





# Calendar & Arts

## Weather Wise



### 5-Day Forecast Sierra Madre, Ca.

**Mon:** Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s  
**Tues:** Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s  
**Wed:** Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s  
**Thur:** Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s  
**Fri:** Sunny Hi 80s Lows 60s

Forecasts courtesy of the National Weather Service

## Author's Night

Poet and Holocaust survivor Zahava Sweet will read from her book of poetry, *The Return of Sound*, Saturday, October 11, at 3:00 p.m. at the Sierra Madre Public Library. Born in Poland, Ms. Sweet endured the terrors of Auschwitz during World War II. After the war she moved to Israel, and later emigrated to America; she currently lives in Monrovia, CA. Her book is a reflective meditation on her life, and the triumph of the human spirit despite unimaginable pain, tragedy and loss. Sponsored by the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library.

Mystery Author Marja [sic] McGraw will discuss and sign her latest books, *Bubba's Ghost* and *A Well-Kept Family Secret*, at the Sierra Madre Library on Tuesday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. A Southern California native, Ms. McGraw worked in civil and criminal law for 15 years. She has appeared on various TV and radio shows, and is a member of and former newsletter editor for Sisters in Crime, a worldwide organization for women mystery writers. Sponsored by The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library. For further information on programs and services please visit the Library's web site at [www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us](http://www.sierramadre.lib.ca.us) or call (626) 355-7186.

## Bargain Book Sale

The Friends of the Sierra Madre Library will have a Bargain Book Table Sale inside the Library during the Library's public open hours. Featured subjects will include Fiction, Nature, Biographies, The Old West, Children's and Specialty books, all in good condition. All books will be sold at the bargain price of \$1.00.

Monday October 20 through Saturday, October 25

## Day Trip to Julian

Enjoy a stop at a camel dairy on your way down to Julian. The excursion leaves on Thursday, October 16, 2008 from 8:00am-6:00pm. The trip costs \$18.00 per person.

For more information please contact 626-355-7394.

## COLOSSAL RUMMAGE SALE

The semi-annual rummage sale, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, of the Sierra Madre United Methodist Church, will be held Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm, at the church.

The church is located at 695 West Sierra Madre Blvd. in Sierra Madre.

Profits from this sale will be used to support the many ministries, local and nationwide, that the United Methodist Women sponsor.

Sale items will include adult clothing/shoes, craft stuff, children's clothing/toys/shoes, bathroom accessories, household items, books holiday fare, and much more.

Plenty of free parking off Michillinda Avenue (cross street is Sierra Madre Blvd).

## Adopt "Mike" Today



ask about A239783

Mike, a big, red, three year old cat is such a love! He's friendly, affectionate, and easy going. He will surely make a great companion and would love to be adopted by you! Come visit with this great cat.

The regular cat adoption fee is \$70 which includes the spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a free follow-up health check at a participating vet.

Please call 626-792-7151 and ask about A239783 or come to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, 361 S. Raymond Ave., Pasadena CA, 91105. Our adoption hours are 11-3 Sunday, 9-4 Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and 9-3 Saturday. Directions and photos of all pets updated hourly may be found at [www.phsspc.org](http://www.phsspc.org).

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
					Best Used Book Sale at the Library Friday, 3-7pm, Saturday 10-2 pm	
			<b>8</b> Arts Commission Meeting, Council Chambers, 8:30 pm			<b>11</b> Poetry Reading at the Library, 3:00 pm
			<b>15</b> Tree Advisory Commission Meeting Council Chambers 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> Third Thursday Book Club, Library, 11:00 am Planning Commission Meeting, Council Chambers, 7:00 pm		<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Community Services Commission Meeting Council Chambers 8:00 pm	<b>21</b> Author Night at the Library, 7:00 pm	<b>22</b> Library Board of Trustees Meeting City Hall Conference Room, 7:00 pm			
<b>26</b>						

## Five Kilo Youth Run

Get out and get active! The Pasadena Marathon is sponsoring a 5K run on November 16, 2008. Training runs for this race will be held at Sierra Vista Park in front of the Youth Activity Center. Training runs will start this Sunday at 4:00pm.

## Fire Prevention Festival



Saturday, October 11, 2008  
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sierra Madre Fire Station  
242 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre, Ca.

Fun For The Entire Family  
Free Hot Dogs Balloon Maker

## DON'T THROW THAT OUT!

Lectures Explore Historic Treasures Buried in Attics and Closets of Our Homes

Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 pm

Avery Dennison Auditorium - 470 W. Walnut, Pasadena  
Tickets & Information: 626-577-1660, ext. 10

What long-forgotten historic treasures are buried in the attics and closets, nooks and crannies of our old Pasadena homes? Pasadena Museum of History's outreach efforts have uncovered a wealth of fascinating "finds" that shed light on this community's evolution.

*Tuesday, October 14, at 7:30 pm*, William Deverell, USC Professor of History and Director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, will join Brad Macneil and Diane Siegel, co-curators of PMH's upcoming Family Stories exhibition, in a show-and-tell session to showcase some of these items and explore the stories they tell. Reception immediately following presentation.

*Don't Throw That Out!* is the first in a series of four programs that explore Pasadena's historic roots through the art, culture, cuisine and personal stories of individuals from the city's African-American, Armenian-American, Chinese-American, Japanese-American, and Latino communities. Subsequent programs are scheduled on:

*Tuesday, October 21:* Artistic Roots with artists Alexander Kritselis, Keiko Fukazawa and Gilbert "Magu" Lujan;

*Tuesday, November 18:* character, Plot, Location... with Pasadena City Library Director Jan Sanders and authors Gustavo Arellano, Gayle David-Culp and Naomi Hirahara;

*Tuesday, December 2:* Food Unwrapped with Pulitzer Prize-winning food writer Jonathan Gold and a panel of ethnic food experts (this program includes food and wine).

TICKETS for the October 14 event are \$20 General; \$15 Museum Members; \$10 Students with I.D. Please call 626-577-1660, ext 10 for reservations. For additional information, please visit [www.pasadenahistory.org](http://www.pasadenahistory.org) or call 626-577-1660, ext. 10.

Free Admission

MAFA

Monrovia Association of Fine Arts  
Presents

45th Annual "Celebrate The Arts"  
A Festival of Fine Arts  
Saturday & Sunday October 11 & 12, 2008  
10:00 am to 6:00 pm both days

Monrovia Community Center  
119 W. Palm Ave., Monrovia, CA

Opening Night Celebration  
Saturday, October 11, 2008 - 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm  
(A tax deductible donation is requested for the Celebration event)

Featured Artist - Frank Zgonc

Enhance the lives of those within our community through interaction with the arts. Increase the opportunities of our children through art education.

Silent auction  
Food booth  
Student art display

## MountainViews-Observer



If You Dare, Bring The Kiddies By  
The MountainViews-Observer Haunted  
House On Halloween.....If You Dare!

## ThePumpkinPatchSponsors Classic Car Show

Saturday, October 18, 2008 will mark the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Classic Car Day. Anyone bringing a classic vehicle will get 15 percent off purchases. The Tahoe Pumpkin Patch is located next to Pasadena High School on Sierra Madre Boulevard.

For more information call 626 798 8879.

## Chili Cook Off

The Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Chili Cook-off on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008 at the Hart Memorial Park House (Senior Center) from 6-8pm. Entry applications are now being accepted, thru Oct. 15th. Get your application by stopping by the Chamber office at 37 N. Auburn Ave. in Sierra Madre, or download it from [www.sierramadrenews.net/chilicookoff2008](http://www.sierramadrenews.net/chilicookoff2008).

All contestants must provide four quarts of homemade, ready to serve chili in a crock pot or other heating tray. Contestants must also provide a serving spoon or ladle plus condiments particular to your recipe (onions, cheese, etc.). Chili cups, spoons and napkins will be supplied. The contest is limited to twenty entries, so be sure and get your application in early. Prizes will be awarded.

All entries must be delivered to the Senior Center at 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd no later than 5:45 p.m. on October 16th. No late entries will be accepted. Winners will be announced at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and sample the various recipes. Admission is \$10 for Chamber members, and \$15 for non-members. Contestants will receive free admission.

3rd Annual  
Sierra Madre

Wine  
Jazz  
Walk

City of Hope

PRESENTED BY  
San Antonio Winery &  
Riboli Family Wine Estates

Proceeds to benefit City of Hope  
Downtown Sierra Madre

Saturday, October 25 • 4 - 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 pre-sale and  
\$40 day of event

Tickets may be purchased at participating  
businesses listed on the back or  
online at the website

For Information please call 626.355.0024 or  
[sierramadrewineandjazzwalk.com](http://sierramadrewineandjazzwalk.com)

WaMu

RUSNAK

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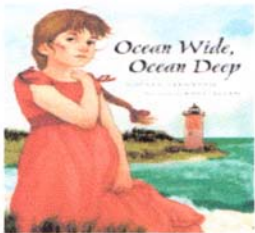




Here's What's  
Happening  
at the Bookstore!

**HOOTENANNY!** Join us for a lively music circle, perfect for families and children of all ages! Bring an instrument to play, a song to sing, or simply share in the fun! **Sat., 10/11/08, Noon**

**BOOK SIGNING!** With local children's author, Susan Lendroth! Join us to hear passages of her new book, *Ocean Wide, Ocean Deep*. **Sat., 10/18/08, 11 am**



*Sierra Madre Books is an independent, family-owned bookstore with new and used books, author events, live music, tutoring, and guitar lessons. Contact the store for details.*

18 W. Sierra Madre Blvd • Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
(626) 836-3200 • [www.sierramadrebooks.com](http://www.sierramadrebooks.com)

Coldwell Banker  
Arcadia Regional Office's

Annual Pancake  
Breakfast 2008



Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:30-11:00am

15 E. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia

Donation: \$5.00 Adults / \$3.00 Children 12 & under

All Proceeds will Benefit YWCA "WINGS"  
Domestic Violence Service

Pumpkin Patch • Cake Walk • Games • Music • Balloon Twisting  
Face Painting • Raffles • Henna Tattoos • Arcadia Explorers  
Arcadia Fire Truck • Smokey Bear



Costumes Welcome!



