



Happy Thanksgiving

Mountain Views-Observer

Sierra Madre

Arcadia

Pasadena

Altadena

Monrovia

Week Ending Friday, November 21, 2008 Volume 2 No. 44

Thanksgiving Day, 2008



A Word From Father Pat

Someone once said, "Gratitude is the first thing forgotten." I wonder if this is true. When times are difficult don't we often forget how blessed we really are? When we are struggling with many burdens is it not doubly hard to count our blessings? I can't help but think of the hundreds of families who just days ago lost their homes to the terrible fires in Sylmar, Montecito, and other areas only a short distance from our beloved foothill city. One day life seemed so wonderful, and the next day, in the aftermath of the fires, treasures of personal belongings and precious memories were irretrievably melted and consumed by the fierce, burning heat of unforgiving flames. Yet, even in the midst of such loss how often we heard good, good people declare, "Well, these were only material things. How we thank God for our lives and the chance to carry on!" Gratitude can overcome even the horror of burning fires! And I wonder to myself, "Can we carry such a spirit of gratitude even into the market place at this time of difficulty and recession?" All of us are witnessing the current decline in investments and the collapse of banks and businesses. Many are losing jobs at the very worst time of the year while many more wonder how all of these events will impact their future, including the chance to retire with even a small amount of security. When the horizon can look so bleak are we still able to carry within our hearts a spirit of gratitude and trust?

This Thanksgiving Day is for us, dear friends, that *national time-out* when one and all, no matter how uncertain or fearful we may be, remember that we simply must do what Americans have always done when times were tough, namely, turn to our gracious and loving God with trust and confidence, placing our hands in his hands, and offering praise and thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received. We confidently take time to count our blessings even when there is smoke in the air or uncertainty in the future. Isn't this what real gratitude is? And isn't this the spirit of those great men and women who have gone before us? This Thanksgiving Day, united with family and friends, let us all give thanks and praise to God who will be by our side no matter what the future may hold. And may this spirit of gratitude lift our hearts so that we can be a better, stronger, and more thankful people who discover that with God's love and grace all things are possible. Happy Thanksgiving to you and continued blessings to all of your loved ones.

Fire Safe Council Prepares For 3rd Anniversary



Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council members: Mike Kinney, President; Forrest Brown, Chipper Day Inspector; Gary Hood, Safety Operations Officer and Caroline Brown, Public Relations Director at the FSC office during the Great Shake Out earthquake preparedness drill, November 13, 2008. Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council will host their year end meeting with a reception to mark the third year anniversary of the local chapter of the California State FSC. Open to all residents in Sierra Madre and neighboring cities, the celebration will take place December 1, 2008 from 7-9 p.m. in the City Council chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. For information: call 626-355-0741 Photo by Gary Hood

Treasures Of Sierra Madre

The MountainViews-Observer is pleased to announce the start of a new weekly feature focusing on Volunteers and Volunteerism which are the pulse of Sierra Madre. We are also pleased to have Jan Reed, former publisher of The Sierra Madre News as the contributing author for this venture. The very first article will introduce De Alcorn, who will direct the city's volunteer efforts.

S. Henderson/MVO



Two Sierra Madeans, who spent several years sailing in their 30-ft.boat around that orb called the world, have become landlubbers, settling into life in Sierra Madre as ubiquitous volunteers. De and Pat Alcorn have put down roots.

De Alcorn was recently appointed "Secretary of Service and Volunteering" by the Sierra Madre City Council. What exactly does that entail? "I'll facilitate volunteers for the City government, recruiting and overseeing the assistance for them, working with City department heads for their volunteers and interns," De explained.

Sounds like a big order? Not for De, who is a graduate of Caltech and Pepperdine, worked at JPL for 35 years in management as an engineer in space crafts.

Pat is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona and has her Masters from USC, working as a medical social worker at Queen of the Valley Hospital for 10 years and De worked in management and as an engineer on space crafts.

Together their volunteer "careers" are formidable. De on the Search and Rescue Team for years and Pat continues to help Civic Club. They work local election boards, Friends of the Library, Creative Arts Group, the Wistaria Vine Celebration. And that's just the short list. De is also a member of Kiwanis Club.

The Alcorns attend almost all Commission and Council meetings. It's no wonder they are called "Mr. and Mrs. Public."

They have two sons, Alan and Mark, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren with one on the way. And they still have time for all of the volunteering. The Alcorns are truly role models for Sierra Madeans in their retirement years.

Green Advisory Committee Approved

Sierra Madre will begin searching for residents with expertise in the fields of architecture, environmental consulting and/or even environmental law, after unanimously creating a five member Green Advisory Committee last week charged with evaluating the city's green policies and programs.

"We start by finding those experts in the community who are intimately involved in it," said Councilmember Don Watts adding that we should also look at other cities as a model. He specifically mentioned Pasadena which has an extensive Green Action Plan.

The focus of the city's newest committee would be to assist in the creation of a Green Building Ordinance for public and private development. Each council member will appoint a member of the committee.

How often and when the committee would meet still needs to be finalized. The council has not yet decided whether the committee would be an ad hoc or standing committee although Councilmember John Buchanan suggested that the committee would only be needed for two years possibly meeting every other month. Buchanan volunteered to be the council liaison. "I would be glad to be the council liaison," he said. "Although I don't know if I would be able to give them much insight other than to just sit and learn."

MacGillivray said she did not think a liaison was appropriate in the current motion. It was later taken out after the council voted. It took them several times voting due to complications in the language.

Buchanan also suggested that the committee look at how the city could comply, or even get ahead of both environmental legislation AB 32 and SB 375. AB 32 declares that the state must reduce greenhouse gases by 25 percent by 2020. MacGillivray said she thought the bill was moving the state backwards instead of forward. It would reduce emission to 1990 levels. She did support the formation of the committee although she had, in the past, argued global warming was untrue and even made-up. At the beginning of the

discussion MacGillivray joked, "Every time I look at things about the green committee, I can't help but think of Kermit the Frog who always used to say, 'it's not easy being green.'" She focused her comments on state compliance.

SB 375, signed into law Oct. 1 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger requires the creation of incentives for development projects near existing transit facilities and strengthens mandates on local agencies to provide affordable housing. Buchanan said it would have an impact on the city's future planning issues. It takes effect Jan. 1.

Councilmember Joe Mosca who has a keen interest in the greening of transportation issues sits on MTA San Gabriel Valley Service Sector Governance Council. "Here we are actually taking about not changing the behavior of other people but changing the behavior of our community and what we do with our community," he said after discussing high gas prices. "I think that's where the Green Committee is going to serve and fulfill a very useful propose." He had also said, "As soon as gas went up the ridership went up more than we could have done within that period of time,"

Mosca advocated keeping the focus broad although still assigning them certain tasks. He suggested a mission statement. He also wanted to see the committee used heavily in the General Plan Update. Mayor Kurt Zimmerman gave no input on the creation of the advisory committee.

Staff said that the new committee would not be used in upcoming discussions on the cost of permits for green improvements, including solar installations, and a discussion on green purchasing policies. They said the items were already agendized and would precede the selection of the committee. Both are to be heard at the next two council meetings, one Tuesday and the other the second week in December.

In related news, The Public Policy Institute of California released a study earlier this week finding that 75 percent of California's cities and counties are actively engaged in climate change issues.

Dean Lee/MVO

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Woman's Club Prayer Breakfast Well Received

By Bill Coburn

"Lord, we thank thee for food, and remember the hungry. We thank thee for friends and remember the lonely. We thank thee for health, and remember the sick. We thank thee for shelter, and remember the homeless. We thank thee for freedom, and remember the enslaved. May these remembrances, stir us to service, that thy gifts to us may be used for others." With this invocation, event chair Dixie Coutant kicked off the Sierra Madre Woman's Club pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, a long-standing tradition in the community.

Ms. Coutant's invocation actually followed a chorus of "Come Ye Thankful People Come," the flag salute followed by a verse of "America the Beautiful" and welcoming remarks by Club president Janet Ten Eyck. Following Ms. Coutant to the microphone was town historian Phyllis Chapman, who introduced numerous people in attendance, among them City Council Members John Buchanan and Joe Mosca, City Treasurer George Enyedi, City Clerk Nancy Shollenberger, Fire Chief Steve Heydorff, City Manager Elaine Aguilar, Finance Director Karen Schneider, Interim Community and Personnel Services Director Elisa Weaver, Mark Harmsen, representing Congressman David Dreier's office, and many other folks who, paid and unpaid, do so much for the City. Among the guests were former mayors and council members, current and past presidents of local service organizations, administrators from local schools, and of course, many members of the Woman's Club.

A delicious breakfast of "Woman's Club" quiche, fresh fruit and muffins, along with coffee and juice, was then served to the guests in the jam-packed Essick House. Dixie offered special thanks to Mary Carney for making all the quiche, and Mike

Ruggles for cutting all the fruit.

Following the breakfast, five members of the clergy from local churches and temples briefly presented their personal message of Thanksgiving. Reverend Michael Bamberger of the Church of the Ascension spoke about two longtime members of the community, Olla and Rex Smith, and their service to the community, and in particular the Woman's Club. He recalled seeing Rex carrying in the quiche the morning of the Prayer Breakfast when he first started attending, supporting his wife and the things she organized. "How do we live up to the legacy of these people who set for us these standards...we all are trying to live in to the legacy that we have been given, and the legacy is really what we are supposed to be the most thankful for. And the way that we can honor that legacy is by doing our part in our time, and so that's really the challenge for each and every generation, is to live in the legacy of the Rex and Olla Smiths of this world."

Pastor Philip Carlson of Bethany Church spoke of receiving a Christmas gift as a child that had touched him due to the generosity of the folks who had helped his parents to be able to give him the gift when his dad was out of work, and how he is friends to this day with that couple. Referencing Paul's teachings to the Corinthians, Pastor Carlson stated that to this day he feels rich because of this couple's generosity. "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you, through his poverty, might become rich."

Rabbi Alan Lachtman of Temple Beth David mentioned that some of his congregants asked him what prayer should they pray at this time of year, and he said he responded "Don't say the prayer, do thankful things, by

(cont. pg. 4)



Both men and women came together, gave thanks and enjoyed community (and a delicious breakfast) at the Essick House as the Woman's Club carried on its decades old tradition of a pre-Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, this year celebrated by five members of the local clergy, on Wednesday morning. Photo by Bill Coburn

Read The Paper Online At: www.mvobserver.com

Thank You to Our Family of Customers

During this time of thanksgiving, we are especially reminded of how much we have for which to be grateful. We have been blessed through the years to have met such wonderful people and forged such strong friendships. At this time of year, we recognize just how fortunate we really are.

On behalf of our families, we'd like to express our gratitude for your loyal support and your constant good will, and we extend our best wishes for a safe, peaceful and joyous Holiday Season.

ANGELS EVERYWHERE

Angel, Sophie, Patti and Julia

ATTITUDE!

Marvin and Kiki

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Paul and Arlene

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LA BELLA ROUGE

Heather, Ann, Anne



Weather Wise



5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Mon: Lt Rain Hi 75s Lows 50s
Tues: Rain Hi 60s Lows 50s
Wed: Lt Rain Hi 60s Lows 50s
Thur: Pt Cldy Hi 60s Lows 50s
Fri: Sunny Hi 80s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

FRIENDS OF THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY DECEMBER BEST USED BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will be hosting their Annual Best Used Book Sale Friday, December 5th, 3pm to 7pm and Saturday, December 6th, 10am to 2pm. The sale will be located at the Sierra Madre Public Library, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd. The library phone number is (626) 355-7186.

