

HAPPY HANUKKAH, Merry Christmas, HAPPY KWANZAA
from your Mountain Views News Family!

Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2021

VOLUME 15 NO. 52

Imagine Snow In Sierra Madre For Christmas!

THE WEBB-MARTIN GROUP

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

In 2021, your patronage made all the difference. We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts and we hope to see you soon! Best wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely,
Judy, Katie and Jan
The Webb-Martin Group

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1924 Storybook Cottage Listed at \$895,000
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IN ESCROW



Mid-Century Ranch Listed at \$998,000
225 South Sunnyside Avenue 4 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,538 sf | 8,211 sf lot
Sierra Madre, 91024 225Sunnyside.com

IN ESCROW



1923 Spanish-Style Bungalow Listed at \$858,000
143 East Highland Avenue 2 Beds | 1 Bath | 889 sf | 4,578 sf lot
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Artist Sonny Salsbury created this painting depicting snow in Sierra Madre at Christmas. His caption, "Wouldn't It Be Nice?" reflects the sentiments of many a child and adult alike. Salsbury is also a Grammy nominated musician who was born in Pasadena. He is the brother of local businesswoman Judith Brandley, owner of Leonora Moss in Sierra Madre.

'The Spirit of The Season

THE CITY OF ANGELS

By Craig Haikola

"A true angel is always looking out for others and sharing the kindness of Heaven with earth."

The sidewalks of Chicago were dirty that day, just as they exist most every day of the summer. My father and I were strolling down a busy section of city, as we both stepped over an old tarnished penny. I suppose no one had given much thought about the penny, and certainly not enough to kneel down to insert a worthless copper piece into their pocket. I do not know why my father spoke. Maybe it was one of those personal thoughts he was asking himself out loud, maybe he wanted me to think about the value of money and that even a penny contained worth as it was earned by another person's work, or maybe it was a combination of many things. "I do not know if I would reach down to pick up a dime," he mysteriously spoke into the air. There was nothing more he added, and I noticed an expression of disappointment in his face. I did not argue with his thinking. The sidewalk was trampled by shoes, and a full sterilization would be required for any object one dared to touch.

The poignant pen of William Shakespeare famously wrote, "The eyes are the window to your soul." We habitually forget our conversations with people, but when we meet a unique pair of eyes, we seem to remember them. One of the most decorated covers of National Geographic is of a young nomadic girl with her deeply curious eyes. Without a single word, her powerful story is compellingly spoken.

I have always been interested in knowing where angels are physically found, for certainly, they are all around us. During the holiday season, it is part of the Christmas story. An angel visits Mary and Joseph, and as the shepherds are tending their flocks by night, down into their camp enter the angels, announcing the birth of Jesus. The Good Book is filled with stories of angels, and there are times when angels are described as walking amongst us, observing our deeds.

That echoes true to me, for the one aspect foreign to an angel of Heaven would be an imperfect world such as ours. Since we, and the visiting angels to Earth, have an important partnership in the work of Heaven.

It is a fascinating idea to imagine that angels learn something from us, and in certain circumstances, are given the power to assist. There are many times I have been in need of help. I have often thought God stationed a personal angel over me to observe the assistance and protection I required. The day will arrive when we shall all know the physical characteristics of an angel, but until that eternal moment of time, I do believe it is in the eyes.

I was both blessed and cursed to have a job where I could arrive in the early hours of the morning. Los Angeles is almost empty at 5:00 a.m., and one encounters a different face of the city at that time of the day. The automobile traffic is light, the sidewalks are vacant, and the hustle and bustle of society is still slumbering in bed. I was only a couple of blocks away from work as I exited the freeway. A gentle looking homeless man was off the curb, in the street. I could see an emptiness in his face, as though life and all of its joy and meaning were erased, and what remained were the great burdens carried alone without family or love. As I sat at the red light, I watched as he stared off into an invisible place and time that I could not fully see, where the hardships of life actively haunted him.

The place he was occupying in the street, the tattered clothes that hung from his shoulders, the unshaven face of stubble, compelled me to think of him in a certain way, but even amongst the darkness of that winter morning, with only a dim light above, I was overcome by the bright and inviting light that radiated out from his eyes. They made me to think of Heaven. So I wondered, just maybe, this is an angel. I could not keep my mind off him that day, and I am sure I was supposed to say something to him – even if it was just a kind word to let him know that the world cared. I did none of that, much like the old penny of the street, so tarnished and

SIERRA MADRE CANDLELIGHT WALK

Photos by Dirk Bolle

On Sunday, a beloved Sierra Madre holiday tradition returned - the candlelight walk from St. Rita Church to the Nativity Scene in Kersting Court. Led by Monsignor Michael Bamberger, two youthful participants carried the Baby Jesus to the manger.

Hundreds made the trek down Baldwin Ave. The event has always attracted a multi-denominational, multi-cultural audience and displays the very best of Sierra Madre where all differences are set aside to celebrate the holidays.



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ANIMAL HOSPITAL



2021 SIERRA MADRE BEST DECORATED HOUSE WINNERS ARE:

Photos by Dirk Bolle

**2021 BEST
DECORATED HOME****2nd Place
W. Grandview****3rd Place
S. Mountain Trail****Overnight Parking
Enforcement**

Suspended from Sunday night, December 19, 2021, through Sunday morning, January 2, 2022.

Will resume 2:00am Monday morning on January 3, 2022

All other parking regulations will be enforced.

**THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE
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REMEMBRANCES IN LOVING MEMORY OF IRENE ANNA KROL

Irene Anna Krol, 88, of Sierra Madre, California, passed away at her home on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

Forever remembered as a loving sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, Irene will be deeply missed by all. Irene was born in Iwonicz, Poland, to the late Walter and Helen (Krupa) Gladysz. Irene finished high school in South Bend, Indiana after returning to the United States in 1947 from Poland, where Irene and her family hid from the Nazis during the duration of World War II. While living in South Bend, Irene worked for the local radio station WSBT as a radio staffer. She loved her time at the radio station and spoke about it fondly to her family every chance she could.

After moving to Los Angeles, California, Irene worked at Pasadena City College for 22 years as the department lead for the Tutoring Center. She aided countless students during their time at PCC, ensuring their academic success.



Once Irene retired from her position at PCC, she pursued the next chapter in her life as grandmother and entrepreneur of Krol's Krafts, a traveling boutique of wooden boxes and jewelry from Poland. Irene was known for her generous heart and spirit, donating thousands of items to those less fortunate in both the United States as well as those in Poland. Irene travelled extensively throughout Europe with her children and nephews, exploring the ruins of Greece to the beauty of the Habsburg Castle to Ephesus, Turkey, the holy site of the Virgin Mary's last earthly sighting. When Irene was not travelling the globe or spending quality time with family, she would be at the PCC flea market every first Sunday of the month selling her Polish wooden boxes. Irene also loved spending time in her garden growing beautiful flowers, avocados, or oranges to make the sweetest orange juice for her grandchildren who spent the weekend at her house. Not only was Irene a generous and loving individual, but she was also a spitfire.

Her favorite place to go on vacation was Las Vegas. She loved the never-ending lights and would always ask for a view of the Strip so she could look at the lights as she was going to sleep. But more than anything Irene was a family driven individual. Nothing meant more to her than family and family dinners with droves of food. Her homemade apple cake, meatloaf and vegetable soup will forever be a staple within the family. She will always be the little old lady from Pasadena smelling of Estee by Estee Lauder, with her lifetime supply of Sprite, her order of weak coffee with a side of milk, her love of politics, and the prayer cards tucked away in every nook and cranny of her house.

In addition to her parents, Irene was predeceased by her brother, Joseph Gladysz. Surviving is her children Andrew Krol of Huntington Beach, California, Richard Krol and his wife, Cindy, of Westlake Village, California, and Lori Grotz and her husband, Greg, of Freeport, Maine. She was a devoted grandmother to Jennifer and Katherine Krol of Westlake Village, California, and Emily and Jordan Grotz of Freeport, Maine. Irene also left behind cousins Richard and Casey Habrat, and nephews Victor and Robert Gladysz as well as Christopher Wildes. She leaves behind a host of other family members and dear friends who will miss her dearly.

A rosary service will be on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 9:30am, at St. Rita's Catholic Church in Sierra Madre, California, followed by a funeral mass at 10:00am, presided by Father Tom Baker. A graveside service and interment will follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Los Angeles, California, at 12:30pm. A celebration of Irene's life luncheon will follow the interment proceedings.



FORMER SIERRA MADRE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR ROBERT QUARNSTROM PASSES AWAY

Bob Quarnstrom, who spent his entire working life in Sierra Madre starting as a box boy in Robert's Market and ending as the store manager with Howie's. He has passed away at the age of 76. He always had a smile on his face, cared about people and loved keeping in the world of social media. He was Sierra Madre Citizen of the year and Grand Marshall of the July 4th parade in years past. He will be truly missed by all of his many friends and family. There will be a Celebration of Life for Bob at Memorial Park in Sierra Madre on Sunday January 9th 2022 from 12pm-4pm. All are welcomed. 10/24/45 - 11/9/2021

SIERRA MADRE TREE DISPOSAL



Holiday trees are 100% recyclable! Athens Services collects holiday trees each year, from the day after Christmas through the second week of January, on your normal pickup day. Trees are delivered to various landfills to be used as mulch or cover material, or to Athens' American Organics compost facility in Victorville.

Tips to ensure your tree is properly collected:

- Remove stands, ornaments, lights, and tinsel.
- Place holiday trees next to your regular trash containers.
- Trees over 6 feet in length must be cut in half.
- Trees with flocking or fire retardants ARE NOT acceptable.
- If you miss the date for recycling, please cut up your tree and place it in your yard waste container(s).

WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly." Andy Rooney

"What is Christmas? It is the tenderness of the past, courage for the present, and hope for the future." Agnes M. Pahren

"Love came down at Christmas; love all lovely, love divine. Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign." Christina Rossetti



Christmas is almost behind us. I'm writing Walking Sierra Madre on Tuesday, December 21st as our beloved editor, Susan Henderson, is doing her best to get the Mountain Views News into everyone's hands by Christmas Eve. It's not quite Christmas but it's close. We pick up our honey-baked ham on Thursday, I need to make Helen's Lime Jell-O salad and a market run to buy some really good sourdough and rye bread so we can make ham sandwiches on Christmas day.

We've bought everything we're going to buy, most of it is wrapped and under our Christmas trees and school Christmas break is upon us. In just a few days, we can all sit down, take a breath and give ourselves a minute to recuperate before we start planning for the New Year. 2021 passed with what felt like the speed of light and now 2022 is just around the corner. I'm planning on leaving Christmas up just a little longer; let my head-turning lighted reindeer stay out in front just a little longer, and not be too quick to de-Christmas-ify. The picture is one of the many lighted snowmen that decorate our neighborhood and probably yours, too.

The world hasn't gotten a lot better this past year, what with Omicron hanging over our heads and the stock market dropping. But I've noticed that people seem to be kinder and friendlier, more doors are held open, more humorous comments are exchanged on the grocery lines and more people are smiling at each other for no reason at all. Of course, I have a tendency to look at the world through rose-colored glasses so this could just be selective viewing.

I came across this piece of advice not long ago and thought I'd pass it on to you dear friends and neighbors: "When in doubt, seal your lips and see what happens. Some silences will communicate far beyond words. Some silences will communicate nothing, which might turn out to be precisely what the topic warrants." There are comments that come our way that leave us speechless...which is probably a good thing.

I have put "Directions for Planting" in my column before, but this seems like a really good time, just a few days before the New Year begins, to pass it along to you again. A perfect way to end a year which has had ups and downs for all of us.

I keep this beautiful piece hidden away at the bottom of the Christmas card basket, "Directions for Planting," taken from the writings of Margaret Hooper Ineson, a precious saint of God and beloved member of our family. Born on November 22, 1904, she entered the gates of heaven on November 11, 2000...just a few days short of her 96th birthday. She lived her life according to her "Directions for Planting."

Directions For Planting

1. Plant 5 Rows of Peas
Preparedness
Promptness
Perseverance
Politeness
Prayer
2. Plant 3 Rows of Squash
Squash Gossip
Squash Criticism
Squash Indifference
3. Plant 4 Rows of Lettuce
Let Us Be Faithful
Let Us Be Unselfish
Let Us Be Truthful
Let Us Love One Another
4. Plant 4 Rows of Turnips
Turn Up for Where We're Needed
Turn Up with A Smile
Turn Up with New Ideas
Turn Up with Determination

Mrs. Ineson also practiced all those things in 1 Corinthians 13:

"Love is patient, love is kind, love is humble all of the time. Not easily angered, enduring the test, Never forget, love is the more excellent way."

Merry Christmas, dear friends!
May God bless you and keep you and make his face to shine upon you
And give you peace...and joy!

"What a wonderful story it is, The Christmas Story. Only God could have thought of it!" Norman Vincent Peale

My book page: Amazon.com: DeanneDavis
Christmas has passed, but my book:
"Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope"
Would be a really nice gift for anyone you've suddenly remembered.
You can find it on Amazon.com
"Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story is there, too.
If you'd like a little preview, take a look at: <https://youtu.be/Ka1KYrONrD0>

SIERRA MADRE LITTLE LEAGUE
IS OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
2022 SPRING SEASON
FOR STUDENTS WHO GO TO SCHOOL IN SIERRA MADRE OR LIVE IN SIERRA MADRE

LEAGUE AGES 5-13

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Sierra Madre Honors Nominations

Nomination Descriptions

George Maurer Lifetime Achievement Award: for a person/entity whose lifetime of service embodies the spirit of volunteerism.

Community Youth Service Award: presented to youth under 18 for outstanding service and dedication to the community.

The Wisteria Award: recognizing a City/Community Partnership that assists with providing community wide programs and services.

2021 Citizen of the Year: for residents who have benefited the city during 2021 as a volunteer.

2021 Business of the Year: for an outstanding business existing in Sierra Madre for more than 5 years that has been an active supporter of the community.

Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Rain	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
Mon:	Rain	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
Tues:	Ptly Cldy	Hi	40s	Lows	30s
Wed:	Rain	Hi	40s	Lows	30s
Thur:	Rain	Hi	40s	Lows	30s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	50s	Lows	30s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2022

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's CO-VID-19 transparency efforts and The Brown Act provides the public with an opportunity to make public comments at any public meeting. Public comment may also be made by e-mail to PublicComment@CityofSierraMadre.com by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Emails will be acknowledged at the Council meeting and filed into public record. The public may also comment in person at the meeting.

The meetings will be streamed live on Foothills Media website at foothillsmedia.org/sierramadre and broadcast on Government Access Channel 3 (Spectrum)..

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to radio@cityofsierramadre.com.



Sierra Madre Public
LIBRARY
Read • Discover • Connect

This week at the
Sierra Madre
Public Library

December 27—January 1

Monday

Library Closed for Winter Break—No Services

Tuesday

Library Closed for Winter Break—No Services

Wednesday

Library Closed for Winter Break—No Services

Thursday

Library Closed for Winter Break—No Services

Friday

Library Closed for Winter Break—No Services

Saturday

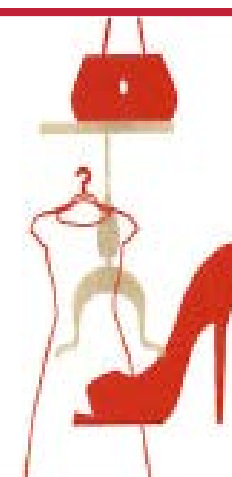
Library Closed for Winter Break—No Services

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“A Merry Christmas to us all;
God bless us, every one!”
A Christmas Carol



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Belated Happy Hanukkah
Merry Christmas
Joyous Kwanzaa

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**See you in
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website - smumc.net

Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

New Year's Closures and Reminders

Pasadena residents and businesses are reminded that City Hall and most City services will be closed on New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below.

Pasadena residents and businesses with any power emergencies should call Pasadena's Water and Power (PWP) Department at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. Customers can access their accounts and make payments through the automated phone system at (626) 744-4005 or online at: PWPweb.com.

The City's Citizen Service Center (CSC) will also be closed Friday, Dec. 31. You can contact the CSC via the web or by calling (626) 744-7311. City trash collection will occur as normal.

Residents can drop off their Christmas trees Sunday, Dec. 26, through Sunday, Jan. 2, for recycling at Eaton Blanche Park (3100 E. Del Mar Blvd.) or Robinson Park (1081 N. Fair Oaks Ave.) between the hours of 7 a.m. and 2 p.m. Please remove all stands, ornaments and lights prior to drop-off. Curbside Christmas tree pickup will take place Jan. 3 through Jan. 14 on residents' regular pickup day.

Pasadena Transit and Dial-A-Ride transportation will not operate on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. Overnight parking restrictions will not be enforced from now through Jan. 3. All parking meters will be free and parking time limits will not be enforced on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. All other parking violations, including red curb parking and blocking fire hydrants, will be enforced.

All Pasadena Public Library branch sites will be closed today and Sunday. Libraries will reopen Monday, Dec. 27, and remain open through Thursday, Dec. 30. Libraries will reopen Monday, Jan. 3.

The City's Permit Center will also be closed Dec. 30 – 31.

All parks will be open for picnics, fun and play; however, no site reservations are being accepted for the holidays.

Follow public health guidance to ensure the safest holiday possible.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to be staffed for all patrol, jail, fire, paramedic and other emergency services. Always call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241. If you "See Something, Say Something." Report suspicious activity to Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4241.

For more information visit: cityofpasadena.net or call the Citizen Service Center during business hours at (626) 744-7311.

In Spite of Covid Surge Parade to March On



As of this newspaper's deadline Thursday afternoon, Tournament of Roses officials have stated that they fully expect the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl Game to be held in Pasadena as scheduled January 1 at 8 a.m. for the parade and 2 p.m. for the game.

"We are aware of the rising COVID-19 infection rates, and are monitoring the situation very closely," they said. "As we continue to work with the Pasadena Public Health Department in regards to their health order, we are confident in our ability to host both the parade and game successfully, and in compliance with all the applicable government protocols needed to keep everyone safe. We are prepared to adjust our plans as necessary."

As for health safety protocols, the Rose Parade, at TV-Corner, the Rose Bowl football game and post parade viewing, proof of vaccination or negative test, valid ID and mask wearing are required by all attendees and participants.

As of now, vaccination and mask wearing are not required for all of hundreds of thousands of spectators expected to line the Rose Parade route along Colorado Blvd. outside of TV-Corner. Pasadena city officials

are encouraging vaccination and mask wearing for everyone. Extra Covid testing centers will be set up around the city days before the events.

"The health and well-being of our parade participants and guests, as well as that of our volunteer members, professional staff and partners, remains our number one priority," Tournament officials said.

In a separate statement, Tournament of Roses officials offered the last of five sneak previews of floral float entries that reveal the colorful and creative spectacle that awaits streetside and worldwide broadcast audiences New Year's Morning.

This year's float entries will bring bright florals, dramatic storytelling, inspired designs, and spirited riders and out-walkers that have been Rose Parade hallmarks for more than 130 years. The theme of the 133rd Rose Parade — "Dream. Believe. Achieve." — is reflected in float designs from longstanding participants including (pictured above) AIDS Healthcare Foundation, City of South Pasadena, Kiwanis International, Trader Joe's and Western Asset; newcomers AMC Theatres and ABC's The Bachelor; as well as longtime

partner and presenting sponsor of the Rose Parade, Honda. The design concepts dramatized on supersized storytelling canvases range from whimsical and futuristic to heartfelt and realistic.