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.  
Please Join Us for a Great Cause &  
A Great Breakfast!

For Tickets & Information:  
Call 626.445.5500

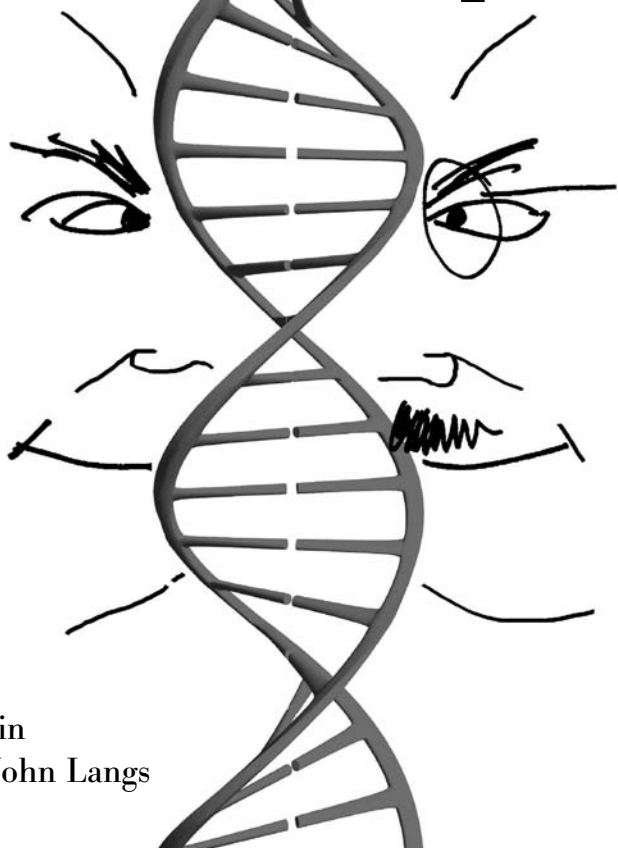
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*double-cross* in the pursuit of *double-stranded* DNA.**

The Sequence



By Paul Mullin  
Directed by John Langs

THURSDAYS - SATURDAYS @ 8 PM • SUNDAYS @ 2 PM

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City of Sierra Madre

Public Hearing Notice

To: Property Owners within a 300 ft. radius  
Subject: Variance 08-01 - 679 Brookside Lane  
Applicant: Irene Carrouche

*The City of Sierra Madre gives notice, pursuant to State of California Law, that the Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider the request of a Variance for the property at 679 Brookside Lane. The applicant is proposing the construction of a new 1,571-square-foot, two-story residence and is requesting a Variance to allow an encroachment of thirteen (13) feet into the minimum 25-foot front yard setback as established by Municipal Code Section 17.20.050(A)(1).*

Place, Date and Time of Meeting  
Sierra Madre City Council Chambers  
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024  
Thursday, October 16, 2008  
Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

*All interested persons may attend this meeting and the Planning Commission will hear them with respect thereto.*

PROJECT LOCATION: 679 Brookside Lane, in the City of Sierra Madre, County of Los Angeles, State of California

APPEAL: *The decision of the Planning Commission is subject to a 10-day-appeal period to the City Council. If in the future anyone wishes to challenge the decision of the Planning commission in court, one may be limited to raising issues that were raised or presented in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at or before the scheduled public haring. For further information on this subject, please contact the Development Services Department at (626) 355-7135.*

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor--

I am concerned about one of your columnists that engages in character assassination of one of our elected officials. Glenn Lambdin attacks Councilman Don Watts and not only denigrates his service to the people who elected him, he also derides his professional activities in the city before he was elected to the City Council.

In the past I have had occasion to be on opposite sides of issues with Councilman Watts, but when it comes to this type of personal attack I feel that I must support this elected official.

In particular, Lambdin calls Watts design for his client Fred Crockett, "Watts Towers" and claims that the building is too high and dense and can be seen from too many streets.

While Lambdin criticizes the design as inappropriate for the city, it is actually an icon of the reasons for enacting Measure V, which Lamdin bitterly opposed.

Mr. Lambdin's criticism of Mr. Watt's design for Fred Crockett is an echo of his unsuccessful campaign against the 2007 passage of Measure V. Even though the election is over, the public continues to be misled with columns asserting that the measure barely passed. While the actual vote margin may have appeared narrow, Measure V was a major success because the opposition was bankrolled by \$170,000.00 from outside pro-development interests and the professional help of a public relations firm that had previously won nearly all its pro-development campaigns. Sierra Madre supporters passed Measure V with only \$30,000.00 and grass-roots support. In the face of these odds, the win was very big.

Lambdin also fails to mention that he was part of the development juggernaut opposing Measure V. He filed a lawsuit to remove the arguments in favor of the measure from the sample ballot pamphlet. Measure V is not anti-development, it is

anti-overdevelopment. It does not prohibit development, it just holds the line consistent with the rest of Los Angeles County. Sierra Madre residents do not want to be the guinea pigs for the development interests.

At the time it was done, the design for Fred Crockett complied with the existing codes. To emphasize Lambdin's hypocrisy, had Measure V been defeated and the proposed zoning Lambden supported gone into effect, the building could have been one story higher and even denser than its current design.

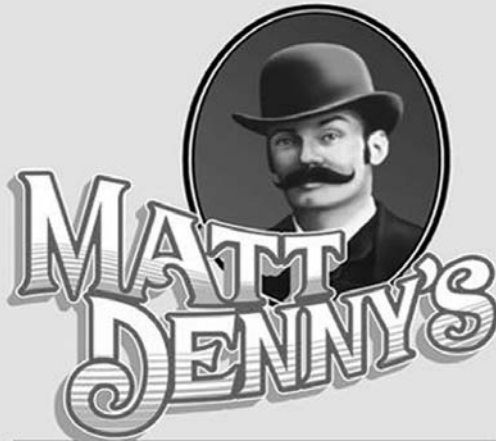
In addition, during the project's planning review, there was significant pressure from then City Planning Director Kurt Christensen to increase the height and add density. The objective was to establish the definition of what could go into Montecito and other downtown areas under the proposed hyper-density plan.

Another area of Lambdin's misrepresentation concerns Watts's work at the Krafft estate. Contrary to Lambdin's claims, at that time, the Krafft Estate was not the largest undeveloped stand of oak trees in the City. That distinction would go to One Carter Ave. where as a candidate for City Council Mr. Lambdin held a campaign gala. He also effectively voted to demolish that stand of oak trees when he voted in favour of development of the One Carter site.

For an analogy of over-development of a site being where one can see a structure from too many streets, I cannot imagine why Mr. Lambdin would make such a statement when the front-door of his own home at the entrance to the Canyon faces the T-intersection .

Lamdin is guilty of projection--a condition where a person projects his own beliefs on to others and then blames them.

Caroline Brown, Sierra Madre



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If for any reason, you are not 100% satisfied with your food or service, then your lunch or dinner is on Matt Denny himself, no questions asked!! full menu, and take a virtual tour of the restaurant.

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# MountainViews-Observer

# Pasadena Altadena

News From Your Community For Your Community

## Leaf Blower Enforcement Sweeps Looked at

By Dean Lee

The city's Public Safety Committee pondered ideas Monday over regulating the use of leaf blowers and ways to reduce their annoyances, including ideas for a new education plan and new stern licensing checks to combat the problem.

Although the committee swayed against an outright ban, research done by city staff showed that leaf blower bans in other cities were 90 to 95 effective in reducing the noise and pollution created by them.

Other recommendations the committee did decide on included, retaining the current leaf blower ordinance that limits the use hours, keep the certification fee and enhance training and community outreach.

"Enforcement will be increased as health inspectors are being trained to issue citations," Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein said. "That is scheduled for the end of the year, 08."

He also said there would be occasional complaint-driven sweeps. The committee suggested regular sweeps four times a year. They also suggested incentives to replace older nosier machines with quieter, less polluting ones.

The recommendations will now be reviewed later this month by the city council, according to the committee.

At issue was the low number of gardeners, only 100 according to staff, who have signed up for the city's current annual leaf blower certification program. Certification must be done prior to the renewal of a business license. Pasadena Public Health Director Takashi Wada said it was unclear how many unlicensed gardeners there might be, "it's probably a lot," he explained.

The City's Environmental Health Program Manager, William Kimura, said



the number of certified gardeners was based on the fees they collect, \$61 per professional gardener. He said they also collect \$190 per vehicle for the business license. Proof of certification is done through a sticker placed on a leaf blower.

Haderlein had said earlier that any incentive needed to be greater than \$250, including fines. Councilmember Margaret McAustin said they should use, "the carrot," approach instead of the stick. Rebates were suggested for those that complete a classroom education safety program. McAustin suggested a reduced fee for the first year.

Wada also said that if the city did want to conduct year-round enforcement it would cost upwards of \$400,000, and require three employees and three vehicles. He suggested being proactive would be more cost effective.

Current restrictions do not allow power leaf blowers to be used weekdays before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. and not before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. Saturdays. They are not allowed at all on Sundays. Only one leaf blower at a time may be used per job location and only for 15 minutes per hour on parcels less than .5 acre. The maximum amount of time any blower can be used at one location is 30 minutes, according to Wada.

Health issues such as dust did not come up although, later after the meeting, Wada said if they are used properly dust is

not a problem. He said they should never be used at full throttle.

