

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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# Mountain Views News

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

VOLUME 20 NO. 1

HELLO FELLOW SIERRA  
MADREANS, WELCOME  
TO 2026!



As I step into this new role as Mayor, I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve the town that has shaped every part of who I am. I was born and raised right here, and that lifelong connection gives me not only perspective, but a profound sense of responsibility to our community.

My roots in this City run deep. I grew up alongside Sierra Madre's civic life, tagging along to the fire station with my father, Fire Chief Roger Lowe. My brothers and I, along with my partner, Dan Bell, all worked for the City in different capacities. My mother, Scarlett Lowe, served our community as a Sunday School teacher at the Church of the Ascension. Like so many of you, I grew up roaming our safe streets—walking to school, riding bikes, and later appreciating the rare gift of living in a town where you can still walk home at night feeling secure. Sierra Madre isn't just where I live; it is part of my heart and soul.

Our family has had five generations in Sierra Madre, beginning with my great-grandmother Ann Lowe. Dan's family story is equally woven into the fabric of this town, through Mary's Market and generations of the Perkins family members who lived in the Canyon and still call it home. Many of us grew up together, stayed together, and welcomed new neighbors who became lifelong friends. That continuity is something truly special, and something I hope we preserve for generations to come.

Service has always been central to my life. I proudly retired as a Fire Captain from the Sierra Madre Volunteer Fire Department after more than 17 years responding to emergencies locally and across the state. I've also served on the Community Foundation, Pioneer Cemetery Board, and Gooden School Board. I'm always a hands-on neighbor. If you need assistance, volunteers or need to borrow anything, I will show up or do whatever I can to figure out how to help and support you.

My family also taught me the importance of breaking barriers. We are the first Chinese American Family in the Pasadena/Altadena area and we opened Lowes Furniture, one of the first businesses to hire and promote under-represented personnel. I was the first female acolyte at Ascension Church, then the first female Fire Captain in the San Gabriel Valley, and now serving as Sierra Madre's first Asian Mayor, I am reminded that progress matters—especially when it opens doors for others.

Looking ahead, I know 2026 will not be easy. The challenges of recent years have tested us, but I believe in learning from the past, listening to our community, relying on data and expertise, and working collaboratively to find thoughtful solutions. My priority is to protect what makes Sierra Madre quaint, quirky, and extraordinary, while responsibly planning for a sustainable future.

Thank you for trusting me to lead. Together, we will continue to care for and protect the greatest little community in the world.

SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT  
ASSOCIATION DOES IT AGAIN!

'Pancake Breakfast' Wins Judges Award for "most outstanding float design and dramatic impact".



Photo by Dean Lee/MVN

For the 19th consecutive win, and the 94th entry into the Tournament of Roses parade, the all volunteer Sierra Madre Rose Float Association has won another honor. The design also pays tribute to the Sierra Madre Fire Department - 41. In addition to the SMRFA Princesses (only two are visible on the photo above, there is another Princess greeting the crowd on the other side. Also riding on the float were representing SMFD/Paramedics were Ryan Tormcello and Chris Bertrand and riding on the ladder was SMFD/Paramedic Jessica 'JJ' Johnson.

**Happy New Year!**



**Considering Selling  
Your Property in 2026?**

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**R**

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# Happy New Years, Sierra Madre!

Here's to new beginnings, fresh possibilities, and a year filled with joy.



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## 2 SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SIERRA MADRE ROSE FLOAT ASSOCIATION & VOLUNTEERS

Mountain Views News Saturday, January 3, 2026

Congratulations to the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association for another award winning float in the 2026 Tournament of Roses Parade. This year's entry, "Pancake Breakfast" won the Judges Award for the most outstanding float design and dramatic impact.

Congratulations are also due to our 2026 Princesses, Gianna Kretchmer, Homeschooled, Lacy Kong, California School of the Arts – SGV and Aubrey Lee-Ho, Flintridge Preparatory School Royal Court. This year's award is the SMRFA's 19th out of the last 20 floats entered in the Rose Parade. This year also represented the 94th self built entry by the Sierra Madre Rose Float Association. SMRFA first entered the Rose Parade in 1917!

### 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.
- 2025 - FIESTA! Golden State Award for the Most Outstanding Depiction of Life In California.
- 2026 - PANCAKE BREAKFAST Judge's Award - Most outstanding float design and dramatic impact

(No parade 2021 due to Covid-19)



What's a little rain when you're a Princess? Performing their 'royal' duties at the parade are Gianna Kretchmer, Homeschooled, Lacy Kong, California School of the Arts – SGV and Aubrey Lee-Ho, Flintridge Preparatory School Royal Court.

Photo by Dirk Bolle.

### SM ROSE FLOAT VOLUNTEERS HARD AT WORK!



Shortly after the celebrations of another Award are over, work will begin on the development of the 2027 Parade Entry. Shortly after the announcement of the 2027 theme by the Tournament of Roses, the work will begin on the next Sierra Madre entry. According to the SMRFA President Barb Bevington, from the dismanteling and restoration of the chassis after this year's entry returns to the barn, to the contest for 2027 SM entry theme, volunteers will be busy with no time to spare. Want to volunteer and/or learn more about the association? Go to: <https://sierramadrerosefloat.org/about>

Above: Volunteers diligently at work a few days before the big event. Photo courtesy Sue Wheeler



The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society  
Presents



## The Rebuilding of the Mount Wilson Trail

Monday, January 5, 6 p.m.

Hart Park House at Memorial Park



Erin Stone/LAist

Our speaker will be

## Bob Spears

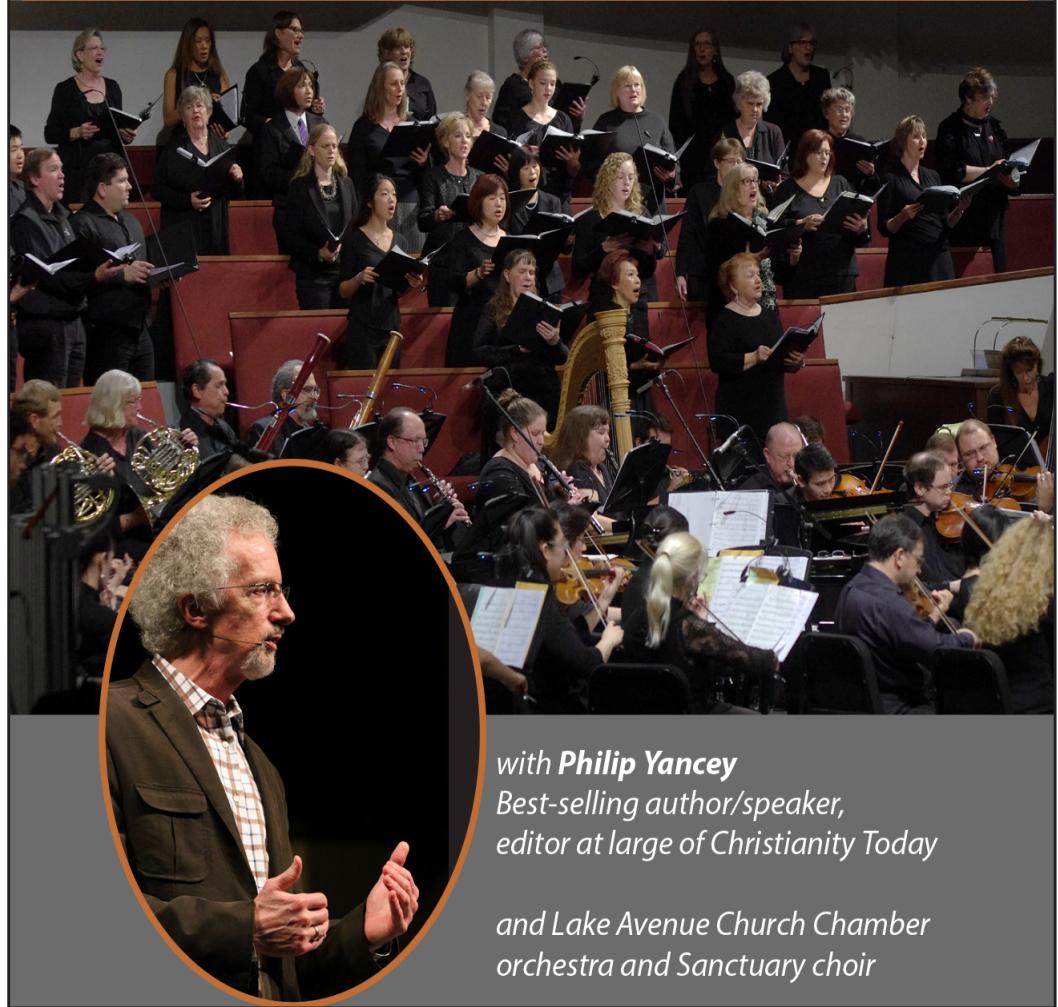
Lead trail maintenance volunteer for the trail

Free admission • Refreshments will be served

## Songs of REMEMBRANCE

A service to commemorate the first anniversary of the Altadena fire

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 • 7:30 pm • Worship Center



with Philip Yancey  
Best-selling author/speaker,  
editor at large of Christianity Today

and Lake Avenue Church Chamber  
orchestra and Sanctuary choir



## FINNIGAN - A SIERRA MADRE HERO PASSES

Dec. 7, 2014-Dec. 7, 2025

Finn known by many people in town. Always gave 100% love to everyone he met. Several years ago, Finnigan was named a Sierra Madre Hero for his heroic rescue of three young girls, their dog and father at nearby dog park in Pasadena.

Finn, a large white boxer rescue, on numerous occasions has played the role of diffusing attacks by bully aggressive dogs and smaller submissive ones, very skillfully without any of the parties involved getting injured. This time around was scary and the potential of escalating into serious injury or worse.

As the family was entering the park, with youngest daughter leading their dog in, a ferocious very large Doberman went on the attack with no provocation at all. Finn and his owner, Gary, were approximately two feet away waiting to exit when Finn instinctively went into action. With lightning speed, Finn got between the Dobie and the girls attached to their dog. Finn and the Dobie, both standing up on hind legs like two bears fighting paw to paw head to head. Finn managed to dodge face bites and pushed the Dobie down while owner got control and left immediately.

All this left the rest of us literally speechless. Nobody was injured. In retrospect, I just want to say, city officials just don't make up rules and regulations for the heck of it. They are there to protect every person and dogs everywhere.

Thank you Finn for your service and may you have fun in Doggie Heaven!

## UNCONSCIENTABLE THEFT SHOCKS SIERRA MADRE

Sometime after December 21 and December 27, 2025 the figurine of the infant Jesus was stolen from our downtown Nativity Scene. This is the 3rd time in last 20 years He was stolen.

Father Michael Bamberger pastor of Church of the Ascension is keeper of the statue during the year and then, on the Sunday before Christmas, as part of the Annual Candlelight Walk, the Baby Jesus is carried down Baldwin and placed in manger.

