


VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY

Honoring All Who Served

Sunday, November 9 '08 1 P.M.

Sierra Madre Memorial Park
Veterans Picture Wall

222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Northeast Corner of Park @ Hermosa Avenue

Sponsored by the Sierra Madre
Veterans of Foreign Wars
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Legal Troubles Loom Over Sierra Madre Police Department

Chief Diaz - Rank and File Differ Over Deparment Direction - Vote Of No Confidence Held

By Susan Henderson

Following the recent rejection by the Sierra Madre City Council of a grievance filed by the SM Police Officer's Association (POA), multiple lawsuits have been filed against the city and/or Chief Marilyn Diaz. Last week, the POA has taken their dissatisfaction with Diaz's management of the department a step further but taking a Vote of No Confidence against the Chief. In a statement released by POA Attorney Sanjay Bonsall, *"The SMPOA conducted the vote by secret ballot (all dispatchers, police officers, corporals and sergeants in the Police Department)."* While the statement says a Vote of No Confidence was taken, it is unclear if the results were affirmative or negative. In a telephone conversation with Bonsall shortly before press time, he could not remember what the exact vote was but implied that the officers had expressed a lack of confidence in the Chief.

Among the most glaring issues contained in the release, the SMPOA is concerned with Diaz's request that they attend a two day retreat to improve team building and morale and the cost of the retreat to the city; the number of internal affairs investigations that

Diaz has contracted out in the last year; the changing of dispatcher and patrol hours from three 12 hour days to five 8 hour days; allegations of Diaz illegally searching officers lockers, and the expense that the city will incur to defend the two lawsuits that the SMPOA has filed against the city and Diaz. The release does not mention the third lawsuit filed against the city and Diaz by John Ellins, President of the POA.

City Manager Elaine Aguilar says that the city *"shares Diaz's vision that Sierra Madre Police Department should be a premier law enforcement agency in the San Gabriel Valley. Change isn't an easy thing for all individuals to deal with. What we have here is a highly professional, competent Police Chief who has come into an organization and is doing her best to make sure that this community is provided with the best police services possible. Some people just adjust to changes easier than others."* Aguilar also noted that some of the information contained in the press release was incorrect, specifically the numbers cited regarding the Internal Investigation requests.

Diaz is just shy of the third anniversary as (cont. on page 3)

No. 44: BARACK OBAMA



President elect Barack Obama speaks on the economy at his first news conference since winning the election at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago, Illinois, USA 07 November 2008. Obama and Vice president elect Joseph Biden met earlier with members of the Transition Economic Advisory Board. TANNEN MAURY

Future of Historic Sierra Madre Church Still Uncertain

By Dean Lee

Caught in a dilemma, the Sierra Madre City Council, recently postponed adding 186 W. Highland Avenue to the city's register of landmark properties and any future development options on the property. Many proposals have been discussed for the historic project, including everything from low income housing to a possible children's library. The issue will come back to the council in both open and closed sessions.

No one could argue with longtime resident Glenn Lamdbin's case that the once Christian Science Church had a history that can be traced back to Nathaniel C. Carter, considered the founder of the city. It was Lamdbin who filed for historic designation. City Attorney Sandra Levin cautioned that doing so could get in the way of meeting the Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) housing element. This was the second time Lamdbin nominated the property. The first failed in October 1998 because it would have lowered the property's value he said. "It was denied 3-2," Lamdbin explained. "The reason was because financial concerns... it makes it less desirable for a developer to want to come in and try and work in those parameters. Restrictions can also make something less saleable or decrease value."

In a brief history of the site Lamdbin said, architecturally, it's the only neighborhood church of its kind in Sierra Madre. It also has ties to social reform going on in the late 1800s. Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science, was recently honored in the National Women's Hall of Fame. The Carter's were also once followers of her teachings and attended the church.

Mosca said, with its history, the building was worth saving and asked that the city's Planning Commission take a look at it. He also said he wanted to look at uses that would preserve it.

"One of the factors HCD looks at in determining whether or not to agree with a city and assign credit to a site that has been selected low/moderate housing is how many constraints have been placed on the development of the site," she said adding that historic designation could be a constant.

Levin also said that because the city owns the property through the Community Redevelopment Agency they could put restrictions on the site similar to California's Secretary of Interior's Standards For Rehabilitation. However, if the city used the site for something other than low income housing they may have to find another way to meet the housing element. "I guess my advice is that before you get too far down the road towards designating this as historical, you should also consider whether you want to try and get credit for it in the housing element process," she explained. The council decided to revisit historic designation after they had gotten credit from HCD. Councilwoman MacGillvray moved to direct staff to discuss the options for this property with our housing development consultant and explore the pros and cons of the opportunities presented to us this evening and to schedule a closed session for negotiations. The motion was seconded by Joe Mosca and the motion passed.

A number of residents did ask if the property was up for sale. "I wanted to ask the council if they would entertain the lease or sale of the property to the public," resident Elise Carson asked. "I think the property would be wonderful site for a childcare/daycare center, after school care... I would love to start a daycare and that would be a great place for it."

Resident Fred Crocket said he would also like the opportunity to rehabilitate the building. New Planning Commissioner, Kevin Paschall suggested using it as (cont. page 3)



Sierra Madre Parents , Teri Buchanan, Helen Stapenhorst (PTA president), Mimi Carter with her daughter Holly, Victoria Mualem, Penny Ibbotson, and Deanna Stambouljian worked very hard for the passage of Measure TT. Photo By Darla Dyson

Inside The MountainViews-Observer This Week

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Read The Paper Online At: www.mvobserver.com

Calendar & Arts

Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s
Tues: Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s
Wed: Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s
Thur: Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s
Fri: Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

Author At the Bookstore

Sierra Madre resident and author Christopher Cobb discusses and signs his new illustrated book, "Van Wyck and the Pirates of the Outland," Sat., Nov 8 at 5 p.m. at Sierra Madre Books, 18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. This post-apocalyptic, noir-inspired mystery starts in the canyons of Sierra Madre and travels across the Southland and into the deserts outside Palm Springs. With stunning illustrations by artist Scott Griffin. This event is co-sponsored by the Sierra Madre Community Arts Commission.

BARGAIN BOOK SALE

WHAT: The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a Bargain Book Table Sale inside the Library during the Library's public open hours. Featured subjects will include Fiction, Mysteries, Children's and Specialty books, all in good condition. Stock up on goodies to give or to keep. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00 each.

WHEN: Monday November 10 through Saturday, November 15. Please note that the Library will be closed for Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11.

WHERE: The Sierra Madre Public Library, located at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard in Sierra Madre, is open Monday through Wednesday from Noon to 9 p.m., Thursday & Friday from Noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For further information on programs and services please visit the Library's web site at www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us or call (626) 355-7186.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November</h1>				<h2>Thursday 6</h2> <p>Mudslide Awareness Meeting 6:30PM Sierra Madre School Planning Commission Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber Senior Community Commission 3:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber</p>		
General Election 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM At Your Local Polling Place				4		
Community Services Commission 6:00 p.m. Council Chamber		Tree Advisory Commission 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber		Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber		5
		Library Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. City Hall Conference Room				
<h1>Happy Thanksgiving!</h1>						

Five Kilo Youth Run

Get out and get active! The Pasadena Marathon is sponsoring a 5K run on November 16, 2008. Training runs for this race will be held at Sierra Vista Park in front of the Youth Activity Center. Training is Sunday at 4:00pm.

Sierra Madre Woman's Club 32nd Annual Community Prayer Breakfast.
 Wednesday, November 19, 8 to 9 a.m.
 550 West Sierra Madre Blvd.
 Reservations **REQUIRED** to Dixie Coutant, dixie@coutant.com or 355-4908



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Live @ 322 November

Saturday 1 – Jazz Vocalist VR Smith
Wednesday 5 – Too Many Guitars with Tom McNamara & Van Webster
Thursday 6 – The Danny Guerrero Jazz Trio
Friday 7 – The Bobby Bradford Motet
Saturday 8 – Thelonious Dub
Wednesday 12 – Max Buda
Thursday 13 – Jazz Vocalist Susan Krebs
Friday 14 – Jack Sheldon
Saturday 15 – Jane Fuller
Wednesday 19 – The Bruce Lofgren Jazz Orchestra
Thursday 20 – The Roger Claims Jazz Combo
Friday 21 – The Donovan Muradain Quartet
Saturday 22 – The Michael McDaniel Joint
Wednesday 26 – The Aluminum Marshmallow & the Age of Aquarius Horns
Friday 28 – Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom & the Jump Cats
Saturday 29 – Blues!! Thee Superstitions
Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the Café322 Singers – Every Sunday in November

Upcoming Holiday Events

A solemn and joyous concert of The Arroyo Singers showcases Maurice Durufle, French Twentieth Century composer's Gregorian chant influenced Requiem followed by a joyous wreath of carols by John Rutter with Nonna Ayrapatova accompanying.

The chorale will be directed by Dr. James Reitzell and organist Sal Soria of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Refreshments follow the concert.

Sunday December 7, 4:00 at Oneonta Congregational Church, 1515 Garfield, South Pasadena. Tickets: \$12.00 adults, \$10.00 seniors and students, children under 10 free. More info call: (626) 447-1977 or (626) 755-5792.

The Sequence

By Despina Tsiknas-Arzouman

Theatre may still be among the best mediums to teach matters of social import while entertaining. Real life topics, like the race to sequence the human genome, usually get brief mentions on TV news, or in an article printed in a section of the newspaper that the majority of readers might miss. If we're lucky, we might find a TV program on the subject. But, what if you're one of those people who don't like watching TV, or reading the newspaper, or believe that a science topic is too complicated to grasp? The Sequence dramatizes the question "who and what am /are I, you, we?" via the actual intellectual combativeness of two scientists, and one reporter. This was brilliantly written, by playwright Paul Mullin, and superbly directed by John Langs.

It is always curious how a sincere desire to research into life mysteries may oft become transformed --even corrupted-- into the age-old paradigm called competition. Then, it becomes the competition (not the research desire) that qualifies what perspective and course such competition will take. Competition implies there are at least two opposing views, or ideas, which become the driving force behind the "success" (proving) or "failure" (disproving), rather than following the initial sincere desire to know. In addition, opposing views are susceptible to attracting possibly unbalanced - and therefore "dangerous" - thoughts that support their respective perspective. Then, the competitive drive becomes the means and the ends. At one point, scientist Craig Venter (played by Hugo Armstrong) was clearly headlined as being the "Dark Prince" in the race, which illustrated how Venter's underlying drive was totally about gaining fame, notoriety, and monetary wealth; while scientist, Francis Collins (played by William Salyers) claimed to be fully concerned with the moral issues of such research. As depicted in the play, the respective competitive thoughts of each scientist then "colored" the scientific process, as well as the projected outcome(s); each exposing the limitations, biases, and ultimately the baseness of their thoughts (and subsequent actions). Their interpersonal competition then turned into an internal struggle to reconnect with the original meaning and purpose of their research. As in all finely written and executed plays, the paradigm of dark vs. light gets "played out" very well and on various levels in "The Sequence". It was also evident that reporter Kellie Silverstein (played by Karri Krause) was caught in her own battle between science and morality, and between fame and personal welfare, as she followed the progress of both scientists. The Sequence is a multilayered story of dualistic phenomena.

