

### Portantino Discusses Budget Crisis

By Bill Coburn

Despite the fact they come from different political parties, there were parts of Anthony Portantino's talk at the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce government forum on Thursday that sounded very similar in tone to the talk given by Anthony Adams at the same venue in September. Adams (R-59<sup>th</sup> district), told the forum three months ago that there were three factors that were driving the budget crisis, the third of which was a problem with the leadership in Sacramento. "It has been incredibly difficult to have a substantive dialogue, because every time you think you're getting close to some kind of deal, he goes and drops a bomb on you, and throws you under the bus. We have really struggled this year with this, as late as just last night, we're having Schwarzenegger come out publicly and badmouth Republicans and Democrats, suggesting that if he just bullies us, that that will somehow bring us to the table. Well all that's done is create a unified enemy, and that's not the kind of leadership we need right now. Right now we need somebody who has the ability to bring people together, bring them to the table and have a meaningful discussion, and that's really been absent and very, very frustrating."

Portantino, a Democrat representing the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly district, told the crowd on Thursday that "There's a lot of camaraderie between the individual members (of the Assembly)...I don't know if you read in the papers today, there doesn't seem to be a lot of camaraderie between the Governor and the individual members...I think it was in the Sac Bee this morning, talking about how when Arnold got elected there was some hope that his personality would build some relationships, but he doesn't seem to be doing that. When he recently met with the Republican caucus, they wore name badges, just to say to him that he didn't even know who they were. The other night I was talking with the Republican leader...he said he was disappointed that the other night the Republican caucus had their welcome dinner for all of their new members and he didn't even show up for the dinner to say hello to his own teammates... In California, the budget requires two thirds, which means it's a bi-partisan problem, it requires Republicans and Democrats to work together to solve this problem, and what we've had in the past is we've had a framework where that bi-partisanship could actually work. And a lot of that comes from the Chief Executive, having relationships with both parties to bring that bi-partisan spirit together, because the problems are serious, the problems are real."

He then discussed the fact that California funds education at 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation, a full \$2,000 per student lower than the national average, and that those folks who believe that cutting (*cont. pg. 3*)

## Joyous Angels Perform



Students of Sierra Madre Elementary School's Kindergarten, First, Second and Third grade classes sang joyous renditions of familiar holiday songs on Friday. The first graders pictured above included angels and reindeer. Principal Gayle Blumel accompanied all the classes on the piano. Photos by S. Henderson/MVO

## Tournament of Roses Officials Test SMRFA Entry Volunteers Desperately Needed To Make Deadlines

By Dean Lee

There was good and bad news last Sunday morning as the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association was told by Tournament officials they would have to have a second technical inspection before the float, "Bollywood Dreams," would be allowed to grace Colorado Boulevard New Year's morning. "We had some safety concerns regarding the communications between the observer and the driver, your water slosh factor, and so many out-walkers," TOR officials said. "We are going request an extra T2 test and we want the animation engine fixed and the water flowing because every time you hit the brakes there was water all over the street." The second inspection should be in about two weeks but could be as late as Dec. 27, "we want you to be fully ready," they said.

On each side of the float will be authentic Indian dancers

and the request to test the waterfalls is an effort to insure that walkers would not slip and fall. Water on the parade route would also be a hazard for equestrian units and marching bands. They also asked that the music be "blaring" (for the test) with the dancers so they got a good feel of what it would really be like parade day.

Volunteers had been working around the clock days before getting the float ready for the inspection. The float will be a 55 foot long Indian wedding scene with six waterfalls, palm trees, and one big elephant. One of the most challenging parts of the float, is the 20 foot long Dholi that will lead the float with 12 men, volunteer firefighters, carrying the bride. Tournament Inspector Lance Tibet said one concern was that when carrying the Dholi, the guys where steeping on each other." He suggested lengthening the polls used to carry it. "A foot on each end is what it might take," he said.

All in all, the float did pass a fire drill in which all the riders had to be off the float in 45 seconds. They made it in almost half that with a time of 26 seconds. The animation went down in 53 seconds which was also good.

This is the association's largest float yet and Volunteer Coordinator Bonnie Colcher said, with so much to do, they are begging for volunteers. Anyone interested should call (626) 355-7005 she said. The Sierra Madre float is one of six all-volunteer floats remaining in the parade and has won awards two years in a row.



## Rose Princesses Spread Holiday Cheer

Rose Queen Courtney Lee along with the rose court spread the best of the holiday spirit Friday by taking time out of their hectic schedules to visit sick patients at Methodist Hospital. The court spent time with patients who must spend the holiday season in the hospital. Lee is a committee member for Methodist Hospital's foundation and has worked to increase awareness about the importance of supporting the hospital's effort in building a new patient tower and emergency room. She is also responsible for bringing fun having donated a Nintendo Wii now used for patient therapy. Photo By Dean Lee



## City Prepares For Wet Weather

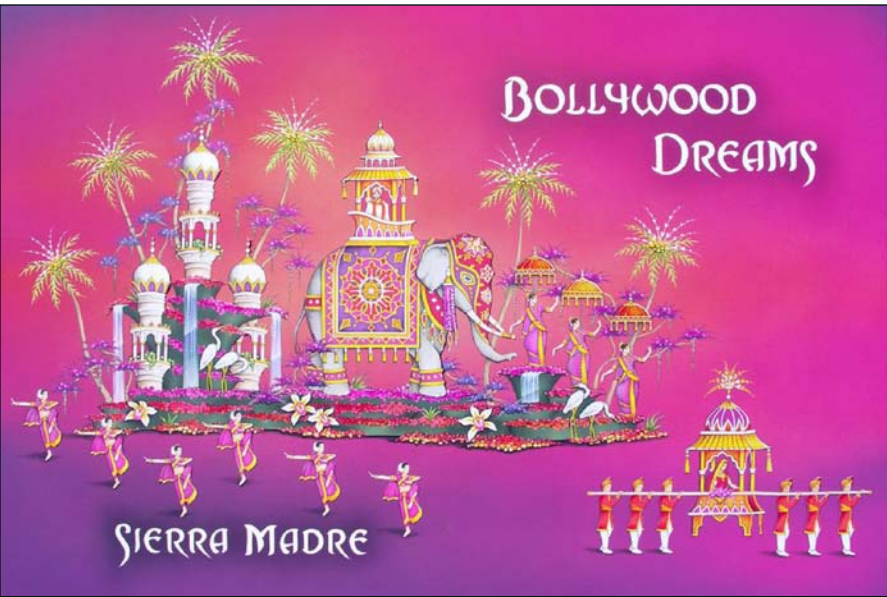


Sierra Madre City Manager Elaine Aguilar discusses emergency plans for anticipated wet weather next week. The possibility of Yellow or Red Flag Mud Alerts are likely in potential mud flow areas when the rains hit the area on late Saturday.

Aguilar, along with Development Services Director Danny Castro and Manager James Carlson, brought charts detailing the streets most likely to be affected. Residents on Auburn Avenue east of Auburn Debris Basin; the development under construction north of Carter Avenue; Carter Avenue between the development and Mira Monte Avenue; Mt. Wilson Trail near Mira Monte Avenue; Churchill Road near Skyland Drive; Skyland Drive; streets below Sierra Madre Debris Dam (Sumac Trail, Brookside Lane, Woodland Drive); Yucca Trail; Lotus Lane, above Camillo Street and Sturtevant Debris Basin; Sunrise Hill Lane, and Santa Anita Canyon Road above Lannan Debris Basin should prepare for potential mudflows.

Residents in those areas should prepare to leave their homes and may choose to voluntarily evacuate if a Yellow Flag Alert is issued. If such an alert is issued, all vehicles in those areas must be off the streets.

Additional information can be found on the City's website, [www.cityofsierramadre.com](http://www.cityofsierramadre.com). Mud incident updates can be found at [www.sierramadrepio.blogspot.com](http://www.sierramadrepio.blogspot.com) for the most up to date information. "Cable channel SMTV3 will also carry emergency updates, however, we have the ability to update the websites instantly. SMTV3 takes a little longer", said Aguilar. Photo By Bill Coburn



Charles Meier's rendering (above) of the Sierra Madre entry in the Rose Parade, "Bollywood Dreams". The float (left) in the partial state of readiness that was tested earlier this week. Photo by Dean Lee Read more about Meier in this week's Focus on page 5.

### SMRFA BARN HOURS

M-F 10am - 7pm Sat. 10am - 7pm Sun. 10am - 7pm  
587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Sierra Madre 626-355-7005

## Walsh to Speak 1st Hand on Mumbai Terror

Sierra Madre resident Nancy Walsh was staying at the Oberi Trident Hotel in Mumbai when terrorists invaded the city a few weeks ago. She spent 30 hours in her room, not knowing if her travel companions had been rescued, had been captured, or worse. Her sustenance consisted only of snacks from the mini-bar.

Nancy will tell her harrowing story at the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meeting at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 16. The public is invited, and lunch will be served. Lunch costs \$10 per person, and reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call Harriet Lyle at 355-6786 at least 24 hours in advance.

The Kiwanis Club meets at the Masonic Lodge at 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, just east of Baldwin Ave., in Sierra Madre.

## RESTORATION PROJECT CLOSES MT. WILSON TRAIL Access Will Be Limited For Next Two Months

The California Conservation Corps began the Skyland Slope Restoration Project on the Mt. Wilson Trail earlier this week. The project will be headed by the Corps with the help of the Sierra Madre Search and Rescue. Due to the nature of the project, the Mt. Wilson Trail will be closed weekdays for the next two months. The Mt. Wilson Trail will be accessible on the weekends and holidays. The public is urged to please use alternate trails out of Chantry Flats or Bailey Canyon during closures.

### Inside The MountainViews-Observer This Week

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## Weather Wise

5-Day Forecast  
Sierra Madre, Ca.

**Mon:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s  
**Tues:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s  
**Wed:** Rain Hi 50s Lows 40s  
**Thur:** Pt Cldy Hi 60s Lows 50s  
**Fri:** Sunny Hi 60s Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

## FREE MT. WILSON TRAIL RACE

## TRAINING RUNS TO START JANUARY 17

As a service to the community, Coach Eric Le-Clair and TEAM CrossFit: Elite Fitness Bootcamp and Academy will provide a free team training curriculum that will prepare trail runners from all backgrounds to successfully finish, race or set a personal best time for the 2009 Mt. Wilson Trail Race.

Starting Saturday, January 17 and ending Saturday, May 16, the weekly runs will start from Kersting Court in Sierra Madre at 7:00A. (Please do not park in Kersting Court parking spaces, as you may be ticketed.) The Mt. Wilson Trail Race will be run Saturday, May 23.

The TEAM CrossFit will provide trail race training from some of the best trail running coaches in the San Gabriel Valley. The group will give valuable insight on speed work, tempo training, proper performance nutrition and hydration, fitting of trail shoes and education on heat exhaustion, cramps and heat stroke.

This free program will do wonders for one's conditioning and at the same time provide motivation for the challenging and historic Mt. Wilson Trail Race.

For more information on the Official 2009 MWTR Training Program, call Coach Eric Le-Clair at 626-437-8739 or email him at Suffer@TeamCrossFitAcademy.com.



## December



Annual Best Used Book Sale  
 Friday from 3pm to 7 pm  
 Saturday 10 am to 2 pm



Flu Shot Clinic  
 1:30 to 3 pm  
 Sierra Madre  
 Recreation  
 Center

Arts Commission  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Council Chamber



Community Services Commission  
 6:00 p.m. Council Chamber



15

16

Tree Advisory  
 Commission  
 7:00 p.m. Council  
 Chamber

17

Planning  
 Commission  
 7:00 p.m. Council  
 Chamber

18

Christmas

25



Happy Holidays From the Mountain Views-Observer

## Holiday Happenings

Sierra Madre Rose Float Association December Mixer

Please join us for the December Holiday Mixer hosted by the  
 Chamber of Commerce/SMRFA

**Date:** Wednesday, December 17, 2008  
**Time:** 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Rose Float Barn - 587 E. Sierra Madre Blvd,  
 Sierra Madre - Behind the tennis courts at Sierra  
 Vista Park

There will be food, door prizes and lots of fun! \$10/ Chamber Members  
 \$15 Non Chamber Members Please RSVP to the Chamber by Monday,  
 December 15th 2008 by phone or by email. (626)355-5111

Holiday shoppers who decide to buy a gift or stage a celebratory event at the popular Pasadena nightclub redwhite+bluezz will be simultaneously helping the at-risk children and families who are being served by Five Acres, the education and abuse prevention center in Altadena. The club, located at 70 S. Raymond, will donate 10 percent of all purchases of gift cards, office parties, tasting events or wine to support the programs and services at Five Acres. Contact Jerry Rosengren at redwhite+bluezz at (626) 792-4447, or Susan Silverman at Five Acres, (626) 798-6793, ext. 2279, or email: ssilverman@5acres.org.