There are 6 different Churches involved, plus the City plus our Sierra Madre City College, and our Sierra Madre Events Committee.

If people are interested in donating to replace our Baby Jesus, please donate to [www.sierramadreevents.org](http://www.sierramadreevents.org), a non-profit 501c3!!

# NEIGHBORS & HEROES

## EATON FIRE COMMEMORATION 2026

10 JAN, 2026 | 9-11 am

**Sierra Madre Fire Department**  
242 W Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

\*Coffee and treats will be available for all attendees

SierraMadreFireSafe.org  
@smfsc91024  
gavinsmfsc@icloud.com

Join Our 118 YEAR OLD  
**Sierra Madre Woman's Club**  
A community of individuals who empower one another

## Happy New Year

Start Your 2026 New Year Right!  
Join us for Our  
Wednesday, 1/14/26, 11 am Meeting  
Enjoy Lorie Clause  
As She Shares Camino de Santiago Highlights!  
Lunch RSVP by 1/11/25 (\$18) to (626)-355-6225  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

@sierra\_madre\_womans\_club  
[sierramadrewomansclub.org](http://sierramadrewomansclub.org) (Since 1907)

## WISTARIA THRIFT SHOP RE-OPENS 10 am, Mon., 1/5/26

Thank You for Holding Your  
Wonderful, Quality, Gently-Used Items  
Until We Reopened 1/5.  
To Volunteer at Shop: Join Sierra Madre Woman's Club  
**626-355-7739**  
@wistaria\_thrift\_shop  
[SierraMadreWomansClub.org](http://SierraMadreWomansClub.org)  
Shop proceeds support our  
Sierra Madre Woman's Club's Local Charities  
550 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024

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# SIERRA MADRE

SIERRA MADRE

ARCADIA

PASADENA

ALTADENA

MONROVIA

## Weather Wise

6-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.



Sun	Rain	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Mon:	Rain	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Tues:	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Wed:	Ptly Cldy	Hi	60s	Lows 40s
Thur:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 50s
Fri:	Sunny	Hi	60s	Lows 50s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service



## SIERRA MADRE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 6, 2026 5:30 pm

### 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

**December 29—January 3**

**December 29—January 2**

**Library Closed for Holiday—No Services**

**Saturday, January 3**

**Library hours— 10:00am—6:00pm**

**Saturday, January 31**

Last day library is open at 350 W. Sierra Madre Blvd

**February 2—May 31, 2026**

Library is closed for relocation

Read, Discover, Connect  
@ Sierra Madre Public Library  
350 W Sierra Madre Blvd.  
(626) 355-7186

## WALKING SIERRA MADRE: The Social Side

by Deanne Davis

*"Let 2026 be the year you grow, glow, and go after your dreams," "12 new chapters, 365 new chances," and may your dreams take flight and your goals come true in 2026".*

*"Leave behind worries and welcome 2026 with hope and confidence."*

*"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."*  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"Let our New Year's resolution be this: We will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity in the finest sense of the word."*  
Goran Persson

I had a terrible time this week trying to decide on a picture. I was considering one of the beautiful Christmas tree in Kersting Court, or my next-door neighbor, Sarah, standing in front of all their Christmas decorations, neatly boxed and stored in the garage, but decided that was too guilt inducing for most of us who haven't even started yet to put all that away. Again, it's so much fun to put them out and so not fun to pack them up again. But I digress. I was also considering an adorable picture of great-granddaughter, Olivia; she's the one looking with awe upon Santa's Band a few weeks ago. But then I decided on this picture of the hummingbird's nest outside granddaughter, Emily's, bedroom window. What could possibly be more hopeful and joyful than new life happening right before our very eyes.

As this column needs to get into Susan Henderson's hands – as you all know, she is the charming, delightful and extremely dear to me, Editor of the Mountain Views News – well before New Year's and the Rose Parade have occurred, I'm going to have to wait till next week to talk about that.

As far as New Year's Eve is concerned, I shall celebrate at home with a little champagne and possibly something from Lean Cuisine. Living the dream, friends and neighbors! The tempting offerings around town to celebrate out there are enticing, but not that enticing. When the children were small, John and I would drive down Colorado Blvd. on New Year's Eve to see what we could see of the floats. That was a lot of fun. Another good memory.

Speaking of floats, I'm so delighted with the theme of the Rose Parade this year, "The Magic in Teamwork." Our float, "Pancake Breakfast," designed by Marcus Pollitz, featuring firefighters pouring syrup from a fire hose onto giant pancakes, celebrates community collaboration and support for first responders. It's a perfect fit. Having experienced our Sierra Madre first responders several times during the last months of John's life, I am so happy to see them acknowledged.

As we wind up one year and stride resolutely into another, we are usually making 'resolutions.' In years past, we decided on stuff like losing ten pounds, getting more exercise, watching less TV, reading more, cleaning out various places in our home that are stuffed with stuff we really don't want any more. This year, instead of resolutions, let's call them possibilities or suggestions. I didn't write the following thoughts, they are anonymous, but I think they are very helpful:

1. I am not Atlas. The world does not rest on my shoulders.
2. It doesn't hurt me to give compliments freely and generously. Compliments are a mood enhancer, not only for the recipient, but for me, too. And if someone gives me a compliment, I have quit protesting that I didn't deserve it, I just say "thank you!"
3. I don't spend time with people who don't value me. We don't need people around us who don't see us for the splendid people we are. That person who says something mean and then covers it up with a hearty laugh and a "I was just kidding!" is not someone we need to be with.
4. I'm learning not to be embarrassed by emotions. I cry in most movies, lots of TV shows, and every Christmas movie is guaranteed to make me tear up. It's OK!
5. I am learning to live each day as though it were the last. It might be the last!
6. I am doing what makes me happy. I am the only one responsible for my happiness and I owe it to myself to do my best. In our family, we have always said that we bring our good time with us in our pocket and it's not somebody else's job to be sure we're happy. In short, this means if we want to put our pajamas on at 4:00, have a glass of wine and watch an old movie on Turner Classic Movies instead of the news, that's OK. Or if we want to keep them on all day, that's OK, too. Brushing teeth and flossing is a necessity, however, no matter how relaxed we plan to be.
7. Going the extra mile to be as nice as possible to all people who are out there working; store clerks, Post Office people, waitpersons in restaurants, is a good idea.
8. Just be kind. That's pretty much it.

You've all heard the idea of picking one word to be your New Year's intention or mission statement for the year. For the last few years, my word for the year has been HOPE! This year I'm choosing KIND.

"You cannot do kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." The 14th Dalai Lama

Happy New Year, dear friends of Walking Sierra Madre... The Social Side! 2026 is going to be a wonderful year, full of JOY, HOPE and, yes, KINDNESS. In a world where you can be anything you want to be...Be KIND!

My book page: Amazon.com: Deanne Davis "Star of Wonder" a delightful Christmas Kindle story, where four lonely people find love following a strange new star on Christmas Eve, is there. A nice love story is never a bad idea, even after Christmas!

SIP, SAVOR, AND SUPPORT THE SIERRA MADRE LIBRARY

Mark your calendar for an evening of great wine, delicious bites, and community spirit as the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library host their 51st Wine & Cuisine Tasting on Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

Set in the inviting surroundings of Baldwin Avenue Gallery (The BAG) at 12 N. Baldwin Avenue in the heart of Sierra Madre, the event will bring together wine enthusiasts, food lovers, and library supporters for a relaxed and flavorful night out. Guests can look forward to sampling a thoughtfully selected variety of wines paired with cuisine tastings in a gallery atmosphere that encourages conversation and connection.

More than just a social gathering, the Wine & Cuisine Tasting is an important fundraiser benefiting the Sierra Madre Library. Proceeds support programs, collections, and services that enhance learning, creativity, and access for residents of all ages.

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library is known for hosting events that blend culture and community, and this annual tasting continues that tradition, offering a perfect way to enjoy an evening out while supporting a cherished local institution.

Tickets will be available January 2026. For now, wine lovers and community supporters alike are encouraged to save the date for this special February 7th event.

All proceeds from this event will be donated to the Sierra Madre Public Library. Learn more about this and other fundraising events, and the programs these benefits support by following Friends of the Sierra Madre Public Library at our website: [www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org](http://www.sierramadrelibraryfriends.org).



# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Anniversary Event for the Eaton Canyon Fire

Join Altadena Libraries staff January 20, at the library main branch for the one-year anniversary of the Eaton Canyon Fire. You'll see poets, writers, and community members reflect on memory, healing, and rebuilding.

The event will run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Through storytelling, photos, video, poetry, and shared reflection, the event creates space for collective mourning, connection, and the quiet hope that glows even in the darkest seasons—symbolized by the winter starlight that has long illuminated Altadena's foothills. The evening underscores the vital role of arts and literature in healing and cultivating belonging.

### Participants:

- Nahshon Dion, Writer
- Florence Annang, Founder, THRIVE Learning Lab
- Hans Allhoff, Chair, Altadena Heritage
- Michele Zack, Historian & Writer
- Pablo Miralles, Filmmaker
- Heather Morrow, Artist
- Brandon Lamar, President, Pasadena NAACP
- Patricia Cunliffe, Filmmaker
- LZ Love, Singer & Songwriter
- Erica Slater, Altadena Community Garden
- Sunny Mills, Photographer
- Sam James, CEO & Co-Founder, Altadena Recovery Team (ART)
- Kristen Ochoa, Founder, Chaney Trail Corridor Project

Altadena Library main branch is located at 600 E. Mariposa Street.

For more information about the event visit: [altadenalibrary.org](http://altadenalibrary.org).

## Altadena Eaton Fire Benefit Concert

A benefit concert for the Altadena Builds Back Foundation is set to take place on the Wednesday, January 7, (the anniversary of the Eaton Fire) at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

The concert, at 6:30 p.m. (Doors open 5:30 p.m.) will feature a lineup including Dawes & Friends featuring Eric Krasno, Aloe Blacc, Jackson Browne, Brandon Flowers (The Killers), Judith Hill, Jenny Lewis, Mandy Moore, Brad Paisley, Stephen Stills, and performances by Ozomatli and Everclear, plus special guests.

All proceeds will be directed to the Pasadena Community Foundation's (PCF) Eaton Fire Relief & Recovery Fund, with funds raised through this event going specifically to PCF's supporting organization, the Altadena Builds Back Foundation.

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

Tickets are available at: [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).



## Cal Poly Rose Float Wins Sweepstakes Award

By Dean Lee

With a history of 77 Rose Floats built over the years by Cal Poly Pomona and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo students, Thursday's Rose Parade marked the first time the school had won the Sweepstakes Award, with "Jungle Jumpstart." Sweepstakes is awarded to most beautiful entry encompassing float design, floral presentation and entertainment.

Cal Poly Students have designed and built Rose Floats since 1949.

"This is the first time Cal Poly has ever done it," said Driver and Construction Chair Sean Hanna. "We're still in shock. I'm just so proud of this team and everything we've accomplished this year."

