

SIERRA MADRE HONORS

Sierra Madre is a very unique city. Three square miles, 11,000 residents. No traffic lights. It is a full service city complete with its own Police and Fire Departments, Water Department, Recreation Center, Senior Center and Schools and Library. Sierra Madre even has its own Rose Parade Float! Unlike other small towns, financial challenges are manageable and the town's personalities run from the extremely conservative to the extremely liberal. Surrounded by much larger cities with much greater financial resources the question is often asked, how does Sierra Madre survive? Any attempt to answer that question would not be complete without acknowledging the positive impact volunteerism has on the town. The city saves literally thousands of dollars in wages because of the commitment residents have to the city. You can find dedicated volunteers in every aspect of the city's operations. At the annual ceremony to honor the town's volunteers, Police Chief Joe Ortiz noted that the police volunteers and reserves save the city about \$40,000 per year. So it should come as a surprise to no one familiar with Sierra Madre, or living in Sierra Madre that being a volunteer is a very honorable and respected thing to do.

On Thursday evening, more than 150 people gathered to honor this year's top volunteers. Prior to the event the community had the opportunity to nominate those volunteers and city employees (who go beyond the call of duty) to be honored at the Sierra Madre Honors Dinner. For the first time, the was a collaboration between the city and its Chamber of Commerce to include the Citizen of the Year and the Business of the Year. Mayor Rachel Arizmendi served as the events MC and all five City Council members as well as members of the Sierra Madre Chamber Board of Directors were in attendance. The recipients were:

EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD: CLARE LIN

Clare Lin joined the organization as a part time administrative clerk in Public Works Department on April 8, 2013, then turned full time in November of 2014. Clare lives with her husband Tony Lin and in Arcadia, where she grew up since her family moved here from Taiwan in 1988. After receiving a degree in Architecture from Woodbury University and graduate studies in Public Policy from University of Southern California, Clare has worked in private sector architecture firms as a planner until her first public sector job in Sierra Madre. She enjoys serving the public. Clare and her husband enjoyed travelling and dining. She spend her vacation time seeing the world. Recent trips she has visited Japan, Demark, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland. Next destination on their list is Peru

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR - TIM HUNSICKER

Tim was raised in Sierra Madre by his parents Karl and Terry Hunsicker, where Tim grew up and spent his first 30 years. He and his wife of 7 years, Yvette have 3 beautiful children, Evelyn who is 5 years old, Elijah who is 4 and Audrey who is 3.

In 2004 Tim earned a degree in Business

Administration from Cal State L.A. In addition Tim holds Certifications in both Water Treatment and Water Distribution from the California Department of Water Resources. After graduating college, Tim was hired as a part-time utility worker in the Water Department. In just over a year Tim was offered a full time position in the Water Department. Over the past 8 years Tim has been a model employee. Each day and each year working with the same enthusiasm and resolve as the first day. Tim's ability to remain calm and collected along with his strong customer service skills and ability to listen and resolve customer complaints make Tim invaluable to the City. For these reason and countless others, Tim Hunsicker is acknowledged as the 2017 Sierra Madre Employee of The Year.

PUBLIC SAFETY - for an employee/individual OR GROUP for protecting and maintaining safety in Sierra Madre: SIERRA MADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT RESERVE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY SERVICE YOUTH AWARD - Owen is the most active teenager in our community. He is a senior at PHS, playing water polo, applying for colleges, volunteering his time to the CSC attending meeting and representing the CSC at community event. He also is spearheading an Eagle Scout project for the community. The project is to organize a crew to rehabilitate the wash crossing foot bridge in the canyon at the top of lower Brookside Lane. When most teenagers are home playing their play stations Owen is out making a difference in the community.

THE WISTARIA AWARD recognizing a City/Community Partnership that assists with providing community wide programs and services: **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY.**

MAYOR'S SPECIAL AWARD for outstanding service and duty to the community: **SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB**

Special Tribute to Former Mayor George Maurer who just turned 95!

GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - ARNOLD GAFFREY

Arnold Gaffrey, for the George Maurer Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his 44 years of service with the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue Team. Arnold Gaffrey joined SMSR in February of 1973. Since that time, he has responded to well over 2000 search and rescue incidents as a member of the team - first as a regular team member, then crew chief and Emergency Medical Technician, and later as operations leader. As an operations leader, Arnold gained a statewide reputation as a masterful search manager and was often requested to assist in the search for lost hikers around the state and in national parks including Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR introduced by Former Sierra Madre Mayor Maryann

Continued on page 2



Above Mayor Arizmendi with Friends of the Library



Mayor Arizmendi, De and Pat Alcorn, Mary Ann MacGillivray, Steve Sciruba, Pres. SMCC



Arnold Gaffrey left photo and Owen Braudrick right with Mayor Arizmendi



Above left, Sandy Duvall, right Carol Canterbury, below Susan Henderson & granddaughter Milania Thomas and Mayor Arizmendi.



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Weather Wise



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Mon:	Ptly Cldy	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Tues:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Wed:	Sunny	Hi 70s	Lows 50s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi 80s	Lows 50s

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 REGULAR December 12, 2017
6:30 pm

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.



SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

Regular City Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 2017,
6:30 pm

Can't make it to the meeting, but still want to share your thoughts? You can mail or drop off a written statement to City Hall or email city@cityofsierramadre.com before 30 the night of the meeting and your statement will be delivered to all the Council Members. Sierra Madre City Hall 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024 (626) 355-7135

City Council

December 12, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Planning Commission
December 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Community Service Commission
December 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Senior Community Commission
December 7, 2017 at 3:00 pm

Library Board of Trustees
December 27, 2017 at 7:00 pm - Location TBD

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource Commission
December 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm

SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

During this time period, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 259 day and night time calls for service.

Wednesday, November 29 At about 12:42 a.m. officers responded to a report of a suspicious person in the area of Michillinda Ave. and Ramona Ave. The officers located the male subject, questioned and arrested him for three warrants out of the City of Monrovia. SMPD officers released the male subject to Monrovia PD.

7:39 p.m. Officers responded to a disturbance call in the 600 block of Sierra Meadows Dr. An investigation determined that a physical altercation occurred between two women. One woman allegedly threw a juice bottle and hit the other woman with a baseball bat causing injuries to her head and knee. The suspect left the location prior to the officer's arrival. The victim was treated for her injuries at the scene. A WANTED was entered into the system for assault with a deadly weapon. Case to Detectives

Saturday, December 2 A reporting party came to the police department lobby at about 4:30 p.m. to report that an unknown suspect(s) entered his locked vehicle in the 600 block of W. Sierra Madre Bl. and ransacked the glove compartment and center console. The suspect(s) removed personal items. Case to Detectives



**See something.
Say something.**

VOLUNTEERS Continued from page 1

MacGillivray
DE AND PAT ALCORN

"These two Sierra Madreans embody exactly what the criteria for Citizen of the Year calls for. There is not an event in town these two don't attend or help out with. Both Pat and De go above and beyond continuing the betterment of Sierra Madre. The Alcorns attend most City Council meetings, serve on countless commissions, the 4th of July committee, Sierra Madre Civic Club, Friends of the Library, CERT volunteers and voter work the polls during all elections in Sierra Madre."

Married for 61 years, the Alcorns have resided in Sierra Madre since



Above Clare Lin, below Tim Hunsicker



1964. They have two sons, 6 grandchildren and 12+ great grandchildren. In addition to the many activities listed above, in 1994 they began a 7 year trip around the world by boat, flying back a few times to make certain things were still running smoothly in Sierra Madre!

De is a retired JPL Engineer who worked on the Voyager I project. Pat is a retired

2017 Business of the Year: Sandy Duvall is the owner of Serra Fitness, Sierra Fitness Pilates & Massage and The Shabby Dog, all located in Sierra Madre. Sierra Fitness opened in 1994 as a facility catering to "baby boomers" and an older clientele.

Open seven days a week, she employs over 15 trainers and five staff members. Sandy also owned Juice Company in 1995 and sold it in 2000. Sierra Juice Company is still thriving and part of the downtown business.

In 1995 she opened the first Pilates facility in the San Gabriel Valley. She also offers Pro Pilates, a more advanced, athletic training class that uses special machines found only in Sierra Madre. Sierra Fitness Pilates employs over twenty people. The Shabby Dog started in 2009, designing high end pet products manufactured in Sierra Madre and sold all over the world. As time went on her passion for animals led her to the rescue business. She is now involved and on the board of a local non-profit, "Free Animal Doctor." We are a crowd funding website that raises money to pay vet bills for individuals who cannot afford healthcare for their family pet. In addition to all of her business activities, she continues to support all things Sierra Madre!

TREASURE OF SIERRA MADRE AWARD SUSAN HENDERSON

Susan Henderson is considered by many to be a true Sierra Madre treasure. A 13+ year former resident and is the Owner/Publisher of the Mountain Views News, city's only legally adjudicated newspaper. She continues to contribute to the betterment of Sierra Madre. She served 8 years as President of the SM Kiwanis Club, is a member of the SM Women's Club, SM Historical Preservation Society, Treasurer of the SM Chamber of Commerce, Chair 3 years of the Wistaria Festival and Co-Chair for the last 3 years. She is also an avid supporter of the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association and the Sierra Madre Playhouse. In addition to the COTY nomination, she has also been a nominee as Sierra Madre's Older American.

SPIRIT OF THE COMMUNITY AWARD – CAROL CANTERBURY

Carol is Sierra Madre's biggest cheerleader! She is actively involved in most community events, and is known for sharing useful information on Social Media. She has given many volunteer hours to the city including serving as a SMPD Volunteer and VP of the SM Chamber, Co-Chair of the Wistaria Festival for the last 3 years and former Citizen of the Year. This year she also was the leading civilian helping in the search for Sierra Madrean Carl Foote.

Dinner was prepared and served by Nano Café, Dinner Wine by The Bottle Shop, Centerpieces by Sierra Madre Middle School Builders Club, Flowers from Leonora Moss and Music by Saxophonist Jason Hemmens

Award recipients were also honored by State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino and State Senator Chris Holden.

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CELEBRATE WITH US!

December 3rd
Sermon: "When the Last Moment Comes"
Alternative Gift Fair 11 – 1 pm
December 10th
Sermon: "God of Honey and Locusts"
December 17th
Sermon: "Home Alone"
December 24th
Sermon: "Unbelievable Announcement"
Christmas Eve Service 5:00 p.m.
December 31st
Sermon: "How Majestic His Name"



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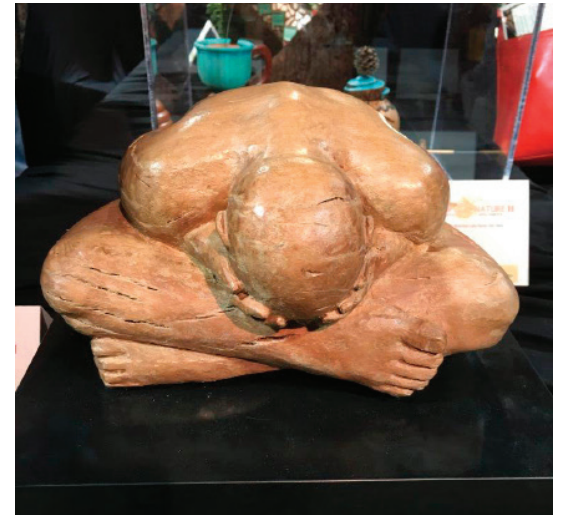
by Deanne Davis

"Christmas! It's almost here!
My favorite, favorite time of year!
Think mistletoe and holly,
Think children's faces...jolly.
Carols on the radio,

Happy smiles each place you go!" Thanksgiving is but a fond memory and maybe a little cranberry sauce somewhere in the back of the 'fridge, and we are now in full Christmas mode. The tree in Kersting Court is the most beautiful one ever and I love the menorah and the dreidel there too. Christmas for me will be a lot different this year, as my best friend and favorite walking buddy, John, is now a resident of heaven. However, I bought some gorgeous white poinsettias at Trader Joe's and stuck them in a basket on my dining room table, got out my front door and gate wreaths, and even managed to get two of our star shower things out on the front lawn. I bought our Texas girl, Crissy, that new one that's all over TV - Star Shower Slide Show - and it's so fabulous with all the different effects it provides that my "Buy It Now!" trigger finger is itching to press the button. Seriously! It comes with 12 Full Color Slides for Christmas (6), Halloween (2), Other Holiday/Celebrations (4) (1 Pack).

My inspiration for doing even just a little decorating was Shawn Blakeslee and his family across the street. He's got lights galore, these big round ball ornaments on his steps and it all looks spectacular. Of course, living next door to the Cardellas - Lisa is the heart and soul of Ixora Floral Studio right here in town on Montecito - who put up millions of lights and other nifty stuff, how could I not do SOMETHING! My favorite Halloween house, on So. Baldwin just above Orange Grove on the west side of the street is now my favorite Christmas house. They have so many splendid Christmas goodies on their lawn, fence, yard, that one must be careful not to stop in the middle of the street to just take a really good look!