## Local Citizen Caught in Mumbai Terror to Speak in Sierra Madre

Sierra Madre citizen Nancy Walsh was staying at the Oberi Trident Hotel in Mumbai when terrorists invaded the city a few weeks ago. She spent 30 hours in her room, not knowing if her travel companions had been rescued, had been captured, or worse. Her sustenance consisted only of snacks from the mini-bar.

Nancy will tell her harrowing story at the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meeting at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 16. The public is invited, and lunch will be served. Lunch costs \$10 per person, and reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call Harriet Lyle at 355-6786 at least 24 hours in advance.

The Kiwanis Club meets at the Masonic Lodge at  
 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd, just east of Baldwin Ave., in Sierra Madre.

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For Medium Dog

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Expires 12/31/08

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with this coupon. Limit one per customer.

Expires 12/31/08

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 anal gland expression (if requested)

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## Live @ 322 December

Friday 5 - The Bobby Bradford Motet

Saturday 6 - Jazz Vocalist Judy Platt

Sunday 7 - Jazz lunch with the Mercy Powell Quartet

Tuesday 9 - Jeremy Robyn

Wednesday 10 - Max Buda

Thursday 11 - Pianist &amp; Jazz Vocalist Gaea Schnell

Friday 12 - Jack Sheldon

Saturday 13 - Xmas Blues party with Zola Moon

Sunday 14 - PCC Jazz Improvisation Combos

Wednesday 17 - A evening of Holiday Music with

Errol Le Blanc feat. Danny Guerrero

Thursday 18 - Sean McCue &amp; Michelle Beauchesne

Guitar &amp; Cello Duet

Friday 19 - The Donovan Muradian Quartet

Saturday 20 - The Jane Fuller Jazz Christmas

Wednesday 24 - The Fabulous Gil Bernal

Friday 26 - Swing Dancing with Flat Top Tom &amp; the

Jump Cats

Saturday 27 - BLUES with The Superstitions

Wednesday 31 - NEW YEARS EVE PARTY EL

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Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero &  
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 in December. Drink and Think Quiz Nite with  
 Quizmaster Midge Every Tuesday in  
 December

## ~Priceless Gifts~

## Children's Charity Needs Help with Adopt-a-Family Program

Clients of HillSides, a Pasadena children charity, the Sanchez\* children will have a difficult time appreciating and enjoying the Christmas spirit this year. Last year, just days before Christmas, they were separated from their mother. At the time, the six children believed she would only be gone for a short while and that the family would soon be reunited.

Fast forward to almost a year later and the Sanchez children still do not have their mother by their side. They will actually be without her for quite some time. The Sanchez family was referred to HillSides Family Center, the Pasadena children's charity that serves families in Los Angeles County, shortly after the mother's arrest.

With the dedicated therapists and the generosity of our donors, we were able to assist Maria in getting temporary guardianship and assistance so the children would not go into the already inundated foster care system, said Janis Reid, HillSides Family Center school-based mental health coordinator.

The children participate in individual and family counseling to adjust to the changes, promote education, and deter them from a life of deviance, according to Reid. In addition, the family has found success in the program and Ray\*, the oldest child, has earned a high school diploma, enrolled in community college, and has a part-time job to help grandma out with expenses.

Presently, Maria is still doing all she can to take care of her grandchildren, relying solely on what little income she and Ray earn. The holiday season is not as joyous for the Sanchez family for they are not able to splurge on gifts or a traditional holiday meal for everyone. Memories of their missing mother also come back to sadden their spirits.

"During these times, it is important that the family knows that people support and recognize their efforts and that they have not been forgotten, when all around they see images of perfect families having perfect holidays," said Reid.

It is also meaningful to have that little extra help with food, clothing and toys at a time when resources barely cover the necessities.

Families living in Los Angeles County like the Sanchez rely on the generous support from the community through the Pasadena childrens charity adopt-a-family program. To learn more how you can help families experiencing crisis this holiday season, contact Laura Kelso, the childrens charity director of community resources, at 323-254-2274.

\*Names of clients have been changed to protect their identities.

## Help The LA Rescue Mission



It's a wonderful time of the year and before it runs away with us, Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office wants to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your past

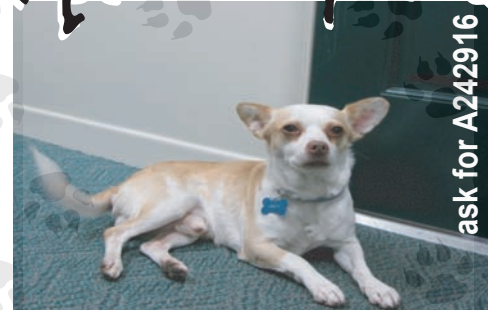
support of the Los Angeles Union Rescue Mission.

Beginning this year Bruce Pfeiffer has handed over the reins to a fellow real estate agent, Dean Griffith, who brings with him youth, new enthusiasm, and the great USC spirit of giving. We would like to remind you that this is the time to count our blessings and share in the Season of Giving.

Dean is asking for your support again for those less fortunate by collecting men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes and coats. Also, very much needed are blankets, bedding and toys. You can drop these items off at the Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office, 15 E. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia or Dean will come and pick up these items from you.

All items and cash donations will be delivered on Monday, Dec. 15th 2008. Please call him at 626.664.9163.

## Adopt "Chevy" Today



ask for A242916

What an adorable little guy! Chevy, a two year old Chihuahua is looking for a home. He is outgoing, friendly and will want to be near you as much as possible. He is the perfect size for an apartment or condo that allows pets.

The regular dog adoption fee is \$110, which includes medical care prior to adoption, spaying or neutering, vaccinations, and a follow-up visit with a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask for A242916 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105.

Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at www.phsspc.org.



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BUDGET (from page 1)

education further is going to harm the state's economy because of a less educated populace, are willing to spend the money on education, where those who don't believe the state's economy will be harmed are not willing to spend the money and want to cut deeper into education. He pointed out that seven of ten kids in the foster care system end up in jail, and that there are folks who look at the economics of the situation and say there has to be a better way and are willing to invest money in the system to try to reduce the percentage of foster children that are incarcerated, creating taxpayers instead of inmates that cost the state a tremendous amount of money to maintain. He expressed frustration that there is no "global economic discussion to where the public buys into what we're trying to do." He referenced Gov. Pat Brown's vision for California in the 1960s which he defined, and got the public to buy into the concept, and were willing to finance it, leading to the prosperity of the 60s, 70s and 80s. "So we have a situation now where people don't trust the economics because we don't spend enough time articulating why we have to do what we have to do. Last week there was a proposal on the table to try to cut a big chunk of this deficit away, we proposed a balance of \$8 billion in cuts, and \$8 billion in revenue, to try to deal with some of this situation, the idea was let's share the burden, let's share the pain. Unfortunately, again in my opinion, that bi-partisan framework provided by the Chief Executive to see that something could get done, wasn't there, and if you read in the papers the next day, the Governor had some very nasty things to say about the legislature, calling us kindergartners, saying we didn't take anything seriously. Well that's not leadership."

He went on to state that California faces an aging population, which means that we will need to be bringing more people into the work force, adding that losing members of the work force decreases the tax base for the state. In addition, due to the aging population, there is a need for more health care professionals, but the state is falling short in that department, 17,000 doctors short of what we need to meet the demands of an aging population, with fifty-seven different allied health professions that have job shortages. He added that even farmers driving tractors now have to know how to use computers to handle the GPS systems, and you need to know chemicals because of the fertilizers. "It takes more than just a high school diploma to even drive a tractor...so we have to look at community colleges as a key component of fueling the economic engine that's again going to make all of us be better, so I look at that and I say should we be cutting community colleges today? No, because that's not in our economic health and welfare to be doing that, because where are those jobseekers going to come from if we don't see them get educated? Should we be cutting the Cal State system, where 80% of the teachers who teach in California come from? ...Believe me I don't like raising people's taxes unnecessarily, but I also don't like an economy that's not going to be turning the corner where we're all going to be better off. So what's missing in the dialogue is that conversation, is what's in the best interest of the economy, what's in the best interest of the people, what's in the best interest of the state of California, absent the bi-partisan bickering, and absent the finger-pointing from the Governor."

## Local Citizen Caught in Mumbai Terror to Speak in Sierra Madre

Sierra Madrean Nancy Walsh was staying at the Oberi Trident Hotel in Mumbai when terrorists invaded the city a few weeks ago. She spent 36 hours in her room, not knowing if her travel companions had been rescued, captured, or worse. Her sustenance consisted only of snacks from the mini-bar. She will tell her harrowing story at the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club meeting at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 16. The public is invited. Lunch \$10 - reservations required. Call Harriet Lyle at 355-6786 24 hours in advance. The Kiwanis Club meets at the Masonic Lodge - 33 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre.



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## Bean Town's Third Annual Christmas Benefit

**Santa is coming to Bean Town !**

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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Campaign Disclosure Statements to Go Online

By Dean Lee

Anyone who now wants to know detailed accounting information on money spent or contributions received in support or opposition of a candidate, campaign, or measure will be able to do so with the click of a mouse. The city council voted unanimously Monday night in favor of posting campaign disclosure statements on the city's website.

The statements will include those related to Pasadena local elections for city council, PUSD, and local measure.

Councilmember Steve Madison, who proposed the idea, said he was surprised the idea had not already been done.

"It was something in this computer age, one would expect, could be easily done," he said later adding, "I think all of us probably fell as though transparency is a good thing, it should be."

He went on to say that people needed good information, especially in an age where they have to deal with blogging, something he said was notorious for giving out bad information. Madison explained this was in part because of a system where an individual had to go through the city clerk to get the information, "that could be cumbersome," he said.

City Clerk Mark Jomsky said the PUSD board sent them, a letter also unanimously supporting the move. He also said the forms were popular during election times. In March three council seats will be open, including district 3, now held by Councilmember Chris Holden, district 5, now held by Victor Gordo and district 7, held by Sid Tyler.

The city clerk is responsible for filing and storing the forms as required by law.

Jomsky said only the most relevant and requested information would be posted, including Form 460 semi-annual statements, pre-election statements, amendments, and termination statements for campaigns that spend or receive more than \$1,000 in a calendar year.

Form 470 Short Form - statements for campaigns that do not spend or receive \$1,000 in a calendar year; Form 496 Independent Expenditure - statements used for reporting expenditures that take place late in the election process, and Form 497 Contribution - statements used for reporting contributions received late in the election process, would all also be posted he said. He also showed a mockup of what the actual site on the internet would look like.

He said it would be broken down by date and campaign type for upcoming elections and the last similar election. No more than four election cycles would be available at a time he said, to save space. All the disclosure forms are PDF files, he said. Jomsky did not give a date the pages would be online, but said, "We could have them up relatively shortly."

Tyler, who held seat 7 for 11 years, has said he does not plan to run for reelection. Both Gordo and Holden are running. In a frenzy following Tyler's decision, eight people have now filed paperwork running for the open seat.

There are also four open seats on the PUSD board including district 7, held by Ed Honowitz, who said he would run again. Seats 1, 3 and 5 are also open. Pasadena will be following other such cities, such as Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles and Santa Monica who already, in one form or another, put campaign statements online.

## Human Rights Not Forgotten



(Left) Yanling Li, whose mother Shuying Li is currently held in a Chinese labor camp (right) Mayor Bill Bogaard.