He also handed out a flyer with information on the proper use, including, "Before using a blower, check wind direction. Look for open doors and windows, freshly washed cars, children or pets at play, and other things that could be harmed by blowing dust, leaves or debris." The flyer also suggests using rakes and brooms to loosen debris before blowing.

McAustin had said she did not think the city was meeting its mark towards environmentalism. "We're talking about emissions here," she said. "I don't really see any kind of data on how this conforms with our environmental agenda."

She asked that recommendations be looked at by the city's Environmental Advisory Commission.

In related news, last month STIHL Inc. held their popular leaf blower exchange program in Pasadena, swapping 160 older polluting backpack blowers with new low-polluting, low-noise models.

John Kim owner of the Lawn Mower Corner said they could have exchanged 100 more, had STIHL provided them the blowers.

"So many people, they were interested," he said. "They came here, but there were not enough."

His shop on Walnut was the site for this year's program and he said they were only given 160



blowers to exchange during the two month period. He said most people signed up for reservations. Kim said the program rotates cities and was in its third year.

He explained that anyone bringing in an old leaf blower got the new one for \$200, saving them over \$250. "The leaf blower did not have to work," he added.

"They cost about \$460," he said about the STIHL low-noise models, "it's in the high range as far as cost." He also said leaf blowers, in general, start at about \$218 and can go up to over \$600 depending on power.

Kim said he sells the low-noise blowers to gardeners in cities with leaf blower ordinances.

He said the quieter models use a four-stroke engine as opposed to a two-stroke. They also use noise filtering similar to a car muffler.

The cities of Riverside, Chino, Norwalk, Inglewood, and Santa Ana have all offered the program in the past.

## Operation Safe City Comes to a Close, Weapons, Drugs Seized

By Dean Lee

In what police are calling a success —claiming responsibility for a 15 percent drop in recent local crime— Operation Safe City officially ended Monday, according to Police Chief Barney Melekian, who said the plan led to the arrest of 88 people, 21 of whom were federally indicted.

"Beginning three weeks ago, arrests began to be made throughout the city of Pasadena," he said during Monday night's city council meeting, also saying later, "This will, at least, during this particular phase bring Operation Safe City to a close. It has been a 19 month operation."

Melekian added they still had warrants and were looking for eight more people. He also gave details, saying he thinks the arrests are responsible for a 70 percent drop in violent crime this year.

In 2007 alone there were 12 murders and 45 attempted murders or severe assaults, he said.

According to a press release, Monday's announcement on Operation Safe City was the final stage of Operation Hard Rock, a 3-year long gang and narcotics investigation. Police showed off seized drugs, along with cash, guns and jewelry. Reports said the drugs, including rock cocaine, marijuana, and illegal pills, had a street value worth \$500,000.

Over \$100,000 in cash and \$20,000 was also

taken during the raids. Cars and even a trailer truck were also seized.

Melekian said some of the crimes involved drugs and weapons trafficking networks between Pasadena, Pittsburgh and other cities on the east coast, such as Atlanta and Detroit.

"It involved extensive undercover operations," he said. "Multiple hand-to-hand sales of narcotics, multiple sales of weapons."

Operation Safe City was launched in May of last year, Melekian said. The operation went through at least three phases by working with the Drug Enforcement Administration, Immigration Customs and Enforcement, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He said federal and local prosecutors also helped.

Councilmember Steve Madison expressed gratitude towards all the agencies involved.

"It's sometimes difficult for different agencies to work together cooperatively," he said. "My understanding is that currently, these law enforcement agencies, for what ever reason, are working better together than they ever have before."

Melekian said the L.A. District Attorney's office was a critical partner.

"I'd be remiss to say the partnership would not have been possible without the efforts of L.A. US Attorney Tom O'Brian," he said.

## Green College Summit comes to Pasadena



From left to right, PCC instructor Erica Cantanese, student Amber Hancock and A.S. President Christina Javier.

Pasadena City College was less than half a mile away from this year's Green California Community College Summit held at the Pasadena Convention Center, only a handful of facility, staff and students went, although those that did got to exchange information on going green with peers from all 109 community colleges throughout the state.

PCC Student Body President Christina Javier said of all the speaker sessions she went to over the two day summit, the most useful was "Engaging Students in Sustainability issues through Student Environmental Clubs."

Javier shared ideas with some of the other schools during a question and answer period including how she was interacting with student clubs on campus. "We want to have a contest between the clubs, to see who can pickup the cigarette butts," she said explaining that a clean campus brought school pride.

She also said she was working for more recycling on campus and had the support of college President Paulette Perfumo. She said Perfumo had also been at the summit the day before.

Javier also said the college was making big changes in

green policies including LEED certifying the next phase of construction on campus. Next year PCC will start construction on a new Visual Arts & Media Studies building as part of Measure P approving \$150 million in General Obligation Bonds.

She also said they plan to put solar panels on existing parking structures. The schools has already painted the roofs white Javier said to reflect light. PCC instructor Erica Cantanese teaching Introduction to Environmental Science said, also at the convention, that the school had put together an ad hoc committee on sustainability. She said the committee had not met yet although its members had been appointed. Both Students and Administrators will sit on the board she said.

Amber Hancock, a member of the environmental club, "Seeds of Change." Was also there saying she summit was full of information to take back to PCC.

She also said they were planning their own green awareness fair "Leap Frog" Nov. 2 with info booths, music and a panel discussion. She said in will be free and held at PCC.

## Talk about a Shake Out

By Teresa Baxter

The renowned Dr. Lucy Jones, chief scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, hosted a lecture last month regarding the upcoming Great Southern California Shake Out.

Jones spoke at Pasadena City College's Vosloh Forum as part of their monthly Von Karman Lecture series.

Nov. 13 will begin a week of special events Jones said featuring the largest earthquake drill in U.S. history, organized to inspire Southern Californians to get ready for big earthquakes, and to prevent disasters from becoming catastrophes.

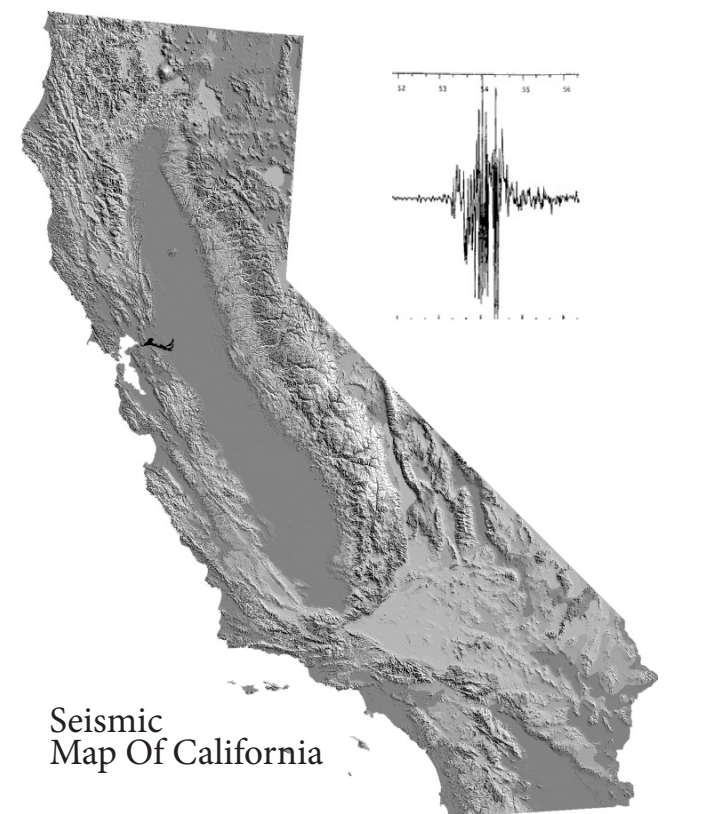
During the presentation it was stated that a great earthquake is an inevitable part of California's future, and Californians are not ready for it. One of the most likely great earthquakes that could hit southern California is one on the San Andreas Fault. The fault is so long that magnitude 7.8 earthquakes are common; the length of the fault determines the magnitude of the earthquake. And, the fault moves so fast

that earthquakes happen on average every hundred years or less; the last was in 1857. This is the earthquake we must all be ready for, she said.

"To help, 200 professionals from the U.S. Geological Survey, California Survey and many other organizations are working together to create a scenario that will describe just what the earthquake and its consequences will be like," said Dr. Jones. "The California Offices of Emergency Services and Homeland Security have jointly committed to use this scenario as the basis of a statewide emergency response exercise."

It was brought up that decades of improving life-safety requirements in building codes have greatly reduced the risk of death in earthquakes, yet southern California's economic and social systems are still vulnerable to large-scale disruptions. Because of this, the Shake Out scenario earthquake would dramatically alter the nature of the southern California community.

"Our goal is to change the way southern Californians



Seismic Map Of California

deal with earthquakes, because what we do know is the way we've been doing it up to now isn't working," she said. "We have fewer people storing water now than we had in 1971, and we don't have a significant level of earthquake preparedness going on. We're trying to create a situation where people will hear the message, they will see others taking action,

and they will be prompted to talk about the issue with people they care about."

For more information about being a part of the Great Southern California Shake Out, visit [www.ShakeOut.org](http://www.ShakeOut.org). 3.7 million people have already signed up and there are many ways to participate tailored to businesses, schools, individuals, places of worship and communities.





## Environmentally Speaking, Did You Know? Composting Part II

By Pat Birdsall

\* What to Compost: In addition to your lawn and garden clippings, a large supply of your household waste can be composted, including bread, eggshells and fruit and vegetable rinds. Basically any plant-based kitchen leftovers may be added, as can paper products, including cardboard rolls, tissues, paper towels, coffee filters and newer biodegradable, starch-based plastics. Don't compost animal or meat byproducts, such as dairy, grease, lard, oils and fish waste, which can create odor problems and attract rodents and other pests. Don't compost any yard trimmings that have been treated with chemical pesticides, since residues could kill beneficial composting organisms. For a thorough list of what you should and should not compost, visit the EPA's composting fact sheet at [www.epa.gov/compost](http://www.epa.gov/compost).

