

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Duarte

Monrovia

Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2020

VOLUME 14 NO. 6

## THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP



### Top 10 Most Expensive Mistakes You're Making on Your Home

Homes cost a lot of money to maintain. But are you spending extra money unnecessarily on upkeep?

Here are the **10 most expensive mistakes** you could be making in your home:

1. Using Traditional Light Bulbs
2. Ignoring a Leaky Faucet
3. Using the Wrong Air Filter Size
4. Not Customizing Temperature
5. Not Adjusting Air Vents Properly
6. Over Watering Lawn
7. Water Heater Temperature Set Too High
8. Leaky Windows and Doors
9. Paying a Handyman When You Can Do It Yourself
10. Ignoring Curled Shingles

Use these **10 TIPS** to cut maintenance costs on your home today.

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**Jan Greteman 626.975.4033**

jan@jangreteman.com  
jangreteman.com #01943630

**Judy Webb-Martin 626.688.2273**

jwmartin@dppre.com #00541631

**Katie Orth 626.688.0418**

korth@dppre.com #00942500

### Who We Are:

Residents & business owners of Sierra Madre **selling** real estate **since 1975** & proudly **giving back** to the community.

deasy**penner**podley

homeasart.com

source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate

## TREES UPROOTED IN POWERFUL WINDSTORM



*The winds that took down this tree and many others in Sierra Madre brought back memories of the 2011 windstorm that destroyed thousands of trees in Sierra Madre, Arcadia, Pasadena and other cities. This photo was posted on facebook by a local resident.*

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKES HISTORIC ACTION TO SECURE AND ENHANCE WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY FOR MEMBER AGENCIES

"The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (the District), formed in 1959, was created to provide a reliable supply of supplemental water for its member agencies, namely the cities of Alhambra, Azusa, Monterey Park and Sierra Madre. As one of 29 State Water Contractors which receive allocations from the State Water Project, the District imports water from northern California using its Devil Canyon-Azusa Pipeline and conveys water nearly 40 miles to the Main San Gabriel Basin, the underground aquifer located beneath the San Gabriel Valley.

The City of Sierra Madre, however, is located in the Santa Anita Sub-Area of the Raymond Basin, out-side of the Main San Gabriel Basin, and has not had direct access to the District's imported water supply. In 2006, the District entered into an agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to facilitate the construction of a connection to MWD's treated water transmission main in 2013, and has since provided relief to the City as an interim solution to an emerging challenge.

In 2019 the District and the City of Sierra Madre collaborated, with the assistance of Stetson Engineers, to identify a long-term solution to the challenge of a diminishing ground water supply within the region. The most feasible solution would be for Sierra Madre to develop a groundwater well within the Main San Gabriel Basin, whereby the City would gain direct access to the District's imported water supply. This solution required cooperation of the City of Arcadia to convey water through Arcadia's system to Sierra Madre.

Sierra Madre and Arcadia completed a water wheeling agreement effective December 4, 2019. That agreement called for construction of a joint well to be located within the City of Arcadia. The water would then be transmitted through Arcadia's existing pipelines to Sierra Madre's water distribution system. For Sierra Madre, the last remaining item needed to move the project forward was securing funding for the construction of a joint well.

At the District's January 2020 Board of Directors' meeting, the District's Board unanimously approved nearly \$1.9 million in grant funding for the construction of the joint well (pending execution of an appropriate Board Resolution and Grant Agreement). The Board's action solves a decades-old challenge in Sierra Madre and, at the same time, ensures a greater water supply for each of its four member cities.

The District congratulates Sierra Madre and Arcadia for their efforts to resolve the water supply challenges that exist in the Raymond Basin. Their efforts provide a model for the type of cooperation and collaboration necessary to deliver a safe, reliable, and sustainable water supply to the residents of our region.

The District will provide further updates as the process moves forward toward a fully executed funding Agreement."

## LA VOTE - CAST YOUR BALLOTS AT CITY HALL

There's something new at City Hall! The L.A. County Registrar Recorder selected our City as a new location to install brand new drop-off ballot boxes in front of City Hall. Now you can safely drop off your vote-by-mail ballots at City Hall even if City Hall is closed! No postage required. Come check it out on your next visit to City Hall. To find a polling center, please visit [lavote.net](http://lavote.net)



## SIERRA MADRE POLICE BLOTTER

January 26, to February 2, 2020  
During this period the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to 344 calls for service.

**Burglary Suspect**  
Officers contacted a subject on 1-29-20 that was reported going through a resident's vehicle in the 300 block of W. Sierra Madre Bl at 5:55AM. Officers detained the subject and found he was in possession of stolen property. The subject was also identified as someone involved in other thefts in the local area. The subject was taken to the Pasadena Jail for booking on various charges. Case to the DA's office for filing

**Traffic Collisions**  
On 1-30-20 at 6:26PM, a traffic collision occurred at the intersection of Orange Grove Ave. and Baldwin Ave. No injuries were reported.

On January 31, 2020, Officers responded to the 900 block of E. Grandview Ave for a traffic collision with injuries investigation. The injured party was riding a motorcycle that collided with a deer that entered the roadway. The rider was taken to a local hospital for treatment of his injuries. The deer left the scene.

**Grand Theft from a Vehicle**  
On 2-1-20, between 1:00PM and 1:10PM, a vehicle burglary occurred in the 200 block of S Mountain Trail Ave. Two male suspects entered the locked camper shell of the victim's vehicle and removed the victim's gardening equipment. The suspects then fled the scene.

**Theft from a Residence**  
On 2-2-20, a resident came to the station to report that at about 2:15PM an Amazon package was taken from her front porch.

SIERRA MADRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## WHISKEY & WINE

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**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, March 22, 2020**

## 2020 WISTARIA FESTIVAL

**9 am—5pm**

**Classic Car Show—Artists—Crafters—Live Music & Fun!**

**SHUTTLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW: [www.sierramadrechamber.com](http://www.sierramadrechamber.com)**



# Mountain Views News

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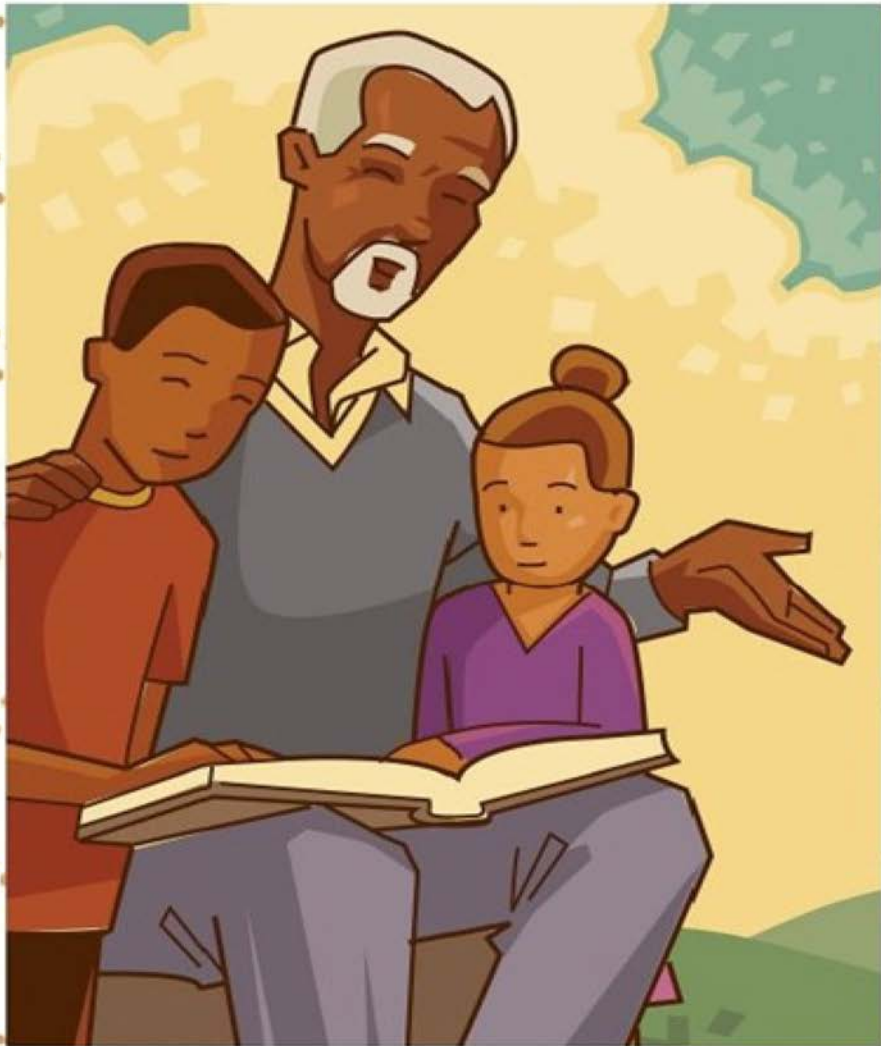
Pasadena

Altadena

South Pasadena

San Marino

## Intergenerational Storytime: Have a Grand Ol' Time!



**K** with The Kensington Sierra Madre  
2nd Wednesday of every month



**Read, Discover, Connect @ Sierra Madre Public Library**  
440 W Sierra Madre Blvd  
Sierra Madre, California 91024 | 626-355-7186  
[www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com/services/library)

Seniors and Preschoolers! Find a "grandbuddy" in our new interactive storytime. Sponsored by the Sierra Madre Library and the Kensington, preschoolers and older adults will spend time reading, crafting, and playing together in order to learn about and engage with different generations. This monthly program will alternate months – odd months at the Library, even months at the Kensington. In February, we'll be at the Kensington!

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD . . . VOTE IN 2020!



New laws in California make voting easier and faster. Informational sessions sponsored by **SMART** (Sierra Madre Activists Rebuilding Together) and the nonpartisan **League of Women Voters – Pasadena Area** can help you understand how, where and when you'll be voting in 2020.

JOIN US AT ANY OF THESE FAVORITE SIERRA MADRE SPOTS:

### Monday, February 3

Bean Town, 45 N. Baldwin Ave.  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

{Syndicate}, 18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Starbucks, 1 Kersting Court  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

### Wednesday, February 12

Sierra Madre City Hall, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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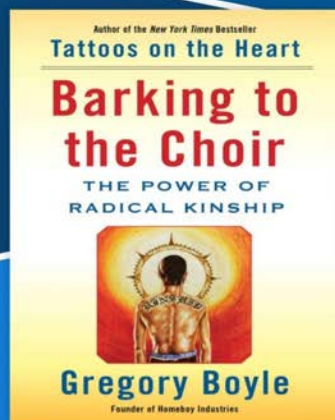
SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

# One Book One City

FEBRUARY 2020



Enjoy a month of programs including a very special evening with Father Greg Boyle. Grab your program brochure online or at the Library.



Join us for an evening with Father Boyle on Feb. 15th  
Register for your Free Tickets beginning January 6th, 2020\*  
\*Tickets are required and available on a first come, first served. Space is limited for author event.

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Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

Local Area News Briefs

Warrant Served at Marijuana Dispensary

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Narcotics Bureau, along with the assistance of Altadena Station Detective Bureau members, within the last two weeks of January, conducted two different search warrant operations, at two different illegal marijuana dispensaries within the Altadena township area along Fair Oaks Drive.,

According to deputies, after the execution of both warrants, a combined total of eleven individuals were arrested for a variety of crimes, including several believed to be employees. Three firearms were recovered (one was confirmed to be stolen) and a large amount of product was recovered, which included Marijuana, Marijuana eatable products, Marijuana vapeable products and large sums of money, which drives the trade in the first place they said.