By Dean Lee

This week marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and just to make sure the city of Pasadena did not forget, about two dozen protesters showed up at the city council meeting Monday night with signs and pictures of some of those imprisoned in labor camps in China and elsewhere.

Most had been arrested for expressing views against the Chinese communist government through online blogging said Ann Lau, chair of the Visual Artists Guild. Protesters held a sign that read, "Tell China; Tear Down This Great Firewall." They also held up a billboard with the faces of eight journalists jailed in China including, Shi Tao who made headlines after internet search giant Yahoo passed on information about him.

Yahoo provided Chinese authorities with Tao's IP address that resulted in the 10 year jail sentence. They were heavily criticized by U.S. officials for doing so.

Yanling Li, whose mother Shuying Li is currently held in a Chinese labor camp, also spoke passionately Monday night about how last year's protest against an Olympic themed Rose Float helped bring awareness to human rights violations in China. Last year the city declared



Exhibition of posters by Art Center College of Design students Photo by D.Lee/MVO

Dec. 10 "Human Rights Day."

Li said her mother was jailed in Beijing for simply practicing Falun Gong, a form of meditation according to the principles of truthfulness, compassion, and forbearance. Communist leaders banned Falun Gong in 1999 considering it a political threat.

Because of international outcry Li said some officials in China had not only visited with Shuying Li but took four months off of her two year sentence. Li also said

she was being treated very different working only half the hours she used to per day. Li then explained their ongoing efforts.

"I sincerely thank all the people here in Pasadena for help and support for our cause," Li said. "Recently five daughters including me, we live in the US and jointly started a campaign to rescue our mother's jailed in China that practice Falun Gong."

Li then urged the council member's to sign a petition in support at the website [dearmother.info](http://dearmother.info).

This year the city also observed the anniversary by attending an opening reception for an exhibition of posters at Pasadena Central Library by Art Center College of Design students portraying several of the articles of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Mayor Bill Bogaard spoke as well as others from all over the world.

The declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

## Police Chief: Police Presence At Middle Schools Is A Board Decision

By Teresa Baxter

Although the issue of police presence on middle schools has been tabled twice at previous Pasadena Unified School District board meetings, Pasadena Police Chief Bernard Melekian chose to approach the board during public comment last week to dispel false accusations made against the department and urge for a continued partnership with the district.

"Persons have appeared before this board purporting to be representing the local chapter of the ACLU, although I have verified that the ACLU has taken no formal action as of yet," said Melekian. "They told stories without names, they expressed concerns without specifics."

At a previous meeting, there was a story presented to the board about a young man being surrounded by three officers and interrogated. Melekian asserted that the story was a blatant falsehood.

He added that if the story were true it would be unlawful and the ACLU should not tolerate that without filing a formal complaint or some sort of legal action.

Board member Renatta Cooper has openly voiced opposition to a police presence on middle school campuses at previous meetings. Cooper has stated that the whole issue of having officers on campus is so students can be coerced into interrogation without being advised of their rights, and without the presence of a parent or guardian.

"We have numerous anecdotal examples of just that happening...and the parents and guardians were not given the records of the interrogations," said Cooper, at a previous meeting. "I certainly would never have a child of mine, or a child that I care about in a room with three adults questioning him or her about anything without having an adult there who was looking out



for their rights."

According to Melekian, it is ultimately the decision of the school board regarding the proposal to expand the School Resources Officer Services to Washington and Wilson Middle Schools.

"I have no vested interest on whether we police the middle schools or not. Although, I do believe it is in everyone's best interest," said Melekian. "The board can decide that it doesn't want officers on the middle schools...or on campuses at all—that's up to the board."

## Pasadena Area Community College District Selects Board Officers for 2009

*Dr. Jeanette Mann selected board president*

The Pasadena Area Community College District (PACCD) Board of Trustees conducted its annual organization meeting on Wednesday to elect officers for the 2009 calendar year.

Dr. Jeanette Mann, Northwest Pasadena and Sierra Madre trustee, was selected board president. She succeeds John Martin, 2008 president and Temple City, Arcadia, Rosemead, and El Monte (Area 6) trustee.

Mann last served as president of the board in 2005 and has been a member since 1983. She has also served as the director of affirmative action programs for California State University, Northridge. Mann currently sits on the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board. The CCCT provides guidance for the 72 districts and 110 colleges that constitute the system.

Dr. Hilary Bradbury-Huang, who represents

South Pasadena, San Marino, and a portion of Temple City (Area 5), was elected board vice president. Dr. Consuelo ReyCastro, who represents Northwest Pasadena (Area 3), was selected as board

clerk.

Pasadena City College President Dr. Paulette J. Perfumo was re-elected as board secretary.

Officer posts were voted upon by the entire board.

## Mural Program To Bring Art Into Neighborhoods

A new mural pilot program launched by the city of Pasadena aims to bring art closer to home.

Sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Division, the Neighborhood Enhancement Mural Program will provide matching grants of up to \$2,500 for collaborations between artists and neighborhoods to create murals that celebrate their heritage, values and dreams.

With a long and rich history in Southern California and Pasadena, murals have helped create aesthetically

pleasing environments for residents, workers and visitors.

The new mural program will increase public access to art, which is a goal of the 10-year Cultural Nexus Plan developed by the community, while providing opportunities for artists who live, work or lease space in Pasadena.

In turn, the popularity of new murals can stimulate economic growth for nearby merchants and property owners.

For more information call (626) 744-7062 or visit [www.cityofpasadena.net/arts/public\\_art\\_program.asp](http://www.cityofpasadena.net/arts/public_art_program.asp)



A Weekly Spotlight on  
Sierra Madre Volunteers

focus

CHARLES MEIER

Youthful Artist Designs Magical Float  
"Bollywood Dreams"

You've never seen anything like it. It is the Rose Float Association's 2009 design that will leave the Float Barn late Dec. 31 to appear in the Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1, 2009.



Photo By Bill Coburn

Charles Meier designed this remarkable float, hoping that it will garner another award as have the last three floats he designed for Sierra Madre.

"Rather than constructing a predictable Hollywood or Broadway float, Sierra Madre will pay tribute to the Indian film industry," Meier explained.

"'Bollywood' is the nickname for Hindi cinema, a portmanteau of Bombay and Hollywood...These films are famous for their romantic storylines and eye-popping musical production numbers...This is a classic wedding scene," Meier said. He stated that members of the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Dept. will carry the "diholi" (Indian bridal carriage) and that the main float that carries the groom will follow behind.

This float is twice as large as last year's

entry, measuring a total of 100 feet in length and featuring thousands upon thousands of flowers, of course.

Meier designed his first float in South Pasadena at age 13. Later, he designed two other award-winning floats for the same city. Then he took time out to earn a B.A. degree from Wheaton College in Illinois and received his M.A. in Shakespeare Studies from the Shakespeare Institute in Stratford-on-Avon in the United Kingdom. He resides in Pasadena and has ties to Sierra Madre as a member of Sierra Madre Congregational Church.

The Sierra Madre Rose Float Association, an all-volunteer organization, needs help desperately to finish this grand undertaking, and Meier beseeches all volunteers to assist in the cause. There is a daily work schedule at the Rose Float Barn on E. Sierra Madre Blvd.

From now until Christmas, workers will be busy every day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. And from Dec. 26 through Dec. 30, hours are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. No decorating will take place on Dec. 31 "because we are required to be completely finished for the final judging that day."

Tournament of Roses judges will visit the finished float on Dec. 31 at about 10:45 a.m., and Meier urges the local community to be there to support the gigantic effort.

He concluded, "We are putting everything we have into this year's design in an effort to create one of the magnificent floats in the parade. It is our hope that 'Bollywood Dreams' will be a legitimate contender for the Tournament's top awards."

**Volunteers are needed to help in a wide range of activities in Sierra Madre. Please contact De Alcorn at 626-355-4793 or dalcorn@cityofsierramadre.com for more information.**

Environmentally Speaking,  
Did You Know?

## Eco-Friendly Gift Giving- Part II

By Pat Birdsall

Last week we offered eight diverse suggestions for "green" gift giving. Here are eight more...

1- Shake and Shine No Battery Flashlights. Give it a few jiggles of the wrist and it charges up instantly. The internal magnetic generator turns the repetitive motion into electricity, which is stored in a large capacitor to run the bright LED lamp.

[www.gifts.com](http://www.gifts.com)

2- For the nursery set...Egyptian organic cotton children's clothing, toys and essentials from [www.underthenile.com](http://www.underthenile.com)

3- From dollhouses to toy tractors, eco-friendly Plan Toys are made with organic rubberwood, water-based dyes, and soy ink. Log on to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

4- For natural, organic and green lifestyle items for home, men, women, kids and pets, check out [www.nimli.com](http://www.nimli.com)

5- We are damaging our planet in so many different ways and, if we don't stop the "bleeding," we will destroy it for future generations. An inexpensive and meaningful gift is a bracelet made from recycled tires with a cylindrical recycled metal bead with "I'm Tired of" embossed on both sides and "Global Warming" on the top. [www.imtiredonline.com](http://www.imtiredonline.com)

6- It's never too early to learn about this world of ours. Begin with National Geographic Little Kids Magazine for ages 3-6, then progress to National Geographic Kids Magazine for ages 6-14, and finally National Geographic Magazine itself. The site also has wonderful gifts and DVDs.

[www.shop.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.shop.nationalgeographic.com)

7- America the Beautiful- National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass-Annual Pass- Cost \$80.00- Call 1-888-ASK USGS, Ext.1 or via the Internet at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>

8- Gift family and friends with a pass to the Los Angeles County Arboretum in nearby Arcadia. They can enjoy 12 months of relaxation and educational experiences in their own back yard. [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org)

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

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P. O. Box 85  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91025-0085

Fire Safe Council  
"Announcements and Observations"

Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council received a grant for a "Chipper Program" to help homeowners in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (the area north of Grandview) with the removal of the brush they have cleared from their property.

You will be receiving a letter detailing this program and the start date. Your responsibility will be to hire, at your own cost, workers to thin out, not "strip" your property, the highly flammable vegetation within the 100 ft. of your structures. Remember, this does not just pertain to native vegetation. In the Triangle Fire report in Vol. 2, #46, of the MVO it was noted that burning embers from the wildland area of the fire, blowing miles ahead of the fire front, landed in the ornamental vegetation that was planted by the homeowners close to their walls and fences. It was these burning ornamental plants that led to the many instances of the home being burnt to the ground.

You will receive information on which

ornamental plants should be targeted for removal and suggestions for replacement as well as how the reduce the fuel load of native vegetation on your property. You will not be living on barren earth but with well maintained "defensible space." These same plants were called out in the Oakland Hills fire of 1991, the fire that started the formation of California's Fire Safe Councils, and were also mentioned time after time by the TV news reporters during the fire storm that destroyed 500 mobile homes in Sylmar this past November.

January 5, 2009 we will begin our fourth year of community preparation for fire, debris flow and other hazard preparation. Have a safe and happy holiday season until then. To volunteer for Sierra Madre emergency preparation, call Police Chief Marilyn Diaz, 355-1414 or Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, 355-0741.

## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, November 30th, to Saturday December 6th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 291 calls for service.

Sunday, November 30th:

1:25 AM – Auto burglary, Mariposa public parking lot. A car window was forced open and a purse was rifled through, but nothing was taken. The crime occurred between 11:30 Saturday, 11/30 and midnight.

Tuesday, December 2nd:

8:35 PM – Arrest, 500 block East Grandview Ave. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver was unlicensed. The driver was issued a citation for unsafe speed and issued a written promise to appear for driving without a driver's license.

Wednesday, December 3rd:

9:32 AM – Unlawful use of disabled placard, 00 block Victoria Lane. A cancelled/revoked handicapped placard was used to avoid paying for an annual overnight parking permit. A man was detained and interviewed for the crime. He was later arrested and release on a written promise to appear.

9:30 PM – Auto burglary, 00 block of South Lima Ave. A Samsung cellular telephone and a Chilewick make-up bag were taken from a

parked car. The crime occurred Wednesday, 12/3 between 8:15 pm and 9:15 pm. The loss was estimated at \$250.00.