If Christmas is on a slightly tighter budget this year, the Library Best Used Book Sale will be the perfect stop for excellent gifts including for children – “The Encyclopedia of Horses and Ponies”, “The Random House Children’s Encyclopedia”, “Dear America” books and much more. There will be a special table of books on Interior Design and Architecture, new 2008 fiction titles, books on history and art, and a new selection of DVD’s. Outside tables will be filled with hard back fiction and non fiction books for \$1.00 each. Paperbacks for 25 cents and a new selection of children’s books.

The Friends operate the Best Used Book Store, offer reasonable prices, and all proceeds support the library programs.

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>		
<p>General Election 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM At Your Local Polling Place 4</p>						
<p>Community Services Commission 6:00 p.m. Council Chamber 10</p>		<p>Tree Advisory Commission 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber 12</p>		<p>Planning Commission 7:00 p.m. Council Chamber 13</p>		5
		<p>Library Board of Trustees 7:00 p.m. City Hall Conference Room 19</p>				
<h1>Happy Thanksgiving!</h1>						

Free Flu Shot Clinic

December 9, 2008 1:30 to 3:00 pm
Sierra Madre Recreation Center

611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre 91024

The Recreation Center, 611 E. Sierra Madre Blvd., will be hosting the Public Health Dept. Flu Vaccination Clinic on Dec. 9th at 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. This is FREE and open to pregnant women, households with adults over 50 years of age, household contacts & caregivers of kids, and anyone with chronic health conditions. If you have questions can call the Hart Park House at: 355-7394.

Give A Gift That Keeps Giving! Buy A SMRFA Coupon Book!

Dine. Shop. Travel. Save! This is really a perfect gift. The localized Entertainment Book is a paperback which contains coupons and discounts to local restaurants, entertainment venues, retail shops, rental cars, sporting events, and vacation deals and more. For a small contribution, you can get a book that will save you hundreds! Don't want the San Gabriel Valley Book? You can purchase one for almost any area. Call 626-355-7005 for more info.

SIERRA MADRE'S FARMERS MARKET!

A CERTIFIED FARMERS MARKET

Every Wednesday 3pm-7pm

Fresh vegetables and seasonal fruits from California family farms.

Specialty foods, vegetarian and vegan dishes, ethnic foods and hot food - Everything you'll find at the farmers market has been made or picked fresh, is pesticide-free and preservative-free.

Free public on Mariposa.



Sierra Madre Woman's Club
Wistaria Thrift Shop

Holiday Sale

**Friday & Saturday
December 5 and 6
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
in the historic Essick House
550 West Sierra Madre Blvd.**

We have all your Holiday needs:
Clothing for the Entire Family
Decorations • Ornaments • Candles
Table Linen • Kitchen Necessities
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Proceeds support local charities
For information call 626-355-7739



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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*

Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce
presents

Dickens' Village
Saturday, November 29, 2008
4 p.m. – 9 p.m.

- Sled rides on real snow
- Santa Claus
- Horse and Carriage rides
- Holiday Music and Carolers
- Family Art Project sponsored by
Creative Art Studio
- Christmas Tree Raffle

Rain or Shine

For more information contact: Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce at:
www.sierramadrechamber.com or (626) 355-5111

Create Your Own Baker's Dough Family Portrait



Create your family portrait in non-edible baker's dough as part of Sierra Madre's Dickens Village festivities. Families are welcome to come to Creative Arts Group, 108 N. Baldwin Ave., Sierra Madre, November 29, 4-8:00 pm, to work together on this free art project.

Happy Holidays! from

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Seasonal Decorations

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Flooring

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Labor Resources Available

Letters To The Editor:

Dear Editor,

For several years, the Kiwanis Club of Sierra Madre, has happily co-sponsored the City's annual Halloween Costume Contest... After the kids went Trick-or-Treating at the various businesses in town, they lined up in Kersting Court to enter the costume contest. Several Kiwanis members manned the sign-up sheets, giving each contestant an identification number. The excited entrants then got in line behind a fire engine that had its lights and siren engaged specifically to alert one and all, that they were escorting these happy revelers down Sierra Madre Boulevard to Hart Memorial Park for the costume contest.

Aiding the Kiwanis Club judges were, Suzie McConnell from the Public Works Department, and Council member Joe Mosca. The event's MC, Lisa Spigai-Perez, kept the entire program rolling and orderly with her great sense of humor and her ease on the stage. There were approximately 150 entrants who all had an opportunity to get on stage and "work" the audience. It was difficult to tell who had the most fun, the contestants or the judges. After the very difficult task:

THE 2008 WINNERS

0-2 Years: Auge Martin, Sophie Astacaan, Jarett Walker, Chloe Tubbs

3-4 Years: Malia Wilson, Coralyne Taylor, Owen Ryan

5-6 Years: Abby Gagnier, Johan Thuen, Jeffrey Dieguez

7-8 Years: Mihali Dieguez, Ethan Huang, Samantha Grijalva

9-10 Years: Jurhandi Molina, Ruchi Parikh, Jack Ik

11 and up: Trip Westmoreland, Sara Rupp, Casie McAlary

Congratulations one and all, from the Kiwanis Club of Sierra Madre.

WOMENS CLUB (continued from page 1)

helping other people. God doesn't need the praises, God needs our service. Our service to God is really what's important, by reaching out to those who need a helping hand, by giving them encouragement when they are brought down low, by helping with our shelters and our food banks and going the extra mile to help other people."

Dr. Wayne Walters, of United Methodist Church wondered if the tough economic times and hardships that people are experiencing due to fires, etc, might not actually be good for us. "I think we really need a time of kind of realignment in terms of where we've been in terms of what's important to us... I think we really have become so materialistic that we tend to think how could I be happy without the things that I want and a lot of us either by necessity or by choice are going to be re-examining that, and realizing it's not the *things* in life that are important." He noted that often times people who "lose everything" talk about how blessed they feel. "That's why I pray that this season, it's about Christ, it's not just a time of celebration, but entering into others and their pain so that together, we can experience the kind of community that develops because of that.

And Pastor Paul Beck, who has recently taken over for longtime Sierra Madre Congregational Church Pastor Richard Anderson, gave the benediction, closing the breakfast with another message of gratitude: "As you enter into this season of Thanksgiving, may you go out today in peace...be strong and courageous...and honor everyone, support the weak, strengthen the faint-hearted, help the sufferer, live a life of Thanksgiving, love God, and love one another, and may the grace of our God, be with you all."

A fitting end to a thoughtful and thankful celebration of the season.

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Sierra Madre

3rd Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Mary's Market - Thanksgiving Day at 3PM

Join This Wonderful Canyon Tradition!

An Invitation From Kim Clymer-Kelley

Roast Turkey, mashed potatoes (garlic and regular), gravy, stuffing (veggie and non-veggie), scalloped oysters, corn casserole, yams, assorted veggies, creamed onions, assorted desserts. It is totally free and open to anyone who has no where to go for Thanksgiving or simply does not feel like cooking. Anyone who wants to bring their own Thanksgiving specialty, appetizer, beverage or dessert is welcome to do so.

Last year we served about 40 people and we look forward to doing at least the same this year as the tradition grows. It is a lovely time filled with true Canyon Spirit. I am sure that there will be wonderful impromptu entertainment as has been traditional in the past. I will be posting flyers around town.

Those planning to attend can contact me at 355-1629 with any questions they may have or to let me know they are coming. I do not require notification, last minute attendees are openly welcome, it just helps me plan if I get an idea of how many to expect and what other dishes are coming. I will also leave a sign up sheet at Mary's Market for anyone who wants to sign up there. Please join us even if it is just for a few minutes to say Hi if you have dinner at home.

La Canada

Celebrate A Bountiful Thanksgiving at Descanso Gardens

This Thanksgiving, Descanso Gardens makes the perfect place for a holiday gathering – either before or after the big meal. Want to get out of the kitchen? Not interested in football? Need to really relax? Visitors can “count their blessings” as they wander and explore the Gardens with family, friends and loved ones on this special day.

The Gardens will be opened for regular hours: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

In addition, the Gardens will offer a Bountiful Harvest Thanksgiving Buffet offered by Patina with seatings at noon and 2 p.m. in Van de Kamp Hall.

A sample of menu items includes:

Butternut Squash Soup with Toasted Pecans,
Wild Rice Salad with Dried Autumn Fruit,
Brown Sugar-Brined Roasted Tom Turkey with Bourbon Scented Gravy,
Hearty Herbed Stuffing with Roasted Shallots and Sage,
Green Bean Gratin with Crispy Shallots,
Cane Sugar Roasted Sweet Potatoes with Marshmallow Meringue and
Buttery Mashed Potatoes.

For desert, guests can chose among a selection of holiday pies.

Cost for the brunch is \$35 adult members, \$42 non-adult members, \$15 children 12 and younger, and free for children 3 and younger. Reservations are required by calling (818) 790-3663.

Monrovia

SAFYMCA to Host “Thanksgiving Under the Stars”

For Local At-Risk Teens and Their Families

Dozens of local at-risk teens and their families will be treated to a “Thanksgiving Under the Stars” dinner hosted by the Santa Anita Family YMCA's Youth Alliance program on Friday, Nov. 21 at the Monrovia Historical Museum. The Altrusa Club of Arcadia is donating all of the food for the occasion.

"We're expecting about 30 to 40 families this year. In addition to providing the teens and their families with a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings, our goal is to help promote family unity and an atmosphere of love," said SAFYMCA Youth Alliance coordinator Ulises Gutierrez.

The SAFYMCA Youth Alliance is a comprehensive personal development program for at-risk Middle School and High School students, designed to help them develop the tools and behavior required fulfill their dreams. Some 60 youths currently participate various aspects of the program that include mentoring, tutoring and homework help, Bible study, skills and leadership development, a wellness program that promotes sobriety for teens involved with alcohol or drug abuse, and a 24-hour support talk line.

Jonathan Duarte, a 13 year-old Youth Alliance member, will give the keynote talk – his personal testimony – at the dinner. The Monrovia teen, a prime example of how the program is helping to transform young lives in the community, recently delivered a keynote talk to 500 teens and adults at a conference.

Other highlights of the program will be remarks by Pastor Dorothy Scott, senior pastor for New Life Evangelistic Church, and the performance of a skit by members of the Youth Alliance.

Duarte

Duarte to Give Thanks to Ten Outstanding Community Volunteers

At Mayor's Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, Nov. 26

“Thankyouology” Author Cheryl Russell to Keynote

Duarte will express its thanks to ten outstanding community volunteers at the 23rd annual Mayor's Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast and 21st annual Duarte Chamber Community Service Recognition Awards, Wednesday, Nov. 26. The public is invited to attend the event that will take place from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. at City of Hope Cooper Auditorium, 1500 E. Duarte Rd.

The Mayor's Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast traditionally kicks off the holiday season in Duarte. The Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Duarte Church and Clergy Association, Duarte Kiwanis, Duarte's Promise – The Alliance for Youth and Duarte Woman's Club jointly sponsor the annual program in cooperation with the City of Duarte. Tickets are \$10 or \$8 for children and seniors, and can be purchased at the door or in advance from the Duarte Chamber of Commerce, Duarte Senior Center or City Hall. They are also available online from www.duartechamber.com. For more information, call Duarte Chamber of Commerce at (626) 357-3333.

Keynote speaker for the breakfast will be Cheryl Russell, motivational speaker, team building coach and author of the book, THANKYOUOLOGY, a philosophy that living the art of saying thank you with thoughts, words and actions creates a most magnificent way of life.

Receiving the 2008 honors will be Nita Carey, Outstanding Civic Service Award; Pat Wolfe, Outstanding Service to Senior Citizens/Disabled; Pat De Rose, Outstanding Humanitarian Award; Los Angeles County Sherriff's Deputy Robert MacLean, Outstanding Service to Youth Award; Joe Naylor and Lisa Magno of Joe's Place, Outstanding Business Person Award; and David Palmer, Swati Puri, and Gonzalo Lozano, Outstanding Youth Award.