ArtNight at the Pasadena Library

The Pasadena Central Library is set to host a number of events for the city's ArtNight Friday, March 13 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Celebrating Women:** Celebrate women and their accomplishments throughout history, especially winning the right to vote 100 years ago, with theatrical performances, music, author presentations, poets and crafts.

**Graphic Novel Salon & Gallery:** Throughout the evening • Reading Wing

**Pasadena Rose Poets:** Poets from Pasadena/Altadena and Los Angeles areas celebrate women. Throughout the evening • Centennial Room

**Celebrate Women Authors:** Angel City Press authors April Dammann, author of Corita Kent, Art and Soul. The Biography and Michele Asselin, author of Clubhouse Turn: The Twilight of Hollywood Park Race Track from will discuss their books and their writing journeys. Books will be available for sale and signing. 7 p.m. (April Dammann) & 8 p.m. (Michele Asselin) • Reference Wing.

**Crown City Chamber Players:** Enjoy a variety of classical music performed by members of the Crown City Symphony. Throughout the evening • Children's Room

**Reiyukai America:** Create a memory of ArtNight to take home with you. 6-9 p.m. • Great Hall/West Side

**Pasadena Adaptive Recreation:** Be inspired by charming works of art created by participants of the City-sponsored art program that encourages adults with a wide range of developmental and physical disabilities to express themselves through color, line and poetry. Artists will be in attendance to meet and greet you. 6-9 p.m. • Great Hall/East Side

**Pass the Gavel Boys, We've Won the Vote!:** Theatre Americana presents a musical performance in honor of the 100-year anniversary of women winning the right to vote. Join us for this celebratory evening of humorous and memorable entertainment, 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. • Donald Wright Auditorium

The Pasadena Central Library is located 285 E. Walnut Street.



City Criminalizes Flavored Tobacco Sales

By Dean Lee

The city council took action Monday night voting in favor of prohibiting the sale and distribution of mentholated cigarettes or other flavored tobacco products including electronic smoking devices and liquids, flavored little cigars, and tobacco lookalike products within Pasadena.

The final motion made by Councilmember John Kennedy also makes any violations a misdemeanor and increases the amount in fines. Cigarette and tobacco sales violations are currently an administrative penalty not criminal.

"I would also move that the initial violation not be \$250 but \$500," Kennedy said. "And that the violations [second, third...] there after double in nature... I am disheartened but it is not a surprise that African Americans and Latinos are targeted for death by the tobacco industry. We have the capacity to have a serious impact on their desire to destroy black and brown children."

According to the city staff report more than 50 communities in California and 250 throughout the nation have taken formal action to discourage children, teenagers, and young adults from smoking. The emphasis of these actions has been on new and emerging flavored and menthol tobacco products. The new rules will limit access to specific tobacco products by children, teenagers, and young adults.

As of January 14, a total of 2,668 hospitalized E-cigarette or Vaping Product Use-Associated Lung Injury cases or deaths have been reported to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and two US territories (Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands). Sixty deaths have been confirmed in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

According to the California Department of Public Health, the vast majority of teenagers say their first use of a tobacco product was flavored. A "flavored tobacco product" is defined as any tobacco product that contains a component that imparts a characterizing flavor. Mentholated cigarettes is an example of a flavored tobacco product. Ninety-five percent of African-American teens 12-17 years of age who smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days smoked menthols the report stated.

"Among high school students, E-cigarette use increased from 11.7 percent to 20.8 percent in 2017," said Alisha Lopez, Director of Tobacco Programs at Day One, "this translates to roughly eight of 10 youth tobacco users starting with a flavored product... to combat this issue, in the past several years, dozens of California cities have ended the sale of tobacco products... including Beverly Hills, Los Angeles County, Culver City and so on."

Lopez cited the statistics from a 2019 CDC report.

Other speakers, many students, said they have friends that smoke E-cigarettes because they are candy or sweet flavored.

"We are very proud of the progress we are making in the city towards smoking, anti smoking, efforts, Mayor Terry Tornek said. "They [tobacco industry] kinda 'backdoor-ed' us here and have managed to find a way to hook a whole new generation in terms of smoking."

Guided tours inside Tournament House, the iconic Southern California landmark, open to the public. Tours will be offered, at no cost, every Thursday at 2 and 3 p.m. Tournament of Roses volunteers from the Heritage Committee, knowledgeable of the organization's history and details of the house, conduct the tours.

The Rose Bowl Game room renovation at Tournament House is complete and open to the public for viewing. Highlights include new touch screens highlighting Rose Bowl Game Hall of Fame inductees , a Pac-12 and Big Ten helmet wall, video playback of Rose Bowl Game history, depictions of Offensive and Defensive Player of the Game, a celebration of the B-2 Flyover, information about the Lawry's Beef Bowl , the Leishman Trophy, and more.

Tournament House serves as the official headquarters of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, its staff and the

Free Open Public Tours of Tournament of Roses House



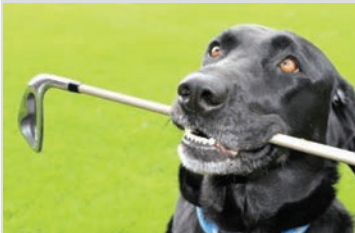
935 volunteer members who work year-round to organize the annual Rose Parade® presented by Honda and Rose Bowl Game.

Located in Pasadena, the house was once the home of chewing gum mogul William Wrigley Jr. and his wife, Ada. After Ada's death in 1958, the Wrigley family presented the property to the city of Pasadena, with the request that it become the base of operations for the Tournament of Roses. The Wrigley family enjoyed the Rose Parade as it unfolded just beyond their front yard.

Surrounding Tournament House are the Wrigley Gardens, which feature a floral display of roses, camellia and annuals. The gardens feature the All-America Rose Selections (AARS) award-winning Tournament of Roses rose developed especially for the Tournament of Roses Centennial in 1989.

Groups of 10 or more may call (626) 449-4100 for tour reservations.

Tournament for Animals in Need



The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA is excited to announce that our 21st Annual Doglegs, Birdies & Eagles golf tournament "fore" the animals will take place Monday, April 27 at Annandale Golf Club in Pasadena. Proceeds from the tournament help provide food, shelter, veterinary care and more to the more than 12,000 animals we take in every year. Join us for cocktails, silent and live auctions, dinner, opportunity drawing and more! It's a "par-tee" you won't want to miss. Dinner tickets are \$150 each.

A variety of sponsorship and advertising opportunities are also available. For more details or for tickets visit: pasadenahumane.org or email clacey@pasadenahumane.org.

Public Input On San Marino Priority Initiatives

The budget process for San Marino Fiscal Year 2020-2021 is currently underway, and City Council is considering what special projects – or priority initiatives – staff should dedicate significant time and/or financial resources to (in addition to their standard operating tasks and smaller budget items) next year.

City Council has identified nine initiatives to consider further. Before making any final decisions, they are interested in hearing what initiatives community members think are the most important.

The survey will be live through Wednesday, February 19, 2020. For more information and to take the survey visit: cityofsanmarino.org/

Pasadena Cheeseburger Challenge Results Released

Pasadena celebrated all things cheeseburger during Cheeseburger Week January 26th to 31st. Visitors enjoyed food created especially for the event, took advantage of great deals, followed cheeseburger crawls and voted in the 2020 Cheeseburger Challenge. In all, 1720 votes were cast in the challenge to determine favorites in 15 categories ranging from Favorite Place for a Burger to Favorite Dessert after a Burger.

Every restaurant is entered in the Favorite Place for a Burger category. Each restaurant that participated for the first time is entered in the Favorite New Restaurant for a Burger category. Besides the Favorite Place for a Burger, restaurants can then enter in up to two additional categories in the 2020 Cheeseburger Challenge. Voting is conducted online.

"Thank you to all the restaurant participants and everyone who voted in this year's Cheeseburger Challenge," said Pasadena Chamber CEO Paul Little. "It is exciting to see the interest and enthusiasm everyone shows for Cheeseburger Week" in Pasadena. We all have Lionel Sternberger and the Rite Spot to thank for inventing the cheeseburger in Pasadena in 1924."

Congratulations to those named Favorites in these categories in the 2020 Cheeseburger Challenge:

**Favorite Place to go for a Burger**

Dog Haus/Dog Haus Biergarten:	19%
The Stand	15%
The Langham Huntington Hotel	10.5%

**Favorite Innovative Burger**

Umami Burger	18%
Kings Row Gastropub	13%
The Pan	7%

**Favorite Lunch Counter Burger:**

Pie 'n Burger	32%
The Counter	29%
The Pan	18%

**Favorite Traditional Cheeseburger**

The Stand	32%
Clearman's Galley	16%
Cindy's Restaurant	9%
Favorite Sliders	
Dog Haus	15%
Ruth's Chris Steak House	9%
Foothill	8%

**Favorite Gourmet Burger**

Dog Haus	36%
The Stand	27%
Terrace at the Langham (tie)	14%

**Favorite Alternative burger**

Umami Burger (Impossible Burger)	24%
The Counter (Bison Burger)	17%
True Food Kitchen (Upside Down Quinoa Burger)	11%
Favorite Turkey Burger	
Barney's Beanery	26%
The Great Maple/Green Street Restaurant (tie)	18%
Kathleen's Restaurant	9%

**For a complete list of winners visit: pasadenarestaurantweek.com.**

Chu's Statement on Senate Acquittal of President Trump

After the Senate voted Wednesday to acquit President Donald Trump on two articles of impeachment passed by the House of Representatives. Rep. Judy Chu, who voted for impeachment, issued the following statement:

"Donald Trump has been impeached. This is a fact for the rest of history. And the core elements of our charges against the President remain unquestioned. Democrats, independents, and Republicans – even those who voted to acquit – agree that the House made our case that the President abused his power to pressure Ukraine to interfere in our election. However, despite acknowledging that, the majority of Republican Senators chose party over country. Acknowledging that a President abused his power and that it was wrong, but choosing not to punish him with the only means provided by the Constitution is to condone election interference in the future. It is a dangerous and irresponsible precedent that a president can do anything they want to help their own reelection, even withholding aid to an ally at war and pressuring them to promote Russian propaganda to influence our election. I'm incredibly proud of the work our House Managers did in presenting the case against President Trump, and I congratulate them on the force of their arguments. Unfortunately, for 52 Republican Senators, the fate of our democracy was less important than the fate of Donald Trump. History and the American people will remember this."

