

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023



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### Interest Rates Dropped

Interest rates just had their biggest drop in 2 years due to the lower CPI inflation numbers.

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## CITY COUNCIL PAVES WAY FOR POLICE RAISES

By Kevin McGuire

After negotiations and several budget meetings, the City has approved the consideration of a seven percent cost-of-living adjustment to Police Association Members, effective retroactively to July 2, 2023, and a five percent cost-of-living adjustment for the fiscal year 2024-25.

In addition, an update was made to incentive pay language, allowing employees to cash out their Public Safety Holiday Leave at the time of service retirement with the city. Before this change, an employee could only cash out at the end of the fiscal year. Assistant City Manager Miguel Hernandez anticipates three retirements over the next three or four years.

During the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, Resolution 23-70 passed, adopting the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Sierra Madre and the Police Association, and Resolution 23-71 passed, amending the Classification Plan and Salary Matrix and adopted amendments to the Terms and Conditions of Employment (TCE) for executive management and confidential-exempt employees.

The city also agreed to amend the current Education Incentive from a percentage of 5% to a flat rate of \$250 per 28-day Fair Labor Standards Act period when an employee obtains their POST certificate. Furthermore, according to the staff report, both parties agreed to revise the language, allowing for the education stipend and POST incentive to be combined.

The amendment to the Classification Plan and Salary Matrix opens up the creation of a new part-time Police Sergeant position. Currently, the Department has part-time police officers and a part-time Lieutenant position, which is presently vacant.

The new Sergeant will assist with day-to-day operations. This new position would offer an opportunity to have tenured and experienced sergeants with vast experience in patrol, planning, administration, management, supervisor oversight, risk management, and community policing, according to a presentation by Hernandez.

The new Sergeant's duties include managerial oversight, operational efficiency implementation, community and officer relations improvement, training, planning, scheduling, mentoring, and guidance. Lastly, the position will also be a backfill for watch commander duties.

City Council also approved the following amendments to the TCE.

- CalPERS Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act (PEMHCA), which the City has been participating in since 1995. Under Government Code Section 22892 of the California Public Employees Retirement Law, for the calendar year 2023, the City contributes \$151.00 for each employee towards a PERS Health Care Plan, which is adjusted annually.
- In 2016, the City Council adopted the Classified Employees Association MOU, which had negotiated for a longevity pay incentive. At that time, the incentive was extended to both Executive Management and Confidential-Exempt employees. This practice has been in place and budgeted annually. Adding the longevity pay to the TCE memorializes the process for executive management and Confidentiality-exempt employees.
- Other items being proposed for change in the Executive Management TCE are adding the Deputy City Manager position, removing the Police Captain position, and adding language in the Executive Management TCE that provides a correct calculation of Public Safety Holiday Leave for the Police and Fire Chief who work a 4/10 work schedule.

An additional item concerning the retiree medical insurance is that the amendment updates the eligibility hire dates and reduces the years of service from 30 to 20 years, which will be presented to the City Council for adoption at a later date. Both resolutions passed unanimously.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK

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## SIERRA MADRE WOMAN'S CLUB HOLDS 47TH COMMUNITY INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST



Above (l to r): Steven Licata, Cantor Ruth Berman-Harris, Mr. Raiz Khan and wife. Photo by L. Aguilar

Sierra Madre Woman's Club's 47th Annual CommUNITY Interfaith Prayer Breakfast the morning of November 16th was an amazing, delicious and powerfully inspiring Breakfast. Due to the SMWC's 1914 Essick House facility challenges, the event was held at The Lodge on E. Sierra Madre Blvd. The response from the community was overwhelming with this year's event rumored to be the largest ever.

Representatives from U.S. House Representative Judy Chu's office, Assemblymember for District 41 Chris Holden's office, and LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's were present. Sierra Madre Mayor Edward Garcia, and council members Kelly Kriebes and Gene Goss were joined by City Manager Jose Reynoso, Retiring Public Works Director Chris Cimino, Retiring Planning Director Vincent Gonzales, SMPD Police Chief Gus Barrientos, Fire Chief Brent Bartlett and SMPD Captain Henry Amos. Former Mayors John Harabedian, (currently running for CA State Assembly District 41), and Clem Bartolai were also in attendance. The new BMO Bank Manager, Asme Chaudry and her assistant, Mark Karghian, as well as the new Cancer Support Community's CEO, Patricia Ostillier, were introduced to the community.

SMWC Past President Mary Carney moderated the event. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and "God Bless America", the Invocation was provided by the Religious Services Director, Mr. Raiz Khan, of the Masjid Gibrail of San Gabriel. He was followed by Pastor Darin Kennedy, of the Church of Christ on North Lima, Mr. Steven Licata from the Baha'i Faith, Cantor Ruth Berman of the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center, who engaged the audience in a song that reminded everyone of our need to "build this world from love". Pastor Jae Duk Lew of Sierra Madre United Methodist Church reminisced about his family sustaining their health through the long and bitter Korean winters during his youth. He likened it to each of us storing up our own resources of faith to sustain us through our own personal and society's challenges and tribulations.

The Sierra Madre Woman's Club thanks everyone who supported this event. It was a wonderful display of CommUNITY working together.

Mark your 2024 November calendar's 3rd Wednesday so you can join us next year.

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For tickets visit [www.sierramadredancecenter.com](http://www.sierramadredancecenter.com)

Wisteria Thrift Shop  
invites you to their annual

## HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

**Nov. 30, Dec. 1 & 2**  
**9am-2pm**

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Nov. 30, 10am.

Our inventory consists of new & gently used jewelry, clothes, holiday items, toys, kitchenware & more for your shopping pleasure!

Shop proceeds help support local charities & our scholarship program.  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. • (626) 355-7739  
Parking located on Sunnyside Ave.

## PAX PHARMACY

**STAYING HEALTHY DURING THE HOLIDAYS:**

**Hello City of Sierra Madre! This is your local pharmacist with some reminders on how to stay healthy this holiday season if you have diabetes:**

- 1. Exercise.** The CDC recommends 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise per week. Take advantage of this time with your family and friends and head outside.
- 2. Distribute your carb intake** throughout the day. Try to avoid eating all your carbs in one meal, as this can heavily impact your blood glucose levels and lead to hyperglycemia (high blood sugar).
- 3. Get your flu shot.** Protect your family and friends by getting vaccinated before hosting holiday parties or traveling.
- 4. Travel smart.** Pack healthy snacks for road trips to avoid eating fast food. If flying, always carry your diabetes medications with you on the flight.
- 5. Stay on track** while monitoring your blood sugar and lookout for signs of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemia. If you experience things like dizziness, hunger, extreme thirst, or a rapid heart rate, check your blood glucose and treat accordingly.

**Come into the store today for advice on how to manage hypoglycemia, consult a pharmacist on over-the-counter medications, or pick up any other prescriptions you may need. We are here to serve you!**

**Happy Holidays!**  
Dr. Isabella Daher, PAX PHARMACY  
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Saturday: 9 am-1 pm.  
Closed Sunday

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# SIERRA MADRE

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## SIERRA MADRE COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER



On Veteran's Day, the Sierra Madre Rotary Club joined the Sierra Madre Kiwanis Club in presenting its' annual "A Walk Through The Park Celebrating Our Veterans Past and Present".

## SETTING UP THE CHRISTMAS TREE - RAIN OR SHINE!



Thanks to the dedicated volunteers, young and old, coordinated by Chamber Members Carol Canterbury and Michelle Keith, who made certain that the decorations in Kersting Court were ready for Santa when he arrives next Saturday at the Winter Village!

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

"May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump. May your potatoes and gravy have nary a lump. May your yams be delicious and your pies take the prize, and may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs!"



Thanksgiving is Thursday! This suddenly dawned on me as I was leisurely removing all the Halloween stuff and leaving all the Fall stuff up in my house. A quick family consultation, though, helped my heart quit pounding. Nobody is cooking a turkey. Blasphemy, I know, but we finally all admitted we like the sides better than the bird. I am making creamed spinach and Lime Jell-O Salad and we will buy sliced deli turkey, which comes in hickory, honey or mesquite smoked slices and ham which could be brown sugar, tavern honey or several other incarnations. Last year we brought home garlic mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, mac and cheese and I can't remember what all else and they were all delicious. We will have egg nog, relax, put it all out as a buffet and let everyone serve themselves. It will be wonderful. We will be stuffed and it will be a delightful, stress-free, Thanksgiving. No matter what you're serving, the best part is inviting family and friends to share the feast and all the familiar family stories. Like this one, but I know none of you folks have ever had the following experience...

### THE GHOST OF THANKSGIVINGS PAST

The Festive Bird is in the stove,  
It's time now for a nap.  
I laid me down, closed my eyes,  
And at the window heard a tap.

It's far too soon for guests to come,  
I need a little peace!  
The stuffing's ready, cranberries chillin',  
Pies overflow with pumpkin fillin'.

The tap just keeps on at my window,  
But I'm not gonna look!  
There's nothing more for me to do,  
This is one tired and sleepy cook.

So I snuggled deep down in my afghan,  
Turned my head the other way.  
I don't care who's at that window,  
They can tap all day.

Off I went to slumberland and dreamed a lovely dream,  
A kitchen, clean and spotless, everything just right.  
But then I dreamt a dreadful dream,  
That made me shriek with fright!

The tapping at my window,  
More insistent grew.  
And what was out there tapping,  
I'll now describe to you.

The Ghost of my Thanksgivings Past,  
A turkey that was huge!  
Tapped his enormous beak at my window,  
And gobbled.... "Jaccuse!"

"Fifty Thanksgivings, and more," he said,  
"Since you walked down that wedding aisle.  
So many turkeys you've served up,  
With sweet potatoes and a smile."

"All those turkeys come and gone,  
And still your gravy's awful!  
And the year the turkey hit the floor,  
Should be declared... unlawful!"

"Most of them were nicely done, I'll give you that," he said.  
"But some were cooked so badly,  
You should have ordered Chinese instead!"  
What an awful dream, I thought, as I cowered in my bed.

But the Ghostly Turkey wasn't finished,  
With his accusations many.  
And I, stuttering out my pathetic excuses,  
Discovered I hadn't any!

But then he smiled and said to me,  
"Your crimes are all forgiven.  
For those who've gathered at your table,  
Have rejoiced and laughed for hours."  
"We turkeys relish meals like these,  
They are sweet as summer flowers!

Enjoy today, with friends and family,  
gathered 'round your table,  
Give thanks for health and joy and peace...  
Then share this Thanksgiving fable."

And with a last gobble...gobble, the Ghost of Thanksgivings Past,  
Flew up, up, and away...  
And I heard him exclaim, ere he flew out of sight...  
"Happy Thanksgiving to all...  
And for heaven's sake, learn to make better gravy!"

Hope your Thanksgiving will be the best one ever!

Rotary Club of Sierra Madre

# TOYS FOR TOTS

in cooperation with the MARINE CORPS RESERVE

**Donate a New Unwrapped Toy!**

DONATION BOXES LOCATED AT:  
Taylor's Market • Syndicate Coffee & Bakery  
Sierra Madre Fire Department  
Sierra Madre Police Department

Donate through  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

At last but not the least, let's come together in the spirit of love, gratitude, and giving this year. Sierra Madre Rotary Club, Fire Department, and Police Department are teaming up to support "Toys for Tots" from the Marine Corps Reserve. You can donate toys at the Sierra Madre Fire/Police Station and City Hall, with the final day of collection being December 16th during the "Meet & Greet Santa" event. We look forward to seeing you!

### NOMINATION CATEGORIES

- PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD
- COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE AWARD
- WISTARIA AWARD
- GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
- 2023 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
- 2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

### NOMINATION DESCRIPTION

- **PUBLIC SAFETY AWARD:** FOR PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING SAFETY IN SIERRA MADRE.
- **COMMUNITY YOUTH SERVICE AWARD:** FOR YOUTH UNDER 18 FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.
- **WISTARIA AWARD:** RECOGNIZING A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP THAT ASSISTS WITH PROVIDING COMMUNITYWIDE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.
- **GEORGE MAURER LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** FOR A PERSON/ENTITY WHOSE LIFETIME OF SERVICE EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM.
- **2023 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR:** FOR A RESIDENT WHO HAVE BENEFITED THE CITY DURING 2023, AS A VOLUNTEER.
- **2023 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR:** FOR AN OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EXISTING IN SIERRA MADRE FOR MORE THAN 5 YEARS THAT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF THE COMMUNITY.

TO NOMINATE, SIMPLY E-MAIL YOUR NOMINATIONS WITH THE REASONS WHY YOU FEEL THIS PERSON OR ORGANIZATION IS DESERVING OF AN AWARD TO [HONORSDINNER@CITYOFSIERRAMADRE.COM](mailto:HONORSDINNER@CITYOFSIERRAMADRE.COM).