The Sequence should hopefully get everyone thinking (it did me) about "who and what am I", and inspire us to do our own thinking and feeling and delving into the patterns we each have found are to be repeated in life. From a philosophical perspective, it has been stated that all our true battles stem from an internal conflict, and that external conflicts are a reflection of the internal ones. When the pure search for truth collides with the competitive politicking thoughts (that also pervade one's thinking process), it distorts what one is seeking. If, through our work and interrelationships, thoughts are expressed, then where did those thoughts originally come from? Could thoughts (in the form of unconscious mistakes, habits, familial character traits) emanate out from what is encoded in our genes (because such predispositions were passed down through our ancestors)? Methinks the answers to such questions all get traced back to the phrase "Know Thy Self" - a Socratic as well as Taoist concept - which has more to do with the disciplined search for internal mindful integration, rather than unraveling the spirals cast within physical existence.

THE SEQUENCE will be playing through November 9th at The Theatre at Boston Court, 701 N. Mentor Street, Pasadena, CA. For additional information call (626) 683-6883, ext. 106; go to their website at www.bostoncourt.com.

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This unpredictably hilarious story (based on true events) depicts the double-talk and double-cross in the pursuit of double-stranded DNA.

The Sequence
 By Paul Mullin
 Directed by John Langs

LA WEEKLY •PICK OF THE WEEK•
"In a very pleasing twist of expectations, some fiercely human, comic moments make for breathtaking dramatic tension... Mullin's often outlandish explanations of the subject make for FASCINATING RAPID-FIRE ENTERTAINMENT."
-Tom Provenzano, LA Weekly

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Mudflow Awareness Update

By Dean Lee

The City of Sierra Madre held another meeting Thursday night informing residents what to do this rainy season in anticipation of possible debris flows and mudflows after The Santa Anita Fire in April stripped the hillside from vegetation. The new Incident Evacuation Plan that divides the hillsides and canyons into four areas was presented by City Manager Elaine Aguilar and Public Works Director Bruce Inman.

First however, Inman explained the importance of cooperation by the residents. He pointed out that residents needed to understand the city's Public Works department had only 12 employees and that they could not assist them if they decide not to evacuate in an emergency. "The way it works, half the staff goes home in an emergency and we work half on half off," he said. "You do the math, that's six people to cover 11 areas."

Inman informed the crowd that people needed to prepare their homes against mud and debris. Aguilar focused attention on the city's preparedness programs, including "Ready, Set, Go" a new flag alert system and "Ready for 7", a program on what to do after a disaster. Aguilar reminded the 20 or so residents that during a yellow flag alert, any car left on the street in the canyon would be towed, which is part of the new flag program. Mike Kinney of the Fire Safe Council asked if there was somewhere outside the canyon they could set aside to park. Aguilar said the city would look into it. She also said overnight parking restrictions would be null during an alert.

According to the city manager, more information can be found at the city's website: www.cityofsierramadre.com. She encouraged everyone to sign up for alerts and also said when rain was forecast the red, yellow or green flags would be posted on the front of the website. Physical flags would also go up and the city horn will be used to notify residents.

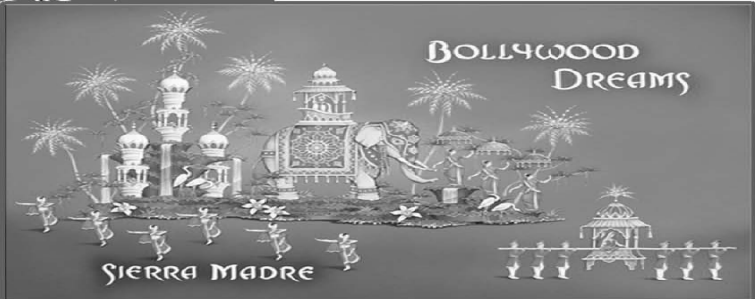
Sierra Madre has also setup four different incident evacuation plans and Aguilar went over them in detail. Area One is Santa Anita - Lotus Lane. Area Two is the Lower Canyon - Alta Vista - Woodland, Area Three is the Upper Canyon - Skyland - Canyon Crest, and Area Four is Mountain Trail - Auburn. Each area has a designated evacuation route that does not conflict with the Fire, Police and Public Works Incident Traffic Plan.

Fire Chief Steve Heydorff handed out copies of the four plans including maps and the locations of the information centers for evacuees. Aguilar said both the Sierra Madre School Upper campus and Lower campus would be open during an emergency for this purpose.

In related news, Aguilar said the city council is set to approve a bid by contractors to install K-rail along roads in areas prone to debris flows. K-rail is a type of concrete barricade used especially as highway dividers. In this case the city will use them to stop mud from reaching homes. The cost to the city could range from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million.

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ENJOY
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20%*
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CHURCH (cont. from page 1)

a children's library. "We ought to be taking steps about talking to the folks who have shown interest in this property and how they can be help us to accommodate those needs...", Councilmember John Buchanan said. "In cooperation with the city because that way we keep some control over the overall design."

Buchanan also expressed interest in green building techniques but said he did not know how compatible they were with the existing structure. He also said they bought the building in 1995 for affordable senior housing.

Councilmember Don Watts recused himself. Mayor Kurt Zimmerman said little during the discussion.



**November
7, 8, 9**
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Friday 7-9 pm
Erika Oller signing her new book & calendars, music & refreshments

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Nikki C's

Nikki C's is a small restaurant, which possesses a large appeal. It is named after the owner's daughter, and the restaurant has gathered a large, faithful following over the years among racetrack enthusiasts, local neighbors and a kaleidoscope of regulars from all parts unknown. It offers an Italian menu with an old American Flair. The restaurant is softly lit and has a club feel about it. The bar has six TV's and many of the patrons find Nikki C's as attractive and satisfying as Norm would on any Cheers episode. Most of the regulars sit at the bar when they take their main course and it appeared to me that they felt at ease, as if they were in there own home enjoying a meal.

For my last visit I decided to sit in the dining room, which is quaint, or, in proper American speak, on the small side. I wanted to get a better idea of what they had for a selection, so I decided that I would request half orders of appetizers and entrees. That way I could try more dishes and get a better idea of what they have to offer. For starters I had the Blue Cheese Wedge Salad (\$8). It is comprised of a crisp cut of lettuce topped with bacon bits and Blue Cheese dressing. That is one fantastic dish that I will order every time I attend this restaurant. I stuck with appetizers for our next course, which was a combination of Ahi Sashimi and Filet Mignon on toasted baguettes, with a touch of wasabi mayo (\$10), a gold medal winner for this critic. As an additional surprise our host Nikki brought us out a bacon-wrapped filet mignon and a bed

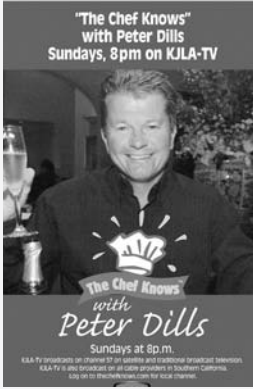
of Risotto. I felt the Risotto could have been cooked another minute, but was assured that it was done correctly. I guess I'm not so smart after all, no comment please! During the meal I enjoyed a Cadillac Margarita; I missed the ice float though. Well, that's just how I enjoy it.

Okay, entrée time. You just have to have Lasagna at an Italian Restaurant, don't you? Theirs brought back a forgotten memory of a place I went to in Hoboken NJ one rainy day. It has enough cheese to satisfy any cheese lover and a flavor that your mama would lift her fork to approvingly. Since I wasn't driving, I ended the night with a martini at the bar: tasty, but at \$12 a pop I'll stick with one drink; I think my budget demands it! I guess I thought I was at The Langham, Huntington Hotel & Spa, maybe I'll ask Bernanke for a bailout next time.

Nikki C's, 470 S. Rosemead Blvd., Pasadena (626) 792-7437 Well worth the drive. Check out their web site for exact prices and times of operation. www.nikkics.com.

Join me every Sunday Night at 8 PM for my TV Show The Chef Knows on KJLA TV

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POLICE (cont. from page 1)

Chief of the Sierra Madre Police Department. A retired officer with the Pasadena Police Department before coming to Sierra Madre, she has managed "hundreds of officers" during her career. At the time of her appointment in Sierra Madre, she was the only female Police Chief in Los Angeles County. According to Diaz, this is the first time such a vote has been taken by the rank and file against her in any capacity that she has served.

During her tenure, the POA and the city were finally able to reach the first contract agreement in over ten years. In April of this year, the citizens of Sierra Madre approved an increase in their User Utility Tax, making it one the highest in the state in order to pay for Police, Fire and Paramedic services. The POA is very concerned about the community's perception of their actions, however, they felt the lawsuits were necessary in order to get their grievances address.

Diaz, on the other hand is confident that her actions have been fair and justified. Due to privacy issues and the pending litigations, she was unable to speak about the matters in detail.

On the issue of internal investigations, however, she did clarify what the process is for turning matters over to Norm Traub Associates, he outside investigative agency contracted to serve as the city's Internal Affairs department. According to Diaz, the investigations are prompted by community complaints. She does not arbitrarily investigate officers at whim.

When a citizen lodges a complaint against the department or a particular officer, certain situations call for the matter to be turned over to an outside agency. By so doing, the city is attempting to give citizens a fair and unbiased investigation into the charges and to protect the city from expensive claims that often result in multi-million dollar judgments. Community complaints are not limited to complaints from citizens of Sierra

Madre, but are often from citizens that our officers have stopped and/or arrested that do not live in the city. Whether or not they go to the outside agency depends on the seriousness and complexity of the matter.

Sierra Madre is no different from any other police department and complaints range from allegations of false arrest, lack of probable cause, police brutality, harassment or allegations of theft by officers.

Diaz did comment on the claim that the two day retreat was an unnecessary expense to the city. This is the second year that she has held the retreat which was well attended. The focus is to teach officers how to improve communications, build better teams and how to uphold the chain of command. Funds for the retreat are provided by the State of California through the State Police Officers Standards and Training fund.

She also noted that she and Captain Giannini are the only officers in Los Angeles County who work patrol.

The cost of defending the litigations that has been brought by the POA is as yet undetermined. The POA is being represented by the same firm that handled the contract negotiations with the city previously. The city will have to provide legal counsel for the City and for Chief Diaz.