According to Cal Poly Department of Strategic Communications staff, to capture the parade's theme, "The Magic in Teamwork" the float highlights the dynamics between nature and technology through the story of the rainforest community coming

together to restore a robot friend utilizing what they know best — the jungle. The frog, monkey, giant jaguar, lemurs and a toucan use different their skills to work together in harmony to demonstrate what's possible when nature and technology combine efforts.

This year's float used a wide variety of materials to capture the mystery of the rainforest. Carnivorous plants, Astroemeria and Liatris were used to give the float splashes of vivid tropical colors.

The 40-foot-long robot, named Lunchbox, was decorated with a blend of Blue Corn Grits and Dusty Miller accented with patches of High Magic Roses that echo the jungle's lush palette of greens, reds and yellows. Lunchbox lifts up a macaw 25 feet into the air, helping it take flight.

Because of the rain, students said the float had to sit out getting wet for seven hours before being judged. They had been planning

and preparing all week.

"Our game plan right now, mostly all of our animals, we are going to make them little raincoats..." said Amelia Atwell, President of the Cal Poly Pomona float team on Monday. "We went out and got rolls of thin sheets of plastic. We're using cattail seeds and black moss, those are the things we are worried about."

Atwell also said they used coffee grounds on the tree stem and the branches of the float.

"We're afraid of making a brewed coffee river down the parade route," she joked.

Aubrey Goings, President of the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo float team, said every year they bring half the float down from San Luis Obispo early October to decorate.

"Some people think the float is cut directly in half but it is just the chassis that we bring down on a oversized flatbed truck. Then we are all working in the Pomona campus to build one big float together."

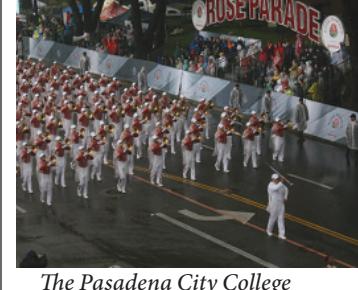
## Parade Entries Brave the Rain



The 2026 Rose Queen Serena Guo tried to stay dry with clear poncho over her dress. The Rose Court all did the same. Guo is a senior at Arcadia High School. The Rose Queen and Court have symbolized the heart of the Rose Parade on New Year's Day. They serve as ambassadors of the Tournament of Roses, the Pasadena community, and the greater Los Angeles area. Each Rose Court member received a \$7,500 educational scholarship from the Tournament of Roses.



Los Hermanos Banuelos Charro Team from Altadena (above) wearing authentic Charro suits custom-made for each individual, with their custom-made logo. The tack that they use is also custom-made with their logo stamped on the saddles and their silver spurs. The team's first invitation to the Rose Parade was in 2006 and since then, they have participated in 16 Rose Parades, and 7 EquestFests.



The Pasadena City College Tournament of Roses Honor Band (above) has marched in every Rose Parade since 1930. 2026 marks the band's 97th year associated with the Tournament of Roses.



Trader Joe's has been sailing the culinary seas since 1967 and started right in Pasadena just a few miles from the parade route. You Float Our Boat (above) is a 65 foot long Trader Joe's ship with real colored water-flowing from bottle into an exquisite glass with straw. The core of the bottle rotated 360 degrees. There were multiple fish on the deck bob and three fruit masts at the center rocked side to side and the Fearless Flyer wings flapped. Peddlers drove the mixers at rear of float.

Photos By D.Lee/MVNews

## Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day with JazzZone

Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the resilience of the Pasadena community at a special concert, January 17, with cool jazz group The JazzZone at the Pasadena Senior Center. The event runs from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"The JazzZone is the group who makes cool jazz sizzle, and their jazz, blues, and R&B will have everyone smiling and swaying," event organizers said. "Dancing is encouraged. The event will be indoors and open to all."

The JazzZone is continuing the legacy of Jimmie Owens, a legacy of musical genius. James Owens grew up in East St. Louis and began his career in music classes at Lincoln High School with his brother, Hilton Owens, and the young Miles Davis. In carrying on that legacy, The JazzZone believes that jazz and blues music is a powerful force that brings people together and inspires positive change.

The event is free for Pasadena Senior Center members and non-members, and reservations are suggested.

As a donor-supported nonprofit, the center operates without any local, state or federal funding and provides more services to older adults than any other organization in the San Gabriel Valley. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon.

To register or for more information, visit: [pasadenaseniorcenter.org](http://pasadenaseniorcenter.org) or call 626-795-4331.

## Mayor Gordo Rides with Guests in the Rose Parade



The group rode aboard a Rare and Historic 1937 American LaFrance Fire Engine.

Pasadena Mayor Victor Gordo, his wife Kelly, and their children Michael and Emma did not let Thursday's heavy rain detour them from riding with community leaders, including Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and residents whose courage, compassion, and service were essential during and after the Eaton Fire.

Riders included:

Barger, who stood shoulder to shoulder with the Pasadena and Altadena communities from the earliest moments of the Eaton fire. She helped align County resources with local needs, kept people, not process, at the center of the response, and championed access to recovery, mental health, and community services.

Through steady, compassionate leadership, she helped ensure survivors could move forward with dignity, hope, and the reassurance that they were not facing recovery alone.

Pasadena Firefighter/Paramedic Tony Zee, has served our community for more than twenty years and leads the Fire Department's Pasadena Outreach Response Team (PORT), which he helped establish in 2018 to provide compassionate, street-level care to residents facing chronic homelessness, mental health challenges, and other complex needs.

During the Eaton Fire, Tony was on medical leave while battling a cancer diagnosis. He did not have to show up, but he chose to. With calm, compassion, and purpose, he helped recruit and support City employees and community partners volunteering at the evacuation center, he coordinated care and resources for those affected, especially our most vulnerable and in need community members. His leadership reminded us that true service is about showing up for others, supporting one another, and bringing people together when it matters most.

Vicente Ramirez, a longtime Pasadena resident and day laborer, who volunteered in the days immediately following the Eaton Fire to clean streets and remove debris. His service reflects the vital contributions

of many community members from immigrant backgrounds who stepped forward, often quietly and without recognition, to help neighbors and support first responders during a time of crisis.

Kenneth "Kenny" James, a lifelong Pasadena and Altadena resident and a City of Pasadena employee for more than 25 years, currently serving as a Recreation Administrator with the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department. Kenny and his family lost their Altadena home to the fire, all while he was working tirelessly to help establish, support, and operate the City's evacuation and emergency operations for affected community members.

Malcolm Thomas, a decades-long City of Pasadena employee who currently serves as an Information Technology Support Specialist. Malcolm and his family also lost their beloved Altadena home to the Eaton Fire. And, like Mr. James, Malcolm continued to support critical emergency operations, providing essential IT support to first responders and City staff working around the clock to assist fire-affected residents.

"These are individuals who showed up when Pasadena needed them most," Gordo said. "They represent the very best of our community, people who led, served, and cared for others even as they faced profound personal hardship. This is the magic of teamwork."

The group was in a 1937 American LaFrance Fire Engine, a remarkable piece of American firefighting history. Founded in 1903, the American LaFrance Fire Engine Company manufactured only eight engines of this model, today, just two are known to exist.

After decades of service, the engine fell into disrepair and was eventually sold for scrap in 1960. When the Whyte family acquired it in 1989, it was in grave condition. Through countless hours of careful restoration, the engine was returned to its present, stunning state, a moving tribute to history, service, and preservation.

"This fire engine, like our community, has endured hardship and been restored through dedication and care," Mayor Gordo added. "It is a powerful symbol of the people riding aboard it, and of a city that moves forward together."

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## NEW IN 2026:

### California laws taking effect in the new year

What you need to know: Starting January 1, a new set of California laws will take effect, impacting health care, housing, workplaces, schools, technology, and corporate disclosure requirements.

#### SACRAMENTO

The new laws lower prescription drug costs, increase oversight of large corporations, strengthen consumer and worker protections, and protect California's diverse communities. At a time when the Trump administration is attacking our state, California is protecting its people.

California is proving once again that progress isn't something we talk about, it's something we build. While some in Washington remain stuck debating yesterday's problems, we're focused on delivering real solutions for today's families. These new laws reflect who we are: a state that protects workers, respects students, puts people before politics, and isn't afraid to hold powerful interests accountable. Governor Gavin Newsom

#### Education

##### Expanding mental health resources for LGBTQ youth

AB 727 (Gonzalez): Requires that student ID cards issued by public middle and high schools, and public colleges/universities include a 24/7 hotline for the Trevor Project. The hotline provides crisis and suicide prevention support to LGBTQ youth. It ensures state education agencies publish and maintain resources for students who face discrimination or harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

##### Ban on ultra-processed foods in schools

AB 1264 (Gabriel): California's first-in-the-nation law will remove the most concerning ultra-processed foods from being served at public schools, giving students healthier, real-food meals to improve nutrition and overall health.

##### Supporting student literacy

AB 1454 (Rivas): Provides educators and school leaders greater access to the tools, training, and resources needed to help students become better readers.

##### Streamlining college admissions

SB 640 (Cabaldon): Establishes a California State University (CSU) direct admissions process by notifying eligible high school students of automatic admission to participating CSU campuses. It also requires California Community Colleges to create programs that will support a smoother transfer for community college students to a four-year university.

#### Health

##### Alternative birth centers: licensing and Medi-Cal reimbursement

AB 55 (Bonta): Ensures that licensure of alternative birth centers is more accessible to midwives in California by amending or deleting onerous and unnecessary requirements.

##### State emergency food bank reserve program

AB 798 (Calderon): Expands the state emergency food bank program to include diapers and wipes for families with young children.

##### Midwifery Workforce Training Act

AB 836 (Stefani): Requires the Department of Health Care Access and Information to administer funding for a statewide midwifery education.

##### Capping insulin costs

SB 40 (Wahab and Wiener): Beginning January 1, 2026, large state-related health insurers must cap insulin copays at \$35 for a 20-day supply, improving affordability for Californians who rely on insulin.

##### Access to prenatal multivitamins

SB 646 (Weber-Pierson): Expands access to prenatal multivitamins to support healthy pregnancies and infant development.

##### Perinatal services in rural hospitals

SB 669 (McGuire): Requires, by July 1, 2026, the establishment of a 10-year pilot project within up to 5 critical access hospitals on an application basis to establish standby perinatal services.

#### Immigration

##### Students – know your rights

AB 419 (Connolly): Requires schools to post information about students' rights regarding immigration enforcement in administrative offices and on school websites, helping families understand that all children have the right to a free public education.

##### Family Preparedness Act

AB 495 (Rodriguez): Strengthens protections for parents and children by helping families in emergencies, protecting family privacy, and preventing child facilities from collecting immigration-related information, especially if a parent is detained or separated.

#### Housing

##### Protecting renters

AB 628 (McKinnor): Requires landlords to provide working refrigerators in rental units beginning January 1, ensuring tenants have access to essential appliances.

