

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023

VOLUME 17 NO. 01

## SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION BRINGS HOME ANOTHER TROPHY! Page 2



## NEW YEAR - NEW CHALLENGES FOR SIERRA MADRE

### Referendum Signatures Verified- New, Larger Housing Proposal Submitted; City May Loose More Than \$1 million dollars

The last 10 days of 2022 brought problematic news to City Hall. On December 28th, the LA County Registrar-Recorders Office notified the city that the cost of a special election to facilitate the referendum will cost the city between \$325,000 - \$400,000.

#### THE REFERENDUM

*Project fiscal impact ± \$400,000 expense*

Prior to the defeat of Measure HR in November, opponents of The Meadows project began collecting signatures for a referendum to overturn the adoption of Ordinance 1461 which approved the project. "

"SUMMARY OF REFERENDUM AGAINST ORDINANCE NO. 1461  
This is a referendum on whether Sierra Madre City Council Ordinance No. 1461 should become effective. Ordinance No. 1461 (1) approves a Zoning Map Amendment; (2) approves a Specific Plan and (3) approves a Development Agreement for The Meadows at Bailey Canyon Project located at 700 North Sunnyside Avenue in the City of Sierra Madre."

If sufficient signatures were collected, the Referendum would be placed on the ballot in a special election for voter approval. On December 7, 2022, the LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's office confirmed the results of the signature gathering:

Number of Signatures filed:	1,357
Number of Signatures verified:	1,357
Number of Signatures found sufficient:	1,223
Number of Signatures found not sufficient:	134
Not sufficient because duplicate:	30

As a result, at the January 10th city council meeting, a decision will be considered on whether or not to a) Agree to rescind Ordinance 1461 or b) Prepare for the Referendum to be voted on by residents. Either choice will have a negative impact on the city either as the result of almost certain litigation against the city, or if an election is scheduled, incurring the cost for a special election which ranges in costs from \$325,000 - \$400,000. The next regularly schedule election in Sierra Madre is November, 2024.

The referendum has been cited as responsible for the new application submitted by NUWI.

#### THE NEW PROJECT:

*Project fiscal impact + \$1,000,000 loss revenue*

On December 20, 2022, NUWI Sierra Madre, LLC submitted a preliminary application under Senate Bill No. 330 ("SB 330 Application") and a new development at 700 N. Sunnyside Avenue in Sierra Madre. The new application is for 50 houses including 3 'moderate to very low-income' units on the same property as The Meadows at Bailey Canyon.

During the many community discussions of Measure HR, one of the concerns expressed by residents familiar with the project was whether or not the state's changes in housing laws such as SB9 & 10, and SB 330, etc. would provide an even less desirable (for residents) alternative for The Meadows project. It appears that those concerns were legitimate.

The new proposal under SB330 submitted by NUWI, after analysis by city staff identified the following tentative conclusions:<sup>2</sup>

The Developer's SB 330 Application is made possible by the referendum of Ordinance No. 1461, but not Resolution No. 22-58; The City is required to process the Meadows Project and New Project simultaneously pursuant to the Permit Streamlining Act and Housing Accountability Act;

The Developer's SB 330 Application locks in the City's existing

development standards and limits future hearings to a total of five;

The Housing Accountability Act limits the City's discretionary review of the New Project;

The Density Bonus Law allows the Developer to circumvent many of the City's development standards;

While the City has yet to complete an initial study, the New Project is unlikely to require a full Environmental Impact Report ("EIR"); and

The City's quasi-adjudicative decisions regarding the New Project are not subject to a referendum. While the City has yet to complete an initial study, the New Project is essentially the same as the Meadows Project, except slightly denser and devoid of the benefits conferred to the City.

On Tuesday, January 10, 2023 the Council will be addressing both the application for the new residential subdivision and the certification of the Referendum signatures.

To quote one resident familiar with choices facing the council, "Perhaps the proponents of the referendum will withdraw the petition and both problems will be resolved". A withdrawal would require quick action from the proponents as the deadline to do so is less than 10 days away.

The table below illustrates a side-by-side comparison of the Meadows Project and the New Project:

	Meadows Project	New Project
Density	42 Units	50 Units
Number of Hearings	13	5
Full Discretionary Review	Yes	No
Basis for Deviation from Underlying Development Standards	Specific Plan & Development Agreement	Density Bonus Law
Environmental Review	Environmental Impact Report	Subsequent EIR, Supplemental EIR, or Addendum (TBD)
Possible to Referend	Yes	No
Public Park	Yes	No
Conservation Easements	Yes	No
\$983,500 Payment for Net Zero Water	Yes	No
\$250,000 Public Safety Building Donation	Yes	No

The City is required to process the SB 330 application pursuant to the Permit Streamlining Act and Housing Accountability Act. The Developer now has 180-days to submit a complete application.

<sup>1</sup> Sierra Madre City Attorney's Impartial Analysis Measure HR  
<https://www.cityofsierramadre.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=18740828>

<sup>2</sup> Staff Report City of Sierra Madre January 10 Agenda Packet  
<https://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cms/one.aspx?objectId=267966>  
S.Henderson/MVNews



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source: CoreLogic, Freddie Mac, Bankrate



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## CONGRATULATIONS &amp; THANK YOU SMRFA!

## RECENT SMRFA TROPHIES

- 2006 - "The Wonder of Reading"  
The Founders Banner Trophy
- 2007 - "Our Wonderful Wistaria"  
Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy
- 2008 - "Valentine's Day"  
Princesses Trophy
- 2009 - "Bollywood Dreams"  
Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy
- 2010 "California Girls"  
Governor's Trophy
- 2011 "Suenos de California"  
Governor's Trophy
- 2013 "The Sky's The Limit"  
Isabella Coleman Trophy
- 2014 "Catching The Big One"  
The Mayor's Trophy
- 2015 "I Think I Can"  
The Mayor's Trophy
- 2016 "Rollin' On The River"  
Animation Trophy
- 2017 "The Cat's Away"  
The Mayor's Trophy
- 2018 "Chivalry"  
Fantasy Award
- 2019 "HARMONY"  
Director's Award
- 2020 KA LA HIKI OLA  
President's Award  
Most Outstanding Use and Presentation of Flowers
- 2022 NATURES CLASSROOM  
Judge's Award -  
Most outstanding float design and dramatic impact
- 2023 POPPA'S TURN  
Founder's Award -  
Most outstanding float built and decorated by volunteers  
from a community or organization

(No parade 2021 due to Covid-19)

Congratulations to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association for another award winning float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. This year's entry, Poppa's Turn, won the Founders Award for 'Most outstanding float built and decorated by volunteers from a community or organization.'

Congratulations to the award winning design concept created by none other than Sierra Madre's own resident Greg Dohlen!

Congratulations are also due to our 2023 Royal Court. Jessica Allen, Pasadena City College; Kiera Dean, Alverno Heights Academy; Lauren Kong, California School For The Arts - SGV; Lina Wallgren, Mayfield Senior School; Marshall Gluck, Pasadena High School and Max Romero, Maranatha High School.

*And last but not least....* Congratulations to the Board of Directors and Volunteers who make it happen!

Board of Directors for the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association

President Barbie Bevington  
Vice President Gwen Robertson  
Treasurer Evelyn Shaffer  
Secretary Ilona Linden  
Director David Karp  
Director Jill Franks  
Director Greg Murphy  
Past President David Colcher  
Director in Memory Knar Tufenkjian  
President in Memory Robert Young

This year's award is the SMRFA's 16th out of the last 17 floats entered in the Rose Parade. This year also represented the 91st self built entry by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. SMRFA first entered the Rose Parade in 1917!

Photos by Dirk Bolle

Watch the Video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Eki3dO2O8xk>





# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

## REMEMBRANCE: MILDRED SOLURY BERKSHIRE

Longtime Sierra Madre resident Mildred Solury Berkshire made it to a new year 2023 at the age of 98 but passed peacefully on Monday, January 2.

Known affectionately as Millie, she was preceded in death by husband Tom Solury and had a second chance of love with husband Doug Berkshire, deceased.

She is survived by daughter Nancy Soluri-Whelan, husband Richard Whelan, and daughter Honor Soluri-Whelan; also survived by son Thomas Solury II, wife Vicki, son Taber McDonald, wife Coralie and baby daughter Ava Rose. She was the sister of Mert Waite who died in September of last year, and was Aunt Millie or Great Aunt Millie ("MeMe") to many nieces and nephews.

In many ways, Millie was one of the last of the "old timers" of Sierra Madre. Arriving as a teenager in the 1930s from a farm in Minnesota, she lived with her parents in the Sierra Madre Canyon. She attended Monrovia High School and must have been a healthy student as she walked daily to and from the canyon to school, a fact she reminded others of when hearing complaints of transportation issues from the youngsters.