Sierra Madre daughter, Leah, and her husband, Chuck, took me to a really fabulous event at The Arboretum and, as said Arboretum is just down Baldwin a little ways, I figured it could count as a Walking Sierra Madre event. "Forces of Nature II" was the theme and it was fabulous. Remember the windstorm six years ago that wiped out all our electricity for days and had us shivering in the dark and weeping over all the trees in our neighborhood that were toppled like a bunch of tinker toys? The Arboretum did plenty of weeping then, too, as 400 trees were blown over and ripped out of the ground. Some of these were planted by Lucky Baldwin himself. Wood, such as these trees, was impossible to come by until this horrendous storm. The Arboretum made this rare, unique wood available to artists to create what spoke to them from these downed trees and bring it back for a showing and sale; the purpose being to collect funds to plant trees for the next generation and the next. I was fortunate to attend the first showing of Arboretum Force of Nature art a couple of years ago, which was very nice, and then on December 1st, my eyes could not believe the quantity of quality workmanship on display. They also could not believe the packed house! Friends and neighbors, there were so many people in there looking to buy and sell that we could hardly get close to the exquisite pieces which



filled this large area. We drooled over coffee tables, bowls, jewelry, chairs, a complete dining room ensemble and so much more. The highlight of the evening was a spirited auction where a number of pieces were sold amidst much friendly bidding and counter bidding. Chuck - who also happens to be a member of the Arboretum Board - came away with an absolutely gorgeous music stand. All of the pieces we admired were so uniquely exquisite as wood grains were matched and perfection was achieved in each item. The pictured piece, entitled "Weeping Man" by artist, Gonzalo Algarate, was carved from Eucalyptus globulus - Tasmanian Bluegum. You can't tell from looking at the picture but this piece depicts a man with his face buried in his hands. The anatomy is perfect, the color a light tan with a highly polished sheen. Tremendously moving. We all had a marvelous time, a great band played nonstop, there were hors d'oeuvres, wine and happy people supporting the Arboretum where children have an opportunity to learn that we need trees, how to care for trees, and to appreciate the beauty that surrounds one at the Arboretum. If you haven't been for a while, go!

Speaking of pleasing happenings, Mountain Views News very own book reviewer, Jeff Brown, reviewed my book, "A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter." Thanks, Jeff! This book makes a terrific gift, btw. In case you wondered, the poetic work that started us off today is the first song on "Star of Wonder" the CD, which will be available shortly on iTunes and all over the place! "Christmas, it's almost here! Think Joy!"

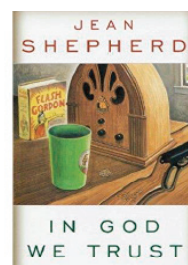
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ONE BOOK ONE CITY SELECTION ANNOUNCED

In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash by Jean Shepherd is the 2018 selection for the Sierra Madre Public Library's popular One Book One City program in February.

Light-hearted and funny, the beloved, bestselling classic is a collection of short stories and includes A Christmas Story, made into a popular Christmas movie.

Jean Shepherd was a master writer who



spun the materials of his all-American childhood into works of comic art. In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash represents a peak of his achievement and speaks across generations.

One Book One City is a community reading program that invites the public to read and discuss the same book during a month of exciting free programs.

SEASONAL CRAFT WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS

Take a break, gather with other adults, and enjoy learning how to make gifts and treats for others (or for yourself!)

Join other adults as you discover how to create festive holiday candles and decorate cookies on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 11:00 am in the Sierra Madre Public Library.

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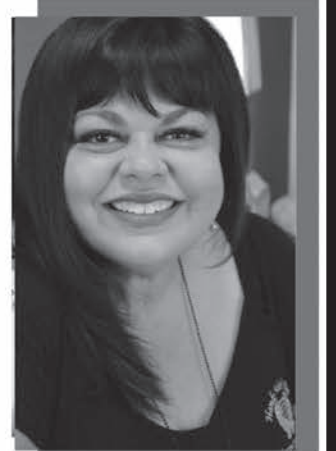


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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Mayor's State of City Event January 16



Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek will present his annual State of the City Address on Tuesday, January 16, at the Pasadena Unified School District's Marshall Fundamental High School, 990 N. Allen Avenue.

The event will be held in the Eagles' new gymnasium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The program will be from 7-8 p.m. with Mayor Tornek providing financial information about the City as well as several other important updates on City issues.

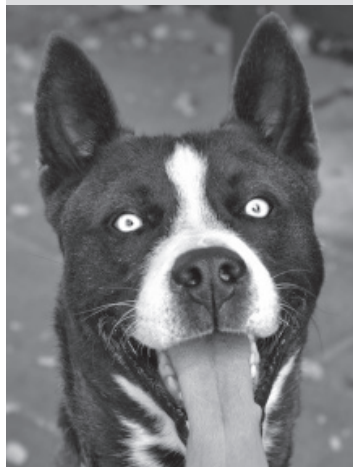
On-site parking, including disabled parking, plus additional on-street parking will be available.

Spanish translation and closed captioning services will be provided. Light refreshments will be served following the Mayor's address.

Pasadena Media, at pasadenamedia.org, will be there to record the event for broadcast on KPAS, the City's government cable access television channel, and also streamed on the City's website at cityofpasadena.net.

For more information, contact Rhonda Stone, (626)744-7210, or email: rstone@cityofpasadena.net.

Pet of the Week



Meet Max (A446840), an enthusiastic, one-year-old husky mix. This beautiful, blue-eyed pup is super treat motivated. Our volunteers have used tasty treats to teach Max his sit, down and stay commands. Fun-loving Max really enjoys playing with toys—he'll run around the play yard chasing balls, plushies and rope toys. If you're looking for an active, young dog, consider Max.

The adoption fee for dogs is \$130. All dogs are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated before going to their new home.

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

Call the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA at (626) 792-7151 to ask about A446840, or visit at 361 S. Raymond Ave. in Pasadena. Adoption hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email. Directions and photos of all pets can be found at pasadenahumane.org.



Council to Discuss New Election Cycles

The Pasadena city council is set Monday night to discuss adopting a resolution that would transition the timing of city elections to occur on statewide even-year election dates to comply with the California Voter Participation Rights Act (CVPRA).

The Resolution reads, in part, "Consistent with the California Voter Participation Rights Act and the requirements of the City Charter of the City of Pasadena, the city will submit a charter amendment for voter approval to amend provisions in Article XII of the Pasadena City Charter and change future municipal election dates held in odd-numbered years to consolidate and occur on statewide election dates held in even-numbered

year."

The amendment would go to the voters June 5, at the next statewide election.

In November staff and the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area organized a community forum, of the 20 to 25 people that attended 10 suggested continuing utilizing Primary and General Election Format (Run-off Elections) on Statewide Election Dates. Four said to Utilize Plurality Voting - March Statewide Primary and three wanted to Utilize Plurality Voting - November Statewide General.

Staff also said opportunities for public comment and feedback will continue to be available for those interested at future meetings, as well as on the

CVPRA webpage.

According to city staff the resolution also states that the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) is considering its own plan separately from the city council, with the board of education scheduled to consider adoption of the PUSD's plan to comply with CVPRA at their Dec. 14 .oard meeting.

Police 22nd Annual Toy Drive

The Pasadena Armenian Police Advisory Council (PAPAC) will hold its' 22nd Annual Christmas Toy Drive at the Pasadena Police Department Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in the police department lobby.

A light breakfast will be served during a brief Christmas program. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the festivities.

PAPAC was established in 1995 to help bridge the gap between the Pasadena Police Department and the local Armenian Community. Since that time, PAPAC has established itself as a non-profit (501c3) organization and has coordinated several fundraising events over years.

This year's toy drive will serve as the 22nd consecutive year that PAPAC has helped make the holiday special for children within our community.

Anyone who would like to donate a toy can drop it off at the police department to Lt. Clawson prior to the toy drive or they can bring it to the lobby d uring the event. Toys will be distributed to the following charitable organizations:

- The Door of Hope
- Villa Parke Community Center
- The Pasadena Salvation Army
- The Pasadena Harambee Center

Free Christmas Tree Recycling

Make tree recycling a part of your post-holiday tradition. The City offers an easy way for you to "Go Green" with your Christmas tree. Thanks to your help, the City last year collected more than 10,000 trees for recycling, saving valuable landfill space and generating protective landscaping mulch.

Drop off your tree from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday Dec. 26, 2017 until Thursday, Jan. 4 at:

- Easton Blanche Park, 3100 E. Del Mar Blvd., parking lot on Millicent Way
- Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave., parking lot on Morton Street

From Jan. 2-12, 2018, residents can also place trees at curbside for recycling. Christmas trees will be collected on your normal service day.

Remember, all ornaments, lights and stands must be removed. Flocked and fire retardant treated trees are acceptable. For more information, call the Citizen Service Center at (626) 744-7311 or online at www.cityofpasadena.net/publicworks.

Remember, no bulky pickup now to Jan. 20.

Tournament Names Parade Opening and Closing Show

The Tournament of Roses announced Thursday that the talent for the Opening Show presented by Honda and the Closing Show presented by Wells Fargo for the 129th Rose Parade will be Todrick Hall and Andy Grammer.

The Tournament of Roses' theme, "Making A Difference," motivated every note of this year's Opening Show. YouTube sensation and Broadway star, Todrick Hall, leads a spectacular cast and crew of over 100 dancers and musicians through a mesmerizing, heart-racing celebration. Todrick is a new kind of star, known for his versatility in the performing arts, Todrick is a multifaceted artist and entertainment powerhouse. The Opening Show shares the simple secret of why generations of Rose Parade fans are drawn to America's New Year Celebration.



Todrick Hall

The finale of this year's Rose Parade is the Closing Show presented by Wells Fargo and features multi-platinum, selling pop artist and songwriter Andy Grammer. The first male pop star in a decade, since John Mayer, to reach the Top 10 at Adult Pop Radio on his first two singles, Grammer has taken the music world by storm with a succession of anthemic pop hits. This street filling performance will have you singing and dancing along to Andy's new hit "Smoke Clears" from his latest album and fan favorite "Good to Be Alive." Andy's music drives home an empowering message and will no doubt leave you feeling inspired.

Join the Tournament on Monday, January 1, with Todrick and Andy to experience the floats, bands and equestrians as they parade down Colorado Blvd.



Andy Grammer

Celebrate International UN Human Rights Day

On Sunday, join Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek to learn more about what's being done to protect and defend human rights in our community and how you can get involved.

Mayor Tornek and the United Nations Association Pasadena Chapter will hold its 10th Annual Human Rights Day Celebration 2-4 p.m., Sunday, at the Pasadena Central Library, Donald Wright Auditorium, 285 E. Walnut St., near City Hall. The event will focus on a celebration of human rights and dignity with a Celebrating Diversity Panel and interactive community-building activities. "Human rights are fundamental to all of us. How we treat others and how others treat us are

reflections of our society and sets the tone for what we can achieve in life," Mayor Tornek said. "I hope you will take time to join us as we celebrate our human diversity and human rights."

The panel features civil rights attorney Skip Hickambottom; Pauline Field, founder and chair of 50/50 Leadership; Friends in Deed representative Donna Byrns; and Aaron Saenz, San Gabriel Valley LGBTQ Center Board President.

All are welcome to this free event. Light refreshments will be served. Free parking at the Central Library is available on first come basis. For more information, call, (626) 744-7210.

Free Events Roundup at the Pasadena Senior Center

There is something for everyone in December at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St. You do not have to be a member to attend. Some events require advance reservations as noted.

Friday Movie Matinees – Friday at 1 p.m. Dec. 15 "A Christmas Tale" (2008, NR) starring Catherine Deneuve and Jean-Paul Roussillon. When a troubled family's matriarch requires a bone marrow transplant, they reunite just in time for Christmas. French with English subtitles.

Stay Connected with Social Media – Tuesdays and Thursdays to Dec. 28, from 9 to 11 a.m. Learn how to keep in touch with family and friends via the Internet. Choose which application you would like to learn, from Skype to Facebook and other forms of social media. Bring a laptop or use of the onsite computers. If you have an email address, bring it along with your password. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or call 626-795-4331 for a 30-minute one-on-session.

A Toast to the Joys of Music – Tuesdays to Dec. 28, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Tom Campbell will play guitar and sing songs in the Senior Center Lounge. Stop by and enjoy his covers of traditional country, country rock, blues, folk, gospel and classic rock originally made famous by Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Vince Gill, Elvis Presley, B.B. King, Neil

Young, The Grateful Dead, The Rolling Stones and many more.

Scenic Walkers Club – Wednesdays to Dec. 27, at 10 a.m. Enjoy a series of leisurely walks in the great outdoors at locations throughout the west San Gabriel Valley. Alan Colville will give you a list of items to bring, let you know what to expect, provide detailed itineraries and arrange transportation. For more information or to sign up, email alancolville@charter.net.

Nutrition for Healthy Eyes – Thursday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m. Do you know which vitamins are best for your eyes and which nutrients are most important for healthy vision? Learn how to keep your eyes healthy. Presented by Regal Medical Group.

Health Fair – Friday, Dec. 15, from 9 to 11 a.m. Services include glucose, blood pressure and hearing screenings as well as counseling and health/ community resources. For more information call 626-685-6732.

Riding on Public Transportation – Thursday, Dec. 21, at 10 a.m. Learn all there is to know about public transportation in Los Angeles County, including all the fun things to do during the holidays, without the hassle of fighting traffic. Presented by Metro.

For more information visit www.pasadenaseniorcenter.org or call 626-795-4331.

ARCADIA

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ARCADIA RESIDENTS SATISFIED WITH QUALITY OF LIFE

Public Safety Concerns Remain High Amid a Weakening Financial Outlook

December 6, 2017 – A recently commissioned independent survey shows Arcadia residents are highly satisfied with their quality of life and their vital City services. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of City residents agree that Arcadia provides a better quality of life than other nearby communities, and nearly 70% of residents say City services are excellent or good.

“People move to Arcadia because we tend to offer an unsurpassed standard of living,” said City Manager Dominic Lazzaretto. “I’m pleased that Arcadia residents are satisfied with the City’s performance in service delivery. We work hard to keep our community safe, clean, and well-maintained,” he added.