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00PM ON DECEMBER 20, 2023**

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**Weather Wise**



6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Sunny	Hi	80s	Lows	50s
Mon	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Tues	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Wed	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Thur	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s
Fri	Sunny	Hi	70s	Lows	50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

**SIERRA MADRE CITY MEETINGS  
SIERRA MADRE CITY  
COUNCIL MEETING**

November 28, 2023 5:30pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your event must:

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

Just write a Public Service Announcement that describes your event and e-mail it to [radio@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:radio@cityofsierramadre.com).

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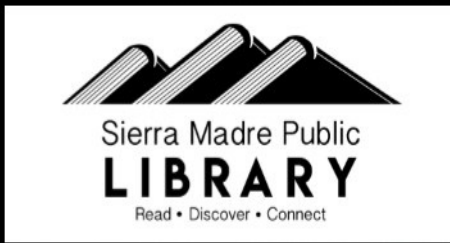
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**NOVEMBER** – Library will be closed while we move to our temporary location.

**DECEMBER** – Library re-opens at our temporary location: 350 W Sierra Madre Blvd.

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Saturday.....9am-5pm  
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# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Thanksgiving Holiday Closures and Reminders



Pasadena residents and businesses are reminded that City Hall and most City services will be closed on Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Specific closures, exceptions and reminders are noted below.

Pasadena residents and businesses with any power emergencies should call the Pasadena Water and Power Department (PWP) at (626) 744-4673. For water-related emergencies, call (626) 744-4138. PWP's Customer Service Call Center will be closed for the holiday, but customers can access their accounts and make payments through the automated phone system at (626) 744-4005 or online at PWPweb.com.

The City's Citizen Service Center (CSC) will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday. Individuals can contact the CSC via the web or by calling (626) 744-7311. Regular trash and recycling collection for Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, will occur on Friday and Friday's collection will occur on Saturday.

The City's permit and payment centers will also be closed Thursday and Friday. Online permitting services are available 24/7 at [CityOfPasadena.net/PermitCenterOnline](http://CityOfPasadena.net/PermitCenterOnline).

Pasadena Transit and Dial-A-Ride buses will not operate on Thanksgiving Day, but will resume regular service on Friday. Pasadena Transit and Dial A Ride will provide free service on Friday and Saturday for Black Friday/Shop Local Saturday. All parking meters are free and parking time limits will not be enforced on Thanksgiving Day, but shoppers are advised that all regular meter enforcement will resume Friday. Violations for overnight parking, red curb/no parking zones, driveway blocks and blocking fire hydrants will continue to be issued on both days.

All Pasadena Public Library sites will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday and will remain closed the following two days. They will reopen on Saturday.

Pasadena Fire and Police Departments will continue to be staffed for all patrol, jail, fire, paramedic and other emergency services. Always call 9-1-1 for life-threatening emergencies. For non-emergencies, call (626) 744-4241. If you "See Something, Say Something." Report suspicious activity to Pasadena Police Department at (626) 744-4241. The police department's records section will be closed Thursday and Friday and will reopen Monday.

All recreation and community centers operated by the City's Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department will be closed on Thursday and Friday but all parks will be open for picnics, fun and play. No site reservations are accepted for the holiday.



## Tournament Hosts Community Open House

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses celebrated the fifth anniversary Sunday of their Community Open House, in partnership with the Pasadena Community Coalition. This event brought people together to celebrate the diversity of the community, as well as honor the 2024 President Alex Aghajanian (pictured right). He has been a volunteer Member of the Association since 1989 and is the current president for the Tournament of Roses, providing leadership for the 135th Rose Parade and 110th Rose Bowl Game on January 1.

"Being celebrated at the Community Open House is an immense honor with profound personal significance," said Aghajanian. "I have a deep and meaningful connection to our community being a lifelong resident of the Pasadena and Altadena areas. This event embodies a sense of community spirit and celebrates the shared tapestry of experiences that make Pasadena a truly special place. The Community Open House is not just a commemoration of individual achievements, but a testament to the commitment of inclusivity of the 935 volunteer Members of the Tournament of Roses. Our volunteers work to bring people together and continue to enhance our dedication to improving

connections to, and working with, our diverse community."

For more than a century, the Tournament of Roses has contributed to various communities through event-driven economic impact and other forms of giving. The Community Open House is another way to celebrate our local community and our commitment to further community engagement and initiatives.

The gathering of neighbors at Tournament House fosters a sense of unity. It serves as a powerful testament to the commitment of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion and their dedication to enhancing relationships and community collaboration, including the valued partnership with the Pasadena Community Coalition.

"This year holds special significance as it marks the fifth anniversary of the Community Open House. The inaugural event, which celebrated Gerald Freeny as the first African American President, set a precedent for honoring diverse leadership," said Martin Gordon, Chair and CEO of the Pasadena Community Coalition. "Subsequent years continued to celebrate milestones with the recognition of two female

Presidents, Amy Wainscott and Laura Farber, the latter being the first Latina President. These commemorations reflect the Tournament of Roses' commitment to recognizing and celebrating a rich tapestry of leadership within the Pasadena community."

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo (pictured left).

## Add Your Name to JPL's Jupiter Spacecraft

It's not every day that members of the public have the chance to send their names into deep space beyond Mars, all the way to Jupiter and its moon Europa. But with NASA's Europa Clipper, you have that opportunity: Names will ride aboard the spacecraft as it journeys 1.8 billion miles (2.6 billion kilometers) to this icy moon, where an ocean hides beneath a frozen outer shell. The deadline to join the mission's "Message in a Bottle" campaign is only six weeks away. The campaign closes at 9 p.m. Dec. 31.

So far, about 700,000 names have been submitted. Once all the names have been gathered, technicians in the Microdevices Laboratory at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California will use an electron beam to stencil them onto a dime-size silicon microchip. Each line of text is smaller than 1/1000th the width of a human hair (75 nanometers).

The chip will be attached to a metal plate engraved with the original poem "In Praise of Mystery," written by U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón to celebrate the mission. Riding on the exterior of the spacecraft, the poem and names will be like a message in a bottle as they make about 50 close flybys of the ocean world.

The mission will log a half-billion miles (800 million kilometers) during these orbits as the spacecraft's payload of science instruments gathers data on Europa's subsurface ocean, icy crust, and atmosphere to determine if the moon could support life.

Once assembly of Europa Clipper has been completed at JPL, the orbiter will be shipped to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida in preparation for its October 2024 launch.

To sign, read the poem, and hear Limón recite it in an animated video, go to: [go.nasa.gov/MessageInABottle](http://go.nasa.gov/MessageInABottle).

## Pasadena Heritage Director Sue Mossman set to Retire

*Pasadena Heritage salutes Mossman's decades of leadership and initiates search for next leader*



After 45 years on staff and 30 years as Executive Director of Pasadena Heritage, Sue Mossman (pictured) announced Thursday her plans to retire in the spring of 2024.

"I love this organization and am proud of all we've accomplished - offering great programs about history and architecture and fighting to preserve Pasadena's rich and rare architectural legacy," Mossman said. "Seeing the organization accomplish so much and grow in effectiveness has been immensely rewarding." Pasadena Heritage Board Chair Suzanne Marks shared, "The Board is dedicated to finding the best possible new leader and making this transition as smooth as possible. Every one of us deeply admires Sue and all her fine work, and we'll be very sorry to see her go. But we honor her wish to retire, and our goal is to support the organization in every way possible as we plan for the future."

"A Search Committee has been formed, including current and past Board members, to find and hire a new Executive Director. Sue is very much part of this process, and we have a great team that is hard at work. We plan to enlist professional assistance where we need it and want our members, staff, and the community to help us as well," said Marks.

A few of the major accomplishments during Mossman's tenure as Executive Director include:

- Championing Bullock's Pasadena (now Macy's) as an exceptional historic place and achieving a better retail solution that left the building standing, visible, and still a real department store on South Lake Avenue.
- Saving the Stuart Pharmaceutical Company building on East Foothill, a Modern masterpiece that was threatened with demolition. It is now the centerpiece of a housing project and also houses an

imaginative theater production organization, A Noise Within.

- Ending the 710 Freeway threat and restoration of a southwest Pasadena historic community, so heavily and negatively impacted by Caltrans ownership, to a real neighborhood once again.
- Acquiring the historic 1906 Blinn House from the Pasadena Women's City Club of Pasadena and engaging with the many community groups who use Pasadena Heritage's new historic headquarters for meetings and events.

In her statement, Mossman expressed her gratitude and appreciation for those she has worked with throughout the past several decades, and reflected on the bright future ahead for Pasadena Heritage and its new leadership.

"I've always been joined by an exceptional team of staff members, Board members, volunteers, and members. We've received support from the business and non-profit communities as well, and developed an open working relationship with the City. It has always been a team effort for which I will be forever grateful! I know the organization is strong and effective and can be even more so as new chapters unfold. I look forward to seeing that happen," said Mossman.

For more information about the Executive Director job opportunity, visit: [pasadenaheritage.org/careers](http://pasadenaheritage.org/careers). Inquiries can be sent to [search@pasadenaheritage.org](mailto:search@pasadenaheritage.org) or mailed to Search Committee, Pasadena Heritage, 160 N. Oakland Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101.

## San Marino Board Member Needed for the GLACVCD

The City of San Marino seeks a volunteer to fill an opening as a Board Member on the Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control (Mosquito Abatement) District Board of Trustees. San Marino residency is required, and the member appointed shall be an elector of the City. Board member duties and responsibilities include setting policy, establishing the budget, approving expenditures,

and retaining legal counsel. More information about GLACVCD can be found at: [glamosquito.org](http://glamosquito.org). Applications are due November 30. If you have questions regarding this recruitment, please contact the City Clerk at (626) 300-0705 or [CityClerk@CityofSanMarino.org](mailto:CityClerk@CityofSanMarino.org).

Further details and the application can be found at: [cityofsanmarino.org/government](http://cityofsanmarino.org/government).

## Ariana Cowper Recipient of Rose Bowl Game Scholarship

*The scholarship includes \$10k and an exclusive Rose Bowl Game work experience. Cowper was selected among candidates who attended a Big Ten or Pac-12 institution.*

The Tournament of Roses announced Wednesday the recipient of the 2023 Rose Bowl Game Keith Jackson Postgraduate Scholarship. Ariana Cowper (Indiana University) will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship toward her postgraduate education in addition to receiving a unique and specialized work-study experience at the 2024 Playoff Semifinal at the Rose Bowl Game presented by Prudential.

The scholarship recognizes its recipient for exceptional undergraduate achievement at a Big Ten or Pac-12 university who plan to also pursue a career in the sports industry.

Cowper is a senior Sports Marketing and Management major at Indiana University with plans to graduate in May of 2024. She is a varsity rower for the Hoosiers and has worked as a social media and digital intern for IU Athletics. Cowper served on Indiana's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Executive Board and volunteered as a

Hoosier Hero Mentor, in Read Across America, Hoosiers Out Loud and Women Impacting Others. Ariana plans to pursue a masters in Sports Administration and completing a graduate assistantship within an athletic department after graduation.

"Ariana has proven that she has an unwavering commitment to excellence in the classroom, in athletics and in volunteering, and is a deserving recipient of the Rose Bowl Game Keith Jackson Scholarship," said Alex Aghajanian, 2024 President of the Tournament of Roses. "The Tournament of Roses, along with our partners at the Big Ten and Pac-12, are thrilled to honor her for all her hard work and help her on her journey to graduate school and beyond."

The scholarship is named on behalf of Keith Jackson, who was the voice of college football for several generations. Jackson was a man of many catchphrases, including "Whoa, Nellie" and "Big Uglies", but was also credited with popularizing the Rose Bowl Game's nickname as "The Granddaddy of Them All."

The Keith Jackson Postgraduate Scholarship is funded by the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. For more information, including details on eligibility and how to apply, please visit: [rosebowlgame.org/scholarship](http://rosebowlgame.org/scholarship).



# Pets in need

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Sierra Madre based non-profit




## San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

### Thanksgiving Holiday Information Overnight Parking Exemptions

Overnight parking passes will not be required for vehicles starting the evening of Tuesday, November 21, through the morning of Monday, November 27. For more information on overnight parking, please contact the Police Department at (626) 300-0720.

### Facility Closures

In observance of Thanksgiving, the following closures will affect the following City facilities. On Wednesday November 22, Crowell Public Library will close early at 5 PM. City Hall and Crowell Public Library will both be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23 - 24.

### No Construction on November 23 and 24

Pursuant to the City of San Marino's Municipal Code Section 25.01.02(D), all construction work and construction activity is prohibited on both Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving.

### Home for the Holidays: Light Up San Marino!

Registration: November 26 - December 10

Voting: December 11 - 17

Do you have the most festive home or business in town? Enter our 3rd annual holiday decorating contest! Online registration will be open November 26 - December 10. Entries will be placed on the Holiday Decorating Contest map on December 11. This year, 3 winning entries will be selected by the Mayor, Recreation Commission, and YOU! Community members have the opportunity to participate by voting for their favorite entries by "liking" them on Facebook. Winners will receive a gold-ribbon yard sign and gift card to The Huntington Store.