Like many of her peer group, both young men and women, she participated in the defense efforts during World War II as an employee with R.A. Hawks Company, predecessor of Sierra Engineering. She spent her life as a dedicated and old-school wife, mother and homemaker. In her younger married life, she was involved in the women's auxiliary of the Sierra Madre Fire Department and the Congregational Church. Later, she became interested in writing and took creative writing classes for years, forming both strong friendships with other writers and developed her writing style and craft. She was most proud of her poetry and personal essays which were accepted for publication in small literary presses and magazines.

When Millie became your friend, she was your friend for life. That included your children and grandchildren. She practiced the art of active listening, without judgment and gave wise counsel when asked. You were welcomed with a smile into her sunny kitchen for conversation over a hot cup of tea. On a lucky day, you sat down at her kitchen table just when she was taking lemon bars or date-nut bars out of the oven.



Millie's circle of friends was wide and varied. Having lived in her Colony Drive home for 53 years, she was respected on her block for her wisdom and her wit. She was an active member of the Priscillas for many decades, and was most pleased to present the Inspirational Readings at their monthly meetings. She made friends through the library, and very much enjoyed the community she was offered by the Methodist Church. She loved, loved, loved her mountain cabin at Green Valley Lake, putting out the flag on the porch to announce her arrival at her "Rinky Dink."

When her vision failed and she (we) began to fear for her safety living alone, she made the transition to assisted living at the British Home in town. There, she was quick to make new friends and decorated her new little quarters with all the same Millie touches as she had at home. She had a view of her beloved Sierra Madre Foothills and sweet-smelling bushes that attracted hummingbirds to her window. She was home in a new home.

In her final days, she was ready to go, and she clearly told us her time had come to an end. We are grateful for the British Home staff for their years of support and Vitas Hospice for their tender loving care in her final days.

If you wish to send an acknowledgment gift in her memory, we might suggest either [vitascommunity-connection.com](http://vitascommunity-connection.com) or the Sierra Madre Public Library. Burial is private.

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

"I love a parade;  
The tramping of feet,  
I love every beat  
I hear of a drum.  
I love a parade;  
When I hear a band  
I just wanna stand  
And cheer as they come!"

(Music: Harold Arlen / Lyrics: Ted Koehler)

This oldie but goodie from 1931 pretty much says it all. We love a parade and we love the Rose Parade, most of all. After watching the Rose Parade, 2023, here is my totally and completely unbiased opinion: Our float, "Papa's Turn" was the best thing in it. Yes, the other floats were nice. The bands were huge and great. The equestrian units were superb. It didn't rain. The sun came out.

But best of all, our float won "Founder's Award!" This is awarded for the most outstanding float built and decorated by volunteers from a community or organization. Many thanks to Kay Rigby Sappington, Dick Sappington, LaDonna Gaydash, Robert Gjerde and so many others who made "Papa's Turn" come to dazzling life. The picture today is a closeup of Papa and one of his little guys, perched on a tree branch behind him. So much about our float was whimsical and sweet; the beehive and the buzzing bees, birds, raccoons, squirrels. Greg Dohlen designed a float that is so personal to Sierra Madre, featuring bears. Our court: Jessica Allen, Kiera Dean, Marshall Gluck, Lauren Kong, Max Romero and Lina Wallgren were such fine representatives of our city. Thanks, guys!

One really nice thing everyone might not know: The red roses at the front of our float are in personalized vials meant to honor a loved one. The Sierra Madre Float Committee are probably taking a well-earned few days off and then gearing up for 2024!

Getting back to the concept of picking one word to be your personal New Year's intention or mission statement for the year, you'll recall that after several years of HOPE, I've moved on to KIND. In a classic Peanuts strip, Lucy Van Pelt is talking to good ole' Charlie Brown: "Life is a mystery, Charlie Brown...do you know the answer?"

Charlie Brown responds, "Be kind, don't smoke, be prompt, smile a lot, eat sensibly, avoid cavities and mark your ballot carefully. Avoid too much sun, send overseas packages early, love all creatures above and below, insure your belongings and try to keep the ball low." The only thing he missed was to be sure to floss daily and drink lots of water.

Lucy says, "Hold real still because I'm going to hit you a very sharp blow on the nose."

Yep, that's what she said, which got me to thinking about the way a lot of people seem to be speaking, and behaving. There's a new show on television called "Customer Wars." The first time I saw this I was absolutely and utterly astonished. I watched what seem to be perfectly normal people attack each other over the most petty, trivial things. Example: A whole bunch of people are at a restaurant featuring a buffet. The buffet had run out of crab legs, there were just a few left. A brawl the likes of which you would never think you would see in a restaurant ensued over who would walk away with the last three crab legs. Women were swinging on each other, knock-



ing each other down, while their small children sobbed and tried to run to safety. The lesson here probably isn't to avoid restaurants with buffets. It might possibly be to be KIND. To remember that the person who is taking all the crab legs, or whatever, might be having a personal crisis of some sort.

Have you ever been in Target or someplace like that and witnessed a toddler having a full-blown world-class tantrum? You know, the kind where they're on the floor, their back is arched, their little face is purple and as soon as they can draw a breath they're going to let loose a scream that will shake the walls? Have you ever been the mother of that child? Have you given that poor humiliated mother a look that could set fire to her hair? I'm ashamed to admit I've done that. But not anymore.

We've all heard the Five Things You Can't Take Back: A stone after it's thrown, a word once it is spoken, an occasion once it is missed, an action when it is done, and time once it has passed. For me it's that word once it is spoken. I want my words to be KIND. That's all, just KIND.

Jesus pretty much covered this in just a few words, which he repeated several times:

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

In a world where you can be anything you want to be...Be KIND!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis Yes, Christmas is behind us but my books: "Sunrises and Sunflowers Speak Hope" "A Tablespoon of Love, A Tablespoon of Laughter" Would be really nice gifts for that person you suddenly realized you missed. "Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story, where four lonely people find love following a strange new star on Christmas Eve, is there, too, and a nice story is never a bad idea, even after Christmas.

## SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC SAFETY TOWN HALL MEETING

WEDNESDAY • JANUARY 18TH • 5:30 PM

SIERRA MADRE YMCA, SIERRA MADRE ROOM  
611 EAST SIERRA MADRE BOULEVARD, SIERRA MADRE



### TOPIC OF DISCUSSION: DEFINING THE FUTURE OF YOUR PUBLIC SAFETY

Residents and business owners of Sierra Madre are encouraged to join this public safety town hall meeting, hosted by your Sierra Madre Fire and Police Departments.



**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER, OR VISIT  
[SMPSTOWNHALL.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://SMPSTOWNHALL.EVENTBRITE.COM).

## COMING SOON:

One Book  
One City



## ANNOUNCING OUR ONE BOOK ONE CITY SELECTION!

The Sierra Madre Public Library has announced the 2023 selection of One Book One City; Flying Free by Cecilia Aragon.

One Book One City is a community reading program that invites everyone in Sierra Madre to read and discuss the same book during February 2023 and participate in exciting programs and events.

Aragon's memoir, Flying Free, shares her own journey of breaking past her own fears to become a champion aerobatic pilot. Her 2019 book, Writers in the Secret Garden, takes a close look at the fascinating world of fanfiction to explore how young people express themselves. Her latest book, Human-Centered Data Science, discusses best practices for addressing the bias and inequality that may result from the automated analysis of large datasets.

Check back with the Sierra Madre Public Library for announcements on upcoming programming and events for our 2023 One Book One City selection, Flying Free: My Victory Over Fear to Become the First Latina Pilot on the US Aerobatic Team by Cecilia Aragon.

Connect all month long through engaging themed programs that are free and fun for the whole family. Call the Library at (626) 355-7186 for more information.



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<https://sierramadrekiwanis.com/>



## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

<b>Sun:</b>	Cloudy	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
<b>Mon:</b>	Rain 70%	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
<b>Tues:</b>	Rain 90%	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
<b>Wed:</b>	Ptly Cldy	Hi	50s	Lows	40s
<b>Thur:</b>	Cloudy	Hi	60s	Lows	40s
<b>Fri:</b>	Cloudy	Hi	60s	Lows	40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

### SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 10, 2023 5:30pm

### THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS!

As part of the City of Sierra Madre's COVID-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](mailto: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 [foothillsmmedia.org/sierramadre](http://foothillsmmedia.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](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).



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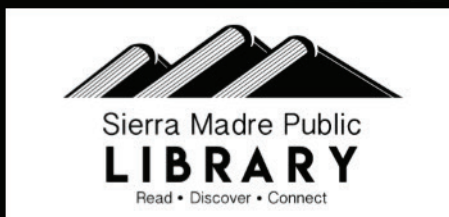
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This week at the  
Sierra Madre  
Public Library

**January 9—January 14**

#### Monday

**Preschool Storytime at Memorial Park—**  
Outdoors at 10:00am. Call to register

#### Wednesday

**Teen Snackchat—**In-person at 4:00pm

**Cricut—**In-person at 6:00pm

#### Thursday

**Baby Rhyme Time at Memorial Park—**  
Outdoors at 9:00am. Call to register

**Tails & Tales—**In-person at 3:30pm

#### Saturday

**Meditation Morning—**In-person at 9:00am

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**WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CITY  
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COMMISSION!**

The City is expected to have vacancies on our commissions soon so you can get a head start by applying now.