##### Transit-oriented housing development

SB 79 (Wiener): Requires each county and city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the development of the county or city, and specified land outside its boundaries, that contains certain mandatory elements, including a housing element.

##### Animal welfare

##### Statewide ban on cat declawing

AB 867 (Lee): Bans non-therapeutic cat declawing statewide. Only medically necessary procedures performed by a licensed veterinarian remain allowed.

##### Addressing the puppy mill pipeline

AB 506 (Bennett): Holds pet sellers accountable, requiring them to disclose the pet's origin and health information.

AB 519 (Berman): Prohibits third-party pet brokers, particularly online pet brokers, from selling cats, puppies, and rabbits bred by others for profit in California.

SB 312 (Umberg): requires dog importers to submit health certificates electronically to the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) within 10 days of shipment, and requires CDFA to provide those certificates upon request.

##### Workplace rights & protections

##### Supporting survivors of workplace sexual assault cover-ups

AB 250 (Aguilar-Curry): Temporarily lifts the statute of limitations for adult survivors of workplace-related sexual assault cover-ups. From January 1, 2026 through December 21, 2027, survivors may file civil claims regardless of when the incident occurred.

##### Strengthening equal pay enforcement

SB 642 (Limón): Expands California's equal pay laws by broadening key definitions, extending the statute of limitations to three years (with recovery for up to six years), and clarifying categories of unlawful pay practices.

##### Technology, AI safety & digital rights

##### Preventing AI from posing as licensed professionals

AB 489 (Bonta): Prohibits AI chatbots from presenting themselves as doctors, nurses, or other licensed professionals to increase transparency and prevent misrepresentation by AI chatbots.

##### Addressing artificially generated pornography

AB 621 (Bauer-Kahan and Berman): Strengthens protections against digital sexual exploitation by targeting the creation and distribution of AI-generated sexual content.

##### Risk-mitigation requirements for large AI companies

SB 53 (Wiener): Requires large AI developers to maintain documented risk-mitigation strategies to improve safety and transparency in the deployment of emerging technologies.

##### Safeguards for minors using AI chatbots

SB 243 (Padilla): Requires AI companies to include disclaimers that chatbots are not real people when used by minors and mandates safety protocols to prevent chatbots from encouraging self-harm.

##### Transparency in police reports drafted with AI

SB 524 (Arreguin): Requires law enforcement agencies to disclose when AI tools are used to draft official police reports.



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

**High Point Academy**  
1720 Kinneloa Canyon Road  
Pasadena, Ca. 91107  
Head of School: Gary Stern 626-798-8989  
website: [www.highpointacademy.org](http://www.highpointacademy.org)

**La Salle College Preparatory**  
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 351-8951 website: [www.lasallehs.org](http://www.lasallehs.org)  
Principal Ernest Siy

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

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

**Pasadena High School**  
2925 E. Sierra Madre Blvd. Pasadena, Ca.  
(626) 396-5880 Principal: Dr. Eric Barba  
website: <http://phs.pusd.us>

**St. Rita Catholic School**  
322 N. Baldwin Ave. Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Principal: Jon McMaster (626) 355-6114  
[mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org](mailto:mcmaster@st-ritaschool.org)  
Website: [www.st-ritaschool.org](http://www.st-ritaschool.org)

**Sierra Madre Elementary School**  
141 W. Highland Ave, Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
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Principal: Dr. Jodi Marchesso  
E-mail address: [marchesso.jodi@pusd.us](mailto: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](mailto:newsom.garrett@pusd.us)

**Walden School**  
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(626) 797-0204  
Lisa Feldman: Head of School

**Wilson Middle School**  
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**Pasadena Unified School District**  
351 S. Hudson Ave., Pasadena, Ca. 91109  
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(626) 821-8300 Website: [www.ausd.net](http://www.ausd.net)

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**Duarte Unified School District**  
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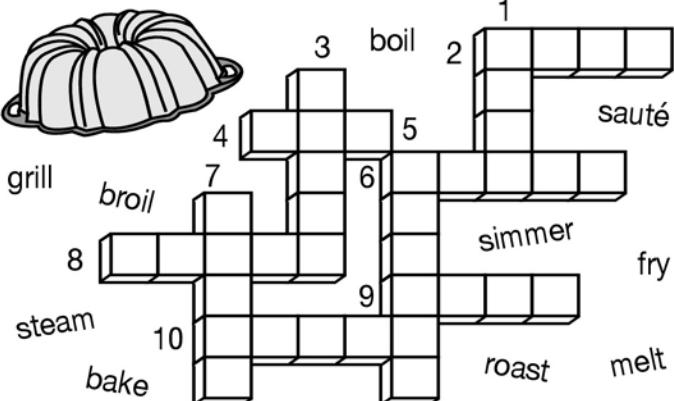
## Cooking and Baking Fun!



Can you  
read the  
clues to  
fill in my puzzles  
about cooking?

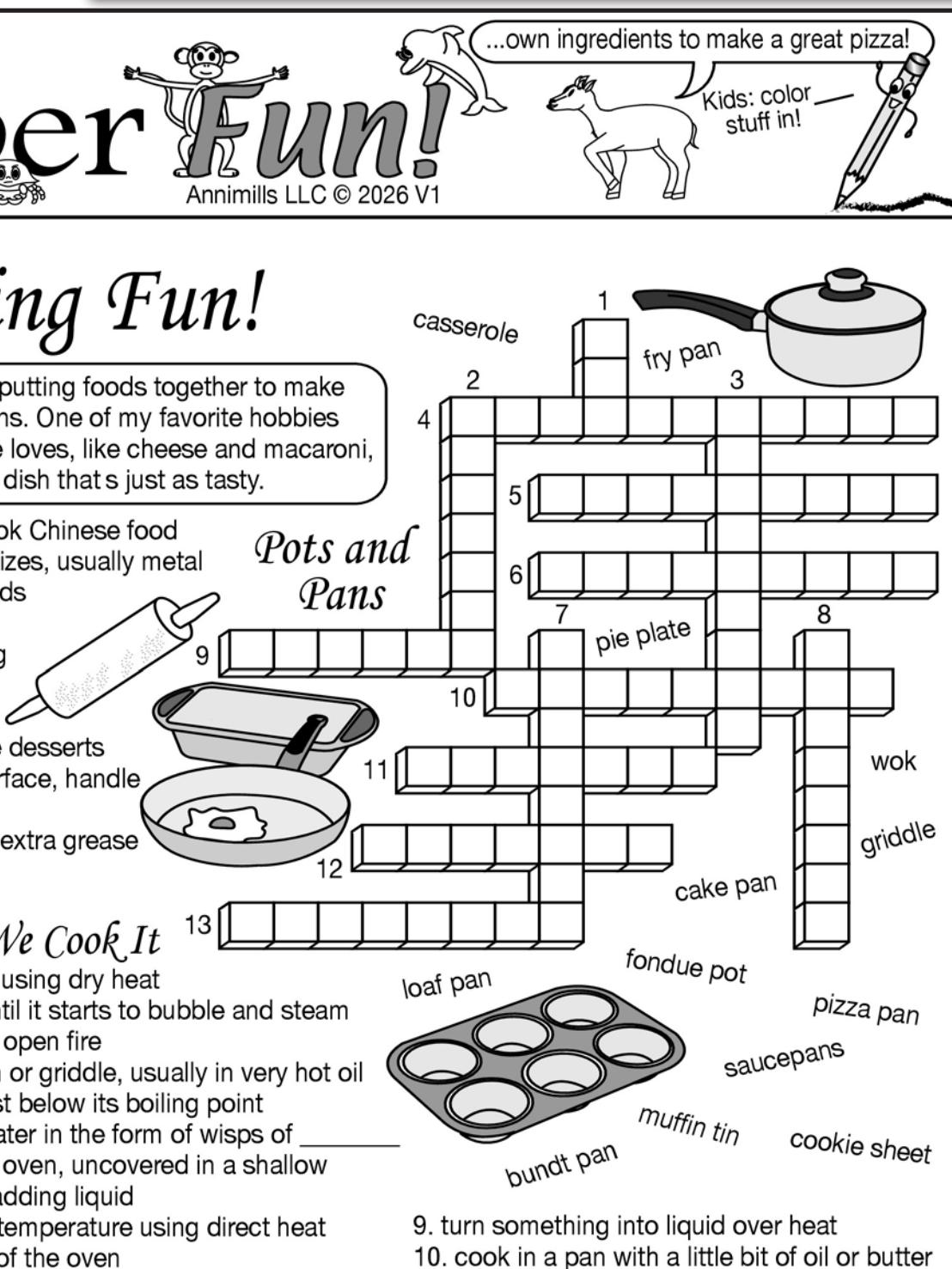
I enjoy cooking and baking. I like putting foods together to make new, hopefully delicious, combinations. One of my favorite hobbies is to take an old recipe that everyone loves, like cheese and macaroni, and lighten it to make it a healthier dish that's just as tasty.

1. flat piece of metal for laying out pieces of dough
2. bowl-shaped pan used to cook Chinese food
3. comes in many shapes and sizes, usually metal
4. very deep with handles and lids
5. bowl heated from below keeps cheese and chocolate melted for dipping
6. mixed foods cooked in a large, deep, usually uncovered dish in the oven
7. round, doughnut-shaped baking pan
8. shallow, round, glass or metal dish used to bake one of America's favorite desserts
9. round, flat, with low sides; may be made of iron, may have a non-stick surface, handle
10. has several, tiny cups for batter; a cupcake pan or a \_\_\_\_\_
11. square or rectangular frying pan, may be flat or have ridges, drains off extra grease
12. rectangular pan that is deep, used for breads and a favorite meat dinner
13. large, round, flat metal pan, sometimes deeper for deep dish



### How We Cook It

1. cook in oven using dry heat
2. heat liquid until it starts to bubble and steam
3. cook over an open fire
4. cook in a pan or griddle, usually in very hot oil
5. cook food just below its boiling point
6. heat using water in the form of wisps of \_\_\_\_\_
7. cook meat in oven, uncovered in a shallow pan without adding liquid
8. cook at high temperature using direct heat from the top of the oven





Peter A. Dills  
<https://podlink/1116885432>

## DRY JANUARY: WHAT I'LL MISS... AND WHAT I WON'T

Dry January. Two words that can strike fear into the heart of anyone who enjoys a good cocktail, a cold beer, or a glass of Champagne poured with purpose. And yet, here I am—by the time you're reading this, I'm already on Day Five. Not bad. In fact, it's going faster than I thought.

Let's get this out of the way first: I will miss a few things. I'll miss a perfectly made martini at Plate 38—cold, bracing, no nonsense, the kind of drink that doesn't need explaining. I'll miss an ice-cold Stella beer at The Boat, especially when the room is buzzing and the conversation is flowing. And yes, I'll miss a celebratory glass of Taittinger. My dad loved Champagne, and some habits—and memories—die hard. Jamie's Margarita "Peter Pour" at Casa Del Rey.

But here's the part that surprises people: there are things I don't miss nearly as much as I thought I would.