Nita Carey (Outstanding Civic Service Award) is being honored for her more than 50 years of community service including the Duarte Woman's Club, PTA, Duarte Community Coordinating Council and the longest-serving election poll worker in Los Angeles County – 80 elections dating back to 1952.

Pat Wolfe (Outstanding Service to Senior Citizens/Disabled) is being recognized for her outstanding service as a Duarte Senior Center volunteer.

Pat De Rose (Outstanding Humanitarian) devotes many volunteer hours of service to a variety of community organizations including serving as an active board member of the Duarte Education Foundation, Friends of the Duarte Library, Duarte Festival of Authors, and Duarte Public Access Television (DCTV).

L.A. County Sheriff's Deputy Robert MacLean (Outstanding Service to Youth) is a mentor to youth, serving as a school resource deputy and advisor to the Duarte Area Resource Team (D.A.R.T.), a volunteer youth group that regularly performs community service.

Joe Naylor, Lisa Magno, and Matt Hollie, owners of Joe's Place restaurant (Outstanding Business Person Award) are being honored for their generous volunteer support and sponsorship of community programs and activities including Duarte's Salute to Route 66 Parade and the Duarte Youth Boxing Club Benefit Golf Tournament.

Three Duarte High School students are being recognized for their volunteer activities (Outstanding Youth Award).

David Palmer, a DHS senior, is a member of the Key Club and Interact community service organizations. Swati Puri, also a DHS senior, is president of Youth 2 Youth and a member of Key Club and California Girls State. Gonzalo Lozano, a DHS junior, has contributed more than 250 hours of community service as a member and president of D.A.R.T. He is also a member of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Explorer program.

Arcadia

Turkey Trot Fun Run-Walk

The City of Arcadia Recreation and Community Services Department is excited to announce the fifth annual “Turkey Trot Fun Run-Walk” taking place on Sunday, November 23rd. This non-competitive event is open to all ages – strollers and four legged friends on a leash are also welcome! All who trot around the park will be eligible to win a yummy turkey to share on Thanksgiving Day with family and friends! Pre-registration is \$5 up to Wednesday, November 19, \$10 thereafter and includes an event t-shirt! The walk begins at 1 pm with check-in starting at 12:30 pm in the Museum parking lot. For more information please call 626-574-5113.

Sierra Madre City Hall & Library Closed 3 Days for Thanksgiving

City Hall and the Library will be closed Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 27th, 28th, and 29th in observance of Thanksgiving. They will re-open as normal on Monday, December 1st, 2008.

MountainViews-Observer



Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community

For Your Community

Resident Calls on Council to Back Prop. 8 Legal Fight

A soft spoken member of the Orange Grove Quaker Meeting in Pasadena asked the city council Monday to support pending litigation against the recently passed proposition 8, the statewide ban on gay marriage.

The council made no comment.

The member said that the Californian Supreme Court had affirmed last May in a ruling that sexual orientation was as much a fundamental civil right, as gender and race. He also said that residents in Pasadena overwhelmingly voted against Prop. 8.

He also said the majority of residents in South Pasadena and Sierra Madre also voted no which is consistent with reporting from the Los Angeles Times.

"I'm a married man," he said. "My wife and I, our marriage, in its standing, legally, and society has been diminished by the acceptance of Proposition 8, just as we would never go into a restaurant that would only allow white people to dine."

Last Saturday hundreds of protesters gathered at city hall as part of a national outcry against Prop. 8. The demonstration was orchestrated through an online effort by the organization, "Join the Impact" which used popular online sites such as YouTube, Facebook and Twitter to spread the word.

They claim 300 cities around the country participated in a simultaneous protested against Prop. 8 and for equality.

The Pasadena event had several prominent speakers, including several local All Saints Episcopal Church members including Rev. Susan Russell who said she hoped the court would overture the proposition.

Canceled Marathon Now Looks for a March Date

After canceling the inaugural Pasadena Marathon last Sunday organizers now look to the future.

By Dean Lee

The Pasadena city council hit the ground running Monday night, starting their regular meeting with an update from new City Manager Michael Beck over the cancellation of the first ever Pasadena Marathon. The race was nixed 3:30 a.m. Sunday because of bad air quality from two nearby wildfires. A sellout, 8,000 racers were set to participate.

"Staff is working with the organizer to identify a potential new date," Beck said. "We are looking at spring for 2009, so we hope in the next week or so we will be able to bring that back to the city council for consideration."

No one representing the marathon was available for comment and were not at Monday's meeting. Thursday, the telephone number given for race organizer Pasadena Forward's Communications Manager Li Minot, only a message picks up explaining the race had been canceled.

In a press release Minot explains, "The decision was made in consultation with the Kaiser Permanente Medical Team, the City of Pasadena and Pasadena Forward. It was difficult and highly disappointing to have arrived at this decision with so many having dedicated years of hard work to the inaugural Pasadena Marathon; however, concerns for the safety and wellbeing of the participants prevailed."

Predawn Sunday, many event goers said they did not hear about the cancellation showing up only to be turned

away. Many complained that the official website pasadenamarathon.org was not updated until 8:30 a.m. Sunday. The main 26.2 mile race was to start two hours earlier at 6:30 a.m. There was also a bike tour scheduled at 6 a.m. and a 5K fun run/walk at 6:50 a.m..

The night before, a sign up was posted on the homepage to inform those participating of any cancellation. It stated an email would be sent at 4 a.m. which many people said they did not receive, including this newspaper, although, just as many people said they did receive it. The email was later posted on many blogs.

At freeway off ramps Amber Alerts read, "All race events canceled." At the starting line in front of Pasadena City College reports said equipment was being taken down and loaded onto trucks at 5 a.m.

Mayor Bill Bogaard said



Many who planed to race, still decided to jog in spite of bad air quality

Tuesday that he was not part of the decision to cancel and not there at 3:30 a.m. when the decision was made as reported by other news organizations.

"I was there at 5:30 a.m. in preparation for the six o'clock start of the bicycle race," he said.

Bogaard further explained, "But when I got there I asked Israel, of course I expressed my concerns and sympathy, I said how



The Pasadena Marathon main stage 7:30 a.m. Sunday

Photo D. Lee/MVO

did this decision get made? He said 'about 3:15, I sat down with a doctor from Kaiser-Permanente and with a city representative, we talked about it for 15 or 20 minutes, it became clear and was an easy

decision..." I immediately went to the computer to see, and well there were no changes in that notice that said we need to make a decision..."

There also had been some concern over the city not being an official sponsor of the race.

"We certainly worked closely with them," Bogaard said explaining comments made by Estrada at an earlier meeting, "What I heard him say was we haven't asked the city to be a sponsor because the saving would only be \$3,000 or \$4,000 and then we would have to list the city as a sponsor and then there would be confusion because there are others that are contributing so much more than that."

Bogaard said he thought it was not unusual to have different categories for sponsorship, "you could say big sponsors, or say in-kind sponsors, or contributors."

He also said the city postures itself as being a support organization and not a controlling one saying they left the cancellation decision up to the organizers.

"Obviously if some injury were to occur everyone all around would get sued" he said. "But I think in the end, Pasadena Forward were a regulatory and committing force."

Councilmember Steve Madison asked Monday why they could not reschedule the event in the next few weeks. Beck said that, not only, did Thanksgiving get in the way but right after the city need to start getting ready for the Rose Parade. He also said there was no extra cost putting off until next year.

"It would not significantly change the cost associated with doing it in a few week vs. let's say the end of March," he said. "Which could actually be even a more appropriate timeline as a pre race possibly before the Los Angeles Marathon on May 26?"

Both the Sayre Fire to the northwest, near Sylmar, and the Triangle Complex Fire, near Corona, to the southeast have since been fully contained. The Triangle Complex Fire alone burned 29,000 acres destroying 155 homes and damaging 104 more.

South Lake Being Revitalized



Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market is set to occupy the space that was previously the S. Lake Ave. Wild Oats Natural Marketplace, on Prior to opening, minor modifications will include the removal of the 2nd floor with a net reduction of 1,300 square feet, and the receiving area will be enclosed to reduce noise.



Macy's Pasadena On South Lake Avenue Ribbon Cutting & VIP Ceremony Special guests included: Mayor Bill Bogaard, Pasadena Heritage's Sue Mossman, Rose Queen Courtney Lee, Chamber of Commerce President Paul Little, South Lake Executive Director Gina Tieel, Macy's CEO Jeff Genette.



One City, One Story Book selected

"The Hummingbird's Daughter," a novel filled with cowboys and outlaws, Indian warriors, cantina beauties, and other colorful characters is Pasadena's 2009, One City, One Story selection. The cover to the book was revealed during a ceremony Tuesday at city hall.

Mayor Bill Bogaard along with Library Director Jan Sanders did the honors.

The novel, written by Luis Alberto Urrea, tells a tale of a father discovering what true love is and a daughter recognizing that sometimes true love requires true sacrifice. Organizers of One City, One Story said it's designed to broaden and deepen an appreciation of reading, engage participants in dialogue and bring the city's readers together by promoting different points of view. Mayor Bill Bogaard said, "Pasadena is a community with a great enthusiasm for literature and reading. I anticipate a groundswell of interest." Activates and events are to be scheduled in March starting with a community dialogue with the author in early April. Urrea is a former 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction and



Mayor Bill Bogaard (left) and Jan Sanders (right)



is also a member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame. Pasadena's One City, One Story is in its seventh year.

Housing Element To Be Reviewed

The Housing Element of the General Plan projects Pasadena's housing needs, analyzes current resources, and sets policies and programs that promote quality housing for all Pasadenans.

After review by the City Council Monday night, 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers, it will be sent to Sacramento for review and legal analysis by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. For more info or to review the document go to: www.cityofpasadena.net/planningcomments



Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know?

It's A Start...Part III

By Pat Birdsall

I'm happy to report that this series could go on and on, as more corporate giants are getting aboard the "Green" train. This week we're featuring Payless ShoeSource and Sears Home Services.

Payless ShoeSource, the Topeka, Kansas-based chain, is planning to sell a line of ecologically friendly shoes and handbags early next year. They will start with eight to twelve styles of women's shoes, followed by styles for men and children. The shoes will sell for an average of less than \$30.00 a pair, and will be made from materials with less effect on the environment, such as organic cotton and linen, hemp and recycled rubber outsoles.

Payless is not the first company to get into the eco-friendly shoe business. Companies such as Patagonia, Timberland and Teva have pushed an environmentally aware message with their shoes for years. They have been joined by smaller brands, such as Keep, Keen and Terra Plana. Progress...

T. Granger, Assoc. Press

Sears Home Services is joining the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's voluntary Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) Program to promote environmentally responsible disposal of household appliances, which will significantly reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances and greenhouse gases.

Each year, Americans dispose of roughly 10 million refrigerators and freezers that contain ozone-destroying and heat-trapping chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) or hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The new partnership will result in the proper disposal of more than 1 million residential refrigerators and freezers per year. The annual greenhouse gas emissions savings resulting from Sears' efforts will be equivalent to preventing the emissions from 650,000 cars.

In addition to appliance retailers, EPA is working with a variety of industry sectors to quantify and reduce emissions and promote efficient technologies that are safer for the ozone layer, and Earth's climate.

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Fire Safe Council "Announcements and Observations"

We are proud to announce three years of community outreach with our Fire Safe Council message! Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be December 1, 2008 at 7 P.M. in the City Council chambers. Come and celebrate this milestone with us. The meeting, as always, is open to all. This time, please RSVP to Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, 355-0741 or 355-9350 as refreshments will be served.