Applications and more information can be found here: [cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions](http://cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions)

Planning Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Community Services Commission has one (1) expected vacancy.

Library Board of Trustees has two (2) anticipated vacancies.

Natural Resources Commission has one current vacancy and one anticipated vacancy for a total of two (2) vacancies.

**Interested? Go To:** <https://www.cityofsierramadre.com/cityhall/commissions>

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METHODIST  
CHURCH**

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[smumc.net](http://smumc.net)





# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Pasadena Driver Charged with Driving Tesla Off Cliff



A well know radiologist at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Los Angeles, and Pasadena resident, is now suspected of attempted murder and child abuse after allegedly deliberately driving his Tesla off a 250 foot cliff in Northern California.

According to San Mateo County Sheriffs, deputies responded Monday shortly before 10: 30 a.m. to a solo vehicle over the side of Hwy 1 south of the Tom Lantos tunnel. "Two adults suffered non-life threatening injuries and two children were unharmed."

The site of the crash along Pacific Coast Highway is notoriously known as "Devil's Slide."

A rescue team of firefighters said they were shocked when they saw movement through binoculars. The incident turned from what was likely a recovery of bodies to a seven hour rescue operation in heavy winds and rain amongst crashing waves. Jaws of Life tools were used to cut the family out of the car. A helicopter using a basket and rope brought the victims up to safety.

At press time Friday the driver, Dharmesh Patel, 41, remained hospitalized at Stanford Hospital. Investigators said he will be booked and charged once released.

According to local reports, Patel and his family, including is wife Neha and kids; a 7-year-old girl and 4-year-old boy have lived in a home in the Linda Vista neighborhood for the last five years.

Neighbors described the couple as extremely happy and peaceful. Before leaving to Northern California, Patel gave his next door neighbors a Christmas gift.

Police investigators said they do not have a motive but developed probable cause to believe the crash was intentional.

In statement hospital officials said "Providence Holy Cross Medical Center is deeply saddened to learn of a traffic incident involving one of our physicians and his family. We are extremely grateful there were no serious injuries. We will not respond further, as this incident is under investigation."

Investigators also do not believe the Tesla was operating in self-driving mode at the time.



## Rose Parade Turns a Perfect Corner

By Dean Lee

Under the threat of rain the Pasadena Rose Parade sneaked by Monday with beautiful skies between massive storms fueled by an atmospheric river from the Pacific Ocean that drenched the entire state later in the week.

The 2023 Sweepstakes Trophy, the most beautiful entry: encompassing float design, floral presentation and entertainment, was presented to Donate Life (pictured above).

There was very little to note wrong with this year's parade. The Louisiana Tourism float stalled shortly after hosting the mid-parade performance with singer Laine Hardy from Livingston, Louisiana singing "Born on the Bayou." The float was back moving within five minutes.

Although Tournament of Roses officials apologized Tuesday for The NASCAR float, Snapchat float and the Fresno State Bulldog Marching Band not being seen on the national broadcast due to 'unforeseen delays',



(Above) Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo cheerfully walks in the parade after the 1907 Autocar bus he was riding in broke down. (Below) Tournament of Roses Amy Wainscott waves to the crowd. (Bottom) Los Hermanos Banuelos from Altadena founded in 1995 by a group of brothers. All photos courtesy of the Tournament of Roses



viewers were quick to point out that there was no issues from KTLA 5.

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo and actor Danny Trejo walked the parade after the 1907 Autocar bus they were riding in broke down. They did ride partway as the airbus was being towed according to Pasadena Public Information Officer Lisa Derderian.

There was also an extremely long unexplained gap in the parade after La Canada Flintridge float. Reports also suggested that the crowd size of parade goers was way down, most likely due to the parade being Jan. 2. and the weather.

The Tournament has a longstanding tradition not to hold the parade on a Sunday.



(Above) The 104th Rose Queen Bella Ballard and the 2023 Royal Court (Below) The Valley Hunt Club. In 1890 the club began what the Rose Parade became today. (Below middle) The Spirit of the West Rider rides on behalf of the John Wayne Cancer Foundation. The group is local from Arcadia. (Bottom) The Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band.



## Pasadena Honors The Burger During Cheeseburger Week



Put those New Year's resolutions on hold for seven days and celebrate all things cheeseburger during Cheeseburger Week from January 22 to January 28.

During Cheeseburger Week, presented by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce, Pasadena honors Lionel Sternberger's genius in being the first to put cheese on a hamburger and serve it at the Rite Spot in Pasadena.

It is anticipated that thirty of Pasadena's favorite restaurants, lounges and burger joints offer their signature burgers, some special creations and great deals during Pasadena Cheeseburger Week.

In 1924, as legend has it, teenaged Lionel Sternberger burned one side of a hamburger patty at The Rite Spot, his father's roadside stand along Colorado Boulevard (then Colorado Street) in west Pasadena. Rather than throw away the spoiled burger, he masked his mistake with a piece of cheese and served it to a very appreciative customer.

Word soon spread and customers flocked to The Rite Spot for The Aristocratic Burger. A Hamburger with Cheese, Sternberger's achievement is the first verified instance of someone serving a hamburger with cheese to a customer.

Over the years, Sternberger perfected his Aristocratic Burger, much to the delight of customers at The Rite Spot.

Sternberger's culinary achievement in 1924 has been

documented by Hamburger America, the Los Angeles Times and even Time magazine in its obituary of Sternberger.

To celebrate Sternberger's burger masterpiece, Pasadena restaurants are offering specials, unique creations and the tried and true. From the nationally recognized cheeseburger at Pie 'n Burger to the innovative and delightful Zacatecas Burger at El Portal and Yahaira's, Pasadena's burger purveyors pull out all the stops with special menu items and pricing. Dog Haus offers its acclaimed Haus Burger for \$6.99 at both Pasadena locations.

Pasadena may be best known for our New Year events but I would be willing to bet billions of people the world over have enjoyed a cheeseburger over the past 99 years or so," said Pasadena Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Paul Little. "This is a week for Pasadena to have a little culinary fun and host visitors for a delicious experience."

Patrons can find a terrific burger experience, from top-of-the-line fine dining experiences to burger stands and lounges. There are plenty of opportunities for those who want to keep their resolution or prefer something that is not beef or meat based. Those wanting a variety of experiences can organize a cheeseburger crawl or follow one of the pre-planned themed crawls.

Information on venues, specials, cheeseburger crawls and more can be found at: pasadenarestaurantweek.com.

## Pasadena Symphony Kicks off with Mendelssohn and Mozart

The Pasadena Symphony kicks off the New Year with Mendelssohn & Mozart on Saturday, January 21 at Ambassador Auditorium with both matinee and evening performances at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Acclaimed conductor Joseph Young, who serves as Music Director of the Berkeley Symphony among other major posts across the US, returns as Artistic Partner to lead the orchestra on an aural journey through the Italian countryside with Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 "Italian".

The Composer's Showcase will open the concert with Grammy-nominated composer Anna Clyne's Sound and Fury. Inspired by Shakespeare's Macbeth soliloquy and Haydn's 60th Symphony.

Guests can arrive early to enjoy the outdoor, tented Symphony Lounge, which opens 2 hours prior to show time. The Symphony Lounge offers sandwiches, salads and desserts by Love Birds, coffee, cocktails and fine wines from The Michero Family, before the concert and during intermission.

Ambassador Auditorium is located 131 South St. John Ave. Single tickets starting at \$40 may be purchased online at pasadenasympphony-pops.org or by calling (626) 793-7172.

The Pasadena Public Health Department recommends all guests either be fully vaccinated or obtain a negative COVID-19 test and wear a mask.

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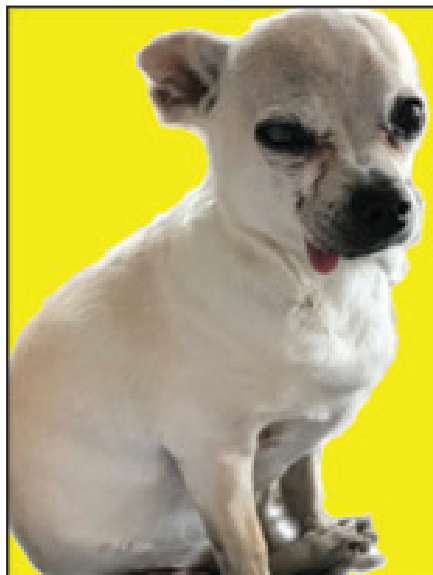
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[www.FreeAnimalDoctor.org](http://www.FreeAnimalDoctor.org)



Sierra Madre based non-profit



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## San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

### Family Storytime

Tuesday, January 10 at 10:30 AM, Children's Area

Storytime features activities for children ages 5 and under that will promote early literacy and lifelong learning through songs, movement, fingerplays, and books. Storytime is also an opportunity for caregivers to learn ways they can incorporate learning activities into everyday routines. Storytime occurs weekly on Tuesday through February 21. Registration is not required. Please watch our social media for cancellations.