I don't miss waking up a little foggy, even after "just one." I don't miss that subtle afternoon drag that makes you wonder if it's coffee time or nap time. And I definitely don't miss stepping on the scale and pretending the number is broken.

For the past 15 years, my Dry January goal has been simple: recharge the body. No grand resolutions, no dramatic declarations. Just a reset. A chance to let the system catch up.

Now that I'm older—and I say that without flinching—the benefits are louder and clearer. The weight doesn't come off as easily as it once did, but when it does, I feel it immediately. My knees notice. My hips notice. Getting in and out of the car is easier. Walking feels lighter. Even standing at the kitchen counter somehow feels better. That's not science—it's real life.

Dry January also has a way of sharpening awareness. You realize how often a drink is less about thirst and more about habit. You learn how many social moments don't actually require alcohol to be enjoyable. And you rediscover that water, sleep, and a clear head are not overrated.

Is it perfect? No. Is it boring at times? Sure. But 31 days goes fast. Faster than you think. By the time you commit, complain, and count the days, you're already halfway there.

And here's the thing nobody talks about enough: it's a personal challenge, not a moral one. I'm not judging anyone's glass, bottle, or bar tab. I work in food and hospitality—I celebrate it. Dry January isn't about giving something up forever. It's about checking in with yourself and seeing how you feel without it for a month.

For me, the answer—year after year—is the same: I feel better than I expect to. February will come. The martinis, beers, and Champagne will still be there. They always are. But for now, I'll take clearer mornings, lighter steps, and the quiet satisfaction of knowing that sometimes, the hardest part is simply starting.

And if you're thinking about trying it—five days in, I'll tell you this: it's worth it. Your bank account will appreciate too, if you make it 5 or ten days Bravo to you

[thechefknows@yahoo.com](mailto:thechefknows@yahoo.com)... Listen in on the podcast

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## WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR: A TIME FOR REFLECTION AND RENEWAL

As a new year gently unfolds before us, it offers a meaningful pause—a moment to reflect on where we have been and to look ahead with quiet hope. For seniors especially, the New Year is less about rushing toward change and more about appreciating the richness of experience, wisdom, and resilience built over time.

Each year we carry forward memories: family gatherings, friendships old and new, lessons learned through both joy and challenge. These moments shape who we are, and the New Year invites us to honor them. Reflection can be as simple as flipping through photo albums, journaling a few favorite memories, or sharing stories with loved ones. These small acts help remind us that our lives are full of meaning and connection.

The New Year is also an opportunity for gentle renewal. Resolutions do not have to be grand or demanding. Simple intentions—taking daily walks, calling a friend more often, trying a new hobby, or practicing gratitude—can bring renewed energy and purpose. Even small changes can create a sense of accomplishment and well-being.

Most importantly, the New Year encourages connection. Reaching out to family, neighbors, or community groups helps strengthen bonds and reduce loneliness. A kind word, a shared laugh, or a thoughtful note can make a powerful difference, both for ourselves and others.

As we step into the year ahead, let us do so with kindness toward ourselves. Every chapter of life has value, and this one is no exception. May the New Year bring comfort, good health, meaningful moments, and the reassurance that every day offers something worth appreciating.

Here's to a year filled with warmth, reflection, and quiet joys—one day at a time.



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## 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 Rahamanian, Fran Syverson, Joy Painter, Judy Zaretzka and Becky Evans. \* To add your name to this distinguished list, please call the paper at 626.355.2737. YEAR of birth not required

**YWCA Senior Lunch and Food Services**



**Mondays - Thursdays**

The Hart Park House Senior Center  
222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, CA 91024.  
11:30am (Participants are encouraged to arrive by 11:15am)

Seniors 60 Years of Age and Up  
A suggested donation of \$3.00 for seniors 60 and over.  
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Daily reservations are not required.

More Info: <https://www.sierramadreca.gov> 626-355-5278

## WHEN DO MOST AMERICANS TAKE SOCIAL SECURITY

What are the most popular ages that people start taking their Social Security retirement benefits? I'm turning 62 later this year and trying to decide when to start taking my benefits. Born in 64



Dear 64:  
You can sign up to begin your Social Security retirement benefits any time after age 62. However, your monthly payments will be larger for each month you delay claiming them up until age 70. This adds up to around 6 to 8 percent higher payments every year you delay.

To get a breakdown on exactly how much your claiming age affects your benefits, visit Social Security's Retirement Age Calculator at [SSA.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/ageincrease.html](http://SSA.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/ageincrease.html). This tool provides your full retirement age (FRA) – which is 67 for anyone born in 1960 or later – and shows how much your benefits will be reduced by taking early payments or increased by delaying them.

In the meantime, here's a rundown of when people start receiving retirement benefits (according to the most recent SSA statistical data), and how signing up at each age impacts your payout.

Age 62: This is the earliest possible age you can sign up for Social Security. According to the SSA, in 2024, 23.3 percent of women and 22 percent of men signed up for Social Security at 62. But if you sign up at this age, you'll get a 30 percent smaller Social Security payment if your FRA is 67.

Age 63: Age 63 is one of the least popular options for choosing to start Social Security benefits – 6.2 percent of men and 6.4 percent of women began claiming their benefits at this age in 2024. A worker with a FRA of 67 will get a 25 percent pay cut by signing up at this age.

Age 64: This is another relatively unpopular age to begin collecting Social Security benefits – just 6.5 percent of men and 7 percent of women started collecting at age 64. Social Security payments are reduced by 20 percent for those with a FRA of 67.

Age 65: In 2024, 15.3 percent of men and women decided to collect Social Security at age 65, which is also the enrollment age for Medicare. By starting at this age, you'll see your monthly payments reduced by 13.3 percent if your FRA is 67.

Age 66: This is FRA for people born between 1943 and 1954, which has made this a very popular age to begin collecting. In 2024, 27 percent of men and 25.3 percent of women sign up for benefits at 66. But since your FRA is 67, you'll get a 6.7 percent pay cut if you sign up here.

Age 67: People born in 1960 or later will be able to claim unreduced Social Security payments starting at this age. In 2024, 14.5 percent of men and 13 percent of women did this.

Age 68: In 2024, 12.5 percent of men and 12.3 percent of women delayed their Social Security benefits until age 68. Waiting one extra year beyond your FRA of 67 will increase your benefit by 8 percent.

Age 69: In 2024, 14.5 percent of men and 13.2 percent of women claimed their retirement benefits at 69, which increased their benefits by 16 percent.

Age 70 and older: Waiting to age 70 offers the biggest possible payout – a 24 percent increase over your FRA of 67. In 2024, 8.4 percent of women and 9.1 percent of men held out until this age.

Send your questions or comments to [questions@savvysenior.org](mailto:questions@savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

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## OUT TO PASTOR

A Weekly Religion Column by Rev. James Snyder



### WHERE IN THE WORLD DID LAST YEAR GO?

It was New Year's Day, and I got up before The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I poured my coffee and then sat in my easy chair to reflect on the day. I was trying to get all the things in order I was planning to do today. After all, the Christmas holiday was over, and I needed to get back in the saddle again.

As I was thinking about my plans, a thought bumped into my mind. I don't have too many thoughts, but once in a while, one comes my way and hits me, and I'm not sure what to do about it.

The thought was simply this: today begins a brand-new year. I had given this too much thought recently, but last year is over. Today starts a brand new year. What in the world happened to last year? And, where did it go?

I was getting accustomed to the year at hand and was finally writing 2025 on my checks. For most of the year, I wrote 2024. Now, a new year lay before me, and I wasn't sure what I should do.

Just then, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into the living room, greeted me good morning and then said, "What are you thinking about today?" I looked at her and said rather soberly, "Do you know today begins a brand-new year?" "What," she said, "happen to the year we are living? I was just getting adjusted to that year."

She went and got a cup of coffee, then came and sat down, just staring at it. I knew exactly what she was thinking because I was thinking the same way. What happened over the last year?

One of the problems I have is this: Did I accomplish everything I wanted to accomplish last year? I'm not the kind of person who puts together a detailed New Year's resolution list. I used to, but I never could finish it, and some of the things on that list took me five years to accomplish.

I sat there quietly, thinking back over the past year trying to figure out what I really accomplished. After all, I've been retired for about four years so I have time. Sitting in my chair with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I thought back over the year and tried to identify what I did. Was I busy? Did I do what I had planned to do? Looking at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I said, "What do you think about last year?"

The living room was relatively quiet for a few moments, and then she spoke up and said, "I really don't know what I did during the past year. I've been so busy doing things that I can't remember all the things that I did." Then, looking at me, she said, "what about your year?"

Last year had 365 days, and for the life of me, the only day I can think of is my birthday. Thinking about my birthday, I was trying to remember what I did that day. Looking at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage I said, "Do you remember my birthday?" "Oh, yes I do. It was a wonderful time don't you think?"

Not knowing exactly what she was talking about, I tried to find out more. I said, "What was the best part of my birthday last year?"

I wasn't expecting what she came up with, but she did.

"I think the best time about your birthday was the wonderful present I got you. How did you like that present?"

I don't know whether she knew what was happening or was trying to trick me. I thought, and I thought some more, but I couldn't come up with what she got me for my birthday.

"That was a wonderful present you got me. I appreciate it so much. Thank you for that gift."

I sighed very deeply, believing that I had ducked a bullet.

Looking at me with one of her infamous smiles, she said, "I spent a lot of time trying to think of that birthday gift for you. What was the best part of that gift?" Of course, now I am in real deep water. I can't remember that birthday present. After all, that was six months ago, and I'm not sure what happened this past week. I gave it some thought and tried to remember, but nothing actually came to mind. That's the thing about getting older: you forget things you should remember, and remember things you should forget.

I didn't know what to say, so I said, "The best thing about that birthday present was your thoughtfulness in getting me such a wonderful present. I will always appreciate you for getting me that present." She smiled at me, and at least it worked this time. Or so I thought.

When a year passes by, it's not too good to reflect on the past. The best thing is to appreciate the past, but then put the focus on the present. This time of the year, my favorite Bible verse is Ecclesiastes 1:8, "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." We think something is new, and it may be new to us at the time, but there is nothing new under the sun.

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## CHRISTOPHER Nyerges

[Nyerges is an educator and author. His many books can be seen at [www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com](http://www.SchoolofSelf-Reliance.com).]

### HOW TO PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY POWER

In October, Allen Wolff presented Sierra Madre CERT organization's final talk of the year, "Emergency Power."

Wolff began by asking the audience in the Hart Building, where the CERT meetings are always held, "What do you need in order to prepare for power outages?" He then proceeded to share his PowerPoint presentation, explaining each aspect of home power production.

Wolff emphasized that he was not selling anything, nor was he recommending any of the products he showed. He was simply showing what was available on the market.

The outline included a discussion of what is energy, your power needs, phone charging, various power sources, inverters, batteries, and commentary on solar.