Residents expressed strong support for the Arcadia Police Department, with 84% giving local law enforcement a favorable job rating, and 91% of respondents stating that local police protection was an extremely/very important priority. A clear majority of respondents also expressed concern that Arcadia has become less safe in recent years following changes to state laws that both decriminalized certain crimes and resulted in the early release of repeat offenders.

“The Arcadia Police Department faces significant challenges in the years to come,” said Police Chief Robert Guthrie. “Arcadia is a safe City in general but property crime is a serious issue in our community. All available resources are being dedicated to address this priority; however, we need to ensure that this level of effort can be sustained—including training, equipment, and additional personnel—to provide the Department, its officers and support

staff, the necessary tools to keep Arcadia safe.”

Although the local economy remains strong, the rising cost of City services is expected to begin having an effect next fiscal year. “We look forward to discussing how best to support our vital community service needs and evaluating how best to maintain these services, particularly public safety,” continued City Manager Lazzaretto. “Over the coming months, we will work with the community to solicit additional views while we develop long-term strategies to maintain and even enhance the services our community values.”

The community survey was conducted in October 2017 by opinion research firm FM3, who has extensive experience polling the San Gabriel Valley. For more information, please call Arcadia City Hall at 574-5401.

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.

particularly for those for whom the holidays is not a cheerful time because of loss and depression. This is a contemplative and reflective healing service. Church of the Good Shepherd, United Methodist 400 W. Duarte Rd. <https://maps.google.com/?q=40+0+W.+Duarte+Rd.+Arcadia,+CA+91007&entry=gmail&source=g>

[Arcadia, CA 91007
www.cgsum.org](http://www.cgsum.org)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We invite you to celebrate the joy and miracle of Christmas with us at Church of the Good Shepherd. We have three Christmas Eve services. All are welcome.

5 p.m. Youth Led Christmas Pageant

9 p.m. Traditional Lessons and Carols with Candles

11 p.m. Communion Services with Candles

Additionally, we have our annual Blue Christmas service on December 21st, the longest night of the year at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel. This service is

ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, November 26th, through Saturday, December 2nd, the Police Department responded to 872 calls for service, of which 131 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 26:

Shortly before 8:41 a.m., an officer responded to an apartment complex in the 400 block of Fairview Avenue regarding a burglary report. The officer discovered an unknown suspect entered and ransacked the victim’s assigned storage cabinet sometime during the previous night. No loss has been reported at the time of this report. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At approximately 10:28 p.m., an officer responded to the Santa Anita Mall, 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding an activation of an Arcadia Police Department GPS tracker. Arcadia PD detectives had previously deployed decoy bicycles with tracking devices to combat the increase in bike thefts throughout the city. An investigation revealed a 28-year-old male from Los Angeles was in possession of the stolen bicycle, GPS tracker, a concealed knife, Xanax, and a smoking pipe. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, November 27:

Just after 8:30 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 11800 block of Clark Street regarding a mail theft report. The officer determined unidentified suspect(s) pried open the mail box door and stole an unknown amount of mail. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

At approximately 10:32 a.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle in the area of Colorado Place and Oak Hurst Lane for having expired registration. A records check of the driver revealed the 35-year-old male from Echo Park was on probation for auto theft, he was driving with a suspended license, and he was in possession of burglary tools. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Tuesday, November 28:

Around 8:11 a.m., an officer responded to Hickman Mechanical, 11930 Goldring Road, regarding a burglary report. The officer discovered an unknown suspect manipulated the exterior gate, entered an unlocked storage unit, and fled emptyhanded. The burglary may be linked to a previous incident where an unidentified suspect entered a storage unit and fled with nearly \$50,000 worth of property.

Suspect 1 is described as a Hispanic male between 45 and 55-years-old, wearing a grey T-shirt and driving the late model, tan, Toyota Camry. Suspect 2 is described as a Hispanic male driving a red Mitsubishi truck. The third suspect is described as a Hispanic male. The investigation is ongoing.

Just before 12:25 p.m., an officer responded to the intersection of Mayflower Avenue and Shrode Street regarding a petty theft report. The victim stated her daughter recently built a “Free Little Library” and sometime during the previous evening, an unknown suspect stole the library and its books. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Wednesday, November 29:

Shortly after 11:34 a.m., an officer responded to Pavilions, 745 West Naomi Avenue, regarding a theft report. The

suspect was seen exiting the store, failing to make payment for a cart full of wine, toiletries, and soda.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 50 to 55-years-old, driving an older model, silver, Chevrolet Malibu. The investigation is ongoing.

At about 1:21 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1000 block of Fairview Avenue regarding a package theft report. An investigation revealed a 38-year-old male parolee from Burbank stole the victim’s package as well as a 38-year-old male from Pomona. During a consensual search of the parolee, the officer located methamphetamine. Also, a records check of the accomplice revealed he had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. Both suspects were arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Before 2:37 p.m., an officer responded to the 900 block of West Huntington Drive regarding a robbery report. The victim stated she was seated at the bus stop when the suspect grabbed her purse from the bench and fled to his vehicle.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male in his twenties or thirties, approximately 6’ tall, with a thin build, and short brown hair. He did not have any facial hair or glasses. He fled in a green, four-door sedan. The investigation is ongoing.

Around 8:12 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 00 block of West Naomi Avenue regarding a burglary report. An investigation revealed an unknown suspect entered the residence through an unlocked bedroom window, ransacked the home, and fled with cash and designer watches. The investigation is ongoing.

At about 8:15 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 100 block of West Naomi Avenue regarding a burglary report. The officer discovered unknown suspect(s) smashed a rear window, ransacked the location, and fled with jewelry. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Thursday, November 30:

Just before 8:02 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 00 block of East Las Flores Avenue regarding a burglary report. Surveillance footage revealed three suspects shattered a rear window, ransacked the home, and as they fled with an unknown amount of property, the alarm activated.

All three suspects were wearing hooded sweatshirts, masks, gloves, and pants. The investigation is ongoing.

Friday, December 1:

Shortly after 11:09 a.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 1000 block of Rancho Road regarding a fraud report. The victim stated between October 10th and November 13th of this year, an unknown suspect used his credit card to make seven fraudulent transactions totaling \$143.90 in the state of New Jersey. The victim was in possession of his credit card and is unsure how the suspect obtained his personal information. The investigation is ongoing.

Saturday, December 2:

At approximately 5:51 a.m., an officer responded to Carl’s Jr., 165 East Duarte Road regarding a vehicle burglary report. An investigation revealed an unknown suspect(s) shattered the front passenger window and stole the victim’s wallet. The suspect(s) then used her credit card in the City of South El Monte. The investigation is ongoing.

MONROVIA - DUARTE

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

WALL STREET PROVIDES AN OVERWHELMINGLY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO OUR CALPERS RESPONSE PLAN AS WE SUCCESSFULLY SOLD +/- \$112 MILLION WORTH OF PENSION OBLIGATION BONDS THIS PAST WEEK... FINAL PLAN WILL SAVE THE CITY OVER \$50 MILLION DURING THE NEXT 30 YEARS!

This past week, a key component of our overall CalPERS Response (CPR) Plan was executed as the City successfully sold \$111.6 million worth of pension obligation bonds (POB) to refinance all of the City’s existing pension liabilities.

Of particular note... given the City’s strong credit rating and favorable market conditions, we ended up saving even more money than we initially envisioned when the City Council approved the overall plan on November 7, 2017. As you may recall, when the CPR Plan was approved, staff was anticipating that over the life of the 30-year refinancing, the City would save around \$43.2 million in total costs.

After completing the overall POB transaction, the City’s strong financial position and an uptick in demand for municipal securities resulted in the City securing an overall issuance with a net interest cost 4.03%. In real dollars, the work

performed by our bond finance team means that the City will now save around \$50.3 million over the life of the 30-year refinancing, which is \$7.1 million more than we initially anticipated!

It goes without saying that we could not have achieved this positive development if not for the terrific work of our overall finance team, which includes:

The team at the City, including the City Council and our Administrative Services Department
Richards, Watson & Gershon – Bond Counsel
Stradling, Yocca, Carlson, & Rauth – Disclosure Counsel
Urban Futures – Financial Advisor

Thanks to the terrific work of all involved, our overall CPR Plan has put Monrovia into a most enviable financial position! Kudos to the entire team and our community!

ALDI’S GRAND OPENING SET TO TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017, AT 8:25 A.M.!

We wanted to let everyone know that Monrovia’s new Aldi’s Supermarket will be hosting a grand opening celebration on Thursday, December 7, 2017, with a formal ribbon cutting scheduled to take place at 8:25 a.m. at their new location at

731 East Huntington Drive. Aldi is known for its premium exclusive brands, high-quality grocery items, and low prices... and all of us here at the City are excited to welcome the supermarket retailer to our community!

MEET AND GREET:

ASSEMBLYWOMAN BLANCA RUBIO, 48TH DISTRICT

Please join the Monrovia Arcadia Duarte Town Council at a “Meet and Greet Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio, 48th District” event at Pamela Park, 2236 Goodall Ave. Duarte, Tuesday evening, December 12 at 6:30 pm. The Assemblywoman

is in her first year of office and has supported and introduced various bills. This energetic woman will talk about her background, education, and teaching career before entering public office. She also will explain various bills/propositions. All are welcome.

MONROVIA POLICE BLOTTER

During the last seven-day period, the Police Department handled 425 service events, resulting in 59 investigations. To see a complete listing of crimes reported, go to <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/ca/monrovia> for crime mapping. For Police Department news and information, visit our website and follow us on Twitter.

Counterfeit Bill

December 4 at 9:33 a.m., a female subject called police to report she had inadvertently used a fictitious \$100 bill at a gas station in the 900 block of W. Foothill. She reported that she received the bill from a bank. An officer responded and confirmed the \$100 bill was fictitious and the U.S. Secret Service was notified. The investigation is continuing.

Battery / Hit & Run Traffic Collision

December 4 at 10:47 a.m., a caller reported a disturbing subject at a gas station in the 900 block of W. Huntington. Officers arrived and learned the subject had punched a customer at the gas station and then while attempting to drive away, the subject collided into a vehicle. The suspect fled the scene. The investigation is continuing.

Artillery Round Found – Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Bomb Squad Notified

December 4 at 1:01 p.m., officers responded to the 100 block of E. Pomona to assist a subject with retrieving property from his impounded vehicle. While the subject was getting his property, the tip of an artillery round was located in the trunk. The item belonged to the registered owner’s grandfather. The Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department Bomb Squad was notified; they responded and took possession of the device.

Trespassing – Suspect Arrested

December 5 at 9:51 a.m., the manager of a business in the 300 block of W. Huntington called police to report a disturbing male subject at the location. The subject has a no-trespassing order issued to him for the location. Officers arrived and detained the subject. The no-trespass authorization was posted on the front entry and exit doors, and the subject has been notified that he is not to be at the location. He was arrested for trespassing.

Stolen Vehicle

December 5 at 8:17 p.m., a vehicle was reported stolen from the 400 block of W. Huntington. A female subject parked her vehicle in the business parking lot and went into work. When she returned to her vehicle, she found it had been stolen. The vehicle is a 2004 Acura. The investigation is continuing.

Mail Tampering

December 6 at 11:26 a.m., a resident in the 300 block of Wildrose reported an incident of mail tampering. She was at her home when FedEx dropped off a package and she heard a knock at the door. When she opened the door, she saw a female, White subject, wearing jeans and a jean jacket, walking away with her package. She yelled at the female, who then dropped the package and fled in a brown, 4-door Honda, with a male suspect driving. The investigation is continuing.

Grand Theft Auto / Felon With a Gun / Warrant – Suspects Arrested

December 6 at 1:42 p.m., a parking control officer observed a suspicious black Honda Accord with no plates making two quick turns in what he thought was an attempt to get away from him. The vehicle parked in an alley in the 200 block of east Colorado. A computer check revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen out of Westminster. Patrol officers responded and the vehicle went mobile. As officers were attempting to stop the vehicle, the male, front passenger threw a handgun out the window. Once the vehicle was stopped, the three occupants were detained. The driver was arrested for grand theft auto, the front passenger was arrested for felon with a gun, and the rear passenger was arrested for a no-bail warrant. The investigation is continuing.

Shoplifting – Suspect Arrested

December 6 at 3:14 p.m., loss prevention at a business in the 1600 block of S. Mountain saw a subject in the store taking items and placing them in his clothing. Officers responded to the location and also observed the suspect placing items in his clothing. The suspect walked past the manned registers without stopping to pay for the items and was detained. The suspect was arrested and received a citation to appear in court on the charges.

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!
CALL PATRICIA 626-818-2698

ARCADIA UNIFIED’S FIRST AVENUE MIDDLE SCHOOL CELEBRATES ITS 110TH ANNIVERSARY



ARCADIA-- Arcadia Unified School District's First Avenue Middle School, which originated as the City of Arcadia's first school, will celebrate its 110th Anniversary this Saturday, Dec.9.

Partnering with Downtown Arcadia's annual Holiday Market, First Avenue will celebrate its 110 years by taking part in the day's family-friendly fun. Spartan contributions to the day will include student-led tours of First Avenue, which school was recently ranked in the top 1% of public middle schools in the Los Angeles area according to Niche's 2018 Best Public Middle Schools lists. Tours will showcase the school's historical highlights as well as unique class projects from many of First Avenue's core classes and cross-curricular pairings, including a 1,000-piece Rubik's Cube math mural project of the Spartan logo.