At the anniversary meeting we will have an opportunity for all in attendance to tell their stories of this earthquake drill and actual stories from past earthquakes you have experienced as well as the more recent fire and mud flow events of this past April

and May.

On Thursday, November 10 at 10 a.m. there was a county-wide mock earthquake drill that you, your family or business participated in. On Saturday and Sunday there was the real scenario of the Sayre fire in Sylmar and the Orange County Triangle Fire, that put one aspect of the "mock" in to real time: the freeway closures and rerouting of hundreds of thousands of cars on the Southern California roadways. Then there were the evacuations, the loss of property, the personal devastation losses of community, homes, belongings, security.

Our preparation is on going. We cannot rest on our laurels. We must continue to organize our community and our families toward emergency response proficiency.

Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, November 9th, to Saturday November 15th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 337 calls for service.

Sunday, November 9th:

12:53 AM - Arrest, 00 block West Sierra Madre Blvd. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed his license was suspended/revoked. The driver was arrested and released on a written promise to appear.

Tuesday, November 11th:

9:27 AM - Fictitious check, 600 block Mariposa Ave. A check for \$1950.00 was sent as payment for a \$200.00 item listed for sale on Craig's List. The check is to be cashed less \$250.00 and the difference, \$1700.00 returned to the buyer. The check, drawn on First National Bank was verified as fictitious by bank personnel.

Wednesday, November 12th:

8:39 PM - Residential burglary, 500 block Las Rocas Drive. Glass window louvers were removed to gain entry and steal a vitamin bottle containing 30 Kennedy half dollars. The crime occurred between 9:30 am and 8:10 pm, Wednesday 11/12. The loss was estimated at \$15.00.

Thursday, November 13th:

9:17 AM - Grand theft, 600 block Oak Crest Drive. A Samsonite briefcase containing: a

check, cash, keys and 10 gift cards was stolen from the rear of an SUV parked in the driveway. The crime occurred between 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm Saturday, 10/25. The loss was estimated at \$15,000.00.

Friday, November 14th:

2:50 PM - Animal bite, 400 block North Canon Ave. An elderly woman was attacked and bitten by one of two loose dogs as she was walking in her front yard. The dog owner was aware the animals were loose, but failed to notify Pasadena Human Society. The woman was treated at the scene by fire department paramedics, but declined being transported to the hospital.

5:00 PM - Grand theft, 600 block West Alegria Ave. Five hundred avocados were stolen from 4 trees. The crime occurred between 8:00 am Thursday, 11/6 and 6:00 pm Sunday, 11/9. The loss was estimated at \$625.00.

Saturday, November 15th:

1:37 PM - Grand Theft, 600 block West Alegria Ave. Several pieces of jewelry were discovered missing from the home. The property: an oval pin, gold bracelet with diamonds and gold, pearls, gold necklace with diamonds and a tennis bracelet. The jewelry was last seen Wednesday, 11/5 and discovered missing Friday, 11/14. The total loss was estimated at \$8600.00.

obtained the victim's social security number by unknown means and used it to gain employment at a restaurant in Pasadena.

Loss prevention personnel from Hollister advised that they were chasing a burglary suspect at the Westfield mall parking lot. Officers arrived at the scene and assisted in the capture of a 21-year-old female for commercial burglary. The suspect hid over \$900 in merchandise in a shopping bag while another female suspect distracted a sales clerk.

Thursday, November 13:

Units responded to the 300 block of West Longden around 6:44 a.m. regarding a mail theft report. A witness advised that two female juveniles were seen going through several mailboxes in the block and taking mail from at least one of the mailboxes. When the witness confronted the suspects, they entered the passenger side of a newer model brown minivan and fled the scene. An area check was conducted, but the suspects were not located.

A hit-and-run collision occurred at 1226 South Baldwin around 10:58 p.m. A grey Toyota Tundra driven by a bald male Asian, early 20's, struck a parked vehicle in the parking lot and fled the scene.

Friday, November 14:

Between 4:30 p.m. on November 13 and 6:15 a.m. on November 14, a commercial burglary occurred at a construction site located in the 100 block of Hacienda. Unknown suspect(s) cut the locks to a gate and stole uninstalled windows.

An auto versus pedestrian accident occurred at Duarte and Lovell around 3:52 p.m. A 71-year-old male driver struck a 59-year-old male pedestrian in a crosswalk. The victim sustained a broken fibula and lacerations to his head, and he was taken to Huntington Memorial Hospital for treatment.

Saturday, November 15:

A grand theft occurred at Westfield mall between 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on November 14. Unknown suspect(s) stole an employee's purse that was kept under her workstation. The suspect(s) then used her credit card at various stores in the mall and made about \$1,300 in purchases.

Between 9:30 p.m. on November 11 and 10:45 a.m. on November 15, a grand theft occurred in the 100 block of Christina. The 81-year-old victim advised that a male acquaintance/suspect had stolen \$995 in cash and a \$500 personal check from her home.

Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, November 9, through Saturday, November 15, the Police Department responded to 982 calls for service of which 104 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 9:

Shortly after 8:00 a.m., a grand theft was reported at Springhill Suites, 99 North Second. The victim's purse was stolen from a chair in the hotel lobby while she was taking photos. A witness advised that he saw a female, 20's, thin build, with dirty blonde hair, trying to conceal a similar purse while walking through the lobby area. The total reported loss was over \$2,150.

Loss prevention personnel from JC Penney advised that they had detained a male juvenile for theft around 5:30 p.m. The suspect was seen taking merchandise into a fitting room and hiding the property in a shopping bag. A private person's arrest was made, and the 17-year-old was taken into custody for commercial burglary. Additional stolen property from Hollister and All Pro Sports were also recovered.

Monday, November 10:

Between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., a residential burglary occurred in the 400 block of East LeRoy. Unknown suspect(s) entered the home through an unlocked door and ransacked rooms. The suspect(s) took two laptop computers and a desktop computer for a reported loss of \$3,700.

A victim came to the station to report a fraud that occurred between October 7 and November 3. Unknown suspect(s) obtained his credit card information by unknown means and made over \$1,483 in purchases.

Tuesday, November 11:

Shortly after 3:00 p.m., a victim came to the station to report a grand theft that occurred between 12:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on November 9. Unknown suspect(s) stole a catalytic converter from his Toyota van.

Between 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., an auto burglary occurred at the Santa Anita Golf Course, 405 South Santa Anita. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a side window of the victim's vehicle and stole a laptop computer and briefcase. The total reported loss was around \$2,150.

Wednesday, November 12:

Around 10:05 a.m., a victim came to the station to file an identity theft report. Unknown suspect had

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NEW LOCAL WEBSITE LAUNCHED THAT WILL PROVIDE ROUND THE CLOCK INFORMATION

Sierra Madre resident, Bill Coburn, best known for his online news website, www.sierramadrenews.net, has launched a new 24-hour online mudslide information site SIERRA MUDRE MUD FLOW AND DEBRIS INFO. The site, will not only give updates in the event of a mudslide and/or debris incident, it is a resource for all things mud related. The site includes information on all four Sierra Madre evacuation zones and maps, information on the city's Ready, Set, Go program, information for homeowners from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, links to other resources and communication programs and much more. You can access the site by going to www.sierramadrenews.net, or by going to www.mvobserver.com.

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Turkey Tussle's Last Stand?

It's been exactly ten years since Pasadena High School prevailed over John Muir in the annual football rivalry known as the "Turkey Tussle". And, last week, when the teams faced each other for what has been rumored to be the last 'tussle' for a while history repeated itself. PHS may now have to wait a while to get revenge. The final score was Muir 13 PHS 9.

According to sources within PUSD, Muir, which has been undergoing a major makeover, is going to take a hiatus from certain sports in order to focus on academics. One Muir student light heartedly commented that maybe the break would "give PHS the chance to learn how to beat us".

The Turkey Tussle, began in 1947 when the game was played between Pasadena Community College and John Muir Junior College. These two schools played until 1953. In 1954 the annual rivalry was played between what was now Pasadena High School and John Muir High School.

The winning school takes possession of a ceremonial Victory Bell. One of the highlights for the winning team is to rush to the end zone, celebrating their win, by ringing the Victory Bell.

PUSD Moves Forward In Partnership With City

By Teresa Baxter

The City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Unified School District held a special joint meeting last Tuesday at the Pasadena Senior Center, with the purpose of highlighting the partnerships that have been of benefit to both entities.

Several presentations of the two agencies showed how the city and school district have been working together to prioritize partnerships in areas as diverse as the creation of a mutual website, combating truancy, and the development of a Youth Career Internship program.

For the past year, the City of Pasadena and the school district have explored the possibility of developing a joint website as a vehicle to communicate the expansion of the partnership and to maximize the utilization of public resources to serve the community.

"The website, which should be running in the next week, will provide specific information about five targeted areas which the city and PUSD believe have the greatest potential for collaboration," said Binti Harvey, PUSD Director of Communications. "The targeted areas will include student enrichment, safety, transportation, joint facilities use and resource sharing."

The issue of truancy reduction was presented by the city's Chief Prosecutor Connie Orozco and John Zamora, PUSD's Director of Child Welfare. In August, Orozco and Zamora met with the principals of John Muir High School and Wilson Middle School, which were chosen to be the pilot schools for implementation of a truancy program.

"The program so far has been successful," said Orozco. "In fact, on Oct. 1 there was a truancy sweep that the Pasadena police conducted...they had routinely picked up a number of students before, but there were none on that day."

The City of Pasadena also intends on creating an internship program that would link local youth, while still in high school, or immediately following high school, with learning experiences and paid on the job training.

Initially, the program would focus on career opportunities and internships in the Water & Power, Public Works, and Human Services and Recreations Departments where entry level positions are available.

Is Your Family Ready To Choose The Right Pet?



As we think of gifts for the holidays, a pet is a great choice, but

(NAPS)—For children, having a pet can mean a lot of things, from added responsibility to the unconditional love of a furry playmate. But before parents decide to adopt a four-legged family member, there are a number of questions to consider—to help determine whether everyone, both adults and kids, is ready for the commitment:

- Do you have the time? You want to enjoy your pet. But if you have an already-crowded work schedule, and the kids' days are filled with after-school activities, you may simply not have the time to spend getting to know, care for and love a pet.

- Do you know what to get? It's not enough to say that you want to get a dog or cat. Each comes in a variety of breeds, and you need to determine which breed fits into your lifestyle and that of your family.

Some require more attention and stimulation than others. If there are young children in the family, you'll need to find a pet that won't turn nasty if subjected to the sort of roughhousing little ones may provide.

- Are you ready for a long-term commitment? Dogs and cats can live 20 years or more. So before you get one, understand that you are making a huge commitment. Pets are not like cars that you can test-drive, then walk away from if you aren't happy.

Even if your family is unable to adopt a pet, or you feel that your youngster isn't quite ready for one, there are still ways by which children can learn about animals and the responsibility required to care for them. For example, Ubisoft's "Petz Dogz Pack" for the Nintendo DS allows young players to adopt and care for cute, furry pets chosen from many different breeds of dogs. Players can also choose to raise cats or monkeys in "Petz Catz Clan" and "Petz Monkeyz House" for the Nintendo DS system.

In "Petz Sports" for the Nintendo Wii, players can adopt a dog from 18 different breeds, develop a strong relationship with their dog and teach and train their pet to do more than 22 tricks. It's possible to dress up the dog in more than 100 outfits and accessories.

And for the first time ever in the Petz series of video games, it's possible to adopt and create an entire family of dogs, cats and monkeys. Crossbreed and create your own look and personality for your pet.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.petz.com.

Pet-themed video games can help children learn what it takes to care for a four-legged friend.

SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno High School

200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3463 Head of School: Ann M. Gillick
E-mail address: agillick@alverno-hs.org

Arcadia High School

180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: David L. Vannasdal

Arroyo Pacific Academy

41 W. Santa Clara St. Arcadia, Ca,
(626) 294-0661 Principal: Phil Clarke
E-mail address: pclarke@arroyopacific.org

Barnhart School

240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007
(626) 446-5588 Head of School: Joanne Testa Cross
Kindergarten - 8th grade
website: www.barnhartschool.com

Bethany Christian School

93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-3527 Principal: James Lugenbuehl
E-mail address: jml@bcsllions.org

Carden of the Foothills School

429 Wildrose Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016 626/358-9414
626/358-5164 fax office@cardenofthefoothills.com

The Gooden School

192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-2410 Head of School: Patty Patano
website: www.goodenschool.org

LaSalle High School

3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 351-8951 Principal: Patrick Bonacci
website: www.lasallehs.org

Monrovia High School

325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016
(626) 471-2000, email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

Norma Coombs Alternative School

2600 Paloma St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 798-0759 Principal: Dr. Vanessa Watkins
E-mail address: watkins12@pusd.us

Odyssey Charter School

725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001
(626) 229-0993 Head of School: Lauren O'Neill
website: www.odysseycharterschool.org

Pasadena High School

2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.
(626) 798-8901 Principal: Dr. Derick Evans
website: www.pasadenahigh.org

Pasadena Unified School District

351 S. Hudson Ave. Pasadena, Ca. 91109
(626) 795-6981 website: www.pusd@pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School

322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-9028 Principal: Joanne Harabedian
website: www.st-rita.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School

141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 355-1428 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School

160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Gayle Bluemel
Contact person: Garrett Newsom, Asst. Principal
E-mail address: gbluemel220@pusd.us

Weizmann Day School

1434 N. Altadena Dr. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 797-0204
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

Wilson Middle School

300 S. Madre St. Pasadena, Ca. 91107
(626) 449-7390 Principal: Ruth Esseln
E-mail address: resseln@pusd.us

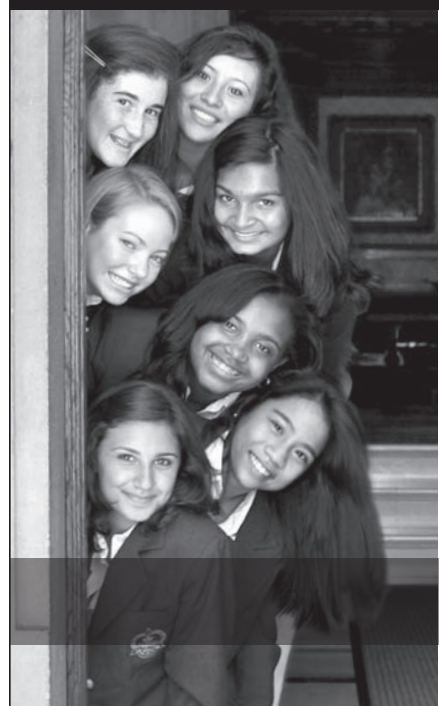
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Admissions Open House

November 23, 2008
1-4:00 p.m.

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Coeducational
Grades 7-12

Sunday, November 23, 2008, between 1 and 4:00 p.m., Flintridge Prep will hold its **Open House**, allowing your family to meet Flintridge Prep's students, faculty, and coaches as you visit our campus. The Headmaster will speak and answer questions in the auditorium at 1:30 and 2:45. No reservations are required.

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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.



Don't Worry, Be Happy...At Least For Thanksgiving

Clearly, these are not the best of times. There really is no need to articulate again the specific reasons why, but in case you don't know, just turn on your television or radio. You will hear the specifics every five minutes. Despite all the reminders of gloom and doom, life goes on. And, in a few days most of us will celebrate America's preeminent holiday...Thanksgiving. A time when we all take a moment to gather our family and friends rejoice in the

blessings we have. That's what the holiday is all about.

According to a noted Northern California historian, however, *"for some strange reason the true source of the bountiful harvest celebrated by Thanksgiving has not been widely publicized. It was the shift from communal farming to private farming in which the people in the Plymouth Colony got to keep the benefits of their own efforts instead of sharing in a distribution of the communal effort."* Ironically, with this current economic climate, by next year we may have to go back to a communal effort.

Nevertheless, let us not worry about things we cannot change - at least not this week. And, if you cannot think of anything to divert your attention from the complete financial havoc tearing through our country, try thinking about the following. At least one of them is certain to make you happy.

A Few Happy Thoughts To Take Your Mind Off Things:

10. Thursday is going to give you an excuse to break every rule that your doctor has made you live by.
9. You can spend from now until Thursday wondering just which of your relatives are really going to make you want to strangle them.
8. You have one or maybe two extra days to play golf.
7. You have time to horde gasoline before the price goes up again.
6. Oback Barama is our President-elect. Sorry, that's Barack Obama I've been hanging around my 4 year old granddaughter a lot lately.
5. Be happy that you are neither a moose or a quail, living in Alaska or Texas because I know two hunters who may be acting out this season.
4. It's going to rain so you won't have to wash the car before you go visiting.
3. You can watch television all day without a single political ad
2. The country just changed leadership and not one drop of blood was shed in the heated arguments that preceded election day.

and the Number one thought that really ought to keep you happy.....YOU ARE NOT A TURKEY...*at least not an edible one!* Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Greg Wellborn

As readers of last week's column know, I wait to see how President Obama will govern - from the left, which was his voting record, or from the center right, which framed the vast majority of his campaign rhetoric. The country and history will ultimately judge the success of this young man, whose election success

has once again shown the intrinsic fairness and innate goodness of American democracy. The 2008 election has also yielded several other blessings which will ultimately prove to be more beneficial than anything President Obama (or any other president for that matter) will be able to accomplish, whatever his governing tendencies.

First and foremost, the election of a black president should put to rest the fears which have prohibited many blacks from feeling as though they could "make it" in America. For decades, they have been conditioned by liberals to believe that America was never quite their country in the same way that it was for white Americans. That lie has now been exposed. The most powerful and important position in America has just been voluntarily conferred upon a black American.

Michelle Obama's comment earlier in the election season that she was proud of America for the first time in her adult life only because Barack was nominated was sad evidence of the perniciousness of the lie it represented. The fact that an Ivy-League educated, successful lawyer couldn't be proud of America because she was black spoke volumes about the level of antipathy felt in much of the black community toward America. Certainly the 2008 election has brought joy and pride to the hearts of all black Americans, not just Michelle Obama's.

Second, and closely related to the first, the election of a black President strikes a fatal blow to the liberal notion of white racism and black victimhood. For decades now, we conservatives have argued what we thought was a self-evident truth - that America is the least racist country on the planet and has been for near on to 40 years. The Civil Rights movement was not just a black movement, but a decidedly American movement embracing citizens of every ethnicity, especially whites. Had it not been, Civil Rights laws would never have been passed and the pictures treasured in my heart of whites and blacks linked arm in arm on freedom walks would never have been taken. Had it not been, black Americans would not enjoy the highest standard of living of any group of blacks on the planet as they now do. Had it not been, racism would not be seen by the vast majority of white Americans as the reprehensible moral sin that it is.

Most Americans of all ethnicities want a level playing field. They don't want economic benefits arbitrarily bestowed on somebody because of the color of their skin, but rather earned by the dint of their effort and character. Americans are tired of racial tensions and portrayals in the schools that we are racists. Until Barack Obama was elected, it was still possible to nurture a kernel of doubt that America was still not ready to

fully accept all its citizens as equals. Despite the fact that a black American (Collin Powell) lead our army or that a black woman (Condoleezza Rice) served as Secretary of State, or that a black woman (Oprah Winfrey) was one of the most popular entertainers and richest Americans, some still doubted that every job was open to all Americans if they had the skill to attain it.

As of the 2008 election, liberalism must now acknowledge the reality of a non-racist America, cease fanning the fires of racial tension and start searching for the real reasons some minority groups suffer disproportionate shares of poverty, violence and incarceration. Liberalism must now acknowledge that blacks are no more victims of whites than Hispanics are of blacks, Jews are of Christians or Virginians are of Californians. There will always be crackpots on the fringes, but Americans of all hues are overwhelmingly a fair, tolerant and compassionate people who do more for each other and for the world than any other culture has done at any other time in history.

Third, the election of Barack Obama will show that the animosity toward American initiatives felt by so many in the world was not the result of hatred for George Bush, but the result of cynical self interest and opposition to our efforts to support freedom and democracy. With George Bush gone, we should see stronger international efforts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, more active participation and risk sharing in pacifying Afghanistan, and greater support for the independence of Taiwan, Tibet and Georgia. I wouldn't hold my breath for any of these. The sad truth of the matter has always been that most of the rest of the world does not share our commitment to freedom and democracy, because there are plenty of world leaders who willingly tolerate oppression and subjugation as long as their export market or access to natural resources remains undisturbed. Barack Obama's ascension to the Presidency will not change this.

Fourth and last, Barack Obama's victory means that America's future success will depend on how well it integrates rather than separates its people. Multiculturalism sounds attractive but its actual practice has been quite destructive. We should all honor our individual family histories and traditions from whatever country our ancestors originally hailed. But we should never emphasize those differences to the point of believing that we can succeed as a nation comprised of a collection of separate communities. Our founders called us all together with the phrase E Pluribus Unum - "from many, one". Barack Obama called us back together, telling us there are no red states or blue states, simply American states.

America remains the last great hope for mankind on this planet, and the election of Barack Obama demonstrates that the promise of our founding principles applies equally to all. Election 2008 will prove a watershed event, allowing us to put old lies and old prejudices behind us.

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@mvoobserver.com.



"A Change is Gonna Come"...But How? By Trisha Collins

How can you change others? I've always wondered why people try so hard to change other people. Although I lack some experience, I've found that one person really can't change a person. No matter what you do or say, in the end, that person is going to do what he or she wants. Sure you can try and put in your own "two cents", but that alone is never going to be enough for real change. Real change can only come from within the individual.

Why am I bringing this up? It seems as though I'm realizing things now I didn't before. As though, all of a sudden, I have been seeing things in a new light. I think that as we grow older, we gain more insight and knowledge. And I have realized that only you can truly make change for yourself. If you want something to happen, you've got to take hold of your situation and do something about it. There's nothing anyone can say that will automatically make everything "all better".

I've found that the first step to change in life is you've got to say it. Yes, say it aloud. Just saying verbally that something needs to change will actually help you to be on your way to making it happen. Then, you have to believe it. Not half-believe it, and doubt yourself in the back of your mind, but have full confidence that things will be different. After that comes the hard part: taking action. In your process of taking action, I guarantee there will be results that will inspire you. If your outcome isn't what you wanted, you could use that as a motivation to work even harder.

This also relates to President-Elect Barack Obama and his "change" slogan. Real change won't just automatically take place. We, as a people, have to look into ourselves and our mindsets before we can really change as a whole. When it comes down to it, any aspect, real change starts in you.

Fly Me To The Moon



I'm not sure where my friend, Pat Proudman, dug up this fun information, but I would like to thank her for passing it on. Following are actual anecdotes of in-flight information passed on to passengers. It may be no surprise the majority of comments are from Qantas Airlines, as Aussies (pronounced Auzzies) sure know how to have a good time.

On landing, a flight attendant told the passengers, "Please be sure to take all your belongings. If you are going to leave anything, please make sure it's something we'd like to have."

"There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways to leave the aircraft."

"Welcome aboard Qantas flight 37 with service from Sydney to Auckland. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle and pull tight. That's right, just like every other seat belt. If you don't know how to operate one, you probably shouldn't be out in public unsupervised."

Said after a particularly harrowing landing. "Ladies and gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Captain Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. Once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we'll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage to the terminal."

"Weather at our destination is 70 degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed before we arrive. Thank you, and remember, nobody loves you, or your money more than Qantas Airlines."