Thursday, December 4th:

9:54 AM – Arrest, 440 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. A records check revealed the driver's license was suspended/revoked. The driver issued a citation for the stop sign violation and released on a written promise to appear.

Friday, December 5th:

8:39 AM – Arrest, Canon Ave and Sierra Madre Blvd. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. During the investigation the adult female driver from Los Angeles was driving under the influence of an illegal drug. The driver was arrested for being under the influence of a controlled substance and transported to the Pasadena Jail for remand.

1:32 PM – Arrest, Michillinda Ave and Ramona Ave. A man provided false identification to an officer. A records check revealed his true identity and that he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The man was arrested and booked at the police department for providing false information to a peace officer. He was later released to the custody of the Sheriff's Department for the warrant.

## Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, November 30, through Saturday, December 6, the Police Department responded to 842 calls for service of which 122 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, November 30:

A burglary occurred in the 1800 block of South Second between 12:50 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) made forced entry into a home that is under construction and stole power tools, washer, and dryer for a reported loss of about \$2,250.

Shortly after 4:00 p.m., loss prevention personnel from Macy's advised that they had detained a woman for theft. The suspect took clothing items into a fitting room, concealed them in her handbag, and left the store without making payment. A private person's arrest was made, and the 23-year-old Asian was taken into custody for grand theft.

Monday, December 1:

A grand theft was reported at Phone 2 Go, 149 East Duarte, around 12:05 p.m. A male African American suspect, 20-25 years of age, 6'1", 180 pounds, entered the store and wanted to check out some cell phones. He pretended to compare the color of two phones and then he ran out of the store with the phones. The loss was about \$800.

An attempted arson occurred at Pavilions, 745 West Naomi, around 9:00 a.m. A witness saw smoke coming from a pallet of wood by the business and went inside to inform an employee. When the witness went back outside, he saw a male Caucasian, 40-50 years of age, 5'8", trying to light a woodpile with a lighter. The witness yelled and the suspect stated that he was crazy and left the scene.

Tuesday, December 2:

Around 2:25 a.m., units responded to the 100 block of East Colorado regarding shots fired at the location. The male victim claimed that he was leaving his girlfriend's apartment when a male Hispanic shot at him for no apparent reason. Witnesses at the apartment complex indicated that they heard a verbal argument between two unknown males and then they heard a gunshot. A 9mm spent bullet casing was recovered at the location, and the alleged victim was not wounded.

A fatal solo traffic collision occurred in the 12000 block of Lower Azusa around 12:09 p.m. Witnesses advised that a 25-year-old male Hispanic driver was traveling at a high rate of speed when he lost control of his vehicle and struck a tree.

Wednesday, December 3:

Around 12:23 p.m., officers were dispatched to the 300 block of Laurel in reference to an attempted residential burglary. A resident advised that she was decorating her front porch when three male Hispanic juveniles were behaving suspiciously on the sidewalk. She felt uneasy so she entered her home and locked both the screen door and the front door. The juveniles then peered into her front window and tried to open her screen door. The juveniles were later seen entering another driveway. Units conducted

Friday, December 5:

Around 5:44 p.m., units responded to Precision Time located at Westfield mall regarding an embezzlement report. The manager was conducting a routine inventory and discovered 13 watches were missing, totaling about \$1,053. A male employee had just quit without surrendering the store keys, and she believes that he had taken the watches.

During the investigation, the store manager from Lids advised that the same employee/suspect worked at her store and she discovered 40 hats, worth around \$1,350, were stolen. She found a note on her desk from the suspect indicating that he had quit and to forward his paycheck to a fellow co-worker.

Between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., a residential burglary occurred at the racetrack. Unknown suspect entered the horse stable bungalow through an unlocked window and stole cash.

Saturday, December 6:

A traffic stop was conducted at El Monte and Las Flores around 8:18 a.m. for a code violation. A 30-year-old male Caucasian driver was contacted. When officers asked if he had any weapons or drugs in the vehicle or on his person, the driver indicated that he had methamphetamine under his seat. The man was taken into custody for possession of a controlled substance.

An armed robbery occurred at Papa John's, 1312 South Baldwin, around 9:14 p.m. Two male Hispanic suspects, wearing hooded sweatshirts and bandanas over their faces, entered the business. One suspect displayed a silver handgun and forced the employees into a restroom. The other suspect took money from the cash register, cashbox, and also a video surveillance recorder. The suspects then fled in an unknown direction.

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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.

**Rich Johnson**

(or at least Sierra Madre.) And other than sending cash to my address, the best idea I can think of is to make Christmas wonderfully successful for our local businesses.

First off, the idea of a bookstore in Sierra Madre is as important to me as having police and fire protection. So, how can I put this delicately: **SHOP AT SIERRA MADRE BOOKS!** Any pennies you might save from some discount book outlet will be offset by the convenience of the closeness of the store. And Jeff and Sally are so

**Shop till You Drop**

Okay Sierra Madreans, it's our job to pull the country out of the economic morass that seems to be closing in on all of us

and Baldwin Avenue to score Chick Gifts up the wazoo! *Leonora Moss, Angels Everywhere, Iris Intrigue, Savor the Flavor* to name just a few. Savor the Flavor (355-5153) has such cool stuff, it's the perfect place for you guys who have screwed up with your significant other. (Baldwin Jewelers if you've really botched things up)

Now for a secret suggestion to guys. If you want to really score points get a gift certificate from Yvonne and Tania at the *Center for Well Being* (355-2443) or Yvette at **Hands with Heart** (355-1033). There are

wonderful day spas here in town.

Oh, and don't forget my special friend and local Sierra Madre contemporary jazz singer, Jane Fuller. She has a wonderful Christmas CD and you can get it at Janefuller.com, Sierra Madre Books or by calling my office at (626) 791-8907. The CD is \$15.00 plus tax and shipping and we will ship it out the day you call in. We take all the major credit cards. (The only profit I make is the friendship with Jane. So, I am already overpaid)

Now as to the local restaurants, I have talked about several in the past. Let me invite you to hit *Casa Del Rey* (on Baldwin) for great Mexican food. *Lozano's* across the street is really good, too. Nice original art on the walls. *The Delirium* around the corner on Kersting Court has great fish and chips (of course). Also phenomenal Chicken Curry. I love *Café 322* for the Lamb Shank and the music

(Sounds like a band. Now presenting Lamb Shank and the Music. And then across the border in East Pasadena to *Frescos*. Frescos is great if mom wants a Chicken Casar Salad, Dad wants a steak, Billy wants a burger and Susie wants pasta. Oh yeah, and Grandma and Grandpa want Mexican food. (I am taking legal measures to have Frescos and the whole Albertsons shopping center designated as part of Sierra Madre.) Any objections?

I hope your holiday season is joyous. And as I said last year, I don't want anyone to be inconvenienced but I am praying for a blizzard sometime in the next few weeks. You see, I'm from Minnesota. So when I drive up and down upper Hastings looking at the wonderful lights, I would so like to have the lights reflecting off a blanket of white snow. Is that too much to ask? I think not. God, are you hearing me? I don't think its too early to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Holiday Safety Alert**

By Hail Hamilton

“Deck the Halls,” but do it safely. It's that festive time of year when everybody's in the best of moods. It is also the time of year to be on guard against fires. It is important that the following points be kept in mind when decorating your home or business.

**Trees**

All fresh trees should be properly treated with a flame-retardant material and should have a tag indicating compliance with State Fire Marshal regulations before placement in your home or business. The tag must never be removed.

Secure fresh trees in a receptacle containing water or wet sand to prevent drying.

Secure fresh and artificial trees so they cannot topple over.

Place trees away from radiators and other heat sources.

Artificial trees should be made of fire-resistant materials.

Keep trees away from combustible materials and from entrances and exits.

A fire extinguisher with a minimum of an “A” rating should be readily available within 75 feet of the tree.

**Lights**

Use only lights and wiring that bear an Underwriters Laboratories label. Discard or repair broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections.

Do not use electric lights on a metallic tree.

**Decorations**

Use only noncombustible or flame-retardant materials as decorations.

Ensure no lead-containing metals or materials are used in the decorations.

Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.

Keep decorations with small removable parts out of reach of children.

Do not hang decorations on sprinkler heads and lights.

Do not place decorations near heaters or electrical connections.

Never use candles or open flames as decorations.

Loose “glitter” is not to be used around infants and toddlers.

Be aware of individual sensitivities to fragrances and other airborne materials that may cause allergic reactions in some individuals.

If you have any questions, please call the Sierra Madre Fire Department at (626) 355-7135. Remember the Holidays should be safe as they are enjoyable.

**Stuart Tolchin On..LIFE****Hope For Uncle Stuart**

I am three and a half years older than my sister and have remained so throughout our lives.

It sounds silly but it may be the problem. I have always felt that my sister resented our age difference and that I was allowed to be away from home longer than she was. I had to work every day after school with my father and she didn't because she was too young. It's true that she and my grandmother folded the newspapers for my paper routes but I think she resented it. You might think she resented that I got paid. But it wasn't that because neither of us received money for anything we did. Any money earned went to my parents for frivolous things like braces and food.

I don't think my sister and I were unusually ignorant—it's just that times were different. Money was for the use of the whole family and nobody had money for purely personal needs because there weren't such things. The only times I can remember asking for money was for the Community Chest fund at school. I hitchhiked to school every day to save bus-fare and never thought much about it except when I couldn't get a ride and was late.

Bizarre as this sounds I took it in stride but my sister felt like she was deprived. She experienced growing up in a low income family which I never experienced. She has told me that she believes that our parents had secret money stashed away to send me to college. Not so, but school was cheap and with part-time jobs I paid my own way. Interestingly enough, my sister decided to become rich. She got married right after high school to her boyfriend. He got a job at Market Basket, then they moved to New Jersey, and by the time they came back they were rich. We tried to be friends but something stood in the way. She said she felt sorry for me because I had never owned, or even leased, a new car and besides that I never had the privilege of

staying at a 5 star resort or having rich friends. I felt sorry for her because, as far as I was concerned, she was a moron who had never gone to College and who thought Ronald Reagan was a good guy.

Then the great breach between us occurred because I didn't want her kids to call me “Uncle Stuart”. At the time, it just sounded too forced to me, too Disney-like. What can I say? Over the years I have had a distanced relationship with my sister and her daughters-- my nieces. Yet lately, my sister and I have been talking pretty frequently on the phone largely regarding my mother. My sister has read many of my articles and responds to me about them via e-mail. Her responses are in this stream of consciousness style similar to my own except that they are easier to follow and often make more sense.

Anyway, this morning my brother-in-law e-mailed me to inform me that I was a great-uncle as his daughter, my niece, had just given birth. I called my sister to find out where they were and went off to the hospital. It was exciting watching beautiful new baby and mother. But, for me the star of the visit was two and half year old Sydnie, my great niece. In the midst of everything she noticed the tape on her mother's wrist and wanted to know what that was about and wanted to make sure everything was okay. Just before I had to leave she snuck behind a curtain and surprised everyone by singing “Happy Birthday” to her new sister and then Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. She followed that up by greeting everyone with the final person being greeted being me, “Uncle Stuart”. Yeah, I started to tear. Who knows what my problem was before—who believes in problems? Maybe, our President-elect is right. There is hope—all we need is hope and a little change in attitude and a little time and a constant supply of beautiful babies and then maybe this civilization can survive. I sure hope so.

**Awaiting An Angry Reaction To Mumbai**

By Gregory J. Welborn



I waited until this week's column to specifically address the atrocities in Mumbai because enough time has now passed for a strong and healthy moral outrage to have developed among the world's Muslims. This is a topic I first raised in an October 2001 article I penned.

My conclusions then about the health of Muslim culture were not well received, but much has happened in the intervening 7 years, and today at least one noted voice on the left side of the political spectrum has joined me in raising the same issue. Perhaps now there can be some agreement between left and right that Islamic culture suffers not from America's sins, but from its own moral cancer.

Thomas Friedman, noted liberal columnist for The New York Times, finally came to the conclusion in his December 3<sup>rd</sup> column that an Islamic culture which glorifies death and accepts mass murder, but violently condemns cartoons, is not a healthy culture. This is not a new observation, but it is newsworthy that prominent liberals are now willing to voice such sentiments in public.