SMPD Chief Marilyn Diaz



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MountainViews-Observer



Pasadena

News From Your Community

Altadena

For Your Community

South Lake Optimistic

By Teresa Baxter

In every neighborhood of Pasadena there is evidence of national chain stores going out of business. Recently the city has witnessed the loss of the Pasadena Ford dealership, Linen's and Things, and the upcoming closure of Shoe Pavilion on South Lake Avenue.

Despite the indications that reflect our country's economic tailspin, several local entrepreneurs are venturing into business by setting up shop in the South Lake Business District.

Gina Tleel, the executive director of the South Lake Business Association remains optimistic and continues to move forward with projects that will enhance the shopping experience as the economy recovers. Currently, the South Lake Streetscape Improvement construction project is underway, which consists of street median upgrades. According to Tleel, new landscaping, high-tech irrigation and electrical systems will also be part of the renovations.

"We're thinking of the future when it comes to water conservation. California has been campaigning to get communities to do their part and we're setting the example," said Tleel. "The cool thing about the construction—that will be completed by Macy's re-opening—is that the holiday lights will also be in place adding to the vibrancy of the district."

Macy's chose to close in the month of May to revamp the interior of the store while also undergoing significant seismic upgrades. Their re-opening will be taking place on Saturday, Nov. 22, prior to what is known as "Black Friday", which is the Friday after Thanksgiving that symbolizes the beginning of the traditional Christmas shopping season.

One of the new tenants in the shopping district is J Beverly Hills Salon, located at 820 E. Green Street. The salon was established by Yuriy Garayan, who moved here from Russia, and his wife Acsanna. Yuriy decided to branch out on his own after earning a reputable following during his decade of service at Juan Juan Salon, an upscale hair salon located in Beverly Hills. The couple feels that they have embodied the "American Dream" with their new store location.

"The second I came to this country I felt the love. I didn't speak any English so I went to school to learn it," said Yuriy. "You can go anywhere around the world and see the suffering. People don't realize that we have everything here. All you need to do is work hard."

On South Lake Ave. the new ventures include a Subway franchise, Honey Nail Spa, Beard Papa's Fresh'n Natural Cream Puffs, Merle Norman Cosmetics and Cantaloop, which serves natural frozen yogurt.

"We love being in this neighborhood. It's bustling and sophisticated, and our customers are loyal and friendly," said Andrea Ferraco, owner of Cantaloop. "We plan on offering seasonal flavors and toppings during the holidays."

Soon to be opening businesses include the expanded Pasadena-based Breakthru Fitness Studio, Luther Bank and Giggle, a national chain touted as the one-stop source for today's new parent, offering a complete checklist of only the best products for a smarter nursery.

"I think this is a good time for businesses to come in and set up shop to fine tune their trade—so when the financial crisis is over everything is in place," said Tleel. "We're focusing on polishing up the area so when the economy rebounds we're ready to rock and roll. This down time is a productive time for me."

The district has also implemented two Ambassador Guides to canvass the area offering guidance and assistance to shoppers on issues that cover everything from customer service to parking protocol.

Celebration!

Thousands In Pasadena Gather Over Obama Win



All Smiles: Clockwise, Obama gives his acceptance speech shown on a large screen television at the Hilton. Upper right, an estimated 1,000 supporters, many crying, watch Obama's historic words. Lower right, many officials showed up including Pasadena Councilmember Jacque Robinson and (lower left) new Community College Cancellor Jack Scott.

Photos D. Lee/MVO



Police in Middle Schools Argued



By Dean Lee

Passions, on both sides, ran high Monday night as the city council weighed in on possibly expanding the police department's operation Safe School placing armed uniformed officers at both Wilson and Washington 6-8 grade middle schools.

Police Chief Bernard Melekian said the Pasadena Unified School district was looking to make official a situation that was already occurring. It also said the issue was to be heard by the PUSD.

"I would argue that we are formalizing a situation that already exists," he said further adding, "It is actually a formalization of a reality of the relationship between the city and the school district that has existed since September 2006."

Councilmember Margaret

McAustin said she thought the council was not being given power to oversee the program something other council members expressed concern about.

Wednesday night the PUSD tabled the issue during a special meeting after numerous civil rights groups showed up, including the ACLU. The city had anticipated asking the school board if they wanted to expand the program permanently to all middle schools.

Board Member Renatta Cooper said before the issue was put off, "I think the whole issue of having officers on the campus is so students will be interrogated without being advised of their rights, without the presence of parent or guardian. We have numerous anecdotal examples of just that happening. Not only that but parents and guardians not being given the record of those interrogations...I

think that the community is quite right not to trust us when we allow that as fairly standard practice."

According to Melekian, Safe School Team officers now daily interact with middle school students attending Marshall and Blair High Schools as well as students at Wilson, Washington, McKinley and Norma Coombs.

He said, "This is done with great success." The idea would be that officers are stationed at the schools.

Melekian explained that no additional personnel would be hired although the council did ask what it would take to do that. "Taking this to the next level," Councilmember Victor Gordo questioned.

"We have talked about expanding the number of officers," Melekian said. "My belief is based on staffing projections, scheduled academy graduations and scheduled training

officer completions; the earliest that we could do that would be September 2009."

He did not give the number officers needed only saying it would depend on how many schools they covered.

Councilmember Steve Madison said they needed to immediately look for ways to fund it and move forward. He said it was one of the best ways they could support the PUSD.

"We want our men and women officers in these schools," he said. "Interacting with kids that are making decisions that are affecting which ways their lives are going to turn out."

He also said the police are positive roll models and that there was nothing negative about that. He added that crimes were being committed at younger ages.

Speaking for both himself and councilmember Jacque Robinson, councilmember Chris Holden asked about oversight and their roll as a council.

"I know she had some concern about the parents and the parents participation and involvement and having an opportunity to understand how shifting to the middle school would work if its about addressing the issue if its about preventive type of enforcement," he said on behalf of Robinson.

He also suggested they have a discussion about all the policies. Melekian said the PUSD had already had two meeting with the public. There was concern that police were in the schools just to

arrest students something he refuted.

Speaking on behalf of the ACLU Michele White said they needed to provide more information on what instigates an arrest. She also said kids were being tricked into giving statements something councilmember Steve Haderlein asked proof of.

"What kinds of rights are being given to parents and children before an arrest is made?" White asked. "What kinds of questions happen prior to an arrest?"

She also said they had complaints that statements given to police by children were later being used to make arrests.

"The parents need to know much sooner and be involved much earlier," she said. "The kids need to know they have the right to remain silent, if what they say is going to wind them up in some kind of incarceration or expulsion from school."

Melekian had said during 2006-2007 they responded to 3,700 calls for services in the high schools of which 798 were resolved with no paperwork. A total of 158 calls were referred to for mediation and less than 100 arrests were made he said. Only 30 were for serious felonies he added. In late 2007 and 2008 that number dropped to 2,300 with only 40 arrests according to him.

Others were concerned about the cost of putting officers in the schools something they said could be done much cheaper. Melekian later said that schools still had security officers in schools as well as police.



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

It's A Start... By Pat Birdsall

Some large corporations are announcing some eco-friendly initiatives to reduce waste and to recycle...

Let's begin with Starbucks: The coffee giant promised to achieve these goals by 2015, some of which include: Making 100% of Starbucks cups to be reusable or recyclable, increasing in-store recycling, "greening" all new, company-owned stores by 2010, responsibly growing and ethically trading 100% of the company's coffee (up from the current 65%), contributing more than one million community service hours annually in communities where the company does business.

Starbucks also vows to reduce its global impact by conserving water and energy and promoting forest conservation. They are already supporting other green programs in its stores, such as a 10 cent discount on all purchases when reusable mugs are used by its customers.

Whole Foods: ReCORK America recently announced a partnership with Whole Foods to run a pilot wine cork recycling program in 25 Whole Foods locations in northern California and Reno. The program will run for six months, with collection boxes located in the wine section of each store. Worldwide, over 13 billion natural cork wine stoppers are sold each year. Natural cork, a biodegradable and sustainable resource, can be recycled in products such as: flooring tile, building insulation, shoe soles, fishing rod handles, bulletin boards and soil conditioners

Although a small, unassuming wine cork may seem insignificant in the big picture of waste disposal, reusing these small stoppers prevents the need to further harvest virgin materials and utilizes a ready available resource.

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Fire Safe Council "Announcements and Observations"

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be December 1, 2008 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. We will be celebrating our Three Year Anniversary and invite all to join. Call Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, 355-0741, for information.

Are you continuing to prepare for the Great Southern California Shake Out, November 13, 2008, at 10 a.m.? Throughout the week there will be earthquake related seminars throughout Los Angeles County.

Will you be self-sufficient for 7-10 days in the event of a disaster event? Where are your earthquake preparation supplies stored as you read this announcement? If it is not in your car and you are at work, having a cup of coffee on the boulevard, etc. you will be cut off from your supplies and it may be a long walk to get to them.

For more information and to see if your community is participating in this earthquake preparedness exercise go on line to: www.shakeout.org/drill

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, October 26th, to Saturday November 1st, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 246 calls for service.

Sunday, October 26th:

11:36 AM - Vandalism, 00 block Montecito Court. The walls and floor of an apartment was damaged when suspects entered the location where jointing compound and six bags of concrete were inside an apartment under renovation. The suspects cut open the bags of concrete and poured it on the floor. The crime occurred between 2:00 pm Saturday, 10/25 and 11:00 AM Sunday, 10/26. The total damage was estimated at \$90.00.

Monday, October 27th:

10:51 AM - Identity Theft, 00 block Park Ave. The crime occurred between Sunday, 9/28 and Monday, 10/27. The loss is undisclosed at this time.

12:30 PM - Hit and run traffic collision, 2000 block North Vista Ave. A parked city owned truck was sideswiped, damaging the driver's side mirror. The crime occurred Monday around 12:15 pm. The vehicle was described as a white pick-up truck which turned from Vista Ave onto Elkins Drive. No loss estimate was available.

6:20 PM - Possession of narcotics for sale, 00 block North Baldwin Ave. A 14 year old male juvenile, a Sierra Madre resident, was arrested for possession of narcotics and attempting to sell a controlled substance. He was transported to the police department booked and released to his

parent.

Tuesday, October 28th:

6:06 PM - Hit and run traffic collision, 100 block Esperanza Ave. A traffic stop was conducted on a truck believed to have been involved in a Hit and Run traffic collision. During the investigation the driver was found to be driving while under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and taken to Pasadena PD for remand.