### Home for the Holidays: Tree Lighting Ceremony & Mayor's Reception

Friday, December 8 from 5 PM - 7 PM, Corner of Huntington Drive and San Marino Avenue

Join us as we kick-off Home for the Holidays festivities. There will be a warm holiday glow around City Hall to honor the 71-year history of the Holiday House Bus Shelter: A San Marino Tradition. Join us for the tree lighting ceremony and watch Santa arrive by fire truck. In addition, there will be photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, hot dogs, hot chocolate and cider, holiday cookies, festive selfie stations, kid's craft table, and performances by the Valentine and Carver Elementary School Choir. Event is FREE and everyone is welcome!

### Shop 'till You Drop Holiday Shopping Shuttle to Citadel Outlets, Commerce

Tuesday, December 5 from 10 AM - 5 PM

Cost: R: \$8 / NR: \$10

Time to get all your holiday shopping out of the way! Active adults ages 55 and up are invited to join us for a daytime shopping trip. Transportation is provided. Reserve your spot online!

### Tween Holiday Prep Shop

Thursday, December 7 at 3:30 PM, Barth Community Room

Is your tween looking for the perfect gift for friends and family? Then send them on down to our one-stop shop to choose, create, and wrap holiday crafts to give. All materials will be provided at this exclusive tween-only (grades 4-6) event. Registration is recommended.

### Fire Department

On Tuesday, November 14 Engine 91 responded to a vehicle fire Raleigh Drive. San Marino firefighters quickly extinguished the fire. No occupants were inside the vehicle at the time of the incident and no injuries occurred.

### Public Safety Commission Meeting

Monday, November 20 at 6:00 PM; City Council Chambers and Zoom (Public Access)

### Special Planning Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 21 at 6:00 PM; City Council Chambers and Zoom (Public Access)

### Library Board of Trustees

Monday, November 27 at 8:00 AM; Barth Room and Zoom (Public Access)

## DIY Day at Pasadena Museum of History

Join the fun at Pasadena Museum of History as they welcome the community December 10 for an afternoon (noon to 5 p.m.) of creative Do-It-Yourself activities suitable for children and adults alike. Feeling the holiday spirit? Art 2 Go will help you fashion sparkling star ornaments to take home and enjoy. Spark your artistic imagination with a stroll through the art exhibition in the galleries, The Diverse

Environments of the Arroyo Seco: Paintings from the California Art Club, and then create your own masterpieces at art tables set up for drawing and coloring scenes of beautiful Fenyes Mansion and its gardens. All supplies for the crafts workshop and art stations will be provided. You'll also have the rare opportunity to peek inside the Finnish Folk Art Museum and discover traditional 18th century Finnish decorating styles. The Museum Store will also be open for gifts with a selection of smaller works by local artists in various media including paintings, ceramics, jewelry, photography, and textiles.

For more information visit: [pasadenahistory.org](http://pasadenahistory.org).

## Restoration Concert: New Hollywood String Quartet



The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library will present a Restoration Concert featuring the New Hollywood String Quartet. The concert will be held in the beautiful historic Library Community Room at 1115 El Centro St. in South Pasadena.

The Restoration Concert on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. will feature the New Hollywood String Quartet performing Tchaikovsky's String Quartet No. 1 in D Major op. 11. Cellist Brian Schuldt and Violist Meredith Crawford will join the NHSQ for Arnold Schoenberg's Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night) op. 4 for String Sextet.

Inspired by the great Hollywood String Quartet from over half a century ago, the current members of the NHSQ are likewise premiere performers of their generation. The quartet members are Tereza Stanislav - violin, Rafael Rishik -violin, Robert Brophy - viola, and Andrew Shulman - cello. Individually, and together as one of the top string quartets in Southern California, they are well known guests at many of the most prestigious concert series in Los Angeles and its environs. Its members reside in Los Angeles and have recorded hundreds of film scores, are members of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and have decades of chamber music experience between them. The NHSQ was featured on the Grammy Nominated Disc, "Passing Through" performing Gernot Wolfgang's "String Theory" for String Quartet. They're most recent recording was for Jeff Beal's newest album The Paper Lined Shack - "Things Unseen" for String Quartet.

As a founding member of the Felici Piano Trio, Brian Schuldt has performed hundreds of critically-acclaimed concerts in the U.S., Europe and South America. Brian was the cellist of the Arcadia String Quartet, which won the grand prize of the 1995 Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition

and the Indiana University Kuttner Quartet Scholarship. He has appeared as soloist with the Oak Ridge Symphony, Auburn Symphony, Owensboro Symphony, Eastern Sierra Symphony and the Chamber Orchestra "Cantelli" of Milan, Italy. He has served as guest principal cellist for the Fresno Philharmonic and Reno Chamber Orchestra.

Meredith Crawford is a Los Angeles-based violinist who values the variety and vibrancy in her career that LA has to offer, and consistently demonstrates her value for emotional connection with her audience through her authentic connection with the music she performs. At the age of 22 - before the completion of her senior year at Oberlin Conservatory - she won her first orchestral audition and a seat with Pacific Symphony, an ensemble beloved in its home of Orange County and gaining recognition and praise nationally and internationally. She subsequently moved up the ranks in her section, winning the Assistant Principal chair in 2012, followed by the Principal chair - her current position - in 2018. Crawford is also an avid chamber musician and is the resident violinist of the Salastina Society, one of LA's most innovative, inclusive and forward-thinking musical organizations.

The Restoration Concerts Committee, a committee of the non-profit organization, The Friends of the South Pasadena Public Library, has a goal to bring world-class music at an affordable price to the concertgoers in South Pasadena and surrounding communities. As the name suggests, net proceeds from the concerts provide for restorations, enhancements and other benefits to the South Pasadena Public Library and Community Room. For more information about Restoration Concerts, contact [restorationconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:restorationconcerts@gmail.com) or go to: [friendsofsofapubliclibrary.org/restoration-concerts](http://friendsofsofapubliclibrary.org/restoration-concerts).

## Candidate Filing Period Opens for Pasadena

Pasadena city officials gave notice this week for Pasadena's Primary Municipal Election to be held on March 5,

2024. Nomination papers for candidates seeking local city offices will be available during the period of Monday, Nov. 13 through Friday, Dec. 8 both days included, in the Office of the City Clerk, 100 North Garfield Avenue, Room S228. Candidates may receive and circulate nomination petitions to gather signatures of registered voters in order to place their names on the March 5th ballot for the Office of Mayor (elected citywide) for a full four-year term or for Members of the City Council for Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6, each for a full four-year term. In addition, the office for Member of the City Council District 3 will be held as a Special Election to fill the remaining two years of the four-year term for that seat on the City Council.

The City Clerk's Office will be issuing nomination papers during that period to qualified candidates.

Two identical Candidate Workshops will be conducted by the City Clerk on Monday, Nov. 13 in the morning at 8 a.m., and Wednesday, Nov. 15 in the afternoon at 4:30 p.m. The Monday morning workshop will be held in the Council Chamber, Room S249 at 8 a.m., with an evening workshop to be held on Wednesday in the City Hall Basement Grand Conference Room, Room S038 starting at 4:30 p.m.

Election information is available: [CityOfPasadena.net/City-Clerk/Elections-2024](http://CityOfPasadena.net/City-Clerk/Elections-2024) or by calling the City Clerk's Office at (626) 744-4124

## Portantino Announces 2023 Women in Business Awards

Senator Anthony Portantino (pictured) will host the annual 25th State Senate District Women in Business Legislative Update & Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, December 6 at the Castaway in Burbank.

"It is my privilege to recognize the accomplished women of the great 25th Senate District," commented Senator Portantino. "I look forward to honoring our deserving honorees for their successful service that touches all of us in such a positive way."

The event will honor local women who have contributed to the economic vitality and diversity of the 25th Senate District. Women in Business will also celebrate women who have contributed to the greater good of our community. These honorees inspire others, stimulate our workforce, and lead some of the most impressive non-profits, healthcare organizations and businesses across with 25th Senate District.

The Senator's office received several hundred nominations from the community, making our 25th Senate District team's decision-making the most difficult yet. Every one of the laudable women nominated by their peers, co-workers, family and friends is deserving of special recognition.

This year's honorees are:

Isabel Gutierrez  
Janet Benjamin  
Robin Goldsworthy  
Lydia Grant  
Mary Cutone  
Kora Guoyavatin  
Yvette Vartanian Davis  
Carol Flynn



Dr. Mary Frintner  
Claudine Hager  
Aida Dimejian  
Christy Schilling  
Lusine Simonyan  
Jenny Choi  
Patricia Blanche  
Josephine Solomonson  
Gloria Salas  
Melissa Chalsma  
Jennifer Audette  
Elizabeth King  
Leslie Ito  
Melanie Buttarazi  
Corky O'Rourke  
Marilyn Yang  
Dr. Laura Sirott, MD  
Kerry Morrison  
Becky Cheng  
Rita Fernandez Loof  
Judee Kendall  
Connie Chung Joe  
Candice Dickens-Russell  
Anahid Oshagan  
Denise Verret  
Seda Khojayan  
Anastasia Mann  
Nadia Geller  
Marvel Ford  
Lilit Odabashian  
Jamie Keyser  
Ellen Daigle  
Kathleen Travers  
The Castaway is located 1250 E Harvard Rd, near DeBell Golf Club in Burbank.  
For more information visit: [sd25.senate.ca.gov/news](http://sd25.senate.ca.gov/news).

## Friends of the Pasadena Library Bookstore to Open

The Friends of the Pasadena Public Library (FOPPL) Bookstore will open soon with a variety of used books, DVDs, CDs, LPs and lots and lots of children's books for you to select from. They are targeting Tuesday Jan. 9, as an opening date. Look for more details to follow in the January/February issue of Off the Shelf at: [cityofpasadena.net/library](http://cityofpasadena.net/library).

The new bookstore location is the former Jefferson Elementary School campus, 1500 E. Villa Ave. (between Hill and Allen), east of the Jefferson Library Branch. Opening hours will be Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They hope to expand the hours in a few months.

A donation bin is located to the east of the Jefferson Branch Library on the grass near the huge tree. Donations will be accepted only at this location not at any branch libraries. We are accepting all used books in good condition, except textbooks, magazines and cassettes.

For large donations, contact Adrienne at [phrogg8@gmail.com](mailto:phrogg8@gmail.com) to make an appointment.

## Pasadena Doo Dah Parade Back by Popular Demand

The Occasional Pasadena Doo Dah Parade celebrates 44 years of irreverent frolicking, returning to its original route in Old Pasadena on Sunday, November 19th, stepping off at 11:00 a.m. This free event is co-produced by Light Bringer Project, its longtime producers, and the Doo Dah Preservation Society. Old Pasadena is a thriving retail-entertainment destination with plentiful restaurants, cafes, and colorful shops on the Parade route.

The Pasadena Doo Dah Parade starts at Raymond Avenue at Holly Street, heads south and turns right onto Colorado Boulevard, ending at Pasadena Avenue.

This year's Doo Dah will showcase upwards of 100 parade entries of every description, including art cars, mutant vehicles, rockers, punk bands, performance artists, showstoppers, zany dancing troupes, political pundits, satirists, mad-inventor floats and disruptors of all kinds. In fact, it's the largest number of new entries in Doo Dah history, including Vick & the Lassoed Hicks, the Million Mrs. Roper March, A Hoot in a Little Pink Suit, The Black Forest Gump and Everybody's favorite Church Mother, Flying Baby Home Run Border Crossing Field Goal, Dressed to KILL KISS Tribute Band, Taco Tuesdays Bicycle Club, Ah, The Roller Coaster of Life!, Urf McGurf, The Eye, Bald Bird Big Rock Band, Heart of Bok Choy

Intergalactic Tossed Salad, The Church of the SubGenius End Times Procession, To the Moon Stinky Feet, Disco Hitched, The People's Banana, Estillo Scissor Hands, Kittylicious, Musicvideodrome Dancers, L.A. Breakfast Club's Democracy of Ham & Eggs, Highland Park Thursday Evening's Society Circuit Bending Marching Band and Ladies' Auxiliary... And... not a rose will be harmed in the making of this parade!

Known as the twisted sister of the conventional Rose Parade, the Occasional Pasadena Doo Dah Parade began as a grassroots event in 1978. The parade which has spawned numerous off-beat replicants across the country. It was featured in the book 50 Places You Must Visit Before You Die.

Plenty of street parking is available on side streets. Multiple public parking lots and garages are available within Old Pasadena.

The LA Metro's Gold Line's Memorial Park station brings you right to the parade formation area. Pasadena Transit bus lines come directly to the area. Consider bicycling or Ubering! Just leave your humdrum existence and get there!

