

# Mountain Views News

Sierra Madre Arcadia Duarte Monrovia Pasadena Altadena South Pasadena San Marino

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

VOLUME 18 NO. 01



the webb-martin group

**Happy  
New Year  
2024!**

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



The Enchanted Music Box As It Travels Along The Parade Route  
Photo by Dean Lee/MVNews

### NEW YEAR, NEW MAYOR, SAME RESOLUTIONS

Happy New Year to our foothill village!

The sunny crispness of winter is my favorite time of year, and the season of gratitude lingers as I enjoy a bright and sparkling Sierra Madre after the rain this week.



What I am particularly thankful for is the community spirit that was on full display during the holiday season. We started with a wildly successful Winterfest thanks to our Chamber of Commerce and ended with the Queen's Trophy in reward of the thousands of hours spent creating the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association's 2023 Rose Parade entry.

In between, we enjoyed many festive events and the holiday decorations and tree and menorah lighting ceremonies, all provided by dedicated local volunteers. If you are similarly grateful for all of these Sierra Madre festivities (and the many others throughout the year), please consider joining the best community of volunteers. There were many volunteer opportunities listed in last week's edition of this newspaper and the City will have openings on its commissions later this year.

Preservation of this community spirit by maintaining and enhancing the City's programming, upgrading City facilities and infrastructure, and encouraging stronger partnerships with our business and school communities are my (mayoral) New Year's resolutions.

We already are full-steam ahead on many projects turning these resolutions into reality. Our Sierra Madre Library improvement project has reached a new phase with the opening of the temporary library on Monday, January 8th.

The Sierra Vista Park playground is being replaced and new exercise equipment is being installed. We have two water main replacement projects planned for this year, as well as street improvements. There also will be exciting happenings in our downtown and in partnership with our schools and YMCA - watch this space for news of those!

All of these goals are a continuation of the priorities set by many past City Councils and conceived and implemented by dedicated City staff. I am proud and excited to have the opportunity to build upon the strong foundation we have laid and to contribute to the small town we all love.

~ Mayor Kelly Kriebes

### HONORS DINNER AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

The City of Sierra Madre and Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the selection of the 2023 Honors Award winners.

The awards will be presented on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at the annual dinner.

Pictured right are Dr. Barry Ziff and his wife Leslie who were selected as the 2023 Citizens Of The Year.

Other honorees are: (cont. Pg. 2)



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

We Wish you all a Magical Holiday Season with your Family and Friends

Our Homes are only as important as the people inside them. May yours be filled with Love, Laughter, Shared Memories, Favorite Recipes, Lots of Treats and Good Health.

We look forward to meeting you all in the New Year and Helping to Make Your Real Estate Dreams Come True !!!

Warmly, *Barbara and Sileen*

**Barbara Rogers**  
626.484.8135  
CalRE# 01169115

**Eileen Benson**  
626.278.0187  
CalRE# 01880650

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# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

## SMRFA

(continued from page 1)

Congratulations to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association for another award winning float in the Tournament of Roses Parade. This year's entry, Enchanted Music Box, won the Queens Award for *Most Outstanding Presentation of Roses*.

Congratulations are also due to our 2024 Royal Court. Pictured on the left are: (left to right) *Frances Farnam, Evyn Clayton, Abi Altruz*. All three of our new princesses attend California School of the Arts.

This year's award is the SMRFA's 17th out of the last 18 floats entered in the Rose Parade. This year also represented the 92nd self built entry by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. SMRFA first entered the Rose Parade in 1917!



## HONORS AWARDS

Wistaria Award:  
The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce

Mayor's Special Award:  
Dick and Kay Sappington

Public Safety Award:  
SMPD Reserve Officer Armen Khourdjian

Youth Service Award:  
Max Romero and Jenna Todorov

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce has also announced their selection for

Business the Year:  
The Mountain Views News

Mayor Kelly Kriebs offered her congratulations to the award winners and thanked them for their dedication to serving the citizens of Sierra Madre. "We are so fortunate to have such outstanding public servants. I really appreciate all they do to make Sierra Madre the crown jewel of the San Gabriel Valley!"

The presentations will be made at the Honors Dinner to be held on January 24, 2023 in the Sierra Madre Room.

**RSVP required.** Limited space is available.  
Email: [honorsdinner@cityofsierramadre.com](mailto:honorsdinner@cityofsierramadre.com) or call (626) 999-3614 if you would like to attend.

## RECENT SMRFA TROPHIES

- 2006 - "The Wonder of Reading"  
The Founders Banner Trophy
- 2007 - "Our Wonderful Wistaria"  
Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy
- 2008 - "Valentine's Day"  
Princesses Trophy
- 2009 - "Bollywood Dreams"  
Lathrop K. Leishman Trophy
- 2010 - "California Girls"  
Governor's Trophy
- 2011 - "Suenos de California"  
Governor's Trophy
- 2013 - "The Sky's The Limit"  
Isabella Coleman Trophy
- 2014 - "Catching The Big One"  
The Mayor's Trophy
- 2015 - "I Think I Can"  
The Mayor's Trophy

- 2016 "Rollin' On The River"  
Animation Trophy
  - 2017 "The Cat's Away"  
The Mayor's Trophy
  - 2018 "Chivalry"  
Fantasy Award
  - 2019 "HARMONY"  
Director's Award
  - 2020 KA LA HIKI OLA  
President's Award  
Most Outstanding Use and Presentation of Flowers
  - 2022 NATURES CLASSROOM  
Judge's Award -  
Most outstanding float design and dramatic impact
  - 2023 POPPA'S TURN  
Founder's Award -
  - 2024 ENCHANTED MUSIC BOX  
Queen's Award -  
Most outstanding presentation of Roses.
- (No parade 2021 due to Covid-19)



## TEMPORARY LIBRARY TO OPEN! SIERRA MADRE, CA, JANUARY 8, 2024

Temporary Library Location is 350 W Sierra Madre Blvd.

The Sierra Madre Public Library is re-opening our doors on Monday, January 8, 2024 with our regular operational hours.

Our hours will continue to be:

- Monday: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00AM to 6:00 PM
- Friday: CLOSED
- Saturday: 10:00AM to 6:00 PM
- Sunday: CLOSED

The Sierra Madre Public Library has been temporarily relocated to 350 W Sierra Madre Blvd, for the duration of the Library Meaningful Improvement Project funded by \$10.6M in state and federal grants.

The renovation of the Library at 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd. may take up to 2 years and includes a 5,000 square foot expansion, an additional south facing entrance, updating the building for seismic and ADA, and updating the Library grounds. For more information on the Library Meaningful Improvement Project, please use the QR code below:

While the Library is overjoyed to be able to continue to serve the public during renovations, it will be in a limited capacity.

Please note the following, while visiting the temporary Library:

- Reduced collection size  
The Library was only able to bring about 1/3 of our current collection to the temporary Library, the rest of our items have been moved to offsite storage and will remain in storage until renovations are complete.
- Color and black and white photocopying available
- Limited study and seating space available
- In the process of establishing public Wi-Fi, it is not currently available
- In the process of establishing public printing, it is not currently available
- In the process of providing public computers and laptops, they are currently not available
- Staff assisted catalog searching available
- Limited Library programming
- Limited archival services
- Online, phone, and in-person reference services available

For more information, call the Library at (626) 355-7186.



## New Year's Resolutions

# 2024

1. VOLUNTEER AND GIVE BACK
  2. MAKE NEW FRIENDS
- ✓ SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB CHECKS ALL THE BOXES



### Another Volunteer Opportunity For You

## SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB

Sierra Madre CIVIC CLUB WAS ORGANIZED IN 1944 BY WOMEN INTERESTED IN CREATING a better community for our Town.

Our fundraising enables us to reinvest in the community by awarding annual awards to numerous LOCAL non-profit organizations. Examples of our community service activities include:

- Annual educational awards to a select group of graduating high school seniors.
- Seasonal Decorating of the City Hall Rotunda
- Maintenance and trimming of CITY HALL Wistaria Vine
- Halloween Window Painting event
- Staffing of Wistaria Day event
- Staffing and support of Mount Wilson Trail Race
- Staffing and support HUCK FINN fishing Derby
- Support of Sierra Madre Rose Float
- Contributions to Creative Arts Group for children's programs

Sierra Madre Civic Club Members enjoy the fellowship of our monthly meetings along with the support of one another as we volunteer at events for this special town.

For more information about SIERRA MADRE CIVIC CLUB please contact us at:

PO Box 413,  
Sierra Madre, CA 91025 or  
email;

[sierramadrecivicclub.org](http://sierramadrecivicclub.org)



# SIERRA MADRE

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**Coffee with a Cop**  
**Date: January 10, 2024**  
**Time: 9:00am – 11:00am**  
**Location: 1 Kersting Ct, Starbucks, Sierra Madre**  
**Come meet your local officers and ask questions.**

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- Learn about our Technology, Spanish, Music and Art Curriculum
- Speak to our Student Council about extra-curricular activities they are involved in.

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RSVP:   
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**st-ritaschool.org**

### WALKING SIERRA MADRE - The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*“You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That’s how prayer works.” Pope Francis*

*“Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one!” Brad Paisley*

*“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.” C.S. Lewis*

*“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering, ‘It will be happier.’” Alfred Lord Tennyson*

It’s a New Year...finally! I saw somebody or other on some Food Network show talking about that fine old Southern tradition of devouring a bowl of black-eyed peas on New Year’s Day. My grandmother, Louise Pitzer Sessions, was born in Texas (none of us knew exactly what year as she felt that was nobody’s business but her own), raised in Virginia and eventually ended up in California. She was a great believer in that black-eyed peas thing as she totally agreed with the philosophy that said eating them on New Year’s Day would bring wealth and success in the coming year. That really never happened but she made really incredible cornbread to go with them. That was my favorite part.