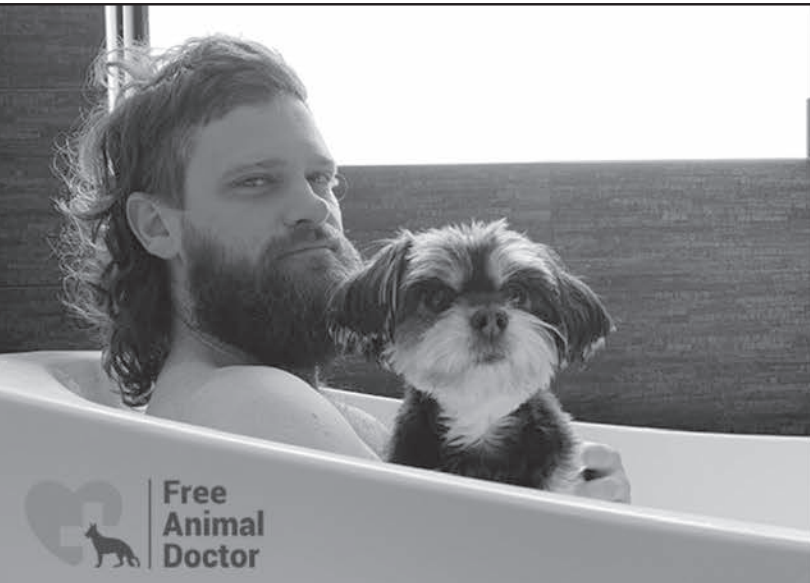
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## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

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

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

## SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS

### CALENDAR

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

#### City Council

February 11th, 2020 at 6:30PM  
February 25th, 2020 at 6:30PM

#### Planning Commission

February 6th, 2020 at 7:00PM  
February 20th, 2020 at 7:00PM

#### Community Service Commission

February 17th, 2020 at 6:30PM Cancelled

Special Community Services Commission -  
February 24th, 2020 at 6:30PM

#### Senior Community Commission

February 6th, 2020 at 3:00PM

#### Library Board of Trustees

February 26th, 2020 at 7:00PM

Energy, Environment, and Natural Resource  
Commission

February 19th, 2020 at 7:00PM

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](mailto:city@cityofsierramadre.com) before 30 the night of the meeting and your statement will be delivered to all the Council Members.

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

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



Sierra Madre Public  
**LIBRARY**  
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the  
Sierra Madre  
Public Library

### February 10—February 15

#### Monday

Preschool Storytime 10:00—11:00 am

#### Tuesday

Baby Rhyme Time 10:00—11:00 am

LEGO Challenge 3:00—5:00 pm

Virtual Reality 5:00—7:00 pm

#### Wednesday

Intergenerational Storytime at the Kensington  
10:00—11:00 am

Parent Café 10:00—11:00 am

Middle School Crafty Book Club 4:00—5:00 pm

#### Thursday

Taste & See 11:00 am—12:00 pm

Homework Help 3:00—5:00 pm

Barks & Books 3:30—4:30 pm

#### Saturday

An Evening with Fr. Greg Boyle at Sierra Madre  
Elementary 6:30—8:00 pm (SOLD OUT)

Read, Discover, Connect  
@ Sierra Madre Public Library

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## LUNCH WITH KIWANIS... BE A MEMBER FOR A DAY

Our next meeting is Tuesday,  
February 25th, 2020

Meetings are held at The Lodge  
33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, Ca.  
Lunch begins at Noon and is \$10.  
Programs begin at 12:40 and are free.  
Call 626-688-2273 to reserve your seat!

## Sierra Madre Woman's Club

550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Founded February 23, 1907 - "Living the Volunteer Life" in Friendship  
Member of General Federation of Women's Clubs [cfwc.org](http://cfwc.org) & [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org)

### Games Tea

Sat, Feb 29 @ 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Choose Favorite Games - Invite Friends - Have Fun Together!

Admit One \$10 Lovely Tea Buffet Prizes

Tickets at Wistaria Thrift Shop thru 2/28; OR

RSVP 355-664-6443 by 5 p.m., Wed, Feb 24

Send RSVP / Donation Checks payable to: Sierra Madre Woman's Club

Explore Opportunities & Membership with Us

Become a Member - Enjoy Yoga w/ Paul Hagan Tuesdays, 10 am

[GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org](http://GFWCSierraMadreWomansClub.org)

Facebook/SierraMadreWomansClub

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## Sierra Madre Woman's Club

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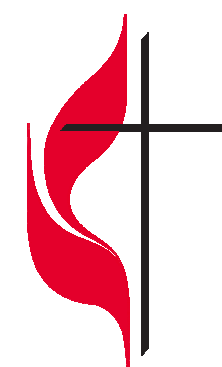
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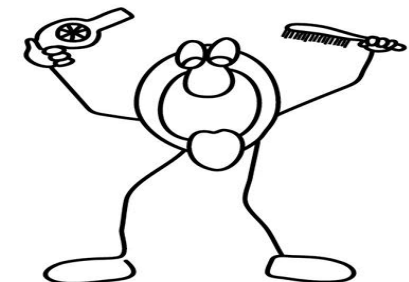
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# SIERRA MADRE

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## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD . . . VOTE IN 2020!

By Donna Jaffee

Starting with the March 3, 2020 primary, new California rules governing voting procedures took effect. Do you know what the changes are and how they'll impact you?

On Monday, February 3, representatives of SMART (Sierra Madre Activists Rebuilding Together) and the League of Women Voters – Pasadena Area gathered at Bean Town, Starbucks and Syndicate here in Sierra Madre to help customers understand how, where and when they'll be voting in 2020. We distributed printed materials; shared the lavote.net website, focusing on the new voter experience; and answered questions. Some people were even motivated to register!

If you wish to learn about what's changing, or if you want a chance to get your questions answered and your concerns addressed, consider attending a SMART-sponsored presentation by Dorothy Keane, former President of the League of Women Voters, at the Sierra Madre City Hall (232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.) on Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Plus, if you're not yet registered, you'll be able to do so, either on paper or online.

As Chief Justice John Roberts said on December 31, 2019: "... We have come to take democracy for granted, and civic education has fallen by the wayside. In our age, when social media can instantly spread rumor and false information on a grand scale, the public's need to understand our government, and the protections it provides, is ever more vital." As U.S. citizens, we all have the right, the privilege and the responsibility to vote. Doing so strengthens our democracy and our community life. Make your voice heard by voting this year.

About SMART: *SMART brings together area residents (Sierra Madre, Pasadena, Arcadia) who come from diverse backgrounds and walks of life. We're united in our determination to resist the division, ignorance and fear which threaten our democracy, our personal and collective well-being, and our natural and social environments. We choose to work together on a range of topics, such as climate change and voter registration, to rebuild trust and dialogue, and to effect positive changes by engaging proactively in our immediate communities and beyond.*

## SENIOR COMMUNITY COMMISSION SEEKING "OLDER 'SIERRA MADRE' AMERICAN OF THE YEAR" NOMINATIONS

The City of Sierra Madre Community Services Department and the Senior Community Commission are seeking your collaboration to find the next Older 'Sierra Madre' American of the Year. The honor is a long-standing tradition in Sierra Madre and is bestowed upon exceptional individuals, age 60 or older, who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to community service. The individual selected by you or any organization must live in Sierra Madre.

We are pleased to announce the theme for 2020, Make Your Mark, which was selected to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older adults make to our communities. Their time, experience, and talents benefit family, peers, and neighbors every day.

All submissions are due by Thursday, March 12, 2020. Recommendations are now being accepted for this recognition and will only be eligible for new candidates who have not been honored in prior years.

Forms may be picked up and returned to the Hart Park House - 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA.

Nominations may also be mailed or walked in to Sierra Madre City Hall, C/o Older American, Community Services Department, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

The Commission will review nomination forms and select an honoree at their regularly scheduled meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

The honoree will also be recognized at a reception in their honor on Friday, May 8, 2020.

For more information, please contact the staff at the Hart Park House Senior Center (626) 355-5278 - Recreation Coordinator, Lawren Heinz (x 704); Recreation Coordinator, Clarissa Lowe (x 703); or Administrative Analyst, Rosemary Garcia (x 702).

## CAFÉ VIDA AT SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE ON FEBRUARY 17



The next selection in Off the Page, the ongoing series of staged play readings at Sierra Madre Playhouse will be Café Vida by Lisa Loomer. This reading will be co-presented by Sierra Madre Playhouse and the Sierra Madre Public Library.

Café Vida follows the men and women who work at Homeboy Industries. Chabela and Luz are rival homegirls ready to leave the life and begin anew at Café Vida - the only place in the city that gives young women and their troubled pasts a genuine second chance to start a new life free of violence. It's here that these former enemies choose "la vida" over "la muerte" as they learn to compost, tend a garden, julienne an onion, and rock your lunch order with a smile and a heaping side of transformation. Café Vida is inspired by interviews conducted at Homegirl Café and Homeboy Industries, organizations that offer vocational training, rehabilitation, and employment to former gang members.

Playwright Lisa Loomer is partly of Spanish ancestry, and many of her plays feature Latinx characters. Among her plays are The Waiting Room, Two Things You Don't Talk About at Dinner, Motherhood Out Loud, Living Out, Expecting Isabel, All by Herselves, much more. She co-wrote the screenplay for Girl, Interrupted. She has also written for several television series, including Law and Order: Special Victims Unit. Café Vida was produced in Los Angeles in 2012.

The Off the Page reading series is produced by Sierra Madre Playhouse Artistic Director Christian Lebano and is coordinated by Roxanne Barker.

A list of events in February that complement the Café Vida reading that are being presented by the Sierra Madre Public Library can be found at <http://cityofsierramadre.com>

Café Vida. Staged reading of a play by Lisa Loomer. Monday, February 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. At Sierra Madre Playhouse, 87 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024. This is just east of Pasadena. Parking is available on the street and in free lots behind the Playhouse and across the street. Suggested donation: Five dollars. Website: <http://sierramadrepayhouse.org> Phone: (626) 355-4318.

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## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Charles M. Schulz  
"Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine." Thomas Hood

Valentine's Day is next Friday and I know all my readers are totally prepared with a card and a dinner reservation someplace intimate and dark where you can look into each other's eyes and talk about wonderful memories of your past, like the first kiss you shared. Do not talk about the children, bills or anything to do with what's wrong with the house. If you're both dressed up for a date, it will be all for naught if one of you brings up who put the dent in the car door. Enjoy that dinner with a glass of something adult and then go ahead and share a dessert. Think of chocolate... think of chocolate and champagne. Or sharing a slice of cheesecake. Nice.



Now then, when was the last time you read Elizabeth Barrett Browning's famous love poem? Probably not since you were in high school. Well, here it is and it's pretty nice:

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints, --- I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! --- and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death."

"One is loved because one is loved. No reason is needed for loving." Paulo Coelho  
"Love grows more tremendously full, swift, poignant, as the years multiply." Zane Grey

I never actually said anything like that to my Valentine, the adorable, ever-patient, John, who is now residing in heaven where every day is Valentine's Day, and love abounds all over the place. No, I never quoted Elizabeth Barrett Browning to him, but I wrote about love and I'm sure there are a few of you out there who haven't really prepared for Valentine's Day yet so you've still got time to write a note or a letter to the person who is your own personal Valentine. Not to say I'm anywhere near Elizabeth, but I wrote about love like this... "The Best of Marriage"

"I sit at your desk and look out your window at the sky.  
And I think of you and how much I love you.  
So many years we've spent together, mostly sunny with just a little bit of rain.  
I treasure these years which have flown by us.  
I've grown to love you, respect you, admire you, need you more with each one.  
There is so much about you that makes me want to be the best that I can be.

It makes me smile each time you walk into a room.  
How many thousands of times have I watched you enter the space where I am,  
And each time I feel pleasure, delight, at just the sight of you.  
You make me laugh, you make me think.  
You make me challenge myself, you make me want to be the best me I can be.  
You've even taught me to enjoy college football... Go Trojans!  
I love just to talk with you, to exchange the ordinary stuff our days are made of,  
Conversations that are the flour and salt of life.