Thursday, October 30th:

1:36 AM - DUI arrest, 100 block East Highland Ave. A car was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation the driver was determined to be driving while under the influence of alcohol. The driver was arrested and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

3:40 PM - Residential burglary, 100 block East Grandview Ave. A coin collection, proof set box and coin containers were stolen. The crime occurred between Thursday, 10/20 and Tuesday, 10/28. The loss was estimated at \$3000.00

Friday, October 31st:

2:37 PM - Vandalism, 600 block Woodland Drive. A parked truck had the drivers' side tires punctured with a small sharp object. The crime occurred between Wednesday, 10/29 and Friday, 10/31. No loss estimate was available.

Saturday, November 1st:

11:20 PM - Public intoxication, 1 Kersting Court. A female adult was arrested for public intoxication. She was transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

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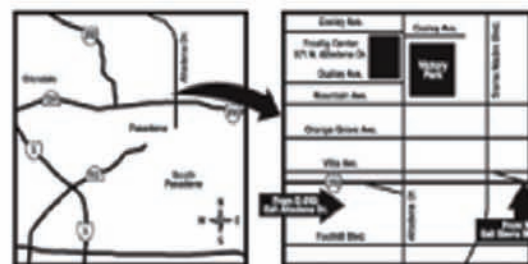
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MountainViews-Observer

Mission Statement

The traditions of the community newspaper 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 On..LIFE

A SPECIOUS PLEA FOR MORE REGULATION OF THE PROCREATION PRIVILEGE

As difficult as it is for me to believe, same-sex couples and their sympathizers (which include me) are clamoring for their continued right to be subject to the rules and restrictions of marriage laws. Maybe they are correct in their desire to subject their most intimate relationship to the caprices of the civil law. After all, why should any group be deprived of the ability to experience the pain, degradation social upheaval, and expense invariably associated with the dissolution of a marriage, which has become a fairly common rite of passage in today's America?

If increased application of regulations may actually heal social problems, the following semi-satirical suggestions may contain some helpful guides. On the other hand, these suggestions may simply be a portentous view of inappropriate attempts to modify traditional human behavior patterns. Anyway, here goes!

SOCIAL PROBLEMS : Overpopulation, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Teenage Pregnancies, Unruly Aggressive Adolescent Behavior Resulting From Lack of Responsible Supervision

REMEDY: FORNICATION LICENSES DISCUSSION

A clear analysis of these multi-fold social ills reveal their solution. Promiscuity between uncommitted individuals results in the transmission of disease, unwanted pregnancies growing to become unsupervised and largely out of control children and adolescents who contribute to the overall daunting condition of overpopulation. What is to be done? One possibility, I suppose is a universal reversible sterilization process applied to anyone who might become pregnant (generally persons of the female persuasion). In the name of fairness, a similar procedure could be performed upon males. In order to qualify for the procedure to restore fertility, an individual would be required to demonstrate the possession of certain qualities and the fulfillment of certain conditions which demonstrate the likelihood that this person would be a responsible parent. The specific conditions and requirements would be determined by some commission or even perhaps by the voters. Possible requirements might include the attainment of a certain age, regular medical check-ups, participating in a stable committed relationship, financial position, or specific individual characteristics such as intelligence, unique athletic achievement, or unusual beauty.

Scary, isn't it!!? One must realize however that such criteria are presently utilized as pre-conditions for the eligibility to obtain driver's licenses, immigration eligibility, home loans, college admission, and innumerable other privileges. Furthermore, the Chinese (the mortgage holders of the United States) have already instituted a limitation on the number of legally conceived children. It's already happening.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

It's disgusting. Does a government have the right or the power to restrict the right of individuals to conceive? Isn't this right something so basic that it is beyond the reach of government? Well, probably not. Courts have already held that prisoners do not have the right to conceive while in custody, and there is no specifically delineated right to conceive or even fornicate in any State or Federal Constitution. Perhaps such a right could be implied under the rubric of a right to privacy or the pursuit of happiness. Perhaps, but equally powerful arguments could be advanced arguing that individuals have the right to exist on a not over-populated planet peopled by unsupervised and largely diseased adolescents.

Enough already. Sure, I intend this as some sort of joke. But, guess what? Something has to be done if we're all going to survive. If people want more regulation, something as horrible as the above might be the eventual result. I hope not—I hope we are all responsible enough to stop the regulations and the restrictions from going overboard. Anyway, on to the future and HOORAY FOR OBAMA!!!

SHOULD ELECTION DAY BE A NATIONAL HOLIDAY?



By Hail Hamilton

Despite of Barak Obama's landslide victory Tuesday night, less than 50% of the voting-age population actually participated in this historic election. Even in a year when voters turned out in record numbers, many potential (eligible not just registered) voters who could have voted did not vote. This is unfortunate in the largest democracy in the world and totally unacceptable.

Universal suffrage refers to the right to vote for all adults regardless of ethnicity, sex, and economic status; however, a myriad of Americans every election season are limited in their access to the polls. Every election cycle, countless Americans use the excuse "I didn't have the time" when asked why they failed to vote. "I had to work." If a lack of time or work is a common obstacle to voting, the solution seems simple enough: Election Day should be a national holiday.

Here are some important benefits to making Election Day a national holiday.

- An entire day devoted to the right to vote could change the public's perception of voting as a hassle or burden into something to be proud of and worthy of people's time. This concept isn't new; many other countries have national holidays on their election days.
- A national holiday to vote provides us with more than just free time. Promoting the importance of voting during our youth may go a long way to cure voter apathy in younger generations. Moreover, an Election Day holiday would allow parents to take their children with them to the polls, reinforcing the importance of the process.
- A government holiday would also free up voting stations in government buildings, such as schools, for longer periods of time, increasing voter access. In theory, with more Americans off work, voting stations would be better staffed on Election Day, thus increasing efficiency.
- An election holiday may also decrease the need for early voting, allowing resources to be spent on increasing the number of voting stations and volunteers on Election Day.
- A national voting holiday would make it easier for millions of busy Americans to get to the polls. In addition, we would have more public buildings - especially schools - available as potential polling places, and we would have a larger pool of potential poll workers to staff those locations.
- Declaring Election Day a national holiday would allow elections of elective offices of states, municipalities, counties (in most states), and other local entities (such as school boards and other special-purpose districts) to be consolidated each year on a single day. This would save millions in election costs and encourage lessening "special elections."

Some advocates of an election holiday have suggested merging Veteran's Day and Election Day into a common holiday. We continually praise our nation's soldiers for giving their lives for our freedom - which would include the right to vote. Perhaps more Americans would take a moment to realize the importance of their right to vote if it was linked with honoring our nation's heroes. For those that believe a merger would diminish the significance of Veteran's Day, perhaps we can trade Columbus Day for a national Election Day holiday. After all, why is a discovery myth more important than the vitality of our democracy? A holiday to commemorate our right to vote is a far superior reason to close government offices.

Many of us spend an entire afternoon and evening watching the election coverage. We have spent countless hours watching debates, listening to pundits, and being bombarded with TV ads. An Election Day holiday would be the culmination of the entire arduous process of an election year. Certainly the American people deserve a holiday after surviving a presidential-election process that now takes almost two years to complete.



"Yes We Can"

The night of November 4th had to be one of the most important nights of my whole life. Actually, it was an extremely important night for everyone. That night history was made. Barack Obama became the first African-American president of the United States. Can you believe it? That night, I was surrounded by friends and family watching CNN eagerly as the number of his electoral votes went up, up, up. I was jumping with excitement. I had been waiting for this Election Day for a very long time, but nothing could have prepared me for the countdown and the words that appeared on the screen: Barack Obama: President.

This is huge. More than that, this is now. I feel that real change is going to happen. This election made a statement. It said that you can be whoever you want to be, in America. It said that America is ready for a black president, or an Asian president, or a Hispanic president, or a female president. That when people put their minds to it, change can really happen. This election proved that the youth can get involved in the political process and make a difference. It said that America can put aside differences of race, gender, and sexual orientation for the greater good of our country. This election simply stated "yes we can."

The most important part of the phrase "yes we can" is the "we". Barack Obama couldn't have done this without the support of so many people. All over the country, people were joining together to get others registered to vote. It's said that this election had the biggest turnout among polls and more people registered to vote in this election than in any other election in history. Major. And just as President Obama needed everyone to help him win, it's going to take everyone to help heal this country. Many would agree that things must be better after the last 8 years. Everyone is going to have to do their part in order for real change for the better to continue. I have faith that with Obama's help, this nation can restore itself to be a more united states.



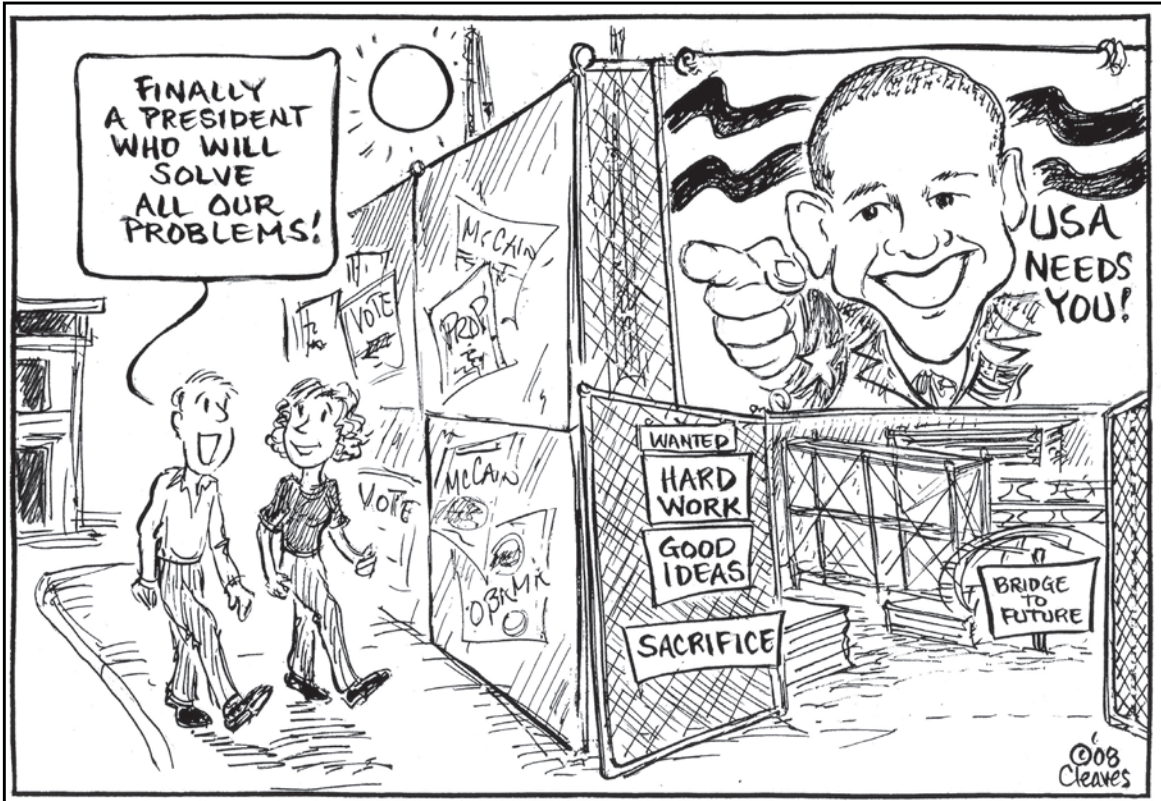
Rich Johnson

That singer, of course, would be Sierra Madre's own Jane Fuller. She will be singing solo during the rest of the dinner accompanied only by her guitar. Guys and gals, this is the perfect time to bring your significant other out for a romantic dinner at a classy restaurant. Jane has a very smooth and sultry singing voice; with maybe just a touch more fire, if you know what I mean.