Before continuing, though, let's get one thing straight. Friedman's comments – like the ones those of us on the right have been making for some time – are not bigoted, hate filled or Islamaphobic. They aren't an indictment of any individual Muslim anymore than condemning the Catholic culture which overlooked pedophilia was an indictment of individual or all Catholics. There are many wonderful, moral individual Muslims, and we can enjoy them as our friends, neighbors and co-workers at the same time that we point out the cancer in their culture. We do so not for our own good, but for theirs; not to hasten their culture's death but to save it; not to embarrass them, but to honor them. After all, we only expect civility and morality from great cultures, not from feeble ones.

It is not as if Islam is incapable of moral outrage. As Friedman postulates, what do we think would happen if 10 young Hindus crossed into Pakistan to shoot up hotels, kill hundreds of innocent people and then purposely sought out an Imam and his wife to kill them in front of their 2-year-old child? The answer is we would expect the same thing to happen as happened when some Danish cartoonist published unflattering pictures of Mohammed. We expect that they would riot. Sadly, there have been no riots to protest the heinous crimes committed by Muslims in the name of Islam against Hindus, Jews and Christians.

What passes for moral indignation and righteous anger in most Islamic nations and among the overwhelming majority of Muslims is quantitatively and qualitatively misguided. Printing cartoons about a religious figure and accidentally urinating on the Koran are minor insults at worst, and yet they bring about massive

rioting, destruction and deaths. Flying airplanes into buildings, bombing innocent shoppers and torturing Jewish religious leaders are heinous acts of savagery and cruelty which didn't illicit so much as one candlelight vigil of even 100 Muslims. And on this last point, perhaps I'm being charitable. I'm not actually aware of any candlelight vigils.

The politically impolite reality is that cultures are not all of the same quality or moral maturity. When a noted artist portrayed Christ in a jar of urine, there weren't any destructive protests, let alone deaths. When the Bible was torn and burned, there were no deadly acts of retribution. When 3,000 of our fellow citizens were killed on 9-11, Americans didn't unleash a wave of hate crimes against Muslims living in their neighborhoods.

The long historic march of Judeo-Christian culture has produced in America - and much of the rest of the West - pluralistic, democratic societies which are by and large religiously and socially tolerant. Islam's developmental journey seems frozen in its intolerance and violence against all whom it considers to be infidels or from whom it perceives insult. The greatest irony in all this is that the most damaged victims are Muslims themselves.

This was the most important part of Friedman's column and of all the previous conservative commentaries. The vast majority of self-proclaimed Islamic states are repressive and abusive toward their own populations. The inequalities in income, health and life expectancy are self-convicting. Over the last 100 years, more Muslims were murdered by other Muslims than by anyone else; more Muslims were tortured, falsely imprisoned, sold into slavery and deprived of basic human rights by other Muslims than by anyone else. Even in the so-called moderate Muslim states of Egypt, Saudi Arabia or Indonesia women are treated as second class citizens, practitioners of other religions are persecuted and political dissidents are imprisoned. This is not the picture of a morally healthy culture.

As long as liberals in the West were providing excuses and blaming America, Muslims didn't have to take that hard look in the mirror which is required of all who seek to lead moral lives. When a culture is finally able en masse to point an accusing finger back at itself and recognize the evil which is its own, then – and only then – can it mature and heal. Let us hope Islamic culture is at that point. Cancer – moral or otherwise – is curable, but admitting sickness is a necessary precondition. When Muslims can give voice to legitimately righteous anger over matters of moral substance, their recovery as a culture will have begun.

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@mvobserver.com](mailto:gwelborn@mvobserver.com).

**My Mysterious Metro**

I take the Metro to and from school everyday. I remember before freshman year I had never set foot on a bus, afraid of the “dangers” of public transportation. Just the thought of sitting on such a contraption that thousands had sat on before me was just too much. I kept replaying images of people sneezing all around me and trash everywhere. And then...I got on the bus. I stepped on that bus (after flashing my crisp, new bus pass) holding my breath thinking, “this is it” and sat down in the nearest seat. Ever since freshman year I've been taking the bus and I'm glad. I feel as though taking the bus places has really helped me realize a lot of things.

You know, some of the most down-to-earth and honest people take the bus. Just plain good people. People who may not even know you, look out for you, because we're all in the same boat. We're just trying to get where we need to go safely and so we might as well make the best of it. It's almost as if we all know about each other without there ever being any formal introduction. It's amazing what you discover about people you see as little as once a day. For instance, there's the tired man who gets on every morning, 7-11 coffee cup in hand. He looks awfully young, but almost sort of old because he gets on the bus looking like he's got the weight of the world on his shoulders. Maybe he does, but he manages to smile and nod at everyone anyway.

Then there's the mother and her little daughter. I assume she's taking her to school because everyday the little girl turns to anyone who'll listen, reciting her ABC's. There have been many times where I have gotten into deep discussions with this small girl about shapes and colors, receiving grateful looks from her mother who, no doubt, had been listening to such things all morning. Not to mention the old man we all thought was crazy. Yes, this man must be going on 100 years old and walks on the bus, sits in the same seat everyday (no one dares to sit in it), and talks to himself. Has a real conversation with...no one. And the thing is, we all thought he was just another crazy, old man. We all thought there was a mental issue going on until we actually decided to listen to what he was saying. The things he “discussed” were nothing short of amazing. This man spoke of different religions, our American history, today's youth, connections between different languages, and more. I must have learned more truth from this one man than I ever will at school.

Then there's me. I get on the bus everyday and I wonder what they see in me? Do they know about my struggles, fears, and hopes without us ever exchanging a word? I wonder if they know that they are my inspiration. That they allow me to continue having faith in people, faith that when we come together once a day on a simple Metro bus, nothing else matters. That on that bus, all race, religious and sexuality barriers are broken, and we can truly just be ourselves. - Trish Collins



## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2165141

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ALLIED INCOME TAX**, 13862 PADDOCK ST., SYLMAR, CA 91342. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JOSE LOMELI**, 13862 PADDOCK ST., SYLMAR, CA 91342. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOSE LOMELI.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/09/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2174414

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **BRIGHTER DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.**, 9144 MANZANAR AVE., DOWNEY, CA 90240. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **BRIGHTER DAY COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC.**, 9144 MANZANAR AVE., DOWNEY, CA 90240. This Business is conducted by: **A CORPORATION. Signed: RENEE YVONNE DAY/PRES.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/09/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **11/5/1999**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2034201

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **EL VIEJITO TRUKING**, 2916 LIBERTY BLVD. #A, SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **CLAUDIA C. MALDONADO**, 2916 LIBERTY BLVD. #A, SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CLAUDIA C. MALDONADO.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/18/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **08/18/07**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2156631

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **FEDERAL HOME RELIEF**, 3925 N. ROSEMEAD BLVD., STE. 205B, ROSEMEAD, CA 91770. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JENNY LIN, LAW OFFICE**, 3925 N. ROSEMEAD BLVD., STE. 205B, ROSEMEAD, CA 91770. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JENNY LIN.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/08/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2184419

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **IRIDESCENT IMAGES**, 7927 6<sup>th</sup> ST., DOWNEY, CA 90241. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **WENDY MILLER**, 7927 6<sup>th</sup> ST., DOWNEY, CA 90241. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: WENDY MILLER.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/11/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2156236

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LAST WORLD**, 5211 WASHINGTON BLVD. #2-110, LA, CA 90040. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MUHAMMAD ARSHAD**, 5211 WASHINGTON BLVD. #2-110, LA, CA 90040. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MUHAMMAD ARSHAD.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/08/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2156922

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **MATIAS AUTO REPAIR & ELECTRICAL**, 7901 OTIS ST., CUDAHY, CA 90201. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MATIAS VILLANUEVA**, 5951 MCKINLEY AVE., SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: D GUERRERO VILLANUEVA.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/08/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **12/01/08**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2149922

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PINK HOUSE CHOCOLATES**, 696 LANTANA ST., LAVERNE, CA 91750. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MARY C. LAYMAN**, 696 LANTANA ST., LAVERNE, CA 91750. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MARY C. LAYMAN.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/05/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2164165

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PLUMBING BY ENRIQUE**, 7729 MIRAMONTE BLVD., L.A., CA 90001. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ENRIQUE PLATA**, 7729 MIRAMONTE BLVD., L.A., CA 90001. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ENRIQUE PLATA.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/09/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **10/14/2008**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2165035

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **PUPPY PALO**, 14118 WHITTIER BLVD., WHITTIER, CA 90605. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JUNG SOOK CHO KIM**, 11455<sup>th</sup> AVE. #2, LA, CA 90019. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JUNG SOOK CHO KIM.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/09/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008, 01/05/2009

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2118141

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CENTURY COMMERCIAL CLEANING**, 1638 FORREST HILLS LANE, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92649. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JOSEPH FELIZ**, 1638 FORREST HILLS LANE, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92649. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOSEPH M. FELIZ.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/02/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2088204

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **INKIT**, 4976 FIRESTONE BLVD., SOUTH GATE, CA 90280. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **FERNANDO LOPEZ**, 4810 TEMPLETON ST., L.A., CA 90032. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: FERNANDO LOPEZ.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/25/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2118449

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **JID TRAVEL & TOURS**, 2008 W. CARSON ST., STE. 204, TORRANCE, CA 90501. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JOVI BEN DUMABOC**, 519 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> ST., #30, CARSON, CA 90745. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOVI BEN DUMABOC.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/02/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **12/02/08**.

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Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2139355

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **KRMA CLOTHING**, 2202 S. FIGUEROA ST., L.A., CA 90007. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MARIA C. LINERO**, 846 S. BROADWAY #802, L.A., CA 90014. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MARIA C. LINERO.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/04/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

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Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2117654

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **LING CHEN MANAGEMENT**, 1108 W. VALLEY

BLVD. #6207, ALHAMBRA, CA 91803. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **CHIU TSANG**, 1108 W. VALLEY BL. #6207, ALHAMBRA, CA 91803. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CHIU TSANG.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/02/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2138307

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **NISHANTHA PITIGALA AGENCY**, 766 MONTECITO DR., L.A., CA 90031. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **SENERATH NISHANTHA PITIGALA**, 766 MONTECITO DR., L.A., CA 90031. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SENERATH NISHANTHA PITIGALA.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/04/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2107643

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ROYAL RECORDS MUZIK**, 1816 DIANE DR., COMPTON, CA 90221. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ERIN G. ALLEN**, 1816 DIANE DR., COMPTON, CA 90221. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ERIN G. ALLEN.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/01/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2138984

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **SOUTH BAY HANDYMAN**, 4056 W. 164<sup>th</sup> ST., LAWDALE, CA 90240. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ANDREA KRISTY**, 4056 W. 164<sup>th</sup> ST., LAWDALE, CA 90240. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ANDREA KRISTY.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/04/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **03/30/2003**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2139992

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **THE BRIDGE INSURANCE SERVICES**, 12149<sup>th</sup> PARAMOUNT BLVD., DOWNEY, CA 90242. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **HECTOR ALVARADO**, 15356 ORIZABA AVE. #B, PARAMOUNT, CA 90723. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: HECTOR ALVARADO.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/01/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2115894

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. THIRD DEGREE BURN**, 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> DERGEE BURN, 131 E. 92<sup>nd</sup> ST., L.A., CA 90003. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JOSE ARENAS**, 131 E. 92<sup>nd</sup> ST., L.A., CA 90003. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **JESSE A. BARCOS**, 9227 SAVINCENTE AVE., SOUTTGATE, CA 90280. This Business is conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. Signed: JOSE ARENAS.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **12/02/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **12/02/08**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FILE NO. 2008-2138983

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**  
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: **SOUTH BAY HANDYMAN**, 4058 W. 164<sup>th</sup> ST., LAWDALE, CA 90240. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 8/3/07, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 2007-1839994.