You are ever in my mind.  
You are the other half of my heart.  
You are, very simply, the one person selected by God to be my lover, my friend, my husband.  
I have known you for more than half my life. The best half.  
We have shared all there is in life:  
Joy, sorrow, laughter, tears, death, birth, pleasure, misery, poverty, not quite so poverty,  
Pride in our children, and absolute disgust with them,  
And always, always we have had each other to hold on to."

Sometime this coming week, tell your special Valentine how much he or she means to you. Kisses and holding hands are good, too...maybe even better than chocolate. Even if you totally scoff at Valentine's Day, there's never a wrong time to say I love you. And you can never say it enough!

"Love is a partnership of two unique people who bring out the very best in each other, and who know that even though they are wonderful as individuals, they are even better with each other."

Happy Valentine's Day, dear friends and neighbors!  
My book page: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com): Deanne Davis – check out  
"Noah & The Unicorns" or maybe "The Vuillaume Violin"  
"Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"  
Is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) as is  
"A Treasure Map, A Drunken Owl and 47 Rattlers in a Bag."  
"Emma's Etouffee Café" is a new Kindle story by me!  
Also available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and here's the link:  
<https://fave.co/2Pit04d>

**TABLE FOR TWO by Peter Dills**  
**[thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)**

## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

### A Tradition Like no Other

First of all, let's agree to agree, Valentine's Day should be a full week. A single day is not long enough to fully express one's love. What do you say about having an evening at home with a bottle of champagne and a candlelight table for dinner? You may wonder why a restaurant critic would dare such treason. In all truth, it's an impossible night for restaurants. Service is less than optimal and even the guarantee of a reservation can lead to a long wait and the siphon of romance.

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones. All in the name of St. Valentine, but who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate the passion of this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentines, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. His love for love lives on each February.



Join me every Sunday morning on 105 FM at 8 AM for my popular dining show



# ARCADIA CRIME BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Police Department responded to 909 calls for service, of which 100 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, January 26:  
1. Shortly before 7:52 a.m., an officer responded to Cabrera’s Restaurant, 625 East Live Oak Avenue, regarding a commerial burglary report. Surveillance footage revealed two suspects smashed a rear glass door, rummaged through the bar and cashier area, and fled once the audible alarm activated. The suspects are described as two white or Hispanic males, approximately 20 to 30-years-old, both wearing hooded sweatshirts. The investigation is ongoing.  
2. At approximately 11:21 p.m., an officer conducted an enforcement stop on a vehicle in the area of South Baldwin Avenue and Camino Real Avenue for failing to stop at a red light. Upon contacting the driver, the officer detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from his person. Through a series of tests, the officer determined the suspect was driving with a blood alcohol content of .12%. The 22-year-old male from El Monte was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, January 27:  
3. Just after 6:06 a.m., an officer responded to Hampton Inn, 311 East Huntington Drive regarding a stolen vehicle report. Sometime during the previous evening, an unknown suspect stole the victim’s 2004 Toyota 4Runner from the parking lot. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.  
4. At approximately 6:01 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 2800 block of Winthrop Avenue regarding a rape report. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the female victim’s ex-boyfriend broke into her home and sexually assaulted her. The 32-year-old male from Los Angeles is outstanding as of February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Tuesday, January 28:  
5. Around 6:52 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 400 block of East Live Oak Avenue regarding a vandalism report. Sometime between 2:30 p.m. and 4:20 p.m. on January 28<sup>th</sup>, an unknown suspect scratched both the driver and passenger side of the victim’s vehicle for no apparent reason. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.

Wednesday, January 29:  
6. Just before 10:12 a.m., an officer responded to an apartment complex in the 600 block of Sunset Boulevard regarding a bicycle theft report. Sometime during the previous evening, an unknown suspect stole the victim’s secured bicycle. No suspects were seen and no witnesses were located.  
7. Around 7:58 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 400 block of Walnut Avenue regarding a burglary report. An investigation revealed unknown suspects smashed a rear window causing the burglary alarm to activate; then they ransacked the home and fled with an unknown amount of property. The investigation is ongoing.

Thursday, January 30:  
8. Before 4:33 p.m., an officer responded to a residence in the 900 block of North First Avenue regarding a battery report. A verbal dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend resulted in the male suspect striking his girlfriend on the leg. The 28-year-old male from Azusa resisted arrest but was ultimately transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.  
9. Around 6:28 p.m., an officer responded to ACI Institute, 208 East Duarte Road, regarding a theft report. Surveillance footage revealed the 35 to 40-year-old male suspect left behind his bike and fled with the victim’s bicycle. The investigation is ongoing.

# ARCADIA - MONROVIA - DUARTE

# CORONAVIRUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Dr. Hua Jiang, infectious disease specialist will present a program on the Coronavirus; what is it, how it spreads, symptoms, and prevention. It will take place at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive on Friday, February 21 at 10am. Arcadia Senior Services provide this health seminar in partnership with Methodist Hospital. Pre-registration is required as there is limited seating. If interested in attending this informative health program you need to reserve your space by calling Arcadia Senior Services, 626.574.5130. This program is for individuals age 50 and over.

## About Arcadia

Nestled along the rolling foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains and Angeles National Forest, Arcadia is a charming, family-oriented community with a population of just over 57,000. Located only 13 miles east from downtown Los Angeles, regional transportation networks like the Metro Gold Line connect Arcadia as a premier residential, shopping, and entertainment destination in the San Gabriel Valley. Arcadia is known for its top-rated schools, iconic landmarks, and serene neighborhoods. Arcadia is an award-winning community having been twice named as the Best City in California in which to Raise Kids and the 2017 Most Business Friendly City in Los Angeles County. With the conveniences and amenities of a full-service, mid-size city, Arcadia’s “Community of Homes” provides a quality of life that will go [Above & Beyond](#) your expectations.

For more information, please visit [ArcadiaCA.gov](#) or follow us on Twitter by texting DISCOVER to 33222: (626) 574-5455

# COMMUNITY: THE VOTES ARE IN! WE HAVE A NAME FOR OUR NEWEST K-9!



The Arcadia Police Department is excited to announce the name of our new K-9! The students voted and the name they selected is.....

Kaiser!  
We would like to thank the students and staff at the Arcadia Unified School District for selecting the name.

Kaiser and Officer Cvetkovich are currently in training where they are learning to work together. Kai-ser will be trained in both apprehension and narcotics detection. We look forward to them completing their training and coming out to patrol the streets of Arcadia in early May.

Thanks again to the students for their input and to the AUSD staff for making this happen.

# NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Nomination forms are available at the Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Drive and the Recreation Department office, 375 Campus Drive for the 2020 Senior of the Year! Do you know someone who is:

- 55+ years of age or older
- A current resident of Arcadia for a minimum of one year
- Contributed to better the Arcadia Community

If so, please stop by one of these locations or log onto the City’s website at [www.arcadiaca.gov](#) and download the nomination criteria and nomination form. Recipient of the award will be honored at the Arcadia Rotary Club Salute to Seniors Luncheon on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at the Arcadia Community Center. Nomination forms must be submitted to Gina Hernandez, Recreation Supervisor, by Friday, February 21, 2020 by 5:30pm. For more information, please call 626.821.4328.

## About Arcadia

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# ALTADENA - SO. PASADENA - SAN MARINO

# TACIT Mourns Passing of Founder Shirley Marneus



Shirley Marneus, (pictured) who founded Theater Arts at the California Institute of Technology (TACIT) and directed stage productions at Caltech for more than 20 years, died on January 13. She was 84.  
Brian Brophy, director of TACIT since 2008, said, “Shirley’s devotion to theater at Caltech inspired so many of us. Her commitment to making live theater and her passion for classical theater, Shakespeare, musicals, and so much more lives on in generations of Techers.”  
Marneus, who received a bachelor’s degree from San Jose State University in 1959 and a master’s from the State University of Iowa in 1962, went on to work for the Pasadena Playhouse and NBC’s Jack Benny Show before joining Caltech as an assistant in the Public Affairs Room (now part of the campus library) in 1970.  
She directed her first theatrical show at the Institute—Kiss Me Kate—in 1974 at the request of a group of students. According to a biographical sketch Marneus wrote in 2001, they “learned that I had a degree in directing, that I had been at the studios, and that I had left NBC, and asked me to help.”  
In the years that followed, Marneus helped produce many more plays, ultimately creating TACIT in the mid-1980s to provide students a formal theater program that had “a didactic purpose as well as an entertainment purpose: to familiarize people with essentially 3,000 years of theatrical literature,” she wrote.  
Describing her as “the soul of the theatrical program” at Caltech, José Helú (BS ’79) said, “There was a warmth in everything she said and did, which extended to the cast and crew, inspiring them also to be the best people they could be [and] to do the best job they could do.”  
Bruce McLaughlin (BS ’77), who worked with Marneus on more 20 shows, recalled her ability to

coax strong performances from often inexperienced actors with encouragement and enthusiasm.  
“She could hear the same stupid joke through 50 rehearsals and six performances, and still react with a natural laugh as if it was the first time she had ever heard it. That level of audience interaction with the actors is a magic potion, bestowing confidence and energy, bringing out performances that top those of professional actors,” he said.  
Although Marneus retired from Caltech in 2007, many former students and cast members describe how her influence on their lives remains strong even today.  
Stanley Cohn (BS ’79) said that his experiences on the musicals she directed “had as much of an impact on me as my classes. Learning how to effectively communicate my thoughts and feelings in a larger setting has been indispensable to me in my current lectures to students as a professor of cell biology. When I think of the things that helped me to develop at Caltech, I think of my peers, my classes, my professors, and the musicals.”  
Phil Rodriguez (BS ’98) added, “I owe so much to TACIT and to Shirley in particular for making my time at Caltech so memorable. TACIT quickly became my home away from home and was a much-needed release from the often very stressful academic rigor of Caltech. [She] was more than just a director: she was a confidant, a shoulder to cry on, someone who made us laugh, our mom, our friend.”  
Marneus is survived by her son, Christopher, 54, of Pasadena.  
A fund created in memory of Shirley Marneus will honor her legacy by supporting the theater arts program at Caltech. To donate, call 1-877-CALTECH

# City to Celebrate Black History Month with Parade

Parade and Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15.