Immediately following the event, the official Doo Dah after-party will be held at the Old Towne Pub (enter at 34 E. Holly St.) only steps away from the Parade route. For more information visit: [pasadenadoodahparade.info](http://pasadenadoodahparade.info).

Catch breaking news at:  
[mtnviewsnews.com](http://mtnviewsnews.com)



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## THANKSGIVING PART 2

Quite a stir last week in Sierra Madre when I excluded Chardonnay for any Thanksgiving Day consideration, so I sharpened my pencil and made some edits and surprised myself with a few recommendations for Turkey Day.

I meant no disrespect with last week's column, excluding chardonnay from my Thanksgiving selections for top picks. So, here is my make good with three go-to Chardonnays

First, a brief history of Chardonnay. Most good coastal chardonnay comes from a few areas that you might be familiar with: Anderson Valley, Santa Maria Valley, and Santa Rita Hills, and the coolest section of the Russian River Valley. Carneros is also ocean-influenced, though it's warmer there, since it's a bit inland. Chardonnays from vineyards on the mountain ridges at the edge of the Sonoma Coast AVA are some of the best in the state. Here are three Chardonnays that I found "reliable" and all under \$20:

Francis Ford Coppola's Diamond Collection Chardonnay - awarded Best in Class, it is bright and balanced. If you like your wine with a bit of fruity apple/pear flavor, this would be a good choice. This Chardonnay hails from the Monterey region.  
Dills Score 89  
Retail \$16; you can find it if you shop around for \$13 Vons /Albertson's

St Francis Chardonnay - Chardonnay from the Santa Rosa Sonoma region. I found this to be crisp and delightful, and it goes well with the other white meat, pork.  
Dills Score 89  
Retail \$17; easily available in So Cal for \$15 Vons

Our friends in France enjoy a 2018 Jadot Pouilly Fuisse made with 100% Chardonnay grapes. While we tend to label California wines as "buttery", I'd go with "crisp". Interesting wine maker notes, one part of the wine is fermented in stainless steel vats and in oak barrels, this combination delivers a silky smooth finish. Pouilly Fuisse is a great representation of old world wine making. \$21.99 average price Vons

## ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown

### THE NEAR FUTURE OF VACCINES

Here are some general directions in which vaccine development and technology is heading:

**mRNA Vaccines:** The success of mRNA vaccines, such as those developed for COVID-19 by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, has opened new avenues. mRNA technology allows for the rapid development of vaccines, and researchers are exploring its application for other infectious diseases and even cancer.

**Microarray Patches**  
They are coin-sized patches covered either with tiny needles coated in dry vaccine that painlessly penetrate the skin or a formula that dissolves when the patch is pressed onto the skin for 2-5 minutes. These patches don't require cold temperatures, weigh significantly less than vials requiring needles and syringes, don't require any mixing, and can be given by un-trained community health workers in almost any conditions.

**Malaria Vaccine**-Two vaccines are now showing promise, however: RTS,S and R21/Matrix-M, both of which target a specific protein on the malaria parasite.

**Nanoparticle Vaccines:** Nanoparticle based vaccines were being researched for their potential to elicit a robust immune response. These vaccines use tiny particles to mimic the structure of viruses, enhancing their effectiveness.

**Universal Vaccines:** Efforts are being made to develop universal vaccines that could provide broad protection against multiple strains of a virus. This approach is particularly relevant for rapidly evolving viruses like influenza.

**Nasal Vaccines:** Nasal vaccines, like the nasal spray version of the COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin, are being explored for their potential to induce mucosal immunity and provide a more convenient method of administration.

**Therapeutic Vaccines:** Beyond prevention, researchers are investigating vaccines as potential treatments for chronic diseases and cancers. These therapeutic vaccines aim to stimulate the immune system to target and eliminate specific cells associated with diseases.

**Enhanced Vaccine Distribution and Storage:** Advances in vaccine distribution and storage technologies are crucial for ensuring that vaccines reached remote or challenging locations. This included innovations in cold chain logistics and the development of vaccines that are more stable at higher temperatures.

**Personalized Vaccines:** Advances in genomics and immunology may contribute to the development of personalized vaccines tailored to an individual's genetic makeup and immune profile. This could enhance vaccine efficacy and reduce the risk of adverse reactions.

**Adjuvant Technologies:** Adjuvants, substances added to vaccines to enhance the immune response, are under investigation to improve vaccine effectiveness, especially in vulnerable populations like the elderly.

## TWO CORPORATE EXECUTIVES FOUND GUILTY IN FIRST-EVER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION FOR FAILURE TO REPORT UNDER CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY ACT

LOS ANGELES – A jury has found two corporate executives guilty of federal criminal charges related to the distribution and sale of defective residential dehumidifiers linked to multiple fires in the first corporate criminal enforcement action ever brought under the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), the Justice Department announced today.

Simon Chu, 68, of Chino Hills, and Charley Loh, 65, of Arcadia, were found guilty on Thursday afternoon of one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and one count of failure to furnish information as required by the CPSA.

The defective dehumidifiers sold by Chu's and Loh's two corporations were included in multiple recalls of a larger number of defective dehumidifiers manufactured by Gree Electric Appliances Inc. of Zhuhai (Gree Zhuhai) in China. Recall notes stated that more than 450 reported fires and millions of dollars in property damage have been linked to the recalled Gree Zhuhai dehumidifiers. The most recent recall announcements for the Gree Zhuhai dehumidifiers can be found here and here.

According to evidence presented at a six-day trial, Chu was part owner and chief administrative officer of Gree USA Inc. and another corporation in the City of Industry, that distributed and sold to retailers for consumer purchase dehumidifiers that were made by Gree Zhuhai in China. Loh was part owner and CEO of the same two corporations.

The CPSA requires manufacturers, importers and distributors of consumer products to report "immediately" to the CPSC information that reasonably supports the conclusion that a product contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard or creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. This duty also applies to the individual directors, officers, and agents of those companies.

As early as September 2012, Chu, Loh and their companies received multiple reports that their Chinese dehumidifiers were defective, dangerous and could catch fire. They also knew that they were required to report this product safety information to the CPSC immediately. Despite their knowledge of consumer complaints of dehumidifier fires and test results showing defects in the dehumidifiers, Chu and Loh failed to disclose their dehumidifiers' defects and hazards for at least six months while they continued to sell their products to retailers, for resale to consumers.

"It is critical to hold corporate executives accountable for misconduct," said U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada. "The importation and sale of defective consumer products can lead to injury and death, and this verdict sends a clear message that putting profits over safety will not be tolerated."

"Companies and their employees should immediately report known dangerous consumer products to the Consumer Product Safety Commission so the products can be recalled as soon as possible," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian M. Boynton, head of the Justice Department's Civil Division. "The Justice Department will prosecute companies and their employees when they willfully put the public in harm's way by failing to report known dangerous products."

"The safety of the American public is the top priority for HSI, and products like these can turn an ordinary purchase into deadly consequences," said Special Agent in Charge Eddy Wang for Homeland Security Investigations Los Angeles. "HSI Los Angeles will continue to work diligently to ensure our supply chain is safe from products that can harm consumers."

The jury acquitted both defendants of one count of wire fraud.

United States District Judge Dale S. Fischer scheduled a March 11, 2024 sentencing hearing, at which time Chu and Loh will face a statutory maximum sentence of five years in federal prison for each of the conspiracy and the failure to furnish information counts.

Gree USA was sentenced on April 24 to pay a \$500,000 criminal fine after pleading guilty to failing to notify the CPSC about the problems with the dehumidifiers. The fine, along with provisions to pay restitution to victims, was part of a \$91 million criminal resolution with Gree USA, Gree Zhuhai and another related Gree company, Hong Kong Gree Electric Appliances Sales Co. Ltd.

Homeland Security Investigations investigated this matter.

Assistant United States Attorney Joseph O. Johns of the Environmental Crimes and Consumer Protection Section and Trial Attorneys Speare Hodges, Natalie Sanders and Stephen Gripkey of the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch are prosecuting this case, with the assistance of Patricia Vieira of the CPSC's Office of General Counsel.



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**Happy Holidays!**

**Free Snow Festival**  
**Saturday, December 2**  
**9am - 2pm**  
**Arcadia Community Center, 365 Campus Dr.**

**Snow Play Areas | Sled Run | Crafts**  
**Train Rides | Holiday Music**  
**Ugly Sweater Contest at 10:30am, 12pm & 1:30pm**

**Free parking & shuttle service at the Arcadia Performing Arts Center entrance on the corner of Campus Dr & El Monte Ave beginning at 7:45am**

Arcadia Recreation & Community Services  
626.574.5113 | [ArcadiaCA.gov/events](http://ArcadiaCA.gov/events)



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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Over the years, we have shared with you favorite recipes submitted by contributors, their families, supporters and well wishers. Some of our friends are no longer with us, but their culinary legacy still stands! We hope you will try at least one recipe. They are really, really good!

**Mary Lee's (Dean Lee's Mother)**

### Sausage Appetizers

Also makes great sandwiches the next day !

#### Ingredients

Refrigerated dinner rolls (10 in a tube)  
Farmer John sausage links (cut in half or thirds)  
butter on top

#### Directions:

Take rolls and flatten separately with hand or rolling pin  
Put link in half of flat dinner roll  
(if using thirds spread sausage to cover roll)  
Fold over and seal edges by pinching  
Put 10 in ungreased cake pan  
Bake 350 degrees/20 minutes until top is golden brown

Enjoy

**Richard Garcia's**

### Cranberry-Pomegranate Sauce

1 1/2 pounds fresh or frozen cranberries (6 cups)  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup pomegranate juice  
2 cups fresh pomegranate seeds

#### Directions

In a medium saucepan, combine the cranberries with the sugar and pomegranate juice. Bring to a simmer and cook over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until most of the cranberries have burst, about 10 minutes. Scrape the cranberry sauce into a medium bowl and let stand until cool, about 2 hours. Fold in the pomegranate seeds and serve the sauce chilled or at room temperature.

### Pat Ostrye's Non-Recipe Turkey(The Best)

My recipe would be that my husband always fixed the turkey. I really don't know how it began but, even when we had turkey a lot through the years, he always fixed it. So when he died 21 years ago, the men in the family thought I didn't know how to do it, which was fine with me. So, for this Thanksgiving, the family is going to Martin's in Arcadia. He is the youngest who was 27 when his dad died in October of '88. A few days before Thanksgiving that year he called to say he had the turkey but where should he fix it since he had a small apt in Arcadia at that time. Two of his sisters helped him do it and they brought it all to my sister-in-law's because I was living in Escondido yet, moving back to the area the first of that year. That Christmas, the oldest son took care of it, buying and fixing 2 turkeys. As long as the family doesn't run out of men, we have it made.

### Dixie Countant's Easy Anti-marshmallow Yams

For those of us who don't like marshmallow on our yams, here's the family recipe for Candied Yams.

#### Ingredients:

Yams or sweet potatoes Butter Light Brown Sugar

Buy as many yams as you need depending on how many people are coming to dinner. I plan two medallions per person if I'm doing a full-blown dinner with all the trimmings.

Wash and slice yams (or sweet potatoes) into one-inch medallions. Steam medallions until barely done. (Not too soft) Skin the medallions by gently cutting the skin and lifting - it will almost fall off.

Arrange medallions in baking dish. (They can touch, but don't stack them) Put a small pat (aprox 1/4 tsp of butter on top of each medallion. Sprinkle light brown sugar over medallions. Cover and bake in 350 oven for 1/2 to 1 hour.

## Mary Carney's Confetti Stuffed Mushrooms

Thanksgiving Potluck Vegan-style Mushrooms

1-1/2 #	Mushrooms, Brown or Cremini: Separate into caps & stems.
1/3 cup	Celery, 1/8" dice
1/3 cup	Carrots, 1/8" dice
1/3 cup	Baby Bell Peppers - Yellow, Orange, Red - 1/8"
1-1/2 Tbsp	Extra Virgin Olive Oil
3/4 cup	Vegetable Broth, divided
1/4 cup	Apricot, Peach, Orange or Blackberry Brandy
3/4 tsp	Lindberg Porterhouse & Roast Seasoning (from Taylor's)
1 cup	Parsley, Finely Chopped
2 Tbsp	Lemon juice (fresh)
1 cup	Bread Crumbs - slightly dry
1/4 cup	Pecorino-Romano Crumbled Cheese

Clean Mushrooms. Remove Stems, set caps in lightly greased baking pan with holes up.

Dice mushroom stems into 1/8" bits.. You should have 2 cups diced mushroom stems. If not enough, add more mushrooms (if you have them) to make 2 cups.

Put olive oil & 1/2 cup broth in sauté pan, turn heat to medium. Add Seasoning. Add celery and carrots. Layer with diced mushrooms, then diced peppers. Cover and cook slowly about 5 minutes, stirring once to ensure mushrooms and peppers get mixed with broth.