"We are very excited to partner with Downtown Arcadia and share with the Arcadia community all that First Avenue's creative and innovative students and staff do to make concepts come to life in our classrooms," shared First Avenue Principal Dr. Semeen Issa. "It's humbling to be a part of First Avenue's expansive history and to celebrate the school's modest beginning from one classroom to today's middle school program that offers our students over 30 electives to choose from that include Industrial Technology, Food Science, Art, Music, Broadcast Journalism, and many other courses that allow our students to discover what they are passionate about."

The Spartan music and dance programs will also conduct special performances, including a show by the First Avenue Rock Band and Spartan student and staff dancers going "Footloose" to the musical stylings of the First Avenue Marching Band. Here is a schedule of the 110th anniversary celebratory events set to take place at First Avenue:

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.: First Avenue student-led tours

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Spartan Marching Band and Color Guard performance to open the ceremonies, speeches from community dignitaries, and "Footloose" performance

3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: First Avenue student-led tours

4:00 p.m.: Spartan Rock Band performance

5:00 p.m.: Downtown Arcadia Big Giveaway

The First Avenue street, between Diamond Street and Huntington, will be closed to vehicle traffic beginning Friday evening, Dec. 8, through the evening of Saturday, Dec. 9, with Downtown Arcadia's Holiday Market running from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information about First Avenue Middle School, please visit fa.ausd.net, and for more information about Arcadia Unified School District, please visit www.ausd.net.

GOLDENWORDS:
Dr. Dan's College Corner

“HOW MUCH DOES YOUR COLLEGE MAJOR DEFINE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DESTINY?”

In many cases, it turns out that your choice of your major disciplinary focus in college is surprisingly unimportant to your post-graduate options for employment and/or graduate study. There are some important exceptions we'll talk about below, but since college students often fetishize the importance of the choice of major (and are forced at most universities to "declare" that focus area within two years of arrival), let's consider some actual facts in this column.

-- Certain fields of study that support an early career choice demand strategic and sequential course and major selections.

If you arrive at a school knowing you want to be an engineer, for instance, you'll want to stay in step with class prerequisites that ramp you up into the advanced courses of study. One miscue in enrollment could delay your progress, so researching and seeking clear advisement is a must.

There aren't a lot of foreign language majors these days, alas. But if you've been ignited by world affairs and harbor an interest in homeland security and international affairs careers, you'll again want to stay in step with the sequences of those language classes. By the way, should you really want to change your future options forever, consider a challenging but transforming path--the study of "critical languages," as defined by our Dept. of State. (there are even scholarships to prompt more study of these strategic languages, outlined at <http://www.clscholarship.org/>) Urdu? Farsi? Korean? Yes, and more!

--OK, you say. But you want to be a physician, or an attorney or go into business--shouldn't you major in those fields?

Not necessarily. Medical and Law schools have been redefining their own admission and teaching models over recent years, and are placing more of a premium on range and what one Dean calls "crossover content." What's that mean?

Well, if you take the expected 7 or so pre-med classes that most MD programs look for, you can major in pretty much anything else. And anyone who wants to be a clinician in our country these days can win points from Med School admission committees if they have accrued some courses in Spanish, American Sign Language and Anthropology.

There are parallel stories for aspiring lawyers and business majors, too. By major discipline, English literature majors tend to score highest on the LSAT, by the way. And, even if your school offers a business major, do

a comparison test with a self-designed "shadow" business major you might craft instead.

You often can take most of the same classes as a regular business major, have a more spacious calendar to take more Economics classes and, most importantly, lots more Math coursework. And, if freed from some of the lockstep requirements of a pure business major, you may also have room for a study abroad semester, crucial to your global literacy and crosscultural sensibilities.

--So, besides the issue of picking a major, what else can you do to become life's most "placeable candidate," to quote one Human Resources Vice President?

Think of what you choose to study as a portfolio of academic skill sets and knowledges, combined with reality-tested experiences through interning and volunteering (more columns on the indispensability of field work and internships to come).

Employers more than ever are currently stressing certain core expectations of new hires: adherence to ethical standards of behavior, capacity to write clear, persuasive prose to deadline, nimbleness in understanding layers of data, ability to work collaboratively with co-workers of often vastly different age and cultural backgrounds, eagerness to go beyond job description to add value to their organization.

So, do you need a Major at all?

It's undeniably valuable to master a progressively demanding core in any field of academic study. But it's also undeniably foolish to assume that the world will award you fellowships, graduate placements or lucrative first jobs only because of your scholarly masteries. Think "portfolio," one component of which might add value to your goal of being life's most "placeable candidate." Study something you love, but be ready to serve the needs of the world as well.

Dr. Dan Golden was the founding director of Life Planning at the Vistamar School in El Segundo. He was a professor, program director and Dean for Work & Service-Learning at Wheaton College (MA), and now consults with individuals, schools and educational districts on college access, post-graduate study and career planning issues. He can be reached at dangolden0@gmail.com.



Dan Golden, PhD

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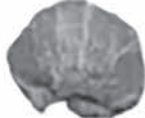
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SENIOR RESCUES CAN HAVE REMARKABLE SECOND ACTS

During one of my recent walks with Patches (a gorgeous Aussie with brilliant half-blue eyes) and Puck (a sweet blonde Cocker Spaniel), we passed one of those mini free libraries - basically a birdhouse affixed atop a pole - in someone's yard. Typically I walk right by that book box without as much as a thought, but that day a title on one of the spines caught my eye and I was compelled to take a look.

The book was titled My Old Dog: Rescued Pets with Remarkable Second Acts. As I perused the cover, I saw that it was written by Laura T. Coffey with photos by Lori Fusaro, a forward by Neko Case and after words by Dr. Marty Becker & Mikkel Becker. It looked pretty interesting, so I thought, "What the heck, I'll give it a try."

I am so glad I took take the time to check out this amazing book! It is chuck full of inspiring stories about senior dogs who've been blessed with a second chance to share the precious gifts they have to offer in this world. Some of the people who gave the dogs in this book a second chance are famous folks you may have heard of, while others are just ordinary people like myself.

The stories I read were uplifting at times and at other times made me cry a little. Sweet tears of appreciation for the good folks who had the compassion to give those precious pups a second chance. Overall I loved the book and I was impressed with it enough to share about one of its stories in this week's column. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

It's a true story about an 18-year-old bully mix named Sunny, whose name had been Shady before Lori Fusaro brought her home from the extremely crowded Carson animal shelter. You see, Lori was a volunteer photographer at the shelter, donating her (amazing) skills, taking photos of the pups who were up for adoption.

The first time Lori met Shady (who would later become Sunny) was during a break between photo shoots at the shelter. Lori decided to visit the dogs in the kennels and there was Shady, cowering behind the fence. She was too afraid to even lift her head enough to say hello. To Lori, the poor ole girl appeared defeated and hopeless. It broke Lori's heart.

Shady had been with one family all her life until coming to the shelter. Sadly, her family had surrendered her because she'd gotten cancer. If the story ended there, I don't think I would have been able to stop crying or continue reading. But thankfully, that was just the beginning of this adoption saga.

Lori went home and could not get that dear dog's fearful face out of her mind. She went back the next day and found Shady in the same kennel, awaiting her inevitable fate, assuming no one would come to her rescue. And so it is that Lori, a compassionate and caring animal lover, reached out and saved 18-year-old Shady's life.

Shady turned to Sunny when she became part of Lori and Darrell's life and the name soon befitted her. First and most importantly, Sunny was seen by a veterinarian who tended to the eye infection she'd contracted, presumably while incarcerated. It was decided that the tumor on Sunny's hind leg would remain as it wasn't impeding her mobility

and going under anesthesia would be a serious risk for a dog of 18 years.

In very short order, Sunny was looking up instead of down. She got along just fine with the other animals in the household. In fact, Gabby, the 12-year-old bully she now shared her home with, embraced her with loving paws. Gabby shared her bed with Sunny and even let her use her butt as a pillow!

Sunny now knew that everything was going to be okay and she could live out her latter days peacefully in the hands of loving humans. She could rest in the confidence that Lori and Darrell loved her and would take care of her. Dogs know these things, sometimes more immediately and more clearly than we humans are able to know them.

Inspired by Shady's transformation to happy-go-lucky Sunny, Lori decided to focus her photography on taking pictures of senior dogs who need a second chance. With her remarkable skills, she depicted numerous old pups from around the country in a way that caught the attention of many - first on social media and later in the mainstream news media.

Lori's senior dog photography project was featured in KABOOM, an article posted on TODAY.com. Then Jill Rappaport did a segment about Lori's efforts on NBC Nightly News and Sue Manning wrote a story for the Associated Press.

Scores of media outlets followed with their own version of the story and all the attention led to "Silver Hearts", a senior-dog art project, a senior-dog museum exhibit of Lori's work and even "SeniorDogMitzvah", a project launched by a 12-year-old boy to help spring an old dog named Bailey from a yearlong shelter stay.

The overwhelming onslaught of interest prompted Laura Coffey, the book's author and photographer Lori Fusaro, to join forces and the Silver Hearts project ultimately evolved into My Old Dog: Rescued Pets with Remarkable Acts.

Sunny still thrives in the home of Lori and Darrell Fusaro, and while she doesn't get around as well as she used to, she's one of the most contented & happy dogs one could ever hope to meet! Lori now volunteers her skills as photographer of adoptable dogs for Best Friends Animal Society in L.A.

I know from my own personal experience, there is nothing quite like being loved by a happy, contented dog. Particularly when that dog knows you are the one who gave them a chance at a second act in life! Will you consider opening your heart and home up to a senior pup who needs another chance? They all deserve it and we humans can be their life line. Love and let live.



by Chris Leclerc

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES THE JOY OF YOGA YOGA & THE IMMUNE SYSTEM



When working properly, the immune system is responsible for keeping the body healthy

and protecting from foreign invaders. Having a strong, well-functioning immune system is vital to functioning in everyday life. It helps our physical and mental body and shapes our emotional disposition in the world.

Our immune system is comprised of many parts working together -- glands, immune organs, hormones and other biochemicals plus one underlying, more subtle, vital energy reserve called Ojas. Ojas is like the glue that holds everything together and one of the three vital essences -- immunity, vitality, and positive stability. Besides the risk of actual diseases of the immune system, the amount of stress that we are under also greatly affects and depletes this vital energy reserve and the physical body. It leaves us subject to overeating and, without time to unwind or when in worry or fear, it disconnects us spiritually. Physically, the adrenal glands become overtaxed by continuous

stress, as they overwork to respond.

Yoga offers some real help when it comes to boosting the immune system and staying healthy. On a basic note, yogic movement with conscious, intentional breathing reduces stress. In most classes, (not all!) the student gets to have an experience of calm or feeling "ok." The more often we can have this experience of being in a calm and balanced state of mind, the better. It activates the parasympathetic nervous system and helps to combat the stress response state. Yoga practiced in silence and other practices that facilitate withdrawal of the senses (or pratyahara) are essential for building our vital energy reserve. Along with a healthy, easily digestible diet, this has an impact on the immune system as a whole. A strong body and mind mean that we are protected from illness while allowing room for us to weather the ups and downs of life with greater ease. Make yoga a regular part of your life and watch your health improve! Come see us at Yoga Madre, www.yogamadre.com.

Namaste,
Keely Totten, E-RYT 500

THE MISSING PAGE Real Life Tips from Life's Instruction Manual

GUARD YOUR TIME AND ENERGY

The fall and winter months bring a host of activities and traditions. Usually, we eat a little too much and fill the days with tasks. Hopefully, you're having fun and creating precious memories. During the holiday season, it's easy to become overwhelmed and over extended. It is important to remember our priorities and to honor our boundaries.

As you allocate your time, revisit your priorities. It's always nice to be helpful, but be sure not to over-commit yourself. You want to remember put self-care and your goals on your to-do list. Otherwise when you come to the end of the week, month and year you will be disappointed if you haven't accomplished your goals. People pleasing is a deadly disease, it kills dreams.

What is the best way to stay focused? I am using my calendar as a tool to meet my goals. Every coach and mentor with whom I have worked has recommended that I be more strategic with my time, but until now I have resisted. That was a mistake. I am scheduling the

tasks that I need to complete and tracking my time now. I see it as a form of self-care.

We should only commit to doing the things that we want and have the time to do.

I know the power of writing down my goals, I have seen that work repeatedly in my life. I am a life-long learner, and I don't expect my to-do list to stop anytime soon; therefore I plan on using all of the resources available to me to accomplish my goals. I will start first by listening to my coach and implementing her advice. I hope to achieve my goals and enjoy the holidays with my family.

Stop and consider what can you do to enjoy this holiday season.

Lori is a lawyer and coach. Learn about her coming workshop at her website Loriaharris.com



Lori A. Harris

WHATT A FACE!!

Katnip News!



Will ya look at that cute face?? He's MIGHTY MONTANA, AGE 3, adorable tuxedo boy. He likes to play and will allow little pets on his head, but does not like to be touched on his back end. One theory is that he

in the home or is with another FIV+ cat. (We can advise.) Many special needs cats are often forgotten or overlooked. If they are given a chance to shine, they blossom with love. Adoption fee is \$100, which includes neuter, microchip, exam & vaccines. See more pictures, his video, adoption info & application on our website, www.lifelineforpets.org. Call 626-676-9505 to come meet him. Can't adopt? Visit our website for our easy ways to support our rescue.



was once a house cat, or maybe abused and somehow ended up on the streets. Our wonderful team of socializers have worked with him, and he has gone from being isolated, to now being out, cage-free, in a room with other kitties. Montana is FIV+ but is healthy and needs no meds. This condition is easily managed as long as the kitty is kept indoors and is the only kitty

GOOD NEWS: Buddy & Violet have a pending adoption!