A total of 43 floats will join 20 marching bands, 18 equestrian units, and dignitaries—including Grand Marshal LeVar Burton—down the historical five-and-a-half-mile route on New Year's Day.

Free 'Creative Aging' Workshops

Regular participation in the arts by older adults can help minimize effects of age-related challenges to cognitive motor skills and contribute to physical, intellectual and emotional health.

A free, eight-week series of "Creative Aging" workshops Thursdays, Jan. 13 to March 3, from 2:30 to 4 p.m. onsite at the Pasadena Senior Center is designed to ignite each participant's distinctive expression.

"This workshop series is a perfect opportunity for everyone to get in touch with the right side, also known as the creative side, of our brains," said Akila Gibbs, executive director of the Pasadena Senior Center. "Flexing our creative muscles can help us thrive as we age."

The workshops are free to members and nonmembers of the center who are 50 and older, whether they have art experience or not. Residency in Pasadena is not required. Each session will explore a different medium, and all materials will be provided at no cost at the beginning of each class.

The "Creative Aging" series is just one of the many free programs at the center that connects arts and healthy aging. These include the Art Exploration Club that meets the first and second Friday of every month so everyone can express their creativity; and Cultural Thursday events, including a Jan. 13 multimedia presentation about the life and career of three-time Academy Award-winning film-score composer Max Steiner.

The "Creative Aging" workshops are presented by the UCLA Visual and Performing Arts Education Program. To register or for more information, visit: pasadenaseniorecenter.org and click on Lectures & Classes, then Workshops or call 626-795-4331.

Library Announces 2022 One City, One Story Selections

Pasadena Public Library announced their two book selections for Pasadena's 2022 One City, One Story community reading celebration. In the Country of Women by author Susan Straight (pictured) is the 2022 One City, One Story selection and Stealing Home, Los Angeles, the Dodgers and the Lives Caught in Between by author Eric Nusbaum is the 2022 One City, One Story Summer Edition.



a big league city.

Dodger Stadium is an American icon. But the story of how it came to be goes far beyond baseball. The hills that cradle the stadium were once home to three vibrant Mexican American communities. In the early 1950s, those communities were condemned to make way for a "utopian" public housing project. Then, in a remarkable turn, public housing in the city was defeated amidst a Red Scare conspiracy.

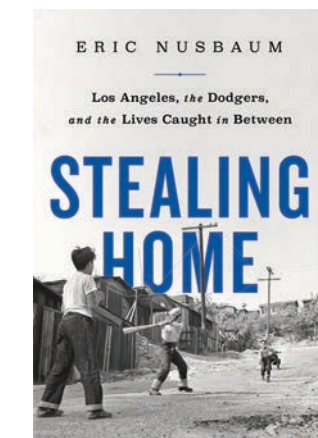
Instead of getting their homes back, the remaining residents saw the city sell their land to Walter O'Malley, the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Now Los Angeles would be getting a different sort of utopian fantasy -- a glittering, ultra-modern stadium.

But before Dodger Stadium could be built, the city would have to face down the neighborhood's families -- including one, the Aréchigas, who refused to yield their home. The ensuing confrontation captivated the nation - and the divisive outcome still echoes through Los Angeles today.

Nusbaum is a writer and former editor at VICE. His work has appeared in Sports Illustrated, ESPN the Magazine, among others. Born and raised in Los Angeles, he now lives in Tacoma, Washington with his family. Copies of the books are available for checkout in eBook, eAudio or print format. For more visit: cityofpasadena.libguides.com

One City, One Story community programs will be held throughout March, with an in-person conversation with the author held Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m., at All Saints Church, 132 N. Euclid Ave. in Pasadena.

The One City, One Story Summer Edition, Stealing Home, Los Angeles, the Dodgers and the Lives Caught in Between is a story about baseball, family, the American Dream, and the fight to turn Los Angeles into



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Volunteer at the The South Pasadena Nature Park

The Friends of the Nature Park was created as a community stewardship group for the park. Join us on Saturdays (usually the third Saturday of the month – with no cleanups in July, August and December – at the South Pas Nature Park on Pasadena Ave. to plant, remove weeds and litter, build paths, and enjoy the park. Come for the whole time, for an hour, or just stop by to say hello!

The South Pas Nature Park (officially The South Pasadena Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park) is a small parcel along the Arroyo Seco graced with mature coast live oaks, southern walnuts and western sycamores. Planted with sage, buckwheat and other native coastal sage scrub plants the park provides an inviting environment for birds, lizards, squirrels and numerous other critters. Locals too enjoy walking, jogging and horseback riding through the park.

Where: 100 block of Pasadena Avenue in So Pas, east of York Street Bridge
When: Usually 3rd Saturday of the month, 9 am – noon (no cleanups in July, August and December)

Nature Park volunteers should:

Bring and wear a face mask – covering both mouth and nose
Wear sunscreen, hat, sunglasses

Bring plenty of water
Bring gardening gloves and tools (weeders, trowels, whatever you use in your own garden), there are extra tools and gloves for those who need them
Wear comfortable work clothes, including work shoes (sneakers or boots) and long pants
Bring binoculars for birdwatching (optional)

Children must be under adult supervision at all times. There is poison oak in the park that we will point out before starting. Also, if you are expecting a group of 10 or more, please email me so that we can have enough tools.

The South Pas Nature Park is a 4-acre habitat park along the Arroyo Seco. The entrance, marked by a small plaque on an attractive river rock wall, is in the 100 block of Pasadena Avenue in South Pasadena, east of the York Street Bridge. There is plenty of on-street parking on Pasadena Avenue.

Upcoming Cleanups (2021 – 2022)

Jan 15, 2022

Feb 19, 2022

Mar 19, 2022

Apr 16, 2022

May 21, 2022

June 18, 2022

No scheduled cleanups in July and August

For more information visit: southpasadenaca.gov.

Leann Rimes to Kick Off the 2022 Rose Parade

Mid-Parade Performance to feature Louisiana's own Laine Hardy and the Hot 8 Brass Band

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses announced that this year's 133rd Rose Parade will kick off with a special performance by LeAnn Rimes (pictured). The Opening Spectacular will feature a re-mixed and re-mastered song created especially for the 2022 Rose Parade titled, "Throw My Arms Around the World." Rimes, who first appeared in the Rose Parade in 2006, will be accompanied by the Rose Parade Dancers, the Mark Keppel Dance Company, Rose Parade Flag Bearers and four drummers. The powerful performance will end in fireworks and set the stage for the exciting two-hour parade featuring stunning floral floats, and talented marching bands and equestrian units from across the country.

LeAnn Rimes is an international multi-platinum selling acclaimed singer and ASCAP award-winning songwriter who has sold more than 48 million units globally, won two Grammy Awards; 12 Billboard Music Awards; two World Music Awards; three Academy of Country Music Awards; two Country Music Association Awards and one Dove Award. At 14, Rimes won "Best New Artist", making her the youngest recipient to take home a Grammy Award.

Now celebrating her 25th anniversary as a recording artist, commemorating the release of her debut album "Blue," and dreaming about the future release of her next studio album, "God's Work," in early 2022, LeAnn Rimes will once again kick off the new year with the Pasadena Tournament of Roses family.

Passionate about using her voice to help heal the world, LeAnn released a chant record in November of 2020 called CHANT: The Human & The Holy. Rimes continues her wellness journey while embodying the Rose Parade theme, "Dream. Believe. Achieve.," with two seasons of her iHeartRadio podcast, Wholly Human, which brings her lifestyle blog, Soul of EverLe, to life and introduces fans to the



teachers and wise souls that have made a positive impact on her life. LeAnn is currently serving as the inspiration judge on the discovery+ competition series, Meet Your Makers Showdown, which started streaming this past November.

The Tournament also announced the Mid-Parade Performance will be presented by the Louisiana Office of Tourism. The 2022 Mid-Parade Performance fulfills Louisiana's promise to feed your soul with an unforgettable rendition of Born on the Bayou, featuring Laine Hardy, season 17 winner of American Idol, and the Hot 8 Brass Band – the New Orleans-based group that blends hip-hop, jazz and funk styles with traditional New Orleans brass sounds. Mention Louisiana and images of Mardi Gras, jazz clubs and late-night revelry are most likely the first things that come to mind. But there is far more to Louisiana than the Crescent City—and likewise, New Orleans is much more than the French Quarter and Fat Tuesday.

With this year's float and mid-parade performance, Louisiana invites the world to come to Louisiana and experience all it has to offer. But Louisiana isn't for spectators. It's for participants—for those who want to not only live the moment, but also to become the moment.

Celebrating the diverse beauty and unique cultures of Louisiana, this gorgeous float features the iconic wrought-iron balconies, lamp posts and moss-draped cypress swamps that make Louisiana beautiful, as well as the music and zest for life of the people of this great state.

For millions of viewers around the world, the Rose Parade is an iconic New Year's Day tradition. Join us on Saturday, January 1, 2022, to experience the floats, bands and equestrians as they parade down Colorado Blvd.

Update to Symphony Vaccination Policy Booster now Required

The Pasadena Symphony announces an update to our COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all audience members, staff and artists for concerts at Ambassador Auditorium. All who are eligible must have received a COVID-19 booster dose in addition to being fully vaccinated in order to attend

performances starting January 22, 2022. Moderna recipients ages 18-plus and Pfizer recipients ages 16-plus are eligible for a booster 6 months after their second vaccine dose. Johnson & Johnson vaccine recipients ages 18-plus are eligible for a booster 2 months after their initial vaccine.

For more information, please see the CDC's guidance on boosters here.