The business was conducted by: **HUSBAND and WIFE**. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) **SIGNED: ANDREA KRISTY OWNER.**  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FILE NO. 2008-2139354

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**

The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name: **KRMA CLOTHING**, 2202 S. FIGUEROA ST., L.A., CA 90007. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 9/2/08, in the county of Los Angeles. The original file number of 2008-1580181. The business was conducted by: **A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP**. The business information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) **SIGNED: NICHOLAS BOWES/OWNER.**  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2033919

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ALL AMERICAN FIRE PROTECTION CO.**, 3109 BUCKINGHAM RD., GLENDALE, CA 91206. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **SERGIO RAFAEL IRIZAR**, 3109 BUCKINGHAM RD., GLENDALE, CA 91206. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SERGIO RAFAEL IRIZAR.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/18/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 11/24, 12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2054422

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **ALPHA-X ENTERPRISES**, 1307 W. ALAMEDA AVE., BURBANK, CA 91506. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **ALPHAEI ENTERPRISES**, 1307 W. ALAMEDA AVE., BURBANK, CA 91506. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: MICHAEL CAMARILLO.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/20/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 11/24, 12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2026461

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **C. OWAMBO & ASSOCIATES/OKOL INTERNATIONAL**, 10308 PARK ST., GLENDALE, CA 90707. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **GODWIN OKOLI**, C. OWAMBO, 10308 PARK ST., BELFLOWER, CA 90706. This Business is conducted by: **CESABAN and WIFE. Signed: GODWIN OKOLI.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/17/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **NOV. 17, 2008**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 11/24, 12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2033858

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **1. CHARLES M. FRYE REVIEW CENTER**, 6444 E. SPRING ST. #124, LONG BEACH, CA 90815. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **CHARLES M. FRYE**, 6444 E. SPRING ST. #124, LONG BEACH, CA 90815. This Business is conducted by: **AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CHARLES M. FRYE.** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on **11/18/08**. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **11/1/2008**.

**NOTICE:** This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).  
Publish: MountainViews-Observer  
Pub. 11/24, 12/01, 12/08, 12/15/2008

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 08-2034548

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: **CREDIT BANC SOLUTIONS GROUP**, 9350 FLAIR DR. STE. #108, EL MONTE, CA 91731. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) **MAI DIRECTIONS DIVISION, INC.**, 9350 FLAIR DR. STE. #108, EL MON



## Looking Up

With Bob Eklund

## More Sky Jewelry: A Celestial Snow Globe of Stars

LIKE A WHIRL OF SHINY FLAKES sparkling in a snow globe, this image from the Hubble Space Telescope catches an instantaneous glimpse of many hundreds of thousands of stars moving about in the globular cluster M13, one of the brightest and best-known globular clusters in the northern sky. This glittering metropolis of stars is easily found in the winter sky in the constellation Hercules and can even be glimpsed with the unaided eye under dark skies.

M13 is home to over 100,000 stars and located at a distance of 25,000 light-years. These stars are packed so closely together in a ball, approximately 150 light-years across, that they will spend their entire lives whirling around in the cluster.

Near the core of this cluster, the density of stars is about a hundred times greater than the density in the neighborhood of our sun. These stars are so crowded that they can, at times, slam into each other and even form a new star, called a “blue straggler.”

The brightest reddish stars in the cluster are ancient red giants. These aging stars have expanded to many times their original diameters and cooled. The blue-white stars are the hottest in the cluster.

Globular clusters can be found spread

largely in a vast halo around our galaxy. M13 is one of nearly 150 known globular clusters surrounding our Milky Way galaxy.

Globular clusters have some of the oldest stars in the universe. They likely formed before the disk of our Milky Way, so they are older than nearly all other stars in our galaxy. Studying globular clusters therefore tells us about the history of our galaxy.

For images and more information



Photo by Aaron Dominguez

about M13, visit: <http://hubblesite.org/news/2008/40> or <http://heritage.stsci.edu/2008/40>

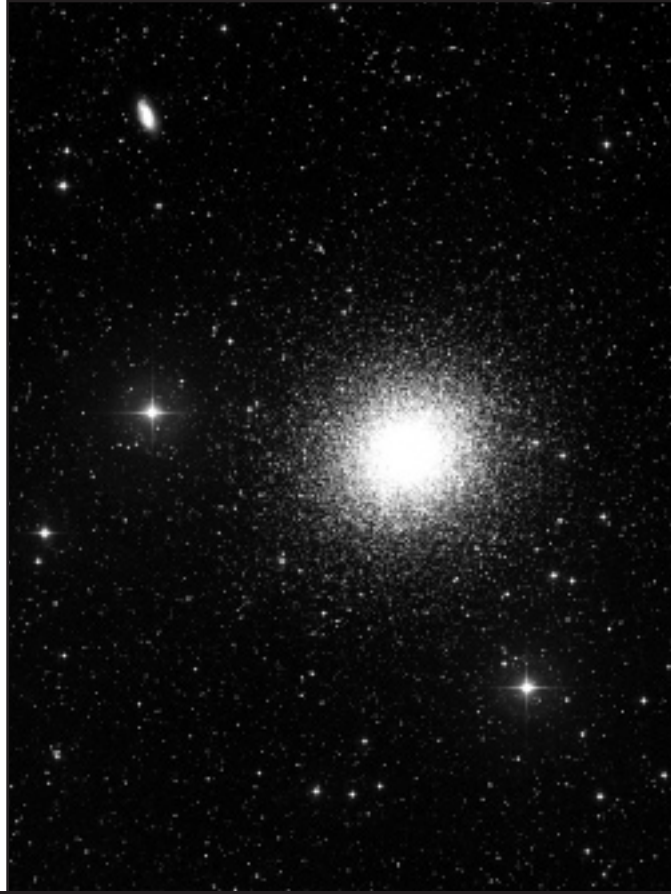
SPEAKING OF ASTRO-JEWELRY, Laura and I had our first visit to the redesigned Griffith Observatory last week. While the whole place is itself a jewel (and well worth visiting—with or without children—during this holiday season), one exhibit that especially impressed us was a 180-foot-

long “stream” consisting of 2200 pieces of astronomical jewelry, lining the wall of a gallery that portrayed the 12-plus billion years since the Big Bang.

This exquisite collection of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, lapel pins, broaches, and what have you was donated by Kara Knack, a founding member and past president of the observatory’s public support group, Friends of the Observatory (FOTO). Kara says she has been a collector of this kind of jewelry over many years, and when the observatory was planning new exhibits, its director, Edwin Krupp, asked her if she would be willing to loan her collection for a wall of jewelry. Enhanced with many new items donated by her friends, the collection came to 1800 pieces, which Kara donated to the observatory. The entire exhibit was installed on the wall by volunteers in one day. Since then, some 400 additional pieces have been added.

So when you visit Griffith, be sure to spend some time with this unique collection. I think you’ll find, as Laura and I did, that the seemingly endless composite of glittering stars, moons, planets, and comets is simply unforgettable.

If you’d like to learn more, you can contact Bob at [b.eklund@mrvobserver.com](mailto:b.eklund@mrvobserver.com).



## The Mountain Clymer

by Kim Clymer-Kelley

## Giving Green



The last few days I have begun to feel the usual pressures of the holiday season starting to mount. My time seems so limited this time of year, especially with the demands of working two jobs, writing a weekly column, and trying to get all of my holiday obligations met. I love the holidays. Even though the time holds no religious significance for me, the memories of my childhood Christmases and those wonderful years spent making my own children’s Christmases magical still make this time of year joyful and heart-filled.

This year I feel a little sad knowing I should restrict myself in my spending. The state of the economy weighs heavily on the minds of many this holiday season, I am sure. I told my son, Scott (my middle one) the other day that I will be cutting back this year, and he emphatically told me not to get him anything. I told him that of course I will get him stuff, just not as much. He again tersely repeated his demand...I ignored it of course. Giving is the best part of Christmas...it is what it is all about. Throughout modern history, people have bemoaned the perception that Christmas has become a holiday more about materialism and consumerism than the spiritual nature that it is intended to have. While the excessive gift giving and rampant spending at Christmas may seem, on the surface, to be incongruous with the holiday’s intent, I like to believe that for most people, it is just a matter of getting caught up in the spirit of the one time of year that we are all unified by tradition. There is a feeling of kinship that crosses all boundaries at Christmas and the act of gift giving is one of the traditions that fosters that closeness. Nothing feels better than the act of giving to others, though often it is stressful finding just the right gift for each of those on your list. I am always frustrated with myself if I cannot come up with the perfect thing to give someone, and I feel like it is a waste of money and our Earth’s precious resources to give something that is not wanted or needed just for the sake of giving a gift.

It is a sad fact that currently we use 25% more of our planet’s resources annually than can be replaced by nature. It is estimated that by 2050, that figure will be 200%. It took millions of years for some of those resources (such as oil and coal) to be created...hundreds or thousands of years for others (forests, lakes). It is essential that we begin to look at our lifestyles and find ways to reduce our impact on the planet. This holiday season would be a good time to start. Stop wasteful purchasing this Christmas and take a new approach to gift giving. Take a “Green “ approach. The thought and feeling that you put into each gift will be much more appreciated by most than any new gadget that may catch your eye in Best Buy. Following are some tips for “green giving” that I received in an email from the NRDC (the Natural Resources Defense Council):

1. Give things people need and can use, rather than products plucked from the shelves simply be-

cause they look good.

2. Choose gifts made of sustainable materials -- bamboo rather than wood, hemp, organic cotton and wool, fleece made from recycled soda bottles, post-consumer recycled paper, natural cosmetics and organic, fair-trade chocolates and coffees.

3. Buy locally made products, as the energy used to transport goods to the stores is one of the huge, hidden environmental costs of the holidays.

4. Look for used things with a provenance. Old books and maps, retro clothing, antique jewelry and the like are one-of-a-kind gifts that collectors and aficionados will appreciate.

5. Give things that reduce energy usage, such as commuter bicycles, solar-powered products, battery rechargers and carbon offsets.

6. Avoid excessively packaged products. The packaging wastes resources without adding value and, if made from plastic, can release toxins after being discarded.

7. Give tickets for concerts, shows, museums, sporting events, outdoor activities or parks.

8. Give a party rather than presents -- and tell your guests that the party’s gift-free.

9. Give of yourself. Promise a shift of babysitting or dog-walking or a service that uses your special talents or skills, such as a webpage, a bridge lesson or home improvement help. Give one of your own possessions to a friend who admired it, or a family heirloom to a member of your family’s next generation. Give a playlist of songs that someone would love it or a copy of a treasured photo nicely framed.

10. Swap contributions. Set up a registry listing your favorite non-profits at [Networkforgood.org](http://Networkforgood.org) and suggest to your friends that they register, too, so you can give to their causes while they give to yours.

11. Give memberships to a favorite organization, club or co-op.

There are plenty of other fun things that you can do in someone else’s name that can help our planet or at least not consume resources unnecessarily. Every year at this time the ads for naming a star after someone reappear on the radio. I always thought that was kind of a neat idea. On the NRDC’s website [NRDC.org](http://NRDC.org) you can plant a tree in a Costa Rican rainforest in someone’s name for just \$10.

A \$10 membership to The Arbor Day Foundation at [Arborday.org](http://Arborday.org) includes 10 free trees shipped to your giftess home for them to plant. They will also plant 10 trees in a national park in someone’s name. With a little imagination and a little web-surfing, I am sure you will find the perfect green gift for everyone on your list this year. You can help save valuable resources, return some of the thoughtfulness to gift giving, and revive some of the old Christmas spirit for which so many yearn.

## ‘DAY WITHOUT A BAG’ TO GREEN HOLIDAYS

## Major retailers, cities to hand out free reusable bags at more than 50 locations

LOS ANGELES - Regional environmental group Heal the Bay today announced a slew of major retailers and civic organizations that have linked to formally support the second annual “A Day Without a Bag” in Los Angeles County, set for Thursday, Dec. 18.

Under the successful education and bag giveaway program, a coalition of municipalities, environmental groups and businesses is urging Southland shoppers to send a gift to the environment during the holiday season by foregoing plastic or paper grocery bags in favor of reusable totes.

A diverse mix of businesses both large and small is supporting the day through in-store promotions or giveaways at outlets countywide on Dec. 20.