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TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills thechefknows@yahoo.com

FISH

The Discovery Channel is full of great shows, and I turn to it when I have exhausted my usual programming, such as that critically acclaimed, Dining with Dills Knows. One show that has increasingly captured my attention is "The Deadliest Catch?" I'm not moving from restaurant reviewer to TV Critic mind you, but there is something about the show that just keeps my interest. I have no idea who the stars are but it appears to me the treacherous weather is one of them. The entire show is dedicated to life threatening pursuit of catching Crabs off Alaska and the Russian Border, the Baltic Sea to be exact. The ships are equipped with every technical gadget in the business, but like so many things in life, it comes down to instinct and in this case it is the captain's instinct that directs the ship to fortune, failure or even death. Unlike the "Bachelor," here I don't have to wade through 10 episodes for the count or the discard, as nearly every episode they are pulling up Crabs in five minute intervals. Crew members battle the crippling Eskimo like conditions and sheer walls of mountainous sea to bring up a treasure chest of crabs that is as welcome as gold to the pirates of a distant age. The season is brief so each mistake, each lost moment of time is magnified as the crew must force themselves through fatigue and lack of sleep to race against the ticking clock. Maybe I find a special delight in the show since I love King Crab but it is more, as the show turns my stomach in knots as I watch with childlike fear and anticipation as the crew of the boats challenge the harshest elements of nature. Here is a sample of the shows description.

"Relive the dangers, adventures and disasters of the original miniseries. Meet the salty sea captains and greenhorns who risk their lives on the job to earn part of a 90 million dollar King and Opilio Crab payoff. Set sail and learn all about crab fishing." Yea, that's the whole premise and I can't get enough of it!!! If they are willing to risk their lives for this, I feel obligated to support these courageous soldiers and their imprisoned catch?



This week is dedicated to those crews and their delicious prisoners, so let's see where we can catch our own crab and not lose a life or wallet in the process.

King Crab Legs can be very expensive, so I suggest checking out Costco or Sam's Club for a fair price. Typically, they have a great selection at a very reasonable price. If you are a Costco member they have some of the freshest crab and some of the lowest prices anywhere. On sale you can expect to pay about (\$20.95) per pound. How about Crab Cakes? If done right they can be very tasty, but many restaurants do not use the traditional method or lack a quality in their crab cake to capture the heightened glory that this dish can achieve. The traditional method is done with Dungeness lump crab meat. Some places in our region are: Cameron's Restaurant, Del Frisco, and Ruths Chris'. For this crab lover though, the very best Crab Cake by far is at The Front Runner Restaurant located at the Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia. There they use real lump crabmeat with a light breaded cover. With this dish all those thoughts of slow horses disappear in a Heaven filled plate of Crab Cake. What's your favorite place for Crab Cakes? Send me an email to the chefknows@yahoo.com

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FINANCIAL HELP FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

Dear Savvy Senior,
Are there any financial assistance programs that can help grandparents who are raising their grandkids? I'm raising two grandchildren and could use some help.
Struggling Grandma

Dear Struggling,
Money is often an issue for the millions of U.S. grandparents who are raising their grandchildren today. To help with the day-to-day expenses, there are a variety of government programs and tax benefits that can make a big difference in stretching your budget. Here's where to look for help.

Financial Assistance Programs

For starters, find out whether your family qualifies for your state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which may include cash assistance, food stamps and free or low-cost daycare. Or, if your household income is too high to qualify as a family, ask about the "child-only grant" for just the grandchild's support alone. Also, find out if your state offers any additional programs like guardianship subsidies, non-parent grants or kinship care.

Contact your state TANF program (see ACEHHS.gov/ofa for contact information), or call your county social services office for more information on these programs.

You also need to find out if your grandkids are eligible for Social Security, including benefits for children, survivor benefits or SSI. You can find this out at your local Social Security office, or call 800-772-1213 or visit SSA.gov.

And finally, use BenefitsCheckUp.org, a comprehensive website that lets you search for additional financial assistance programs that you may be eligible for, such as lower energy bills, discounts on prescription medications and more.

Tax Benefits

In addition to the financial assistance programs, there are also a number of tax benefits that may help you too like the Dependency Exemption, which allows you to deduct \$4,050 in 2107 on each qualifying grandchild.

There's also the Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC which is available to those with moderate to low incomes, or the Child Tax Credit if you make too much money to qualify for the EITC.

If you're working, and are incurring childcare expenses



in order to work, there's a Child and Dependent Care Credit that can help. And, if you choose to legally adopt your grandkids, there's an Adoption Credit that provides a federal tax credit of up to \$13,570.

There are even education-related tax credits that can help your grandkids go to college, like the American Opportunity Tax Credit or the Lifetime Learning Tax Credit.

To learn more about these tax benefits call the IRS at 800-829-1040, or visit IRS.gov. You can also call the IRS publication line at 800-829-3676 and ask them to mail you the publications that further explain the aforementioned benefits. Ask for publications 501, 503, 596, 970, 972.

Health Insurance

If your grandkids need health insurance, depending on your income level, you may be able to get free or low-cost health insurance through your state's Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. See InsureKidsNow.gov or call 877-543-7669 for more information.

Legal Aid

You also need to talk to a family law attorney to discuss the pros and cons of obtaining legal guardianship, custody or adoption. Without some sort of legal custody, you may not be eligible for many of the previously listed financial assistance programs, and there can be problems with basic things like enrolling your grandkids in school, or giving a doctor permission to treat them. For help locating affordable or free legal assistance, visit www.FindLegalHelp.org, or call the Eldercare Locator at 800-677-1116 for referrals.

For more information and resources see the Grandfamilies State Law and Policy Resource Center at GrandFamilies.org.

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

DCSC – SERVING FOLKS IN NEED



The Duarte Community Service Council continues to support many needy families in Duarte. This year they are collecting food, clothes and toys to create Holiday Baskets for these families. The Duarte Kiwanis club is proud to support them in their efforts.

Pictured from left, Tina Heany and Dorothy Smith, DCSC and Tina Carey, Duarte Kiwanis Secretary.

If you are interested in joining Duarte Kiwanis or being a speaker at a future event, contact Tina Carey at tinac51@aol.com.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!December Birthdays*

Pat Karamitros, Joan Hufnagel, Mary Alice Cervera, Carol Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Mignon Grijalva, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Lottie Bugl, Pat McGuire, Sheila Wohler, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Cindy Barran, and Melissa Stute.

* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required but you must be over 60.



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

Hawaiian & Polynesian Dance Class: Every Tuesday morning from 10a.m. to 11a.m. Join instructor Barbara Dempsey as she leads you in the art of Hula.

Bingo Time: Every Tuesday beginning at 1:00p.m. Cards are only \$0.25 each! Everyone is welcome to join. Activity may be canceled if less than five people.

Free Blood Pressure Testing: 2nd Tuesdays of the month from 11a.m. to 12p.m. No appt. is necessary.

Brain Games - *New Activity*: Join us on Thursday November 16th, at 10:30a.m. to 11:30a.m. for

Scattergories. A creative thinking game by naming objects within a set of categories. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is needed. What a great way to strengthen your brain and make new friends. Activities are facilitated by Senior Volunteers.

Free Legal Consultation: Wednesday, November 15th from 10:30a.m. to Noon. Attorney Lem Makupson is available for legal consultation. Specializing in Family Law, Wills, Trusts, Estates, and Injury. Appointments are required by calling 626-355-7394.

Senior Club: Meets every Saturday at the Hart Park House Senior Center. Brown Bag Lunch at 11:30a.m.

Chair Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays from 11:00a.m. to 11:45a.m. with Paul Hagen. Classes include yoga and balance exercises. All ability levels are encouraged and welcomed! * A voluntary donation of \$5.00 per week is suggested but not required.

Birthday Celebrations: Every 2nd Thursday monthly at the Hart Park House, share some free birthday cake provided by the Sierra Madre Civic Club.

Game Day: Every Thursday starting at 12:00p.m. Come join this group of Seniors in their poker game. Other games are offered to all.

Free Strength Training Class: Fridays from 12:45p.m. to 1:30p.m. with Lisa Brandley. This energetic class utilizes light weights, low impact resistance and training conditioning. Class equipment is provided.

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS:

THE MISSION INN & FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS (Riverside)

Date: Friday, December 15, 2017
Time: 2:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Hart Park House Senior Center
Cost: \$20 (Does not include dinner)

The day begins with a 75-minute late afternoon guided tour on the art, architecture, and history of the Mission Inn. Guests will have time for dinner, shopping, and the annual Festival of Lights with the nice Christmas Tree decor in the hotel lobby. Due to the historic nature and character of the Mission Inn, tours involve significant amounts of walking and standing; you may encounter areas of uneven ground, side-walks and flooring; stairways, steps and slopes. You will be asked to sign a waiver and release of liability by the Mission Inn. Dinner will be on your own and there are many dining options along Main Street or at the Mission Inn Hotel. Participants should bring money for dinner and souvenirs. Level of Walking: High. Please call the Hart Park House 626-355-7394.



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Looking Up
with Bob Eklund

PUZZLING SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE FOUND IN INFANT UNIVERSE

Scientists have uncovered a rare relic from the early universe: the farthest known supermassive black hole. This matter-eating beast is 800 million times the mass of our Sun, which is astonishingly large for its young age.

“This black hole grew far larger than we expected in only 690 million years after the Big Bang, which challenges our theories about how black holes form,” said study co-author Daniel Stern of JPL.

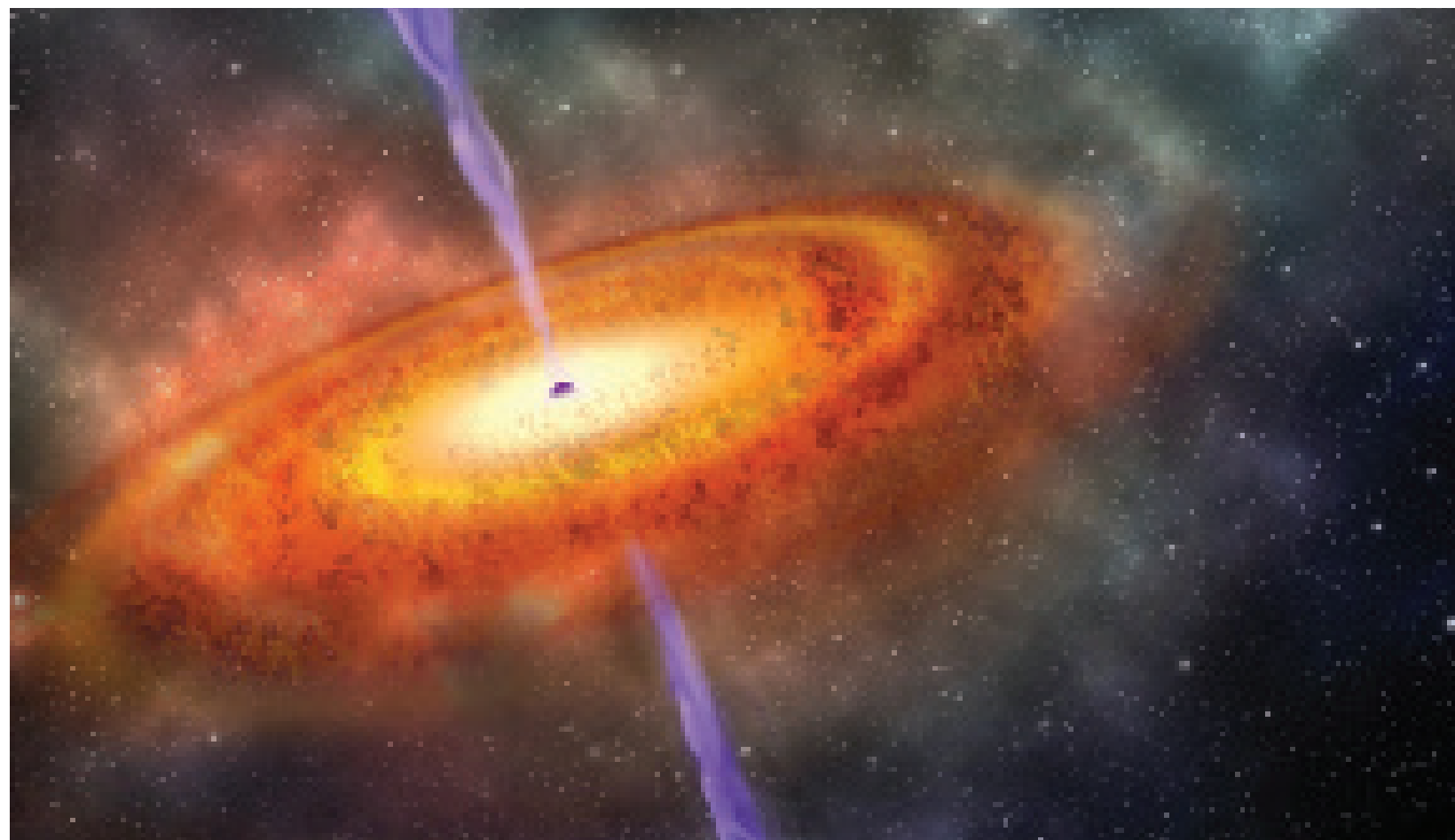
Astronomers combined data from NASA’s Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE) with ground-based surveys to identify potential distant objects to study, then followed up with Carnegie Observatories’ Magellan telescopes in Chile. Carnegie astronomer Eduardo Bañados led the effort to identify candidates out of the hundreds of millions of objects WISE found that would be worthy of follow-up with Magellan.