Children 5 years and older who are fully vaccinated (final dose is at least 14 days prior to performance) and adults who have been fully vaccinated but are not yet eligible for a booster, will be allowed to attend.

Along with a ticket, attendees must bring a photo ID and either their physical vaccination card, a picture of their vaccination card, or a digital vaccination record for entry. All California residents may request a digital vaccination record. Additionally, all attendees must wear masks while inside Ambassador Auditorium at all times.

For our most up to date safety guidelines, click the button below or contact the box office with any questions at boxoffice@pasadenasympphony-pops.org or 626-793-7172.

Celebrate the Holiday Season Responsibly: Don't Drive Drunk or 'High'

National "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Enforcement Campaign

This holiday season, the Pasadena Police Department reminds the public to celebrate the holiday season responsibly by not driving under the influence.

The Pasadena Police Department is committed to keeping our community safe and encourages everyone to stay in for the night or use a designated sober driver if you have consumed alcohol, marijuana, prescription, or over-the-counter drugs that may impair.

From now through New Year's Day, the Pasadena Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of being under the influence

of alcohol and/or drugs. The extra enforcement effort is part of a national campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, with the goal of stopping suspected impaired drivers who put others on the road at risk.

"When it comes to consuming drugs and/or alcohol and driving, there is a right and wrong choice," Lieutenant Anthony Russo said. "Make the right choice by not driving impaired so everyone is able to enjoy the holidays."

Impaired driving is not just from alcohol. Do your research and understand how certain drugs may affect your driving ability.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

SAN MARINO CRIME BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, December 12, 2021 through Saturday, December 25, 2021, the Police Department responded to 473 calls for service. One residential burglary, one commercial burglary, and zero attempted commercial burglaries occurred during the reporting week. The following is a summary report of the key incidents handled by the San Marino Police Department during this reporting timeframe.

Sunday, December 12, 2021

8:51 A.M. / Vehicle Accident

Huntington Drive and West Haven Road

A solo vehicle collision occurred at the indicated location.

Monday, December 13, 2021

9:17 A.M. / PC 530.5 – Identity Theft

2700 Block of Tura Lane

Victim reported that unknown suspect(s) used the victim's personal information to open a fraudulent account.

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

6:16 A.M. / WIC 5150 – Mental Evaluation and or Treatment

2200 Block of Sherwood Road

Officers responded to a call for service. Officers determined an individual at the scene would be transported to a local hospital for evaluation by the hospital's mental health staff.

9:08 A.M. / Incident Report

1800 Block of South Euclid Avenue

Report made for documentation purposes for a fallen tree.

2:51 P.M. / PC 532 – Fraud

San Marino Police Department Lobby

Victim reported fraud committed by unknown suspect(s).

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

12:44 A.M. / PC 484 – Petty Theft

2400 Block of Ridgeway Road

Unknown suspect(s) removed package from victim's porch.

5:14 P.M. / PC 530.5 – Identity Theft

San Marino Police Department Lobby

Victim reported that unknown suspect(s) used the victim's personal information to open a fraudulent account.

7:30 P.M. / 901T – Traffic Collision with Injury

San Marino Avenue and Lorain Road

A two vehicle collision occurred at the indicated location.

Thursday, December 16, 2021

7:31 A.M. / PC 459 – Commercial Burglary

2300 Block of Huntington Drive

Unknown suspect(s) pried the backdoor of the business and took property and cash. The unknown suspect(s) then fled in an unknown direction by unknown means.

2:20 P.M. / Incident Report

1700 Block of Huntington Drive

Report made for documentation purposes regarding a threat that was deemed not credible by responding officers.

9:04 P.M. / PC 484 – Petty Theft

2000 Block of Courtland Avenue

Unknown suspect(s) removed items off victim's front porch.

Friday, December 17, 2021

2:03 P.M. / PC 530.5 – Identity Theft

San Marino Police Department Lobby

Victim reported that unknown suspect(s) fraudulently cashed out one of the victim's checks.

10:53 P.M. / Multiple Violations

East Huntington Drive and North Monterey Street

Officers assigned to the OTS Driving Under the Influence Saturation Operation Patrol, attempted to make a traffic enforcement detention on a vehicle for a traffic infraction. The suspect evaded officers and collided into two other vehicles. After the collision, the suspect fled from the scene of the collision. After fleeing from the scene, the suspect hid in the rear yard of residences. The suspect continued to flee running from residence to residence. After a containment search, the suspect was located and apprehended.

Upon apprehension, the subject was discovered to be a juvenile, who was under the influence of what appeared alcohol based on objective signs. The juvenile was in possession of a fraudulent driver's license from out of state and was unlicensed in the State of California. The juvenile was also on formal probation and in violation of the probation terms.

Officers made contact with the juvenile's parents and the juvenile was cited for the traffic and criminal offenses. The juvenile was released on his own recognizance, to the parents. The juvenile was charged with the following: CVC 23123.5 – Cellphone Violation; CVC 2800.1 – Evading; CVC 20002 – Hit and Run; CVC 12500 – Unlicensed Driver; CVC 23152 – Driving under the Influence; CVC 23103 – Reckless Driving; PC 148 – Obstruction of Justice; PC 470 – Possession of a Fraudulent Identification Card; PC 602 – Trespassing; WIC 602

Saturday, December 25, 2021

4:22 P.M. / PC 484 – Petty Theft


1500 Block of Wilson Avenue

Unknown suspect(s) removed items off victim's front porch.

7:14 P.M. / PC 459 – Residential Burglary

1200 Block of Roanoke Road

Unknown suspect(s) entered the victim's property and ransacked the entire residence. The unknown suspect(s) fled in an unknown direction by unknown means.




January 10, 2022
6 - 7 PM
Virtual

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

STATE OF THE CITY

At the annual State of the City address, Mayor Susan Jakubowski will reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the last year, while looking ahead to the opportunities of the coming year.

REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED
www.cityofsanmarino.org/Jan22TownHall



LIVE

AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

The Chef Knows *By Peter Dills*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND MERRY CHRISTMAS

Peter “St. Nick” Dills

Originally dubbed “the devils wine” because the bubbles tended to explode in the thin bottles, champagne has long been the choice (well, my choice) to celebrate special occasions for as long as I can remember. January 1st is National Champagne Day, and for good reason - more bubbles will be served from December 24th to January 1st than any other time of the year. Remembering that only grapes from the region of Champagne, France can be so-titled, our last review for the year celebrates bubbles from Champagne: Mumm Cordon Rouge Brut. This is a non-vintage winner - just like many blends I have written about from California, some of the best champagnes I’ve had are non-vintage. The wine maker has access to over 500 acres of grapes, and the Reims area of Champagne produces great juice year after year. The Mumm name is rivaled only by the House of Moet for champagne dominance. Though you might see me at the local market picking up a bottle of Veuve Cliquot, for \$10 less I can hardly notice the difference.

Of course, this is not a beverage I would recommend drinking on a regular basis, but for a very lasting memory of a great occasion, this champagne will surely create it! Many of you expressed the need for me to keep the prices down in this article - trust me I hear you loud and clear - but for a celebration I do like this champagne. The Cordon Rouge has a wonderful depth of flavor, though some say a little too sweet (I disagree). If stored properly and chilled to the right temperature you will enjoy this immensely. Save the strawberries and cherries for the prosecco, this is real champagne. Champagne goes also very well with fried food (the bubbles cut through the oils of the food) and will also compliment a nice bowl of salty popcorn. Yes, I said popcorn. One last tip for the holidays, your sparkling wine or champagne will not keep overnight, so once it’s opened at the restaurant or your home plan on sharing with a friend to finish it. Closure: Corked

Dills Score

Each week I will give you my Dills Score. Starting with a base of 50 points, I have added 8 points for color, 7 points for aroma or “nose”, 9 points for taste, 8 points for finish, and 9 points for my overall impression, which includes my value rating.

Total Score 91, retail ---\$44 on Sale, around \$34 at most area Vons

Tune into Dining w/Dills Sunday 5PM KLAA AM 830 Radio
Find my food blog www.peterdills.com



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NEW COVID-19 CASES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY MORE THAN DOUBLE TO 6,509 NEW CASES IN ONE DAY

Tuesday, Public Health confirmed 6,509 new cases, 162 additional Omicron cases, and 16 additional deaths of COVID-19. The increase in cases represents more than double yesterday’s case count. This steep increase, one of the steepest rises we have ever seen over the course of the pandemic, reflects the increased circulation of Omicron and the associated rapid acceleration of transmission associated with this variant.

Thursday’s positivity rate was 4.5%. One week ago, the test positivity rate was 1.9%.

Of the 16 new deaths reported today, two were between the ages of 50 and 64, eight were between the ages of 65-79 and three were over the age of 80 years old. Of the 16 newly reported deaths, eleven had underlying conditions. To date, the total number of deaths in L.A. County is 27,488. In-formation on the two deaths reported by the City of Long Beach and the one death reported by the City of Pasadena is available at: LongBeach.gov and CityofPasadena.net

. Testing results are available for more than 9,854,776 individuals, with 15% of people testing posi-tive.

“We extend our deepest condolences and prayers to all who have lost neighbors, coworkers, friends, and family during this difficult time,” said Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director of Public Health. “These numbers make it crystal clear that we are heading into very challenging times over the winter holidays. If our case numbers continue to increase at a rapid pace over this next week, we could be looking at case numbers we have never seen before, well over 20,000 cases a day by the end of this year. Although hospitalizations and deaths remain relatively stable at this time, these are both known to be lagging indicators because most people don’t experience severe illness until a few days after testing positive. While many will be protected against the most severe illness from Omicron because they are fully vaccinated and boosted where eligible, very high case numbers can easily cause significant stress to the health care system if even a small percentage of those infected require hospi-tal care.”

Public Health would like to remind residents that getting vaccinated & boosted, testing, and masking remain critical while in the surge.