### Winter Reading Club: Reading Reflections Challenge

January 17 – February 12

Readers of all ages are invited to participate in our Winter Reading Club and log their reading, review books, complete activities, and enter to win prizes! The beginning of the year marks a wonderful time to reflect on all that you experienced and learned over the past 12 months. Take a moment to cozy up with a good book and set an intention for the coming year. Sign up online or in-person at the Library beginning January 17.

### Open House Celebration!

Saturday, January 21 from 12 – 4 PM, Crowell Public Library

This event commemorates 90 years of the Crowell Public Library and the 65th anniversary of the Friends of the Crowell Public Library. This is an all ages event; activities include an award-winning magician, San Marino trivia, paper crafts, volunteer recognition, Bookmark Contest winners, opportunity drawings, and more! Registration not required.

## South Pasadena Author Talk the Drawings of Bob Peak

The South Pasadena Public Library is pleased to partner with the South Pasadena Arts Council (SPARC) to present Coffee Table Books Live!, an author talk series that showcases publications about the visual and performing arts.

On Wednesday, January 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room (1115 El Centro Street), Tom Peak will talk about The Drawings of Bob Peak, which highlights art created by his father, the renowned illustrator Robert "Bob" Peak (d.1992). Seats can be reserved through the Library's Eventbrite page by visiting: southpasadenaca.gov/register.

Peak is considered by many to be the "father of the contemporary film poster". His iconic artwork for films like West Side Story, Camelot, My Fair Lady, Apocalypse Now, and six Star Trek motion pictures make up just a small portion of the work he created during his prolific career. His work was featured in many magazines, including covers for Time and

### Valentine's Day Grams

Calling all kids in grades K-5! Help us share some neighborly love with a local senior citizen. All it takes is a little creativity! Register for a kit online, pick up your kit at Stoneman Building (1560 Pasqualito Drive) between January 23-27, decorate the gigantic Valentine's Day Gram, and return your Gram by February 6. We'll deliver it to a local senior citizen to brighten their day. In exchange, participants will receive a free and cool activity kit for their random act of kindness. Know a senior citizen in town who'd love to receive a Valentine's Day Gram? Let us know by calling (626) 403-2200 or emailing recreation@cityofsanmarino.org.

### All City Track and Field Meet

Friday, March 10 at 4 PM, San Marino High School Stadium

All students born between 2008 and 2016 who are San Marino residents or attend a San Marino school are eligible to participate. Participants can sign-up for a maximum of 2 events and 1 relay. Cost is \$10 per activity. Fees are non-refundable. Sign up now through February 17 online.

### Meetings

### Recreation Commission Meeting

Monday, January 9 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and Barth Room at Crowell Public Library

### Special City Council Meeting - Closed Session

Wednesday, January 11 at 4:30 PM; City Hall Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

### City Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 PM; Teleconference and City Hall Council Chambers

## Rain Showers doesn't Detour Rose Parade Float Viewing



Trader Joe's "Onward"

Thousands of people came out Tuesday to get up close to the Rose Parade floats, during Floatfest, many of them carrying umbrellas and wearing ponchos.

Many took selfies, in the rain, with a large crowd around the Snapchat float all day. Other popular floats included Trader Joe's "Onward," with a giant chef in an iconic Hawaiian shirt riding a motorcycle towing a boat to the NASCAR float celebrating their 75th anniversary and a tribute to NASCAR's upcoming pre-season exhibition race February 5 at the LA Coliseum.

Another popular float for pictures was the AIDS

Healthcare Foundation "There's no Place like Home." The float theme was a classic trip through the Land of Oz with Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman and the Cowardly Lion photo perfect at the front of the float.

The most appropriate float to see up close was the State of Illinois float with a Route 66 sign at the front. When asked if they drove Route 66 to get here, representatives of the Illinois Office of Tourism laughed. The first 5 miles, along Colorado Blvd., of the Rose Parade route is Route 66. "Keep going and you'll get to Chicago." They said. "We invite everyone to come visit Illinois."

Photos by D.Lee?MVNews



Illinois



Illinois Lincoln



La Canada Flintridge



Louisiana



Snapchat



NASCAR



Honda



South Pasadena



With a float that depicts mice as winners of a science fair, it was only proper that the South Pasadena float Spark of Imagination held a secret, "project cat" a scheme to catch the mice.

Catch breaking news at:  
mtnviewsnews.com



MONROVIA SURVIVES MUDSLIDES

From the office of the City Manager"

Tthe pictures below are actually from the Lower Clamshell Trail in the Wilderness Preserve, they capture the amazing work of Pokrajac Corporation and their amazing team that has been hard-at-work in both the Preserve and Canyon Park.



These photos show crews removing new sediment and debris that washed down the mountain during the rain on Monday and Tuesday. Crews went out on Wednesday to be sure the culverts and drainage areas were cleared before the heavy rain on Thursday which projected 4"-8" inches of projected rain in some foothill areas.

As debris basins were cleared of any obstruction, the Pokrajac team helped us ensure there is proper drainage in our beloved open space areas. We thank our staff and partners for working so diligently ahead of the rainstorm!

We'd also like to thank local residents for doing your part to help remove litter and trash from your local streets and helping to keep our local water sources clean! One final reminder...please be sure to turn off your sprinklers when it is raining!

Find out what's going on around town, the latest on upcoming events and programs, and updates on development projects. <https://youtu.be/HjLPymEfVsI>

Cancer Support Community to host open house events for its popular Guild of volunteers

Membership for the 2023 Guild of Cancer Support Community (CSC) is now open. Is your New Year resolution is to give back to our community and connect with other philanthropic individuals? We invite you to one of our Guild recruitment parties.

Saturday, January 21st at 4:00pm and  
Wednesday, February 8th at 5:30pm

Members of the Guild of Cancer Support Community play a vital role in the work that the organization does for those impacted by cancer in our community. Each year, the Guild raises over \$350,000 to help fund the much needed support groups, educational workshops, and healthy lifestyle classes offered free of charge to anyone who needs them.

Please RSVP in advance so that we can prepare accordingly. For more information about the Guild, visit [cscplink.com/guild2023](https://cscplink.com/guild2023) or contact Kim Burbank Ferreira at [k.ferreira@cscpasadena.org](mailto:k.ferreira@cscpasadena.org) or 626.796.1083.

About the Guild of Cancer Support Community:  
The Guild is open to anyone over 21 years old who is passionate about the mission of Cancer Support Community: to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action, and sustained by community.

The Guild has three simple, yet generous, goals each year. (1) To support the mission of CSC by planning and attending the organization's fundraising events, (2) secure sponsorships and donations, (3) and to have fun and get to know the other Guild members! Guild dues are \$100 each year for anyone over 30 years old, \$50 for those 30 years old and under. We currently ask that all Guild members be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (boosters recommended, but not required)

To learn more about the Guild and the role you could play in 2023, please visit: [CSCP.link/guild2023](https://cscplink.com/guild2023)

About Cancer Support Community (CSC): Cancer Support Community provides free support groups, educational workshops, and healthy lifestyle classes to cancer patients and their families, cancer survivors, and those bereaved across Pasadena and the greater San Gabriel Valley. Services are available in English, Spanish, and Armenian.

For more information, go to [cancersupportsgv.org](https://cancersupportsgv.org) or call 626-796-1083.



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ARCADIA POLICE BLOTTER

For the period of Sunday, December 25th through Saturday, December 31st, the Police Department responded to 842 calls for service, of which 87 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of some of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, December 25:

- At 6:07 p.m., an officer responded to the 1900 block of Alta Oaks Drive regarding a burglary alarm activation. An investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) smashed a rear sliding door and ransacked the home. The loss is unknown as of the date of this report.
- At 6:51 p.m., an officer responded to CVS Pharmacy, located at 1401 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a shoplifting incident. The officer determined the suspect, a 33-year-old male transient from Temple City, stole approximately \$60.00 worth of wine, chocolate, and a blanket. He was located nearby and was arrested. He was then transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.
- At 11:54 p.m., an officer responded to the intersection of Huntington Drive and First Avenue regarding a subject digging through trash, an Arcadia Municipal Violation. Upon contacting the subject and conducting a records check, the officer discovered the 36-year-old male transient from South El Monte had two outstanding misdemeanor warrants. He was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

Monday, December 26:

- At 7:39 a.m., an officer responded to the 900 block of Huntington Drive regarding a battery investigation. An investigation revealed a physical altercation occurred between an adult son and his mother resulting in the son punching and kicking his mother. The 19-year-old male from Arcadia was gone by the time the officer had arrived. The mother did not require medical treatment.
- At 3:07 p.m., an officer responded to the 700 block of Arcadia Avenue in regard to a theft report. Sometime during the previous night, someone stole the victim's catalytic converter from his Toyota Prius. The

investigation is pending a review of nearby surveillance footage.

- At 6:22 p.m., an officer responded to Macy's, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a theft report. Loss prevention witnessed and confronted the suspects as they stole nearly \$800.00 worth of merchandise. The 46-year-old male from Glendale and 39-year-old female from Glendale were arrested and cited in the field.