Celebrate black history, culture and achievements at Pasadena’s 38th annual Black History Parade and Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15. This year’s theme is “For the Culture—Celebrating Our Excellence.” The parade features over 80 entries, including the Wilson Middle School Drum Corps as the opening performance; Miss Black Pasadena; the Tournament of Roses 2020 Royal Court; Pasadena City College Band; Blair, John Muir and Pasadena High School marching bands; musicians; dancers; equestrians; local youth groups; dignitaries; community leaders; and vintage and custom cars. This black history parade is one of the largest and longest-running in California.  
The celebrity grand marshals are actress and singer Margaret Avery and actress and philanthropist Wendy Raquel Robinson. Avery is best known for her role as Shug Avery in The Color Purple, which earned her an Academy Award nomination. Robinson is a Best Actress NAACP Image Award recipient and the executive director of Amazing Grace Conservatory. Beloved by audiences for her television roles on The Game and The Steve Harvey Show, her true passion is embodied in the work of the Amazing Grace Conservatory, which trains and develops emerging artists and at-risk youth in the performing arts.  
The community grand marshal is Edna Bluin, a dedicated volunteer with the Black History Parade and Festival Planning Committee for over 20 years. Youth grand marshals are Alaysia Barker, a student at Loyola Marymount University who is active with campus cultural organizations and founder of a non-profit scholarship organization; and Elijah Gates, a sophomore defense back on UCLA’s football team and product of the McKenzie-Scott Boys and Girls Club and Pasadena Panther youth football program.  
The parade begins at 10 a.m. on Fair Oaks Avenue and Figueroa Street in Altadena, then heads south on Fair Oaks Avenue before ending at Pasadena’s Robinson Park, 1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave., where the festival takes place from noon to 4 p.m. on the north side of the park. The festival features live entertainment for all ages, food for purchase, an exciting meet-and-greet with Miss Black Pasadena, the Power 106 Street Team, informational booths, and a children’s zone jam-packed with fun, free activities.  
The festival is known for having a variety of delicious food, including barbecue, chicken and fish dinners, grilled burgers and hot dogs, and fun sweets like kettle corn, pies, cakes, lemonade, and ice cream. Returning this year is the popular Historically Black College and University (HBCU) College Fair.  
The parade will be recorded in its entirety by Pasadena Media, one of the event sponsors, and will air on both KPAS, Pasadena’s government TV station, and Arroyo, the city’s community access channel. Visit [www.pasadenamedia.tv](#) for broadcast times.  
Attendees are encouraged to arrive early to navigate around street closures, find parking, and claim their favorite viewing spots along the parade route. Free parking provided on a first-come, first-served basis at Calvary Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 135 Glorieta St.  
The following streets will be closed for the parade and festival during the times listed below. Motorists are advised to use caution while driving through the area.  
Hammond Street between Fair Oaks Avenue and Morton Avenue, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Morton Avenue between Mountain Street and Woodbury Road, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Fair Oaks Avenue between Woodbury Road and Harriet Street, 7 a.m.-noon  
Fair Oaks Avenue between Mountain Street and Woodbury Road, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Mountain Street between Raymond Avenue and Sunset Street, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
For more information visit: [cityofpasadena.net](#).

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## ASSEMBLYMEMBER CHRIS HOLDEN'S OFFICE - 2020 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

In celebration of Women's History Month (March 2020), Assemblymember Chris Holden's office is honoring outstanding women whose service has made a positive impact in our community.

One woman from each city in the 41st Assembly District will be recognized as a Woman of Distinction at Assemblymember Holden's District office Spring Open House.

Among those selected as Woman of Distinction, one woman will be honored in Sacramento as the 41st Assembly District's Woman of the Year.

Categories include but not limited to:

- Arts
- Business
- Community Service
- Education
- Health Services
- Military
- Science and Technology
- Sports
- Under 30

Please submit your nominations at the following link:  
<https://a41.asmdc.org/2020-women-distinction>

Catch breaking news at:  
[mtnews.com](http://mtnews.com)

## YWCA PASADENA-FOOTHILL VALLEY ANNOUNCES JANELLE WELLONS AS VICE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The YWCA Pasadena-Foothill Valley is proud to announce that Janelle Wellons has been voted Vice President of its Board of Directors. Ms. Wellons has served as the chair of the program committee since joining the board in 2019.



"I am honored to be appointed the next Vice President of the YWCA Pasadena's Board of Directors," said Wellons. "I cannot wait to become more involved in sourcing support and introducing activities to build an environment to empower our girls and inspire them to explore fields where they are traditionally underrepresented."

Wellons graduated from MIT with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering and is currently an instrument operations engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She has worked on missions such as the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, the earth-observing Multi-Angle Imager for Aerosols, and the Cassini mission.

The YWCA's Board Vice President is responsible for performing the duties of President in her absence including presiding at all business meetings of the membership, and motivating others toward the fulfillment of the mission of the YWCA USA.

## FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett

### KOBE BRYANT'S UNTIMELY DEATH HIGHLIGHTS THE VITAL NEED FOR ESTATE PLANNING AT ALL AGES

As you no doubt already know, on January 26, 2020, basketball legend Kobe Bryant was killed in a helicopter crash on a wooded hillside 30 miles north of Los Angeles. Also killed in the tragic accident was his 13-year-old daughter Gianna, and seven other passengers who were friends and colleagues of Kobe and his family. Kobe survived by his wife Vanessa and three other daughters: Natalia, 17, Bianka, 3, and Capri, 7 months. The exact cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Kobe's sudden death at age 41 has led to a huge outpouring of grief from fans across the world. Whenever someone so beloved dies so young, it highlights just how critical it is for every adult—but especially those with young children—to create an estate plan to ensure their loved ones are properly protected and provided for when they die or in the event of their incapacity.

While it's too early to know the exact details of Kobe's estate plan (and he very well may have planning vehicles in place to keep the public from ever knowing the full details), we can still learn from the issues his family and estate are likely to face in the aftermath of his death. I'm covering these issues in hopes that it will inspire you to remember that life is not guaranteed, every day is a gift, and your loved ones are counting on you to do the right thing for them now.

Kobe's sports and business empire

Between his salary and endorsements during his 20-year career with the L.A. Lakers, Kobe earned an estimated \$680 million. And that's not counting the money he made from his numerous business ventures, licensing rights for his likeness, and extensive venture capital investments following his retirement from the NBA.

Given his business acumen and length of time in the spotlight, it's highly unlikely Kobe died without at least some planning in place to protect his assets and his family. But even if Kobe did have a plan, when someone so young, wealthy, and successful passes away this unexpectedly in such a terrible accident, his family and estate will almost certainly face some potential threats and complications.

For example, due to his extreme wealth, Kobe likely created trusts and other planning strategies to remove some of his assets from his estate in order to reduce his federal estate-tax liability. However, because he was so young and still actively involved in numerous business ventures, it's quite unlikely that all—or even the majority—of his assets had been fully transferred into those protective planning vehicles.

And seeing that Kobe owned the helicopter and the weather at the time was poor (many other flights had already been grounded), there's also the real potential that the families of those killed in the crash will file civil lawsuits against his estate. Regardless of how extensive Kobe's estate plan is, it's doubtful that the lawyers who

drafted his plan considered the possibility of so many potential wrongful-death lawsuits.

Here's the bottom line: the post-death handling of Kobe's affairs is surely going to be complicated. Though you almost certainly don't have a Kobe-size estate to pass on, that makes it even more important for you to handle your planning—and really get it done right. Kobe's family can afford years in court, lawyers upon lawyers, and a loss of some assets to taxes and lawsuits. Your family, on the other hand, probably cannot.

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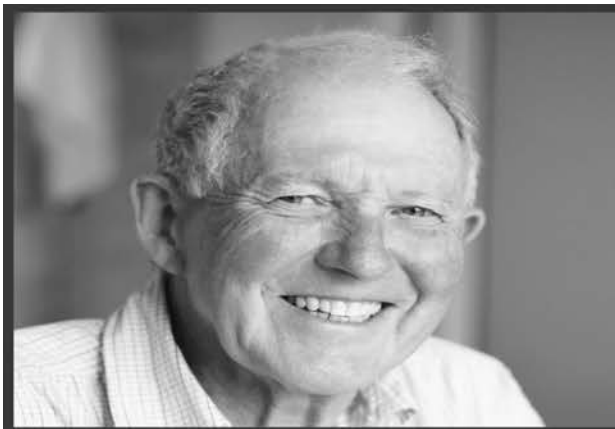
Since Kobe's wife Vanessa survives him, and it's been widely reported that they married without a prenuptial agreement, it's most likely that she will inherit everything. And due to the "spousal exemption," those assets will pass to her tax free. Yet despite the protection from estate taxes, if she does inherit everything directly, all the estate-planning, financial-planning, business-management, and wealth-preservation responsibilities for Kobe's immense fortune will now pass to Vanessa.

That's an overwhelming responsibility, especially while she's mourning the loss of both her husband and child, as well as parenting three other daughters who've just lost their father and sister. Given the vast scope of Kobe's estate, ongoing business ventures, and likelihood of lawsuits and other legal complications, Vanessa will need the advice and support of her trusted counsel now more than ever. And I do hope she has that support, and that it was established well before this point in time.

Unfortunately, many estate planning firms do not engage with the whole family when creating estate plans and the associated legal documents, leaving the spouse and other family members largely out of the loop. Though we can't know if this was the case with Kobe's lawyers, such situations occur frequently enough that there's a real possibility this could be true for Vanessa as well.

Don't let such a scenario be true for your family. There is immense value in not only getting your estate planning handled now, but also in accomplishing that with a family-centered law firm as your partner.

**MARC** Dedicated to empowering your family, building your wealth and defining your legacy, A local attorney and father, Marc Garlett is on a mission to help parents protect what they love most. His office is located at 55 Auburn Avenue, 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 626.355.4000 or visit [www.CaliLaw.com](http://www.CaliLaw.com) for more information.



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## CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



[Nyerges is the author of "Foraging California" (which has a section on mushrooms), "Guide to Wild Foods and Useful Plants," "How to Survive Anywhere," and other books. He has studied mycology, and led wilderness trips, since 1974. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA, or [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]

## NEWS NOTE

A Great Annual Opportunity to Learn about Mushrooms

The 36th Annual Los Angeles Mycological Society's Wild Mushroom Fair will take place on Sunday, February 9, beginning at 9 a.m., at the L.A. County Arboretum, located at 301 N. Bald-win in Arcadia. There will be a walk, mushroom growing demonstration, cooking demonstration, and other lec-tures. All day long there will be educational displays of wild mushrooms, and experts on hand to query with your identification questions.

Admission to the Mushroom Fair is free with admission to the Arboretum, which is \$9 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62 and over), \$6 for students with ID, and \$4 for children 5-12. Children under 5 are admitted free. Parking is free.

More information about LAMS events is available on their Calendar at LAMS Events Page.

**MUSHROOMS OF PASADENA** In the early 1970s, I got involved with the L.A. Mycological Association to pursue my education of the mysterious world of fungi directly with experts, rather than books. I learned how to iden-tify wild mushrooms, and use the edible ones for food. I had some great mentors from the or-ganization, such as Robert Tally, and Bill Breen, who taught me how to find and cook wild mushrooms.

During the 70s, I would eat mushrooms that others in the association found or brought to meet-ing that they declared were edible. I would study them, take note and photos, and try them when I got home. I recall a phrase, "this mushroom is known to disagree with some people." That translates as, "you will be vomiting violently at 2 a.m." which hap-pened a little too often. So I lost my desire to try every wild mushroom. Plus, beyond the common mushrooms, most of them began to get cat-egorized as the "LBMs," the "little brown mushrooms, which were never iden-tified to genus because it would have taken more time than I cared to give to the task.

Not long ago, I led a walk for a member of the Los Angeles Mushroom Society near Sierra Ma-dre, with the express purpose of finding and identifying mushrooms. I am always hesitant to schedule walks to find mushrooms because typically we are scheduling weeks, if not months, be-fore the event. And mushrooms are very particular about when they pop up. Conditions such as the season, location, amount of moisture, temperature, and other variations all need to be just right.

As it turned out, we had a very successful walk. We walked under oaks mostly, where layers of wood chips had been laid down, and in other areas as well. Here are just a few of the mush-rooms we found.