Retail Promotions at all L.A. County locations

- 99¢ Only Stores: Free bag with \$29.99 purchase
- Ralphs: Double “Reuse-a-bag” rebate when shoppers use Ralphs membership card
- Whole Foods Market: Free bag with \$50 purchase Retail Promotions at select stores
- Albertsons Sav-On: Giveaways at Marina Del Rey, Santa Monica and Burbank store while supplies last (1,000 bags)
- Bed Bath & Beyond: Free bag with a \$50 purchase at Hollywood, Beverly Center and West Los Angeles locations
- Fred Segal Santa Monica: Free bag with a \$10 purchase while supplies last

Beyond the retail programs, local shoppers can receive free bags at more than 50 other sites. Visit [www.healthebay.org/nobag-day](http://www.healthebay.org/nobag-day) for locations and times.

Earthwise Bag Co. leads the list of companies that have generously provided thousands of reusable bags for distribution at sites countywide. A public awareness campaign about the economic and ecological benefits of reusable bags will be aimed at county residents, who use more than 6 billion disposable plastic shopping bags each year.

California municipalities spend nearly \$50 million each year just to collect and dispose of plastic bag waste. Fewer than 5% of plastic grocery bags are recycled each year in Los Angeles, so the remainder clogs precious landfill, litters public spaces and harms animal life when the bags infiltrate waterways.

Many progressive local governments

countywide have already taken action or are exploring policies to curb the use of plastic bags. The cities of Malibu and Manhattan Beach adopted ordinances earlier this year that prohibit retail establishments, restaurants and vendors from providing plastic bags to customers.

“We have nearly quadrupled the number of giveaway sites for this year’s ‘Day Without a Bag,’ ” said Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, which is organizing the day in conjunction with the city and county of Los Angeles. “It reflects the growing groundswell in Los Angeles for reusable bags, which not only save the environment but taxpayer dollars as well.”

The City of Los Angeles has committed to ban plastic bags by 2010 if a statewide fee has not been established by that time. Heal the Bay expects to partner with lawmakers to introduce a plastic bag-fee bill in the state legislature in 2009.


Paper bags, while biodegradable, still require vast amounts of fossil fuels and water to produce, distribute and collect for disposal. (For more information on costs of disposable bags go here)

Heavy-duty reusable bags are convenient, environmentally friendly alternatives that have been embraced by millions around the world. Ireland has been able to reduce its use of disposable grocery bags by 90% since 2001 via public programs.

About the coalition

The following municipalities are officially participating in or supporting “A Day Without a Bag”: Agoura Hills, Arcadia, Avalon, Baldwin Park, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Calabasas, Carson, Compton, Covina, Culver City, El Monte, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lomita, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Norwalk, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills Estates, Santa Clarita, Santa Monica, Signal Hill, South El Monte, Walnut and West Hollywood.

The following businesses have also provided reusable bags or special promotions: 1 Bag at a Time, ChicoBags, Go-Again Bags, The Inconvenient Bag and West 19th, as well as the Banana Republic store on Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica.




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## TABLE FOR TWO

By Peter Dills

### Hawaiian Fusion At Its Finest

Chef Roy Yamaguchi opened his first restaurant in the Hawaiian Islands in 1988 and now has over thirty restaurants worldwide. It must have been a slick real estate agent who clued him into the fact that the corner of Colorado and El Molino was the hot spot just outside Old Town in Pasadena, because he just opened a Roy's right there. No matter the location though, all is paradise at this fine restaurant. Hey, it's in the trendy *Play House* District for starters. When you arrive you are greeted by two very large flames outside the entrance, no Polynesian dancers (to my dismay) but the canopy of fire completes a memorable and fitting first impression. I was wondering if the surf was up? Oh well, it is always difficult to get a seat for the longboard in these parts. On the night of my visit, Roy's was crowded with activity and, though I thought Hawaii was shorts and a comfortable shirt, urban attire has infected my utopia. I had stumbled into a corporate board meeting, as sport coats and ties were fastened to necks in all directions, I am glad my date and I dressed appropriately on this night. I do confess, and this is just between us, I have visited the bar on a couple of other occasions with a pullover and blue jeans. This is high-end though, so why not get suitably dressed? The bar is fine, but if you are going to spend a fair amount of greenbacks, I have always found it more charming to proceed appropriately and sit regally at a table and relax in a comfortable chair. There are no penalties for eating in the bar, I don't think they can stripe man-cards for that, it's just the restaurant is a tad bit expensive, so indulge your senses and take the table where you can tune into your guests.

The restaurant menu offers Roy's Classics; along with a selection of local treats, some of which are selected exclusively for Pasadena residents. The kitchen is conducted like a symphony in the skillful hands of Christopher George. No rookie or recent acquisition, Chef George has been with Roy's for over 10 years.

Are you ready to start eating? Uniquely available at Roy's Pasadena was our featured main course, the refreshingly delightful Washington Willapa Sea scallops with Goat Cheese Polenta, Lomi Tomato Chervil Sauce for (\$27.95) and I also recommend the Roy's Hawaiian Blackened Island Ahi, accompanied by a spicy soy mustard sauce for (\$28.95). I recently returned from Hawaii and I can attest to you that this as inspiring to the palate as anything I had at any location on the islands. Roy's concentrates on fish which are native to Hawaii. If you are not sure what to order, then let me suggest Roy's Classic Trio; Grilled Salmon, Blackened Island Ahi and a Misoyaki Butterfish for (\$29). You may be on the trail, Sherlock Holmes, if you have deduced that this is a seafood restaurant, and easily the best in Pasadena. For you land lovers, Roy's does offer Rack of Lamb, Chicken and Filet Mignon. Also offered is prix fixe menu (\$35) with a menu which is regularly modified. On our night, our server was kind enough to let us sample the Beef Short Ribs, mmmmm; they were above average.

Wow, have you saved any room for dessert? My recommendation, go directly for Roy's Melting Chocolate Soufflé. The wine list is extensive and pricey. I have found the service to be well above average as this was my fourth visit to Roy's. I have been very impressed by the knowledge of each server, and yes, that applies to the bar as well.

The verdict is: A great place to impress those who are not easily impressed, make sure you grab the pair of pants with the money in them!

Please call ahead for reservations. And note prices change weekly.

Roy's, 641 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. (626) 356-4066 [www.roysrestaurant.com](http://www.roysrestaurant.com)

Email me with your thoughts [thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)



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# The Senior

By Bruce Lamarche

## Holidays - Got An Attitude?



I can hear it now, even inside my own head. “Not the holiday season already! I don’t know if I’m up to that . . . again! Decorating . . . boxes of the stuff. Can’t we just fast-forward to January?”

Ask yourself, where has the “kid” in us gone? Can you think back as children to how excited we got about Christmas? For most of us, that kid is still there. The big question is “Can we let our inner child out to play?” As we mature we have realized that the holidays are about giving, not about getting. Let’s resolve to make this holiday special for those younger than us and show them “how it’s done.”

Can we be the fun grandparents who are a delight to the children of our children? What special moments we can have when Grandma bakes Santa cookies and lets Granddaughter help. Let’s surprise our grandchildren with this old fashioned version of this special holiday season.

Many of our children’s families are just too busy to do “traditional” dinners. Mom and Dad both work and are too tired. How will the grandkids learn about this if we don’t show them? Maybe we seniors need to take the time to “show ‘em how it’s done!”

At Christmas, can we take the time to help grandkids actually make a present for Mom and Dad? A painting, some kind of fun even silly craft to present, can be very special in the

making and in the receiving. What about the fun of creating it and the time spent together, laughing and just being together?

We get into the same daily rut and this makes the holiday season seem like a hassle. It doesn’t have to be this way, if we stay out of the malls and do the holidays the old fashioned way. Doing this will also lift your own spirits. It is a well-known fact that, for many people, the holidays are a time of depression. I think this stems from a sense of loss from “more simple times”. We miss the simple joy of being a child. The reality is that times were not really simpler, just different. All of this boils down to attitude. Our perception of the holidays as a wonderful time of fun, great food, telling stories, songs, and homemade gifts can be your reality if you choose it to be so. Let’s get out of our ruts and decide that setting an example for a younger generation is important. We can be a powerful force in molding them in traditional ways. We will benefit, also, by the joy it will bring and the uplifting of our own spirits. ‘Tis the season, embrace it!

*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 He can be reached at (626) 335-2564.*

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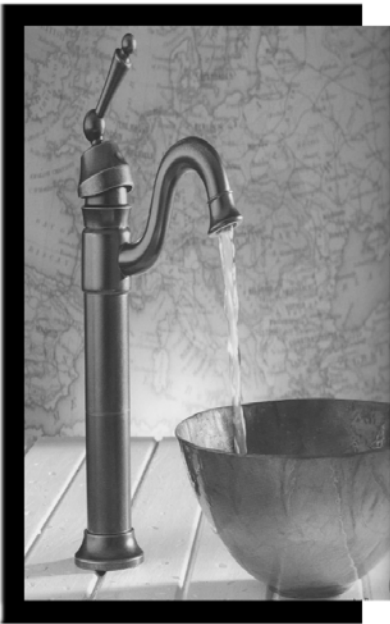
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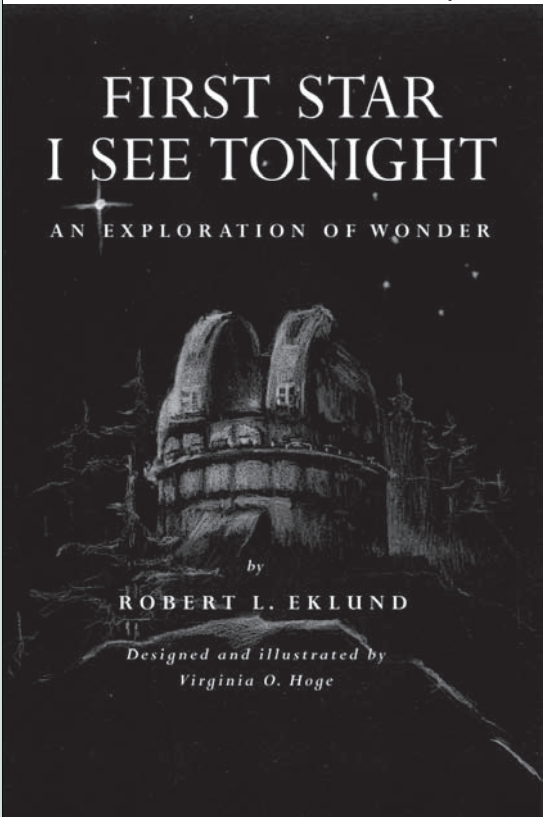


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# SENIOR HAPPENINGS...


By Pat Birdsall

## FYI:

Please don't forget seniors in nursing homes this holiday season—many of them have no family of their own and this time of year can be rough, especially when other residents are being visited by loved ones who lavish them with gifts and treats. ***Here are a few appropriate gift ideas to brighten their holidays:*** (All can be a combined effort by many) **Warm socks**-Nursing homes usually issue booties that are thin and unattractive. A nice pair of thick, colorful socks with skid proof bottoms is a wonderful gift. Check at the front desk for the number of people living at the nursing home, and buy socks for everyone. **Toiletries**-Quality hand lotions, shaving cream, shampoos, and scented soaps are also great gifts that seniors appreciate receiving. Buy an assortment and take them for distribution to all. **Lap robes**- They are typically 30x40 blankets that fit over the shoulders or over the lap to keep a person warm. For people who crochet, one can be completed in less than 3 hours using scrap yarn. **Time**- Your time visiting with them is the most precious gift of all.

## Recipe of the Month:

### Cranberry Cream Pie



2 ½ Cups whole-berry cranberry sauce

1 pastry shell (9 inches), baked

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened


2/3 cups sugar

2 eggs, lightly beaten

3 Tbs all-purpose flour

1 tsp vanilla extract

1- Spread cranberry sauce over the bottom of pastry shell. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs, flour and vanilla on low speed just until combined. Pour over cranberry layer. **2-** Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes or until center is set. Cool on a wire rack. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours before cutting. Serves 8 *RD.com*



## Happy Birthday

December Birthdays: Rose Fafach, Levon Yapoujian, Bonnie Garner and Helen Reese

### For Your Funny Bone

It's so rare to be offered a meal on an airliner these days that I was surprised to hear the flight attendant ask the man sitting in front of me, “Would you like dinner?” “What are my choices?” he responded. “Yes or no,” she said.