Tuesday, December 27:

- At 7:48 a.m., an officer responded to 1306 South Fourth Avenue regarding a theft from vehicle report. Surveillance footage captured three thieves stealing the victim's catalytic converter from her Toyota Prius and fleeing. The suspects committed the crime around 3:30 a.m. and were all males in dark clothing. Similar incidents occurred in the 200 block of Laurel Avenue and the 200 block of Bonita Street. It is unknown if the thefts were committed by the same suspects.
- At 12:47 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of East Live Oak Avenue in regard to a vandalism report. The officer determined the suspect parked in a private parking lot and when a security gate prohibited her from leaving, she and a second suspect forcefully opened the gate, leaving the gate damaged and in need of repair. The suspects are described as an Asian female, approximately 5'3", with a thin build, black hair, and a White male between the ages of 45 and 50-years-old with a heavy build.
- At 6:54 p.m., an officer responded to The Shops at Santa Anita, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a stolen vehicle report. The victim discovered her Porsche 911 had been stolen from the Nordstrom parking lot sometime earlier in the day.

Wednesday, December 28:

- At 9:21 p.m., an officer responded to Albertsons, located at 298 East Live Oak Avenue, regarding a commercial burglary investigation. Surveillance footage and the store manager witnessed a team of three suspects working in concert to steal approximately \$1000.00 worth of non-prescription medications. The suspects are described as one Black female in her 20s, and two Black

males in their early 20s. They fled in a Honda Civic.

Thursday, December 29:

- At 2:39 p.m., an officer responded to the Arcadia Police Department lobby regarding an attempted robbery report. The victim stated she was walking to her car when she was approached by the suspect who demanded her bag. A second suspect also threatened the victim. Thankfully, additional family members walked by and the suspects fled. The suspect is described as a 16-year-old Hispanic male, approximately 5'6" tall.
- At 6:56 p.m., an officer responded to The Derby, located at 233 East Huntington Drive, regarding a stolen vehicle investigation. An investigation revealed someone stole the victim's jacket while she was inside the restaurant, and then used her car keys to steal her car. The suspect(s) then used the victim's credit cards to complete fraudulent transactions. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male between the ages of 35 and 45-years-old.

Friday, December 30:

- At 7:58 p.m., an officer responded to Macy's, located at 400 South Baldwin Avenue, regarding a theft investigation. The officer determined loss prevention captured the suspect stealing more than \$500.00 worth of merchandise. The 22-year-old female from Los Angeles was arrested and transported to the Pasadena City Jail for booking.

Saturday, December 31:

- At 11:46 p.m., an officer responded to Shell Gas Station, located at 102 East Huntington Drive, regarding a theft report. While the officer was investigating the theft, the suspect, a 34-year-old male from Los Angeles, attempted to leave and became combative as the officers attempted to detain him. After he was detained, a glass pipe to smoke methamphetamine was located in the suspect's backpack. A records check also revealed he was on parole. The suspect was arrested and transported to the Arcadia City Jail for booking.

DUARTE POLICE BLOTTER

December 27, 2022

- Petty Theft : 1600 Mountain Avenue (Walmart). On December 27, 2022, at 8:00 PM, suspect unknown, a male black adult approximately 30 years old, 5'02", 125lbs., wearing a black jacket, gray pants, and black and white "Nike" shoes, was at the customer service desk attempting to return a prepaid phone card. The suspect became upset when employees told him they do not do returns. The suspect jumped over the counter, took an "HP" laptop, and ran outside without attempting to purchase the item. The loss is approximately \$400. Surveillance video is available.

December 28, 2022

- No significant activity.

December 29, 2022

- No significant activity.

December 30, 2022

- Burglary (Vehicle): 2200 block of Broach Avenue. Between December 29, 2022, 3:00 PM and December 30, 2022, 12:00 AM suspect(s) unknown entered the victim's "locked" vehicle, a 2014 Honda CRV, by unknown methods and stole her wallet from the center console and a bag of jewelry from the glove box. The loss was approximately \$7,600. No surveillance video is available.

December 31, 2022

- Aggravated Assault: 1300 Block of Three Ranch Road. On December 31, 2022, at 6:30 PM, suspect unknown, a male black adult wearing a dark sweater and dark sweatpants pushing a shopping cart, approached the victims while they were on their porch. The victims asked if they could help the suspect when the suspect became angry and positioned himself in a fighting stance, and attempted to throw punches at the victims. The suspect landed a punch on one of the victims, so the other victim wrapped his arms around the suspect to prevent him from getting punched. The suspect broke free, produced a small knife, and swung it at the victims, stabbing one of the victims once in the arm. Both victims ran inside the house and the suspect left towards Buena Vista and out of view. No surveillance video is available.

See something, say something. If you observe vandalism (Graffiti) occurring, please call "911" and report the incident. If you have information and would like to remain anonymous, make a call to CRIME STOPPERS 1 (800) 222-TIPS(8477), email [LACRIMESTOPPERS.ORG](mailto:LACRIMESTOPPERS.ORG), or download the mobile APP "P3 TIPS".



# AROUND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

## Peter Dills Knows

### SO ...WHO PAYS ?

The holidays they are in the rear view mirror but it seems like January is full of birthdays and other celebrations. When its my birthday or Father's Day and I'm with family I still pick up the bill, seems like it's a Dills' tradition. The other night my friend Manny Almeida had a birthday and I almost had to wrestle the bill away from him.

This week's adventure is something that we can all relate to, going out with friends and family- the dreaded bill! Dining out is certainly one of the delights of life. Disagreeing over how to split a check can be frustrating and downright awkward. It has happened to me just recently. We were all done with the meal when a tablemate mentioned he was picking up the tab of someone else's portion of the bill because they treated last time. Ok, that's fine but what happened next was, 'Thanks, I am glad you remembered. Let me order after-dinner drinks on us. On us?' Sure enough I was stuck with the portion of the additional bottle of wine. Did I mention it was \$130? What to do?

Here are a few suggestions that I have learned might lessen the burden:

1. Be up front: "I love that restaurant, but this is my budget."
2. While waiters may cringe, tell the server from the beginning that you want a separate bill
3. Keep track of what you order.
4. Traditionally the person who made the invite paid for the bill. We all know that is long gone, though my feeling is that the person who made the invite can and should be in charge of the accounting. We know that some of us are more generous than others. If you are the one ordering, you might offer to pay for the entire tip once the bill is evenly split.

All in all, it usually evens out in the end. If it's a few dollars here and there don't worry about it. If the high roller keeps ordering the Patrón shots, tell him 'thanks for the shots. I'll have a bottle waiting for you at my house for the next party. If you aren't invited to the next dinner party, it might be for the best!!!

Dining with Dills Radio on AM 830  
Great News: The Front Runner at the Santa Anita Race Track has brought the very popular Crab Cakes and the original recipe!! Check it out

## ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

There is a presence, a silence, a stillness which is here by itself. There is no doer of it, no creator of this stillness. It is simply here in you, with you. It is the fragrance of your own self. There is nothing to do about this, it is naturally present. This fragrance of peace, this spaciousness, it is the fragrance of your own being.

Mooji

Thoughts in your head are really no different than the sound of a bird outside. It is just that you decide that they are more or less relevant.They disappear if not given attention like wisps of smoke. Adyashanti

Your Self, Aware Presence, knows no resistance to any appearance and, as such, is happiness itself; like the empty space of a room it cannot be disturbed and is, therefore, peace itself; like this page, it is intimately one with whatever appears on it and is thus love itself; and like water that is not affected by the shape of a wave, it is pure freedom. Causeless joy, imperturbable peace, love that knows no opposite and freedom at the heart of all experience....this is your ever-present nature under all circumstances. Rupert Spira



*Dining  
With  
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Saturday, January 21st  
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### Katnip News!



#### MEET TINO & TINA

Happy New Year! Time to get a dog? Lookin' for a couple of cuties? Meet TINO & TINA, very young adults. They're dog and human friendly, and playful. Would probably be great for a family with children. They still need to learn a few things, which their foster is working on. They'll come spayed & neutered, etc.



Learn more about them on our Pooch Place web-site page: [www.lifelineforpets.org/pooch-place.html](http://www.lifelineforpets.org/pooch-place.html). Start off a grr-eat year with a new pet! We have beautiful cats and kittens, too. [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org)

## Pet of the Week

Delta is extremely intelligent and very playful! This five-year-old dog loves to play fetch (and knows "drop it"), knows how to sit on command, and even waits for his food. He's very gentle and polite and is a big fan of belly rubs. Delta is housebroken and gets along with other dogs. Delta would be a great companion for someone with an active lifestyle!

The adoption fee for dogs is \$150. All dog adoptions include spay or neuter, microchip, and age-appropriate vaccines.

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 and schedule an adoption appointment at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org). Adoptions are by appointment only, and new adoption appointments are available every Sunday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

Pets may not be available for adoption and cannot be held for potential adopters by phone calls or email.