Boosters help restore high-levels of COVID-19 protection, similar to the levels offered two weeks after the second dose. According to Public Health data, between December 5th-11th, fully vaccinated peo-ple with boosters were 20 times more protected from infection versus only 4 times more pro-ected for fully vaccinated without boosters, as compared to unvac-cinated people.

Testing is also critically important since it helps identify potential sources of transmission before they have contact with high-risk individuals. This week, with assistance from the California Department of Public Health, hundreds of thousands of over-the-counter testing kits will be distributed for vulnerable residents through service provider networks, day-care centers, and community partners. Public Health is encouraging residents to get tested before and after travel, if exposed or sick, and if gathering with people outside their home. Masks are also very important as they provide a good physical barrier against the virus, and help pre-vent people from both getting infected, and from inadvertently spreading infection. Given that Omi-cron is spreading quickly, it’s also best to consider upgrading to a medical-grade, surgical, or KN95 mask when in close contact with others.

Public Health would also like to remind residents that staying home and away from others if you’re sick keeps everyone safe, including your loved ones and the essential workers who will continuing showing up for work throughout the holiday season.

To find a vaccination site near you, or to make an appointment, please visit: www.VaccinateLACounty.com (English) or www.VacunateLosAngeles.com (Spanish).

COVID 19 ONE YEAR LATER: WHERE WE ARE NOW 12/24/21 VERSUS (THEN-12/18/20) Cases/Deaths are still occuring especially among the unvaccinated.

Cases	2021	(2020)	Deaths	2021	(2020)
LA County	1,576,702	(501,635)		27,488	(8,199)

LA COUNTY VACCINATIONS AS OF 12/23/2021

	Adults 12+	84.1%	Seniors 97.1%	
	Cases	Deaths	Fully Vaccinated	
Arcadia	3,666 (1165)	149 (44)	85.4%	
Altadena	4,345 (3459)	81 (23)	81.2%	
Bradbury	43 (30)	0 (0)	67.4%	
Duarte	2,911 (1093)	103 (41)	79.3%	
Monrovia	4,280 (1513)	87 (41)	76.7%	
Pasadena	14,399 (4536)	370 (138)	80.9%	
Sierra Madre	732 (223)	14 (5)	85.5%	
So.Pasadena	1900 (614)	49 (28)	89.8%	



CHRISTOPHER Nyerges



[Nyerges is an author / lecturer / educator who has written such books as "Extreme Simplicity," "How to Survive Anywhere," "Guide to Wild Foods," and other books. Information about his books and classes is available at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com, or Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041]

Recently, I heard a discussion on the radio where two seemingly normal and sane adults were arguing about the racial heritage of "Santa Claus." They argued about whether Santa was white or black. One was saying that since they saw a black Santa in Harlem, they knew the issue was more or less resolved. Really?

I listened with interest to another conversation where a Christian woman complaining that Santa Claus has gained a more prominent role during the Christmas season than the Jesus child. She argued that this was a sign that "we" have allowed secularism – and maybe even paganism – to creep into the Christmas tradition. Really?

So, who is Santa Claus? Isn't he just a made-up, wholly fictitious jolly man to make us feel happy during the dark of December? Not really. There actually was an historical figure, upon which the modern "Santa Claus" is based, whether you make him white, black, or brown.



Nikolas of Myra was an historical 4th century Bishop in the Catholic church of Asia Minor (modern-day Demre, Turkey). Yes, he was a Catholic, and he was a priest! He was born on March 15, 270, in Pataya, Lycia, in Asia Minor, what is now modern Turkey. At that time, however, the area was culturally Greek, and was politically a part of the Roman diocese of Asia. He was the only child of wealthy Greek parents, who both died in an epidemic when Nikolas was young. Nikolas (also spelled "Nicholas") inherited a fortune from his parents, and was then raised by his uncle (also named Nikolas), who was a Bishop of Patara, and who trained young Nikolas into priesthood.

Nikolas was said to be religious from an early age, and he always fasted on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Because of his outspoken beliefs, he was persecuted by the Romans and was imprisoned during the persecution of Diocletian.

In case you never heard of the "persecution of Diocletian" (I hadn't – I was probably playing hookie that day and missed that history lesson), it was the most severe of the persecutions against Christians, simply because they were Christians, in the Roman Empire. It was also known as the "Great Persecution." In 303, four emperors issued a series of dictatorial laws which essentially did away with any legal rights of Christians. The edicts demanded that the Christians comply with traditional Roman "religious" practices, meaning, giving sacrifices to the various Roman gods. This persecution was severe, but weakest in the British colonies where the Empire had the least sway. It was the most severe in the Eastern provinces, where Nikolas lived.

Nikolas refused to worship the Roman gods, so he was tossed into a prison, where he was reportedly hungry and cold for about 5 years. With the rise of Constantine, the persecutions came to an end in 313. Constantine is known for "Christianizing" the Roman Empire, and re-naming all the Mythraic and so-called "pagan" holidays so they could all now be regarded as Christian holidays. With Constantine in power, Nikolas was released.

Shortly after his return to his homeland in 317 A.D., Nikolas became the Bishop of Myra.

He was later invited to attend the First Council of Nicaea in 325, the famous council where much of the modern dogma of the Catholic church was determined. Nikolas of Myra was one of many bishops to participate in the Council at Constantine's request. He is listed as the 151st attendee at the Council. There, Nikolas was a staunch anti-Arian. Arius, from Alexandria, held the belief that the "Son of God" did not always exist, but was created by the Father. Nikolas disagreed with Arius, and defended the then-developing orthodox Christian viewpoint. According to stories told, Nikolas got so angry at Arius that he punched him in the face! Really? Proto-Santa Claus punches a fellow man of the cloth? Wow! That would make an awesome video!

Back in his homeland, Nikolas became known as the generous bishop. Remember, he inherited wealth from his parents, and he would sometimes give gold and other valuables to those that he learned were in need. In one case, it is said that Nikolas tossed a bag of gold coins into a needy family's yard, anonymously. He was said to be humble, and didn't want to be seen giving money to people, so he did it secretly. He was so famous for giving such gifts in private when he traveled the countryside, children were told to go to sleep quickly or Nikolas would not come with gifts. This, apparently, is the origin of telling children to go to sleep or that Santa will not come.

In one story, he apparently snuck into the home of a family where the three daughters of a poor man were about to get married. Nikolas put some gold into the stockings which the girls left by the fire to dry. This, apparently, is the origin of hanging up stockings on Christmas eve.

He was also well known for the gifts that he gave to newly married couples during the already established Christmas season.

And so it goes. Nikolas was a complex man, part of the new Catholic tradition which celebrated the birth of Jesus on the already observed winter solstice. (Early Judeo-Christians did not celebrate the birth of Jesus, a date that has been lost to history, but historians know that Jesus was definitely not born on December 25).

Nikolas died on December 6, 343, which is to this day known as "Saint Nicholas Day." Upon his death, he was buried in the cathedral of Myra. He is revered as a saint in most versions of Christianity and is especially honored in Eastern Orthodox Christianity.

By the year 450, churches in Greece and Asia Minor were being named in honor of Nikolas. He was officially honored as a saint by the Eastern Catholic Church in 800. December 6 began to be celebrated as Bishop Nicholas Day in France by the 1200s.

As time went on, when ever someone received a mysterious gift, it would be attributed to Saint Nicholas!

The Dutch called Saint Nicholas "Sinterklass," which is the most likely manner in which the name Saint Nicholas gradually evolved into "Santa Claus." Along the way, Saint Nicholas was given some of the attributes of Odin, the Norse God, who could travel through the sky and who had a secret home somewhere around the north pole. Come to think of it, even the Superman story borrowed from Odin. Remember how Superman sometimes goes to a secret cavern in the Northern coldlands and converses with his ancestors via ice crystals?

The image continued to evolve over the years, with the Coca Cola company giving the world a somewhat sanitized and plumper Saint Nicholas-Santa Claus with their early 20th century ads. There we began to see the fatter bearded man in the red suit.

Today, the man you see in the mall is the modern condensation of fact and myth, embodying the generosity of one Catholic Bishop, the good will of all who gave gifts in his stead, and bits of the mythology of Odin. Nicholas was not a "pagan," and he was not a myth. He lived, and he continues to in the hearts and minds of all those who keep him alive.



Katnip News!



TAKE ANOTHER LOOK!

Gemma & Gillian, age 8 months, are two sweet little twin sisters. Gillian has the white blaze on her forehead and is the most outgoing, but Gemma is coming right along. The

girls are good at entertaining themselves because they are so bonded. These cuties are playful, love their toys and treats, and are purr-fectly sweet! They would be fine with other cats, and look forward to being pampered in a loving forever home. They will be shy at first. Adopt together. Come and meet them and fall in LOVE!! You can make an appointment to meet them at The Cats Pajamas, 626-449-1717. They've been waiting and waiting for their purr-fect home! Is it yours?

Just submit your application at Lifeline for Pets: www.lifelineforpets.org, where you can see more pictures of them and their video on our Teen Cats page.



Pet of the Week

Ten-month-old Jobie is a large, playful, goofy puppy! He's very active and loves a good game of chase. Since he's a puppy, he's still learning, but he's very treat-motivated and picks up new things quickly. He's very curious and loves to greet everyone. If you have experience with bigger dogs and love that playful puppy energy, Jobie may be perfect for you!