"We ask you to remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

Who hasn't heard this: "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite."

"Your seat cushions can be used as flotation devices. So in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and keep them with our compliments."

"We'd like to thank you folks for flying with us today. And, the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of Qantas."

After a particularly hard landing, the pilot stood at the door and apologized to the passengers as they deplaned. No one commented save the last passenger to disembark: a little old lady walking with a cane. "Tell me, sonny," she said, "Did we land or were we shot down?"

Finally, I recently lost a good friend, Steve Washington, to a heart attack. You may have met him if you ever went to Best Buy. He stood tall, guarding the exit and checking receipts. If it weren't for the fact he was a big, towering, African American hunk and I was a short Norwegian you might have mistaken us for brothers. I sure loved him like my brother.



Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE WHAT REALLY MATTERS?

This morning I had an ugly argument over the telephone with a close friend. Our friendship has lasted over fifty years and during almost this entire time we have carried on a version of the same argument. Gene believes in what I call external reality, facts and figures- wins and losses. He believes in what he calls "truth". He asserts that what counts are results rather than intents and attitudes and ideals and integrity. To paraphrase his position in limerick form:

WIN OR LOSE IS NOT THE SAME; IF BABY NEEDS NEW SHOES. IT ISN'T HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME; IT'S WHETHER YOU WIN OR LOSE

This is currently a very popular position that is labeled, I'm afraid, as something called "realism". In the previous forgotten century, this kind of stuff was called scientific agnosticism and was distinguished from what was called idealism. This latter category contained all sorts of good stuff like values, intention, integrity, enjoyment, and other such invisible but, to my mind, completely essential truer than truths. In my view it is these individual inner experiences (really I think these are the "real" realities) that give meaning to life.

Enough arm-chair philosophy; let me try and describe the argument to you. I had been complaining to Gene, and whoever else would listen, that I seldom hear any reaction to my articles and I would like to know if anyone, other than those forced by me, ever actually read them. Gene, who resides in some distant place, suggested that I write something which attacks the very underpinning of Sierra Madre - the proper separation and disposal of garbage - you know; our dearly beloved recycling. Gene finds this recycling laughable. I told Gene to e-mail me a paragraph explaining his position and I would include it in my next article. Well, instead of limiting himself to one or two paragraphs Gene e-mailed a full page rant describing recycling as a totally foolish and worthless activity which, rather than contributing to a healthier planet, instead contributes only to feelings of superiority and self righteousness within individual recyclers. Attached to this rant was a full reprint of a New York Times Article, which provided factual substantiation for this position.

Frankly, I never took the trouble to analyze or even read the New York Times Article. I really doubt that a statistical analysis of the effectiveness of recycling is even germane to the activity. As difficult as it is for Gene to understand, what I believe is important is the experience and attitudes of those of us (really more my wife than me) who do recycle. It is this vision of being actively involved in healing our weakened planet that, in itself, expresses the hope for redemption. If we experience our own concern and are allowed to express that concern we will eventually discover the right path. If we stop caring then all is lost!

I believe that it is the inner experiences of individual humans that create civilizations and institutions which are intended to protect that which we most value. As the late Kurt Vonnegut has said:

Fish gotta swim; Birds gotta fly. Man gotta ask

WHY, WHY, WHY?

Yep, it's the technological "advancements" resulting from our eternal questioning that has caused a great share of our environmental problems, but it is this same eternal and internal questioning that will, hopefully come up with some solutions. My important message to you and to Gene is that meaning comes from within rather than from without.

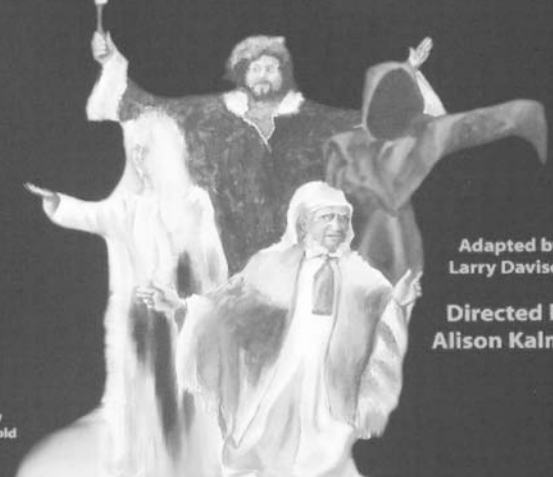
Stuart -- I read your article, "Who's Really Dumb?", in the MV Observer. I found it amusing. Although I find your Chinese scientist friend's theory on why the Chinese is smarter a bit specious. Correlation does not necessarily equal causation.

However, Avi now surmises that he is smart because he learned how to use chopsticks at a young age. Perhaps it was his frequent consumption of Chinese food, especially on Christmas day which helped foster his propensity for intelligence. <By the way these are Avi's words not mine.> I don't think Einstein or Newton were reading Chinese characters or using chopsticks when they were young.

You raise an interesting observation -- that our society is reluctant to study the differences between various racial groupings because it's a sensitive topic. And I think the other answer is that there are just too many factors to consider -- of course, this isn't a breakthrough realization for you either. With respect to your friends theory, I suppose you can take several approach to try to test it. The simplest and quickest method would be to take a large survey of Chinese people who grew up reading Chinese characters and using chopsticks, and Chinese people who did none of those things and ask them how well they ranked in high school, for example (if high school ranking is the meter for ones smartness -- though we know that isn't necessarily true).

Finally, I do agree that socioeconomics is a major factor in how well an individual performs academically. A wealthy society will have more educated individuals than a war-torn society. The people of one society is worried about survival while the other may have the luxury of worrying about what to wear to the holiday party. Yes, NOW IS THE TIME FOR CHANGE! So how do we go about making that change? Ny Sou

The Sierra Madre Playhouse
Southern California Lyric Theater
presents
A Christmas Carol Story



Adapted by
Larry Davison
Directed by
Alison Kalmus

art by
HC Arnold

November 28 through December 23

“A CHRISTMAS CAROL STORY” ARRIVES AT THE SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE ON NOVEMBER 28

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Reservations are recommended, as much of the 2002, 2004, and 2006 runs of this show sold out.

Alison Kalmus directs. Her previous directing credits include “The Sound of Music,” “Narnia,” and “A Christmas Carol Story” at Sierra Madre Playhouse and “La Boheme” and “The Barber of Seville” for the Hradec Kralove Philharmonie in the Czech Republic, “Narnia” and “A Midsummer Night's Dream” for Southern California Lyric Theatre and the City of Sierra Madre. Her background also includes stage and film acting, improvisation (Improv Inferno at the Ice House), singing (“La Traviata” for Opera Pasadena in 2005), sketch comedy (writing and performing, for Tour de Farce at the Comedy Store) and more.

The cast includes John Szura, Stuart Galbraith, Kirk Smith, Caroline Langford, Tina Fells, Ross Merrick, Jacob Newton, Jordan Byers, Lailee Clemons, Talia Saldana, Sam Melnikov, Georgia Miller, Marcus Everett, Greg Philippi, Claire Profit, Any Lim, Marjory Zuk, Keith Harmel, Graeme Cranston-Cuebas, Bryan Hale, Roberto Merckell, Laura Cassidy, Arianna Merckell, Blanche Ramirez, Megan Sanborn, Tiffany Brevard, Allie Hodgen, Lindsey Mixon and Olivia O'Neill.

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TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

Paseo Cantina

Pasadena and - for the mildly observant, the whole of Los Angeles - is home to many of the greatest Mexican restaurants in the world. We have the small two-seat economy brands, where the owners take the chairs home at night, so they have something to sit on at home, and the large upscale factory line enterprises. I have my favorites, of course, and I know you do, too. Would you like a good margarita? Or how about some freshly made chips? Or is it the service with a smile that you appreciate most? I have been like a gold miner in the mountains, unfailingly endeavoring and ever hoping to find the quintessential Mexican location that captures this complete image.

My understanding has always been that tacos, taquitos and burritos are just Mexican street food - food items that you buy off the cart while walking through any town in Mexico. So, I guess we Americans are easy prey and the restaurants that you and I usually patronize merely offer us common street food.

I shot a flare up awhile back and let the owner (Oscar) of the Paseo Cantina know that I would be coming in for a review sometime in the future. Let me tell you, he meant business when I arrived. I was not received with the pedestrian street food, which we all know so very well, but instead to my delight found authentic dishes!!! I think I understood Moses at the Red Sea, as suddenly the Sea parted miraculously and there before me was a beautiful meal. I am going to get to the Promised Land and Mexican cuisine is more than tacos, I see it now. Neither combination number one nor combination number three for me this time. The Paseo Cantina provided me with three dishes to share. I hate to be a Homer, but I liked every one and recommend all of them. My table enjoyed a red snapper, meat and chicken molcajeté and tequila shrimp. All were above average and once I added just a pinch of salt to the dishes they flourished. My friend Roberto gave all the food two sombreros up, nice touch, my man. Well, my sombrero is off to Oscar for opening my eyes to this epiphany.

For dessert, we enjoyed a Mango Mousse and Raspberry Moose; usually you would be offered a Flan or a Rice Pudding at a Mexican Restaurant.

Want something new? How about a Mercedes Margarita (\$10)? No Cadillac here, first class at this restaurant. This is one of the most beautiful bars in Pasadena with a wide selection of Tequilas.

But my theme now is "Go Authentic" or should I say, "AUTENTICO!!!"



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Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 1-4 p.m.
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Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

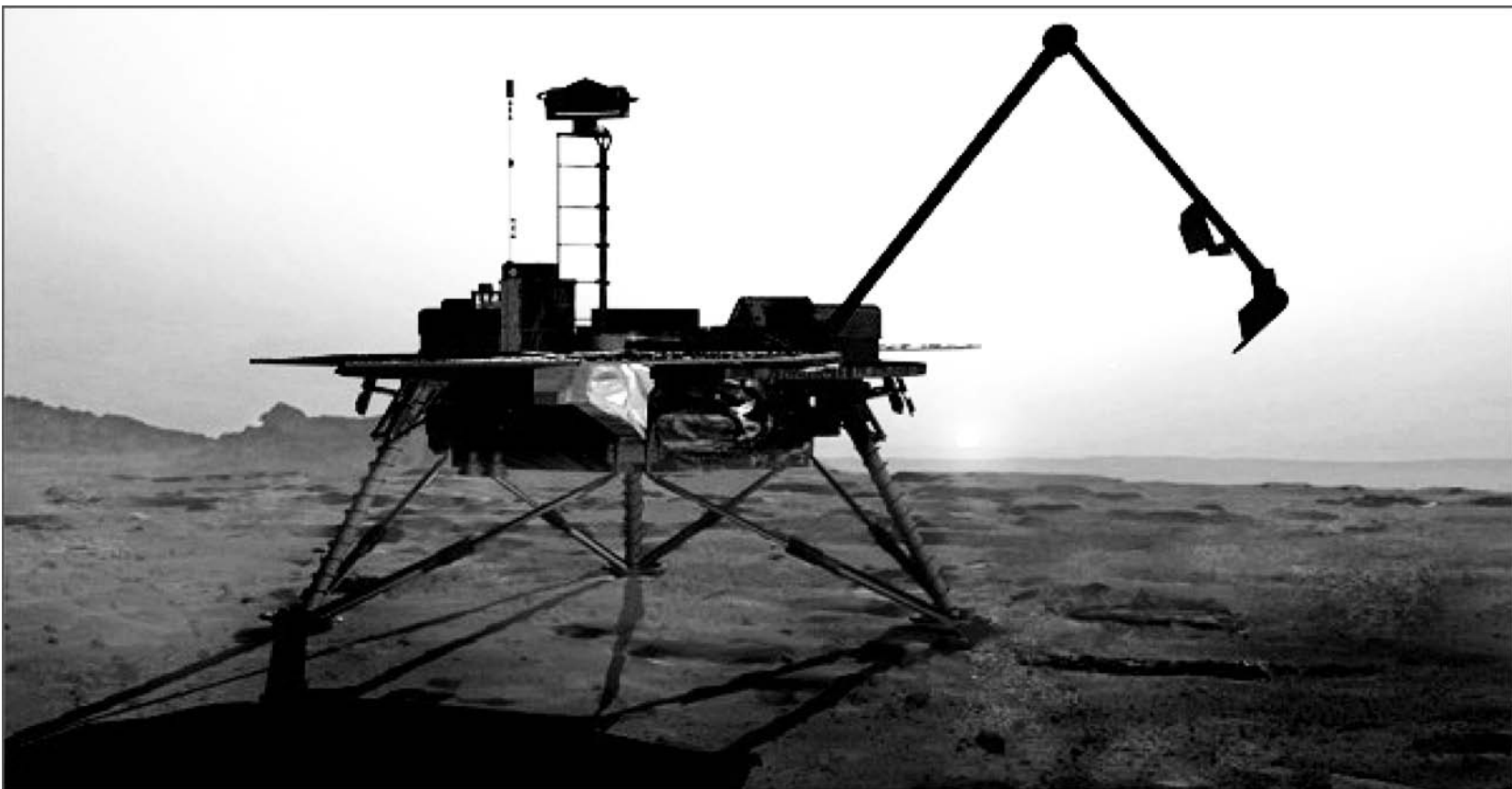
Mars Phoenix Lander Finishes Successful Work on Red Planet

NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander has ceased communications after operating for more than five months. As anticipated, seasonal decline in sunshine at the spacecraft's arctic landing site is not providing enough sunlight for the solar arrays to collect the power necessary to charge batteries.

Mission engineers last received a signal from the lander on Nov. 2. Phoenix, in addition to shorter daylight, has encountered a dustier sky, more clouds and colder temperatures as the northern Mars summer approaches autumn. The mission exceeded its planned operational life of three months to conduct and return science data.

The project team will be listening carefully during the next few weeks to hear if Phoenix revives and phones home. However, engineers now believe that is unlikely because of the worsening weather conditions on Mars. While the spacecraft's work has apparently ended, analysis of data from the instruments is in its earliest stages.

Launched from Earth Aug. 4, 2007, Phoenix landed May 25, 2008, farther north than any previous spacecraft to land on the Martian surface. The lander dug, scooped, baked, sniffed and tasted the Red Planet's soil. Among early results, it verified the presence



of water-ice in the Martian subsurface, which NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter first detected remotely in 2002. Phoenix's cameras also returned more than 25,000 pictures—ranging from sweeping vistas to microscopic images near the atomic level—using the first atomic force microscope ever used outside Earth.

"Phoenix not only met the tremendous challenge of landing safely, it accomplished scientific investigations on 149 of its 152 Martian days as a result of dedicated work by a talented team," said Phoenix Project Manager Barry Goldstein at JPL.

Phoenix's preliminary science accomplishments advanced the goal of studying whether the Martian arctic environment has ever been favorable for microbes. Additional findings include documenting a mildly alkaline soil environment unlike any found by earlier Mars missions; finding small concentrations of salts that could be nutrients for life; discovering perchlorate salt, which has implications for ice and soil properties; and finding calcium carbonate, a marker of effects of liquid water.

Phoenix findings also support the goal of learning the history of water on Mars. These findings include excavating soil above the ice table, revealing at least two distinct types of ice deposits; the first observation of snow descending from clouds; providing a mission-long weather record, with data on temperature, pressure, humidity and wind; observations of haze, clouds, frost and whirlwinds; and coordination with NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to perform simultaneous ground and orbital observations of Martian weather.

"Phoenix provided an important step to spur the hope that we can show Mars was once habitable and possibly supported life," said Doug McCuiston, director of the Mars Exploration Program at NASA Headquarters in Washington.

The public is invited to join the members of the Mount Wilson Observatory Association (MWOA) at their Annual Meeting, Sunday afternoon, Nov. 23, in the Community Room of the Altadena Public Library. Mike Simmons, MWOA vice president, will speak on "The International Year of Astronomy 2009." The event begins at 2:30 p.m., with refreshments served beginning at 2:00. It is free of charge, and all are welcome. The library is at 600 E. Mariposa St. in Altadena, two stops signs west of Lake Avenue at the corner of Mariposa and Santa Rosa Avenue ("Christmas Tree Lane"). Questions? Call Bob Eklund at (310) 216-5947.

If you'd like to learn more, you can contact Bob at beklund@mobserver.com



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

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More Than Just A Pawn Shop

From the Inside Out: Giving Thanks

By Mary Carney



While the fires were raging last weekend, I found myself deeply thankful that we had no winds last spring. We were so very lucky, and my heart goes out to those who lost their homes. I imagine some of those home-owners, while thankful to be alive, are in despair because they can't see "where to go next." If they are retired and have been safeguarding their resources, their mental and emotional habit patterns are being challenged to the utmost because what they "see" may be the loss of a lifetime of achievement.

I've found that Life "gives" us wonderful opportunities and then Life "takes them away" again - we are taught the lessons of Job. When Life flows our way - friendships, warm family relationships, satisfaction in our daily activities - we feel "in charge". And then there's that sudden "full stop" that has us re-evaluating everything we have ever known, everything we have ever believed. In those times, we meet other parts of ourselves that we have, until then, successfully ignored.

I studied at Barry Neil Kauffman's Option Institute in the late '80s. His, and his wife Samahria's, philosophy that "Happiness is a Choice" was developed when their son developed Autism following vaccine shots. In the midst of the seeming devastation of their hopes and dreams, they chose, no matter how long their son lived, to love him unconditionally, as he was - to the end of his life. To expect no more of him than he was able to give at each moment.

They limited his waking world to a bathroom because it was small enough (with facilities) that its limits gave him a sense of safety. And then, so that he would never be alone, either Barry or Samahria spent every moment of each day in the bathroom with him, mirroring his every move - to reinforce his sense of control over his environment. If he sat and rocked, they sat and rocked. If he bounced, they bounced. Over about 15 months his nerves steadied, grew stronger, with less agitation. Bit by bit he regained control of himself, emerging from his cocoon of self-protection. And this time his parents focused on unconditionally loving him as he was - of expecting nothing more than he could give, and to be happy no matter how challenging things became, no matter how many negative opinions and "truths" would be shared with them by others, including

professionals and "experts".

By choosing to love unconditionally and to be happy, they created their own happiness. After reading "Son-Rise", their book documenting this journey, I chose to go there as part of my healing studies. While there I briefly met their son (one of their six children), then an amazing young man of 15 with an IQ of 155, who now, 20 years later, is the head of the Institute.

In the face of such seeming devastation in the "real" world that we see, hear, experience and interact with every day, it is essential to make our own conscious choices to see a more attractive view. No matter the "feeling" our empathy and emotions create inside, we need to choose, from the inside out, to be powerfully loving, powerfully creative with what we have, and powerfully happy. We create the magnetism that draws experiences to us, and our inborn empathetic capability resonates with both pain and joy, so we must learn to manage those resonant experiences wisely.

It takes strong will and ruthless determination to remove "poor me" responses once they're there - trust me. As a girl who endlessly re-read my mother's "Elsie Dinsmore" books - about a little girl on a plantation whose mother had died, and whose father ignored her; she kept doing everything she could to get his love, but endlessly failed. Decades later these books were condemned and removed from libraries. It made no sense to me at the time, until I browsed through one as we closed down my parents' house. Why? Their "poor me", "trapped", "no matter what I do there's no way out" emphasis made me feel sick after reading only a couple paragraphs! Such books do not support the confident "self-programming" so essential in today's world. We all must be able to transcend any sense of helplessness that may kick in when disasters occur.

Thanks-Giving. May we all find our ways to give thanks that we have successfully lived through the challenges of this year. May we truly feel that at our deepest levels, and may that deep thanksgiving rise to fill our lives with wonderful blessings now, and through the coming year.



The Senior By Bruce Lamarche Garden for Food and Fun Spot

A vegetable garden can provide seniors with a steady supply of food and the fun of growing it yourself. With only a little planning and some very basic supplies it's easy to provide a place for nature to "do its' thing". The budget savings is obvious to anyone who has paid \$2 a pound for tomatoes. Butternut squash goes for \$1.63. At two pounds apiece that's \$3 each! Then, to add insult to injury, those are not even organic.

A backyard or patio garden can produce a large quantity of these and other vegetables and do so consistently over months of the year. These gardens can be as fancy as raised beds with walk-around access (that means no stooping) or simply in plastic pots on a wall or table in your yard or patio.

Using containers, be them pottery or plastic, avoids some of the problems of the traditional garden. There's no bending when your plants are on the table. Hoeing is not needed and vegetables are handy for picking. Bees and butterflies will be attracted which will pollinate your plants. These pots can be put on the ground with castors to allow for ease of moving them around for sun access and cleaning the patio.

This year my wife and I have enjoyed tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, bell peppers and corn in this last season. While the tomatoes have to be used quickly after picking, the squash store easily for a long time and an abundant harvest gives us a lot for baking or sautéing.

Also, consider planting herbs for your meal

preparation. They are hardy and grow most anywhere. It's easy to go to your garden and pinch off a branch or leaf for seasoning your salad and cooked foods. We have a constant supply of basil, sage, lemon-balm, rosemary, thyme, and oregano. An amazing benefit is that the more you pick, the more they grow.

Another fun thing is to border the vegetable garden with flowers. This adds to the beauty of the garden and provides good picking for the house. There are many tools available at your local hardware store that makes gardening easier.

A visit to your local nursery will allow you to talk directly to an expert who can advise you on what and when to plant. They also have suggestions to prevent those annoying bugs that eat your fruit. We found that bordering our garden with marigolds keeps the snails away. It adds color and protection.

Consider gardening right outside your back door or patio. Container gardening allows seniors access to flowers or vegetables in one pot and also gives them the height that helps make gardening easier for them. So, dig in the dirt and eat well!

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

SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

FYI:

Medicare Annual Enrollment: November 15-December 31

Any changes you make during this period will become effective January 1, 2009.

During Medicare annual enrollment, you can make the following changes to your Medicare insurance... *Change your HMO insurance plan* Change your Medicare supplemental plan* Change from an HMO to a supplemental plan *Change from a supplemental plan to an HMO plan *Change your Medicare Part D Medication Plan... Check your 2009 benefit book to make sure your insurance plan has not changed its benefits or price. Also, make sure that your Medicare Part D Medication Plan has not removed any of your current medications from the formulary list and that the premiums have not increased substantially. Annual enrollment is the period to make any changes. If you have any questions, call Arlene Okamoto, the 50+ Health Connection/Senior Services Coordinator at Methodist Hospital, Arcadia. 626.821.6978.

~Helpful Hints~

Put less elbow grease into grating cheese by using a nonstick cooking spray on your cheese grater for smoother grating and for easier and faster cleanup.

Did you ever wonder where the name of the popular cooking spray, PAM, comes from? It stands for "Product of Arthur Meyerhoff." The first patent was issued in 1957 to Arthur and his partner, Leon Rubin.



Happy Birthday

November Birthdays: Lena Zate, Carmella Frontino and Alberta Curran

Recipe of the Month:

Mushroom Turnovers with Sour Cream



* 2 Tbs. olive oil
* 1 large onion, chopped
* 4 packages (5 oz. Each) mixed mushrooms, trimmed & thinly sliced.
* coarse salt & pepper
* 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (from a 17.3 oz. box), thawed
* ½ cup reduced-fat sour cream, for serving

1- Preheat oven to 425 degrees. In a large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high. Add onion: cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 5 to 6 minutes. Add mushrooms: cook, stirring occasionally, until mushrooms are tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper; set aside.