Here’s a little excellent superstition to go with your black-eyed peas:

There are several DO NOT’s if you want to keep your black-eyed pea dishes “lucky”:

1. Do not add chicken stock as chickens and other fowl move backward as they eat.
2. Do not use beef, as a cow will move forward, sideways and backwards as they graze, whereas, a pig always pushes forward as it eats.
3. Do not use canned peas as they’ve already swelled so your luck will not “swell” as it will with dried peas.

My grandmother subscribed to a couple of these: She used lots of bacon in her peas and she had no intention of buying dried peas, picking through them to find any duds or whatever, soaking them for hours and so forth. She marched across the street to the Market Basket and bought a couple of cans of whatever was on sale. She cut up a couple of onions, several pieces of bacon, fried those together till they were soft and slightly brown, drained out the bacon fat, added the peas and let the whole thing simmer together for an hour or so while she made the cornbread.

Hers was the best I’ve ever had. No, I don’t have her recipe. I wish I did. Yes, New Year’s Day has come and gone, but it’s probably not too late to treat yourself to some black-eyed peas.

The Christmas bills haven’t started showing up yet, which means I’m living in a happy sense of false security that my Discover bill won’t be too bad at all. (Go ahead, laugh!) But in the realm of shopping, I came across an article about how much the 12 Days of Christmas would cost this past year. The cost only increased by 2.7%, instead of 2022’s 10.5%. The combined cost for all twelve gifts featured in the famous Christmas carol totals: \$46,730. In case you haven’t seen “Candy Cane Lane” on whatever streaming service it’s on, featuring Eddie Murphy and Tracee Ellis Ross, treat yourself. Part of the story is, of course, of Christmas light competition, but this movie takes a different twist involving the 12 days of Christmas. We all watched it Christmas Day and enjoyed it thoroughly. Funny, charming, different. Give it a shot.

Didn’t you love the Rose Parade! Best one ever! The Sierra Madre Float, Enchanted Music Box, was just exquisite with the carousel horses. Always a prize winner, this year we came home with the Queen’s Award for most outstanding presentation of roses. The music, the carousel going around, our lovely princesses waving at the cheering crowd. It was just so special and so absolutely beautiful.

So many enormous bands but, honestly, I would love to have seen the Sierra Madre City College Band in there somewhere. Our Arabian Horse Association group was awesome. Sierra Madre’s own Robert and Barbara Gjerde’s son, Tyler, was marching with the Tournament of Roses Honor Band, playing a bass drum. Pretty cool!

One last New Year’s tip: Go see “Wonka!” It was fun, uplifting, delightful and you can even take the kids. School resumes next Monday and many of us will be rejoicing. There might even be dancing in the streets.

The picture this week is another Sierra Madre tradition, the snowman on Baldwin by Kersting Court. He is shown here with Joe and Jacqui Pergola. Our snow man is courtesy of I think, by the Biely Family.

Have a great week, dear friends and neighbors and keep in mind...

“Hope is being able to see there is light in spite of all the darkness.” Desmond Tutu

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis  
 Take a look! There are interesting goodies galore for You Kindle readers and even an actual book or two for you  
 “I need to hold it in my hands” readers.

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Mountain View News Saturday, January 6, 2024

## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

Sun	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Mon	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Tues	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Wed	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Thur	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Fri	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

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

JANUARY 9, 2024 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).



This week at the Sierra Madre Public Library

January 8—January 13

#### Monday

Baby Rhyme Time — In-person at 9:00am

Preschool Storytime — In-person at 10:00am

#### Wednesday

Board Library Teens — In-person at 4:00pm

#### Thursday

Tails & Tales — In-person at 3:30pm

#### Saturday

Craft It! — Take and make it available at 11:00am

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Sunday worship 9:30 a.m.

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

# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Library to Celebrate 140 Years of Service



To celebrate 140 years of service, the Pasadena Public Library is planning a year-long celebration highlighting the past, present and future through the contributions of trailblazers, innovators, and future thinkers. "We are excited to celebrate this milestone with our community and continue the tradition of offering impactful service to all," said Pasadena Public Library Director Tim McDonald.

Since first opening its doors in 1884, The Pasadena Public Library has served the community with free and open places to commune, connect, learn, read and belong. Pasadena Public Library has spent 140 years shaping the past, sculpting the present, and building toward a brighter future.

The Central Library stands as the cornerstone of the Pasadena Public Library, offering vital support to its nine branch libraries. In May 2021, our Central Library temporarily closed following a structural assessment that uncovered its susceptibility to seismic activity due to unreinforced masonry. Today, as we commemorate the rich history of our libraries spanning 140 years, discover more about the future of the Central Library, the necessary earthquake retrofit, and the significant contributions it is poised to make in the 21st century by visiting: [cityofpasadena.net/library/central-library-earthquake-retrofit](http://cityofpasadena.net/library/central-library-earthquake-retrofit).

With hundreds of on-site programs, free Wi-Fi services and an extensive collection of printed books, periodicals, media and cloud-based eBooks, the Pasadena Public Library serves as a lifelong learning center and cultural beacon for the greater Pasadena community.

Kick off the celebration by picking up a 2024 calendar from any branch location and participate in a time capsule program this morning at 11 a.m., at Jefferson Branch Library, 1500 E. Villa St. Community members of all ages are invited to help draft the story of the library's future with mementoes from the present. Bring photos, letters, artwork, or trinkets to include in the time capsule or add the items you make day of. The time capsule will remain open all month to collect more memories before being sealed for ten years.

Throughout the anniversary year, Pasadena Public Library will host a different feature program at each branch location, January – October, release limited edition merchandise, launch a 14 book reading challenge to celebrate 14 decades of library service, collect and feature community stories of what the library means to you, and broadcast videos of interviews with library staff. "These monthly vignettes will offer a glimpse into how the people of Pasadena have shaped our library from the beginning and continue to guide our growth into the future."

For information visit: [PasadenaPublicLibrary.net](http://PasadenaPublicLibrary.net).

## San Diego Zoo Wins Sweepstakes Trophy



Pictured top: San Diego Zoo's "It Began with a Roar." Pictured left: 2024 Sweepstakes Trophy

Animation to the Bob Hope Humor Award.

The 2024 Sweepstakes Trophy, the most beautiful entry; encompassing float design, floral presentation, and entertainment. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Sweepstakes Trophy and Tournament celebrated with a specially designed arrangement to showcase the Award. Float judge Heather de Kok created the display of red roses.

The San Diego Zoo float was built by Artistic Entertainment Services. This year's Rose Parade theme was "Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language." For a full list of winners visit: [tournamentofroses.com](http://tournamentofroses.com).

participant with the Sweepstakes Trophy for the most beautiful entry, encompassing float design, floral presentation, and entertainment. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Sweepstakes Trophy and Tournament celebrated with a specially designed arrangement to showcase the Award. Float judge Heather de Kok created the display of red roses.

Just before Monday's Rose Parade, as tradition, The Pasadena Tournament of Roses announced the 23 floats awarded honors in the 135th Rose Parade —recognized for excellence in a variety of categories from Best

*Tournament President Alex Aghajanian and his family rode in the famous Omnibus as it makes its world debut in the Rose Parade. Performing on the Omnibus was a group of Taiko Drummers and a dance band, SoundBytes. These buses were once the kings of mass transportation from Paris to London from 1900 to the 1930s. Walt Disney built two of these double-decker buses for Disneyland in 1956.*



The 2024 Rose Court, Olivia Bohanec, Trinity Dela Cruz, Phoebe Ho, Mia Moore-Walker, Jessica Powell, Emerson Tucker and the 105th Rose Queen Naomi Stillitano ride on the Rose Court float



Mayor of Pasadena, Victor Gordo, and his family rode down the parade route in a 1967 Crown Fire coach Triple Combination fire truck. The truck was first designated Engine 38 for the department and served Pasadena until 1985. It was decorated by FTD Flowers. All Photos by D.Lee/MVNews.

## Mills Place Alley History Recognized

Pasadena city officials are inviting the public to join the Human Relations Commission for a Plaque Installation Event at 3 p.m. Tuesday in Mills Place Alley in Old Pasadena.

The event is set to recognize two newly installed plaques that provide a historical background of the events that led to the fire of 1885 at Yuen Kee's Laundry and the impact to Chinese residents in the community.

The event is expected to be held outside at the site of the first plaque, adjacent to 33 W. Green Street. Attendees will hear remarks from city representatives, the Human Relations Commission and historical stakeholders. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Officials said temporary parking will be available, at a cost, adjacent to Mills Place Alley and in the parking structures in the Old Pasadena area.

For more information, or to RSVP, email Jane Whitmore at: [jwhitmore@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:jwhitmore@cityofpasadena.net) or call (626) 744-7295.

## Washington Park Community House Opening on Jan. 13



City of Pasadena officials announced Thursday that the grand opening of the Washington Park Community House will be Saturday, January 13 from 10 a.m. to noon. The new facility is set to provide an enhanced experience for the entire community and serve as a hub for various events and activities.

According to officials the new, approximately 2,000 square-foot Community House includes a multi-purpose room, kitchenette, gender-neutral restroom, storage room, accessible office for recreation staff, Wi-Fi, and outdoor gathering space. The park also features new outdoor restrooms.

"Washington Park has long been a cherished landmark in our city, fostering community engagement and providing a space for residents to come together," said Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Koko Panossian. "After months of planning

and renovation work, the Washington Park Community House is ready to unveil its new facilities, offering an array of amenities and opportunities for the community to enjoy."

The grand opening will feature a celebration filled with exciting activities for people of all ages. The festivities will commence at 10 a.m. with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony, where esteemed community leaders, local officials, and distinguished guests will come together to mark this amazing occasion. Following the ribbon-cutting, attendees will have the opportunity to tour the new Community House and experience its amenities. Attendees will enjoy program demonstrations, information booths, live music, arts and crafts, and more!