Winter 2023  
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Adults Classes - Online & In Person  
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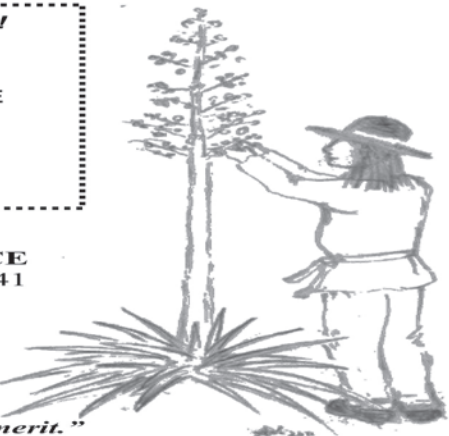
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If you have any questions about placing a loved one, visit [www.safepathforseniors.com](http://www.safepathforseniors.com) or call Steve at 626-999-6913



THE BEST REACHER GRABBER TOOLS OF 2023

Dear Savvy Senior:  
Can you recommend some good reacher-grabber tools for seniors with back or hip problems who need help picking things up off the ground? I bought a cheap one a few months ago that doesn't work very well but would like to find one that does. Bad Back Betty

Dear Betty:

A good “reacher-grabber” is a very practical and popular tool for anyone who struggles with injuries, arthritis or loss of mobility. It works like an extension of your arm allowing you to reach down and pick things up off the ground without bending or stooping over. It can also help with reaching and grabbing things in high overhead places, as well as areas that are difficult to get to.

But with so many different types of reacher-grabbers on the market today, finding a good one that works well for you is not always easy. Depending on your needs, here are some top-rated products to consider.

**All-purpose:** For retrieving small and medium-sized items, the “Ettore Grip’n Grab,” is a top option that can handle most chores. This 34-inch-long tool has a soft comfortable trigger handgrip and a rubberized jaw that’s strong enough to lift objects

up to 5 pounds and up to 4 inches wide, yet sensitive enough to pick up something as small as a dime. The jaw also rotates and locks at 90 degrees for vertical or horizontal use to help you reach things in awkward spaces.

**Lightweight:** If you want a reacher primarily for retrieving small lightweight items around the house, the “RMS Featherweight the Original Reacher” is a top pick. Available in 32 and 26-inch lengths, it’s made from ultra-lightweight aluminum and has a trigger-style handgrip with a serrated jaw that provides a secure grip when lifting objects.

It also has a magnet built into the tip for picking up lightweight metal objects like a paperclip, and a small hook (or horn) that aids in retrieving things like clothes, shoes or keys. It even has a built-in clip on the arm so you can attach it to canes, walkers and wheelchairs. But, because of its super-lightweight design, it doesn’t work well at retrieving heavier items like canned goods from shelves.

**Foldable:** For easier storage, the top selling folding grabber is the “Zayad Reacher Grabber Tool,” which is 32-inches long and has a slip-joint in the arm that allows it to easily

fold in half. It also has a soft ergonomic grip with a rubberized, rotating jaw that can lift objects up to three pounds and up to 4 inches wide.

**Heavy-duty:** For heavier lifting jobs or for outdoor use, the “Unger Nifty Nabber” is a top choice. Available in 36 and 48-inch lengths, this sturdy tool has a rubber-coated heavy-duty claw that grips small, large, and odd-shaped items with ease. It also has a built-in magnet for picking up small metal objects, an ergonomic squeeze-grip handle and can lift 8 pounds.

**Where to Buy**  
You can buy reacher-grabbers at many pharmacies, retail, medical equipment and home improvement stores. But, because it’s a specialty item, the selection is very limited. Your best bet is to buy one online at Amazon.com, which sells all of the top reacher-grabbers at prices ranging from around \$10 to \$20. Just type the product name in the search bar to find it.

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

SENIOR HAPPENINGS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...JANUARY BIRTHDAYS\*

Gerald Day, Mary Tassop, Judy Webb-Martin, John Johnson, Mary Bickel, Marlene Enmark, Shirley Wolf, Ross Kellock, Ruth Wolter, Sandy Thistlewaite, Bobbi Rahmanian, Fran Syverson, Judy Zaretzka and Becky Evans. \* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

DOMINOES TRAIN GAME  
1st & 3rd Wednesdays 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.

TEA AND TALK BOOK CLUB  
Tuesday, 1/11 & 1/25 9:00 am Hart Park House

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, 1/17 10:00 am Hart Park House

If you enjoy knitting, crocheting, embroidery, needlepoint, bunka, huck, tatting or cross stitch then we have a group for you! Bring your current project, sit and chat with like-minded fiber friends.

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.

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 or the Hart Park House.

BINGO  
Thursday, 1/19 Hart Park House 1:00 pm-2:00 pm  
Please join in a fun and lively game of BINGO. Several rounds fun will be had with prizes for each rounds winner.

OUT TO PASTOR  
A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder  
WHERE IS THE GRACIOUS MISTRESS OF THE PARTRONAGE?

Our family's Christmas this year was the best one yet. But, of course, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says that every year. I completely agree with her this year.

Our great-granddaughter served as the focal point of our Christmas this year. She assumed that position because she was born two weeks before Christmas. What a gift.

This is our second great-grandchild. The first one is in Ohio, and we don't get to see him very often. But this new great-granddaughter is only seven minutes from our house. I was to realize what a difference that would be.

My granddaughter's mother and grandmother are now there to support this precious little great-granddaughter.

The time our granddaughter’s mother can spend with her granddaughter is limited because of her work schedule.

The great-grandmother, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, is free to visit the great-granddaughter whenever she pleases. Her “free” does have a cost, and I would soon find out that cost.

Every time we visit, I have to pull the great-grandmother away. I'm not entirely sure how this great-granddaughter will affect her when she's a few months old and then a few years old because she's only a few weeks old now. So I need to get ready for that.

The previous week was an interesting one. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my office on Monday morning as I was working and said, "I'm going to visit my great-granddaughter, and I prepared lunch in the refrigerator for you in case I don't get back in time." She sped off and drove to the great-granddaughter's house without waiting for any response from me.

It was a relatively quiet morning. I stopped to check the time and realized it was time to eat. When I entered the kitchen, it was completely dark and quiet. I then recalled her mentioning going to the great-granddaughter's house.

My lunch was in the refrigerator, just as she had predicted. So I took the lunch plate out of the fridge and sat in my chair to eat my meal. I then returned to the kitchen with my empty plate and entered my office to continue working on my day's project.

Because I had not heard any sounds coming from the other rooms of the house. I decided to check on the infamous great-grandmother. She wasn't anywhere in sight.

I hoped she didn't have an accident because I didn't know where she could be. That started to worry me. She's never been known to leave the house for an extended period without sending me a text or making a phone call. Did she have a problem of some sort?

I was ready to text her on my cell phone when I heard her pull into the driveway. Then, as she entered the door, she said, "I forgot what time it was. I was having so much fun...." Then she began story after story of time with her great-granddaughter that day.

When I woke up the following morning, her side of the bed was vacant. I assumed she awoke early to prepare breakfast. There was no one in the kitchen when I went there.

Looking around, I noticed a note on the refrigerator, "My great-granddaughter needed me this morning, so I dropped everything to go and help her. Make your own breakfast."

Making a meal was simple because I'm not much of a breakfast hound dog. So the coffee was the main component of my breakfast, and there was plenty of it.

When I stopped midway through the morning while working in my office, I heard no noise coming from the other parts of the house. Unless there was an emergency involving the great-granddaughter, I assumed my wife should have returned home by this point.

I started to worry about the welfare of that tiny infant. Why would The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage be so preoccupied with her if nothing was wrong?

When lunchtime arrived, I made my lunch. There's nothing better than a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch and a hot cup of coffee. So I returned to my desk after lunch to pick up on my work.

I paused and listened for a while after lunch, but there was only silence. I was starting to worry a little bit. Was the great-granddaughter ill, or did the great-grandmother get into some accident returning home?

Where is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage?

Then I heard her drive into the driveway, exit the car, and enter the house. Then, I asked, "Is the great-granddaughter having any problems?"

"Oh, the great-granddaughter is doing great," she said, beaming one of those smiles in my direction. "I spent the entire day with her and had a great time."

She then began a series of stories about herself and her great-granddaughter, giggling while she told me various details about that young baby.

After a few weeks, whenever I ask myself, "Where is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage?" I only have to think about that great-granddaughter. That's where she is.

I believe Solomon in the Old Testament had it right when he said, “Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.” (Proverbs 17:6).

Children are truly a blessing from God. But grandchildren and great-grandchildren are beyond blessing. It is God’s reward He gives to those faithful parents.



FAMILY MATTERS  
By Marc Garlett  
3 ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE CREATING YOUR WILL ONLINE

If you are looking to create your last will and testament online, you'll find dozens of websites that let you prepare a variety of estate planning documents for very little money, or even for free. With so many do-it-yourself online document services out there, you might believe you can create your will online, all on your own, without paying a lawyer to help.