For black holes to become so large in the early universe, astronomers speculate there must have been special conditions to allow rapid growth—but the underlying reason remains mysterious.

The newly found black hole is voraciously devouring material at the center of a galaxy—a phenomenon called a quasar. This quasar is especially interesting because it comes from a time when the universe was just beginning to emerge from its dark ages. The discovery will provide fundamental information about the universe when it was only 5 percent of its current age.

“Quasars are among the brightest and most distant known celestial objects and are crucial to understanding the early universe,” said co-author Bram Venemans of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Germany.

The universe began in a hot soup of particles that rapidly spread apart in a period called inflation. About 400,000 years after the Big Bang, these particles cooled and coalesced into neutral hydrogen gas. But the universe stayed dark, without any luminous sources, until gravity condensed matter into the first stars and galaxies. The energy released by these ancient galaxies caused the neutral hydrogen to get excited and ionize, or lose an electron. The gas has remained in that state since that time. Once the universe became reionized, photons could travel freely



throughout space. This is the point at which the universe became transparent to light.

Much of the hydrogen surrounding the newly discovered quasar is neutral. That means the quasar is not only the most distant—it is also the only example we have that can be seen before the universe became reionized.

“It was the universe’s last major transition and one of the current frontiers of astrophysics,” Bañados said.

The quasar’s distance is determined by what’s called its redshift, a measurement of how much

the wavelength of its light is stretched by the expansion of the universe before reaching Earth. The higher the redshift, the greater the distance, and the farther back astronomers are looking in time when they observe the object. This newly discovered quasar has a redshift of 7.54, based on the detection of ionized carbon emissions from the galaxy that hosts the massive black hole. That means it took more than 13 billion years for the light from the quasar to reach us.

Scientists predict the sky contains between 20 and 100 quasars as bright and as distant as

this quasar. Astronomers look forward to the European Space Agency’s Euclid mission, which has significant NASA participation, and NASA’s Wide-field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) mission, to find more such distant objects.

“With several next-generation, even-more-sensitive facilities currently being built, we can expect many exciting discoveries in the very early universe in the coming years,” Stern said.

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



CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

ON THE NATURE OF RELATIONSHIPS

Your “friends” should never tell you who you can associate with

[Nyerges is the author of “How to Survive Anywhere,” “Extreme Simplicity,” “Foraging California,” and other books. He leads outdoor classes regularly. For more information, contact www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041.]

Human relationships are forever fascinating. I’ve long been interested in the interplay between two partners, and what can be called the “chemistry” between them. What, for example, really brings two people together? Is it common interests, or different interests? What makes the relationship tick, and what tears it apart?

I have concluded that each human relationship is very much like a chemistry experiment, whereby different chemical-soup mixtures combine or don’t combine with any of the other chemical-soup mixtures that we call the dynamic human. One day I hope to publish a book on relationships and perhaps I’ll be bold enough to make some meaningful comments and suggestions.

For today, I want to explore one issue that I have experienced all my life in various relationships, though it tends to pop up the most in business relationships.

Someone will say, “If you do business with that person, you cannot do business with me!” I have had it said to me, and my knee jerk reaction is nearly always, “OK, then I will not do business with you. I do business with whom I choose, and if you have a problem with X, that is your problem alone.”

I can recall as a child in grammar school when one of the popular boys told me the same thing. “You cannot be my friend if you are going to pal around with so-and-so.” Really? I was usually too frightened as a child to openly challenge such a statement, and I would maintain my friendship with the outcast anyway. I learned – in time – that the bossy boy was very insecure and he wasn’t really my friend anyway, not in the ways that mattered.

And as I continued to “pal around” with the new kid in school, who I was told to not associate with, I found someone who was different, unique, and who became a lifelong friend. It is perhaps because I often felt like an outcast myself growing up that I have found myself attracted to the so-called oddballs and misfits of the world, most of whom are far more fascinating and interesting than the so-called normal people.

More recently, where I conduct a regular outdoor public event, some of the local residents would hang out at my booth where I conducted the administrative aspects of the event. My assistant told me privately that I should not

allow one particular person to stay around my booth. The young man in question lived locally, and was known to be affiliated with a notorious L.A. gang. Some people felt intimidated by this man’s presence.

However, it has never been my policy to expel or repel anyone based on such things; as long as his behaviour in my presence was appropriate, I had no reason to repel him. I gradually got to know this man. He needed income, and so little by little I put him to work doing various small tasks at the weekly outdoor event, much to the dismay of my assistant. Plus, this was a public space, not private property, so I did my best to make this a good situation for everyone. Through my comments and suggestions, this young man gradually was able to refine his communication skills when talking with my customers, and even began to dress a little better when he came to our market. From my perspective, I may have been one of the few people who interacted with him in a positive way, even encouraging him to get more work, and where to find it. I never looked down my nose at him, so to speak.

To my surprise, there were a few times when other individuals harshly criticized me or our market, and this young man strongly and eloquently defended me. I was shocked because I didn’t expect it, and it was not necessary, and yet, nothing more needed to be said or done. I chose to view it as “what goes around, comes around,” as this young man felt so much a part of our market that he would stand up to defend us.

This is just one small example where something positive flowed from a situation that others viewed as negative.

Yes, like everyone, I like to surround myself with good friends. And yet, I have never forgotten the insightful words of Moshe Dayan, who said “Keep your friends close, but keep your enemies closer.”



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

SANTA CLAUS HASN’T RECEIVED MY LETTER YET!

In first grade, our teacher asked us to pen a letter to Santa for Christmas.

She asked us, “Name one present you would like Santa to bring you for Christmas.”

Then we were to write a letter to Santa, who, according to her, lived at the North Pole, and tell him what we wanted for Christmas and why we wanted it. Then, we put it in an envelope and she mailed it to the North Pole.

At the time, I thought my teacher had a connection with Santa Claus. She said so many nice things about him that she must have known him personally. Accordingly, I thought a letter delivered to him by my teacher would have credit.

The other night the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were sitting around drinking some hot cocoa and thinking about Christmas. She had just put up the Christmas tree with all of the decorations. She does such a wonderful job that I let her do it.

Actually, one year I did try to help her and it was a catastrophe to say the least. Since then, I am to watch and fetch and that’s all. The Christmas decorations are wonderful and create a Christmasy spirit.

As I was admiring the Christmas decorations, I happened to mention to her about the first grade letter to Santa. I casually said, “I guess Santa never got my letter.”

Looking at me she said, “Why do you say that?”

I chuckled and said, “I never got a pony for Christmas.”

Together we laughed and then she said something that caused me to pause. “Do you want a pony for Christmas this year?”

The way she looked at me when she asked that question, I thought she was being serious. It caused me a little bit of pause because what in the world would I do with a pony now.

Then, I’m not one to let a situation go without playing it for all it’s worth.

With a very serious look on my face, I said to her, “I sure would love to have a pony this year. It would make my Christmas just wonderful.”

“Well,” she said rather sarcastically, “you’ll have to send a letter to me if you want that pony this year.” After a few moments of silence, we both broke out laughing.

Where in the world would we put a pony in the Parsonage? What in the world, would I do with the pony in the Parsonage?

Actually, I had not thought about that letter to Santa for a very long time. It is amazing what you do when you are young and then years later for some reason you remember it.

Then in the middle of all of this pondering, my wife hit me with the question that I’m still not sure about.

“Okay, what do you really want for Christmas this year?”

I can think of many things. Pens, books and pocketknives to add to my collection. I can never have enough of these things. But, is that what I really want for Christmas this year?

Pondering the question, I could not come up with a serious answer.

To try to throw her off her guard, I said to her, “First, tell me what you would like for Christmas this year.”

I thought she would give me a well-documented list of gifts that she would like for Christmas. She is so organized in everything she does I was pretty certain she was organized in this area as well.

My problem in buying Christmas presents for her is that I don’t know what she would like. She has everything she wants and can use. I cannot buy her anything in the category of tools because that is an unknown territory for me.

I have known this young lady when she was actually young and to this day, I would have a hard time getting a present for her that would actually surprise her. We have different likes and dislikes which makes us a very good team.

“Oh, no,” she said abruptly. “You’re not getting away with that. Before I tell you what I want for Christmas you’re going to have to tell me what you want for Christmas.”

If anybody knows how to back me into a corner, it is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I have been backed into so many corners that there are none left in our house.

Honestly did not know what to tell her. Then, much to my surprise, a wonderful thought began dancing in my cranium. It danced so much it made me think. I came up with a special Christmas gift for this year that I knew she could not contradict.

“After giving this a lot of thought,” I said very soberly, “what I want for Christmas this year is another year to live with you.”

Needless to say, she had nothing to say about that. Very few times do I get to say something that causes her to be silent.

I was reminded of what the apostle Paul said. “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Philippians 3:10). The most important thing about the Christian life is not what God gives you, but rather that he gives you himself. Relationships are a great deal more important than possessions.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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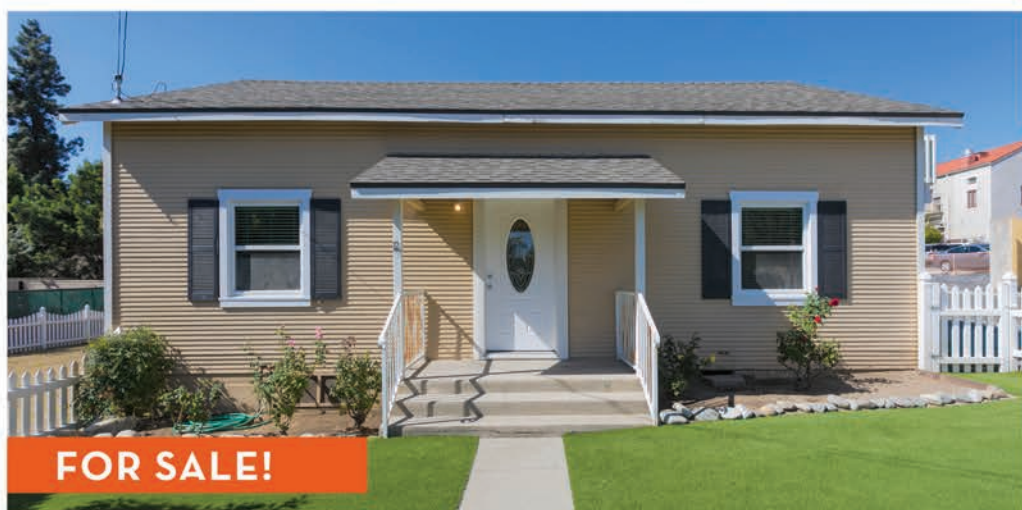
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017

SECTION B

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

FREE HELP AVAILABLE FOR WILDFIRE VICTIMS

Southern California residents are on high alert once again. It is unusual to have so many wildfires burning at the same time and especially at this time of year. The Santa Ana winds are contributing to the rapid spreading of these unexpected wildfires which are burning thousands of acres of land as well as homes. Currently, there are 8 wildfires burning in 4 counties in Southern California:

- The Thomas Fire near Hwy 150 and Hwy 126, north of Santa Paula (Ventura County)
- The Palm Fire off Palm Dr & 20th Avenue in Desert Hot Springs (Riverside County)
- The Wilson Fire off Mount Wilson Circle Road, near the Mount Wilson Observatory (Los Angeles County)
- The Rye Fire off Rye Canyon Loop, west of Valencia (Los Angeles County)
- The Creek Fire off Kagel Canyon Rd., north of Lake View Terrace (Los Angeles County)
- The Riverdale Fire off Riverdale Place and Lakeview Ave, Santa Ana Riverbed (Riverside County)
- The Meyers Fire near the Hwy 15 and Hwy 215 junction, near Glen Helen Regional Park (San Bernardino)
- The Oak Fire off Oak Glen Rd and Pine Bench Rd, east of Oak Glen (San Bernardino County)

If you or someone you know lives within 2 miles of a wildfire, it is important to know that there is help available. This includes help not only for property owners whose homes suffer physical damage from fire but also for homes and property located within the adjacent area.

First and foremost, safety first. Emergency responders and firefighters are requiring residents to evacuate the area. However, many people may not know that their Homeowners or Property Insurance Policy may provide coverage for relocating their household, including pets, for homes located in neighborhoods requiring mandatory evacuation.

Your insurance may also provide coverage to remove ash, black soot residue and smoke odor from your home or around your property. This

specialized cleaning should be done by certified contractors that can also remove Foscheck or the slurry dropped by firefighter airplanes from your roof, driveway or the landscaping as this substance may leave a damage your property and leave a permanent stain.

Because of smoke from wildfires as well as the heat wildfires generate, trees and shrubs can be wilt or die. Thankfully, Fire is a peril most Insurance Policies will cover the cost to prune or replace them if their growth is affected. There may, however, be a maximum dollar limit for each tree or shrub your insurance will replace. An Arborist can assess the condition of trees to determine if they have suffered permanent damage that will prevent future growth. Homeowners need to be aware of Public Adjuster. These individuals come to your home claiming they can assist you with getting paid for your damage and will help you file an insurance claim. Public Adjusters or an associated law firm may circulate fliers to a meeting they hold in your neighborhood or community to encourage all of the residents to retain their services. They may tell you that they can get you thousands of dollars from your insurance company. The truth is, this is money you would be entitled to without their help. You should know that they do charge for their services, even if they tell you that they don't. They may take 10% to 40% of your insurance money if you hire their services, which can be significant amount of money to give away.

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Call SOS Solutions for your free help today! 1.888.589.1868 - To learn more about our free services and for more resources, visit our website at www.TrustSOSolutions.com. Article courtesy of Jenee Child, CEO of SOS Solutions.