Maintaining Your Compost Heap: Keep a healthy nutrient balance and avoid odors by blending a 2-to-1 ratio of carbon-rich "brown" items such as leaves, twigs and bark with nitrogen-rich "green" items like grass clippings and food wastes. The pile should be kept slightly moist, but not wet, and be sure to aerate either with a rotating compost bin, or by manually turning the pile, aiming to move the material on the outside of the pile to the center where it will be subjected to higher temperatures. Piles with higher percentage of moisture, 60 to 70 percent, should be turned about every two days, while less moist piles (40 to 60 percent) can be turned at three day intervals. If moisture falls below 40 percent, add water. The more frequently a pile is turned, the more rapidly materials will decompose. Throwing native soil from your yard or garden into the mix is essential for introducing native organisms.

Compost should be "finished" before application, which means it should be dark in color, smell sweet and earthy and shouldn't give off heat or steam. Even "finished" compost can change over time and give off heat or odors, so don't bag or store mature compost. Instead leave unused compost in the pile.

Next week...Applying Compost and Product Comparisons

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink

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Sierra Madre Environmental Action Council\* (SMEAC)  
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\* We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Park House (Senior Center) in Hart Memorial Park, 222 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. - Please join us- Your thoughts and comments are welcome...



## Fire Safe Council "Announcements and Observations"

As we enter into the wildfire season in Southern California we have to be alert to the surrounding areas that are still vulnerable to brush

fire and blowing embers whenever the Santa Ana Winds start up. In the past week, the welcomed rain does not remove the hazard of the dry brush so you must continue to remove dry brush from your property and create a defensible space around your home.

We remind you that if you are interested in participating in either the Neighborhood Watch or the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training please call

the Police Department and leave a message for Chief Diaz--355-1414.

Are you continuing to prepare for the Great Southern California Shake Out, November 13, 2008, at 10 a.m.? Throughout the week there will be earthquake related seminars throughout Los Angeles County, which you can access through: [www.shakeout.org/drill](http://www.shakeout.org/drill). Will you be self-sufficient for 7-10 days in the event of a disaster event? Where are your earthquake preparation supplies stored as you read this announcement?

Our next Fire Safe Council meeting will be Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the City Council chambers. Call Sierra Madre Fire Safe Council, 355-0741, for information.

## Sierra Madre Police Blotter

During the week of Sunday, September 28th to Saturday, October 4th, the Sierra Madre Police Department responded to approximately 304 calls for service.

Sunday, September 28th:

11:41 AM- Arrest, 90 West Sierra Madre Blvd. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Investigation revealed the driver was unlicensed. The motorist was cited and released on a written promise to appear in court.

Monday, September 29th:

12:56 PM- Theft, 00 block of East Highland Ave. Between 12:30 PM and 1:30PM, unknown suspect(s) took a suitcase that was left in front of the victim's home. The total amount of property lost was valued at \$800.00.

Tuesday, September 30th:

1:39 AM- Residential Burglary. 600 block of Mariposa Avenue. Between the hours of 1:30 PM and 4:30 PM, unknown suspect(s) forced entry into the home via a rear door. The suspect may have left in a silver or gray foreign car with square brake lights. The total amount of property lost is undetermined.

Thursday, October 2nd:

12:08 AM- Arrest, Sierra Place and Lowell Avenue. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Investigation revealed the driver's license was suspended/revoked. The motorist was cited and released on a written promise to appear in court.

8:57 AM- Vandalism, 100 block of West Sierra Madre Blvd. Between the hours of 7:30 PM on 10-01-2008, and 8:30 AM on 10-02-2008, unknown suspect(s) damaged a large planter in front of Attitudes, a local business.

10:52 PM- Driving Under the Influence Arrest, Canon Avenue and Grandview Avenue. A motorist was stopped for a moving violation. Investigation revealed the driver was driving under the influence of alcohol. The driver was booked into Pasadena Jail for remand.

Saturday, October 4th:

8:35 PM- Vandalism, 100 block of West Sierra Madre Blvd. Between the hours of 7:30 PM and 8:30 PM, unknown suspect(s) damaged the rear window of a parked vehicle.

9:34 PM- Arrest, Santa Anita Avenue and Arno Avenue. A motorist was stopped for a traffic violation. Investigation revealed the driver was unlicensed. The motorist was cited and released on a written promise to appear in court.



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## Arcadia Police Blotter

For the period of Sunday, September 28, through Saturday, October 4, the Police Department responded to 1,106 calls for service of which 146 required formal investigations. The following is a summary report of the major incidents handled by the Department during this period.

Sunday, September 28:

Units responded to the 800 block of Fairview around 2:17 a.m. in reference to a domestic violence incident. During an argument, the wife scratched her husband several times and broke a phone when he tried to call police. A 35-year-old female Asian was arrested at the scene for battery.

A victim came to the station around 10:45 a.m. to file an identity theft report. The victim received a letter from a collection agency indicating that she owed over \$2,100 for a credit card account that she did not open.

Monday, September 29:

Shortly after 1:00 p.m., units were dispatched to the 600 block of Sunset regarding a fraud report. An elderly male victim received a phone call from a tax attorney advising him that he had won \$500,000 in a lottery. The victim was instructed not to tell anyone, but he had to wire \$19,000 by Western Union to Sophia, Bulgaria, in order to cover the taxes that he would incur. The victim wired the money and his son notified police of the scam.

Around 8:56 p.m., an armed robbery occurred at Bowling Square, 1020 South Baldwin. Two male Hispanics approached a male victim and demanded money. One suspect pulled out a handgun, so the victim handed over cash and his cell phone. An area search for the suspects was conducted, but they were not located.

Tuesday, September 30:

Two auto burglaries occurred between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Coldwell Banker, 15 East Foothill. Unknown suspect(s) smashed the windows and stole a GPS system and a duffle bag.

Wednesday, October 1:

Officers responded to Ralphs, 211 East Foothill, around 9:10 a.m. in reference to a commercial burglary that took place on September 30, between 2:49 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Two Hispanics, one male and one female, entered the store with booster bags and stole 49 various hair products for a reported loss of almost \$700.

Around 11:35 a.m., units were called to Hilton Garden, 199 North Second, regarding a grand theft that took place between 5:00 p.m. on September 29 and 7:45 a.m. on October 1. Unknown suspect(s) took a LCD television worth about \$1,000 from a hotel room that was under renovation.

Thursday, October 2:

Shortly before noon, units were dispatched to the 1600 block of Wilson regarding an identity theft report. Unknown suspect(s) used the victim's contractor's license number to fraudulently obtain \$14,000 from a client.

An auto burglary occurred at the Washington Mutual parking lot located at 60 East Huntington between 12:45 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Unknown suspect(s) smashed a car window and removed a gym bag containing \$22,000.

Friday, October 3:

Around 1:41 p.m., a victim came to the station to file a fraud report. Unknown suspect(s) obtained the victim's personal information by unknown means and opened three credit card accounts. The suspect(s) charged over \$4,700, and all the accounts are in collection.

Saturday, October 4:

A residential burglary in the 2000 block of South Sixth between 6:00 p.m. on Oct. 3 and 8:20 a.m. Oct. 4. The house is under construction and unknown suspect(s) stole a new washing machine and oven. The total reported loss was about \$4,600.

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## MAYFIELD SENIOR SCHOOL HONORS COMMENDED STUDENTS



Mayfield Senior School is pleased to announce that three senior students have been named Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program: Devon Newhouse, Kathleen McGinley, and Mary Laski. Outstanding Participants named were: Adriana Diakite and Taylor Fance.

These students join a group of 34,000 students throughout the nation recognized for their academic promise and achievement. Commended Students are recognized for placing among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million stu-

dents who entered the 2009 competition by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding academic potential by their strong performance in a highly competitive program. Head of School Rita McBride presented the students with their certificates at a school assembly on Monday, October 6, 2008. Our entire school community congratulates each of these students on their achievements.

## Dreier Announces Service Academy Application Deadline

SAN DIMAS, CA - Congressman David Dreier (R-San Dimas, CA) has announced the deadline for Service Academy applications for the 2009 school year. Young men and women interested in attending a United States Service Academy beginning in July 2009 have until Friday, November 14, 2008 to submit their applications for a nomination to Congressman Dreier's San Dimas office.

To be considered for admission to the U.S. Air Force, Military, Naval or Merchant Marine Academy, a student must first obtain a nomination from their local member of Congress. To be nominated by Congressman Dreier, an applicant must be between the ages of 17 and 23, a United States citizen, a resident of Congressman Dreier's district, and high school graduate by July 1, 2009.

Congressman Dreier's district includes the following communities: Arcadia, Bradbury, Charter Oak, Claremont, Glendora, La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, La Verne, Monrovia, Montclair, Montrose, Rancho Cucamonga, San Antonio Heights, San Dimas, San Marino, Sierra Madre, Upland, Walnut, Wrightwood, and portions of Altadena, Pasadena, and San Gabriel.

For an application or for more information, please contact Congressman Dreier's office at 510 East Foothill Boulevard, Suite 201, San Dimas or contact (909)575-6226 or (888)906-2626. Applications are also available at Congressman Dreier's web site, <http://dreier.house.gov/services.htm>

## CHILDREN'S GUILD OF FIVE ACRES RAISES HOPE AND LAUGHTER

(ALTADENA, CALIF) -- Encouraging kids to enjoy themselves may not seem difficult. But when the children have been abused, neglected or abandoned help is needed in allowing them to become children again. The Children's Guild of Five Acres is dedicated to that mission and much more at the 120-year-old child and family services agency in Altadena.