**PARASOL** The first we found was the Lepiota rhacodes (sometimes called the parasol mushroom). This one appears as a white gilled mush-room, with brown patches on the cap, a ring on the stem, a bulbous base, and a hollow stem. It stains orange when cut or bruised. It's an ex-cellent mild-tasting mush-room when sautéed in butter. We also found many specimens of the Agaricus campestris and re-lated species, which is basically the wild variety of the common store-bought mushroom. This one has pink gills which turn a chocolate color as the spores ma-ture, a ring on the stout stem, and a stem that breaks freely from the cap.

## BLEWITS

We also found "blewits," so called because the entire mushroom is an unmistakable violet color. The Latin name for this one has changed periodically. I first learned it as Tricholoma nuda, then it was Lepista nuda, now the mycologists appear to have settled on Clitocybe nuda. It has a stout stem with free gills. We all found enough of these that many of the participants got to take some home to cook.

## INKY CAPS

We found a few of the inky caps, including Coprinus atramentarius,

## A LOOK AT THE MUSHROOMS OF SIERRA MADRE



Students and Chicken of the Woods: Medical Students examine a just-found chicken-of-the-woods mushroom. This one is edible and prized, but should be boiled a few times before prepa-ration.

which causes vomiting if consumed with alcohol. The inky caps must be collected and cooked when they are young and white, because as they get old, they decompose into a blank ink.

## CHICKEN-OF-THE-WOODS

We also found some fresh chicken-of-the-woods mushroom, one of the easiest mushrooms to positively identify, even by beginners. Chicken-of-the-woods (Laetiporus sulphureus, formerly known as Polyporus sulphureus) is a type of shelf fungus. This means that instead of the more-familiar cap on a stem, this one grows in horizontal (or shelf-like) layers. It is bright yellow as the fungus begins its growth, and then, as multiple layers appears, you will also see orange and red. As it grows older, it fades to a very faded yellow or nearly white color.

Typically, the chicken-of-the-woods grows on tree stumps and burned trees. It can grow high on the stump, or right at ground level. Though it can appear on many types of trees, in our area, it is most common on eucalyptus and carob tree. We cut off some of the most-tender sections. The portion of the layer closest to the tree will be the most tough and less desirable for food.

This one has to be prepared properly or it causes vomiting. I cut the chicken of the woods into strips, or bite-size pieces, and then put it into a pan and cover it with water. I bring it to a hard boil for at least 5 minutes. I pour off this water, and repeat the hard boiling. Some people do not seem to need to do this, but a large percentage of people who eat this will vomit if they do not do the double-boiling. We then sautéed the pieces and everyone found them delicious.

## CAVEAT

Mycology is a Science, and it requires a substantial amount of study and field work to be able to collect wild mushrooms and eat them without getting sick or dying. Case in point, in early Sep-tember, two mem-bers of an Italian family died from eating the extremely deadly Amanita phal-loides mushroom, and other members of the family were hospital-ized in serious condition.

This species is found world-wide; I've found them growing in the cem-etary in Altadena!

And in March of 2009, life-long mushroom hunter Angelo Crippa col-lected some mushrooms in the hills above Santa Barbara, California. He sautéed them, and ate them, and told his wife they were delicious. Unfortunately, rather than an edible species, he collected a close-look-a-like, Ama-nita ocreata, which is deadly. Even with hospital treatment, he died in 7 days.

I often have told my students that they should avoid eating any wild mushrooms if they do not devote considerable time to studying mush-rooms, and learning how to positively identify differ-ent genera and species.

Despite the obstacles, thousands of people collect wild mushrooms throughout the United States on a regular basis. Many -- such as myself -- began the pursuit of mycology by joining a local mushroom group which conducts regular field trips. By learning about mushrooms in a class, and going on field trips with a group of experienced mycologists, you'll learn a lot quicker than read-ing books and looking at Youtube.

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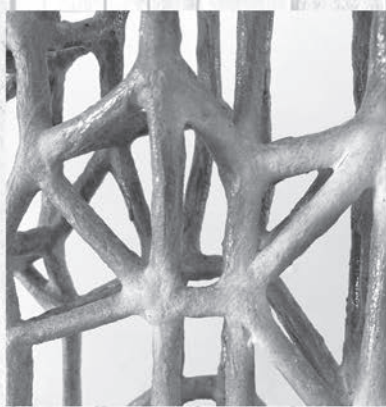
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## Upcoming Workshops



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**PAPER CLAY WORKSHOP**  
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Sundays, 3/29 & 4/5, 10am to 5:00pm  
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To view more information on all our classes & workshops visit  
[CreativeArtsGroup.org](http://CreativeArtsGroup.org). Register online, by phone or in person

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### CAT OF THE WEEK

#### Katnip News!



Playful Bristol

Adorable! Bristol is a sweet, cute buff-colored orange tabby. He is curious, alert, and very playful! Might be a bit shy at first, but will come around quickly and be quite friendly. He isn't an immediate cuddler, but really likes to be pet. Bristol gets along well with other cats and humans. He has a torbie sister named

London, who is very, very shy, but they do not have to be adopted together. They are currently being housed at The Cat's Pajamas in Pasadena. Call to meet them at 626-449-1717. See more pictures and adoption information at [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org) & click on the Young Cats page. As with all of our Lifeline cats, they will come already current on vaccines and health exams, spayed/neutered, and microchipped. We know our cats well and we make sure it's a win-win match! Good news: Hopper & Lady Bug have an adoption pending.



### Pet of the Week

When Hattie was found as a stray, she had an injury to her chest and needed surgery. Now, the only evidence that was ever hurt is her shaved patch of fur and her fashionable cone. But this gorgeous kitty hasn't let her injury hold her back from craving petting and affection! This ten-year-old sweetie loves being pet on her head and will start purring immediately. If you stop petting her, she'll gently rub a tooth on your hand to let you know that you must have accidentally stopped petting her. Also, her fur is really, really soft, so why would you ever stop?

The adoption fee for cats is \$90. All cats are spayed or neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated before being adopted.

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.

View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org). 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.



### LOOKING FOR A BEST FRIEND?

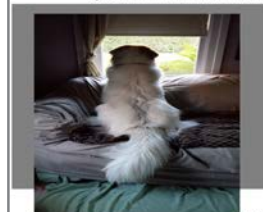
Raider is an adorable tri-colored 4-year-old Chihuahua mix boy with the most interesting facial markings, which almost resemble a raccoon. Raider can be shy at first, but once he has some time to relax he seems to enjoy being with people and playing with other dogs. Raider loves going for walks, but he does not seem very experienced with the leash, so some practice and training would benefit him. He also has fun playing with toys. See Raider in action with some of his fellow SGVHS small dog friends in this video here - <https://youtu.be/qTwJNLVhdr4>. Come and meet Raider to see if he a good match for your family. You will be glad that you did! His adoption fee is \$130, which includes neuter surgery, microchip, first vaccinations and a free wellness check-up at a participating veterinarian.



PET SITTING OF ALL KINDS  
DOG WALKS

30 Minutes \$18 45 Minutes \$23

MORNING & EVENING DOG VISIT & WALK  
\$20 Per Visit includes Feeding & Walk \*Without Walk \$15 per visit



PET VISIT \*Cats, Birds & Reptiles  
Feeding, Litter and Belly Rubs \$12.50

PET SITTING

\$15.00 First Hour (Includes Feeding) \$12.50 Medications \$5 extra



**626-590-4689**

email: [walknthedog9@gmail.com](mailto:walknthedog9@gmail.com)

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HOW TO DETECT PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Dear Savvy Senior:  
*What are the early warning signs of Parkinson's disease? I was just diagnosed with it after noticing hand tremors for nearly a year, but looking back, I'm wondering if I missed any other early warning signs.* Tremoring Tom



Dear Tom,  
The Holy Grail in any progressive disease is to find it early enough to start effective treatment before irreversible damage has occurred. But recognizing the early warning signs of Parkinson's disease is challenging because they're usually subtle and can be easily overlooked, dismissed or even misdiagnosed.

Parkinson's disease, which afflicts around 1 million Americans, is a degenerative disorder that occurs when the brain's dopamine-producing neurons die or become impaired. This happens in the part of the brain that controls movement, which can cause tremors (or shaking), stiffness, and difficulty with walking, balance, and coordination.

The symptoms usually begin gradually and get worse over time, and the progression of symptoms is often different from one person to another. Some people with Parkinson's become severely disabled, while others may experience only minor motor disruptions.

While the cause of Parkinson's disease is unknown, scientists believe genetics and environmental factors (exposure to certain toxins) play a key role. Most people with Parkinson's first develop the disease around age 60 or older, and men are more likely to develop it than are women.

Early Warning Signs  
Parkinson's disease is difficult to diagnose because there's no definitive test to confirm it. Doctors, usually neurologists, will do an examination and evaluate a combination of warning signs, but symptoms can vary greatly by patient which often leads to confusion and misdiagnosis. That said, here are some of the key signs and symptoms everyone should know.

Trouble sleeping: Thrashing around in bed or acting out dreams – kicking or punching – when asleep. This is a REM sleep behavior disorder and one of the strongest and earliest pre-diagnostic symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Loss of smell: Not being able to smell certain foods very well like bananas, dill pickles or licorice. This too is one of the earliest symptoms.

Constipation: Problems with digestion and bowel movements are a big problem for people with Parkinson's, and an early sign that can occur up to 20 years before this disease is diagnosed.

Changes in handwriting: Writing may become harder to do, and your handwriting may appear much smaller than it has in the past.

Tremors: Slight shaking or tremor in your finger, thumb, hand or chin. The tremor usually happens at rest, and when you move the extremity it may disappear. This is the most common and recognizable outward sign of Parkinson's disease, but by the time tremors start, the brain has already lost more than half of its dopamine-producing cells.

Slowed movement: Over time, Parkinson's disease can slow movements, making simple tasks difficult and time-consuming. Your steps may become shorter when you walk. It may be difficult to get out of a chair. You may drag your feet as you try to walk.

Speech changes: Speaking softly, quickly, slurring or hesitating before talking. Your speech may be more of a monotone rather than with the usual inflections.

Loss of automatic movements: Decreased ability to perform unconscious movements, like blinking, smiling or swinging your arms when you walk.

Impaired posture and balance: Stooping, leaning or slouching when you stand, and/or balance problems can all be a sign of Parkinson's.

Treatments  
Currently, there is no known cure for Parkinson's disease, but there are a variety of medications that can provide relief from the symptoms. In some later cases, surgery may be advised. Other treatments include lifestyle modifications, like getting more rest and exercise.

For more information, visit the Parkinson's Foundation at [Parkinson.org](http://Parkinson.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.

DECREASE INFLAMMATION SEMINAR  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Dr. Ray Pevey of Arcadia Chiropractic Center will provide extensive insight into the topic of nutrition to decrease inflammation. High levels of inflammation in the body can lead to many serious medical conditions. Some of which but not limited to are diabetes, dementia, arthritis, digestive disorders, heart disease, stroke and many more. Learn how to control inflammation through chiropractic, diet and exercise and enjoy a healthy lifestyle in today's world.

This seminar meets February 10, from 12:15 p.m.-1:00 pm. If you would like to have lunch please make reservation 24 hours in advance by calling the lunch service phone line at 355-0256.

YOUR INVITATION TO AN EVENT AT THE KENSINGTON SIERRA MADRE



Please RSVP via email to  
[SSciurba@KensingtonSL.com](mailto:SSciurba@KensingtonSL.com)  
or by calling 626-355-5700

ALZHEIMER'S CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

Open to the community for family and friends of those with memory impairment.  
*We share information, resources, and guidance on coping with the issues.*



**Lisa Bricker** is a Certified Life Coach and a family caregiver for her husband Gary who at age 63 was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's 6 years ago. As someone who knows and lives this long journey firsthand, Lisa compassionately brings guidance and support in "real-time" for family caregivers seeking balance, empowerment and inspiration.