Most of us take electricity for granted, so we're somewhat lost when the power goes out. Wolff pointed out that when there is a power outage, your copper land line phones won't work unless you have an old-style rotary or touchtone phone. Your AC clocks, radios, TVs, and gas stoves with electric lighters won't work either. There would be no Wi-Fi.

Wolff presented the necessary data from the perspective of needs: Low power needs include a cell phone charger and portable radio. Medium Low needs include a laptop, lamps, and some medical appliances. Medium High needs include the refrigerator and fans. High Needs would be your whole house.

For power to charge your phone, Wolff showed the FosPower Emergency Weather Radio, which is powered by batteries, or solar panels, or by cranking. It costs about \$35 from Amazon. There is also the Solar Charger, 38800 mAh Portable Solar Power Bank for all cell phones, at about \$24.

For medium low power, Wolff showed the BESTEK 300W Power Inverter, which produces 110V AC from one's car power port or cigarette lighter socket, which is 12V DC. Your car might have a USB port or you can purchase a device that plugs into the power port socket and provides 5 Volt USB for charging phones. In fact, lots of devices can be plugged into the car's cigarette lighter, making your car a power source, as long as the engine is on.

By the way, if you're not an electrician, don't let the new terminology throw you. Like any field, you should learn some of the basic terms. For example, our households run from 110 volts of Alternating Current (110V AC), and your car, and some solar panels systems, produce 12 volts of Direct Current (12V DC). An inverter is the necessary device that converts the electricity produced from the sun, your car, or a windmill, to a form that most appliances need, and most households use.

Wolff discussed how it's possible to power medical devices with batteries, or backup batteries.

Wolff introduced the audience to inverters, which you must have if you're going to put together your own power system to supply 110 VAC. There are two types of inverters. The modified sine wave type, which is cheaper and OK for general use. Also, there is the pure sine wave inverter, more expensive and needed for more delicate equipment, such as some medical devices and refrigerators.

Wolff showed several available inverter models, as well as a chart showing the best sort of inverter to have for various devices. Pure sine wave inverters are suitable for all purposes, but modified sine wave inverters are not. You can see this yourself if you go to his site.

Generators were also discussed which can power the house, such as the Champion Dual Fuel, which can use gasoline or propane. A more expensive generator is the DuroMax XP13000HXT, for about \$2000 from Amazon which is a tri-power capable of using gasoline, propane or natural gas. This led to a discussion about extension cords, and how you should get the heaviest grade you can. A chart was shown that compares the current you need to supply with the length of the extension cord and the size of the wire you will need. Or you might consider a permanent house generator, the Generac Guardian 26kW generator for about \$7000 that runs on natural gas.

Then he discussed batteries, and how car batteries are not ideal for solar systems because they are not tolerant of deep discharge and recharge cycles. There are many types of batteries that can be purchased, but for storing power which comes from the sun, he recommends marine deep-cycle batteries, golf cart, or AGM batteries. In fact, Wolff had a lot to say about batteries, such as how they should always be charged outside or in well ventilated areas, that batteries only last from 3 to 6 years, and much more. Those are the benefits of attending CERT meetings where you can pick up all these details that are learned by experience.

There are, in other words, lots of individual components to prepare to have home power after a blackout.

To tie all the points together, Wolff showed the relationship between the components of a home solar power system. The panels that you see on the roofs are capable of generating hundreds of volts and are required to be shut down (Rapid Shutdown) when Edison power is lost in order to protect firefighters from electrocution. You may not be able to count on roof solar during an outage. Solar panels are available that produce 18 volts and when used with a charge controller can charge 12-volt batteries. Then, when you use the power from the charged batteries, it flows through the inverter, converting 12V DC to the 110V AC that your household items use.

Wolff gave some examples of what a system might look like, showing products that anyone can buy from Amazon. For example, he showed examples of flexible solar panels.

The presentation included lots of personal anecdotes, and safety tips, and it was far better than reading a book. Allen Wolff's PowerPoint presentation can be viewed at [www.kc7o.com/files/power.pdf](http://www.kc7o.com/files/power.pdf).

To follow activities of the Sierra Madre CERT organization, go to Sierra Madre Emergency Organizations • Index page

You can simply Google "Sierra Madre CERT" to find more information about this organization.



## BEST FRIENDS & MORE

### Katnip News!



### LONDI – THE QUIET BEAUTY



Lovely Londi, age 6, has been overlooked far too long! She's very shy and independent—not a lap cat, not even touchable—but that doesn't mean she can't have a loving home. Her joys are simple: birdwatching at the window, stretching in a sunny spot, playing quietly on her own, and nibbling cat treats. She's healthy and would do best as the only pet in a calm, patient home. Londi will also need gentle carrier training so she can feel secure for any needed vet visits.



### Pet of the Week

Dorito is a lovable, larger-than-life Labrador Retriever mix at Pasadena Humane, who is just over a year old. Despite a rough start as a stray, Dorito hasn't lost his joyful spirit. He's goofy, affectionate, and absolutely adores playtime – especially chasing balls and exploring with his big nose. He's also smart, responsive, easily directed with a good treat, and sweetly self-soothes once he's given the chance to slow down.



Because Dorito feels everything big, he can get overstimulated and will thrive in a low-traffic home with a confident handler who can help him take breaks, build calm routines, and keep life balanced.

He'd do best as the only dog and with space to burn off his puppy-like energy. If your New Year's resolution is to welcome more joy, laughter, love, and maybe a few more walks, Dorito is ready for a fresh start by your side!

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

Walk-in adoptions are available every day from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. View photos of adoptable pets at [pasadenahumane.org](http://pasadenahumane.org).

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.

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

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## WHY BEGINNERS WALK AWAY

Fitness culture speaks loudly in January, but not to everyone.

After New Year's, gyms fill the air with promises of change. Advertisements show smiling people, new beginnings, and the idea that anyone can walk in and finally get fit. Membership deals appear everywhere. For many people, this feels hopeful. But for others, it feels intimidating. Quietly, many people walk into fitness spaces that were never really built for them.

Most gyms and workout facilities are not designed for newbies. They are built for people who already know how to exercise, or who have been fit before and are just trying to get back to it. These members recognize the equipment, understand how classes work, and know what is expected. They feel comfortable navigating the space. For them, the gym makes sense.

For someone who is deconditioned, overweight, injured, older, or completely new to exercise, the experience is very different. Walking into a gym can feel overwhelming. Machines look complicated. Classes move fast. The unspoken rules are confusing. Many beginners feel watched, judged, or out of place, even if no one is actually paying attention to them.

Being welcomed as a member is not the same as being supported as a beginner.

Most gyms offer a quick orientation or a short tour, but that doesn't teach anyone how to move safely and confidently. True beginners need time, patience, and guidance. They need a place where questions are expected and where moving slowly is normal. Most fitness facilities are not set up to provide that kind of support, especially during the busy January rush.

There is also a business reality that few people talk about. Gyms sell far more memberships than they can actually handle if everyone showed up regularly. This is not a secret in the fitness industry. It is how the business model works. Clubs count on a large number of people enrolling and then slowly disappearing. If every new member came in consistently, most gyms would be overcrowded and unusable.

This system works well for experienced exercisers. They come in, do their workout, and leave. They do not need much attention or instruction. But for beginners, crowded spaces make everything harder. Waiting for equipment, trying to follow along in packed classes, or feeling rushed adds stress. When someone is already unsure of themselves, this can be enough to throw in the towel.

When beginners leave, they often blame themselves. They think they were lazy, unmotivated, or not cut out for exercise. What they do not realize is that the environment was never designed with them in mind. The problem is not a lack of willpower. It is a lack of fit.

Many people say they want to exercise to feel better, move more easily, and take care of their health. What they are really looking for is safety, clarity, and support. They want to know what to do, how hard to work, and whether what they are feeling is normal. They want a place where learning is expected, not embarrassing.

Fitness culture often celebrates pushing harder, going faster, and doing more. That message works for people who already feel confident in their bodies. For beginners, it creates fear. It tells them they are behind before they even begin. Over time, this keeps many people locked out of regular movement, even though they want it.

There are other ways to approach exercise, especially for those truly starting from zero. Some people need smaller groups, quieter spaces, or the ability to try things without being seen. Others need flexibility, rest breaks, or reassurance that they are doing enough. These needs are real, but rarely addressed in January fitness messaging.

That's why, during January, I offer a free month of my remote Zoom fitness classes for true beginners and returning exercisers who feel uncomfortable in traditional gyms. Participants can come and go as they wish. Cameras and microphones are optional. They can try different classes, move at their own pace, and figure out what feels comfortable. There is no pressure to perform and no requirement to "keep up." The goal is simply to experience movement in a way that feels safe and doable. Anyone interested can contact me through my byline for more information.

The new year does not have to be about forcing yourself into spaces that make you feel uncomfortable or overwhelmed. Joining a gym is different from learning how to exercise. Many people who walk away from fitness are not failing. They are responding to environments never designed for true beginners. Fitness does not fail people — people are often left out. Recognizing that difference can change how we approach movement, health, and ourselves.

## ALL THINGS by Jeff Brown

### WHY ARE CALIFORNIA GAS PRICES HIGH?

#### Higher taxes and fees

California adds far more in taxes and fees per gallon than almost any other state.

As of mid 2025, the state excise tax alone is 61.2 cents per gallon, with additional sales tax and local district taxes on top. When federal tax and other state/local charges are included, Californians pay about 90 cents per gallon in total gasoline taxes and fees, the highest in the country.

#### Special gasoline blend

California requires a unique reformulated gasoline that is more expensive to make. The state's "boutique" reformulated gasoline (CaRFG/CARBOB) is designed to be the cleanest in the world, significantly cutting smog forming and other pollutants. This specialized blend raises production costs relative to standard gasoline and limits the number of refineries, in or out of state, that can supply California fuel.

#### Environmental programs and compliance costs

*Multiple climate and air quality programs directly add to per gallon costs.*

California's cap and trade system and Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) require refiners and fuel suppliers to buy permits or credits, adding cents per gallon on top of regular refining costs. Planned tightening of LCFS and related rules is projected to increase gasoline prices further, in some estimates by several dozen cents per gallon over coming years.

#### Limited refining capacity and supply constraints

The state's fuel system is more vulnerable to disruptions than most of the country. California relies heavily on a small number of in state refineries, with little spare capacity, so outages or maintenance can quickly drive up prices. Because of the unique fuel specifications, there are few alternative sources that can quickly ship compliant gasoline in from other regions or countries when supply is tight.

#### Market structure and distribution

California is far from major refining hubs and crude sources, so transporting both crude oil in and finished products around the state adds extra cost. With a relatively concentrated refining sector and limited competition in compliant fuel, refiners can sometimes maintain wider margins than in regions with more interchangeable gasoline and more suppliers.



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## UNLOCK YOUR LIFE



### THE DECISION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Every January, we make resolutions. We set big goals. We imagine transformed versions of ourselves, healthier, happier, more successful, finally free.

And then we wait.

Lori A. Harris

We wait to feel motivated. We wait for the right circumstances. We wait for something outside ourselves to flip the switch and make the change happen.