The Children's Guild holds its fall membership drive social Tuesday, October 21 at 6 p.m. at the Five Acres campus (760 W. Mountain View Street, Altadena) to interest more people in becoming involved with their efforts and expanding their reach.

"The work these volunteers do with the children is invaluable in contributing to the success of our therapeutic programs," said Robert A. Ketch, executive director of Five Acres.

The guild, established in 1990, is committed to building support for Five Acres, while creating programs that work directly with the children. Members make twice monthly visits to 6-to-10 year old boys and girls in residence on the Altadena campus where they engage in crafts, games, cooking, sports, performing arts and host outings to off-campus activities, parties and an annual barbecue. The Birthday Angel program provides cake and gifts to celebrate each of the children's birthdays and a festive holiday party.

For more information about The Children's Guild of Five Acres and to RSVP for the October 21 Social, contact Pearl Kim at (626) 798-6793 ext.2296 or [pkim@5acres.org](mailto:pkim@5acres.org)



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## SCHOOL DIRECTORY

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

### Arcadia High School

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

### Arroyo Pacific Academy

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

### Barnhart School

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

### Bethany Christian School

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

### Carden of the Foothills School

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

### The Gooden School

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

### LaSalle High School

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

### Monrovia High School

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

### Norma Coombs Alternative School

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

### Odyssey Charter School

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

### Pasadena High School

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

### Pasadena Unified School District

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

### St. Rita Catholic School

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

### Sierra Madre Elementary School

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

### Sierra Madre Middle School

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

### Weizmann Day School

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

### Wilson Middle School

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

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Ann Luke  
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**Art Director**  
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**Photography**  
Jacqueline Truong  
Lina Johnson

### Contributors

Pat Birdsall  
Bob Eklund  
Jeff Brown  
Stuart Tolchin  
Kim Clymer-Kelley  
Christopher Nyerger  
Peter Dills  
Hail Hamilton  
Rich Johnson  
Chris Bertrand  
Virginia Hoge  
Mary Carney  
La Quetta Shamblee  
Teresa Baxter  
Bill Coburn  
Glenn Lambdin  
Trish Collins

**Editorial Cartoonist**  
Ann Cleaves

**Web Master**  
John Avery

Advertising Inquiries  
Contact:

**ANN LUKE**  
**626-325-3111 or**  
**JULIE PUTERBAUGH**  
**626-836-6524**

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MountainViews - Observer  
280 W. Sierra Madre Bl. #327  
Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024  
Phone: 626-355-2737  
Fax: 626-609-3285  
email: [mvobserver@aol.com](mailto:mvobserver@aol.com)

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



Member



## Stuart Tolchin On...LIFE SOME QUESTIONS HAVE TO BE ASKED

It's Friday night, about 2:00 a.m. and I can't sleep. There are some things that are really bothering me and I wonder if other people are bothered in the same way. I'm going to make a list of some of the things that are worrying me and try and discuss them a little bit in the hope that this process might help us all get a little better understanding of what's going on around us. Okay, here goes!

### 1) IS IT ALREADY TOO LATE?

Has the time to prevent something horrible from happening already passed us by? In the same way that we awoke one morning to learn that our economy had basically self-destructed, will we wake up one day to be informed that the planet has become uninhabitable and we are out of luck? No, that's not my worst fear! My real fear is that we will all wake and be notified that the planet can only support a certain amount of people and that only people who are rich and powerful are entitled to survive. So, so long—it was nice while it lasted, wasn't it? We could have told you before but we didn't want to worry you and start a panic. Kaboom!!

2) WHY WEREN'T WE INFORMED EARLIER ABOUT THE FINANCIAL CRISIS? ISN'T CONGRESSORSOME PART OF THE GOVERNMENT SUPPOSED TO BE MONITORING ALL THIS STUFF AND KEEPING US INFORMED? IF THAT'S THE JOB OF GOVERNMENT WHY DON'T THEY AT LEAST APOLOGIZE FOR NOT DOING THEIR JOB AND IF IT'S NOT THEIR JOB WHAT DO WE NEED THEM FOR?

Seriously, the job of Congress and all its Committees and sub-Committees is to keep track of all this stuff and to monitor what the President and his cronies are doing and not doing. The truth, I guess is that the vice-President clandestinely runs the Country and refuses to be accountable

to anyone. The inability of the legislature to properly monitor executive power is another example of the failure of Congress to maintain the system of Checks and Balances which is the cornerstone of our whole Federal System. The idea that these failed Congressional monitors like Barney Frank (yes, the Democrats are to blame too!) are now the same guys who vote to authorize this \$840,000,000,000 bail-out is just insanely suicidal. Can't we appoint a committee of people who know what they're doing and who would responsibly inform the American People of what probable consequences flow from alternative plans?

3) WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? BUSH / CHENEY WERE NEVER EVEN ELECTED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ISN'T THE PAST EIGHT YEARS JUST AN EXAMPLE OF AN ILLEGAL POWER GRAB BY THE RICH AND POWERFUL CONTRARY TO RESULTS OF THE 2000 ELECTION?

As a lawyer I was particularly sickened by the indefensible Supreme Court decision that made George Bush our President. The decision was contrary to all precedent and decided by individual judges for their own political reasons. When confronted with this disgrace Justice Scalia (whose vote and influence was used in a manner completely contrary to his judicial philosophy) I have been told that his customary response is "Get over it!"

### 4) IS IT ALL AL GORE'S FAULT?

Al, you won an Emmy, an Oscar, and the Nobel Peace Prize but you really let us down! You should have fought harder for us. Well, so long to American Dominance, I think. This next century will probably be about China, India, and Japan fighting for power while the United States sits on the sidelines as irrelevant and powerless as our President is today. Maybe, our best hope is to move to Canada or Finland, places where there's lots of land and relatively few people.

IT'S 4:00 a.m. now and I still can't sleep. CAN YOU?



Rich Johnson

## The Transmission Is Stuck On Politics!

All right, I surrender. Since we have less than a month before the elections, this intrepid columnist might as well cave in, jump on the ice float and ramble on about - what else? ... politics. I think I am going to vote for the candidate that says the least over the next few weeks. How about you?

I realize I have picked on Republicans and Democrats but left Congress as an entity unto itself alone. If George Bush has a 29% approval rating and Congress has somewhere between 9 and 15%, how come Congress isn't getting hammered as much as our commander in chief?

Of course, if we are going to discuss Congress, I am going to fall back on my political hero, Will Rogers. Let's see what he had to say about our distinguished bi-cameral body of legislators.

As to why there are two bodies of legislators, Mr. Rogers said,

"You see, in Washington they have two of these bodies, Senate and the House of Representatives. That is for the convenience of visitors. If there is nothing funny happening in one, there is sure to be in the other, and in case one body passes a good bill, why, the other can see it in time and kill it."

"If we took Congress serious, we would be worrying all the time."

"Our Senate always opens with a prayer, followed by an investigation.

"A foreigner coming here and reading the Congressional Record would say that the President of the United States was elected solely for the purpose of giving Senators somebody to call a horse thief."

As to pork barrel spending, Mr. Rogers said, "The height of statesmanship is to come home with a dam, even if you have nowhere to put it."

On lobbyists, "California had a bill in to investigate lobbying, and the lobbyists bought off all the votes and now they can't even find the bill. Putting a lobbyist out of business is like a hired man trying to fire his boss."

"Hurray! Congress is to adjourn! Only four more days of the Congressional burglary of the Treasury!"

"Every newspaper in the United States runs what you say, even if you don't say anything. Look at the President. Every paper was full of what he didn't say."

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Hail Hamilton

## IS SARAH PALIN A POST TURTLE? Debate, Biking, St. Louis, & Beer

Just minutes after the Biden-Palin debate the following bit of humor was posted by [dos Kos](#) from St. Louis:

"While suturing a cut on the hand of a 75 year old rancher, whose hand was caught in the gate while working cattle, the doctor struck up a conversation with the old man. Eventually the topic got around to Palin and her bid.

"The old rancher said, 'well, ya know, Palin is a Post Turtle'."

"Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked him what a 'post turtle' was.

"The old rancher said, 'When you're driving down a country road you come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top, that's a 'post turtle'."

"The old rancher saw the puzzled look on the doctor's face so he continued to explain. 'You know she didn't get up there by herself, she doesn't belong up there, and she doesn't know what to do while she's up there, and you just wonder what kind of dummy put her up there to begin with'."

\* \* \* \*

I biked to work today. I got in 28 miles. On the way home I stopped by a friend to watch the evening news. On TV I saw a few dozen protesters being escorted by a half dozen cops in front of Washington University. Right before the debate began I checked the blogs.

From [Politico](#):

"*McCain pulling out of Michigan*: John McCain is pulling out of Michigan, according to two Republicans, a stunning move a month away from Election Day that indicates the difficulty Republicans are having in finding blue states to put in play."

*I was flabbergasted.* Are bloggers ahead of the curve? Is it true that the McCain campaign is parachuting from red states and letting them crash into Democratic hands? Can it be that the pilot and the hockey mom are conceding defeat in Motown? What about all those jobless "Blue Collar" independents looking to vote Republican?

*Aw shucks.* The McCain-Palin ticket can get by with one less red state. Heck. There's plenty more. Gee whiz. There's still more than two weeks until Election Day. Is there time enough to get more votes? You betcha. I mean, golly! What's all the fuss about?

From [simplicity12345678](#):

"I tried to watch the entire Biden-Palin VP debate. But just couldn't stomach Palin; her winks, her mocking grins, her smug replies. I didn't think it would be possible to dislike someone as much, if not more, as Bush. But, Palin broke that record.

"She makes me physically sick, dragging her own very ill child, Trig, to garner sympathy, I think. An extremely shameless mother at that!

"I need chocolate to get rid of the bad taste in my mouth.