Add Parsley. Simmer another 5 minutes. Taste and add more seasoning if needed. Remember - adding breadcrumbs will soften flavor intensity.

Drain broth from sauté pan into cup.

Add remaining broth with brandy and lemon juice to mushrooms, and return to heat until broth boils. Drain this liquid also into the cup. Reserve.

Add breadcrumbs and grated cheese to drained mushrooms. Mix well. If very dry, add 1 - 2 tablespoons of reserved broth.

Stuff mushroom caps. Place neatly in greased table-ready stove top / baking dish. Carefully spoon some of the reserved broth into the dish;

Simmer gently for 5 minutes ... Add more mushrooms as the others shrink. Simmer another 5 minutes & repeat. When adding the last mushrooms, drizzle any remaining broth lightly over all the mushrooms' stuffing for the final cooking.

Remove from heat and let cool. Serve room temperature. Or chill, and reheat just before serving. More fun to stuff the mushrooms with someone else - for sociability - after all, thanksgiving and social are what it's all about.

### Paul Neiby's\* CORN BREAD DRESSING

**Ingredients:**  
2 - 6 oz. bags Mrs. Cubbison's Seasoned Cornbread Stuffing Mix

1 cup chopped, raw white onions  
1 cup chopped raw celery  
10 dried apricots cut into pieces  
4 oz. Walnuts (they can be bought in a bag of about that size)

6-8 oz. Sausage, sauteed brown, defatted & crumbled. (Jimmy Dean brand sage flavored is good)

2 cups heated Chicken Broth  
4 tbsp. butter melted in with 1 cup of the chicken broth

#### Directions:

Toss the vegetables and stuffing mix in a bowl. Add 1 cup of the heated broth with the melted butter and toss again. Load lightly in a greased covered casserole and bake for 45 minutes in a 350 degree oven. Half way through, pour the additional cup of chicken broth over the dressing.

This recipe is modified from the one that appears on the Cubbison pack by the addition of the sausage, apricot, and walnuts. The additional broth added half-way through the baking, makes the dressing moist enough but still light and discreet.

### From the Pen & Kitchen of Deanne Davis:

#### Thanksgiving Day Breakfast

The festive bird is stuffed and in the stove, the potatoes are boiling for mashed potatoes, you've said the gravy prayer (please, Gravy Deity, let it be smooth this year). And people are saying, "we're hungry!"

This is not a problem, put down that ladle and in just minutes, you can hand everybody an Eggnog-Brandy Muffin!

If you're truly feeling like Wonder Woman, whack up some bacon and an onion into small chunks, sauté them together, throw in some eggs, scramble it all together, and serve the Thanksgiving breakfast they'll remember with delight all year long.

#### Eggnog-Brandy Muffins

2 cups flour  
2/3 cup granulated sugar  
1 TB. Baking powder  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
3/4 cup prepared eggnog  
1/2 cup brandy  
5 TB butter, (unsalted if you've got it...use a little less salt if you don't) melted

1 egg, beaten  
1/2 tsp. Grated nutmeg plus a little more for sprinkling on top

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease 12 muffin pan.

In a large bowl mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Add eggnog, brandy, butter, beaten egg and 1/2 tsp nutmeg. Stir only till mixed. DO NOT OVERBEAT or muffins will be rubbery and tough.

Spoon batter into greased muffin cups and sprinkle tops of muffins with nutmeg. Bake about 20 minutes or until tester inserted into center of muffin comes out clean. Remove from tin, butter and enjoy.

They freeze nicely and are probably about 200 calories per muffin.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
May your turkey be tender, succulent and juicy, and may somebody who really knows how.. offer to carve it.



## GOOD EATS ROAST TURKEY

Recipe courtesy Alton Brown

Prep Time: 15 min  
Inactive Prep Time: 7 hr 0 min  
Cook Time: 2 hr 30 min  
Level: Easy  
Serves: 10 to 12 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

1 (14 to 16 pound) frozen young turkey  
For the brine:  
1 cup kosher salt  
1/2 cup light brown sugar  
1 gallon vegetable stock  
1 tablespoon black peppercorns  
1 1/2 teaspoons allspice berries  
1 1/2 teaspoons chopped candied ginger  
1 gallon heavily iced water

For the aromatics:  
1 red apple, sliced  
1/2 onion, sliced  
1 cinnamon stick  
1 cup water  
4 sprigs rosemary  
6 leaves sage  
Canola oil

#### DIRECTIONS

2 to 3 days before roasting:

Begin thawing the turkey in the refrigerator or in a cooler kept at 38 degrees F. Combine the vegetable stock, salt, brown sugar, peppercorns, allspice berries, and candied ginger in a large stockpot over medium-high heat. Stir occasionally to dissolve solids and bring to a boil. Then remove the brine from the heat, cool to room temperature, and refrigerate.

Early on the day or the night before you'd like to eat:

Combine the brine, water and ice in the 5-gallon bucket. Place the thawed turkey (with innards removed) breast side down in brine. If necessary, weigh down the bird to ensure it is fully immersed, cover, and refrigerate or set in cool area for 8 to 16 hours, turning the bird once half way through brining. Preheat the oven to 500 degrees F. Remove the bird from brine and rinse inside and out with cold water. Discard the brine.

Place the bird on roasting rack inside a half sheet pan and pat dry with paper towels.

Combine the apple, onion, cinnamon stick, and 1 cup of water in a microwave safe dish and microwave on high for 5 minutes. Add steeped aromatics to the turkey's cavity along with the rosemary and sage. Tuck the wings underneath the bird and coat the skin liberally with canola oil.

Roast the turkey on lowest level of the oven at 500 degrees F for 30 minutes. Insert a probe thermometer into thickest part of the breast and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees F. Set the thermometer alarm (if available) to 161 degrees F. A 14 to 16 pound bird should require a total of 2 to 2 1/2 hours of roasting. Let the turkey rest, loosely covered with foil or a large mixing bowl for 15 minutes before carving.

## Tips For Preparing a Thanksgiving Turkey

For home cooks, preparing a Thanksgiving turkey is a rite of passage. Not only do snafu opportunities abound, but there is added pressure on the holiday to prepare and serve a perfect meal for family and guests.

Whether you're a seasoned Thanksgiving chef, or a newbie in the kitchen, these tips can help eliminate the stress associated with prepping your meal's centerpiece:

#### Prepare Ahead

It's hard to perfect a turkey when you've got endless side dishes to worry over simultaneously, so accept guests' offers to bring some favorites. Assemble accompaniments to your meal in advance, especially sauces and dips, which actually improve in flavor over time.

Remember, you only have so much space in an oven, so schedule cooking accordingly to ensure everything is ready at mealtime.

#### Talk Turkey

You may not have aced home economics when you were in school, but the folks at the Turkey Talk hotline are experts in the field. You can get most turkey conundrums solved by giving them a call at 1-800-BUTTERBALL, or by emailing them at talkline@butterball.com.

#### Work Smart

Maintaining your knives streamlines kitchen operations, especially the formidable task of carving your Thanksgiving turkey.

But knife sharpening doesn't need to be daunting. In fact, every home cook should get comfortable doing this regularly. With the right tools, your knives will last longer, and be safer and more efficient.

Generally, you should hone or polish knife edges after each use and sharpen knives regularly with a high-quality sharpener. Look for a sharpener that offers diversity. For example, Edgeware's adjustable knife sharpeners include coarse and fine sharpening slots for dull and damaged knives and regular maintenance respectively, and are ideal for sharpening a variety of knives from straight edge blades to serrated. For how-to videos and other tips on restoring your knives to their original factory angle, visit [www.edgewareproducts.com](http://www.edgewareproducts.com).

When preparing the Thanksgiving meal, make sure your knives are sharp in the kitchen and to sharpen any knives that will be used to carve your bird at the table. Do this before setting the table so you won't forget.

#### Getting it Right

The general wisdom is to allot 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of turkey per person. Just be sure your turkey is big enough to provide you with leftovers! There's nothing more satisfying than a turkey sandwich for lunch the day after Thanksgiving.

Ready your bird for the oven by following the National Turkey Federation guideline on thawing: for every 4 1/2 pounds of frozen turkey, thaw for 24-hours in the refrigerator.

You don't need to be Julia Child to master the art of turkeys. By maintaining your kitchen

## AUNT CATHERINE'S CORN PUDDING

I almost listed this as My recipe, but then I remembered that I actually got this recipe from my dad's sister and my favorite Aunt Catherine. For whatever reason, we only had this on Thanksgiving and you had to be quick if you wanted a serving. One pass around the table and that was it. (The same can be said for my household today. Susan Henderson)

#### INGREDIENTS

12 to 13 ears fresh corn, husks removed  
1/4 cup sugar  
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
Pepper to taste. (You can spice it up with a little Cayenne pepper instead).  
6 large eggs  
2 cups evaporated milk (I use Half and Half instead but either is good)  
1/2 cup butter, melted

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°. Get a 13 x 9 baking dish and grease the sides with butter or butter flavored cooking spray - my Aunt did not tell me that!

Cut corn off the cobs into a large bowl (about 6 cups). You can substitute frozen corn if you like but canned corn really is only to be used if there is a blizzard and you cannot get to the grocery store. In a separate bowl or measuring cup, mix sugar, flour and baking powder together.

Next, whisk eggs until smooth then gradually add milk or half and half and butter in a large bowl. Pour the sugar mixture into the bowl with the eggs and continue whisking. Make certain the mixture is smooth and then stir in the corn. Abandon the whisk, use a wooden spoon and stir the mixture so that the corn is distributed evenly. Pour mixture into prepared baking dish and bake at 350° or until you can stick a cake tester in it and it comes out clean. Let it stand about 5 minutes before serving.

## KINDNESS DAY AT ST. RITA SCHOOL



On November 13th, St. Rita School Celebrated World Kindness Day! The Boys and Girls Club made their 2nd annual visit to present the many ways we can all show kindness to each other.

As a school, we wore matching Kindness shirts, with each class representing a different color, and took the Kindness Pledge of Respect, Equality, and Consideration.

We were honored to receive a beautiful plaque from the Boys and Girls Club that states, "Today, we commemorate St. Rita School's commitment to kindness. May every person who visits these halls carry forward the touch of kindness and become a force for positive changes in the world."

Our cheer team really brought the school spirit with their performance debut, brand new cheers and a bigger cheer squad!

The celebrations continued when every student received a Kindness water bottle, a school supply pouch and a Kindness backpack where students were able to choose 3 decorative patches to personalize their backpack!

St. Rita School is committed to the Kindness Movement! Thank you to the Boys and Girls Club for inspiring positive change!

## PASADENA HIGH MAKES IT TO THE NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALS

A huge Bulldog shout out to Elias M. Gee and Teresa C. Carbone, App Academy students and Class of 2024 Bulldogs who are National Merit Semi-finalists. Elias and Teresa qualified as semifinalists based on their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT). Both of these students rank in the top 1% of the PSAT Test Takers nationwide.



Elias and Teresa are pictured with Dr. Mathew Kodama (Principal) and Mr. Minh Tran (Counselor). Congratulations to these two students. We are Bulldog Proud

### YOUNG & HEALTHY PARENT WORKSHOP Tuesday, November 28 @ 6pm

On Tuesday, November 28, SMMS will be hosting a virtual Parent Workshop provided by Young & Healthy.

How to Help Our Children Handle Stress and Anxiety- Stress and anxiety are a normal part of life. Some stress is healthy, it motivates us to learn, helps us to focus, and pushes us to explore outside of our comfort zone. When the stress that we experience becomes greater than our ability to handle that stress or greater than the resources that we have to address our stressors, that is when we are at risk for toxic stress, burnout, and anxiety. Join this discussion to learn to recognize the warning signs and some things that we can do learn how to handle stress and anxiety.

## EXCITEMENT IN THE LOCAL ART COMMUNITY

by Rich Johnson/MVNews

I have two "grand" daughters. No, my children have no children of their own. But, I've been fortunate enough to become part of a family that was short one grandfather. I'm a rental. Just don't tell my "grand" daughters how special it is for me. They may charge me! I am extremely proud of both of my "Grand" daughters. And they make me feel special and valuable. Thank you Anya and Londyn.



I am pleased about "Grand" daughter Anya. Anya Patton is 10 years old and attends Sierra Madre Elementary School. For those of you unsure where Sierra Madre is, as you read this article you are very likely standing in it. Pay attention!

Anya has gifted us by creating an extraordinary painting of a flamingo skinny dipping in water. And now she is a finalist in this years competition.

Anya is in the 5th grade at Sierra Madre Elementary School (SME). This is the first year the Pasadena Unified School District, has received funding in a very long time, if ever, for schools to have their very own art departments.

Every year the PUSD participates in a National PTA art competition called "Art Reflection". This year's theme title is "I am Hopeful". Anya competed against 600+ students and is the only finalist from Sierra Madre Elementary School. She is competing against one other student in the entire Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD). Quite an achievement for our Anya as there are 14,408 students in the PUSD.