Washington Park is located at 700 E. Washington Blvd.

For more information, please call (626) 744-7330 or email [ParksAndRec@CityOfPasadena.net](mailto:ParksAndRec@CityOfPasadena.net).

## Cordova Complete Streets Project Finished

Pasadena officials announced that construction of the Cordova Street Complete Streets capital improvement project has been considered complete as of Tuesday.

This project installed 1.5-mile-long Class II buffered bike lanes on Cordova Street from Hill Avenue to Arroyo Parkway as well as street enhancements across all modes of travel. The new "complete streets" configuration consists of a travel lane and Class II bike lanes in each direction, a bi-directional left turn lane, parking on both sides of the street, and crosswalk curb extensions to reduce the pedestrian crossing distances at eight intersections.

The project also upgraded traffic signal equipment, including electrical conduits, controllers, cabinets, and fiber optic communication. In addition, video detection equipment was upgraded for improved bicycle detection and functionality. Roadway improvements included resurfacing of the pavement on Cordova Street, Hill Avenue to Arroyo Parkway, installation of 58 ADA-compliant curb ramps,

and repairs of damaged concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter within the project limits.

This project originated with the City's Department of Transportation (DOT) and was part of the Pasadena Bicycle Transportation Action Plan developed in 2015. Upon DOT's completion of the conceptual design, the City's Department of Public Works managed the project through the final design and construction phases. Community outreach and input were integral components of the design process during which stakeholders had multiple opportunities to comment and therefore shape the final product. Project design was completed in 2021, Pasadena City Council awarded the construction contract to California Professional Engineering, Inc. in August 2022, and construction began in March 2023. The successful completion of this project connects the City's major institutions, businesses, employment centers, and shopping areas via an enhanced roadway network available to all users.

For more information visit: [cityofpasadena.net](http://cityofpasadena.net).

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Mountain View News Saturday, January 6, 2024

## San Marino Upcoming Events & Programming

### Join us for the 2024 State of the City Address!

Join Mayor Steven Huang, DDS and the rest of City Council to reflect on the accomplishments and challenges of the last year, while looking ahead to the coming year's opportunities. The annual State of the City will be held on Tuesday, January 16 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Learn more at [www.CityofSanMarino.org/SOC2024](http://www.CityofSanMarino.org/SOC2024).

### Maker Mondays

Monday, January 8 at 3:30 PM, Barth Community Room  
Is your child a budding engineer or LEGO fanatic? Then join us for this new monthly STEM program where kids ages 4-11 will build unique and open-ended creations with a surprise material each time. Will it be LEGOs or KEVA planks? Straw builders or a marble run? Only one way to find out! Registration is not required.

### Smarter Living Series: What Real Estate Trends Are Coming Our Way in 2024?

Wednesday, January 10 at 1 PM, Barth Community Room  
In this free workshop, Darrell Done will help participants learn about how the real estate market has seen several shifts in the past 18 months. The focus of this lecture is to review 2023 residential real estate's results and project any trends to gain insight on what our real estate market for Spring of 2024 could bring. Registration is not required.

### Chinese Club Workshop

Thursday, January 11 at 10:30 AM, Barth Community Room  
In the spirit of cultural exchange and appreciation of diversity, educational development, and community service, the Chinese Club of San Marino holds monthly lectures and workshops. Registration is required.

### Caldecott Prediction Party (Ages 3+)

Thursday, January 11 at 3:30 PM, Barth Community Room  
Be a part of the biggest picture book award of the year! Kids ages 3+ are invited to a reading party to preview potential nominees for the American Library Association's Caldecott award. Cozy up, discover some great new titles from the best picture books of 2023, and vote for your favorite! Can you guess which one will win the Caldecott on January 22? Registration is recommended.

### Coffee Connections

Weekly on Monday and Wednesday starting January 15 from 8 - 9 AM, San Marino Community Center, MPR 3

Come spend your mornings with neighbors, friends, and a hot cup of coffee at the newly renovated Community Center! Free coffee will be provided. Stay for a variety of organized activities like bingo, chair volleyball, and lectures beginning at 9 AM. This program is for active adults ages 55+. Registration is required.

### Crowell Public Library Open House

Saturday, January 27 from 12 - 4 PM, Crowell Public Library  
Join us for the annual Open House event! Explore the Library, learn about the services we offer, and participate in a variety of entertainment and crafts! This event is free and open to the public. Be sure to join us at 1 PM in the Barth Community Room for introductions and remarks from the Mayor, recognition of Community Partner of the Year: Chinese Club of San Marino, and announcement of the San Marino Public Library Foundation's Bookmark Contest winners and acknowledgement of sponsors. Registration is not required.

### Street Sweeping Schedule

In keeping with the City Council's priority of well-maintained infrastructure, the Parks and Public Works Department works with Athens Services to ensure that the City receives comprehensive street sweeping services. Frequent street sweeping not only improves the appearance of the streets, but also prevents unwanted materials from flowing into storm drains, keeps job sites clean, and helps minimize tire damage. Residents can visit the Street Sweeping page on the City's website for more information on the street sweeping schedule for their neighborhood.

### City Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers and Zoom (Public Access)

### Public Safety Commission

Monday, January 15 at 6:00 PM; City Hall Council Chambers and Zoom (Public Access)

## This Year's Rose Parade 'Celebrating a World of Music'



La Cañada Flintridge first celebrated the new year with the Rose Parade in 1979. The city's float this year titled, "Flower Power," is the 45th float in the city's history. Peace and love never go out-of-fashion as the music of the literal floral band, Flower Power, represents an all-encompassing tribute to the thousands who have made joyful noise throughout the years. The band made of strawflower, stative, iris petals and roses rides on the back end of a cutaway school bus. Morgan, the determined red rose, drives the performing band in an iconic hippie bus painted to represent that of the 1967 Summer of Love. Lead guitarist, Sean the Sunflower, and Slick Stix, the daisy drummer, keep the beat for this rocking group. Husband and wife team, Jack Mack and Paula Sam, provide the inspired vocals of the willow snapdragon and swaying iris. A miniature "group-bee" bus made from a former soap box derby shell and electric skateboard motors leads the way with two "group-bees" proudly named by the Gant family: 'Beeyounce' and Taylor 'You Beelong With Mee' Swift. The float explores the 1960s era of music culminating in the hope of a more peaceful and joyful world.



La Cañada Flintridge "group-bees"



The Los Hermanos Banuelos Charro Team of Altadena was founded in 1995 by a group of brothers and friends from the state of Zacatecas Mexico. The riders wore authentic, custom-made Charro suits accompanied by their custom "HB" logo. This was their 15th appearance in the parade since they were first invited in 2006.

All Photos by D.Lee/MVNews

## Volunteer Needed for Homeless Count

The Homeless Count sets in motion a year full of education, engagement & action for the Pasadena Partnership. Each year, volunteers help count people experiencing homelessness living on the streets of Pasadena during one night in the last ten days of January.

Volunteers will be sent in teams of 3-4 to an assigned zone on the night of January 23 (8:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.) and the morning of January 24 (6:00 a.m.- 8:00 a.m.) to help count and administer a survey to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. The same teams go out together in the evening and the morning. Volunteers should be 18+ and are asked to attend an online orientation to prepare for the Count on January 16, 2024. The volunteer registration deadline is January 5, 2024.

The annual homeless count helps inform the state of homelessness in Pasadena, helps advocate for vital community resources and engages directly with our neighbors experiencing homelessness. This year we will assemble cold weather kits to hand out during the survey.

All volunteers can sign up at: [pasadenapartnership.org](http://pasadenapartnership.org).

Volunteers are the backbone of ensuring the Count is a success and is carried out effectively and comprehensively. For questions, contact: [info@pasadenapartnership.org](mailto:info@pasadenapartnership.org).



The Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band has marched in the Rose Parade since 1930 and proudly claims the name "The Official Band of the Tournament of Roses." Comprising current PCC Lancer Marching Band members and select high school music students from throughout Southern California. The group dressed in red military-style jackets with the iconic Tournament of Roses logo on their left chest, white pants, white shoes and red shako with white plumes. . . More than 500 high school music students auditioned for the 225 spots in the band. They also perform for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Royal Court Announcement ceremony.



Founded in Pasadena on Arroyo Parkway in 1967, Trader Joe's transformed grocery shopping into a welcoming journey of discovery and fun. The iconic Trader Joe's shopping bag overflows with an abundance of fresh produce on their float "a one, a two, a one-two three Broccoli!" A choir made up of broccoli and eggplant harmonizes with carrots in vibrant shades of purple, orange and green, forming a colorful melody.



Kindness is Free Powered by Boys & Girls Clubs began as a local initiative through the Boys & Girls Clubs of West San Gabriel Valley & Eastside. Boys & Girls Clubs parade float champions the "Kindness is Free" movement, with more than 30 parade walkers carrying flags that read, "KINDNESS IS FREE." The float reminded viewers that there is no such thing as a small act of kindness as demonstrated by a loving and whimsical elephant leading with his heart and offering shelter to a sweet mouse. The elephant was decorated with blue, purple, and pink stative, his ears with lavender mums, toenails and tusk with sesame seed, and the lei around his neck is made up of hot pink carnations and orchids. The nearly six-foot-tall mouse was decorated with lettuce seed, Spanish moss, corn husk and onion seed. Kindness is Free Powered by Boys and Girls Clubs wants to bring awareness and call on others across the nation to join them in promoting kindness. Visit: [kindnessisfree.org](http://kindnessisfree.org) to join the movement and pledge for a kinder world.

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



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Net proceeds are used for the continued enhancement of the Community Room and the Library.

## JANUARY EVENTS AROUND TOWN

Brought to you by Sue Cook



### January 1 Tournament of Roses "Celebrating a World of Music: The Universal Language"

Experience the beauty of floral floats along with spirited marching bands and high-stepping equestrian units. The parade begins at 8:00 a.m. at the corner of Green St. and Orange Grove Blvd.