Lisa is a long standing Professional Certified Coach (PCC) with the International Coach Federation with over 25 years of experience. She was on the Coaching Faculty for the Executive MBA Program for Loyola Marymount University and is also actively involved here in our local community focusing on senior services and Alzheimer's Los Angeles where she serves on the Public Policy Committee, Programs Committee, Speaker's Bureau and is helping to foster dementia friendly communities in the San Gabriel Valley.

**EVENT DETAILS**  
2ND & 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
From: 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
at The Kensington  
245 West Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
(626) 355-5700

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...February Birthdays\*



Beatrice DaRe, Cathrine Adde, Hilda Pittman, Anne-Marie Stockdale, Susan Henderson, Allie Attay, Ursula El-Tawansy, Gladys Moser, Sylvia Lorhan, Ana Ptanski, Winifred Swanson, Janet Gillespie, Marian DeMars, Vickie Vernon, Mary Beth Knox, Sharon Lefler.

\* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at  
YEAR of birth not required



HART PARK HOUSE MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

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 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Join the class with Instructor Barbara Dempsey as she leads you in the art of Hula!

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

Free Blood Pressure Testing: 2nd Tuesdays Monthly from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

Brain Games: Every third Thursday of the month at 12:45-1:45pm Join us for Scattergories, a creative thinking game by naming objects within a set of categories; or Jenga, a block-building challenge that keeps you stacking and balancing your tower. Everyone is welcome, and no experience is needed. A great way to strengthen your mind and make new friends... Games are facilitated by Senior Volunteers.

Free Legal Consultation: Wednesday, February 12th from 10:30 a.m. - Noon. Attorney Lem Makupson is available for legal consultation. Specializing in Family Law, Wills, Trusts, Estates and Injury. Please call the Hart Park House for an appointment, 626-355-5278 ext. 704.

Senior Club: Meets Saturdays, Weekly at Hart Park House Brown Bag Lunch, great company and bingo at 11:30 a.m.

Chair Yoga: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:00 - 11:45 a.m. with Paul Hagen. Classes include Yoga and balance exercises. All ability levels are encouraged and welcomed!

Birthday Celebration: Every 2nd Thursday Monthly at the Hart Park House. Share free birthday cake and ice cream kindly provided by the Senior Community Commission!

Game Day: Every Thursday Monthly 12:00 Noon come into the Hart Park House and join a lively poker game with friends!

Free Strength Training Class: Fridays 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. with Lisa Brandley Light weights, low impact resistance training and body conditioning. Class equipment provided.

Gentle Yoga for Active Seniors: Every Monday & Wednesday from 8:15 - 9:45 a.m. with Andrea Walsh at the Hart Park House. Classes include complete floor relaxation, standing and floor postures, balancing, and featuring extended meditations on the fourth Wednesdays of the month! Call (626)-355-5278 for more information.

MEALS - ON - WHEELS PROGRAM

The Home Delivered Meals Program provides healthy meals to homebound Seniors 60 and above. Seven frozen meals, milk, bread and fruit are included and delivered once a week. \$3 Donation per meal is suggested but remains completely anonymous and voluntary. Clients must be eligible and we invite you to contact YWCA Intervale Senior Services at 626-214-9467. SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE SUGGESTED DONATION \$3.00 1% LOW FAT MILK INCLUDED

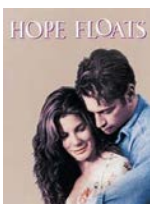


SENIOR CINEMA 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.



February 5th "Moonstruck" PG; 1 hr. 42 min.

Loretta Castorini, a bookkeeper from Brooklyn, New York, finds herself in a difficult situation when she falls for the brother of the man that she has agreed to marry



February 19th "Hope Floats" PG-13; 1 hr. 54 min

Birdee Calvert choose between her morals and her heart after her husband divorces her and a charming young man, who her daughter disapproves of, comes back into her life.



AUTRY MUSEUM (LOS ANGELES)—LOS ANGELES

\*Date: Thursday, February 20th \*Time: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \*Cost: \$20 per person

Don't miss a visit to this historic museum and the once in a lifetime exhibit Master of the American West Art Exhibition and Sale. See paintings and sculptures by more than 60 nationally recognized, contemporary Western artists. A one hour docent-led tour of the exhibit will be given upon arrival.

- \* Lunch will be on your own at the Crossroads West Café at the Autry;
- \* Participants should bring money for lunch & souvenirs;
- \* Level of Walking: Medium;
- \* Bus departs from the Hart Park House Senior Center at 9:00am and returns at 2:30 p.m. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure.

Sierra Madre Resident Registration starts Monday, January 27, 2020 through Tuesday, February 4, 2020. Non-Resident Registration starts online or in-person on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.

OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder



DID I JUST CALL MYSELF?

I am old enough to remember those days when there was nothing like cell phones. Oh, those quiet, golden silent days. At the time, I did not realize just how wonderful that time was.

Every time you needed to make a phone call, you had to go to where a phone was. Those were the days of the telephone booth. Remember those? That's were Clark Kent turned into Superman. We don't have Superman today because there are no telephone booths.

I well remember the day I bought my first cell phone. I hesitated because I enjoyed my quiet time. However, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was enthusiastic about getting cell phones. That way, she could call me whenever she wanted. I thought that was rather nice, and we went out and bought our first pair of cell phones. But it took me a little bit of time to learn how to operate this new technology. Unfortunately, at the time, I had no grandchildren who could walk me through this process.

All went well for the first couple of years. Then, a new phenomenon developed. My cell phone was ringing all the time. Most of the time, from some silly old telemarketer trying to sell me something I didn't need and certainly didn't want.

How they got my number, I have no idea. As far as I am concerned, it is all a scam. Then a certain idea hit me. If these people were calling and wasting my time, why not use it to waste their time?

It did not take me long to have a little bit of fun out of these people calling me.

If it was a recorded message, I hung up right away. After all, you cannot talk to a recorded message. But, if it was a real person, then my table had been set. I found delightful ways of frustrating them and wasting their time. After all, isn't that their business?

For example, they always ask, "How are you doing?"

That seems like a very simple and innocent question. I know, and so do you, they have no interest in finding out how I am. They are setting me up for sales talk.

I then had an idea. I know it is not often I have an idea, but when I do, boy, is it an idea. When they asked me how I am, I tell them in all the monotonous detail I can think of at the time. I go on and on how bad my day is and how terrible life feels. Then there is that familiar "click," and they've hung up on me.

After all, they asked how I was doing, and I was simply responding to their question.

Another ruse I use is when they ask me how I am, I say, "I'm terrible." To which they respond by saying, "That's nice..." and go on with their sales pitch.

I am not multilingual, but I can speak gibberish better than anybody I know. At least, that's what my wife tells me. So, if I have this talent, why not use it?

The first time I used this gibberish language, the person on the other end said, "Speak English, please." To which I continued with my gibberish. They repeat their request, and I continue with my gibberish. Finally, there comes that familiar sound I look forward to, "Click."

My wife is very annoyed when she receives any of these telemarketing calls. She demands her number taken off the list and right now!

I take a different view. Like they used to say, if life gives you lemons, then make lemonade. So, I make telemarketing lemonade as often as I can. I must confess I have enjoyed some of these telemarketing calls.

One call was for pain in my body. Someone sent in my name, reporting that I had pain in my body, and they had a medicine that could help me with all my pain.

"Where do you have pain in your body?"  
"Well," I said as seriously as possible, "I have this terrific pain in my neck."

This information excited the telemarketer, and he wanted to know how I got this pain and where it came from. To which I said, "My pain in the neck comes from people like you calling me every day."

"Click."

I look forward to those calls.

Then, the other day I got a strange call on my cell phone. I looked to see who was calling, and to my surprise, it was me. It was my name and phone number that showed up on my cell phone screen. I was calling myself.

I cannot tell you how anxious I was to talk to myself. I was going to give myself a piece of my mind. Of course, it would be good to talk to myself about certain things.

So, I answered the phone. "Hello, Pastor Snyder, how in the world are you?"

To my great disappointment, it was not me calling me. Rather, it was some telemarketer wanting to know how much my electric bill was each month. I remember what David said, and he did not have a cell phone. "Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live" (Psalm 116:2).

I do not need a cell phone to call God because I have put my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I now am connected with God.

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 [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).



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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.

JOHN MICEK

HISTORY WILL REMEMBER ROMNEY, NOT COLLINS



When future historians look for the last, documented instance of Republican political courage in the Trump imperialism, they'll look to one man: Sen. Mitt Romney.

In one extraordinary speech on the floor of the United States Senate on Wednesday, the Utah senator made remarks that were both utterly moving in their absolute humanity and totally damning in their vivid rebuttal of GOP capitulation to a bankrupt White House.

Romney told a nearly empty chamber around 2 p.m. on Wednesday, two hours before the Senate voted to acquit President Donald Trump.

As The Washington Post's Dana Milbank wrote, Romney, fighting back tears, paused for some 12 seconds to collect himself before continuing.

"The grave question the Constitution tasks senators to answer is whether the president committed an act so extreme and egregious that it rises to the level of a high crime and misdemeanor. Yes, he did," Romney said, as the Senate gallery filled with journalists recording his remarks for the ages.

For me, the most profound part of Romney's speech was his reminder to his GOP colleagues of the responsibilities invested in them by the Constitution, the very responsibilities they so thoroughly abdicated during the Trump's fixed trial.

Dressed in a dark blue suit, white dress shirt, and blue tie, Romney, a devout Mormon and the GOP's 2012 presidential standard-bearer, looked like a throwback to a less complicated time - when there were politicians that most Americans would recognize as textbook Republican.

That matters because the Republican Party that Romney represented just eight years ago is dead and buried, never to return. If impeachment proved anything, it proved that the GOP is now a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trump Organization.

Romney's remarks were all the more striking when they're placed along the spineless surrender of fellow Republican Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas, who were both viciously lashed by Trump in 2016, but who nonetheless fell into line and voted to acquit.

Maine Sen. Susan Collins, who plays a maverick on television and who voted in favor of calling witnesses, sided with her Republican colleagues on acquittal, even as she called Trump's behavior wrong.

It was the same kind of transactional and fleeting courage pioneered by former Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake, who made late-career fame out of publicly holding up the nomination of now-Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, but who ultimately voted to confirm a flawed candidate.

Not Romney.