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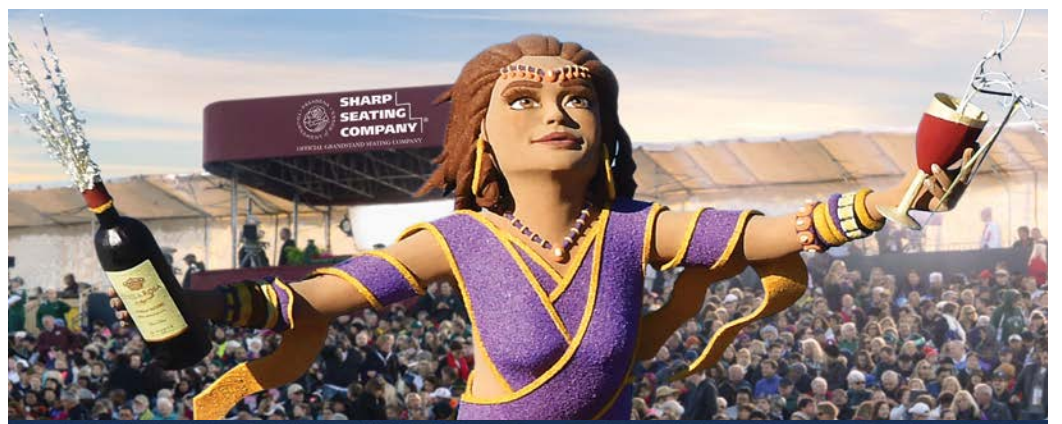
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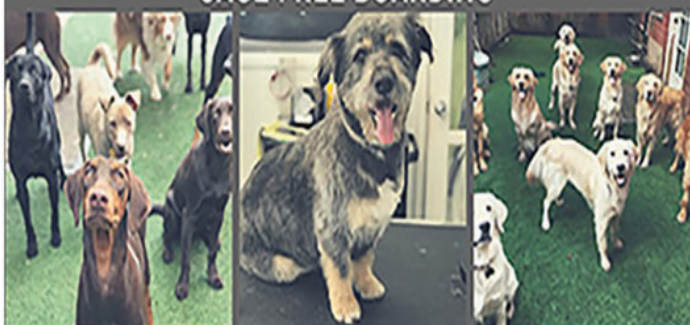
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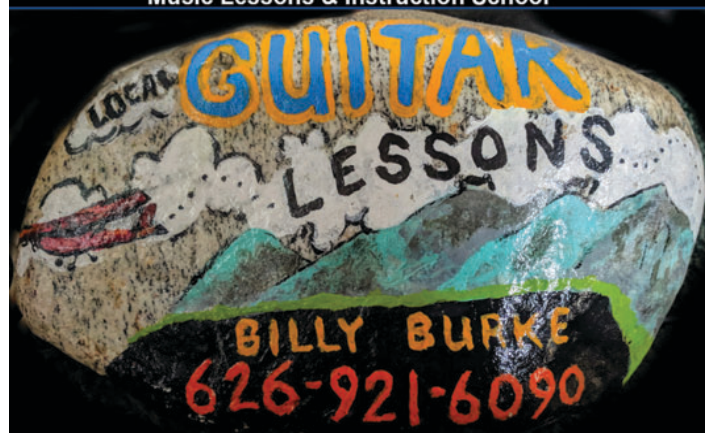
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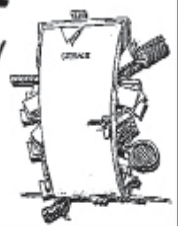
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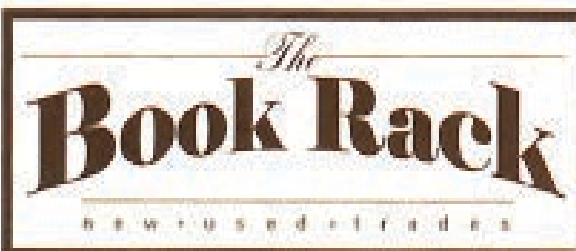
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DECIPHERING SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

Dear Savvy Senior:
Can you decipher the different types of housing options available to seniors, and recommend some good resources for locating them? I need to find a place for my elderly mother and could use some help.
Overwhelmed Daughter

Dear Overwhelmed:
There's a wide array of housing options available to seniors, but what's appropriate for your mom will depend on her needs and financial situation. Here's a rundown of the different levels of senior housing and some resources to help you choose one.

Independent living: If your mom is in relatively good health and self-sufficient, "independent living communities" are a top option that can offer a sense of community. Typically available to people over age 55, this type of senior housing is usually apartments or town homes that are fully functional. In addition, many communities also offer amenities such as meals served in a common dining area, housekeeping, transportation and a variety of social activities.

To locate this type of housing, contact your Area Agency on Aging (call 800-677-1116 to get your local number), or use an online search tool like Caring.com. Most of these communities are private pay only and can vary greatly in cost ranging anywhere from \$1,500 to \$6,000 per month.

Assisted living: If your mom needs some help with daily living chores, she'll probably need an "assisted living facility." These facilities provide help with the activities of daily living – like bathing, dressing, eating, going to the bathroom – as needed, as well as meals, housekeeping, transportation, social activities and medication management. Many facilities also offer special "memory care units" for residents with dementia.

Costs for assisted living usually run between \$3,000 and \$6,000 per month depending on location and services needed. Most residents pay for assisted living from personal funds, while some have long-term care insurance policies. And many state Medicaid programs today also cover some assisted living costs for financially eligible residents.

Another similar, but less expensive option to look into is "board and care homes." These offer many of the same services as assisted living facilities but in a much smaller home setting.

Your Area Aging Agency is again a good resource for finding assisted living facilities and board care homes, as is Caring.com.

Nursing homes: If your mom needs ongoing medical and personal care or has very limited mobility, a nursing home, which provides 24-hour skilled nursing care is the next option. To find a good one, use Medicare's nursing home compare tool at Medicare.gov/care-compare. This tool will not only help you locate nursing homes in your area, it also provides a 5-star rating system on recent health inspections, staffing, quality of care, and overall rating.

But be aware that nursing home care is very expensive, costing anywhere between \$4,500 and \$13,000 per month for a semi-private room depending on where you live. Most residents pay from either personal funds, a long-term care insurance policy or through Medicaid after their savings are depleted.

Continuing-care retirement communities (CCRC's): If your mom has the financial resources, a "CCRC" is another option that provides all levels of housing (independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing home care) in one convenient location. But these communities typically require a hefty entrance fee that can range from \$20,000 to \$500,000 or more, plus ongoing monthly service fees that vary from around \$2,000 to over \$4,000. To search for CCRC's visit Caring.com.

Need Help?
If you're not sure what your mom needs, consider hiring an aging life care expert (AgingLifeCare.org) who can assess your mom and find her appropriate housing for a fee – usually between \$300 and \$800. Or you can use a senior care advising service like A Place for Mom (APlaceForMom.com) for free. They get paid from the senior living facilities in their network.

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.



FAMILY MATTERS

By Marc Garlett

HOW TO PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY LEGACY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

As you likely already know, but may not have given much thought about, the inheritance you provide is so much more than the money you'll leave behind. It also includes your values, insights, stories, and experiences. And, while those things are such an important part of your legacy, they are often lost because they aren't intentionally preserved.

What I've discovered in helping my clients preserve their whole legacy, is that we can learn so much more than expected -- about ourselves and our loved ones - when we ask the right questions.

So, this year, we invite you to ask your mother, father, and/or another loved one the 32 important questions below that can teach you valuable lessons about love, life, and what matters most. And don't just ask them, record their answers to preserve your own Family Legacy.

Use these questions as a springboard and an engaging activity during the holidays with your loved ones:

1. What comes to mind when you think about growing up in your hometown?
2. What did you love to do as a kid, before high school?
3. What did you love to do in high school?
4. What do you remember most about your teenage years?
5. What do you remember most about your mom (grandma)?
6. What was most important to her?
7. What do you remember most about your dad (grandpa)?
8. What was most important to him?
9. If Grandma and Grandpa had a message to pass along to the grandchildren, what would it be?
10. How did you meet your spouse? How did you know (s)he was the one?
11. How did you choose your career? What was your favorite part about it?
12. What made you successful?
13. What did you believe about yourself that helped you become successful and deal with hard times?
14. What times in your life truly "tested your mettle," and what did you learn about yourself by dealing (or not dealing) with them?
15. What three events most shaped your life?
16. What do you remember about when I was born?
17. Were you ever scared to be a parent?
18. What three words would you say represented your approach to parenting and why?
19. When you think about [sibling] how would you describe him/her?
20. What message do you have for [sibling] that you want him/her to always keep in mind? [Do the last two questions above for each sibling in your family]
21. When you think about [spouse], how would you describe her/him?
22. What message do you have for [spouse] that you want her/him to always keep in mind?
23. What three words would you say best describe who you tried to be in life? How would you like to be remembered?
24. What do you think your children and grandchildren should focus on professionally?
25. What have you learned about people in life?
26. What do you think the world needs more of right now?
27. What do you believe people want the most in life?
28. What were the three best decisions you ever made?
29. What are you most proud of?
30. What were five of the most memorable moments of your life?
31. What message would you like to share with your family?
32. What are you most thankful for?

These questions can reveal a wealth of valuable life lessons - family treasures to discuss and share with generations to come. These non-material assets are so important. But also make sure your family's material assets are protected by a comprehensive estate plan. The material (financial) assets are also important, so don't neglect to secure them. Just keep in mind that you, and the generations which came before you, are about so much more than only your economic position during life.

Take the time and make the intention to protect all your assets so you can preserve and pass on your family legacy. That's how real wealth is created and passed on from one generation to the next.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...December Birthdays*

Maria Decker, Nancy Dorn, Prudence Levine Pat Karamitros, Joan Hufnagel, Mary Alice Cervera, Carol Horejsi, Shirley Anhalt, Helen Reese, Levon Yapoujian, Toni Buckner, Lottie Bugl, Sheila Wohler, Nan Murphy, Eleanor Hensel, Sylvia Curl, Elizabeth Levie, Gayle Licher, Cindy Barran, and Melissa Stute, Prudence Levin, Sheila Woehler. * To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

SENIOR ACTIVITIES IN SIERRA MADRE

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Please join the Sierra Madre Senior Community Commission in the Hart Park House Senior Center for the much anticipated Annual Holiday Luncheon. Meet our Senior Commissioners as they assist with serving lunch and provide some holiday cheer. Bring your festive spirit for a fun and lively game of bingo, your appetite for a boxed lunch (by Nano Cafe) and door prizes. Staff will begin taking reservations over the phone on December 2, 2021. Space is limited to 40 people so reserve your spot! Please call 626-355-5278 with your reservation and sandwich choice. Turkey, beef or tuna.