"Palin: YUCK!"

\* \* \* \*

I'm going out for a few beers after this one. But before I do:

Don't call me "Joe 6 pack." Anyone who has a grasp over the conditions of the last 8 years knows it's "Joe 12 pack"

Big surprise: Palin stuck to the talking points and she didn't lose much ground. However, I felt that Biden was the more informed of the two candidates. If there was a "winner" of debating the issues; he was clearly the winner.

But Palin didn't lose in the sense that many had anticipated. Apparently, it is possible to cram for a nationally televised debate. It is possible to fake it and make it. You betcha!

"Hey, can I call you Joe?" was the pretext to the canned "Say it ain't so Joe." It was clear as day to me; she had been waiting to say that for weeks.

Completely canned—just like the beer I'm going to down.

Aw shucks, heck, gee whiz, golly I can't wait for the next debate—I'm glad there ain't gonna be no more post turtles on the tube. (Wink, wink... WINK!)

## REMEMBER TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

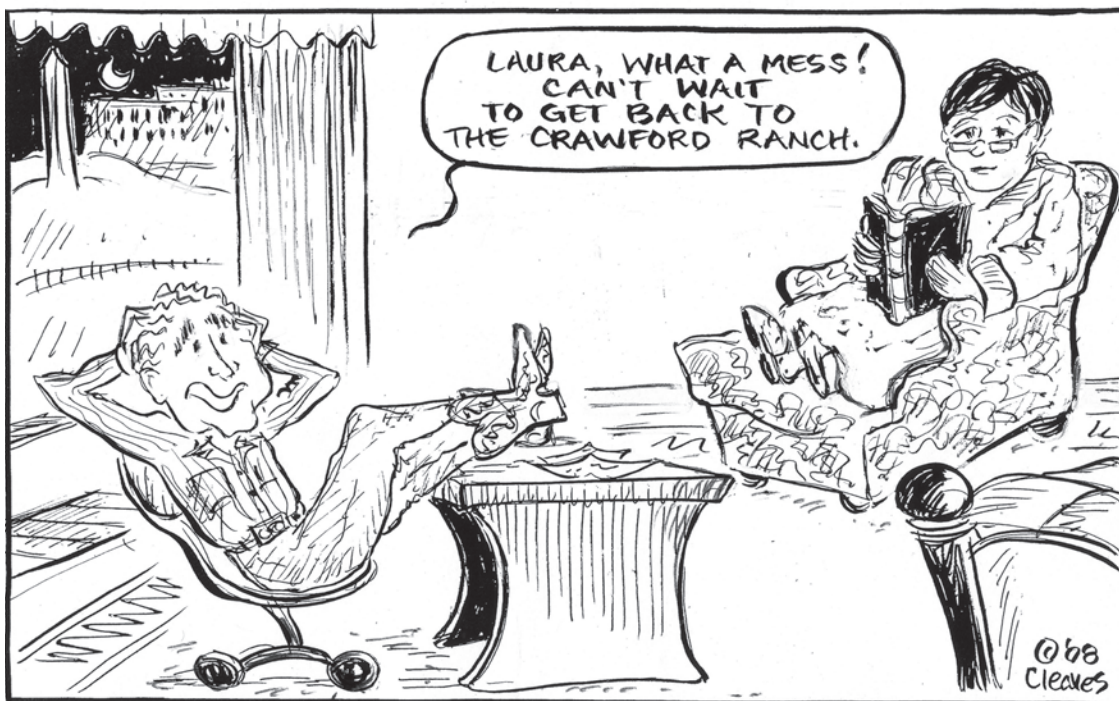
Your registration must be postmarked

by

October 20, 2008

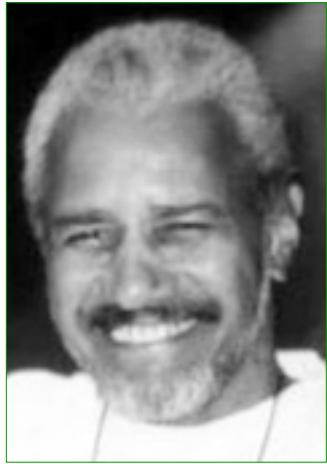
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# The Housing Crisis and The Election: Any Solutions? A Big Mess To Fix



**Ralph McKnight**

By Ralph McKnight and Lila Gregory

Writing this article has been very difficult because the state of our economy and the consequences felt in the mortgage industry are changing minute by minute. Moreover, I am writing in pain because my editor has broken a couple of my fingers to let me know what's in store if I didn't finish this article on time.

I hear we're careening towards global depression. At first I thought global depression just meant everyone in the world was in the dumps until I realized it meant the world is precipitously poised on the edge of financial collapse.

Equally disconcerting is that I've learned the little money I have and all the money a lot of other folks have is not really money after all. Rather it is something known as uncollateralized currency, i.e. monopoly script or play dough. There is no silver or gold to back up all those dollars we've been spending so lavishly.

Credit has gone to hell in a hand basket. But, wait, 'Superbank' is coming, cape and all! There's news we may be saved after all. Regard! Hot off the press is news that the U.S. is now going to purchase equity in financial institutions. American Capitalism as we've known it is dead and Fidel Castro is smoking a cigar and having a little rum between smiles. Thanks to "Superbank Our brief affair with a sort of financial dystopia may soon be over and we may soon be able to return to the wonderful effervescence of the sort of gambling and financial legerdemain, better know as McCain Type 1 deregulation, that got us in this mess to begin with.

Now, no comment I can make about a solution to this mortgage crisis, qualified or unqualified is worth it's salt because of the rapidly shifting circumstances and, the overall increased complexity of the situation, But...

## How Did We Get Into This Mess and Who Is Responsible?

Much has been said about homeowners who were not 'credit worthy' as being the cause of this collapse. In fact, the slide did start innocuously in April after New Century Financial, a mortgage lender whose principle borrowers were Americans with less-than-stellar credit. Its customers were people who may have been late on credit card payments, maybe even filed bankruptcy in the previous years, but still wanted that shot at the American dream: a home of one's own. Lenders, flush with cash and eager to exploit new markets so they could, in turn, lend more money and increase their profits, were only too happy to oblige. Hedge funds and banks worldwide saw a market flush with opportunity and took their fill, buying mortgage-backed securities to bolster their own bottom lines.

However, before the greed mongers put carrots out to the credit challenged, they had already filled their portfolios off the backs of unsuspecting borrowers by manipulation of the housing market (inflated values) and the wholesale whoring of the housing market to outside interests. Most of the homes facing foreclosure today were borrowers who purchased property that was valued over \$500,000. These 'jumbo' loans became the number one target of lenders eager to fatten their portfolios. And, as you know, a \$500,000 price tag in California is more common than not. Conservatives love to blame the poor for their problems, but they are hard pressed to prove those allegations when you have people such as Ed McMahon who has fallen into the hands of unregulated lending predators. These lenders also went after the self employed and those who declined to state their income, in order to create mortgage backed securities. The scheme was so well orchestrated that even the most reputable of prime lenders had subsidiaries that they quickly referred applicants to, for a deal that would 'fit' their circumstances. The terms were shady and undisclosed for the most part, but the excuse was the difficulty of the loan.

And when conservatives - McCain and his cronies talk about the poor, they should be reminded that they added 159,000 people to that class in the month of September alone. 159,000 Americans lost their jobs, and most probably owned their own homes.

Republicans still don't acknowledge that their philosophy of helping big business did not lead to more jobs in this country. They still don't understand that for every single job created by big business that is sent overseas, it displaces an American worker. So, let's tell the truth....the housing crisis is not fault of the unemployed and homeless, it is the by product of an unregulated financial market.

Homeownership is the cornerstone of the American Dream. Citizens chased that dream with confidence not realizing that the deregulation that Republicans had sold them would turn that dream into a nightmare. And unless we elect a President who understands and is willing to fight for the remedy we need to restore that dream, we are lost.

John McCain, Mr. Keating Five, King of DeRegulation, has offered no realistic or sincere solutions on how to handle the crisis. Instead, of late he has resorted to inspiring hate mongering, knowing full well that the crowds he speaks to are full of citizens who are scared. He tells them what he thinks they want to hear. He preys on their emotions, and he offers no solutions.

Barack Obama, while ducking the most vile attacks in the history of Presidential Politics, offers solutions whose primary goals are to stabilize the lives of citizens. Jobs, homes, health care, education, the basics. And, he has refrained from grandstanding like his opponent by presenting "plans" that sound good and garner attention on the six o'clock news.

Right now, we have absolutely no leadership guiding the country through this crisis. We have to hold on until January 21, 2009. But in preparation for that day, we must elect the only candidate that has offered a plan to change the direction the country is going in. Obama has spelled out for all Americans to see. Go to <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/> and learn the details and then vote for the only man that has a real plan.

In the meantime, we need to fasten our seatbelts and hold on tight.

*Ralph McKnight is President of The Pasadena Collection, Member, Executive Board, California Democratic Party, Arts & Culture Commissioner for the City of Pasadena, Board Member United Nation Association, Jazz Musician, Former member, Revolutionary Action Movement, Producer Jazz & Blues Series for the Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts and writer. Ralph can be reached at [r.mcknight@mobserver.com](mailto:r.mcknight@mobserver.com).*



So how'd we get here and how do we get out? Those are the question in the hearts and on the minds of millions of Americans who live on or near Main Street. Interestingly enough, both John McCain and Barak Obama voted for the "bailout" bill, although both agree that it was far from a perfect bill. To see where they differ, let's seriously tackle the questions of how we got here and how we're going to get out.