FOOTHILL UNITY CENTER'S HOLIDAY SALON CONCERT & ART SHOW

By Joan Schmidt

Foothill Unity Center's annual Holiday Salon Concert & Art Show at Santa Anita's Chandelier Room began with a warm welcome, champagne and tasty creations by Paula Smagacz, their new Executive Chef.

After entering, we met Joan Whitnack, past Executive Director at the Center, standing in front of beautiful oil paintings, something she decided to try after retirement. How did she keep her talent a secret so long?

Next to Joan, was the unique work of artist, Darrell James Hickey, who blends worlds of fashion impressionism and pop. His three-dimensional work includes beautiful boxes to put your "things" in- phone, keys, wallets, etc. when you return from work. Also on display- two tables he designed.

Another artist was Chris Shadd aka Shaddstones Studios; he featured his silicon abstract paintings- unique and quite colorful.

For the ladies, there were beautiful HazelsBags Purses (Hazel Salomon-jimmy) and Elida Tsou Designs (Beautiful clothing, jewelry design and accessories.)

What was so heartwarming to me was that a portion of the proceeds of the above-mentioned items goes to Foothill Unity Center.

Now it was time for the Concert. In attendance were many Carmelite nuns from Santa Teresita. Reyna Diaz, original MAD Town Council Member, Duarte School Board President, Volunteer Extraordinaire, Champion of Education AND on the Foothill Unity Center Board of Directors welcomed us , spoke of the wonderful work of Foothill Unity Center and of the two talented performers, Dr. Adam Kendall and Dr. Samuel Chung.

I could write VOLUMES about the Center and these two fine men and their performance, but will try to keep it as brief as possible.

The Foothill Unity Center has been around since 1980. It is the primary provider of food, case

management/crisis help and access to health services in 11 cities. Currently they are in two locations- Pasadena and Monrovia-and the Monrovia site is BEYOND cramped. After years of strategic planning, studying and evaluating, the Center has recently purchased a new building down the street on Chestnut. It is MUCH LARGER and needs extensive work. Upon completion, it will provide a comprehensive, "one-stop" experience for all their clients. (Please visit www.foothillunitycenter.com or call 626-358-3486-they can use volunteers in addition to donations.)

Now for the BEST part. The concert itself was wonderful. Dr. Kendall performed on the piano first with his furry friend Barney at his side. After the Intermission, besides Dr. Kendall, we were treated to his violin duos with Dr. Samuel Chung. The evening ended with Oh Come All Ye Faithful and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

These two fine performers are physicians. Dr. Kendall practices medicine at Healthcare Partners in Arcadia and Dr. Chung, an Oncologist, at City of Hope. Dr. Kendall and his late wife of fifteen years had a practice together. After her untimely passing in 2011, he was so grief-stricken, he closed their practice. His brother sent him on a trip to Canada to help ease the pain, and while on the train, Dr. Kendall began to play his violin. Currently he rents a room and can be heard playing at the Monrovia Street Fair hoping to bridge the gap between concert hall and listener. In lieu of performance fees and lesson fees, Dr. Kendall encourages donations to Foothill Unity Center which he hopes will total \$50,000 by 2022.

I spoke with Dr. Chung and met his family prior to the concert. Dr. Chung graduated from Holy Angels School in Arcadia and played in their annual Jockey VS Holy Angels Benefit Basketball Game in 1988. It's sure a "Small World", and SPECIAL THANKS to the two fine perfumers and all involved in this great evening; particularly to help the Foothill Unity Center in their great mission of service to the Community.

REP. ISSA OPPOSES SENATE, HOUSE TAX REFORM PLANS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman Darrell Issa (R-Vista) released the following statement announcing his opposition to the Senate-passed tax reform bill which is expected to go to conference committee to be reconciled with the House bill which he voted against in November.

"When I voted against the House tax reform proposal, I did so because I feared that many in my district could face higher taxes under its changes. The

Senate bill doesn't do any better," said Congressman Darrell Issa. "California families are already forced to endure some of the highest state sales and income tax rates in the nation -- they deserve to see tax relief too.

I oppose both proposals in their current form and I will continue to fight for tax relief that benefits ALL of our nation's taxpayers -- regardless of where they live. And if such a deal cannot be reached, the bill will not earn my support."

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Jeff's Book Pics

By Jeff Brown

What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism

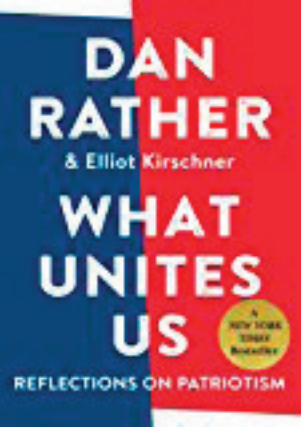
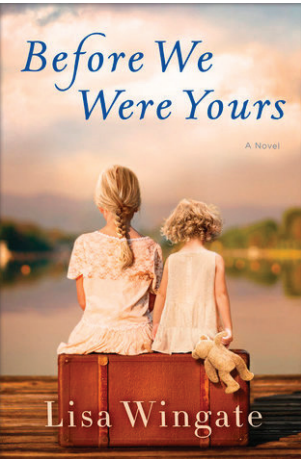
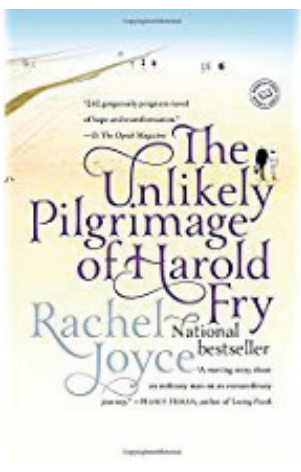
by Dan Rather , Elliot Kirschner

"I find myself thinking deeply about what it means to love America, as I surely do." —Dan Rather. At a moment of crisis over our national identity, venerated journalist Dan Rather has emerged as a voice of reason and integrity, reflecting on—and writing passionately about—what it means to be an American. Now, with this collection of original essays, he reminds us of the principles upon which the United States was founded. Looking at the freedoms that define us, from the vote to the press; the values that have transformed us, from empathy to inclusion to service; the institutions that sustain us, such as public education; and the traits that helped form our young country, such as the audacity to take on daunting challenges in science and medicine, Rather brings to bear his decades of experience on the frontlines of the world's biggest stories. As a living witness to historical change, he offers up an intimate view of history, tracing where we have been in order to help us chart a way forward and heal our bitter divisions. With a fundamental sense of hope, What Unites Us is the book to inspire conversation and listening, and to remind us all how we are, finally, one.

The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry: A Novel

by Rachel Joyce

"Rachel Joyce's beguiling debut is a modest-seeming story of 'ordinary' English lives that enthralls and moves you as it unfolds."—People (four stars). Meet Harold Fry, recently retired. He lives in a small English village with his wife, Maureen, who seems irritated by almost everything he does. Little differentiates one day from the next. Then one morning a letter arrives, addressed to Harold in a shaky scrawl, from a woman he hasn't heard from in twenty years. Queenie Hennessy is in hospice and is writing to say goodbye. But before Harold mails off a quick reply, a chance encounter convinces him that he absolutely must deliver his message to Queenie in person. In his yachting shoes and light coat, Harold Fry embarks on an urgent quest. Determined to walk six hundred miles to



the hospice, Harold believes that as long as he walks, Queenie will live. A novel of charm, humor, and profound insight into the thoughts and feelings we all bury deep within our hearts, The book introduces Rachel Joyce as a wise—and utterly irresistible—storyteller.

Before We Were Yours

by Lisa Wingate

For readers of Orphan Train and The Nightingale comes a "thought-provoking [and] complex tale about two families, two generations apart . . . based on a notorious true-life scandal." Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantiboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge—until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents—but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty. Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption. Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals—in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country—Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

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All Things

By Jeff Brown

E. WALDO WARD, SIERRA MADRE'S 100 YEAR OLD JAM AND JELLY COMPANY!

Back in 1891, a man named Edwin Waldo Ward Sr. moved to Sierra Madre, California with a dream. He purchased 30 acres of land from the town's founder, Nathaniel Carter, and planted the land with Navel oranges. At the time, he was a salesman for James P. Smith & Co., a New York importer of luxury foods. He married in 1900 and built the beautiful home and the red barn on 273 E. Highland Avenue in 1902. Both buildings are still used today. Ward certainly knew the fine-food business and made important contacts over the years. And these were all advantages in later years when he started his business. His dream was to make English style marmalade. An English friend was traveling to Spain and Ward gave him money to purchase two trees of the special variety of the orange tree that was needed. These trees arrived in America and became the grafting stock for a grove that numbered over 600 trees. Ward's big dream was to produce his own marmalade here on the ranch.



In 1915 he retired as a salesman and for three years experimented with marmalade making. By 1918, he began his preserving business. The business thrived, and for years, when dining was a fine experience on trains crossing America, Ward's marmalade was the only one served on several trains. WWI also cut off food imports from overseas and Ward was ready to supply the market here. Other products have been added since then and today, marmalade is only 10% of the fine foods they produce. The Ward home built in 1902 and still used by the family today. Behind the home is the Ward canning factory building. Today, about 10 to 15 people are employed. Many are long-time employees. But the company will always remain small in order to preserve the high quality which is the Ward standard. The products are made using the best ingredients and methods possible. They have an abundance of jams, jellies, chutneys and marmalades, over 200 products. 626-355-1218.

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FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett



the gifts above, you may also be entitled to an income tax deduction for the charitable gift.

Your Once-In-A-Lifetime Coupon

In addition to our annual coupons, we all have a once-in-a-lifetime coupon for taxable gifts, those that exceed or do not qualify for the annual exclusion, called the unified credit. It's called a unified credit because it unifies the gift tax with the estate tax into a coordinated tax system. Unlike the annual coupons you read about above, once you spend the value of the unified credit coupon for a taxable gift, it's gone.

Many people assume that because it says taxable gifts, they'll have to pay the gift tax. Luckily because of the unified credit coupon, most people will never have to actually pay any gift tax. You only have to pay gift tax if your lifetime gifts exceed the unified credit coupon. Under current law, the amount of the unified credit increases each year, but it never resets (unlike the yearly coupons you read about earlier). In 2017, the unified credit amount is \$5.49 million and is scheduled to increase to \$5.6 million in 2018. However, if you make a taxable gift, you are required to file a gift tax return with your income taxes. Although the unified credit is currently applicable for gift and estate tax, it is worth noting that the gift tax continues on in the tax proposals being considered by Congress, even as an estate tax repeal is on the agenda.

When should I talk to an estate planner?

If you plan on making a gift in excess of \$14,000 in 2017 (\$15,000 in 2018), then you should talk with a trusted professional first. Sometimes the best way of making a gift is to just write a check, but other times giving in a trust, through an LLC, or with an undivided interest in property can make more sense and offer your recipient greater benefits (like privacy or asset protection).

While we don't suggest you give away anything that you might need, if you do have some surplus, gifting programs are a fun way to see your loved ones enjoy your generosity – as long as you do it without drawing the attention of the IRS!

Dedicated to empowering your family, building your wealth and creating your legacy,

MARC

A local attorney and father, Marc Garlett is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 49 S. Baldwin Ave., Ste. G, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Schedule an appointment to sit down and talk about ensuring a legacy of love and financial security for your family by calling 626.587.3058 or visit www.GarlettLaw.com for more information.

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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.

TOM PURCELL



CHARITABLE GIVING - IT'S AN AMERICAN TRADITION

Ah, the giving season is upon us - the best time of the year to be an American.

According to Giving USA 2017: The Annual Report on Philanthropy for the Year 2016, American giving rose to \$390 billion last year - a 3 percent increase over the prior

year.

Americans give around 3 percent of our collective income to charity - more than the citizens of any other country. Better yet, these are individual Americans, not the government, who are generating the lion's share of the contributions.

According to the National Philanthropic Trust, the vast majority of U.S. citizens donate to charity - and 91 percent of high net-worth households do. Though most of the contributions come in small amounts, the average household contribution equals \$2,520 - no small amount of generosity.

Giving USA says individual Americans gave an estimated \$281.86 billion in 2016 - an increase of 3.9 percent over the prior year. Individual giving accounted for 72 percent of all charitable giving in 2016.

The balance of giving, some 28 percent, came from foundations (\$59.28 billion), bequests (\$30.36 billion) and corporations (\$18.55 billion).

In 2016, the United States government gave about \$40 billion in foreign aid to more than 100 countries - only about 10 percent of what our individuals and private organizations gave.

The fact is America is the most generous country on Earth, and most of the giving is coming from individuals sharing their hard-earned dough.

According to a 2006 report by journalist John Stossel, Americans give 3 1/2 times more, per capita, than the French, 7 times more than the Germans and 14 times more than the Italians.

Though not all Americans are as generous as they could be.

One might assume that the more liberal folks in America - folks who voice their concerns about the poor - would be more likely to donate to charitable causes. But that turns out to be a myth.

Stossel set up a Salvation Army bucket in two places: Sioux Falls, S.D., and San Francisco, Calif. San Francisco has a lot more dough and a lot of people who classify themselves as politically liberal; only 14 percent of the people who live there attend church. Sioux Falls is a rural, middle-class community in which half the folks are churchgoers.

So which city gave more? The Sioux Falls folks won hands down. Stossel pointed out that the simple reason why is that liberal folks tend to believe the government should take care of the poor, whereas more religious folks tend to be big believers in giving their own time and money to help a variety of charitable causes.