THE HART PARK HOUSE SENIOR CENTER IS OPEN!!!!

In house lunch dining service will not resume at this time. Access to the computer/classroom is temporarily unavailable. All Classes and programs will maintain a distance of 6 ft between participants. All equipment used will be sanitized after each use before it is stored. Each participant is responsible for providing their own water, masks and additionally needed supplies for each class. Please call the Community Services Department at 355-7394 with any questions or concerns.

DOMINOES TRAIN GAME

Wednesday, 12/1, & 12/15 11:00 am— 12:30 pm Hart Park House The object of the game is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more trains, emanating from a central hub or "station". Call Lawren with questions that you may have. Led by volunteer Loni.

PAINT PALS

Tuesday, 12/7, and 12/21, 10:00 am—Hart Park House If you enjoy painting, sketching, water color, or making some other form of artistic creation please join our new program, PAINT PALS!!! Bring a project that you are working on to the HPH and enjoy some quality art time with other artists looking to paint with a new pal.

TEA AND TALK SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, 12/7 & 12/21— 9:00 am Staff has launched a new book club series, Tea and Talk, which meets twice a month to discuss the fun, suspense, intrigue, love and so much more that each selection will have in store!

FIBER FRIENDS

Tuesday, 12/14 & Monday, 12/20 —10:00 am If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, bunka, huck, tatting or cross stitch then we have a group for you! Bring your current project, a nonalcoholic beverage, then sit and chat with likeminded fiber friends. We meet in the Hart Park House

CHAIR YOGA

Every Monday and Wednesday, 10-10:45 am Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercise and overall relaxation with Paul. Classes are ongoing and held in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion.

HULA AND POLYNESIAN DANCE

Every Friday, 10-10:45 am Bring a lei, your flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Hula in the Park is back and waiting for you to join in on all the fun! Memorial Park Pavilion.

CITY HALL AND THE HART PARK HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2021 - MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022



OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

I WAS NAUGHTY AND DIDN'T KNOW IT!

Everybody has their own definition of what naughty is. So my great concern is why we allow this man called Santa Claus from the North Pole to determine who is naughty or nice? For some reason, I got on Santa's naughty list this year. You might ask, "How do you know that you're on his naughty list?"

The answer to that is very simple, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said to me this past week, "I think you're on Santa's naughty list this year." I don't know how she knew that, but I never question what she knows or doesn't know. So if she says I'm on Santa's naughty list, I am for sure on Santa's naughty list.

The problem is that she has a different definition of naughty than I do. Her definition of naughtiness is eating apple fritters. My definition of naughty is eating broccoli. Right here, the Twain shall never come together.

The only way that Santa could know that I have been naughty this past year is if he got the information from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. That in itself seems to me to be quite naughty. But you didn't hear it from me. If being naughty is eating an apple fritter, then I shall be naughty till the day I die. After all, any Apple fritter is worth it.

That being settled, it is very clear that I know how to be naughty. The Apple fritter is just one aspect of my naughtiness. So what I need to investigate is how in the world can I get on Santa's nice list? What can I do this coming year to guarantee a spot on that infamous list?

To be sure, I will not be asking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage because then she will tell me, and I will be in deep trouble. I can almost hear what she would say in this regard. But I need to figure out for myself what it really means to be nice. I thought I was a nice person, but what I think doesn't really matter. What can I do to be nice to the people around me? And if I am nice to the people around me, will Santa notice? What can I do to get his attention? After all, this infamous character supposedly lives in the North Pole, so how would he know what I'm doing way down here?

I spent some time the other day thinking about this and trying to come up with a list of things I could do to reveal the nice quality of myself to people around me. After a couple of hours of such meditation, I did not come up with a single thing I could do to reveal my niceness. My first focus was, how can I be nice to my wife? After all, she's nice to me, so how can I reciprocate?

After living with her for so long, I have come to the conclusion that anything I do, she can do much better. Everything I break, she can fix.

Then a thought did a Christmas dance in my head. Then, whenever she fixes anything, she is very happy because she can fix it. So what makes her happy is fixing things.

So, if I'm going to make her happy this coming year, I need to concentrate on breaking things. Everything I break will make her happy because then she can fix something. So why didn't I think of this before?

I can think of so many things I can break that I didn't know exactly where to start. It's going to be important to start at the right place so that I can build on that throughout the year. After all, if something can be broken, I'm your man.

This was a great challenge for me because everything I break is an accident. To do this right, I will have to master having accidents.

A couple of years ago, I broke the front bumper of my truck. My wife was able to fix it using several paperclips. Well, guess what my first accident was? You got it.

I pulled into a parking lot for some reason, went too far, and unintentionally broke the front bumper again. Actually, I didn't know I had broken it; I just heard a sound and didn't think too much about it.

Later that evening my wife happened to go outside where my truck was parked and when she came in, she said with a smile all over her face, "Did you notice that your front bumper is broken again?" At first, of course, I thought she was joking and laughed at her and said, "Is that right?"

She disappeared and, in a moment, came back with several paperclips and went back outside and fixed my truck.

I leaned back in my chair, smiled, and said to myself, "This is your first act of niceness for the year. What's next?"

I was reminded of the words of Jesus when he said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7).

This coming year I certainly will exercise when Jesus says here and look forward to ways I can be nice, especially to my wife. Then, I might be able to loop over to being nice to other people. So I have a great year ahead of me.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34483, where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail james-snyder51@gmail.com. Website is www.jamessnyderministries.com.

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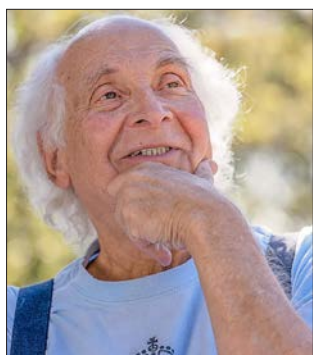


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The traditions of community newspapers and the concerns of our readers are this newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community,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

STUART TOLCHIN



PUT THE LIGHTS ON JESUS OR TEGWAR

It's 5 a.m. and I am thinking about an old baseball movie called Band the Drum Slowly starring Robert De Niro as a simpliminded catcher who has difficulty connecting with others. The other players mock the naïve and trusting nature of the De Niro character and conspire to lure him into a card game called "TEGWAR", an abbreviation for "The Exciting Game without Any Rules". The only point of the game is to create rules for the single-minded purpose of taking advantage of the weaker De Niro character. The film is probably intended as a metaphor for world history and had a personal poignancy for me. The theme of the film connected with the revelation of my son's developmentally disabled person diagnosis. A few years later, his mother moved away and I became his single parent of my son and daughter thinking about how I could explain the Rules of Life to them and to myself.

I have been thinking about this kind of question for most of my life. Raising my son and daughter brought this nonsensical teaching home for discussion never debate. My son, before he even went to school told me he that he didn't want to be a "birdie". He meant "burden" and I emphasized with all the power that I had that people such as he who had disabilities such as he, were special people who were kind of a gift to others. People had different abilities but no matter the differences being alive was a pretty wonderful thing and underneath we were all equal. He understood me and when he went to School, supplied with a fully packed lunch, he would be very hungry when he got home. It took a while but I eventually realized that he would give much of his lunch away to other students. He explained to me that he knew he would get more food when he got home and that many other kids were hungry and were unsure of when they would eat again. Perhaps Jesus would have approved of his behavior but I didn't. I did my best to explain why what seemed so unfair was really not his problem but I never succeeded very well.

Within a few years my son and daughter had living with us two friends of my sons who needed a place to live. They paid no rent but added a great deal to all of our lives. When my son passed high school age and my daughter was going off to College I concurrently met the woman who became my future wife and who will hopefully proofread this article today, thirty years later. As she moved in it became obvious that changes had to be made. I urged my son and his friend to move into one of the apartments I owned that was rented to the organizers of a group of disabled people in which my son happily participated. As a part of this group my son was flown to Washington D.C. and the group performed at Bill Clinton's Presidential inauguration in 1992. I expected rent from these organizers which would be paid at some future time but never was. This failure was not by design and future payments were promised to pay "soon"; but "soon" never came. Surprise, surprise! Eventually, the apartments were lost to bankruptcy but the benefits conferred upon my son, to my mind at least, outweighed any financial losses. Let's face it. I, also, have never been very clear on what rules or non-rules to follow.

As we enter 2022, I am still confused. Of course I write these published articles every week without pay and feel very privileged to have this opportunity. I am very privileged living with my wife in our large house in this wonderfully safe Sierra Madre canyon community. I am retired comfortably and bemoan the inequality, hierarchy, dominion and misery that covers the world. As confusing as things as I know my family, all of whom I see several times a week, are still fortunate. But then what about the future? What are the rules to follow? Although what I call "Tegwar" by which I mean pursuing only self-interest appears to be the path to foreseeable complete disaster. My hope and belief is that the teachings of the Judeo-Christian ethic and the other great world religions will utilize technology to illuminate the human race enabling the world to find the communal path necessary for a prolonged, even if not perpetual, survival. That is my hope and prayer as we enter this new year!. BE SAFE.

TOM PURCELL

THE MERRY RETURN OF CHRISTMAS CARDS



Christmas card trends are telling — they speak to the mood of the country — and this year's trend offers some positive news.