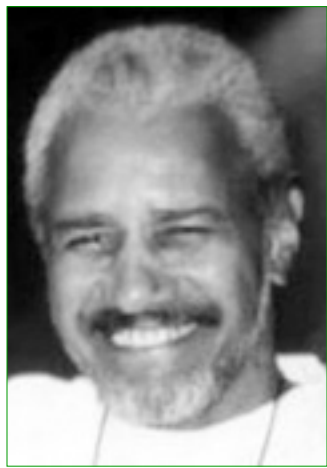
She is the perfect dinner performer as she is not out to overpower the restaurant. You will actually be able to whisper sweet nothings in each other's ear during her songs. She guarantees no hearing loss due to loud music. Add the scrumptious menu prepared by Mario and company, a well stocked bar, and a wonderful romantic dinner is also guaranteed. Your part? Simply supply the significant other and show up. It's Saturday, November 15th at Café 322 from 6 to 8 pm. The address is, well, um, coincidentally 322 West Sierra Madre Blvd. The phone number is (626) 836-5414...in case you want to make reservations. And, as this is part of Jane's All America Tour there will not be separate seating for democrats and republicans. Jane hopes to help bring the red and blue back to the red, white and blue.

Oh, if you haven't heard, the election is over. Barack Obama is the main man. And although his and my political theories differ, I must say I am very proud to be an American. I would like to send a special congratulations to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I hope, wherever he is, he can hear and see what is going on. Furthermore, I will be monitoring the activities of the Reverend Jesse Jackson closely just to see if he will admit that maybe things are finally a little better here in America. He may have to look for another line of work. I am also very glad the victory was decisive. If it had been close there would have been a firestorm of legal wrangling due to the accusations of voter registration fraud. That might have made the 2000 snafu look tame in comparison. If that had happened the outcome might not have been finally decided until right before the election of 2012.

Welcome President-elect Obama. I didn't vote for you but you are now my president. And I wish you the best. Oh yeah, and I wish me the best too. And you, and you, and you, and you, and you, and okay, you too.



BALLOT BOX ENCORE: THE FINAL WORD



Ralph McKnight

It's a Wrap!

The Quiet Revolution

By that I mean the world has wrapped its arms around Barack Obama and he has wrapped his arms around the world. This has been the most stunning of victories and for many of us, including myself, the election of an African American to the Presidency of the United States of America is something we never thought we'd see in our lifetimes.

I am 75 years old, African American and have seen and experienced things most of you cannot imagine or understand. I cannot help confess that

I have been very angry, for many, many years, about the debilitating, dispiriting and sometimes fatal aspects of the racism that has gripped this

country since its inception and exists even now as we celebrate this historic election.

I grew up in Washington, D.C., one of the most segregated cities in the south where the only newspaper that spoke about black activities, achievements etc. was the 'Afro American' which was published in Baltimore, Maryland. Unfortunately but necessarily, the Afro American newspaper also reported all the horrible things happening to Negroes (which we were called at that time) around the country. Because of this necessary journalism I, as a kid, was exposed too frequently, sometimes as often as three or four times a month, to pictures of Negro men who'd been lynched, (hanged) mutilated and / or burned alive in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia or some other place simply for being black or for refusing to step off the curb when a white was walking in the opposite direction, or for not saying yes sir or yes ma'am when addressing a white man or woman or for staring at a white woman or for refusing to give up their wives or daughters to slave holders. What usually happened was that the Negro male was whipped, lashed and sometimes shot or lynched. Quite often these lynching's were held in a carnival atmosphere of family picnics wherein white families were encouraged to attend the lynching's and to bring their kids and picnic baskets. On many occasions the children attending these murderous and insensate gatherings were encouraged to stab the hanging Negro with their picnic forks and knives. Families often had their pictures taken standing next to the hanging (sometimes charred) Negro much like one does when one has shot a deer or hauled in a large fish of some sort.

Once, in 1952, while on liberty when I was stationed at the Jacksonville, Florida Naval Air Base, I rode the bus to town and saw, for the first time, a sign that said "Negroes in the back". When I refused to sit in the back of the bus after several orders by the bus driver, he called the police and I, uniform, wings and all, was physically slammed into the back of the bus by three motorcycle cops who threatened to kill me if I didn't stay put. Once, while on liberty, I returned to Washington, D.C., in uniform with wings and all, to look for an apartment for my intended bride and myself and was greeted by an Asian woman speaking broken English who told me they did not rent to Negroes. Once, late at night, on the way to a social in Atlanta with a friend of mine we were accosted by the police that told us "n.....s are supposed to be off the streets after 10 p.m." These are but a few of many such tales I and many other Blacks could tell if prompted.

I've mentioned all these things to highlight what the election of Barack Obama means to me. It means that in order to comfortably accommodate this social and cultural milestone I shall have to tuck away the horrible and lurid crimes of the past and begin to embrace a vision for a future in which the acts of those I've mentioned in this column will no longer be contemplated or possible. I have a mental box in which I've tucked away these memories and which I've sealed with my tears from memories of the past as well as those I've shed in the felicity of this moment of social triumph.



How Did The MountainViews-Observer Endorsements Stand Up? PRESIDENT

Barack Obama

We called it right! In Los Angeles County over 69% of voters cast their ballot for the President-elect.

On your left is former Sierra Madre Mayor John Buchanan at the Obama campaign headquarters on election night.

Photo By Dean Lee

What we correctly predicted:

Proposition 1A YES -Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act.

Proposition 2 - YES Standards for Confining Farm Animals.

Proposition 3 - YES Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program.

Proposition 4 -NO Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.

Proposition 6 - NO Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws.

Proposition 7 - NO Renewable Energy Generation.

Proposition 11- YES Redistricting.

Proposition 12 - YES Veterans' Bond Act of 2008.

What we missed:

Proposition 5 - Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation. FINAL VOTE: NO

Proposition 8 - Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry. FINAL VOTE: YES

Proposition 9 - Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole. FINAL VOTE: YES

Proposition 10 -Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. FINAL VOTE: NO

Other Winners:

**Congressman David Dreier
Congressman Adam Schiff**

Proposition RR - MTA/Increased Sales Tax - YES

Proposition TT - PUSD Bond - YES

Election 2008 – An American Triumph



Gregory J. Welborn

First, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to President-elect Barak Obama on his November 4th Victory. But more importantly, we should extend those congratulations to the American people for once again peacefully coming together to vote their choice for the most powerful position in our country. In his victory speech, Barak Obama appropriately referenced that old, reassuring refrain of that first Republican, Abraham Lincoln, reminding us that "more than two centuries later a government of the people, by the people and for the people has not perished from this earth. This is [our] victory."

Indeed, this is our victory. I have argued as persuasively as I can on these pages for the candidacy of John McCain. I still believe he would have made a great President. Whether he would have made a better President than Barak Obama will be, cannot now be known. Nonetheless, I acknowledge with great pride the uniqueness of what we Americans have just done. For the first time in recorded history, a people have overcome an all-too-human trait and voluntarily elected a minority to be their leader.

While the tendency will be to look at this in terms of black vs. white, doing so will miss the bigger point. It could just as easily – and more accurately - be looked at in terms of Jew vs. Arab, Hindu vs. Muslim, Catholic vs. Protestant, or Tutsi vs. Hutu. Conflict between different tribes, religious sects and races has always existed, frequently escalated to violence, but only in America been vanquished to the point where a minority member can be elected as leader. And in the process, we've witnessed the acceptance of our second female Vice-presidential candidate and the record-breaking participation of voters across all demographic categories. Only in America!!!

This unprecedented unity of white and black, male and female, and young and old will undoubtedly be the focus of innumerable studies in the future, in the course of which we will learn so much more about our greatness and the responsibilities that come with that. But there are practical and philosophical issues that have been raised and settled in this election that warrant our attention as well.

Many have claimed that Barak Obama's past voting record demonstrates that he is a hard left Liberal, and that accordingly his election evidences a left turn in our national demeanor. While the premise may or may not be correct, the conclusion is steadfastly wrong.

Barak Obama won this election by enunciating a number of moderate positions, not the least of which were his call to bipartisanship and emphasis on hope and optimism. These are issues on which all of us can agree. Barak Obama also understood that he needed to distance himself from his voting record. This is the candidate who downplayed the calls for a retreat from Iraq, emphasized winning the war in Afghanistan, threatened some pre-emption of his own if Pakistan doesn't cooperate, promised a tax cut for 95% of us and disparaged government-run healthcare as extreme. This is the candidate who defended the right to own guns, ultimately supported Bush's terrorist surveillance program, and stood up to peddlers of victimology, telling black audiences that black men need to take more responsibility for the fruit of their loins and who scolded Liberals for denouncing faith in God and their unwillingness to engage people of faith.

Candidate Barak Obama new what the exit polls in the most hotly contested swing districts show. 73% of voters want the government to allow people to create wealth rather than to take that wealth and spread it around. 65% oppose increasing capital gains taxes. 66% want to reduce overall government spending. 75% want to drill for oil along the coastlines and in ANWR. And a large plurality is simply mad as hell at the government bailout of bankers and do not want additional bailouts for large corporations. Include the results on various states' social issue referendums, and it is clear America remains a center-right country of enormous good will and trust.

Lanny Davis, former special counsel to President Bill Clinton, observed that Candidate Obama has become President-elect Obama by attracting those voters who otherwise were included in the great Reagan consortium. It will now be up to President Obama to be the moderate unifier he has promised rather than to be the polarizing partisan his opponents fear.

Barak Obama is my President, our President, now. I pray that he will rely on God, seek wise counsel, acquire wisdom and experience, and tame the pride and hubris he himself claims as his greatest flaw. I will also pray that he leads us faithfully and honestly and that God will bless those efforts.

Gregory J. Welborn is an independent opinion columnist. He writes and speaks frequently on political, economic and social issues. His columns have appeared in publications such as The Los Angeles Daily News, The Orange County Register, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. He can be reached at gwelborn@mrvobserver.com.