Stossel found, in fact, that almost all the people who donated to the Salvation Army in Sioux Falls were churchgoers. And that churchgoers are four times more likely to give to charity than those who are not.

Another interesting finding was that the people who give the most, as a percentage of their wealth, aren't the richest Americans or even middle-class Americans - they're the folks on the lower end of the economic scale. They give almost 30 percent more of their income than anybody else.

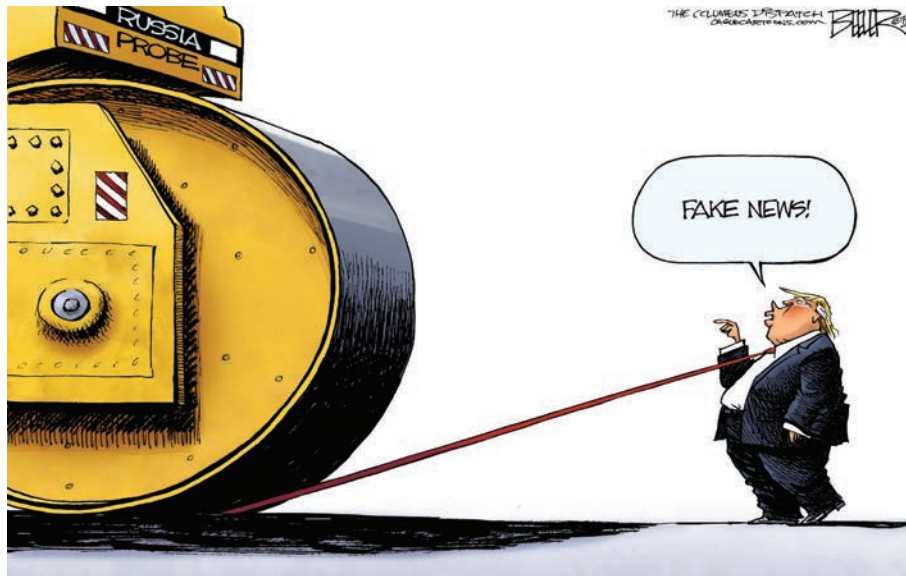
In any event, the holiday season is upon us, and it is the favorite time of the year for Americans to give to individuals and to the charities of our choice.

Bolstered #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that now falls on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, the giving season is off to a great start. On #GivingTuesday, more than 2.5 million individuals donated \$274 million - \$100 more than last year.

As I said, it's the giving season, the best time of the year to be an American.



PARKS..... AND WRECK



JOHN L. MICEK



NO, TRUMP DOESN'T STAND ABOVE THE LAW

Hey, did you know that President Donald Trump can't be found guilty of obstruction of justice?

Yeah, me neither.

Thank goodness that White House lawyer John Dowd came along to clear that up for us all, and, in the process, rip a hole in the time-space continuum, dropping us into some parallel universe where we're actually ruled by Mad King Donald, and not a democratically elected executive who's subject to the same set of laws as the rest of us.

In case you missed it, the utterly novel legal interpretation that Dowd provided to Axios and NBC News came in response to Trump's tweeting last weekend that he knew that former national security adviser Michael Flynn had lied to the FBI about his contacts with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

Legal experts quite sensibly suggested that if Trump knew Flynn lied to the FBI and then didn't tell the FBI about it, such an admission might increase his exposure to the kind of obstruction of justice that's at the center of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

But not Dowd.

Speaking to Axios and NBC, Dowd theorized that "the president cannot obstruct justice because he is the chief law enforcement under [Article II of the Constitution] and has every right to express his view of any case," The Post reported.

Except there are two problems with that theory. One of them is former President Bill Clinton. The other is President Richard Nixon.

During impeachment proceedings in 1999, then-U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama argued that Clinton had to be removed from office because he obstructed justice in the course of the investigation into his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

"The facts are disturbing and compelling on the President's intent to obstruct justice," Sessions said at the time, Politico reported, citing remarks in the congressional record.

Twenty-five years earlier, as his administration crumbled during the Watergate scandal, Nixon famously claimed that "when the president does it, that means it is not illegal."

Except, of course, that the articles of impeachment lodged against Nixon included allegations of obstruction. Nixon, you'll recall, resigned before he could be impeached. Norm Eisen, a former Obama administration ethics official and the co-author of a Brookings Institution report looking at the history of presidential obstruction of justice, told the Washington Post this:

"There's a long line of cases holding that when a government official exercises an otherwise legal authority with corrupt intent, they can be prosecuted for obstruction. It flows from the notion that no person is above the law," he said.

That seems pretty cut and dried.

Dowd's theory, which was first advanced by Harvard law scholar Alan Dershowitz, isn't part of the White House's official legal strategy, according to lawyer Ty Cobb, who is overseeing all things Russia.

Dershowitz has argued that Trump can't be charged with obstruction because firing Comey and telling the FBI who - and who not - to investigate is part of the job description.

"Throughout United States history - from Presidents Adams to Jefferson to Lincoln to Roosevelt to Kennedy to Obama - presidents have directed (not merely requested) the Justice Department to investigate, prosecute (or not prosecute) specific individuals or categories of individuals," Dershowitz wrote in a June op-ed for The Washington Examiner.

Dershowitz went on to note that "it is only recently that the tradition of an independent Justice Department and FBI has emerged. But traditions, even salutary ones, cannot form the basis of a criminal charge. It would be far better if our constitution provided for prosecutors who were not part of the executive branch, which is under the direction of the president."

Which is all well and good. But to paraphrase another former Washington official, you make your case with the laws and prosecutors you have, not the laws and prosecutors you wish you had.

An independent Justice Department is far preferable to one directed by a politically motivated executive who might be tempted to overstep his authority to tick names off his personal enemies list.

And that's true no matter who does it - Democrat or Republican.

Our system is reliant on the belief that we're equally accountable in the eyes of the law. And that no one - not even the president of the United States - stands above it.

An award-winning political journalist, Micek is the Opinion Editor and Political Columnist for PennLive/The Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pa. Readers may follow him on Twitter @ByJohnLMicek and email him at jmicek@pennlive.com.

MAKING SENSE by MICHAEL REAGAN

CRASHING THE DC MEN'S CLUB



I finally get why President Trump tweets.

Even though I often disagree with what he tweets and how he tweets it, the president has no choice.

Tweeting is how he controls, or steers, the media coverage of him and his administration - by setting news agendas for them, whether they like it or not.

If President Trump didn't tweet what he tweets, the Big Media would be able to ignore important stories like the political bias and corruption that's been going on within the FBI, Robert Mueller's Russian investigation and the Deep State.

As a total outsider in Club DC, Trump has to defend himself at all times.

He's hated or not wanted by the entrenched political establishment, left-leaning bureaucrats of the Deep State and liberal media elite that run the city.

He's not a member of their club, not on their team, not one of them - and never will be.

As we've seen, the people who run Washington and powerful politicized government agencies like the FBI will do anything they can to impeach or get rid of Trump.

The president is surviving so far only because he doesn't play by the DC Men's Club's rules.

He plays by his own rules, as a businessman, and if they come after him on bogus sexual harassment charges, collusion charges or whatever, he doesn't care.

Meanwhile, things go much easier if you're a member of the DC Men's Club.

From JFK's well-known bed hopping and Bill Clinton's serial sexual predations to Congressman John Conyers' chronic groping, the misbehaving male members of the Washington "family" have usually been protected - or at least they were until a couple of months ago.

If you're a member of Congress and a known creeper like Senator Al "I'm going to resign soon" Franken, your club-mates will ignore or hide your crude behavior and the liberal media can be counted on not to go around digging it up.

What we've found out lately is that people in Congress have been quietly protecting their own sleaze-balls and slime-balls for decades.

They set up a \$17 million "hush" fund in the 1990s to pay off the women and men they've sexually harassed or mistreated.

John Conyers even got his accusers to sign non-disclosure papers and used money from his congressional office budget to pay them off.

That's outrageous, but the real outrage is that so few people are outraged by the fact that the women were paid to be quiet with taxpayer money.

You can't tell me that anyone who's been in Congress for more than a month didn't know about Conyers' dirty-old-man habits.

But as we've been learning every day, Congress' quiet cover-ups of sexual harassers and assaulters are nothing special. They're like the ones that were going on at NBC, CBS and in Hollywood.

Those non-government places - like NPR, Uber, the Catholic Church and on and on - put up with or protected their own bad men for a long time.

But until now the legitimate complaints of women who were harassed, humiliated, groped or worse by men who had power over them were systematically ignored, or the women were paid to go away and keep quiet.

Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose, Kevin Spacey and all the other old guys who've recently lost their jobs in the media and elsewhere weren't just celebrities or big ratings' getters. They were "family."

As I wrote in my book "Twice Adopted," the "family" - whether it's Congress or a TV network - always protects "Uncle Charlie the molester" and not the molested child. From now on that's no longer always going to be the case, which is why the women of the #MeToo movement deserve to be on the cover of Time magazine.

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Quality & Service
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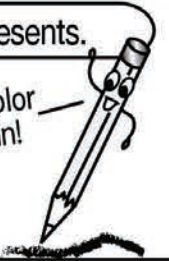

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We have just enough time before...



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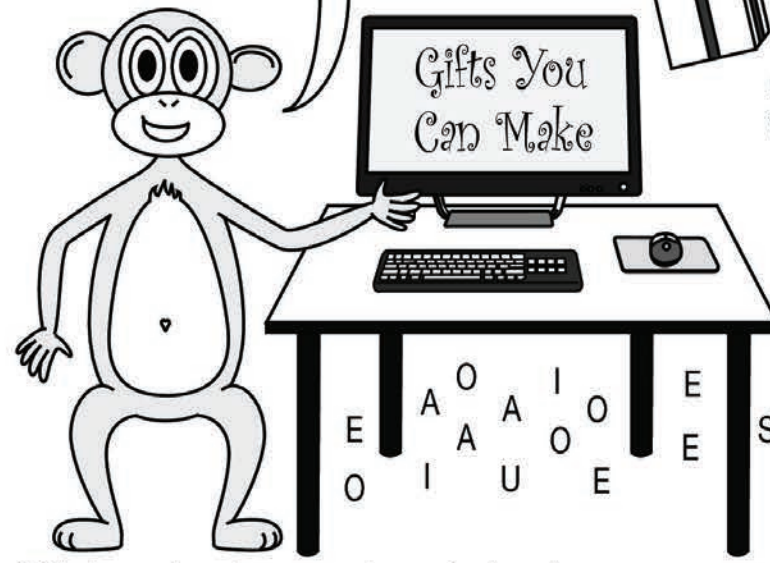
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Chatter and I are teaming up to make all of our holiday gifts this year. I'm using my computer to help. I will write stories and recipes, draw pictures and then print out my work. Next, Chatter will decorate the pages and bind them into books or make other fun items. We can't wait to start!



Gifts You Can Make

ST _CK _RS Y _RN
R _BB _NS
SP _RKL _S B _TT _NS
C _L _R _D P _P _R

stationery scrapbook
stories coloring
journal recipe
frames bookmarks
calendar puzzle

I make wrapping paper by decorating paper bags!

I'm going to paint, glue and make a big, fun mess on the kitchen table!

I'm making all of my gifts by hand.

Some items you might need:
pen
glue
ruler
string
pencils
photos
scissors

The Gift of Giving

Fill in the missing vowels to name items that you can use to decorate or make your gifts:

1. if you have photos or postcards from a trip, you can make a travel _____

2. think of a theme (like 'winter fun'), make a crossword or word search _____; roll it up and tie it with a ribbon

3. make _____ for photos or drawings

4. tie together pieces of cardboard or buy a _____ in which to put photos, school papers

5. write tales and make drawings, print them out and make them into a book of _____



6. decorate any plain paper to create writing paper or _____

7. make your own pictures for each month (or find printable forms on your computer) to make a yearly _____

8. create _____ by decorating paper or cardboard strips with cartoons, stickers or poetry so friends can track their reading

9. write your family's favorites on index cards, put in a small box or bind together to form a _____ file or book

10. draw "outline" pictures to make a _____ book for a younger brother or sister; add markers or crayons to this gift



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[] Sierra Madre [] Pasadena	Mountain Views News 80 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. No. 327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024

YOUR INVITATION TO AN EVENT AT THE KENSINGTON SIERRA MADRE

Please RSVP via email to
SSciurba@KensingtonSL.com
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Theaters of Vision Productions Presents

Everyone wants
Champagne for
the Holidays

And Champagne *WILL* be featured. This show is tremendous entertainment for all ages. It's a blend of singing, dancing and Comedy. Refreshment will be served. You will not want to miss this one!

Theaters of Vision Productions (TOVP) creates, produces, directs, performs and presents original premier community outreach benefit live stage musical non-profit and for profit productions/ events facilitating the needs of small, medium and large organizations, in a wide range of large to small venues.

EVENT DETAILS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017
From: 6:30pm – 8:00pm

at The Kensington
245 West Sierra Madre Blvd.
Sierra Madre, CA 91024
(626) 355-5700



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Pasadena Campus

Saturday, December 9, at 4:00 pm
& Sunday, December 10, at 6:00 pm

Valley Center Campus

Friday, December 15, at 7:30 pm

All Performances in the Sanctuary

Free Admission • Open Seating • Free Will Offering

For more information, contact Pastor Alan De Vries at adevries@paznaz.org or 626.351.2419.

First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena | 3700 East Sierra Madre Boulevard | Pasadena, California 91107 | 626.351.9631 | www.paznaz.org
Valley Center: A Campus of PazNaz | 5119 North Valley Center Avenue | Covina, California 91724 | 909.599.2512 | www.valleycenterchurch.org

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