According to the Washington Post, hand-written "snail-mailed" Christmas cards are all the rage, particularly among millennials who all of the sud-den are spending more on Christmas cards than baby boomers.

We baby boomers came of age well before everything went

digital.

I still have and cherish the hilarious hand-written letters my friends and I shared during our college years in the '80s, when we were spread all over the nation.

One of my most prized possessions is a letter my grandfather wrote in 1921. He died when my dad was only 3 years old, but the old letter offers a connection to the grandfather I wished I had got to meet.

For a long time, Christmas-card writing was a big social event.

The card itself didn't matter so much as the funny notes my friends would write and the pleasure and enjoyment we would experience when the cards arrived in the mail.

I can't recall the last time I wrote and snail-mailed a letter to a friend. And I likewise stopped hand-writing Christmas cards long ago, as most of my friends have.

Maybe millennials will inspire us to resume the annual practice.

They came of age in the digital world, where everything — even Christmas cards — is automated and bulk mailed.

Every year, companies send out generic mass-printed cards to employees and customers, and every year the cards, which took no effort to produce and therefore evoke zero emotion in their recipients, are tossed unopened into the trash.

Millennials are taking an entirely opposite approach to Christmas cards.

"Lindsey Roy, chief marketing officer of Hallmark, which has more than 3,600 holiday cards in its lineup, says millennials are looking for special cards for important people in their lives," reports the Post.

"They have teachers to thank, or caregivers," Roy tells the Post. "They want to find the card that is exactly right, and they are willing to pay a bit more if they like the design and it says the right thing."

To get the right card with the right message — to create a card that stands out in a stack of junk mail — they're using foil-lined envelopes, decorative tape, vintage postage stamps and more.

Technology offers new opportunities to share authentic messages.

"Hallmark's new Sign & Send service allows users to compose a handwritten message on paper, snap a photo of it and upload it," reports the Post.

Sign & Send users also can send cards with QR codes that the recipient can scan with a smartphone and see the personalized multimedia content.

Whatever the approach, millennials are willing to pay up to 6 bucks per card to prove that they went to great lengths to show their gratitude and affection to their recipients.

This year's upward Christmas card trend may appear to be a small matter.

But in a digital world in which so many are experiencing increasing social isolation, increasing rudeness and incivility, and increasing inhumanity, I think it's a wonderful step in the right direction.

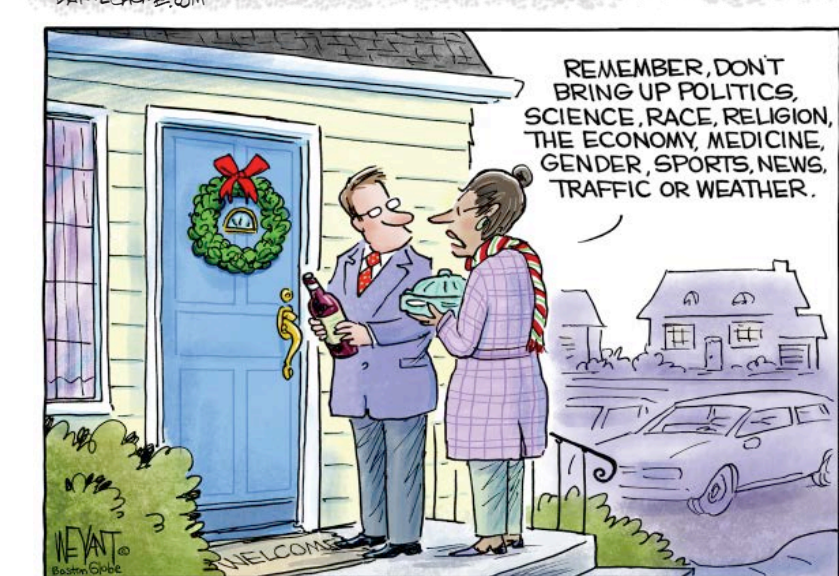
It offers a nice and badly needed human touch that we can all use more of.

Better yet, the combination of technology and thoughtfulness offers an opportunity for humor.

Send a card maker a photo of your cat and the company can create a custom Christmas card that says cheery things, such as "Meow Christmas from my humans!"

—Tom Purcell is an author and humor columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.

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ORIGINAL MOVIE TITLES

My daughter, Olivia, has indicated I need to set aside 8 hours so we can watch the three existing "Matrix" films to acquaint ourselves just before we watch the brand spanking new fourth "Matrix" movie. (By the way, I think "The Matrix" is a documentary lol. It's not fiction.)

Anyway, staying close to my commitment to outfit you with useable and or, useless trivia, I went into the wayback machine and researched some mildly interesting trivia (well interesting for me anyway). The trivia? Original title of well-known movies. So here goes:

"Pretty Woman" The Richard Gere/Julia Roberts film was originally called "3,000". Apparently, that was the amount of money offered to Julia Robert's lady of the evening character to spend a week with Richard Gere's character.

"Saturday Night Fever" This film classic was based on a New York Magazine article by a journalist who toured the dance club scene of Brooklyn. Had the producers stayed with the journalist's article title, we would remember John Travolta's breakout movie as "The Tribal Rites of the New Saturday Night".

"Blade Runner" taken from a story by Philip K. Dick, which, if used we would remember as "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep"

"Some Like it Hot" The 1960 Billy Wilder classic starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemon was originally titled "Not Tonight Josephine".

"Alien" This scary classic from 1979 was going to be known as "Star Beast". Thank goodness they changed it "Star Beast" sounds like a Disney movie.

"Back to the Future" Get this. The studio wanted it to be called "Spaceman From Pluto". Many of us believe Christopher Lloyd may very well be an alien (That's a compliment by the way).

"Big" the wonderful Tom Hanks movie was originally titled "When I Grow Up". The problem was they couldn't find a director or a star who would sign on with the title.

"Field of Dreams" This Kevin Costner classic was originally titled "Shoeless Joe" adapted from the novel "Shoeless Joe" by W.P. Kinsella. Using that name made sense, but to studio execs it wouldn't make cents.

"Tangled" The Disney hit's original title would cause the film to lose half its audience...BOYS. That's what the Disney execs surmised when they changed the original name "Rapunzel Unbraided".

"Casablanca" This iconic Humphrey Bogart/Ingrid Bergman classic was Warner Bros retooling of a stage play about an upscale Moroccan nightclub. The name of the play? "Everybody Comes to Rick's"

"Goodfellas" Scorsese's mob classic was supposed to be named after the book it was based on; The problem was Brian DePalma already made a movie with that name. And there was a TV series with the name. The name? Oh yeah, "Wiseguy".

"American Pie" This film actually had two other names. One was "East Great Falls High". The other name was...are you ready?... are you sure?... Okay, here goes: "Teenage Sex Comedy That Can Be Made For Under \$10 million That Your Reader Will Love But The Executive Will Hate"

Last minute additions:

"Wind-Up Heroes" became "Toy Story"
"The Lunch Club" became "The Breakfast Club"
"Affairs of the Heart" became "Fatal Attraction"
"Love Hurts" became "Basic Instincts"
"Hunter" became "Predator"
"Watch the Skies" became "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"
And last and certainly not least...
"Night Skies" became "E.T."

Have a wonderful week. Me? I'll be watching "The Matrix".



Merry Christmas!

As the year comes to a close, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends, family and neighbors in Sierra Madre who have supported our little shop, as well as the individuals and businesses all around the country.

Have a wonderful holiday and New Year!

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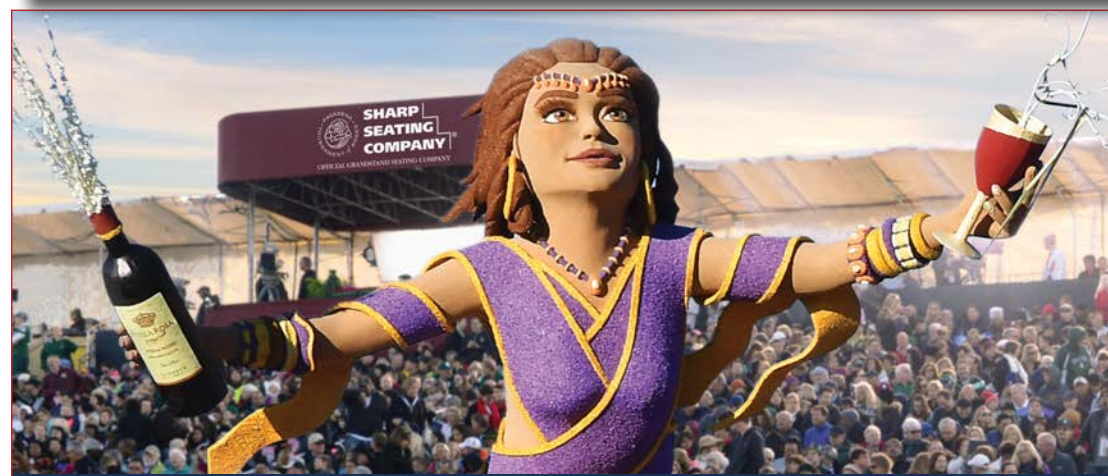
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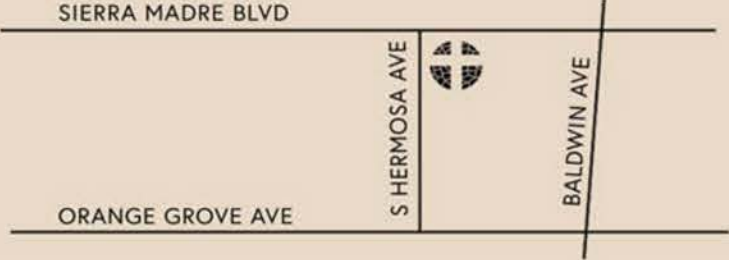


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