### 110th Rose Bowl Game

Watch as No.4 Alabama takes on No.1 Michigan. Enjoy tailgating, Rose Court appearances and more. A free and open to the public fan fest begins at 8:00 a.m. Kickoff is at 2:10 p.m.

### January 6 Kids' Cupcake Wars at Saute Culinary Academy

Bring the kids in for Saute's own version of Cupcake Wars! 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### Goat Yoga at The Arboretum with Hello Critter

Enjoy communing with gentle goats as you engage in yoga. Bring your love for animals and a sense of humor. 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.

### The Art Deco Architecture of the Playhouse District

Explore Art Deco in this historic district in the heart of Pasadena. Notable landmarks include the Scottish Rite Temple, United Artist Theatre, and the Warner building. 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

### January 11 2nd Thursday Bare Root Rose Talk and Sale at the Huntington

Join Tom Carruth, Rose Collections curator, as he discusses rose varieties available at this year's sale. 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### January 13 Flower Arranging: Tropical Winter White Flowers at The Huntington

Join Flower Duet for a hands-on flower arranging class inspired by The Huntington's Jungle Garden. Two sessions are offered: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., and "Bring a Buddy" 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

### La Verne Heritage Foundation Orange Picking

A great family outing! Pick your own oranges. The Country Store and Weber House will be open from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for your shopping and touring enjoyment.

### January 15 Kingdom Day Parade 2024, "Can't Stop, Won't Stop, Going to the Promised Land"

The world's largest and longest running life celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King steps off at the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and S. Western Avenue. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### January 20 Camellia Tour at Descanso Gardens

Learn about Descanso's historic camellia collections and hear stories about the varieties in bloom. 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### January 27 Pasadena Symphony and Pops at Ambassador Auditorium

Kensho Watanabe conducts the orchestra in performances of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 "Emperor", Kodaly's "Dances of Galánta", and Jessica Hunt's "Climb". 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

### Big Bad Voodoo Daddy at The Arcadia Performing Arts Center

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy brings their lively jazz and swing music to the beautiful Arcadia Performing Arts Center. 8:00 p.m.

### January 28 Pasadena Comic Con at the Pasadena Convention Center

This pop culture event for all ages features panels, celebrity guests and more.

### Ongoing Events

**January 1, 2  
Floatfest: A Rose Parade Showcase**  
Head to Sierra Madre and Washington Boulevards in Pasadena and enjoy a walk within a few feet of the magnificent Rose Parade Floats.

**January 17 - February 11  
The Pasadena Playhouse presents "Kate"**  
In this widely celebrated one-woman show, comedian Kate Berlant explores events of her life.

**January 21 - 27  
Cheeseburger Week**  
Pasadena celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of the cheeseburger in Pasadena. Use your Cheeseburger Passport to win you prizes, take the Cheeseburger Challenge, and go on a Cheeseburger Crawl.

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## MONROVIA NEWS:

### 1111 Encino New Park Name Recommendation



As many of you may know, the community was gifted a piece of land behind the new Chik-fil-A and Star-bucks near 1111 Encino. City Officials would like to give a special 'thank you' to the Hale Corporation and, specifically, Dick Hale, for the land donation to be used as our newest City Park.

Last Fall, the City Council solicited names for the park (as part of our Facility Naming Policy), and we received 19 difference recommendations. Several focused on honoring Asian Americans for their contributions to Monrovia, and for many of our local history buffs, the name Satoru Tsuneishi stood out for many reasons including being the first Asian American to graduate from Monrovia Arcadia Duarte High School (image above: far left in second row from top).

He ran a fruit stand and farmed strawberries before World War II along Historic Route 66 and four of his sons served in WWII when the remainder of his family were sent to Japanese internment camps. Upon their return, they resided next to Louis and Lucinda Garcia! By the 80s, he was invited to participate in the Monrovia Days Parade as the oldest living graduate from MAD High School.

Staff will be recommending the park be named Satoru Tsuneishi Park as way to honor him, his family and the countless Asian Americans who have contributed so much to our City's culture, history and quality of life. Per our Facility Naming Policy, staff will present their recommendation to the Community Services Commission on Tuesday, January 9, and a recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for consideration at their meeting on Tuesday, January 16th.

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## DUARTE SELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP



Mayor Vinh Truong

At the Duarte City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 12, the Council hosted its annual reorganization and selected Vinh Truong, District 2, to represent Duarte as Mayor and Cesar A. Garcia, District 6, as Mayor Pro Tem.

"General Colin Powell once said 'Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers who can cut through argument, debate, and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand.' Everybody does deserve an opportunity, but when we sit here on this dias, that opportunity is for our constituents and our residents, not for us. I believe that is who I am and who I will continue to be." said newly appointed Mayor Vinh Truong. "Not only do I have all of Duarte to represent but I have to represent my kids and my wife at home."



Mayor Pro Tem Cesar A. Garcia

Vinh Truong's family migrated from Vietnam to the United States in the late 1970s and settled in Duarte in 1985. He has held a seat on the Duarte Economic Development Commission and served as a board member of the Santa Anita Family YMCA. In 2019, Mayor Truong was appointed to Duarte's Financial Advisory Task Force, which allowed him to learn about the City's financial condition and engrain in him the value of economic growth. He is a team player and leader and looks forward to building a solid foundation and stable city for the next generation in Duarte.

Cesar A. Garcia was appointed by the City Council to fill the District 6 vacancy in December 2021. Mayor Pro Tem Garcia was raised in the City of Duarte and his family has lived in Duarte for over 27 years. His positive experiences beginning at a young age in the City of Duarte inspired him to give back to Duarte's unique community. He cares deeply about the City of Duarte and its residents, including its youth, seniors, and families. He values teamwork and strives to serve the community with confidence, pride, respect, and re-sponsibility.

"To be able to sit here with the rest of my colleagues is truly a full circle moment for me. I always knew I would continue to serve my community but I never thought at this capacity," said newly appointed Mayor Pro Tem Cesar A. Garcia. "The greatest lesson my family ever taught me was how to serve others. It feels really good to be serving this community because of my family's history with Duarte. My grandparents bought their first home here, my parents met at Mike's Food, and this is also where I met my wife. I am humbled and will continue to serve this community in any capacity."

A representative from the office of Senator Susan Rubio presented Councilmember Jody Schulz with certificates from Senator Susan Rubio and Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio thanking her for her service as Duarte's Mayor.

"This has been a tremendous honor and one of the most profound things I've done professionally," said Councilmember Jody Schulz. "The amount that I've learned about myself, others, government, the residents and the connections I've been able to make with the residents in the community is something I'll cherish forever."

Councilmember Schulz further expressed her gratitude to her husband, Gunther, and her daughter, Isabel, who is the reason she initially ran for office and continues to be her inspiration. She stated, "The most fulfilling and proudest part of serving is having my daughter by my side and flourishing in the public arena, as a person with autism, who has grown tremendously being at the fore-front of events in the City with her mother as Mayor. It has been such a blessing, and I'm very grateful that I had this opportunity to share with her. I'm incredibly grateful for my husband and for all the support my family has received from people in the community as well as my colleagues and City staff."

For additional information about the Duarte City Council, please visit the Duarte City website or contact the City Manager's Office at (626) 357-7931.

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We all know restaurant locations throughout Sierra Madre and Pasadena that seem to turn over every fall. I have heard the word “cursed” used for several locations many times. For instance, the location on the corner of San Gabriel and Colorado seems to be one that is cursed for sure – it started as the Vault, then it became Rio Rio, then Ta Vu, and then a sushi joint (which I actually loved because the prices were right). Now I understand it is now Kabuki, a well-established sushi chain with a location in Old Pasadena. Well, I love sushi so let’s see what happens. For another “cursed” location, remember Jerry’s Famous Deli in Old Pasadena? Let’s name all the restaurants that went through that location: Union Cattle Company, Pasadena Brewing, Brix, Haven Gastro Pub... and it started as a gym!

When interviewing existing owners, they often point the fingers at the landlords saying the rents are too high. The excitement and the confidence of “I’ll do it better” might be too strong of a lure for restaurateurs to handle. I was bewildered that El Chollo moved from Fair Oaks (Old John Bull) to the Paseo. As the building sat empty for a few years, I thought isn’t some rent better than no rent at all? Celebrity Chef Rocco said on his TV show that the mortality rate for restaurants is 90% the first year. My father said he’d rather have open heart surgery than own a restaurant.

Let’s look at this fact: the survival rate is higher than 10%, and these numbers are not specific to our area. Several years ago, researchers at Cornell University and Michigan State University conducted a study of restaurants in three local markets over a 10-year period. They concluded the following: after the first year, 27% of restaurant startups failed; after three years, 50% of those restaurants were no longer in business; and after five years 60% had gone south. At the end of 10 years, 70% of the restaurants that had opened for business a decade before had failed. Those are far different numbers than the 90% first-year failure rate quoted by our television star chef. Another academic research study concluded that 81.4% of all small business failures result from forces within the control of the owners/managers. The bottom line is that even if the failure rate is a little daunting, failure is not inevitable.

Join me on my award winning podcast. Simply search Peter Dills

Writers Note: Il Fornaio has closed as well as Kabuki in Old Pasadena. Panda Inn has temporarily closed and The Derby in Arcadia has plans to renovate.

## ALL THINGS By Jeff Brown Health Advantage of Eating Vegetarian

Eating a vegetarian diet can offer several health advantages. Keep in mind that individual responses to different diets vary, and it’s essential to ensure proper nutrition. Here are some potential health benefits associated with a vegetarian diet:

**Heart Health:** Vegetarian diets are often associated with lower levels of saturated fats and cholesterol, leading to a reduced risk of heart disease.