And in some cases, you can. But if you do, you need to understand how these services may backfire on you and your family. Online estate planning can be a catastrophe for those who aren't aware of the risks. And as you'll see, creating your will online without a lawyer's guidance can even be worse for your family than if you'd done nothing at all.

However, if you are determined to create your own will online, first ask yourself the following 3 questions. After considering these 3 questions, if you determine you can create your own will online, you should seriously consider having an experienced estate planning lawyer review it for you once you complete the document to be certain you've properly covered everything and everyone you care about.

1 - Will your online will keep your family out of court?  
When considering creating your own will online, the first question you need to ask yourself is: "Should I become incapacitated or when I die, do I want to keep my family out of court?" If your answer is "Yes, I 100% want to keep my family out of court," then creating your own will online may not be the best idea.

While a will is a necessary element of most estate plans, it's typically just one small part of an integrated plan. And a will by itself won't keep your family out of court. For assets covered by your will to be transferred to your beneficiaries, your will must first pass through the court process known as probate.

During probate, the court oversees the administration of your assets and assets, ensuring your estate are distributed according to your wishes, while ensuring any creditors of your estate are paid, and

managing any disputes that arise. Probate is lengthy, expensive, and open to the public, so you'll want to have more than a will in place if you have any assets that would go through court in the event of your incapacity or death.

To avoid probate and keep your assets out of court, your will needs to be combined with other planning documents and important conversations as well. These documents include a properly drafted and funded trust, up-to-date and effective beneficiary designations, and you'll also need to have conversations with family to ensure they won't end up in conflict due to a lack of preparation. Beneficiary designations and trust planning can be complex, and if you have assets that would otherwise pass through the probate court process, it may be difficult to ensure you are making all the right choices for your loved ones and your assets using an online document service. Therefore, I recommend that you begin your estate planning by consulting an attorney. During your consultation, the lawyer should help you look at your family dynamics and your assets, and then assess what would happen to everything you have and everyone you love, if and when something happens to you. Together, you can then determine the right plan for you and the people you love to help keep them out of court when something happens to you.

2 - Is your online will's execution legally valid?  
If you do not have assets that would go through the court process, and you want to create an online will simply to name someone as your executor in the event of your death, you'll want to make sure your online will is legally valid. Each state has specific laws stipulating how a will must be documented and signed to be legally binding. If you fail to execute your will in accordance with these laws, the court can deem your will legally invalid. If the court deems your will invalid, it's as if the document never existed. In that case, the court would name the person

it considers best to handle your estate, and your assets would be distributed according to state intestacy laws, which may not necessarily match your wishes. If you want to ensure your online will is legally valid, you must sign it properly, and have the right number and type of witnesses.

3 - Does your online will properly name an executor?  
If you are going to create your own online will, the last question to consider is whether the will properly names an executor, along with back-ups, and that it ensures those you name will be appointed by the court in the event of your death. An executor, also called a “personal representative,” is the person responsible for carrying out the instructions in your will. Your executor is typically named in your will and appointed by the court to locate and manage your assets, pay any outstanding debts and taxes you owe, and distribute your remaining assets to your beneficiaries. If you don't name an executor in your will, or the person you choose is determined to be unfit, the court will appoint an executor for you. As an example of how things can go wrong here, one common situation in which a named executor can be determined to be unfit is if your will does not waive the requirement for the executor to obtain a bond, and your named executor cannot qualify for a bond. This is a frequent mistake made by those who create their own will online.

The Professional Support You Deserve  
As you can see, creating your will online without a lawyer's help is a bit of a gamble, and if you get it wrong, it can cost your family a lot more than money. Rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all document service, meet with a trusted attorney to help get a proactive, customized, and effective plan in place during 2023. Your loved ones will reap the benefits. To your health, wealth, and family legacy,

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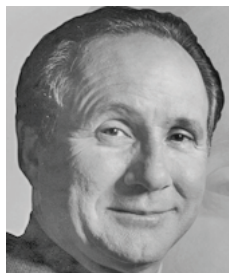
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## MICHAEL REAGAN

### THE REPUBLICANS MESS UP THE HOUSE



*NOTE: This article was submitted on Thursday, prior to McCarthy winning on the 15th ballot. It's been a political clown show.*

It's been a variation of the old truth that you shouldn't watch sausage or legislation being made.

It's been a rare primetime glimpse into the minds of politicians who'd rather break up into factions and fight with their own party members than find common ground and fight against their natural political foes.

I'm referring, of course, to this week's prolonged soap opera in the House of Representatives, where the Republican Party is now narrowly in control, 222-213, yet appears to be unable to elect a speaker.

Rep. Kevin McCarthy was always the favorite to replace the dethroned wicked queen, Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

But he needs 218 votes from his fellow Republicans to win the job and after 11 votes in the House, as of Thursday evening about 20 hardline conservatives were still refusing to vote for him.

The conservatives don't have a guy of their own for speaker. They also don't have a plan for what they want the House to do or focus on. They just don't want McCarthy.

Whether McCarthy or someone else is ultimately elected, the prolonged fight over who gets to be House Speaker is a bad omen for Republicans.

After the midterms, they were

all fired up to stop the Biden administration's madness at home and abroad and maybe even do some good things to reverse some of it.

But if they can't even agree on electing a speaker, and if individual House members get the power they want to hold up any bill whenever they want, what's going to happen when Republicans have to address something big, like the debt ceiling?

No GOP speaker is ever going to have "Pelosi Power." No Republican House will ever become a speaker's rubber stamp like Pelosi's. Republicans are notoriously hard to keep together - they're like herding cats. Feral cats.

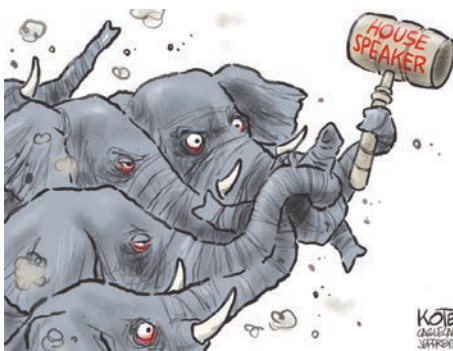
That means some Republicans are going to want the House to spend the next two years holding hearings to investigate Hunter Biden, his family and father.

Others will want to investigate Anthony Fauci and the CDC, or find out who screwed up in Afghanistan. Others will want to focus first on the southern border, inflation or Ukraine.

In the case of going hard after Hunter Biden, it would be a complete waste of the Republican Party's time and political capital.

We already know Hunter's a criminal. We know he's been selling access to his father to foreign governments and companies for decades.

But does anyone seriously think that the Biden Department of Justice is going to take down Hunter or investigate "the Big Guy"? Or that the mainstream media will cover it properly? No.



The Democrats, as bad as they are, are not dysfunctional as a party. The Republicans, as good as they might be, are absolutely dysfunctional - and this week they've proved it.

The party needs a strong leader to stand up in the House and be allowed to lead. You can't lead with a small caucus of hardline conservatives that can change week to week.

If you ask me, I'd pick Steve Scalise. He's a real GOP hero. And no Republican is going to vote against someone who took a bullet for the party.

In any case, unless the anti-McCarthy forces in the House can come up with their own leader, they need to just shut up and get back to work.

The most important thing for Republicans to do now is to unite and begin working to prevent Bidenism from wrecking any more of the country.

If Republicans don't get their act together soon and start doing the business of the people who elected them, it's a cinch they won't be in control of the House after the 2024 elections.

If that happens, we might be better off with the Democrats running the House forever, because it seems Republicans are much better at leading from behind than the front.

Michael Reagan, the son of President Ronald Reagan, is an author, speaker and president of the Reagan Legacy Foundation.



## DINAH CHONG WATKINS

### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WRONG KIND

#### MY BEST FRIEND



Bandit. Beggar. Protector. Mule-Headed. Mind Reader. Snore Buddy.

These and others are some of the names I bestow upon my best friend. And while yes, some of these can also apply to my husband, in this case I'm writing about my dog.

Baozi - the Chinese word for Dumpling, was more of a giant, mutant hamster than a 4 week old Chow Chow puppy when I first met her in Shanghai. She was careening around the closet-sized "pet store", giddy to be free of the tiny cage the vendor locked her in. Although I wasn't familiar with Chows, Baozi's vivaciousness won me over and if Martha Stewart had Chows, they had to be good, after all, she's the woman who elevated Pigs in a Blanket to the elites.

If you combined an aristocratic princess from the 17th century, a dog, a cat, a lone wolf and a pubescent teenager; you would get a Chow. Intelligent, aloof and studiously clean (okay, so not like a teenager), they are a one-person dog who madly knowing what you're telling them but is too cool to do it (so very much like a teenager).

Unlike Labradors or Border Collies, Chow Chows have

the attitude of "What have you done for me lately?" rather than "Pleasing you pleases me."