Astonishing Victory, Devastating Defeat

By Susan Henderson



You've heard it all week long, how America has come together and made history by electing our first African American President. You have heard how we have finally got beyond the color of one's skin and voted for a man based upon his character and abilities. For certain, it is a powerful moment in our history, one that for me is indescribably delicious.

And yet, for as much joy as I feel over President-elect Obama's victory, I feel that much pain over the passage of Prop 8. We have taken one giant step forward in the election of our President, and in this state and a few others, taken a gargantuan leap backwards when it comes to understanding and enforcing the privileges provided in our constitution.

Prop 8 is as hateful and mean spirited as the early legislation that said that I and people like me were less than human. Prop 8 misused modern day technology to spread the biggest campaign of lies, hate and fear ever waged. And, the most outrageous thing of all is that more than \$40 million dollars was spent to codify religious values into the Constitution. One group in particular spent over \$27 million dollars to legislate their personal beliefs.

These people used children to spread this hateful message. What harm have same sex marriages done to this society? And, if "Protect Marriage" (the largest donor to the Yes On 8 campaign, if they are so concerned about the sanctity of marriage, why not spend \$27 million dollars on educating those who wish to marry or wish to stay married? Better yet, why not spend some of that money on protecting children from card carrying religious abusers - which are rarely, if ever, gay?

Who one marries is their individual choice. Marriage is an institution of the church but the church has absolutely no business in making the state define what a marriage is and who participates in it. Same sex couples have the right to "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness", as every other couple in the United States. And there shall not be any law that takes that away from anyone. We simply cannot let it stand. If churches want to push their agenda that is their right, but they cannot use the law of the land to enforce their ordinances. The constitution protects everyone, not a select few.

If you truly feel your religious convictions are correct and you don't believe in same sex relationships, then why don't you read the rest of your Bible and learn the meaning of the greatest gift.....love. Then perhaps you would rethink your approach to people and actions you don't agree with.

I also think that before you jump on the band wagon supporting a Constitutional Amendment to take away individual rights, please know that creating a ban on same sex marriages by setting a legal precedent opens the door wide open for similar forms of discrimination.

What will you do when a new group comes to town.....say for instance, the Save Our Drowning Children - *Ban Baptism By Immersion Group*? What will you do then? It could happen, especially since every religion believes that their way is the only way. How would you feel if you are a Baptist and the law changes banning immersion citing drowning children and it is funded by a group that baptises by sprinkling? Would that be right? Absolutely not. There is just no place for the influence of the church in the law.

Religious values are allegedly there to help us learn to love one another and become better human beings. Somewhere along the way, the Yes on 8 people missed that memo. However, this fight is not over. We will not go back in time where the Constitution does not treat everyone the same. *Maybe we needed to loose in order to finally win.*

More Legal Notices

City of Sierra Madre

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

To: City-Wide
From: The City of Sierra Madre
Subject: PARCEL MAP 06-02; 303 E. Montecito Avenue
Applicant: Jose and Alice Flores

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California law, that the City Council will conduct a public hearing to consider the request of a lot split for the property at 303 E. Montecito Avenue. The applicant is proposing to split the existing 24, 841 square foot parcel into two (2) parcels measuring 15,005.5 square feet and 9,835.5 square feet.

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING City of Sierra Madre City Council meeting Wednesday, November 12, 2008 (Meeting begins at 6:30 pm)	PLACE OF MEETING City of Sierra Madre City Council Chambers 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre, CA 91024
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All interested persons may attend this meeting and the City Council will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 303 E. Montecito Avenue; in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of CA.

APPEAL: If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the City Council in court, one may be limited to raising issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or before, the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

By order of the City Council
 Danny Castro
 Director of Development Services

City of Sierra Madre

Public Hearing Notice

To: City-wide Property Owners
Subject: Variance 08-01 - 679 Brookside Lane
Applicant: Irene Carrouche

The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California Law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider the request for Variances for the property at 679 Brookside Lane. The applicant is proposing the construction of a new 1,571-square-foot, two-story residence and is requesting Variances 1) to allow an encroachment of seven (7) feet six (6) inches into the fifteen (15)-foot rear yard setback as established by Municipal Code Section 17.20.070(A); and 2) to allow the two required parking spaces to be uncovered and located within the front yard setback.

Place, Date and Time of Meeting
 Sierra Madre City Council Chambers
 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.
 Sierra Madre, CA 91024
 Thursday, November 20, 2008
 Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.

PROJECT LOCATION: 679 Brookside Lane, in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

APPEAL: The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 10-day-appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning commission in court, one may be limited to raising issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at or before the scheduled public hearing. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.

The Mountain Clymer by Kim Clymer-Kelley

Amigo Home

I am finding it very difficult to tear myself away from the television tonight to fulfill my weekly obligation to write this column. The enormity of what has happened on this election night is overwhelming. It has been, perhaps, one of the most proud moments in our nation's history, and one that I am thrilled in which to have played a part. I, and a record number of other citizens, spoke loud and clear with our votes, and for the first time in my life, I feel empowered by that right.

I have lived through many defining moments in our history, the J.F.K. assination is the first that I remember...followed by that of his brother, Bobby, and then Martin Luther King. I remember watching the fight for civil rights unfold over the decade of the 60's...the moon landing...the Viet Nam War protests...Watergate...on a more global level, the Berlin Wall coming down and the collapse of Communist Russia and the end of the cold war...the Mets winning the '69 World Series (well okay... the significance of that is debatable for some here on the west coast). In the early 70's, from the parking lot of my High School in NJ, I watched the twin towers of the World Trade Center being erected... on 9/11/2001, from a living room in Salisbury, England, I watched them burn and fall to the ground.

My patriotism waxed and waned over my younger years. I was terribly patriotic as a child... the national anthem always made me cry...I remember the pride I felt when it was my turn to carry the flag for my Brownie troop in our Memorial Day parade. But as the Viet Nam War years dragged on, I was surrounded by the anger and frustration of the anti-war movement, and though I was too young to have a say in our governmental policies, I had very strong feelings against the war and our government. But it was not until I left the country and traveled abroad to Germany that I saw how the rest of the world viewed my homeland. It was 1971. I was only 14, but I had begun to see the hate and resentment that other countries had for the U.S. and its policies. I remember driving through a section of Nuremburg with the family with whom I was staying and seeing the words "Ami go home" scrawled on a cement wall. Uschi, my German friend, apologized to me and told me that not everyone felt like that. "Sorry for what?" I asked feeling rather naive, "What does that mean? Amigo home?...Friend home?"

"Not AMIGO," she corrected, "It's AMI go home. Ami is what we call Americans...and they don't hate all of you...mostly just the army that is here." I was suddenly embarrassed to be an American...I felt like the ugly girl at the party sitting in the corner all alone...thousands of mile from my family, friends and country and totally let down by the nation that I had been raised to believe was beloved and envied by all...the powers that be at the time had apparently alienated us from the rest of the world.

It's difficult to define patriotism ... it has a different meaning for everyone. Some feel that it needs to be flaunted (kind of like those football fans that strip down and paint their bodies with their team colors) ... some simply hold it quietly near their



hearts. Plainly put, it is the pride that one takes in their particular country, and like any other kind of pride, it can be a good thing, as long as it does not blind one to truth. In recent years ... the last eight to be exact ... the truth for me has been that there has not been much that I have been very proud of when it comes to our country ... my patriotism has been at an all time low. The direction that our country has been heading in has been discouraging to me, to say the least. I have seen a nation filled with hate and fear. I have seen a nation of self-centered, self-serving, compassionless people, obsessed with wealth and material things. I have seen a hateful, intolerant, judgmental and hypocritical religious right that bends and shapes the teachings of their scriptures to justify their transgressions toward others. I have seen corporate greed dictating our government's policies. I have seen the development of an apathetic and (often willfully) ignorant population. I have seen the family structure fall apart, taking with it the most important values of a good education, hard work, honesty, integrity, and compassion. All have been sold out to the importance of acquiring more personal wealth. This is the America I have been seeing. This is what most of the rest of the world has been seeing, too. It was not until this evening that it became clear just how many Americans had been seeing the same and had grown disheartened enough to do something about it.

When I heard the news anchors call the race for Obama tonight, like many other Americans I'm sure, I cried. I cried for all of the people who sacrificed their lives so that our country could reach this point. I cried for all of those of color who have waited so long to feel that they truly have a voice in this land. I cried for the hope that Mr. Obama has inspired in so many in this country ... hope that this election can mark a change in the way that we treat one another and the rest of the world ... hope that it can mark a change in the way that the rest of the world views our country ... hope that we all have learned that our voices can be heard if we speak as loud and clear as we did today. And I cried from the pride and patriotism that filled my heart once again...once again it feels good to be an American.

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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