**Weight Management:** A well-balanced vegetarian diet may contribute to weight management, as it tends to be lower in calories and saturated fats while being rich in fiber and nutrients.

**Blood Pressure Control:** Plant-based diets, especially those rich in fruits and vegetables, may help lower blood pressure due to their potassium and magnesium content.

**Reduced Risk of Type 2 Diabetes:** Some studies suggest that a vegetarian diet may reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, possibly due to improved insulin sensitivity and lower body weight.

**Cancer Prevention:** Certain plant-based foods, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, contain antioxidants and phytochemicals that may help protect against certain types of cancer.

**Digestive Health:** A vegetarian diet, especially one high in fiber from fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, can promote digestive health and regular bowel movements.

**Lower Risk of Chronic Diseases:** Vegetarian diets have been linked to a lower risk of various chronic diseases, including certain types of cancers, cardiovascular diseases, and hypertension.

**Improved Longevity:** Some studies suggest that a vegetarian lifestyle may be associated with increased life expectancy.

**Environmental Sustainability:** While not a direct health benefit, choosing a vegetarian diet is often considered more environmentally sustainable and may contribute to reducing the world’s carbon footprint.

It’s important to note that while a vegetarian diet can provide numerous health benefits, it’s crucial to plan it well to ensure you get all the essential nutrients, including protein, iron, calcium, vitamin B12, and omega-3 fatty acids.

Consulting with a healthcare professional or a registered dietitian can help create a balanced vegetarian meal plan tailored to individual needs and preferences.



## As Residents Return to School and Work After Holidays, Public Health Encourages Testing to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission

With higher COVID-19 transmission levels in Los Angeles County – along with other respiratory viruses – and many residents returning to school and work after the holidays, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is encouraging residents to test if they have COVID-19 symptoms to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Free at-home COVID-19 tests remain readily available throughout Los Angeles County at libraries, from many community-based organizations, food banks and senior centers, through the federal government by mail and at retail pharmacies with a California health insurance plan. Most at-home tests can be safely used past the expiration date on the box. For more information on how to check home test expiration dates and how to get free COVID-19 tests, visit [ph.lacounty.gov/COVIDtests](http://ph.lacounty.gov/COVIDtests).

People who test positive for COVID-19, especially those with underlying risk factors, should talk to a health care provider right away about COVID-19 medications. Taking an oral antiviral, such as Paxlovid, can prevent people from becoming very sick, help them feel better sooner and lower their risks of developing Long COVID. Treatment should begin within five days of testing positive or developing symptoms of COVID-19. Medications are widely available by prescription at retail pharmacies and Public Health locations throughout Los Angeles County. For a telehealth appointment or help getting a prescription for COVID-19 medication, residents are urged to contact the Public Health InfoLine at 1-833-540-0473. It’s open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

People with respiratory illness symptoms who test negative for COVID-19 should consider masking indoors around others to avoid spreading another respiratory infection, such as flu or RSV. If symptoms continue, re-testing 48 hours later for COVID is recommended. People who are at high risk of severe illness from respiratory viruses who have tested negative for COVID-19 should talk to their health care provider about getting tested and treated for influenza. Antiviral treatments for influenza are most effective when started early in the course of illness. As with all illness, people with trouble breathing, worsening or unusual symptoms or with chronic health conditions should speak with a health care provider.

Los Angeles County’s COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level, as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), last week reached Medium Level. Based on the Los Angeles County Health Officer Order posted on December 27, 2023, when the COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level in Los Angeles County meets or exceeds the CDC’s Medium Level, all healthcare personnel, regardless of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination status, in Licensed Healthcare Facilities that provide Inpatient Care are required to mask while in contact with patients or working in patient-care areas. In addition, all persons visiting a Licensed Healthcare Facility that provides Inpatient Care are required to mask when around patients and while in patient-care areas. Licensed Healthcare Facilities that provide Inpatient Care are defined as:

- General Acute Care Hospitals
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (including Subacute Facilities)
- Intermediate Care Facilities
- Congregate Living Health Facilities
- Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals
- Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
- Hospice Facilities

Masking in these facilities will remain in effect until the COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level in Los Angeles County is below the CDC’s Medium Level for at least 14 consecutive days. As of data posted by CDC last Friday, the hospital admission rate for Los Angeles County is 10.5 new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 people for data through Dec. 23.

Public Health is reporting an average of 542 cases per day, which is a slight decline from the 621 cases per day reported last week. However, there was a lower number of reportable tests conducted for the most recent week, likely influenced by the holidays. Case counts are also an undercount due to the large number of home test results that are not reported.

In Los Angeles County, the average number of COVID-positive hospitalized patients per day increased to 783 from 690 the previous week.

One of the best ways to lower the risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 is by getting the updated vaccine that became available in September 2023. At least one dose of the updated COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for every-one six months and older. The new vaccine is formulated to provide protection against currently circulating COVID-19 strains and increase immunity from prior vaccination or infection that may have decreased over time. Find a vaccination site at [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov).

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



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**Happy Holidays!**



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# 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@acslions.com  
Principal: Cindy Harmon  
website: www.acslions.com

**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 Siy

**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

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

**Odyssey Charter School**  
725 W. Altadena Dr. Altadena, Ca. 91001  
(626) 836-2947 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

**Duarte Unified School District**  
1620 Huntington Dr., Duarte, Ca. 91010  
(626) 599-5000  
Website: www.duarte.k12.ca.us

# ADMISSIONS FAIR



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- Meet the Teachers and Staff
- Learn about our Technology, Spanish, Music and Art Curriculum
- Speak to our Student Council about extra-curricular activities they are involved in.

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JANUARY 21, 2024

**OPEN AT**  
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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**RSVP:**  
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Our New Year's resolution is to...



# Newspaper Fun!

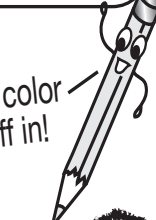
www.readingclubfun.com



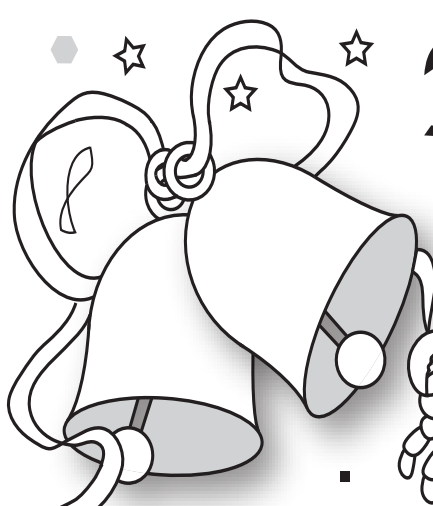
...let the younger kids play with us too!



Kids: color stuff in!



# Ring in the New Year!



Okay, okay! So you caught me ringing the bells to wish everyone a joyful New Year.

Get with the program already and get this puzzle done!

**Family Fun:**

4. watch a \_\_\_\_\_ game on T.V.
6. decorate house with streamers and \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the night away with your friends and family
10. serve favorite \_\_\_\_\_
11. visit with your \_\_\_\_\_ and friends
12. play \_\_\_\_\_ to dance the night away
13. make and keep \_\_\_\_\_ to do something better in the new year
14. \_\_\_\_\_ to health, wealth, and good luck
16. cheer with \_\_\_\_\_ and horns
17. \_\_\_\_\_ up new calendars

**Community Fun:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ falling from the sky
2. \_\_\_\_\_ exploding in the air
3. \_\_\_\_\_ with lots of \_\_\_\_\_ food and dancing
5. \_\_\_\_\_ playing Auld Lang Syne
8. line the streets to watch the \_\_\_\_\_
9. attend special \_\_\_\_\_ services
15. warm and bright \_\_\_\_\_ blazing
18. \_\_\_\_\_ ring in the New Year
19. glowing \_\_\_\_\_ drops at midnight
20. \_\_\_\_\_ entertain with beautiful music

How will you be ringing in the new year? Will you have a small, quiet family celebration or a large party with friends and neighbors? Some people wait for midnight to strike while munching on treats at home. Others love going out to a restaurant to eat and listen to a live band. They enjoy the crowds and noise.

hanging party bagpipers



bonfires family 2 3

toast 1

ball 5

balloons 6

fireworks refreshments music

confetti 15

resolutions 14

noisemakers 16

religious 17

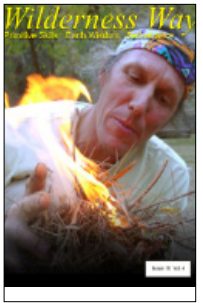
orchestras 18

bells 19

football 20

parade

**CHRISTOPHER Nyerges** [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]



[Nyerges is the author of "Urban Survival Guide," and other books. More information at www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com]

**TEACHING FOR 50 YEARS  
NYERGES REFLECTS ON HIS TEACHING  
CAREER, BEGINNING IN JANUARY 1974**

My interest in wild foods arose from my childhood interest in hiking and exploring the Angeles National Forest. At first, I was a backpacker who disliked carrying canned foods, but who loved the outdoors. Wherever I went, I wanted to know about the plants and wildlife that resided there. And I wanted to know the history of the early peoples who re-sided there. By middle school, I had an encounter with another hiker in the mountains who explained to me and my hiking partner how he learned about wild foods from Northern California native peoples. Really? I exclaimed. What people? What plants? Are the plants still here? The man pointed out mustard and miners lettuce and pine needles before he hiked away. And I could not get this idea out of my mind.



Nyerges, right, in January 1974, conducting his first wild food outing in the forest.

My studies then opened a new world to me. In an overcrowded world of over-development, I learned that native peoples once exclusively resided where I lived, and they got everything from the land: Food, medicine, shelter, tools, clothing.

My studies rapidly took me down the path of botany and biology and ethnobotany. There was no looking back. I realized that all our man-made problems are mostly due to our disrespect for the environment, and our greedy desire to extract more from nature than what is ecologically possible.