Due to funding, art teacher Mrs. Dany Richey, who has taught at SME for 20 years, was able to devote herself to teaching art fulltime. Thank you Mrs. Richey!

Mrs. Richey's commitment to teaching art has us all excited about the new interest our local elementary school is displaying in the world of original art.

Anya's artwork is currently showing at the Bag, (Baldwin Avenue Gallery) until 7:00pm Saturday, November 18th. Gallery owner Mrs. Mary Hoffman-Serr has been very gracious in showing Anya's painting. The gallery is located at 12 No. Baldwin Avenue in Sierra Madre

## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

Alverno Heights Academy  
200 N. Michillinda Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3463  
Head of School: Joanne Harabedian  
E-mail address: jharabedian@alvernoheights.org

Arcadia Christian School  
1900 S. Santa Anita Avenue Arcadia, CA 91006  
Preschool - TK - 8th Grade  
626-574-8229/626-574-0805  
Email: inquiry@acsliions.com  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: www.acsliions.com

Arcadia High School  
180 Campus Drive Arcadia, CA 91007  
Phone: (626) 821-8370, Principal: Brent Forsee  
bforsee@ausd.net

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

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary School  
Ms. Rose Navarro, Principal  
2660 East Orange Grove Blvd.  
Pasadena, Ca 91107  
626-793-2089  
https://school.abvmpasadena.org/

Barnhart School  
240 W. Colorado Blvd Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 446-5588  
Head of School: Tonya Beilstein  
Kindergarten - 8th grade  
website: www.barnhartschool.org

Bethany Christian School  
93 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-3527  
Preschool-TK-8th Grade  
Principal: Jonathon Hawes  
website: www.bcsliions.org

Clairbourn School  
8400 Huntington Drive  
San Gabriel, CA 91775  
Phone: 626-286-3108 ext. 172  
FAX: 626-286-1528  
E-mail: jhawes@clairbourn.org

Foothill Oaks Academy  
822 E. Bradbourne Ave., Duarte, CA 91010  
(626) 301-9809  
Principal: Nancy Lopez  
www.foothilloaksacademy.org  
office@foothilloaksacademy.org

Frostig School  
971 N. Altadena Drive Pasadena, CA 91107  
(626) 791-1255  
Head of School: Jenny Janetzke  
Email: jenny@frostig.org

The Gooden School  
192 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-2410  
Head of School, Jo-Anne Woolner  
website: www.goodenschool.org

High Point Academy  
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: www.highpointacademy.org

La Salle College Preparatory  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: www.lasallehs.org  
Interim Principal Ernest Sivy

Monrovia High School  
325 East Huntington Drive, Monrovia, CA 91016  
(626) 471-2800 Principal Darvin Jackson  
Email: schools@monrovia.k12.ca.us

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

Pasadena High School  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Mathew Kodama  
website: http://phs.pusd.us

St. Rita Catholic School  
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Principal: Adela Solis (626) 355-6114  
solis@st-ritaschool.org  
Website: www.st-ritaschool.org

Sierra Madre Elementary School  
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 355-1428  
Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso  
E-mail address: marchesso.jodi@pusd.us

Sierra Madre Middle School  
160 N. Canon Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
(626) 836-2947 Principal: Garrett Newsom  
E-mail address: newsom.garrett@pusd.us

Walden School  
74 S San Gabriel Blvd  
Pasadena, CA 91107 (626) 792-6166  
www.waldenschool.net

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

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

Pasadena Unified School District  
351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
(626) 396-3600 Website: www.pusd@pusd.us

Arcadia Unified School District  
234 Campus Dr., Arcadia, Ca. 91007  
(626) 821-8300 Website: www.ausd.net

Monrovia Unified School District  
325 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016  
(626) 471-2000  
Website: www.monroviashools.net

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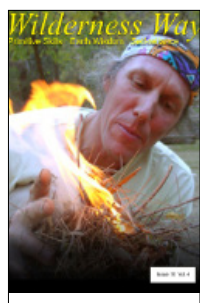
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**ROOTS OF THANKSGIVING**



[Nyergeres is the author of "How to Survive Anywhere," "Forag-ing California," "Enter the Forest" and other books. He leads courses in the native uses of plants. He can be reached at Box 41834, Eagle Rock, CA 90041, or www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]

In our age of commercialization, many of us have gotten jaded to the holidays, feeling that these are nothing more than pseu-do-holidays invented by Target and greeting card manufacturer-ers so we buy more stuff that we don't actually need. So let's take a quick look at Thanksgiving, and attempt to discern its ac-tual roots, separate from the myth and custom that has become the norm.

In 3rd grade, we did little skits at Thanksgiving time, where In-dians and Pilgrims met. The Pilgrims were all dressed up in black and white, and clean, with black powder guns, and the Indians wore loin cloths and feathers, and carried bows. Somewhere in the back of my 10-year-old mind I knew that a lot of killing went on between the new Pilgrims and the Indians, but this was apparently a moment of peace where all came to-gether for some giant feast with turkey and cranberry, in the middle of the forest, on one Thursday in November a very long time ago. But what really happened?

Let's try to explore the roots of this day, and try to be honest with ourselves as we attempt to give thanks where it is due.

First, the players. There were three main players among the Indians: Massasoit, the leader of the Wampanoag, the coalition of which controlled southeastern Massachusetts; Samoset, the leader of a group to the north; and Tisquantum (whom history knows as "Sqanto"), who was there as an interpreter, and who also had plans of his own. Tisquantum had been taken to Britain and had lived there for a year and a half where he learned English. He was not trusted by Massasoit because it was feared he might side with the pilgrims, but Tisquantum was needed as an interpreter.

The colonists were residing on what had been a Wampanoag village site, but the native inhabitants were wiped out five years earlier by a disease. On March 21 of 1621, before there was any such thing as the United States of America, these three native men walked into the pilgrim village (actually, more of a hovel by most accounts) to make a deal.

Massasoit was worried that with so many members of his coal-ition killed off by disease, he'd be vulnerable to attacks by the Narragansett alliance to the west. His bargain to the European settlers was that they could stay there as long as they aligned with him, against possible battles with the Narragansett. It had been over a hundred years since Columbus "opened" the Americas to Europe, and up to that point, settlers were treated friendly as long as they eventually moved along. Various colo-nies had in fact moved on, or been killed off, before then. The leaders of what was then called the Plimouth Colony agreed to the bargain, and Massasoit enjoyed relative peace with his neighbors for the next 50 years.

Later that year, in October of 1621, the pilgrims had had a good harvest, and they held a thanksgiving feast to which Massasoit showed up with 90 of his fellows, mostly men. The 3 day feast that followed was said to be a somewhat tense celebration, with much firing of blackpowder guns and firing of arrows, probably more of a show of bravado and daring than any sort of mutual sportsmanship.

The Indians were more skilled at hunting and fishing in their native land, and they brought fowl, deer, duck, goose, and fish. Corn bread, wild greens, plums, leeks, and many other vegetables (wild and domestic) were shared in this celebration. In-terestingly, there is no evidence that wild turkey or wild cran-berries (somewhat unpalatable without cooking and adding sweeteners) were part of the menu.

The impetus for this so-called "first Thanksgiving" was for Massasoit to cement this tentative political alliance against an-other tribe. The gathering was really more of a treaty gathering than it was any sort of religious event. The peace lasted about 50 years, until Massasoit died. Tisquantum, who is cred-ited with helping the colony with many of its survival skills, on-ly lived another year.

Massasoit's short term bargain opened the floodgates for the tens of thousands of Europeans who continued to pour into North America in general and New England in particular. And the settlers of Plimouth certainly didn't see the October meal as "the first Thanksgiving." It was normal for them to have vari-ous thanksgiving and harvest festivals, usually held mid-week to differentiate from the religious Sabbaths. And it wasn't an-other 200 years or so before this became formalized as part of the mythosis of America, as the American Day of Giving Thanks.

Giving thanks is a good thing. Among other things, it helps so we do not lose sight of our spiritual heritage, which is the real bounty. But what should we focus upon, and who should we be thanking, on this Thanksgiving day?

With all the talk about the blessings and bounty from God, per-haps it's time for Americans to realize that had it not been for that small group of indigenous people, that first colony might have not survived and might have been wiped out. Though not entirely for altruistic purposes, Plymouth people were aided by the native population.

Perhaps sharing our bounty with the needy would be a better Thanksgiving activity than eating lots of good food. More to the point, perhaps we should use Thanksgiving to give thanks where it is due -- to the American Indians who have become the "forgotten minority." Yes, there are some who have become enriched by casinos, but there are still many more who are struggling.

Don't just give lip-service thanks to the Native Americans whose land was taken. Rather, find those organizations that are actually providing real assistance to Native Americans in poverty, such as many of those living in the third world conditions so prevalent on some of today's reservations. Support farming and self-sufficiency projects on reservations.

If you don't know of any such groups, contact me and I will steer you in the right direction.

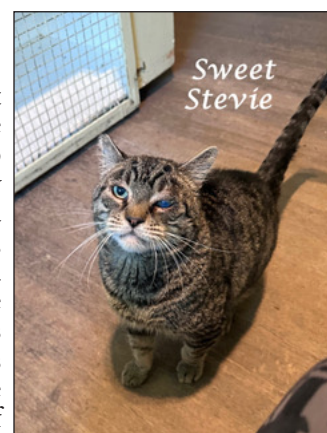
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**Katnip News!**



**Sweetest Boy Ever: STEVIE!**

Golly Gee! How can you resist this face!! Stevie, age 6, is just the sweetest! He is mellow, loves to be petted, and would make a very loving companion. He might be a little shy until he gets to know you, but then he'll follow you around and just want to be near you. He had an eye issue at first, but he's fine now. He is FIV+ but needs no meds. He would get along fine with another nice cat, especially if that cat is also FIV+. Stevie needs a chance to experience a home and comfort, and love! He's been waiting for 3 long years but no one has bothered to look at his capacious heart for love! He'll be ever so grateful!



Watch his video on our website's Adult Cats page and see how loving he is! Go to [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org), or use this QR code to go di-rectly to the video.

**Pet of the Week**

Mactron 3000 might sound like a robot or an amusement park ride, but he is very much an adorable dog who is ready for any adventure that comes his way!



Mac is about 1 & ½ years old, and he loves nothing more than running around in the yard and playing non-stop. He leaps from toy to toy and only stops to hop into the puppy pool to cool off.

He's also a bit of a foodie in that he loves any food that comes his way. Staff and volunteers at Pasadena Humane have been able to harness that enthusiasm to teach Mactron a trick or two.

With Mactron 3000, every day is an adventure waiting to happen, filled with laughter, love and a touch of delightful mischief!

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

New adopters will receive a complimentary health-and-wellness exam from VCA Animal Hospitals, as well as a goody bag filled with information about how to care for your pet.

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

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

**BEAR-RESISTANT BARRELS**

As part of the new program, the City of Sierra Madre has arranged for a 96-gallon bear-resistant barrel to be provided to all single-family residential customers. These barrels will be delivered to your home this fall. As part of this barrel deployment, Athens will collect your old container.

**Be on the look out for additional information related to the upcoming bear barrel deployment timeline and your new organics program.**

**BEAR-RESISTANT BARREL FEATURES INCLUDE:**

- Easy-lock lid
- Large capacity, 96-gallon barrel
- Durable and portable

**4 BENEFITS of Bear-Resistant Barrels:**

- Protects you and your property from damage caused by wildlife
- Locking lid deters bear activity
- Limits litter on the streets
- Keeps bears wild and out of human trash

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**SIERRA MADRE POLICE DEPARTMENT BEAR PROTOCOL**

*SMPD responds appropriately to bear calls when:*

- Bear(s) is a continuous nuisance (rummaging through trash bins, living at or returning to the same location or there is property damage.
- Bear(s) displays aggressive behavior toward humans or domestic animals. Bear(s) is walking towards a school or heavily populated area.
- Bear(s) attempts or enters a residence or structure.
- Bear(s) is in the backyard of a residence and possess a public safety threat.

Help protect others by reporting all bear incidents, including sightings. The options of reporting bear incidents is based on public safety concerns. You can report bear incidents directly to CA Fish and Wildlife at [www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)., to the City of Sierra Madre at [wildlife@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:wildlife@cityofsierramadre.com), and to the Sierra Madre Police Department.

## DISCOVER YOUR IDEAL ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY WITH SAFE PATH FOR SENIORS

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\*Personalized Support: We understand unique requirements. \* Extensive Network: Find communities that suit your preferences. \*Budget-Friendly: Discover cost-effective solutions. \* Streamlined Process: Save time with our seamless placement. \*Compassion and Care: Your well-being is our priority. Let us be your trusted partner. Call (626) 999-6913 or visit [www.safepathforseniors.com](http://www.safepathforseniors.com) for a FREE consultation. Begin a comfortable, fulfilling senior living journey with Safe Path for Seniors.