2- On a lightly floured work surface, rollout dough (still folded in thirds) to a 20-by-10-inch rectangle. Using a pizza cutter or sharp knife, trim edges straight: cut dough into four 10-by-5-inch rectangles. Dividing evenly, mound mushroom mixture on one half of each rectangle, leaving ½-inch border on three sides. Lightly brush border with water; fold other half of pastry over filling, and press edges firmly to seal. With a floured fork, crimp edges.

3- Using a wide metal spatula, transfer turnovers to a large baking sheet. With a paring knife, cut 3 to 4 small slits in the top of each turnover. Bake until golden and puffed, 20 to 25 minutes; serve turnovers with sour cream. Everyday Food

For Your Funny Bone

Eddie in Dallas calls his son in New York just before Thanksgiving and tells him, "I'm sorry to tell you this, but your mother and I are getting a divorce. I just can't take any more of her nagging and complaining. We can't even stand the sight of each other anymore. I'm telling you first Eddie, because you are the eldest, please tell your sister." When Eddie calls his sister Julie, she says, "No way are they getting divorced, I'll go over and see them for Thanksgiving." Julie phones her parents and tells them both, "You must not get divorced. Promise you won't do anything until I get there. I'm calling Eddie, and we'll be there with you tomorrow. Until then, don't take any action—please listen to me," and she hangs up. The father puts down the phone and turns to his wife and says, "Good news," he says, "Eddie and Julie are coming for Thanksgiving and they're both paying their own way."

Quote: Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a gift and not giving it. ~William Arthur Ward~

Activities:

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

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.

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

Thursday, December 18- 9:30 am to 4:00 pm- "Christmas Around the World" - The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum's annual holiday exhibit featuring 30 beautifully decorated trees representing the countries that President Reagan visited while in office. Menorahs given to him while he was in the White House will also be on display. There will be time to tour Air Force One, and to see other parts of the Library & Museum as well. \$16.00 per person for transportation, admission & audio tour. Lunch is on your own at the Café. Menu prices range from \$4.95-\$7.95 for soup, burgers, sandwiches and salads. For more information or to register, please call the Senior Desk at 626.355.7394.

Fall Swim Pass for lap swimmers and water walkers at the Sierra Madre pool ends on November 26th. For more information call (626) 355-5278.



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

Financial Consulting- Joohie Lee, MBA. An Arcadia resident, and a financial service professional with New York Life Insurance Company in Pasadena. She will be volunteering on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Please call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

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

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Photos and Article By Chris Bertrand

my attention.

I didn't know the agents, and had never been to this neighborhood in my three years in LA, but the interesting pictures and description made me stop and pay attention. Since my "day job" photographs homes and writes real estate sales verbiage, I am often surprised and disappointed at how little effort many agents put into marketing their listings. Even in this challenging market, many agents still pop a fuzzy front picture plus the bedroom and bath count and little else, then expect the home to miraculously sell. I've had many agents say that their listing is ONLY \$400k or \$500k, not millions, so it doesn't merit much effort, as there's little to say. Sad.

These agents, however, did their job well. The 14 pictures and interesting description appealed to several different interest facets of potential buyers. Some people, like engineers and techies, ARE looking for just the facts and are looking for specific upgrades, especially on an older house, like copper plumbing, recent roof and bolted foundations, before they allow themselves to

get excited about a home. Others' interest is piqued by just pictures.

The posted pictures allowed me to envision myself living there, enjoying the spa, sitting next to the koi pond in the private front garden, reading by the fireplace, enjoying the mountain views. Still others need to read descriptive words portraying the potential lifestyle, with hot buttons the cute neighborhood of the Janes Village enclave, a turnkey home already restored, and even watching butterflies from the garden bench at the koi pond. The description below carefully utilized the available multiple listing service space with key data and emotional factors:

Enjoy the serenity of a classically restored Janes cottage. This gardener's paradise exemplifies CA indoor/outdoor living! Sit next to your own private koi pond to watch butterflies dance & hummingbirds hard at work. Backyard is expansive & features a dog run & state-of-the-art Cal-Spa with stereo/cd. All overlooking views of the San Gabriel mountains. 1 car detached garage perfect for office/studio. System upgrades include copper plumbing, new water heater (with warranty), 220 volt electrical, 40 year roof (5 yrs. old) & a bolted foundation! This 3BR, 1 bath home also features coved ceilings, picture moldings, a wood burning fireplace, multi-light french doors & windows, new designer paint in neutral tones and a completely remodeled bathroom and kitchen. Stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, custom cabinetry, new fixtures, rich walnut floors (also new) and recessed lighting. Lots of closet & storage space. This turnkey home will please even your fussiest buyers & not a short sale!

In these days of internet home searches, buyers need to be careful, of course, not to get sucked in by advertising hype, either. And sometimes, homes that look great on the internet don't translate to reality, so internet home searches will never replace a live look-see at a home. That said, this charming home did live up to its pictures and description!

This single level, NW Altadena home is located in the Janes Village neighborhood, (www.JanesVillage.org) built between 1924 and 1926. Designated in 2002 as an Altadena Heritage area, Janes Village residents are working hard to foster a sense of community within this historic area, and celebrate

the unique character and architectural significance of these 190, English cottage and Spanish style homes, verified as built by Elisha P. Janes.

The home's been carefully updated from rooftop to walnut floors, for a very functional and well-designed turnkey result, perfect for the buyer who's not up to remodeling.

The current owner spent the last 10 years meticulously restoring and updating the home, including creating an unusual, private front garden.

As you enter the gate, the pleasant sounds of a waterfall greet you first. If you take a seat at the pond side bench, the Koi will swim up to see if your attentions will bring them a snack. Truly an idyllic, mini-getaway from the hurry and scurry of everyday life.

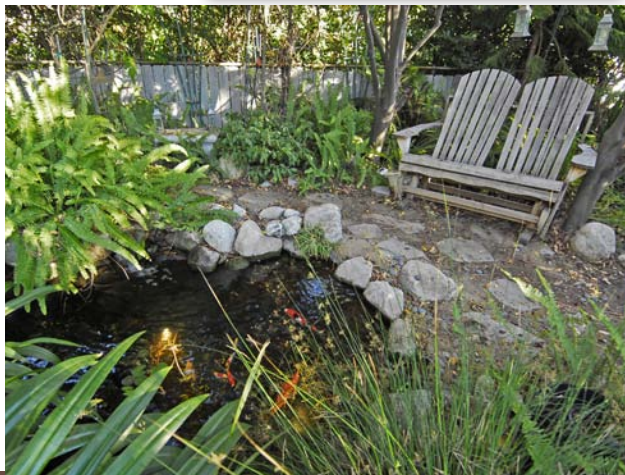
Up the center walkway, wide steps lead up to a delightful front patio. The living room, dining room and one bedroom open through French doors to the patio's garden views. These additional outside entrances also allow separate ingress for a home office, if needed. The kitchen is sleek with white custom cabinetry that pays homage to the original style of the home, but includes black granite counters, stainless steel appliances, generous counter space and an eating area.

Out back, the garage could possibly function as a studio, and an above-ground spa enjoys the yard's unobstructed mountain views, atypical for this neighborhood, due to the lot's location. The generous lawn has room for recreation or relaxation, and there's even a dog run tucked away.

For all the number crunchers, here are the details. 253 W. Palm Street in Altadena, MLS # 22115374 offers 1180 square feet on a 6499 square foot lot with mountain views, is listed at \$499,000.

Kudos to the listing agents for getting my attention! Contact the agents, Michael Harper and Erica Anderson of Keller Williams Realty, at 818-795-9155 or DreamHomesMike@sbcglobal.net and DreamHomesErica@aol.com.

If you have an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them, which might be of interest to our readers, contact Chris at Chris@BertrandOnline.com.



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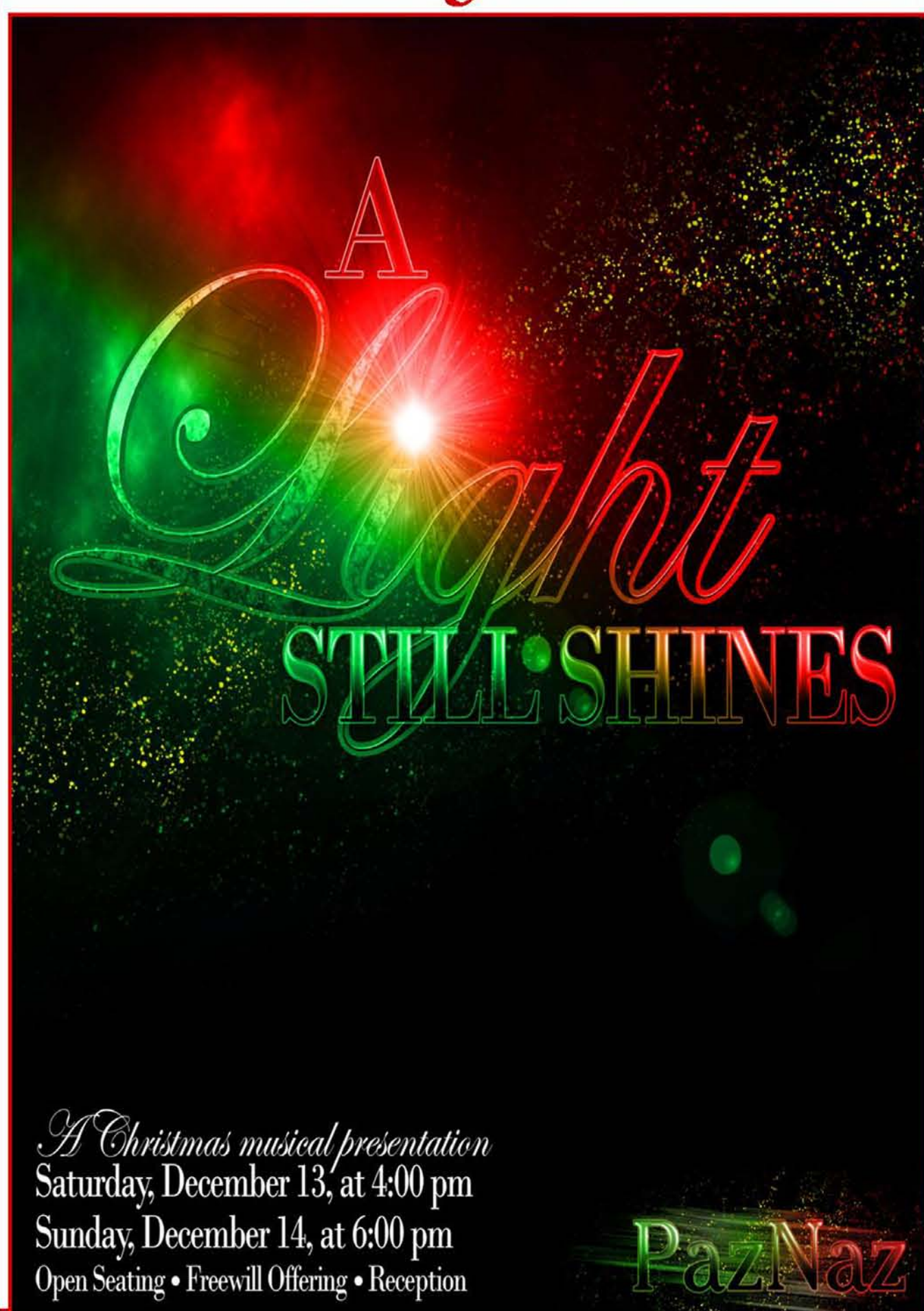
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