

Where Your Community News Comes First

## Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre — Arcadia — Pasadena — Altadena — Duarte — Monrovia

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012 VOLUME 4 NO 39

## SIERRA MADRE'S FUTURE IS ON THE HORIZON



On Tuesday, a number of our readers will have seen the new Mountain Views News building in Sierra Madre. The new building is a beautiful example of modern architecture, with a large glass facade and a covered entrance. It is located at the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd. and Huntington Ave. The new building is a beautiful example of modern architecture, with a large glass facade and a covered entrance. It is located at the corner of Sierra Madre Blvd. and Huntington Ave.

Rotary Selects Local Residents for Trip to India. The Rotary Club of Sierra Madre has selected four local residents to represent the club on a trip to India. The trip is a wonderful opportunity for the residents to learn about the culture and people of India. The trip is a wonderful opportunity for the residents to learn about the culture and people of India.

**This Week's Highlights:**

- SIERRA MADRE NEWS
- ARCADIA NEWS
- PASADENA/ALTADENA
- MONROVIA

**HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR: Sierra Madre School's Gendy of Gendy... Pg. 8**

**ROCKS, CARLS, BIRDS, LAMAS, GOATS, CHICKENS, PUMPKINS AND HAYSTACKS: ON MY IT'S A CURIOUS OF THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS - JOHN CHURCH OF ASCENSION'S FEAST OF THE ANIMALS**

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**SOLD**

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

**1845 Kinneloa Canyon Rd.,**  
**\$829,000**



**SOLD**

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

**512 W. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia**  
**\$788,000**



**SOLD**

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

**2266 Midwick Dr., Altadena**  
**\$649,000**




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- \* Butler's nook with wine rack and storage.
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- \* Romantic master suite on first level with French doors leading to the courtyard.
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- \* Two large bedroom suites; walk-in closets and one with a south facing balcony.
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- \* 18,744 Sq. Ft. lot, per assessor's data.

[www.47bonita.com](http://www.47bonita.com)



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