Of course, the fact that Chow Chows look like real-life Teddy Bears mean they can melt the hearts of serial killers or even a hard-nosed IRA Audit Specialist. And their loyalty knows no bounds. Loyalty is the friend who drives 30 miles to the airport at the break of dawn to deliver her friend's passport who needs it to go on his Cabo vacation. Loyalty is the family who sticks by you during consequences that leave you isolated and abandoned. Loyalty is a Chow Chow who forsakes all others for only you.

But then, this combination is totally awkward when we take Baozi for walks as her Brad Pitt magnetism attracts people who gleefully want nothing better than to pet and cuddle her. Their squeals of delight are met by Baozi's total indifference as she walks away to sniff at some dog's old pee markings.

We took the basics steps to train Baozi - Sit, Stay, Heel was accomplished but when we wanted more advance training that would require a professional, this became a problem.

The first dog trainer I called hung up as soon as I told him I had a Chow. The second was more optimistic but insisted I buy a full board package with a weekly follow up. When I told her I only needed my dog to fetch she laughed and hung up. The

third dog trainer took 6 sessions and finally Baozi could fetch items on command - "command" meaning I must first show her the treat. It's a fair exchange. Baozi doesn't view me so much as her "owner" than her "staff".

It's been touted that Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend. But diamonds are slippery, pokey and small (unless you're a Kardashian), wear them in the wrong place at the wrong time and you may be relieved of it and the finger it was stuck on. A dog on the other hand doesn't care what you look like, what afflicts you, whether you've made the rent or whether you feel you deserve to be loved.

There's an over-abundance of dogs and cats at the local shelters now hoping for their fur-ever family, chances are your best friend is there waiting for you.

(Sung to My Best Friend with apologies to Harry Nilsson)  
People let me tell you 'bout my best friend  
She's a warm hearted puppy who'll love me 'til the end  
People let me tell you 'bout my best friend  
She's a one girl cuddly curl, my up, my down, my pride and pearl  
People let me tell you 'bout her she's so much fun  
Whether we're walkin' in the sun or whether we're snuggling one to one  
Cause she's my best friend  
Yes she's my best friend

Dinah Chong Watkins column appears every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month.

## RICH & FAMOUS

### HEADLINE GRABBERS AND GARBLERS



What came first, the chicken or the egg? And when it comes to newspapers, what is more important, the headline or the article? The truth is no matter how good your article is, without a killer headline no one will read it. So, as a service I have collected screwy headlines over the years. Let me share a few of my favorites:

"Tokyo Train Crash! Four killed; Three Seriously" (Fortunate for that one who was killed but not seriously.)

"Nine Volunteers Put in Church Furnace" (I guess there was a wood and coal shortage.)

"Man Found Dead in Cemetery" (What else can I say.)

Figure this one out: "Highway 4 Bypass Overpass Bypassed."

"Teacher Strikes Idle Kids" (Ouch!)

"Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures" (That must have been before global warming.)

"Stolen Painting Found by Tree" (I wonder what reward the tree got.)

"Panda Mating Fails: Chief Veterinarian Takes Over" (Let's just not go there.)

"Plane Too Close to Ground, Crash Probe Told" (That will do it every time.)

"Mayor Says D.C. is Safe Except for Murders" (Well, if that's all.)

"One-Armed Man Applauds the Kindness of Strangers."

"War Dims Hope for Peace."

"Kids Make Nutritious Snacks"

"Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors"

Speaking of highways "Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge."

"Slowdown Continues to Accelerate."

"Police Arrest Everyone on February 22nd!"

"Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons."

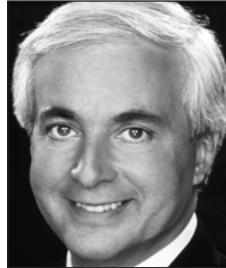
"Utah Poison Control Center Reminds Everyone Not to Take Poison."

"Voters to Vote on Whether to Vote."

Saturday night, January 21st, my band, JJ Jukebox will be performing a "Crosby, Stills, and Nash" like acoustic concert at Corfu Restaurant in Sierra Madre. 6:00-9:00pm. Call (626) 355-5993 for reservations. Corfu is a wonderful Mediterranean Cuisine Restaurant (they also serve Greek Food). Located at 48 West Sierra Madre Blvd. (1/2 block west of Baldwin, south side). Parking in the public parking lot directly behind the restaurant.

## PETER FUNT

### HOW BARBARA WALTERS CRAFTED HER INCOMPARABLE CAREER



Barbara Walters might never have become a powerful force in broadcast journalism had she lacked the chutzpah to extract a promise from her bosses at NBC News in 1973.

As she explained it to me, she had already worked at the "Today" show for a dozen years, serving first as a writer and then as the "Today girl" on set — a bubbly balance to the program's

male host, the journalist Frank McGee. If McGee were ever to leave, NBC pledged, she would be named co-host, an unprecedented role for a woman.

Eight months later, McGee died of cancer. Five days after that, Walters was named co-host and given a voice in selecting her new on-air partner, the unassuming newsman from local TV, Jim Hartz.

Almost every obit about Barbara Walters, who died Dec. 30 at 93, mentions that she "broke the glass ceiling" in TV news. A measure of the enormity of that challenge was contained in Frank McGee's own arrangement with NBC, stipulating that during in-studio interviews he would always ask the first three questions, lest viewers conclude that the woman at his side was of equal status.

I suppose it would be considered a compliment to say that McGee was a shrewd negotiator. But to use the same term about Walters would be perceived quite negatively, especially a half-century ago. She was, indeed, shrewd. And demanding. And often manipulative in dealing with superiors, writers like me who covered her and, most of all, the wide range of politicians and showbiz celebrities whom she persuaded to open up — even shed tears — on camera.

She left NBC in 1976 to become TV's highest-paid news anchor at the time, seated alongside Harry Reasoner on the "ABC Evening News." Her \$1 million annual salary was roughly double what CBS icon Walter Cronkite was earning.

Privately, Reasoner dismissed the new pairing as so much network gimmickry. For her part, Walters acknowledged on her first broadcast that some viewers might have tuned in, "out of curiosity, drawn by the rather too much attention and overblown publicity given to my new duties and my hourly wage."

She survived the flop that the ABC newscast turned out to be and managed to parlay it into a robust career focused primarily on interviewing, for which she was best known. Even that included careful calculation. Though she did interviews both live and recorded, she preferred the latter format. "Whoever holds the scissors controls the entire interview," she told me.

Whenever I wrote about her, even a brief mention, I received a handwritten thank you note in the mail. I wasn't flattered so much as I was impressed by a woman who knew she had to work harder to compete in a male-dominated field.

There are a lot of women in broadcasting today who would like to send Barbara Walters a note of thanks.











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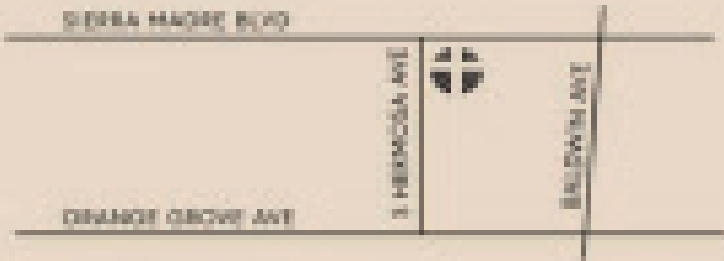
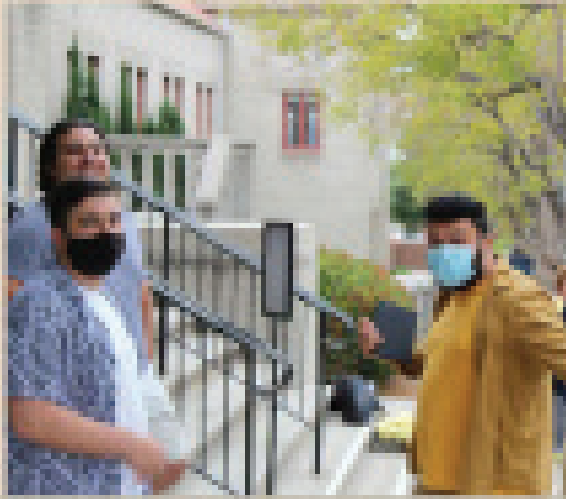
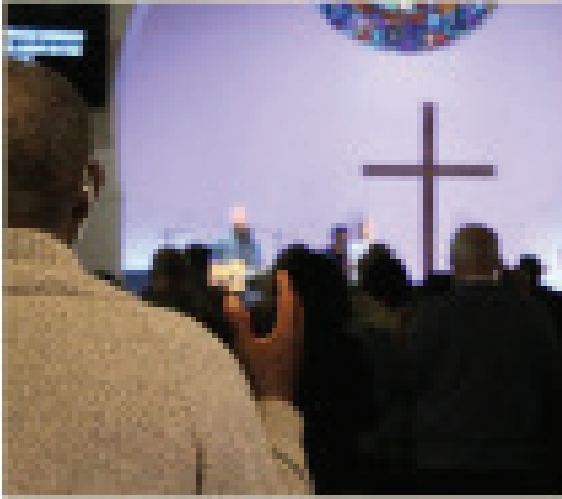


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