Here's what I learned working with incarcerated youth and in prisons: the people who found mental freedom, even behind bars, were the ones who stopped waiting for their circumstances to change and started taking responsibility for their internal state. They understood something most of us resist: life is happening with us, not to us. And the first move is always ours.

That decision—the decision to take responsibility for your state—isn't a small thing. It's everything. Because your state affects your health, your relationships, your work, and your freedom. All four quadrants of your life respond to whether you're moving toward expansion or staying stuck in contraction.

#### *Negativity Is Expensive*

The science on this is clear: chronic negativity doesn't just feel bad. It damages your body.

Research shows that persistent negative emotional states increase inflammation, weaken immune function, and contribute to cardiovascular disease. A 2019 study published in the National Institutes of Health found that chronic stress and negative mood patterns significantly increased the risk of heart attack and stroke. Barbara Fredrickson's broaden-and-build theory demonstrates that positive emotions do the opposite; they expand our cognitive resources, improve our resilience, and literally change our physiology for the better.

Your nervous system doesn't differentiate between real threats and perceived threats. When you spend your evenings watching crime dramas or doom-scrolling the news, your body responds as if you're in danger. Your cortisol spikes. Your heart rate increases. You go into a dysregulated state. And nobody runs toward the brooding cloud in the corner. When you're dysregulated, you pull away from connection, make poorer decisions, and drain your energy reserves.

On the other hand, watching a Golden Girls rerun might actually lift your mood. Studies on media consumption show that gentle, positive content supports nervous system regulation, reduces cortisol levels, and creates conditions for rest and repair. Laughter is medicine. Social connection, even parasocial connection with beloved TV characters, activates your vagus nerve and helps you feel safer.

This isn't frivolous. This is you taking responsibility for your state.

#### *Small Decisions, Big Outcomes*

Here's where it gets practical.

You can't always control what happens to you, but you can decide what you consume, how you talk to yourself, and where you direct your attention. Those decisions compound.

**Health:** Studies show that gratitude practices, intentional joy-seeking, and positive social interactions improve immune function and speed recovery from illness. Your body responds to the signals you send it. When you choose expansion over contraction, even in small ways, you're literally changing your biology.

**Relationships:** When you're dysregulated and negative, you're harder to be around. Research on emotional contagion shows that moods spread. But so does warmth. The decision to smile, to call a friend, to show up with generosity rather than complaint shifts the entire dynamic. You feel better when you give of yourself.

**Vocation:** Neuroscience research on agency and decision-making shows that intentional action activates different brain networks than passive waiting. When you decide to take the next step, even before you feel ready, you're building momentum. You're proving to yourself that you're not stuck.

**Time and Money Freedom:** Negativity is a time thief. Hours spent spiraling, ruminating, or consuming fear-based content are hours you don't get back. The decision to protect your state is also a decision to protect your most valuable resource: your attention.

#### *Decision Before Feeling*

Author Gretchen Rubin ran a year-long happiness experiment and wrote about it in *The Happiness Project*. Her conclusion was simple: happiness often follows action, not the other way around.

You don't wait to feel better before you act. You act, and the feeling catches up.

This is the pattern interrupt. This is where transformation actually begins, not with perfect circumstances or a surge of motivation, but with a decision.

Decide that this year is different. Decide that you're responsible for your state. Decide to smile more, even when you don't feel like it. (Yes, research on the facial feedback hypothesis shows that the physical act of smiling can shift your mood.) Hold a pen in your teeth and activate the facial muscles for a smile, but if you hold that same pen with your lips, you're activating your frown muscles. So, decide to turn off the crime drama and put on something that makes you laugh. Decide to call someone who lifts you up instead of doomsurfing alone.

These aren't trivial choices. They're foundational.

#### *A Necessary Note*

If you're dealing with clinical depression, anxiety, or trauma, these tools aren't replacements for therapy or medication. Please get the professional support you deserve. But for the rest of us who are just stuck in a low-grade funk, carrying unnecessary negativity, or waiting for someone else to rescue us, this is the work.

You're more powerful than you think. The decision to feel better isn't wishful thinking. It's an act of agency. And it changes everything.

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The traditions of community newspapers and the concerns of our readers are the newspaper's top priorities. We support a prosperous community of well-informed citizens. We hold in high regard the values of the exceptional quality of life in our community, including the magnificence of our natural resources. Integrity will be our guide.

## STUART TOLCHIN

PUT THE LIGHTS ON  
SUMMING IT UP

Well, I am hoping to create an article of interest to others beyond myself as I type away on this Wednesday morning which begins the last day of the unimaginable year 2025. My plans for tonight are up in the air, which I mean it all depends on the rain. I already walked my dog around the canyon circle this morning and there was barely a drizzle. It was my hope to spend the night at my son's apartment in Pasadena just off Colorado Boulevard and then walk to the boulevard and join the crowd viewing the parade. Let me say at the outset that despite living here in this paradise of Sierra Madre Canyon for over 45 years I still cannot quite believe that I have been so fortunate to live in this paradise.

At this time of the year, I recall in 1952, while I was eight years old, my Uncle Phil climbed the stairs carrying a seven-inch television to our apartment on the fourth floor of our tenement apartment in South Side Chicago. I was able to watch the Democratic Presidential convention and the speech by the Illinois governor Adlai Stevenson, who, perhaps because of that speech, was nominated to be the Democratic Presidential Candidate in 1952. I cannot remember anything specific that he said, but I know his speech had a great deal to do with shaping my own political views.

Stevenson was defeated in 1952 but had so affected much of the population that he was again the Democratic candidate in 1956. He lost again but still was so popular that in 1960 he was a popular candidate with many of us as the Democratic Presidential convention which was being held at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. I was 16 years old, living in an apartment in North Hollywood. Of course, although I had a driver's license, no car was available to me, but a friend had his own car, and we drove to the Coliseum. Arriving at the Coliseum we saw signs addressing Stevenson which in large letters proclaimed, YOU WILL NOT LEAD US TO DEFEAT FOR THE THIRD TIME.

Stevenson did not get the Democratic nomination which instead went to some movie-star looking guy who was the son of some really rich guy named Joseph P. Kennedy. I knew that Joseph P. Kennedy had owned the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, which was, I believe, the largest building in the world. Hmm, I seem to have lost my point. I started talking about first getting a television in 1952 and I intended to write about viewing the Rose Parade on the first day of 1953. As usual, in winter- Chicago, it was snowy and freezing outside. On television I saw pictured the Rose Parade proceeding along Orange Grove Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. Who could imagine a place called Pasadena. In fact, I can still remember someone mentioning that in that place called Pasadena, oranges grew on trees anyone could pick and eat them.

Today I look across the street and see the oranges falling from the trees and allowed to rot on the ground. Okay, now it is New Year's Eve 2025, and I still do not have access to a car. The reasons are different as I am now over 81 and one can tell by the dents in my car still parked on my driveway that from now on, I should only be a passenger and not a driver. That is an edict issued by my wife, and usually I am more than willing to comply. But, tonight, I want her to drive me to my son's apartment so I could sleep over and then walk to Colorado Boulevard. She refuses because she doesn't want to drive in the rain and does not want me to stand in the rain to watch the parade. Recently I just got over pneumonia, and she says standing in the rain, with or without an umbrella, could and probably would bring about a recurrence of the condition.

So, to sum things up, wonderful surprises come out of the blue during a lifetime, and you never know where things are going to end up. This past year I have worried about the crisis within our democracy, together with the climate crisis, the continuation of wars all over the world, and worries about my own health. There are things I would like to do that I cannot do; but all in all, I have lived an unexpectedly wonderful life, and probably so have you other Sierras Madreans. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## HOWARD HAYS AS I SEE IT



*Mr. Trump's America will be increasingly blind and blundering, feeble and friendless." Hillary Clinton*

"When American history starts getting treated like something you can ban, erase, rename, or rebrand for somebody else's ego, I can't stand on that stage and sleep right at night." - Kristy Lee, on cancelling her gig at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

The idea of a National Cultural Center goes back to the 1930s, with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt concerned about actors put out of work by the Great Depression. The idea was resurrected in the 1950s and the National Cultural Center Act was signed by President Eisenhower in 1958.

Development continued under President Kennedy, with First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy serving as honorary chairwoman. Following Kennedy's assassination, the Center's board decided it would become a "living memorial" to the late president. In 1964, by act of Congress, the National Cultural Center became the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The Kennedy Center opened in September 1971 with the premiere of Leonard Bernstein's "Mass" in its Opera House.

Last July, Republicans in Congress proposed renaming that venue the "First Lady Melania Trump Opera House". They introduced a "Make Entertainment Great Again Act" to drop the Kennedy name altogether, renaming the complex the "Donald J. Trump Center for Performing Arts".

JFK's niece Maria Shriver responded; "This is insane. It makes my blood boil. It's so ridiculous, so petty, so small minded." His grandson Jack Schlossberg weighed in; "this isn't about the arts. Trump is obsessed with being bigger than JFK, with minimizing the many heroes of our past, as if that elevates him. It doesn't."

Last February, Trump fired members of the Center's board of trustees, others resigned, then replaced them with his own picks. The board consisted of presidentially-appointed members and others appointed by Congress. The by-laws were changed so that now only presidentially-appointed members could vote. They promptly chose Trump as their chairman.

Richard Grenell was our ambassador to Germany during Trump's first term. Der Spiegel found the consensus among over thirty "high-ranking" German and American officials to be that Grenell was "remarkably similar to Donald Trump . . . a vain, narcissistic person who dishes out aggressively, but can barely handle criticism". Grenell became Trump's choice to run our flagship institution for arts and culture.

Lin-Manuel Miranda cancelled the upcoming 8-week run of "Hamilton", booked in celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary, explaining that "The Kennedy Center was not created in this spirit, and we're not going to be a part of it while it is the Trump Kennedy Center." Grenell called the action a "political stunt".

A dozen cast members pulled out of the "Les Misérables" fundraiser (sponsorship level at \$2 million - photo op with Trump and Grenell), with Grenell suggesting it'd be "important to out those vapid and intolerant artists to ensure producers know who they shouldn't hire."

In the first few weeks of the 2023 season, 80% of tickets were sold. In 2024, it was 93%. This past year - 57%. One former staff member noted how it's "truly shocking" that actions under the new leadership "have been worse for business at the Kennedy Center than the aftermath of a global pandemic." Grenell insists current staff members are "ecstatic".

For the annual Kennedy Center Honors, Trump not only attended but insisted on hosting. TV ratings dropped 35% from the year before, to their lowest level ever.

After December's name change, the reaction intensified. Drummer/vibraphonist Chuck Redd hosted Christmas Eve jazz concerts at the Center since 2006. Grenell says he's now seeking \$1.5 million in damages from Redd for pulling out. The American College Theater Festival ended a 58-year affiliation with the Center.

## RICH JOHNSON

WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF THAT OR DID I NOT THINK OF THAT?  
That is the Question!