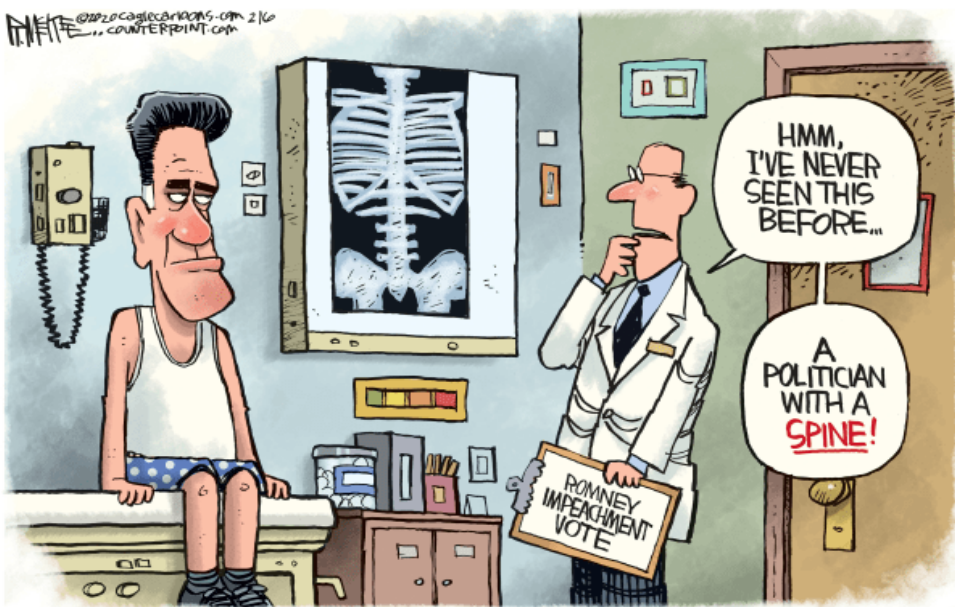
"I am aware that there are people in my party and in my state who will strenuously disapprove of my decision, and in some quarters, I will be vehemently denounced," he said Wednesday. "I am sure to hear abuse from the President and his supporters. Does anyone seriously believe I would consent to these consequences other than from an inescapable conviction that my oath before God demanded it of me?"

In this space last week, I compared the current U.S. Senate to the weak-willed Roman Senate of antiquity that caved to the excesses of the most tyrannical emperors out of sheer self-interest.

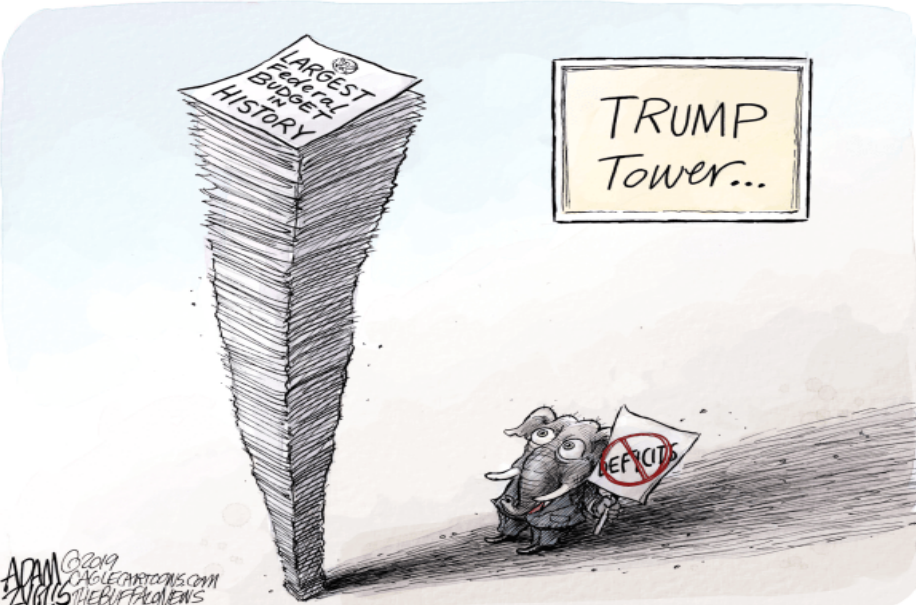
History also remembers that the Emperor Nero ordered Seneca, his onetime counselor, to commit suicide when he fell out of favor. Romney might well have committed political suicide. And it was equally clear that, like Seneca, there were principles more important to Romney than mere self-preservation.

"With my vote, I will tell my children and their children that I did my duty to the best of my ability, believing that my country expected it of me," he said adding, "... we're all footnotes at best in the annals of history. But in the most powerful nation on earth, the nation conceived in liberty and justice, that is distinction enough for any citizen."

In this diminished time, it's more than enough. An award-winning political journalist, John L. Micek is Editor-in-Chief of The Pennsylvania Capital-Star in Harrisburg, Pa. Email him at jmicek@penncapital-star.com and follow him on Twitter @ByJohnLMicek.



Trump awards Presidential Medal of Freedom to Rush Limbaugh



LEFT TURN /RIGHT TURN

STUART TOLCHIN

SO HERE'S WHAT I THINK HAPPENED



Even though it's highly possible, perhaps even probable, that the Trump electoral victory in 2016 was the result of some sort of nefarious manipulation, it is the sad truth that he was declared the victor and became our 45<sup>th</sup> President. Yes all the preceding Presidents were Males and maybe that was the reason Hilary was not elected. Or maybe the result was connected to the fact that a non-White person had served with distinction as President for eight years and we progressive-minded right-thinking individuals were now certain that the United States was on the road to creating a society that conformed to our long expressed, but often forgotten ideals. Or maybe we right-thinking folk just got too confident and neglected to campaign strongly in Middle America which was suffering from a loss of jobs. Or maybe there was a streak of dormant racist, sexist, xenophobic angry people who felt isolated and ignored and frankly just wanted to blow everything up. Oh, and one more thing: they didn't want anyone to even threaten to take away their guns. Of course there was that consistent group that opposed abortions and cared about little else and especially did not care about social programs that might make live a little more livable after people were actually born.

It's hard to remember way back prior to the 2016 general election that there were an entire stageful of Republican candidates all of whom seemed infinitely more acceptable than Donald Trump who had absolutely no political experience, or political knowledge, and really seemed as crazy then as he has proved to be now. Remember then when the pundits talked about how long it would take him to be Presidential. Maybe he would not have been elected had then FBI Director Comey not alerted the country right before the election as to some question about Hilary's e-mails. Now I think Comey is getting rich after the publication of his book. In fact, all the resigning and fired Cabinet members and reporters are profiting from their book sales. Meanwhile the rest of us are having to live with that erratic stable genius in the White House which makes it difficult for us to sleep through the night. If Trump is comfortable with chaos he must be sleeping very soundly these days.

Hey maybe it's all a giant conspiracy to give the cable news interesting, if repetitive, stuff to talk about. After all the news is dramatic even though it never amounts to anything. Think back; the Access Hollywood Tape, Stormy Daniels and the Playmate, The Mueller Report, the firing of the Generals, the firing of Omarosa Manigault, Anthony Scaramucci and the indictments and imprisonments of Michael

Flynn, and Michael Cohen. Oh it was all so memorable at the time but now it all seems forgotten and Trump is still the President and there is the possibility, that even after being impeached but not convicted, he will be reelected. No, I wish we could believe it was all a giant conspiracy and that the election was influenced or even decided by Russian manipulation. Yes, it does seem true that Trump does follow Mr. Putin's game plan and it is true that Trump has managed to keep his tax records hidden which when revealed, will show some questionable Russian connection. Still, I believe that if this government can manage to take note of the CLIMATE CRISIS the ecological emergency that threatens the whole species and can manage to prevent one crazed nuclear power from starting a worldwide annihilation there is some hope. Why do I believe this? I guess it's because since my birth in 1945 there has always seemed to be progress in a positive direction. The war got us out of the Depression. It is true that the victorious allies carved up Europe in a way to put Eastern European Countries under the domination of the Soviets but the Soviet Empire collapsed and East Germany, Finland, Poland, Hungary have reemerged as independent countries. Yes Ronald Reagan was there when Mr. Gorbachev tore down his wall. The eloquent rhetoric of John F. Kennedy made us all proud and after his assassination in 1963 Lyndon Johnson, who many of us baby-boomers scorned managed to bring about the Civil Rights Acts and other legislation that pointed the United States in a new egalitarian direction. Sure the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy in 1968 was a chaotic and horrible time and the Democratic Convention in 1968 was a huge mess in which even the reporters got beaten up. But that that election gave us Richard Nixon who is reviled now but did go to China and really did a lot to settle foreign policy. Really there is no need to keep going through American recent history. The point is that the pendulum swings back and forth and if one is optimistic one can find the signs of a swing back in a positive direction. The decision of Mitt Romney, Republican Presidential Candidate of 2012, to vote to convict President Donald Trump and to vote for his removal is a possible sign that the momentum of history is switching back to a positive direction. This sharp dissenting voice from the President's own party will, I believe be vindicated by history. Romney's explanation for his action he makes clear in a speech made in front of four people, but captured on tape, is that his decision is not based on any political consideration. He states that he is well aware that he will be attacked in the short term by his colleagues and constituents but votes to convict because he knows it is the right thing to do. Let's see what the future will tell us in November. Strangely, I am confident that Mr. Trump will not be reelected.

TOM PURCELL

THE D.C. DISORDER THAT'S SADDER THAN SAD



Maybe Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is bringing me down - or not.

Overcast winter weather triggers SAD. Lack of exposure to sunlight

cause higher levels of melatonin and lower levels of serotonin in the brain, which can cause depression-like symptoms.

But then again, maybe it's the news - and not SAD - that's triggering my listlessness.

According to The Washington Post, the latest Congressional Budget Office estimates show the federal deficit reached \$1 trillion in 2019, for the first time since the Great Recession, and, under current law will average \$1.3 trillion through 2030.

It gets worse: Federal debt held by the public will grow from 81 percent of gross domestic product to a post-1946 record of 98 percent.

Didn't Republicans used to care about this spending stuff? Didn't President Trump, as candidate Trump, promise to end the deficit in eight years?

This gets me so down, all I want to do is curl up in a blanket and sip hot toddies by a roaring fireplace.

Regardless of who's president, Democrat or Republican, America has been on a serious spending spree.

Consider: When George W. Bush assumed office, the national debt was \$5.7 trillion. He nearly doubled it in eight years to about \$11 trillion.

President Obama added nearly \$9 trillion to our debt load during his eight years in office.

President Trump is on track to add another \$5 trillion to our debt during his first term.

Sure, I get it - partly. Entitlement-program spending continues to grow faster than revenue. Some blame Republican tax cuts for reducing revenue, though overall

tax receipts have increased and are higher than ever.

Spending is higher, too. Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, tells The Hill that more than half of the deficit's increase lately results from new laws that increase debt forecasts.

All I know is that the debt has jumped from \$5.7 trillion in 2000 to more than \$22 trillion in only 20 years - which makes me want to escape with a big plate of comfort food, digging into hot meatloaf and mashed potatoes smothered in gravy.

To put the magnitude of federal spending, deficit and debt into perspective, think of a typical family budget.

Say Mom and Dad earn \$36,500 this year. That's not a lot because, as food and housing costs keep going up, mom and dad will spend \$47,500 this year to meet their obligations.

To address this year's \$11,000 shortfall, they borrow. Repaying that \$11,000 on their small income will be awfully hard. But their situation is far worse than just this year's shortfall. Their greater challenge is that they've already borrowed \$220,000 in prior years - and they keep piling on more debt every day.

How long such a borrowing charade can go on is anyone's guess. But common sense says the whole thing will come crashing down sooner or later.

This makes me want to take a long winter nap, hoping I'll awaken to find that it was all just a bad dream.

But it's not a dream - and SAD is not causing my sadness.

No, it's ESD - Excessive Spending Disorder - that's getting me down. And too few Americans seem to care that it is afflicting our politicians in Washington so heavily.

Which makes me even sadder.

Tom Purcell, author of "Misadventures of a 1970's Childhood," a humorous memoir available at amazon.com, is a Pittsburgh Tribune-Review humor columnist















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