You may not realize it, but banks and mortgage companies that make loans don't usually keep the loans they make. Once you've obtained your mortgage, the bank typically sells the mortgage to somebody else in order to get money to make more mortgages. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were created by Congress to buy these mortgages and provide that liquidity. As they do that, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac then turn to Wall Street to help sell the mortgages they buy to investors in the U.S. and around the world. So lots of people, banks and insurance companies end up owning a piece of lots of mortgages.

As long as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are encouraging and buying "good" mortgages, the system works in a sense. Unfortunately, that's not what they did. As far back as September 9, 1999, The New York Times disclosed that Fannie and Freddie were easing credit and down payment requirements so that more low-income or poor-credit borrowers would be able to buy houses. Thus, government interference, not the free market, birthed a problem which haunts us today. Once these two government organizations told the market to lend to those who might not be able to

afford their mortgages, lenders obliged, bad loans were written and Fannie/Freddie bought them up. Wall Street may have facilitated this problem, but it clearly did so at the request of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These soon-to-be-in-default loans were sold to investors, insurance companies and other banks the world-over. Somehow we're supposed to be surprised that lots of people, banks, and insurance companies own lots of bad loans.

Almost from the get-go, John McCain and other conservatives warned us that Fannie and Freddie were encouraging reckless lending by banks. The liberal approach - supported by Barak Obama, but best articulated by Barney Frank (D-Mass) - was to squash any attempt to control this behavior. Time and again when any reform measure was attempted in D.C., the liberals either scuttled it in committee or gutted it in final passage.

The reasons for the liberal defense of these mortgage excesses are applicable to today's discussion about which candidate offers a more likely way out of this mess. Senator Obama promises more regulation of a system which was broken by government regulations in the first place. More regulation simply means more power for politicians to continue to agitate and negotiate for outcomes which are politically favorable to themselves and yet economically harmful to the rest of us.

Senator Obama and other Democrats may see their actions to make more loans available to lower-income voters as a form of social justice affecting a minority of Americans, but Senator McCain and the rest of us see its reality as nothing but a form of economic injustice affecting all Americans when the bubble bursts.

Conservatives realize you don't help a poor family by telling them to take on debt they can't afford and then watch them lose the house when your actions crater the economy. You help them by encouraging them to accumulate a sizeable down payment and to buy what they can really afford, and by keeping the economy on an even keel so they keep their jobs.

Because government ineptitude put banks into their precarious financial situations, government action was needed to shore up their financial positions so they will start making good loans to good borrowers. Thus, the bailout was needed. Beyond that, only John McCain's policy of allowing mortgage lenders to establish who they should lend to without political interference has a prayer of a chance of returning normalcy to our credit markets, strength to our economy and jobs to our workers.

*Gregory J. Welborn is an independent opinion columnist. He writes and speaks frequently on political, economic and social issues. His columns have appeared in publications such as The Los Angeles Daily News, The Orange County Register, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. He can be reached at [g.welborn@mobserver.com](mailto:g.welborn@mobserver.com).*

## BALLOT MEASURES MADE EASY Free Forum - Oct. 18

If the array of initiatives on the November ballot make your eyes glaze over, two free public forums sponsored by the League of Women Voters Pasadena Area can help.

The second Ballot Measures Made Easy forum will be presented in an effort to reach younger voters and underrepresented community members, on Saturday, Oct. 18, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Jackie Robinson Center, 1020 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Pasadena. Free, light snacks will be served.

Snacks are free. Further information and luncheon reservations are available by calling 626-798-0965.

LWVPA is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. It works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

## PROP 7 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION. INITIATIVE STATUTE. OFFICIAL TITLE & SUMMARY

Requires utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy by 2010, a standard currently applicable only to private electrical corporations.  
Raises requirement for utilities to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025.  
Imposes penalties, subject to waiver, for noncompliance.  
Transfers some jurisdiction of regulatory matters from Public Utilities Commission to Energy Commission.  
Fast-tracks approval for new renewable energy plants.  
Requires utilities to sign longer contracts (20 year minimum) to procure renewable energy.  
Creates account to purchase rights-of-way and facilities for the transmission of renewable energy.  
Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact:  
Increased state administrative costs of up to \$3.4 million annually for the regulatory activities of the California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission, paid for by fee revenues.  
Unknown impact on state and local government costs and revenues due to the measure's uncertain impact on retail electricity rates. In the short term, the prospects for higher rates—and therefore higher costs, lower sales and income tax revenues, and higher local utility tax revenues—are more likely. In the long term, the impact on electricity rates, and therefore state and local government costs and revenues, is unknown.

## PROPOSITION 7—A GIANT LEAP FORWARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY OR A FATALITY FLAWED IDEA?

By Enid Joffe



Many of my friends and neighbors have asked me asking whether I am supporting or opposing Proposition 7, The Solar and Clean Energy Act of 2008. Since I own a small business in Arcadia that sells photovoltaic systems, I guess that makes me something of an expert on solar energy. Much as I would love to see California adopt as much renewable wind and solar energy as possible, I must say that I will be voting against Proposition 7. In my opinion, and the opinion of many others, Prop 7 is an ill-conceived, poorly written initiative that could end up costing taxpayers and utility rate payers millions of dollars and stifle the competitive marketplace for renewable energy.

First, the facts: Proposition 7 would double the amount of renewable energy that California utilities must obtain from renewable sources such as solar, wind or

small hydroelectric. Current law calls for the utilities to obtain 20 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2010. Proposition 7 would double that amount to 40 percent in 2020 and 50 percent by 2025.

Utilities have been making progress toward the renewable percentage goal, but many are somewhat behind where they need to be. So why not increase the requirement with Prop 7 and force utilities to step up to the plate? Well, for one thing, there is a provision in Prop 7 that could be interpreted as allowing only projects over 30 megawatts to be counted toward the renewable goal. To put it in perspective, most residential PV systems are around 3 kilowatts. A megawatt is equal to 1,000 kilowatts. 30 megawatts is enough electricity to light more than 22,000 homes. And that would be the minimum size project to count toward the 50 percent goal! A high standard like that would pretty much eliminate small solar businesses like mine that currently make up 60 percent of the PV market today.

A second problem is that Prop 7 proposes to finance the renewable energy requirement by pegging utility rates at 10 cents above the market rate for electricity. This would increase the cost of electricity by \$300 per year for the average homeowner. Locking in preferential pricing could keep solar prices artificially high, if, as generally expected, new technologies and economies of scale bring down the price of solar over the next ten years.

We do need more renewable energy to reduce our carbon emissions and wean ourselves from dependence on foreign oil, but Prop. 7 is the wrong solution. It will create preferential pricing for the few large companies big enough to build 30 megawatt plus projects. That is not the approach we need to stimulate creative thinking and investment in renewable energy companies.

To find out more about Proposition 7 see the pro and con websites:

[www.noprop7.com](http://www.noprop7.com)  
[www.yeson7.net](http://www.yeson7.net)

I encourage you to read the information and decide for yourself. If you'd like to ask me any questions about Prop 7 or solar energy, please email me at [enidjoffe@solsourceenergy.com](mailto:enidjoffe@solsourceenergy.com).

*Enid Joffe owns a solar energy and clean fuel business. She is a former Mayor of Sierra Madre.*

## REMEMBER TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

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October 20, 2008  
You can also register online.  
Go to: [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov)*







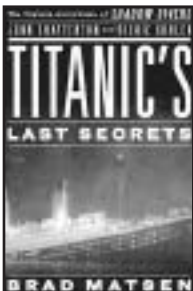
Jeff's Picks

Read All About It

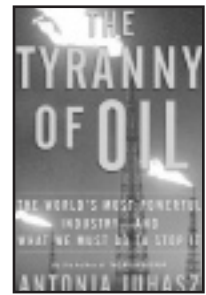
Headlines You May Have Missed:

By Jeff Brown  
Titanic's Last Secrets by Brad Matsen (2008)

With movies and lore surrounding the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 one question remained unanswered: why did the great ship go down so fast? If Titanic had remained afloat for just two hours longer, more than two thousand people, instead of 706 would have survived the shipwreck. In his new book Matsen tells us something new about the Titanic disaster. In August of 2005, a team using Mir submersibles found previously undiscovered wreckage from the ship on the ocean floor. The wreckage suggested that the Titanic had not sunk with the bow rising into the air. Instead the shi had broken in half while almost horizontal and gon down before most of the passengers knew what was happening. The discovery directs Matsen's retelling of the Titanic story, beginning with the events that led to the creation of the giant ocean liner to its end. A riveting Historical account.



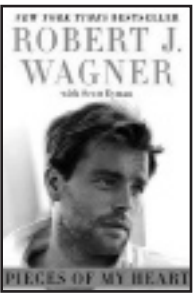
The Tyranny of Oil: The World's Most Powerful Industry – And What We Must Do to Stop It by Antonia Juhasz (2008)



Author and activist Antonia Juhasz writes that the oil industry's grip on policy and government has never been stronger. Also the business and politics of oil's production pose such grave implications on the environment, human rights, the economy, worker safety, public health and that the present state of the petroleum-industry affairs is fundamentally antithetical to democracy. Juhasz, is fellow at the petro-critic organization Oil Change International

Pieces of My Heart by Robert Wagner (2008)

In the memoir, Wagner recounts his fifty plus years in show business. He writes about his acting roles, legendary romances, show business, and the cultural changes he has experienced over a lifetime spent in front of the camera. This is an candid and very interesting autobiography.



Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution – and How it Can Renew America by Thomas L. Friedman (2008)

In this new book, the three-time Pulitzer Prize winning journalist writes about the need for a green revolution and calls upon Americans to lead the charge. Freidman argues that the US can help revive itself at home and abroad by finding answers to global warming. In entertaining chapters, Friedman makes it clear that the green revolution we need is like no revolution the world has seen. It will be the biggest innovation project in American history; it will be hard, not easy; and it will change everything from what you put into your car to what you see on your electric bill. But the results for America will be much more than just cleaner air. Freidman is a foreign affairs columnist for The New York Times. His other books include From Beirut to Jerusalem and The World Is Flat.