## HOW AN INCENTIVE TRUST CAN INFLUENCE YOUR HEIRS

Dear Savvy Senior:

What can you tell me about creating an incentive trust? I have an adult son and daughter that are both financially inept. Before I die, I want to put some type of requirements in place that they will need to follow in order to receive their portion of my estate.

Frustrated Father

Dear Frustrated:

If you want to influence your heirs even after you're gone, an incentive trust is definitely an option to consider, but be careful how you construct it because it can cause unintended, unfair consequences. Here's how it works, along with some tips to help you create one.

### Incentive Trusts Basics

An incentive trust is an estate-planning tool designed to help encourage your heirs in a direction you desire when you're no longer around.

With an incentive trust, some or all of your assets are passed to your trust when you die rather than directly to your heirs. Your trustee is empowered to distribute funds from the trust only if and when your beneficiaries do whatever it is you have specified in the trust.

For example, an incentive trust might encourage a beneficiary to graduate from college, enter a particular profession, get married or even have children. They could also reward beneficiaries who do charitable work or supplement the incomes of those who choose low paying, yet meaningful careers like teaching or social work. Or they could penalize beneficiaries who don't work by cutting off or decreasing distributions or placing restrictions on heirs with addictions by requiring that payments go directly to rehab centers.

But be aware that these types of trusts can also have drawbacks. A poorly constructed incentive trust can have a high risk of unintended consequences. For example, if your trust provides a financial incentive for your children to be employed full-time, but one of them gets sick or seriously injured in a car accident and can't work, they would be punished unfairly.

You also need to know that incentive trusts aren't cheap. You can expect to pay an attorney \$2,500 to \$5,000 to draft one.



There are also legal limits on what you can do with an incentive trust. While state laws vary, incentive trusts that encourage a beneficiary to join or leave a particular religion, or leave a spouse or not marry at all, can be challenged in court and possibly struck down.

### How to Create One

To create a solid incentive trust that accomplishes what you envision, you need to hire an estate-planning attorney who will include precise instructions that clearly spells out your wishes. You'll also want to include language granting your trustee the right to use his or her discretion and that the trustee's decisions should be final and binding.

This allows your trustee to make common sense rulings, which will reduce or eliminate the chances of unintended and unfair consequences. It also makes it very difficult for beneficiaries to successfully challenge the trust or trustee in court. When a trust grants final decision-making authority to its trustee, it becomes almost impossible for beneficiaries to successfully argue that this trustee is not correctly implementing the trust's terms.

The key is to select a trustee who's smart enough to interpret your intent and has sufficient backbone to stand up to beneficiaries when necessary. You also need to select a successor trustee too if your first choice can no longer serve. Fees paid to a trustee vary widely depending on the state's fee schedules, the size and complexity of the trust, and conditions laid out in the trust.

To find an experienced attorney in your area to help you create an incentive trust, see the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys ([naela.org](http://naela.org)) and the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel ([actec.org](http://actec.org)).

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

## SENIOR HAPPENINGS



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ...November Birthdays\*

Flo Mankin, Alberta Curran, Carmela Frontino, Kathy Wood, Lena Zate, Joe Pergola, Janice Kacer, Valerie Howard, Lois Stueck, Jean Wood, Shirley Yergeau, Pat Krok, Irene Nakagawa, Anna Ross, Mary Steinberg, Mary Bowser, Susan Clifton, Mary Higgins, Kim Buchanan, Leigh Thach, Sue Quinn, Jill Girod, Jeanne Martin. \* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

SENIOR CLUB Every Saturday at Noon Hart Park House  
Open to all seniors 50+ Fun - Games - And More! Call Mark at 626-355-3951

Monday & Wednesday 10-10:45 AM

## Chair Yoga

Please join us for some gentle stretching, yoga, balance exercises and overall relaxation. Classes are ongoing and held in the Hart Park House Senior Center.

WELCOME TO

Beginner Every Thursday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Intermediate Every Friday 10:00 AM-11:00 AM

Bring your lei, flower skirt or just your desire to dance! Join in on the fun in the Memorial Park Covered Pavilion on Thursday, the Hart Park House Senior Center on Friday.

## HULA & POLYNESIAN DANCE

Pumpkin Wreath Centerpiece

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Let's continue the fall season with a fun pumpkin wreath centerpiece. It's a perfect way to greet guests as you gather to celebrate the fall season.

Registration will begin Wednesday, November 7, 2023

## Senior Cinema

1pm in the Hart Park House Senior Center

Wednesday 11/8 Ticket to Paradise

George Clooney and Julia Roberts team up as exes who find themselves on a shared mission: to stop their lovestruck daughter from making the same mistake they once made.

Wednesday 11/22 Golda

A ticking-clock thriller set during the tense 19 days of the Yom Kippur War. Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir (Helen Mirren) must navigate overwhelming odds, a skeptical cabinet and a complex relationship with US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (Liev Schreiber) with millions of lives in the balance. Her tough leadership and compassion would ultimately decide the fate of her nation.

## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

### I DON'T EAT CROW ON HOLIDAYS

I enjoy the holiday season because of the food I get to eat. From Halloween to New Year's Day, the focus is food. Some of the best food of the whole year is during this time. In true confession, throughout the rest of the year, I eat Crow almost every day. It is a diet developed by The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It has taken some time for her to create such a diet for me, and she's done a marvelous job.

It took me quite a while to understand this diet of eating crow. But if I understand it correctly, it means admitting you're wrong and were not right about what you thought or a statement you made to others. That's quite a definition, and I'm not sure I understand it even today.

I must admit that throughout the year, I vehemently made statements that were not true. It's not how many true statements I make throughout the year but the false statements I make that matter. How many times I've been wrong is beyond my calculation.

Oh, if I only was 16 again when I knew everything. Sometimes, we will be with a group of friends, and I'll be telling a story that happened recently, and then in the middle of that story, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will jump in and say, "No, it didn't happen that way." Then she will correct my story, and I'm standing there eating crow.

One of these days, I'm going to figure out a way so that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can find out what it means to eat Crow. So far, I have yet to come to any conclusion here. But I am working very hard to find something along this line.

She was telling about our wedding one time, and I interrupted her and said, "No, my dear, the wedding was on August 14." Looking at me with a confused look, she said, "That's what I just said. Our wedding was August 14." "I'm sorry; I thought you said our wedding was August 14." Do you know what a pleasure it is to see so many people confused, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage? Sometimes, it does pay to catch people off their guard, and you end up eating crow. Sometimes, eating crow is worth the situation you find yourself in. I don't always create chaos in my life, but I try to make the best of it when it does happen.

I'm looking for the opportunity when I catch my wife on something that will cause her to eat crow. I will not give up on this adventure. But there is so much more to eat during the holiday season than crow. I could spend the rest

of my time naming all the ingredients of our holiday meals.

During this holiday season, I don't have time to eat Crow. All of the beautiful meals that are set before us have my attention all the way through.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I are a fantastic team. She loves to cook, and I love to eat. What better partnership can you have? All the crow I eat during the rest of the year is worth all the holiday meals at this time.

I must confess that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is very careful how I eat Crow. She rarely lets me do it in front of people. I may be telling some story, but she doesn't correct me when people are around.

On our way home from that gathering, she will begin the conversation by saying, "Soooo, is that really how that situation happened?" Usually, I'm not sure what she's talking about, and I respond by saying, "What situation?" Then begins the crow-eating marathon. I always get things wrong, and she loves correcting me, but usually when we are alone.

I would probably get my name wrong if she weren't there to correct me. It's not that I don't like her correcting me because I do. It's agitating at the time, but in the long run, eating crow does have its advantages.

If the truth were known, she has a way of preparing my crow, so I, to some degree, enjoy eating it. How she does it, I don't know; maybe I should begin taking notes. My problem is when she is talking about a situation in front of a group of people with me there, I really don't know if it's true or not. I assume what she is saying is true.

Driving home from one of those meetings, she was quiet for a moment and then said something to the effect, "Well, did you get all the mistakes I made in that story I told?" She told the story and twisted it so much that nothing was true, and I never recognized it. That made me think she could get away with anything as far as I was concerned. Now, that's a different piece of crow to eat that I've never had before.

Thinking about that a verse of scripture came to mind. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

Probably the hardest thing I can do is to confess my sin and ask for forgiveness. However, it is the best thing to do. Eating crow sometimes is worth it.

## FITNESS FOR LIFE

### HEALTHY HOLIDAY TIPS

by Michele Silence

As we venture further into November, it won't be long before the holiday festivities disrupt our routines, and the risk of weight gain or skipped workouts becomes a reality. However, there are strategies to stay on track and still achieve your fitness goals during this time of year with some careful planning. Take a moment to think out of the box this year. Reflect on your typical responses to situations and consider a different approach.

This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to someone who doesn't usually exercise regularly and invite them to help you "stay on course" with your walks or accompany you as a guest to the gym. Include others who can provide support and be accountability partners during this busy time when it's easy to forgo exercise in favor of other tasks. Your encouragement might inspire them to start exercising, benefiting both of you by preventing holiday weight gain.

Give your holiday traditions a fresh twist. If your usual Thanksgiving routine involves feasting and then lounging on the couch, consider adding some physical activity to the day. Take a short family walk, engage in outdoor games, or even host a dance party. Any active endeavor burns more calories and is more memorable when shared with family and friends than simply watching TV or sitting on the couch.

Experiment with new recipes to complement your favorite dishes. Choose one or two healthier versions that prioritize vegetables, whole grains, and fruits. Swap out pre-meal snacks like nuts, cheese, and meats for vegetables with dip and fresh fruit platters. This small change alone can save you from consuming thousands of extra calories, excessive salt, and unhealthy fats. Don't forget to stay adequately hydrated, particularly when calorie-laden beverages like sparkling wines, eggnog, and coffee drinks are so readily available.

Practice mindfulness in your eating habits. Pay attention to how much you consume, savor the flavors, and recognize when you're genuinely full rather than uncomfortably stuffed. Enjoying meals while engaging in conversation with others doesn't mean you have to eat until you're bloated and need to loosen your belt minutes later.

Be mindful of your company during the holidays. Sometimes, family gatherings bring together individuals who have trouble getting along under normal circumstances. The stress of being at odds with family members or friends who have different viewpoints can be uncomfortable. Have a plan for preventing heated discussions by sticking to non-controversial topics. We all know which subjects to avoid - politics, religion, social controversies (like guns), and family conflicts. Bombarding someone you haven't seen all year with relentless questions



Michele Silence, M.A. is a 37-year certified fitness professional who offers semi-private/virtual fitness classes and a weight management support group. If you have questions or ideas for this column contact Michele at [michele@kid-fit.com](mailto:michele@kid-fit.com). Visit her Facebook page at: [michelesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/michelesfitness).

is uncomfortable for them and the other listeners. If you're concerned about running out of conversation topics without these, prepare in advance and have other subjects ready to discuss, so no one reaches for their blood pressure medication after get-togethers.

Be kind to yourself. If you manage to maintain your fitness level, weight, and routine during the last two months of the year, congratulate yourself. Most people gain up to 5 pounds over the holidays, so simply maintaining your current status puts you ahead. Remember that your mental health is just as crucial. Think ahead about the things that stress you out the most and plan alternative coping strategies now. Whether it's handling too many tasks (ask other family members for help), overspending (create a budget and stick to it, consider online shopping to prevent impulse buying), or stocking your home with unhealthy foods you wouldn't typically buy (limit yourself to one or two essential items).

Throw in extra physical activity. Whenever you find yourself with even just 10 minutes of free time, engage in some form of physical activity. It helps manage stress, burn extra calories, and compensate for missed workouts. Activities like playing ball with the kids, taking a brief stroll around the block with the dog, or following a short YouTube fitness workout can significantly contribute to your overall well-being and peace of mind.

You alone are aware of the factors that tend to disrupt your holiday season—those elements that contribute most to increased stress, unwanted weight gain, and a sedentary lifestyle. By identifying these triggers and developing a strategic plan to break free from the cycle this year, you can enjoy the next two months with a plan to stay moving, experience less stress and look forward to more enjoyable personal interactions. Which is what the holidays are all about - friends, family and fun.

If you need a new/different activity to help you stay motivated during the holiday season, contact me at my Facebook page for help.

## MOUNTAIN VIEWS NEWS

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## STUART TOLCHIN PUT THE LIGHTS ON WE CAN DO BETTER



I have always been clear about hating guns. Really it is not just connected with my hatred of war. I do hate the idea of war. To me it illustrates the simple fact that Homo Sapiens, human beings if you will, are currently not a very civilized specie. I think things can be different and it is required that people have a clearer understanding of what are the causes of war and how innocent soldiers are coerced into fighting. World War I was labeled as the War to end all Wars and we know how that turned out. The war originated in Europe in 1914 and lasted until 1918 and it is estimated that there were a total of nine million combatant deaths and 13 million civilian deaths as a result of the conflict.