I pursued botany in the urban areas, in the mountains, deserts, beaches, in Mexico, and in Ohio when I lived on my grandfather's farm. In botany, I found a positive solution to most of our problems. By my mid-teens, I was no longer pursuing this from a fear perspective, but rather from the perspective of the excitement of re-discovering the living legacy of native America.

I read every book on the subject I could get my hands on. I made friends with native Americans near me. And I started writing my first book. I would hitchhike up and down the west coast, supplementing my diet with wild foods. I would go into the local mountains to test myself, living off wild foods for a week or a weekend at a time

By 1974, I was asked to lead a wild food walk for a local non profit, WTI, based in the Highland Park section of Los Angeles. I wasn't sure I could do it. I had just turned 19, and thought that there had to be far more qualified people out there. But I said yes. The founder of the non-profit, Richard White, tutored me in how to be a good teacher.

The outing was advertised in the local papers, and 100 people showed up one January morning in 1974 at the entrance to the Angeles National Forest in Altadena. We walked along the stream, and I identified native and non-native plants. We collected greens along the way. We walked two miles up the canyon to a campground, with perhaps 70 of the hikers still with us, and there we made a salad and soup, and there were a few side les-sons on such things as dowsing and fire-making.

It was a wonderful class, and I learned some important lessons about teaching and learning to respond to students' questions.

It was a long day, and there were only 12 of us left in the end. And it started my lifelong professional interest in teaching ethnobotany, and all the other related skills.

With a few exceptions, I led field trips just about every weekend since then, many of which were overnights. I taught hundreds of classes through the local colleges, and gave more lectures than I remember. There was no internet back then, but every local newspaper and nearly every local radio and tv station eventually interviewed me about the wild food foraging walks I conducted. Interestingly, there was a lot of ridicule in the beginning, though that is now a thing of the past.

I had the good fortune to meet and study with botanist Dr. Leonid Enari, who taught at the L.A. County Arboretum. Big among my influencers was Euell Gibbons, author of "Stalking the Wild Asparagus" and promoter of Post Grape Nuts. I only met him once.

Over the years, I have travelled throughout the United States teaching these skills. I was very busy during Y2K. I appeared on Huell Howser's popular show, and I consulted for dozens of TV shows, including Naked and Afraid, and Doomsday Preppers. And as of today, I have written 27 books, mostly on wild foods and self-reliance topics.

One of the greatest benefits has been meeting so many outstanding people in the course of teaching perhaps upwards of 50,000 students.

Fifty years of teaching foraging and self-reliance has been quite a roller coaster. I look forward to the next 50 years!~

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**Katnip News!** THANK YOU!

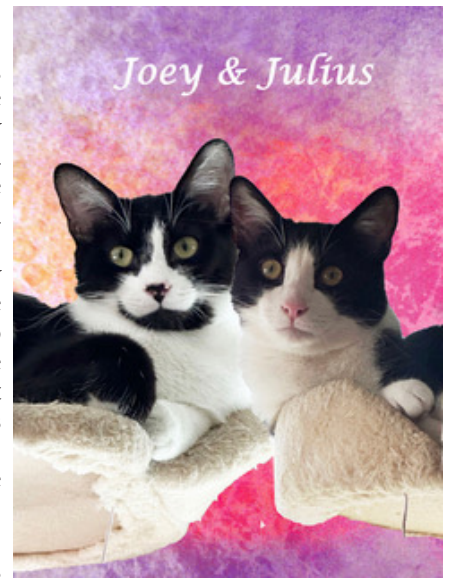


We, at Lifeline for Pets, are so thankful to have your readership every week, to show you the beautiful pets we care for until we find them a loving home.

We feature a variety of ages, colors, and purr-sonalities. All of these precious souls, like Joey & Julius here, give us so much joy. We are privileged to be able to care for them, and we hope you enjoy reading about them and will think of us when you are considering adopting a new feline family member.



Please visit our website, at [www.lifelineforpets.org](http://www.lifelineforpets.org), or use the QR code, to see more and learn more about us. We wish you all the best in the new year. Happy "Mew" Year!



**Pet of the Week**

If you're looking for a fun companion to ring in the New Year, look no further than Rusty! This adorable guy is ready for everything from a long hike to a quiet snuggle on the couch watching the ball drop.

Rusty is about four years old and has a lot of exuberant, playful energy. He loves playing in the yard with his favorite squeaky toy, a purple octopus. He happily chases it around with it in his mouth-showing off that he's retrieved it. He seems to forget the part about throwing it so he can chase it again.

When he gets in the right mood, he rolls over onto his back and will hold the toy in his front paws to get a back scratch while still playing. He's quite resourceful!

We suspect that Rusty is already housetrained, and has also been working on training cues like "sit", "down", "touch" and "shake". Rusty is ready to learn more with you today! 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. Limited same-day appointments are available during weekend Visiting Hours. Check website for times.

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



**WHAT? NO MONEY?**  
**Broken Chains?**  
**Rings Without Stones?**  
**Silver Spoons, Plates?**  
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10 DAY NOTICE  
  
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PROTOCOL**

*SMPD responds appropriately to bear calls when:*

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- 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.

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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.

**ARE YOU AT RISK OF DEVELOPING GLAUCOMA?**

Dear Savvy Senior:

What can you tell me about the eye disease glaucoma? My older brother was recently diagnosed with it and lost some of his vision, but never had a clue anything was wrong. Could I be at risk too?  
Stressed Sibling

Dear Stressed:

Yes! Having an immediate family member with glaucoma significantly increases your risks of developing it, but there are other risk factors you need to be aware of too. Here's what you should know.

**What is Glaucoma?**

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can damage the optic nerve and cause vision loss and blindness if it's not treated. This typically happens because the fluids in the eye don't drain properly, causing increased pressure in the eyeball.

But the scary thing about glaucoma is that with no early warning signs or pain, most people that have it don't realize it until their vision begins to deteriorate.

While there are two main types of glaucoma, the most common form that typically affects older adults is called open-angle glaucoma. This disease develops very slowly when the eye's drainage canals become clogged over time, leading to blind spots in the peripheral or side vision. By the time you notice it, the permanent damage is already done.

**Are You at Risk?**

It's estimated that more than 3 million Americans have glaucoma today, but that number is expected to surge to more than 6.3 million by 2050. If you answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you're at increased risk of developing it.

- Are you African American, Hispanic/Latino American or Asian American?
- Are you over age 60?
- Do you have an immediate family member with glaucoma?
- Do you have diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, migraines or have extreme nearsightedness or farsightedness?



Have you had a past eye injury?

Have you used corticosteroids (for example, eye drops, pills, inhalers, and creams) for long periods of time?

What to Do

Early detection is the key to guarding against glaucoma. So, if you're age 40 or older and have any of the previously mentioned risk factors, especially if you're African American, you need to get a comprehensive eye examination every 18 to 24 months. Or, if you notice some loss of peripheral vision, get to the eye doctor right away.

If you're a Medicare beneficiary, annual eye examinations are covered for those at high risk for glaucoma. Or if you don't have vision coverage, contact EyeCare America, a national public service program that provides free glaucoma eye exams through a pool of more than 4,600 volunteer ophthalmologists. Visit [AAO.org/eyecare-america](http://AAO.org/eyecare-america) or call 877-887-6327 to learn more.

While there's currently no cure for glaucoma, most cases can be treated with prescription eye drops, which reduce eye pressure and can prevent further vision loss. It cannot, however, restore vision already lost from glaucoma. If eye drops don't work, your doctor may recommend oral medication, laser treatments, incisional surgery or a combination of these methods.

For more information on glaucoma, visit the National Eye Institute at [NEI.nih.gov](http://NEI.nih.gov), and the Glaucoma Research Foundation at [Glaucoma.org](http://Glaucoma.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! ...JANUARY BIRTHDAYS\***



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

**DECEMBER SENIOR MOMENTS**

**HART PARK HOUSE SENIOR CENTER**

222 W. SIERRA MADRE BLVD.  
626-355-5278  
MONDAY-THURSDAY  
7:30AM-5:30PM

THE HART PARK HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2023  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024

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**

**FITNESS FOR LIFE**

**DIETS VS. HEALTHY EATING**

Have you vowed to move more and eat better this year? If you're among the many aiming for a healthier lifestyle, understanding the interplay between exercise and diet is crucial for effective weight loss and long-term wellness. But the question remains: what is a truly "healthy diet"? In a world where new diets emerge regularly, distinguishing helpful advice from passing fads is essential.

**Finding the Right Diet: Is It a Quick Fix or a Lifestyle Change**

Selecting a diet that's safe, effective, and sustainable involves discerning between quick fixes and long-term lifestyle changes. Diets promising rapid results often don't provide sustainable solutions and can be extremely restrictive. It's vital to avoid diets that eliminate entire food groups or excessively focus on high-fat intake, as these can lead to long-term health issues like heart disease. Your body requires a balanced intake of nutrients, including carbohydrates for energy. Diets severely restricting carbs can lead to an imbalance, hindering proteins from performing their critical functions in building hair, nails, tendons, and hormones.

**Understanding Macronutrients: The Role of Carbs, Proteins, and Fats**

Each macronutrient plays a unique role in maintaining your body's health. Carbohydrates are the primary energy source for your brain and body. Proteins are crucial for repair and growth, while fats are essential for hormone production and cell health. A balanced diet should include an appropriate mix of these macronutrients to ensure optimal body function.

**The Pitfalls of Trendy Diets**

Trendy diets like Paleo, Keto, Atkins, Slimfast, and the Raw Food diet often don't meet these balanced nutrition criteria. They might offer short-term weight loss but maintaining these restrictive diets over time is challenging and often leads to weight regain.