Phoenix Lander Enters Safe Mode As Martian Weather Chills Down



Photo By Aaron Dominguez

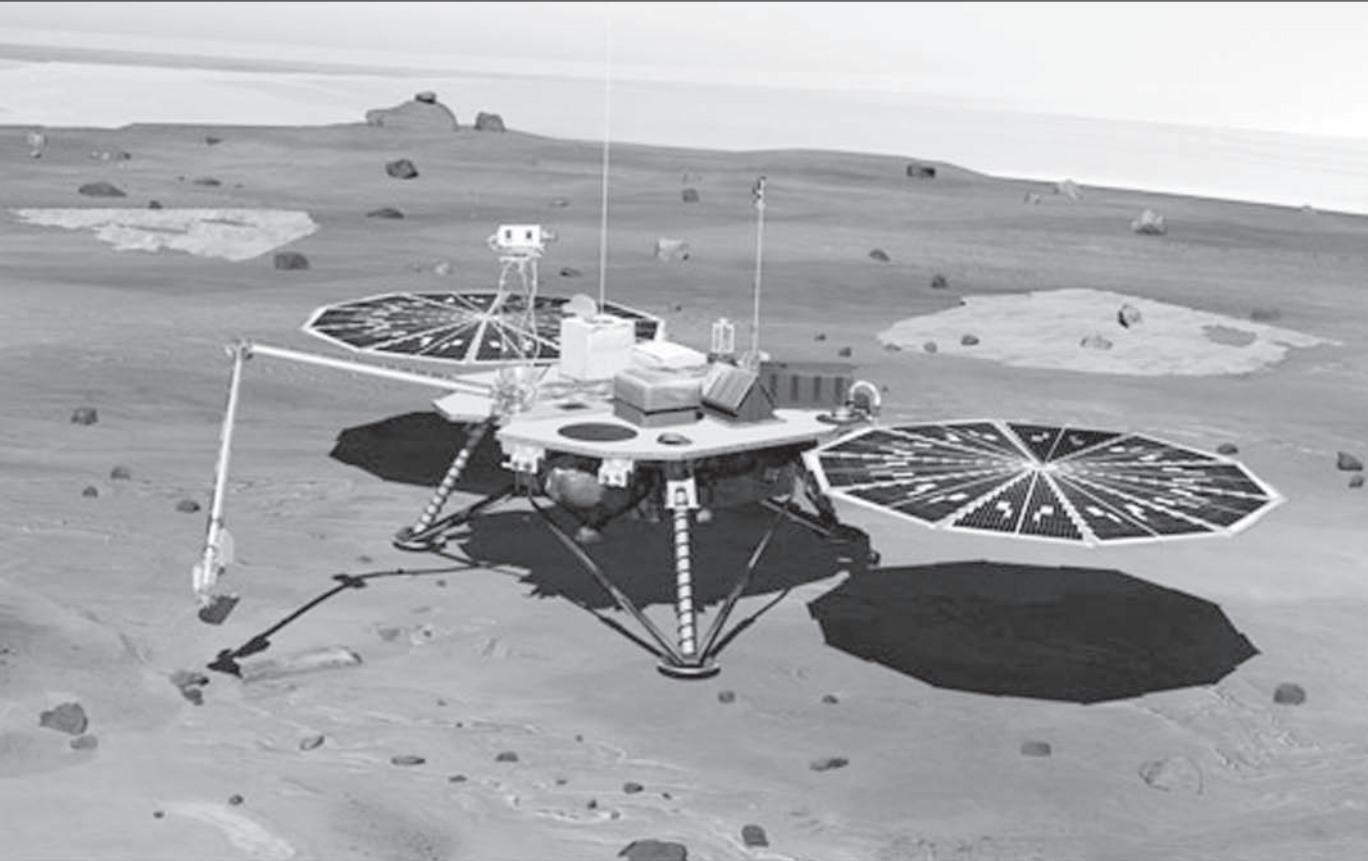
IN CASE YOU'RE SHIVERING at the thought of the approaching Southern California winter season, just be glad you're not up in the Martian arctic with NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander, where overnight temperatures have fallen to 141 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. The long-lived spacecraft—now in the fifth month of a mission intended to last 90 days—entered "safe mode" last week in response to a low-power fault brought on by deteriorating weather conditions. During safe mode, the lander stops non-critical activities and awaits further instructions from the mission team.

Weather conditions at the landing site in the north polar region of Mars have deteriorated in recent days, with overnight temperatures falling to -141F and daytime temperatures only as high as -50F, the lowest temperatures experienced so far in the mission. A mild dust storm blowing through the area, along with water-ice clouds, further complicated the situation by reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the lander's solar arrays. Low temperatures caused the lander's battery heaters to turn on for the first time, creating another drain on precious power supplies.

"This is a precarious time for Phoenix," said Phoenix Project Manager Barry Goldstein of JPL. "We're in the bonus round of the extended mission, and we're aware that the end could come at any time. The engineering team is doing all it can to keep the spacecraft alive, but at this point survivability depends on some factors out of our control."

The ability to communicate with the spacecraft has not been impacted. However, the team decided to cancel communication sessions last week in order to conserve spacecraft power. By turning off selected heaters, the mission hopes to preserve power and prolong the use of the lander's camera and meteorological instruments.

Originally scheduled to last 90 days, Phoenix has completed a fifth month of exploration in the Martian arctic. As the Martian northern hemisphere shifts from summer to autumn, the lander was expected to generate less power due to fewer hours of sunlight reaching its solar panels. "It could be a matter of days, or weeks, before the daily power generated by Phoenix is less than needed to operate the spacecraft," said JPL mission manager Chris Lewicki. "We have only a few options left to reduce the energy usage."



NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander monitors the atmosphere overhead and reaches out to the soil below in this artist's depiction of the spacecraft fully deployed on the surface of Mars. Photo Courtesy NASA

THE WINDS OF CHANGE. Here in sunny Southern California, summer is also shifting to autumn, and the change is most noticeable when a cold front blows through as it did the past few days. Last night I happened to be parked at the top of the Bel-Air hills. A meeting I had been attending there had finished up just as the final election results were coming in, and before I turned on the car radio to hear President-elect Obama's acceptance speech I paused a few moments to listen to the rising wind following our early autumn storm. The air was filled with a never-ending variety of notes and pitches and tones, as gusts passed over the hilltop and touched branches of pine or oak or cottonwood. It was a night of many new voices, a night to long remember.

Sounds of the fall wind,
High among the Bel-Air hills...
A change of season.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at b eklund@m vobserver.com

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From the Inside Out:
Change

By Mary Carney



Since the middle of last week I've been experiencing life as frustrating. Communications scrambled, office computer "down" and very slow recovery; after reloading the program that prints all our checks we discovered that the SN and activation codes no longer worked; requiring upgrade to the "better" version, only to learn that there is no import feature for the old version's financial database... On the physical level us ham radio folks supported the Halloween Pumpkin Patch, and then there was a whole weekend prepping for and ensuring that the Sierra Madre Woman's Club's Chicken Pie Dinner went well. Then "settle back in support" to someone coming back after three weeks away; and the 15 hours of pollworking during election day. It was like stepping over the edge of a mile long water slide, with no way off until the end.

Yesterday I grumbled that it all must be due to Mercury being retrograde (Mercury governs communications) because of the glitches and slowness and fumbles and general frustration; and a friend said, "Yes, it was." Today I decided to check that out. Huh! Mercury had been retrograde through October 15, but was now going "direct" again.

But I was totally fascinated by what I found on the website I had opened up - and clearly I need to explore this site much further (www.alphalifetrends.com/mercuryretrograde.html). Mind, I've been working with and giving readings based on similar principles from the Human Design System "circuit board energy pattern" perspective for about 10 years now, but I can only take in a certain amount of "detail" at any one time. I just loved the concept that when Mercury goes retrograde (vis a vis our point of view of it against the sun) it provides every one of us - about three times a year - an energy that supports us in adjusting our thoughts, attitudes and decisions about where we've been and where we're going.

In light of the election results, and in looking back at the growing need for change, and for hope that we could together create that change, it was really clear to me that all of us have been engaged in heart and soul searching as we came to our decisions at this election time. The percentages are amazing: the electoral college vote is about 68% for hope, with about 32% for the status quo; while the popular vote reflects percentages closer to 52% hope and 48% status quo.

This means that whatever changes are

coming will be pretty easily balanced between hope, "no change" and/or cynicism. Each of us will be challenged to look beyond our own points of view to a larger vision - something many of us need to see - so we can work and move towards that goal.

Yes, we can. We can dig ourselves out of any financial holes. We can be better at taking care of ourselves. Yes, we can focus our energy and attention on what makes sense in terms of setting the ground work for our futures.

From that website, I was intrigued at the idea that Mercury has a repeatable 79-year retrograde / direct cycle of trips around the sun. In counting back, that means that Mercury was in about the same part of its rotational process in 1929 as we are experiencing today. In an email from a Holocaust survivor came a call to be careful of over-committing to too much hope without also being very careful where and in whom we place that hope.

So, in addition to hope, we are all - whether for or against the recent winner - going to need to be careful in how we design our futures. It starts from the inside out - what is truly right for me? If I'm right, then I'll create with right action, which will support others in their right actions. In this way we continue to grow personally, as families, neighborhoods, towns, counties and states and together we create a country that continues to offer the promise of "Yes We Can" and, with elbow grease, make our dreams and hopes come true. Our president is one man, and we are the ones who will, with his leadership, create a bright and promising future.

And just for those who think planetary influences are nonsense, check out www.fractal-landscapes.co.uk/. Who would have thought that simple math equations in repeating patterns could create such landscapes ... and since we're all frequency, and thus all math equations ... who's to say that we are not impacted by everything around us? Something to think on until next week ...

Mary Carney received her four-year degree in polarity healing energy work in 1987, is a Trinity College Certified Natural Health Practitioner, is studying to be a Naturopath, and has a private "healing energy" practice. If you want to know more, email me at m.carney@m vobserver.com.

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- Han Suyin

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The Senior Spot

By Bruce Lamarche

Boomers: Late Savings For Retirement?

Many baby boomers within 10 years of retirement age are facing this fact: they may not be able to afford the lifestyle they want later in life. If you are one of them, take heart. Experts agree that it is possible to make up for lost time. While specific recommendations vary, there is general consensus on the basic steps.

"First, get a handle on your financial situation," advises William L. Anthes, Ph.D., president of the National Endowment for Financial Education. "Take an objective look at your current status and your long-term financial needs, and calculate the shortfall. With that information in hand, you can formulate a strategy that enables you to make up the difference."

Determine your status.

Start by knowing your retirement costs. Track your spending for a few weeks and use an online calculator like the Ballpark Estimate Worksheet, offered by the American Savings Education Council (ASEC) at www.asec.org/ballpark, for comparison. Incorporate likely spending fluctuations; allow for adequate health insurance, including coverage for long-term care.

Next, list all your retirement assets, including your home, and the amount you will receive in pensions and Social Security payments. Ask former employers for a Pension Benefit Estimate as necessary, and contact the Social Security Administration or refer to your latest Social Security Retirement Benefit Estimate statement.

Subtract your retirement assets from the estimated goal amount; the difference is your savings goal.

Take full advantage of existing options.

Contribute as much as possible to workplace retirement programs, such as 401(k) or 403(b) plans. Be sure to save enough to receive the maximum employer match.

Capitalize on tax breaks for older workers. The 2001 federal tax law, which expires in 2010, includes special catch-up provisions for people born in 1952 or earlier; changes affect Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and

Roth IRAs, as well as workplace programs. Allowable contributions began increasing in 2002 and continue to climb.

Shift your priorities.

Cut your expenses; pay down debt and save more. Arrange for automatic deductions from your account to savings. This is to both help you avoid the temptation of available cash and to ensure that money is invested at regular intervals. Each year, save an increasing percentage of your income. Diversify; spread your investments to balance risk.

Preserve your home equity.

Avoid continually refinancing your home to preserve your growing equity. Work on additional principle reduction with that extra little bit added to each payment. It adds up. As your home increases in value and your balance drops you will be more prepared to take advantage of a Reverse Equity Mortgage at age 62. This allows you to eliminate mortgage payments altogether and possibly receive a non-taxable income from your home. More equity increases your options for retirement.

Other options can include getting a second job, moving to a more affordable home, working a few years longer than you planned or working after retirement.

Above all: begin at once, be willing to sacrifice and stick to your plan. While you may have waited longer than you should have to begin preparing for your later years, it's never too late to start.

Check out "Retirement Planning and the Golden Years" at www.retirementplanninggoldenyears.com.

Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: blamarche@verizon.net

This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors®, www.csa.us. Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. www.LASeniorMortgage.com

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By Pat Birdsall

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Bye Bye Birdie

The time has come to put this column to rest...if not forever, at least for an extended leave. As I have said several times, prior to this column the only writing experience I ever had was a grocery shopping list—a short one at that. Hardly qualification for a weekly spot. Quite frankly, I have always felt like the poor man's Dorothy

Denne.

In addition to "Bird's Eye View," I do the "Senior Happenings" column and SMEAC's "Environmentally Speaking, Did Your Know?" Coupled with family obligations, volunteer commitments and the need to find part-time employment, there really aren't enough hours in the day to do justice to any of the above. Since this column is totally personal it is the most difficult and hence, the one I have to put on hiatus.

I want to thank those of you who have given me positive feedback over the past two years. Okay, okay, arm wrestling did come into play. The five of you have been very kind. Make that four—I inadvertently included my son who I'm sure feels a certain amount of family loyalty but more importantly, is looking forward to not being the focal point of any more of my columns. Happy trails...Til we meet again.

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SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall



FYI:

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over.

On Sunday, November 9th at 1:00 PM, please help commemorate Veteran's Day with the Sierra Madre VFW-Harry L. Embree Post # 3208, at the Sierra Madre Veteran's Photo Wall in Hart Memorial Park; 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Sharing their war-time experiences will be VFW members Gordon Caldwell and William Newbery.

~Helpful Hints~

Sharpen your scissors by cutting through a sheet of fine-grit sandpaper to finish off the edge and keep your cuts clean.



Happy Birthday

Lena Zate, Carmella Frontino and Alberta Curran

For Your Funny Bone - From the Military

Army-Shortly after joining the Army, I was in line with some other inductees when the sergeant stepped forward with that day's assignments. After handing over various tasks, he asked, "Does anyone here have experience with radio communications?" A long-time ham operator, I shouted, "I do!" "Good," he said. "You can dig the hole for the new telephone pole."

Navy- The new ensign was standing his first night watch on the bridge of a destroyer. Far out on the horizon, the USS New Jersey was conducting a night gunnery exercise. The ensign, seeing the flashes of light from the battleship, ran excitedly up to the signal bridge and pointed out the "Morse code" coming from the other ship. Ensign: "What are they saying? What are they saying?" Signalman: "Boom. Boom."

Air Force- An Air Force fighter pilot ejected from his jet and wound up on a deserted island. There he stayed, unfound for 11 years. One day, there appeared a beautiful woman, who simply walked out of the surf. "How long have you been here?" She asked. "11 years," the fighter pilot replied. "When is the last time you had a cigar?" "11 years." She opened a pocket and gave him a cigar. The fighter pilot took it, and puffed in delight. "When was the last time you had a drink?" the maiden asked. "11 years." She opens another pocket and pulled out a beer. The pilot drank the whole bottle in one gulp. "When was the last time you played around?," the lady asked with a gleam in her eye. "11 years," the deprived pilot replied. The woman started to unzip the front of her wetsuit. "YOU'RE KIDDING ME?" said the pilot. "You got golf clubs in there!!!!!"

Marines- Two airmen were driving across country on leave. They come to a Marine Corps base and decide to visit. They approach the gate and the Marine Guard walks up to the driver's window and taps on it with his nightstick. The driver rolls down the window and the Marine smacks him in the head with the stick. The driver says, "Why'd you do that?" The Marine says, "You're on a United States Marine Corps Base, son. When I come up to your car, you'll have your ID card ready." The driver says, "I'm sorry, we're in the Air Force and we didn't know." The Marine examines the card and gives it back to the driver. The Marine then walks around to the passenger side and taps on the window. The passenger rolls his window down, and the Marine smacks him with the nightstick. The passenger says, "What'd you do that for?" The Marine says, "Just making your wishes come true." The passenger says, "Huh?" The Marine says, "I know that as soon as you pull away you're gonna say, 'I wish that sucker would've tried that stuff with me!'" Coast Guard- A friend, driving home from a fishing trip in northern Michigan with his boat in tow, had engine trouble a few miles inland from Lake Huron. He didn't have a CB radio in his car, so he decided to use his marine radio to get help. Climbing into his boat, he broadcast his call letters and asked for assistance. A Coast Guard officer responded, "Please give your location." "I'm on Interstate-75, two miles south of Standish." The officer paused. "Could you repeat that?" "I-75, two miles south of Standish." A longer pause. Then an incredulous voice asked, "How fast were you going when you hit shore?"

Quote:

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. ~Jose Narosky~



Activities:

Unless listed differently, all activities are at the Hart Memorial Park (Senior Center) Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre

222 W. Sierra

Lunch Program: Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors

Monday: Free Strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandley 1:00- 1:45 PM

Tuesday: Bingo: 1:30-3:30 PM .25c per card. Yoga- 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.) Call 355-5278 for more information

Wednesday: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays-Community Lunch & Learn Program

Thursday: Game Day- 1:00- 3:30 PM Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.

Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30PM \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over) Call 355-5278 for more information

Friday: Ping-Pong- 1:30 PM

Saturday: Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM. Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM -Only .25c per card

Can you donate one hour of your time per month? Local volunteer drivers are desperately needed for the Sierra Madre Meals-on-Wheels program. Please call Darlene Traxler at 626.355.6220. You can make a difference in someone's life.

Meals-On-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale lunch program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382

Monthly Excursions:

*For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM. **The December excursion is in the planning stages. Will publish information as soon as it becomes available.**

Fall Swim Pass- The Sierra Madre Pool is open as of September 2nd for lap swimmers and water walkers. For more information call 355-5278.

Free Blood Pressure Clinic- Second Tuesday of each month 11:00 AM- Noon. No appointment necessary

Free Homeowners & Renters Assistance Program - Don Brunner is volunteering again this year from 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM every Wednesday from July 2nd to October 15th by appointment only. If you are 62 or older or disabled and have income less than \$41,000 you may be eligible for money back from the State of California. For reservations and more information call (626) 355-7394.

NEW Program- Financial Consulting

Joohee Lee, MBA, an Arcadia resident, is a financial service professional with New York Life Insurance Company in Pasadena. She will assist you with repositioning your assets to maximize income, and return benefits your heirs. She will be volunteering on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

Lions Sight Program- Arcadia Community Center- Free vision care for low-income seniors 2nd Wednesday of each month 2-4 PM. To qualify for the program, interested parties must be 62 and over, have a yearly income below \$25,900 and must live in Arcadia, Temple City, Monrovia, Duarte or Sierra Madre. Limited appointments are available per month. Call 626.574.5130 to make an appointment for November 12.

One Of A Kind:
Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them
By Chris Bertrand

The British Home: Independent and Assisted Living for Seniors



Chris Bertrand

residents who find they need additional care can elect to move within the British Home to the assisted living cottage.

Audrey Mc Ilwrath, President of the Resident's Council, points out that residents here don't just sit back and watch life pass them by. She, for instance, continues to offer her skills in training the Rose Parade's princess each year with her public speaking skills. Beryl Burrige, another resident, is very active in the volunteer program at Methodist Hospital.

The British Home is a freestanding residential care facility for the elderly, (RCFE) founded by the Daughters of the British Empire. There are three other British homes across the US, in Brookfield, IL, Ossining, NY, Houston, TX. The DBE fund raising and volunteer efforts originally established these homes for senior of the British Commonwealth who needed or wanted to stay stateside, some after years of service as nurses or nannies.

Residents come from many British influenced locations, including England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia and Canada, often because relatives live locally. Today, the home is open to seniors of all nationalities and faiths, though the personality of the British Home remains definitely, well... British!

Several British magazines are stacked in the various reception rooms, also known in California as living rooms. Framed pictures of the British royalty abound, including one of the Queen visiting this very home in 1983. Steak and kidney pie, plus liver and onions are occasionally served, although an alternative main dish is available for those who might not wish to eat so traditionally British that day. The silver tea service always remains polished and on display at the antique buffet in the dining room.

Everywhere, DBE volunteers leave their stamp and loving impressions on the place. Rhona Jorgenson, retired from Fox television, comes regularly to visit and volunteer with the Home's mascot dog, a black lab named Cotton. A picture of this rescue dog is even framed in the guest suite. Rhona was busy planting and gardening during my visit, but took a bit of time to join me for lunch.

The residents and staff are proud of the MBE status of current DBE board president, Marlena Smith, received two years ago. Many of the past presidents have also received this honor. MBE, Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, is an honor bestowed by the Queen on exceptional persons dedicated to philanthropic service.

Even Jill Levredge, administrator for the past five years, was first a DBE volunteer here. Her mother was a DBE volunteer, too.

According to the British Home website, "Their vision of a place where elderly people could be cared for in a warm and kind environment continues to this day." This is clearly evident everywhere. All the areas are geared to feel homelike, including the assisted living cottage, with elegant furnishings, carpeting and hardwood-style floors favored over laminated flooring, granite counters and modern kitchens in process, and easy to use walk-in showers in the private baths. A hair salon is staffed regularly. A podiatrist comes onsite once a month and a CNA is onsite 24/7.

Every room opens to the interior common areas, and also to the outside, allowing easy inside to outside access. Everything is on one level, easy for those with walkers, and a covered walkway protects residents from the elements when walking to and from the communal buildings.

DBE ensures that the home is kept meticulously maintained, free from odors and regularly updated. Though traditional, elegant furnishings are throughout the cottages; their current fundraising has allowed them to modernize the kitchens and baths. Painting and building care is always ongoing, so the place always looks manicured.

A unique feature at the British home helps ensure that a move here is the right choice. After a potential resident applies, they are welcomed for a two week, complimentary trial stay, to see if they are comfortable making this monumental move. Another caring feature is for those in the independent living cottages. If a cold or other illness doesn't respond quickly to rest and in- room attention from staff, they are invited to move to a respite room, to receive closer monitoring during an illness. "Our primary concern is to prevent pneumonia," Levredge comments, "and this respite system works very well."

The Sierra Madre home has been open since 1931 and the grounds were expanded up to Ramona



Avenue in 1934. Two community events are offered every year, for neighbors and friends, including the Faire on the first Saturday in June, with Scottish and Irish dancier, all kinds of English dishes, including Cornish pasties and English tea. The Ingathering Tea is a full tea with a buffet of English treats, scones sausage rolls, pork pies, Christmas cakes and shortbreads... all fresh baked, on the first Sunday of November. So watch for these DBE fundraising events in the future!

The British Home in California, Ltd., is located at 647 Manzanita Avenue, Sierra Madre. If you're interested in a tour or more information, contact Jill Levredge at 626-355-7240 or info@BritishHome-CA.us. You can also visit their website at www.BritishHome-CA.us. The British Home is also a licensed, continuing care retirement community, as defined by the CA Department of Social Services. License #1915501668; Certificate of authority: #064.



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