Can you relate to those numbers? Twenty two million deaths! Compare that to the thousands killed by the terrorist bombings of 09/11 and the many more thousands being killed today connected to the Hamas bombing of Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu now justifies the continuing Israeli bombing of Gaza as necessary to eliminate all remnant of Hamas as being absolutely a matter of self-defense. He argues, perhaps correctly, that unless all of the military terrorists that compose Hamas are eliminated there were always be further attacks. This seems to me to be another fanciful construction of the need for War as a way to end wars. My understanding of world history, limited as it is, does not agree with that position.

Even going back to our own Revolutionary War I believe that that war with the English colonizers was fought for the benefit of the prospering American upper class who resented paying taxes to far-away England when they themselves could impose taxes on Americans and benefit from "the freedom for democracy" which hardly anyone understood then, and has become obvious, huge segments of American voters care little about now. So the question remains what are we fighting for and how do we stop it? It would seem that education would or should clarify the insanity of war. Instead in the United States that I have experienced, there was always a call for the young men to be good patriots and go into military service in order to protect the rest of us. During the days I attended College the faraway Viet Nam War raged over issues I never understood. My parents were of the World War II generation and encouraged me to register for the Draft and if necessary allow myself to be drafted and in my mind probably killed. I believed that in many ways, at least at first, they were more concerned with what the neighbors might think than they were concerned about my own life.

Within a remarkably short time much of Public Opinion changed and my parents, and my friends' parents' position changed. During Law School, which I had entered mainly to avoid the Draft, I volunteered to work with the National Lawyers Guild and assisted a great many potential draftees to avoid conscription. I realized only later that these young men were all white and that their parents were generally members of the upper middle class who had encouraged their sons to seek out lawyers. Meanwhile, non-white kids and less privileged white kids were being drafted to fight and potentially die or suffer permanent trauma.

The willingness of America to assist Israel and to continue sending military aid to the Ukraine absolutely sickens me. Way back in 2020 I wrote that Putin's incursion into the Ukraine was a recognition of his own weakness and that he was simply attempting to strengthen his hold on Russia by engaging in this conflict. Very few agreed with me and everyone talked about the importance of protecting Democracy. I believe that the American position benefits weapon-makers who make huge contributions to elected officials. Our present system seems to elect those who yearn for power and notoriety or something and have little interest in anything but avoiding the loss of their elected office. News media must not be allowed to present material that is known to be untrue. Freedom of speech was never intended to allow the presentation of knowing outright lies. There must be established an independent supervising entity that has the responsibility to protect the public from knowing deception. It is also of the utmost importance to recognize what disputes are really about. That would be a good beginning.



## DINAH CHONG WATKINS CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WRONG KIND



The thick ziploc bag held an opaque iceberg of meat. Of the myriad species of livestock we had packed neatly in the freezer, I was almost sure this unmarked bag contained beef. Not a roast or a rack of ribs, something long and sausage-like. Snake perhaps? I think I chopped that up in the chicken noodle soup last week. Then I remembered, it was the Wagyu beef we were given (maybe a year - or two ago). Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, the mystery meat fland the next day we woke up still alive, medical intervention unnecessary.

Food is the luck of the draw. What better example than the traditional familial Thanksgiving. The myth we're taught is the first Thanksgiving was attended by a multitude of guests each contributing a dish in gratitude thus the making of the origin story of both Thanksgiving and the Potluck, but in reality the Pilgrim host was a inept hand at the stove and no one wanted to eat her food.

There's a rigid canon to the Thanksgiving menu every family ascribes to, changes however small - no French's fried onions on the green beans this year, Aunt Karen is now a pescatarian, are hotly negotiated between the mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, second and thrice removed cousins. Caught in the crossfire is the naive fiancé.

Iconic dishes are passed down from the elders, the techniques are ardently adhered to including the cookware; a bent cake pan, a chipped mixing bowl and a pasta roller groaning out for retirement (even in his wheelchair, Uncle Don can still pump out No.5 fettuccine).

Turkey is the centerpiece and mainstay of the holiday. Complicated to prepare, it involves a lot of math, calculating the number of days to defrost, the cook time based on weight, stuffed, unstuffed, sear high or roast slow. Then there's the bravado in-the-driveway DIY deep fry, have the fire department on speed dial.

## RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH



### THANKSGIVING: I CAN'T WEIGHT

Ahh Thanksgiving week is upon us.

I wonder if the spirit of Thanksgiving has held on all these years because it is essentially illegal to 'diet' on Thanksgiving. Or possibly many of us are thankful on Thanksgiving because that's the one day in a year family members travel hundreds of miles to be with other family members. And we are thankful we see those people only once a year. Who can say?

In any event here are some ponderables to consider around the Thanksgiving table.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight. That's because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice the Roman numerals for forty (40) are XL?

If you can smile when things go wrong, it's because you have someone else in mind to blame.

The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he or she can tell when he or she is really in trouble (Richard Otis!!)

Did you notice when you put the two words 'the' and 'IRS' together it spells 'theirs'?

When you are dissatisfied and want to go back to your youth, think of algebra.

One of the many realities no one tells you about aging is that it is a nice change from being young. Yeah, being young is beautiful. But being old is comfortable.

Back to Thanksgiving here are a few notable quotes on the subject:

"I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage." Erma Bombeck

"On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence." William Jennings Bryant

"Coexistence...what the farmer does with the turkey - until Thanksgiving." Mike Connolly

How many turkeys are prepared each Thanksgiving? About 46 million...gobble gobble gobble. P.S. No turkey at the first Thanksgiving. Venison, swan, duck and goose, but no turkey. Oh and don't forget lobster, oysters, fish and a little eel. Ewww!

Thanksgiving leftovers led to the invention of TV dinners. It's true. In 1953 a food production company (named Swanson) overestimated how much turkey they were going to sell for Thanksgiving. Ended up with 260 tons of leftover frozen turkey. Somebody suggested they put the frozen turkey in aluminum trays with veggies and mashed potatoes and wal-la... the first TV tray frozen dinner. I miss those old aluminum trays. Guess microwaves put an end to them.

By the way, Black Friday (day after Thanksgiving) is the busiest day of the year for plumbers. 50% more calls than on a normal Friday. Chop chop!!

And my home state, Minnesota produces the most turkeys in the country. 40+ million. I'm in there somewhere!

Please don't forget the first video game character to be featured as a massive balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Twas Sonic the Hedgehog in 1993. He went astray and crashed. Yep, tis true.

Finally, the Green Bean Casserole turns 68 in 2023. In case you forgot the Green Bean Casserole was invented by Dorcas Reilly a home economist with Campbells Soup. Apparently Campbell's needed to sell more Cream of Mushroom soup. It was originally called "Green Bean Bake". Campbells tells us 40% of Cream of Mushroom soup sales go toward making the dish.

Where else do you get this caliber of cutting edge information? If you are a regular reader of my column, you should know there are support groups out there working hard to keep regular readers of my columns sane...or at least functional in society! (I wonder what that's like?)

Anyway, I sure appreciate the opportunity to possibly lighten the load in all of our lives.- Dorkus Rich



## GOBBLE, GOBBLE

What's ironic is the Wild Turkey is one of the most difficult animals to hunt. It's natural perimeter sensors are military grade and the fortunate Pilgrim who brought it to the first Thanksgiving (dooming future generations to hours of work and last minute prayers) could have easily caught a wild pig instead. Pork chops and applesauce would've been so much easier, and less math!

As America is a melting pot, so too is its Thanksgiving spread. In my family, quick hands got the moist, deep Unami bites of dark meat from the thighs and drumsticks while the slow-mo got stuck with the the bland, dry as a French's fried onion crisp breast meat. If only an octo-turkey existed, with thighs and legs to go around, there would be no sad faces around the table. But even the losers found solace in our rice stuffing. Sticky Jasmine rice from the green hills of Thailand, mixed with bits of cured sausage, crunchy water chestnuts, and oyster sauce.

Over at my in-laws, homemade ravioli is king. With a red sauce made from the ripest tomatoes from Italy, deli-fresh Italian sausage and a loving touch overseen from heaven. Grown men slug it out over second helpings and the remaining meatballs. I stand at a safe distance with my lone, unadorned ravioli reminiscing about my rice stuffing. While we say Thanksgiving is for family and friends, we know amongst the drama, there is food and give thanks to the hands that brought it.

Days after our mystery meat dinner, while digging through the freezer for our next meal I found a ziploc bag marked "Wagyu". Hey! Snake never tasted so good.

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

For more Close Encounters Of The Wrong Kind go to [www.ceotwk.com](http://www.ceotwk.com)





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## HOT WHEELS IN SIERRA MADRE



The Sierra Madre Professional Firefighter's Assn. put on another edition of our Sierra Madre Car Show this morning. We set a show record with 100 cars on display downtown! I'm pictured in front of the cherry 1968 Ford Bronco that won Mayor Garcia's "Mayors Award." It was a beautiful morning for an amazing show!



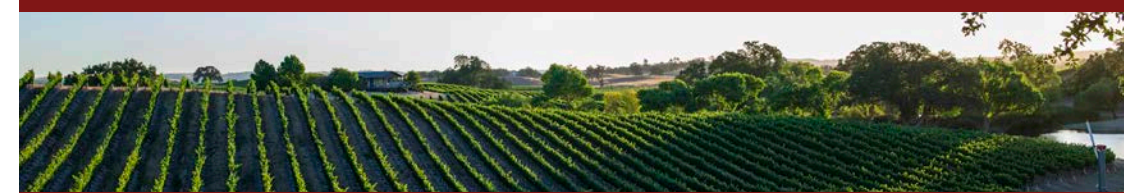
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**INVEST IN HIGHER EDUCATION** to ensure that every Californian can learn the skills they need for the workforce.

**JOHN HARABEDIAN** was born and raised in Sierra Madre, in the heart of the 41st Assembly District. John is a California State Commission President, attorney, father, and former City Councilmember and Mayor. He was elected to the Sierra Madre City Council in 2012, re-elected in 2016, and twice served as Mayor. As Mayor, John worked to improve city services, strengthen fire protection, and support local businesses. Professionally, John has worked as a prosecutor at the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office and as an attorney at Latham & Watkins.

A proud graduate of Loyola High School, John earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University, master's degree in comparative social policy from Oxford University, and law degree from Stanford University. John and his wife Young-Gi are the proud parents of three boys.



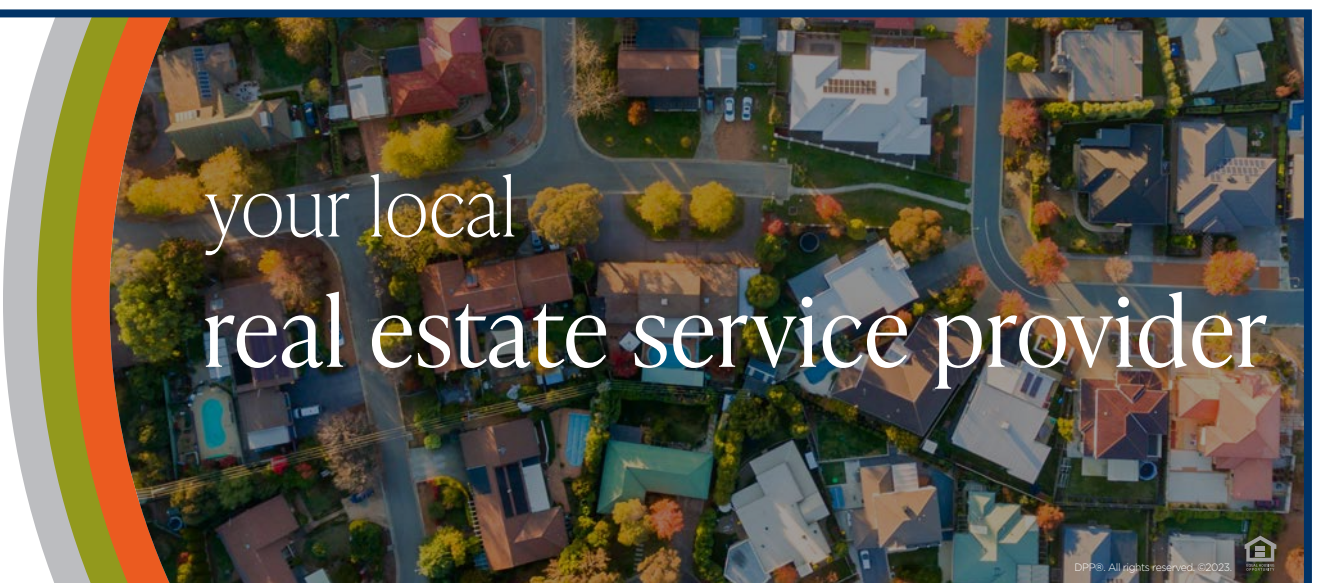
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