**The Influence of Celebrity Endorsements on Diet Trends**

Celebrity endorsements of diets can be a double-edged sword. While they can raise awareness about certain health trends, they often don't provide a complete picture. Celebrities might have access to personal chefs, nutritionists, and trainers, making it easier for them to follow these diets, which is not the case for the average person. Furthermore, these endorsements can sometimes promote unrealistic standards and overlook the importance of a balanced, sustainable diet that suits individual health needs and lifestyles.

**The Yo-Yo Effect: Why It's Harmful**

The harmful impact of yo-yo dieting extends beyond temporary weight fluctuations. This pattern of rapid weight loss followed by gain can lead to a slowdown in metabolism, meaning your body burns fewer calories at rest. Additionally, the quick loss of weight often results in muscle breakdown, which can compromise your overall strength and health. The emotional consequences are also significant, as this cycle can damage emotional well-being,



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: [michellesfitness](https://www.facebook.com/michellesfitness).

fostering feelings of failure and a poor self-image. Furthermore, the repetitive nature of such diets can lead to nutritional deficiencies and a weakened immune function, posing longer-term health risks.

**Embracing Plant-Based Eating**

Consider plant-based diets like the Mediterranean, DASH, vegetarian, and vegan. These diets are rich in nutrients, heart-healthy, and beneficial for managing diabetes and maintaining strong bones and joints. Their balance and variety make them easier to maintain than more restrictive diets.

**Visualize Your Plate**

What does your typical meal look like? A nutritious plate is vibrant, filled with colorful fruits and vegetables. Each color represents different nutrients and health benefits. Green vegetables are packed with vitamins, bright reds and oranges in fruits and vegetables offer antioxidants. Plates dominated by brown and gray shades often lack this nutritional variety.

**Understanding Weight Loss**

To lose one pound, you need to burn about 3,500 calories more than you consume. Aiming to lose one to two pounds per week is a healthy and achievable goal. This means creating a daily calorie deficit of around 500 to 1,000 calories through diet and exercise.

**Creating Lifelong Eating Habits**

When adopting a new eating plan, ask yourself: Is this a change I can maintain for life? Will it aid gradual weight loss and disease prevention? Start with small, manageable steps, like increasing fruit intake, choosing whole grains, and reducing calorie-dense, nutrient-poor foods. These changes, though small at first, can lead to significant improvements in your health and well-being.

**Combining Diet with Exercise**

Integrating dietary changes with your exercise routine maximizes the effectiveness of your efforts. Exercise not only burns calories but also builds muscle, which can increase your resting metabolic rate. A combination of cardio, strength training, and a balanced diet is the most effective approach to achieving and maintaining a healthy weight.

Get started today. If you still feel like you need help taking the first steps contact me via my email or Facebook page.



**OUT TO PASTOR**  
A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder

**WHAT'S NEW ABOUT A NEW YEAR?**

On New Year's Eve, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were celebrating in our living room with some hot apple cider.

We wanted to end the year together. At our age, with so many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, that's a tough agenda. We love all our family, but sometimes it is just good to be by ourselves.

As we were sipping our hot apple cider, we heard the roar of firecrackers around our neighborhood. We listened to it and chuckled as we leaned back in our chairs, enjoying the time together.

I must confess that this past year was filled with all kinds of things. It is hard to define what a "thing" is these days. Time, however, has a way of bouncing along without any indication of stopping.

As we were coming to the end of our hot apple cider, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked over at me and said, "Happy New Year." How she said it caused me to believe she was anticipating a "New Year."

Even though it's another year, I still am who I am, so I looked at her and said very seriously, "What's so new about this coming New Year?"

I surprised her, and she did not understand what I was saying. She looked at me and said, "Well, it will be 2024 and not 2023. I'm sure you can see how that's new?"

I took a deep sip of my hot apple cider, looked at her and said, "I've looked at the calendar for the year 2024 and all of the months are the same as they were in 2023. Every month has the same seven week days and each of those days have 24 hours. What in the world is new about that?"

She looked at me as though I was a bit crazy, and I must say, she is never wrong.

Of course, she did know how to respond to my question. "Maybe, just maybe this New Year will be the year that you get a little bit mature."

I was a little confused because I didn't quite know what she was talking about. I thought about what she said and responded, "I'm as mature as I ever want to be."

I couldn't help but think of the time we went out to a restaurant to celebrate my last birthday. As we finished our meal, she looked at me and said, "So, how does it feel to be old?" Without thinking, which is my MO, I reached across the table, took hold of her upper arm, gently squeezed it, looked at her, and said, "Old is feeling just fine."

As I remember that incident, she wasn't laughing.

Then, I did one of the dumbest things I have done throughout my life. I looked at her and said, "What do you think I need to do to improve my maturity?"

I think she set me up for that question. "Well," she said with one of her infamous grins, "maybe you could improve your listening ability this New Year. You just don't listen when I say things and I have to repeat them over and over again." "What did you say?" I asked.

"That's exactly what I mean. You may hear what I'm saying but you don't listen to what I am saying. Maybe this year you could practice listening a little more."

I almost asked, but I didn't, what she would recommend that I do to practice listening. I'm sure she had an agenda there. She was not finished.

"Also, you could improve your memory. You forget so many things and I have to remind you of them all the time. Maybe you could do something to improve that part of your maturity."

Those two things would take up my whole year, and I would have no time to do anything else. I was so afraid she would have a number three on her list.

Then it came, "And thirdly, maybe you could do something about your snoring at night. You snore so loud every night that sometimes it wakes me up."

I'm not sure how I can do all three things in one year, but that was the recommendation from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

As I sat in my chair sipping some hot apple cider, I thought about these things, and then, she had something else to say.

"And there's another thing you could do," she said with a very serious perspective in her voice, "you could tell me some things I need to do to improve my maturity."

That caught me by surprise, I didn't see it coming. How I respond to her statement will determine how happy my life will be in this next New Year.

I just looked at her, smiled, and said, "My dear, you are the most perfect person I know, and I could never think of anything that you need to do that would improve your maturity." She just looked at me and smiled.

It's not very often that I get out of a mess, but I think I got out of this one. Let's see how long this lasts.

Thinking on this, I thought of Ecclesiastes 1:9; "The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."

What more can be said?

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PUBLISHER/ EDITOR Susan Henderson

PASADENA CITY EDITOR Dean Lee

PRODUCTION

SALES

Patricia Colonello 626-355-2737 626-818-2698

WEBMASTER John Avery

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CONTRIBUTORS

- Stuart Tolchin, Harvey Hyde, Audrey Swanson, Meghan Malooley, Mary Lou Caldwell, Kevin McGuire, Chris Leclerc, Dinah Chong Watkins, Howard Hays, Paul Carpenter, Kim Clymer-Kelley, Christopher Nyerges, Peter Dills, Rich Johnson, Lori Ann Harris, Rev. James Snyder, Katie Hopkins, Deanne Davis, Despina Arouzman, Jeff Brown, Marc Garlett, Keely Toten, Dan Golden, Rebecca Wright, Hail Hamilton, Joan Schmidt, LaQuetta ShambleE

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Mountain Views News 80 W. Sierra Madre Bl. #327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Phone: 626-355-2737 Fax: 626-609-3285 email: mtnviewsnews@aol.com



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STUART TOLCHIN PUT THE LIGHTS ON OPTIMISM



Surprise! This is intended to be an optimistic article. This morning I wrote an already too long article which attempted to answer two questions. 1). What is the next year going to be like? 2). What are the causes of antisemitism and what can be done about it?

You must agree that these are pretty difficult questions and, though I tried, I was unable to come up with answers that came close to satisfying myself. After writing the article my wife and I at about noon departed to the Santa Anita mall in order to see the 2023 version of Color Purple. I knew little about the film and did not even realize that it was a musical. All I knew was that a film by the same name was a very effective picture that starred Whoopie Goldberg about 40 years ago.

The movie began with a bunch of jumping around consistent with most musicals and then, at almost the very beginning, there appeared Whoopie as an aged midwife assisting in the birth of a main character. This appearance was a complete surprise to me as I was unaware that she was in the film and at the end she was completely uncredited. After I got home I looked up the movie on the web and learned that Whoopie's appearance had been kept a big secret and I felt gratified that I was now in on the secret that she was engaged in giving birth to the new movie.

Actually, I enjoyed the movie and learned some things. Throughout the movie the Black men completely mistreated and brutalized the women over whom they had power. I thought more about the importance of ending the suppression of women which I had always taken for granted.

When I went to UCLA Law School there were absolutely no women or any people of color in the School. Frankly I never thought much about it as I was much more concerned about avoiding the draft. Perhaps I am exaggerating a bit, but like everyone else I think, personal concerns generally trump everything else.

During the film there is great emphasis on the Christian religion. I am a person of Jewish heritage who is a life-long atheist with no religious training and very little familiarity with the importance of religious ritual or religious belief. As the film progressed and the lives of the characters were filled with horrible conditions I began to understand the importance of religious belief to its adherents. Their understanding of the world depended on their belief in God and a specific God at that. Without that belief they are at the mercy of circumstances, often very difficult circumstances. People who don't believe in their religion or their God threaten everything and understandably can become hated.

This realization gave me a glimmer of understanding about the fierceness of anti-semitic excesses. People are willing to kill and even to die to protect their feelings. To you this may seem surprising but to me who has always considered all religions as a kind of myth designed to keep control of a population I began to understand. I believe that religious fervor is connected with fear, the fear of a world with no clear rules. If you live by these rules and learn that there really are no rules you must face your own ignorance and who wants that?

At this moment I believe that as the world is faced with even more immediate problems like the climate crisis all of us will have to rethink everything about how we lead our lives. Maybe some will believe that global destruction is inevitable or simply part of God's will and will refuse to look at their own behavior. Maybe they'll blame the Jews but I don't think so. Right now I am optimistic enough to believe that a kind of global sanity will prevail and that the personal concern for our own survival together with the concern for the survival of future generations will be a huge wake-up call.