Well, friends, truth be told I have not been feeling very good. When I don't feel very good, an amazing world event of epic proportions takes place. I shut up. I know. Hard to imagine. I have a small group of friends and research scientists who live for those rare moments... most of them on speed dial. Even if I have nothing to say, these friends want to be there to hear what I don't say especially if I don't call. (That's existential if you must know).

When this cosmic oddity strikes, yours truly runs wacky. People also want to be there because, as bad as I am when my mind is connected to my mouth, when not directly connected, what comes out of that major source of my anatomy may be memorable... maybe. I tend to pontificate. Go to that nether region where rationale thought is cosmic. With me so far? Me neither. Are you listening? Me neither.

Martin Heidegger and Jean-Paul Sartre had me in mind when discussing existential thought years before I came into existence. It's all in their work coincidentally on existentialism. My contributions preceded my existence further authenticating my contributions to the essence of nothingness.

Of course, you have questions. Here are some questions you might consider asking yourself and others.

If you try to fail and succeed, which one did you do?

Why, when I'm driving and looking for an address do I turn down the volume on the radio?

If a word is spelled incorrectly in the dictionary, how would we ever know? Can you cry underwater?

If you had something written on your face, what would it be?

Who actually calls the wind Mariah? Does Mariah answer?

Is it a pair of pants if there is only one?

What do you call a fly without wings? A walk?

What is the one thing movies never get right?

If you could change the color of your eyes to an unnatural color, which color would you choose? Which color would you not choose?

What was the weirdest outfit you ever wore?

What's the worst song ever written? What's the best song never written?

What's the worst pizza topping?

Which Disney Princess would make the best secret agent?

And thank you Susan Henderson for being exactly who are!

I just have one final question. And please answer truthfully... Do stairs go up or down?

I need to know.

Thank you for putting up with me

Oh, hello 2026.



The Cookers is a jazz septet with foundations in the New York jazz scene of the 1960s. Apologizing to their fans for withdrawing from their New Year's Eve gig at the Center, they explained, "Jazz was born from struggle and from a relentless insistence on freedom: freedom of thought, of expression, and of the full human voice." They added they "want to make sure that when we do return to the bandstand, the room is able to celebrate the full presence of the music and everyone in it."

Issa Rae cancelled her sold-out show, as did Pulitzer Prize (and Grammy) winner Rhiannon Giddens. The Doug Varone and Dancers group knows that cancelling their April gig is costing them \$40,000. Their leader calls that "financially devastating but morally exhilarating."

As for Grenell, he reminds that these artists were booked by "the previous far left leadership", referring to them as "far left political activists rather than artists" and calls their actions "derangement syndrome". It's the artists blamed for bringing politics into it; not the president installing himself as chairman and putting his name above Kennedy's.

Kristy Lee, quoted above, posted: "I don't have much power, and I don't run with the big dogs who do. I'm just a folk singer from Alabama, singing songs for a living. I believe in the power of truth, and I believe in the power of people. And I'm gonna stand on that side forever. I won't lie to you, cancelling shows hurts. This is how I keep the lights on. But losing my integrity would cost me more than any paycheck."

Now I'm going to have to check out Ms. Lee's work, as will thousands of others. Kristy Lee has every reason to "sleep right at night".

# LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PASADENA COURTHOUSE  
300 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena, Ca. 91101

## SUMMONS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:  
CARLI CARNEY, ETC. ET AL

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:  
JACK O. BALSWICK AND JUDITH K. BALSWICK, ETC.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below:

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp)), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al de mandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, ([www.lawhelpcalifornia.org](http://www.lawhelpcalifornia.org)), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, ([www.sucorte.ca.gov](http://www.sucorte.ca.gov)) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 o más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):  
25NNCV07464

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es):  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PASADENA COURTHOUSE  
300 E. Walnut St.

Pasadena, Ca. 91101 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

NOAH GREEN, ESQ.  
THE GREEN FIRM, P.C.  
300 SPECTRUM CENTER DRIVE SUITE 1550  
IRVINE, CA. 92618  
(949) 535-2124

Published: Mountain Views News  
December 27, 2025, January 3, 10, 17, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 202324057. The business was conducted by: A GENERAL PARTNERSHIP. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 11/12/2025. The business information in this statement is true and correct. The registrant(s) who made this information will he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime) KAYLA KATRINA MAPAR GENERAL PARTNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 12/26/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE. This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 03, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025288357. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: JOE'S ENGINEERS. 526 S. SANTA FE AVE., VERNON, CA. 90058. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOE'S ENGINEERS, 526 S. SANTA FE AVE., VERNON, CA. 90058. This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOE'S ENGINEERS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 11/21/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE. This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 03, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025265641. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: TRIPLE R BUILDERS. 1340 SAN FERNANDO RD SLMAR, CA. 91342. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) RICARDO B ACEVES 1310 SAN FERNANDO RDL, SLMAR, CA. 91342.. This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: RICARDO B ACEVES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on 12/08/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE. This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 03, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025265641. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LA PERLA DE ORIENTE NUTRITION LLC. 1265 SOTO ST UNIT 15 A, LOS ANGELES, CA 90023. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) LA PERLA DE ORIENTE NUTRITION LLC. 1265 SOTO ST UNIT 15 A, LOS ANGELES, CA 90023. This business is conducted by: A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Signed: KARLA ERICA ROMERO/ MANAGING MEMBER. ARTICLE # B#025012028 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 12/23/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE. This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 03, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025265641. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LA TIENDITA. 601 S RECORD LOS ANGELES, CA 90023. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) LA TIENDITA 601 S RECORD LOS ANGELES, CA 90023. This business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: ARMANDO HUIZAR/ PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/22/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/22/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: JAN 03, 10, 17, 24, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025264429. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GEZA-ABOO MUSIC. 318 W. MONTECITO AVE SIERRA MADRE, CA. 91024. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) A BEATLES ANGEL. 7146 N. CENTRAL AVE., #390 GLENDALE, CA. 91202. This business is conducted by: AN. Signed: A BEATLES ANGEL LLC. GABRIEL NOEL, MANAGING MEMBER.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/22/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/20/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: DEC 20, 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2025264429. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: FAIRIES CREATIONS USA 1343 CAMARAN AVE LANCASTER, CA. 93535. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) FAIRIES CREATIONS USA 1343 CAMARAN AVE LANCASTER, CA. 93535. This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: FAIRIES CREATIONS USA, OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/26/2025. The registrant(s) have commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 07/20/2022. NOTICE: This fictitious business name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Publish: Mountain Views News/JDC Dates Pub: DEC 20, 27, 2025, JAN 3, 10, 2026

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**2 We have something for everyone!**  
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**3 Every Week Since 2007**  
We have been publishing your community news consistently every week since 2007...come wind, rain, mud, fire and/or lovely weather. FACT: The Mountain Views News is the longest running newspaper in Sierra Madre history!

**4 Published by an Award Winning Journalist and a dedicated team of contributors**  
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**5 And we keep you connected**  
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## January Events Around Town!

Brought to you by Sue Cook

### ONE TIME EVENTS

**January 1**  
Tournament of Roses 2026 "The Magic in Teamwork"

The iconic New Year's parade. Parade begins at 8 am at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Green Street in Pasadena

**January 1**  
Rose Bowl Game

The Indiana Hoosiers will take on the Alabama Crimson Tide in the College Football Quarterfinal. The game begins at 1pm

**January 7**  
A Concert for Altadena at Pasadena Civic Auditorium

On the one-year anniversary of the Eaton Fire, this benefit concert honors the resilience of the community and raises funds for rebuilding. An amazing lineup of artists will perform. 6:30 pm

**January 10**  
Flower Arranging: Orchids and Camellias at The Huntington

Create stunning arrangements in this wintry workshop. 10 am – 12 pm; 1pm – 3 pm

**January 17**  
Guided Nature Meditations at Descanso Gardens

Experience a peaceful 15-minute meditation in a beautiful natural setting. 9 am; 9:30 am; 10 am

**January 17**  
Guided Walk: Camellia Connections to Asian and Western History at The Huntington

Explore the Camellia Garden and discover the history of the beloved camellia. 9 am – 11 am

**January 18**  
Rose Bowl Half Marathon and 5K Tenth Anniversary

Kick off the new year with a run through picturesque Pasadena and support the mission to cure neurological diseases.

**January 24**  
Pasadena Symphony and Pops at Ambassador Auditorium Performs Mendelssohn and Meyer

A rich musical journey featuring Mendelssohn's "Scottish" Symphony and Meyer's genre-bending Violin Concerto. 2 pm and 8 pm

**January 24**  
Southern California Camellia Society Show and Sale at the Arboretum

The Southern California Camellia Society presents hundreds of camellia blooms 9 am – 4 pm

**January 24**  
Nature Hike with Arcadia Community Center

Enjoy a staff-guided hike to Wisdom Tree. Includes transportation and boxed lunch. 7:30 am

### Ongoing Events

**January 1 – 3**  
Floatfest: A Rose Parade Showcase

View a two-mile showcase of stunning Rose Parade Floats on Sierra Madre and Washington Boulevards in Pasadena.

**Now – January 11**

Winter Frolic at KidSpace Museum

Your little ones can share in the magic of the season with sock-skating, "ice-fishing", and more.

**January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
Historic Downtown LA Walking Tour with LA Conservancy

Get a great overview of LA's history and architecture on this walking tour. 9:45 am

**January 15, 16**  
Rooted Workshop: Terrariums at Descanso Gardens

Learn the basics of design, planting, and care as you create your own terrarium. 10 am – 11 am

**January 26 – 31**  
Cheeseburger Week 2026 in Pasadena

Celebrate the invention of the cheeseburger in Pasadena. Local restaurants will compete for various titles, special menu items and deals.

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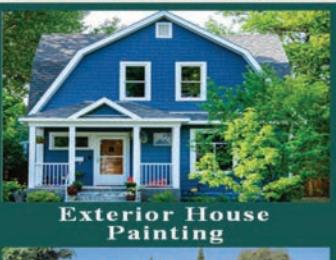


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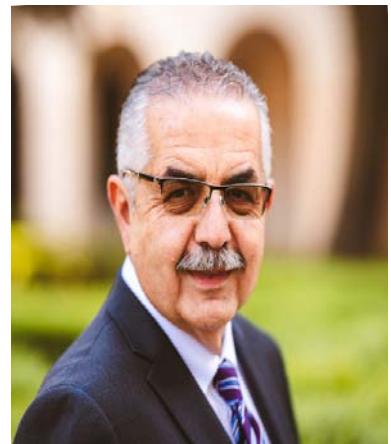
# THANK YOU FOR TRUSTING US IN 2025!

We loved celebrating our **Annual Thanksgiving Client Event** with our amazing clients and community. Your trust is the foundation of everything we do, and we're grateful for each of you.

As we step into 2026, we're grateful for every client who chose us to help with their real estate journey this past year. Your trust means everything.

To those we've had the privilege to serve - **thank you**. To those considering a move this year - **we're here for you**.

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