~ ~ ~

Flying to Toronto at Christmastime, I arrived at the airport check-in. As the security guard cleared my bags, I noticed a sprig of mistletoe dangling above him. “What’s the mistletoe for?” I asked. “That?” He smiled. “That’s so you can kiss your luggage goodbye.”

## Quote:

*From a commercial point of view, if Christmas did not exist it would be necessary to invent it. ~Katharine Whitehorn~*

## 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

**Tuesday:** Bingo- 1:30PM- 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:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday-Community Lunch & Learn Program

**Thursday:** Game Day- 1:00PM- 3:30PM- Poker, UNO, Scrabble, Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Backgammon, Pinochle...you name it.  
Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30 PM \$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

## 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.


**January 15, 2009- Senior Day at the Races- Santa Anita Park-** More information to follow.

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

**Financial Consulting-** Financial Consulting- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 by volunteer drivers 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 for more information.



**MEALS-ON-WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO DELIVER MEALS TO OUR HOMEBOUND NEIGHBORS \*\*ONCE A MONTH OR WEEKLY\*\* Please contact Darlene Traxler at 626.355.0256.**

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## One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them By Chris Bertrand

## Methodist Hospital's Holiday Homes Tour

On December 4 and 5, three generous local homeowners opened their homes for this year's Methodist Hospital Christmas Homes Tour. Hundreds lined up to continue 54 years of tradition in viewing several extraordinary homes, decorated "to the nines" by ASID professionals. Proceeds will be used to support the capital campaign for construction of a new patient tower, Emergency and Critical Care Services at Methodist. Justin and Kim Brandstater purchased the charming, 3000 square foot, Victorian farmhouse known as the Fletcher House in 1997, when it was already 107 years old. Their extensive renovations were carefully designed to remain true to the character and period of the architecture. Though vintage lace curtains adorn the windows, and antique wicker furniture fills some of the rooms, it doesn't mean the home is without modern day conveniences. In fact, the spectacular, recently completed back yard with outdoor dining and state of the art, cooking pavilion is currently

featured in the 2008 Outdoor Entertaining Idea Book by Taunton Press. With over 25 years of interior design experience, Shirley Farris enjoyed working on her favorite type of project, period style homes. Her well-known holiday decorating signatures are unusual treetop ornaments and garlands that drape all the way to the floor. In this home, she also utilized vintage, sterling silver demitasse spoons to decorate a kitchen area tree. Farris even used vintage candy garlands to decorate the playhouse trees. Two home coordinators man each home, and Romilda Loversky and Mari Claveran greet visitors at the Nassif home. At the palatial Arcadia home of Dr. and Mrs. Tarek Nassif, the family has barely settled in since completing their home just a few months ago. Their 6100 square foot dream home features the curving lines of classic Mediterranean style, with pillared entry, inset ceilings, inlaid floor designs, a magnificent staircase and stunning balconies. As soon as I entered massive double doors with wrought iron detailed windows, my eye was immediately drawn wrought iron detailed staircase decorated with beribboned garlands. Everywhere, the niches were filled with fresh flowers, complementing the theme of the fresh entry arrangement at the center table. Wrapped packages take center stage, piled around the base of the entry table. The living room tree sets the Venetian color theme of soft burnt orange, olive sage, gold and terra cotta. The dining table, set for a formal Christmas dinner repeated these colors, utilizing Venetian glass accents, the Nassif's china, Fortuni chargers and table runner. In addition to the

holiday decorations, design firm Tocco Finale of San Marino, headed by Donna Dockendors, produced custom draperies throughout the home in their own workroom. A Dickens English Christmas theme was a very appropriate choice at the English Tudor home of Ronald and Amy Ellis in Arcadia. Built in 1940, the 4198 square foot home also includes a separate guest house and secluded park-like grounds. Masses of red poinsettias create a dramatic beginning statement near the front door. Whimsy quickly finds a place with a seated Santa, apparently waiting his turn just outside the powder room. The Ellises were drawn to the expansive grounds of the property, as it reminds them of Amy Ellis's beloved, native Louisville, Kentucky. Their study even showcases Kentucky Derby memorabilia, for this equine-focused family. The massive living room featured beamed, cathedral ceilings and a huge Christmas tree framed in the front window at one end. Yet, the room felt warm, inviting and comfortable despite its large size. My teenage tour guides all enthusiastically commented about the "best teen room ever" up a separate set of stairs, with matching large beds, one for a guest, of course! A huge relaxation or entertaining space and a homework area complete this hideaway. The Alternative, an interior design and general contracting firm, handled the decorations for the Ellis home. Sandra Troup, of The Alternative, is this year's president of the Pasadena ASID, and has often participated in other ASID showcases and tours.



Romilda Loversky and Mari Claveran, this home's coordinators, greet visitors at the Nassif home.



Holiday lighting traces the home's Victorian lines.

If additional year-end giving is on your horizon, please consider a generous contribution to Methodist Hospital, our neighborhood not-for-profit hospital. Charitable giving has dropped dramatically in all quarters. As the economic downturn continues to impact the economy, Methodist Hospital will be especially grateful for your donations this year. Contributions are accepted online at [www.MethodistHospital.org](http://www.MethodistHospital.org) or by calling (626) 898-8888. According to Methodist's Foundation, "Contributions assist us in advancing the high quality medical care that you have come to expect, especially in emergency services, cardiac care, cancer services, diagnostic equipment and information technology."

Know of an interesting home, garden or person who helps create them, that might be of interest to our readers? Contact Chris today at [Chris@BertrandOnline.com](mailto:Chris@BertrandOnline.com)

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## Dickson Podley REALTORS® Congratulates Nominees for the Los Angeles Business Journal 2008 Residential Real Estate Awards



Dhari Thien



Peggy Vaccaro

Ed Afsharian, manager of the Dickson Podley REALTORS® Pasadena office is pleased to recognize five Realtor Associates who were nominated for this year's Los Angeles Business Journal Residential Real Estate Awards. Nominated for the Excellence in Marketing Award were Dhari Thien and Michael Dilsaver for their unique and innovative techniques in promoting their personal brands, the Dickson Podley REALTORS® brand, their clients' listings and the real estate profession as a whole. Crystal Narramore was nominated for the Outstanding Mentor Award for dedicating her time, energy, and resources into teaching classes, providing support, and being a role model for a new generation of real estate professionals. Nominated for the Real Estate Industry Leader Award was Shirley



Shirley Knuth

Knuth for possessing the highest level of ethical and moral standards as promoted by C.A.R., N.A.R., and the D.R.E., and for always committing herself to expanding her knowledge at every opportunity. Peggy Vaccaro was nominated for the Community Service Award for her selfless contribution of time and money for community enhancement and for acting as a voice to the community at large, and for committing herself to advancing the well-being of all those around her. Bill Podley, CEO of Dickson Podley REALTORS® says: "Congratulations to each of you for setting an example in the field of residential real estate! Dickson Podley REALTORS® congratulates you and commends you for all of your hard work." Established in 1957, Dickson Podley REALTORS® currently serves The Foothills Area, from Glendale to Glendora, with all its realty needs. Dickson Podley REALTORS® has 6 branch offices located throughout the area (Pasadena, La Cañada Flintridge, Altadena, Monrovia, Glendora, and Sierra Madre). Please visit [www.dicksonpodley.com](http://www.dicksonpodley.com) for more information on the company as well as to get in contact with local agents in your area.



Michael Dilsaver



Crystal Narramore



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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

It's that time of the year again and before we know it everyone is hustling, bustling and getting into the swing of things.

It's a wonderful time of the year and before it runs away with us, Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office wants to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your past support of the Los Angeles Union Rescue Mission. Beginning this year Bruce Pfeiffer has handed over the reins to a fellow real estate agent, Dean Griffith, who brings with him youth, new enthusiasm, and the great USC spirit of giving. We would like to remind you that this is the time to count our blessings and share in the Season of Giving.

Dean is asking for your support again for those less fortunate by collecting men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes and coats. Also, very much needed are blankets, bedding and toys. You can drop these items off at the Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office, 15 E. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia or Dean will come and pick up these items from you.

All items and cash donations will be delivered on Monday, Dec. 15th 2008. Please call him at 626.664.9163.

Any contributions you give help hundreds of needy people. Cash donations are always welcomed for it helps to pay for food and housing. You can make your checks out to: Union Rescue Mission.

Again, we want to "thank you" for all the years in supporting this effort and helping to share our many blessings with those who are less fortunate.

It is with your help and fellow volunteer agents from many local real estate companies that we are able to collect all your clothing and cash donations to take to the Union Rescue Mission, bringing a smile to a child and helping to feed and keep someone warm.

Dean Griffith is a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office and specializes in residential real estate. You can reach him at 626.664-9163.



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436 Fairview Ave. #41, Arcadia \$429,900  
6715 Ferron Ave., San Gabriel \$499,000  
5306 N Muscatel Ave., San Gabriel \$675,000  
299 E Laurel Ave., Sierra Madre \$1,278,000

## Prominent music commentator MaryAnn Bonino Returns to Classical KUSC (91.5) FM

On Sunday, December 28, at 7:00am MaryAnn Bonino returns to KUSC as host of the new weekly series, Sunday Music. Bonino has brought classical music to life for audiences of all ages as a concert producer, public speaker, as well as radio/TV host. As a past member of the KUSC family, Bonino produced and announced several weekly series' from 1979 to 1989. Bonino is currently Professor-at-Large Emeritus at Mount St. Mary's College, the Founding Artistic Director Emeritus of the Da Camera Society and creator of its Chamber Music in Historic Sites series. She is also the Curator of the Doheny Mansion, and recently published The Doheny Mansion: A Biography of a Home.

Each weekend, Sunday Music will feature a classic repertoire specially chosen for Sunday morning, a time of relaxation and reflection. MaryAnn adds, "Celebrating the spirit in all its many manifestations, Sunday Music will mark seasons and anniversaries, conjure up the glories of the past, and get you ready for the week ahead."

"We warmly welcome MaryAnn back into the KUSC family," said KUSC President Brenda Barnes. "We are so fortunate to have her expertise on board. And most importantly, our listeners will be the beneficiaries of this talented professional."

KUSC Program Director Gail Eichenthal will work with Bonino in broadening and enriching the Sunday Music format. "MaryAnn is one of the most engaging and brilliant music commentators I've ever heard. Her passion for and knowledge of the sacred music repertoire of the past six-hundred years will greatly enhance the program."



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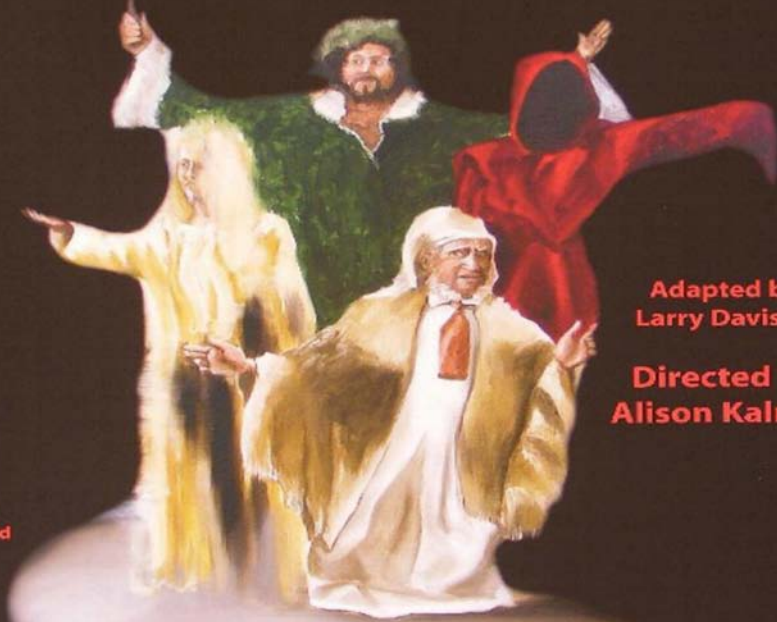
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