Perhaps my optimistic belief is also a kind of nonsense but right now I feel pretty good thinking about tomorrow which is a big change for me. How about you?

DINAH CHONG WATKINS CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WRONG KIND WHAT'S IN A NAME



BREAKING NEWS: Reports of luggage thefts are on the rise at baggage carousels in major airports across the nation. Airport security on the look-out for lurking bystanders that brazenly steal luggage right under the noses of their owners.

Louis Vuitton, Tumi, Rimowa, luggage brands that shout "Take me! Even if there's only crackers and soiled underwear inside, I'm still worth it!"

Branding. We started at polo shirts with embroidered crocodiles, moved on to Tommy Hilfiger, Abercrombie & Fitch, Air Jordan's and graduated to Gucci, Dior, and Versace. Now with social media, all that's you is questioned by the hoi polloi through the lens of "authenticity, transparency, and values-driven". People want to know "What is your brand?"

So embellishments creep into our everyday lives, ordinary people too, not just journalists, wannabes and politicians, although some in the hallowed ranks above have gone as far as to mix up their mother's tribulations at 9-11 to a nighttime run at a 7-11.

But equally lazy and judgmental, we like to have obvious sign posts to tell us about the strangers we meet. Is that a Kirkland Signature Active Jogger set he's wearing or a Loro Piana Baby Cashmere sweat suit? Does her cell phone fold up and when open displays a seamless screen across both sides or does it just flip open? What is she wearing? Where does he live? What do they do? Like ranchers and their cattle, we've been branding each other since the days of Cain and Abel.

When I was living in Asia, American products were hard to come by and three times as expensive if you could find it. Twice a year I'd fly back and my first stop was Kmart, a precursor to Target but without the eye-catching, data driven, customer forward touches. Kmart offered all that Target does but under buzzing, seizure-inducing fluorescent lights, linoleum floors, and basic metal and peg racks. Attention Kmart shoppers, this is paradise!

Family members would tease me about my loyal affinity to Kmart, "Try Sears," they said, "JC Penny has coupons" "Egads!" I replied, "I live in the Hills of the Ten Thousand Coal Ash Pots not Beverly Hills."

Besides, why wear clothing with someone else's name on it? Of course, there are innumerable and unarguable situations when identifying your tribe through your clothing is admirable, sensible even. Wearing your school colors, cheering on your sports teams, bonding at work and most importantly, prisoners on the lam - a common sense justification for those eye-catching zebra stripes.

I rarely buy for the namesake except when it comes to function. For twenty years I flew across the Pacific with my red polypropylene clamshell, Samsonite hard-side, its scars from feckless baggage handlers and luggage-eating conveyor belts proudly displayed along with a half-torn 90's era sticker, "Aloha Waikiki". Faithful, dependable, and most importantly, overlooked by would-be thieves, it practically screamed "Only crackers and holey underwear in here."

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

RICH JOHNSON NOW THAT'S RICH

24



Well, here we are in the first week of the year 2024. What do we really know about the number 24? Let's take a look...

For those of you with analytical minds, 24 is an even composite number with 2 and 3 as its distinct prime factors. Are you with me? I have no idea what I just wrote.

24 is the atomic number of chromium. Oh, and the NBA shot clock is set at 24 seconds. That ought to mean something. 24 karats represents 100% pure gold. Four and twenty is the number of blackbirds baked in a pie in the English nursery rhyme "Sing a Song of Sixpence". That's how they referred to 24 in merry old England.

1924: 100 years ago in 1924, IBM and MGM both went into business. J. Edgar Hoover also went into business as the head of the FBI. In the high tech world spiral bound notebooks were invented in 1924. Speaking of high tech and spiral bound, astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered the spiral nebula Andromeda in 1924. Johnson and Johnson (dang it...no relation) began mass producing Band-Aids in

1924.. Kleenex made it to the public this year.

1824: The toy balloon and Portland cement (the kind of cement most used) were pretty much all that was invented in 1824.

1724: A German physicist named Gabriel Fahrenheit is credited for inventing the mercury thermometer which used mercury liquid to measure temperature in thermometers. I think they named something after him.

1624: Cornelius van Drebbel constructed a leather covered submersible rowboat. It could travel for hours 15 feet beneath the surface and is considered the first submarine.

How about famous people at 24? What were they doing? Jeff Bezos, (current net worth \$171 Billion) founder of Amazon was working the grill at McDonalds. He said they never let him work the cash register. I guess he was not good with money lol! Mark Cuban, (current net worth \$6 billion) at 24 was living with 5 other guys in a three-bedroom apartment.

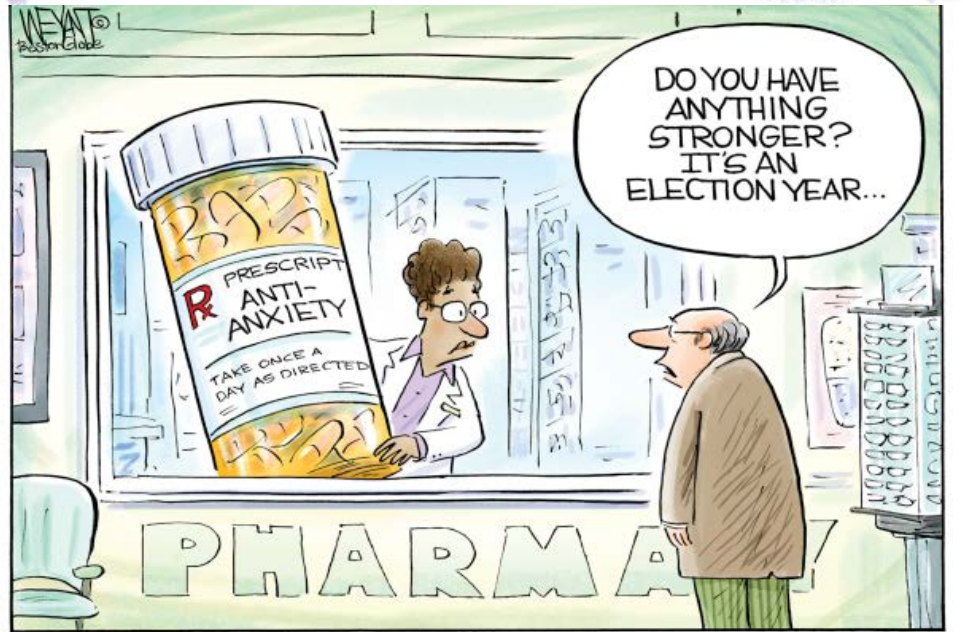
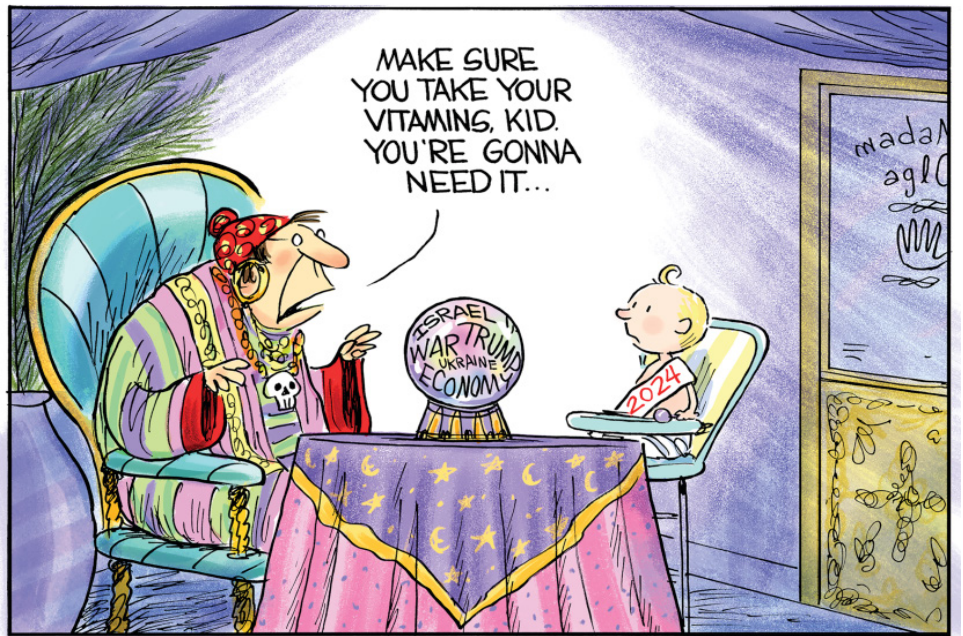
Ralph Lauren (current net worth \$8 billion) at age 24 went from the army to working at Brooks Brothers suits. He said his most important decision at that age was changing his name. It wasn't always Ralph Lauren. He was born Ralph Lifshitz. If you take a close look you will see a vulgar four letter word in the middle of his last name, which is why he changed his last name. (Of course, I ain't really big on the name "Ralph" either).

J.K. Rowling (current net worth \$1 billion) was a secretary in the London office of Amnesty International in 1990 when she got the inspiration for a story about young Harry Potter. Her focus on her book writing got her fired from her job. So, she got married, divorced, had a child, lost her mom, and was diagnosed with clinical depression living in relative poverty. By the way, Harry Potter was rejected by at least twelve publishers. Ms. Rowling is currently the richest author in the world.

Finally, Oprah Winfrey (current net worth \$2.8 billion) was fired around age 24 from her job doing the 6:00pm news at WJZ New in Baltimore. Shortly thereafter Oprah switched to a talk show on the same channel and discovered her niche. The rest is history.

Why not make 2024 your breakthrough year. Think outside the box. Start tinkering in your garage and who knows. You might be the Cornelius van Drebbel for 2024 and invent something like sprayable cheese, or the mankini.

Who knows...you might become as famous as Gary Dahl, who in 1975 became a millionaire as the father of the short lived but profitable "Pet Rock" craze.







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**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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