Email recommendation or comments to jeffspics1@gmail.com Book picks can be purchased and ordered at Sierra Madre Books, 836-3200

The Mountain Clymer

by Kim Clymer-Kelley

Train Wrecks of the Angeles (Part 2)

First of all, I want to apologize for disappearing off the face of the earth for a few weeks.... leaving those of you who are kind enough to read my column eagerly waiting for me to tell my train wreck stories... well, okay, hopefully at least a little curious. Unfortunately, the headlines in the real news those few weeks ago made my chosen topic eerily prophetic, as was pointed out to me by more than one of the paper's readers. Hopefully enough time has passed so that I can readress the issue without it hitting too much of a raw nerve. Anyway, for the last few weeks I was picking up stakes and moving myself up to the canyon where I feel that I have always belonged. I was blessed to have had the opportunity to do so suddenly drop into my lap, so I naturally had to grasp the chance. My new home is wonderful, albeit a bit of a mess right now. As usual it is much more tempting to work on the house than it is to sit in front of my computer and write, but I promised that I would have a story this week, so here I am...fortunately I did not have to put much thought into what I was going to write, as I had already laid that out in my last column. That brings us to the subject at hand...train wrecks. Of course, I am not referring to a locomotives and boxcars; I am talking about a mule train... or more accurately, the donkey train at Adam's Pack Station.

As I have mentioned here before, it was not long after taking over the station, that I was running it alone. This situation scared the heck out of me...it was totally overwhelming. To put my fears to rest, I dove headlong into the task with all of the strength and determination I could muster. I think that my stubbornness probably had something to do with it. Most who know me, I'm sure, will attest to just how annoyingly stubborn I can be (especially my mother who frequently reminds me of every instance in my past where that trait reared its dreadful head.) I was determined to show any doubters that I was capable of handling the packing on my own. My best client in the canyon was Sturtevant Camp. Aside from the weekly routine trips to the camp to remove the empty propane tanks, bring in full ones, and carry in groceries and supplies for various projects for the camp manager, Chris Kasten, I also had to work with the camp's guests to coordinate the delivery of their food, supplies, and baggage. Frequently this required two trips...one for groceries and one for luggage. The four mile trip took an entire day. It took anywhere from two to four hours to box the groceries (being careful to wrap all frozen or cold food in newspaper for insulation), groom and saddle the animals, and load the supplies into the panniers (large saddle bags)... depending on how much prep work there was, how large the load was, and how many time I got side tracked by visitors or phone calls. There were days when I would start the process immediately after feeding the animals at about seven in the morning and I would not leave the station with the pack string until well after twelve. The trip to camp took two hours. I would arrive, unload the animals and help Chris store the groceries in the camp's kitchen or the luggage in the old ranger's station, sit, have lunch, and visit a while, and then load up whatever trash and empty tanks I could find around camp for the return trip. Since the load was lighter and it was mostly downhill, the return usually took just an hour and a half, unless I had to patrol some of the cabins on the way back.

In early October of 2000, Sturtevant had a group scheduled to visit. This was a group of about forty contra dancers who were coming to the camp

for a weekend of dancing in the mountains. There was a tremendous amount of food to pack in and piles of luggage and instruments. The food was dropped off on the Wednesday before their scheduled weekend and the luggage was coming up with them on Friday when they arrived to hike in. Thursday I loaded up the animals with their food and headed into camp. The trip did not go real smoothly. About three quarters of the way out to camp a box fell off of one of the animals onto the narrow trail. Noticing that Slim's saddle was listing as I descended off of the upper trail into a streamside clearing called Cascade Picnic Grove, I stopped at the site to rectify the situation. I pulled up to a tree and dismounted my horse, Whiskey. I have some seriously unstable knees, but it had been years since I had done anything major to them. As I dismounted Whiskey and lowered myself to the ground, I somehow managed to put my knee out and fell to the ground in severe pain. I laid there for a long while crying, unable to get up off the ground and wondering how on earth I was ever going to get back on my horse to continue on. After fifteen minutes or so, the initial severity of the pain lessened and I crawled over to the picnic bench to pull myself to my feet. I took a few steps, limping badly then and sat down on the table to evaluate the situation. I decided that I had to hike back up the hill to find the box that we had lost on the upper trail. I limped back across the stream and up the hill, retracing our route for about a quarter mile before finding the missing box. I carried it back to where I had left the animals, straightened and tightened Slim's listing saddle and reloaded the box snugly back in place. Using the picnic table as a mounting block, I managed to get back on Whiskey and continue the remaining mile to Sturtevant. I was greeted by Chris who had the refrigerators up and running and we unloaded and stored all of the food in the appropriate places. We had lunch as I sat with my badly swollen knee elevated. It was quite late by the time I got the animals reloaded for the trip back and headed out of camp. My confidence had taken a major blow and I remember thinking about what I still had to do over the weekend to complete the work needed to service the dance group. It was all overwhelming and I spent a teary trip home reevaluating my situation and trying to decide whether or not I really thought that I could do it all. I dreaded the weekend to come, and the next day the group was to arrive and I had to get the luggage of forty people over the same treacherous route. I was feeling terribly ill –equipped to do so. I worked hard at convincing myself that everything would be okay...they certainly couldn't get much worse...or so I thought.



TABLE FOR TWO

Palm Springs Getaway

By Peter Dills

I just got back from Palm Springs and someone asked me, was it business or pleasure? That is a good question and it made me think.

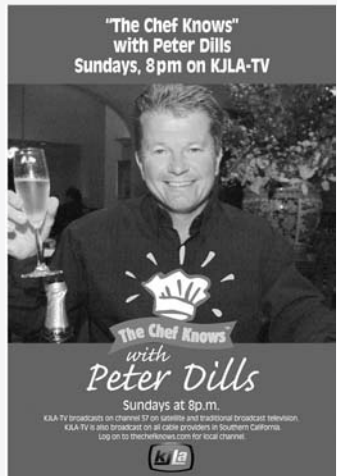
Well, for me, I guess it is always both! Just a hundred short miles South/West of Pasadena/Sierra Madre is a well known oasis known as Palm Springs. It is the home to many restaurants and hotels. Taking a page from my Santa Barbara trip a few months back, I decided to take a look at where I would stay. My budget afforded me about \$100 per night for a hotel. Guess what, you can get a real sweet deal on a suite for that kind of money. We are migrating into the "Season," but I didn't think you could get a room for that price, nice to be wrong sometimes. We decided to stay at the Caliente Tropics on N. Palm Canyon Blvd. This area has all the major chain Hotels and I don't think you'll be disappointed with a Best Western or the Clarion. Again, there are many independent operations that do a great job of supplying a clean room and sparkling pool. My advice is to research your hotel at www.tripadvisor.com, type in your hotels name and find out what others have said about where you would like to stay.

Well let's talk about what I do best, you guessed it - eating!!! Just like the hotels there are a million familiar faces here: California Pizza Kitchen, Nick and Stef's Steakhouse and we enjoyed the waffles and pancakes at Ruby's Diner. On our first night in town we visited Armando's Restaurant in Palm Desert. The street was abandoned but once we popped in to Armando's it turned into a larger party, well kind of, you see they have a large party atmosphere but seems like we were one of the few that opened the invitation. I really like this place, the food was some of the Best, yes I do repeat, the Best Mexican food I have had anywhere. They say that the Margaritas were famous, they were good but the food, oh the food will keep me coming back. It was Monday Night and I wanted to watch Monday Night Football, so again more Mexican Food (notice a trend here), me and my

illustrious traveling companion ended up at Las Casuelas, this restaurant has live music, and as far back as I've been going to Palm Springs they have been placing memorable smiles on faces with drinks, patio misters and their food. We arrived at "happy hour" and they had a great selection of food to nibble on. By lunch the following day I had overdosed on Mexican food. One more taco and I was going to surrender and give up all my secrets! How about a sandwich, I suggested the Manhattan Deli? We went and I was pleased with my Brisket Sandwich and Salad; my companion got a Turkey Sandwich. Looking at plates around the restaurant I can tell you the portions are huge. Sandwiches run in the \$10 range. I read a few reviews on this place and I agree this is a real winner, I have been told that service can be a little slow when they are busy; maybe these large portions are slowing the service. My meal was great and the experience was positive!!!

I do suggest stopping at the Palm Springs Visitors center for a map. Have a Palm Springs hot spot? E mail me at thechefknows@yahoo.com

Palm Springs Visitors Center 777 N. Palm Canyon Dr. (760) 778-8415. Caliente Tropics Hotel 411 E. Palm Canyon Dr. (760) 327-1391. Ruby's Diner 155 S. Palm Canyon Dr. (760) 406-7829. Las Casuelas Mexican Teraza (760) 325-2794. Armando's 73-260 Paseo Palm Desert (760) 346-0744. ~Manhattan in the Desert 2665 E. Palm Canyon (760) 322-3354



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Saturday 18th  
-The Superstitions

Sunday 19th  
7:00 PM - 10 - Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the Cafe 322 Singers

Wednesday 22nd  
The John Fick Big Band

Thursday 23rd  
Jazz Pianist Louahn Lowe

Friday 24th  
8:00 PM Flat Top Tom Swing Party

Saturday 25th  
4-7:00 PM - Wine & Jazz Walk  
8:30-11:30 Jazz Walk After Party feat. The Elliot Caine Quintet

Sunday 26th  
7:00 PM - 10 - Opera to Broadway with Danny Guerrero & the Cafe 322 Singers

Thursday 30th  
8:00 PM Nine + One Band Featuring Harry Smalenburg on Vibes

Friday 31st  
Halloween Costume Dance Party Freekout with Mercy & the Markets!!

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Looking Up With Bob Eklund

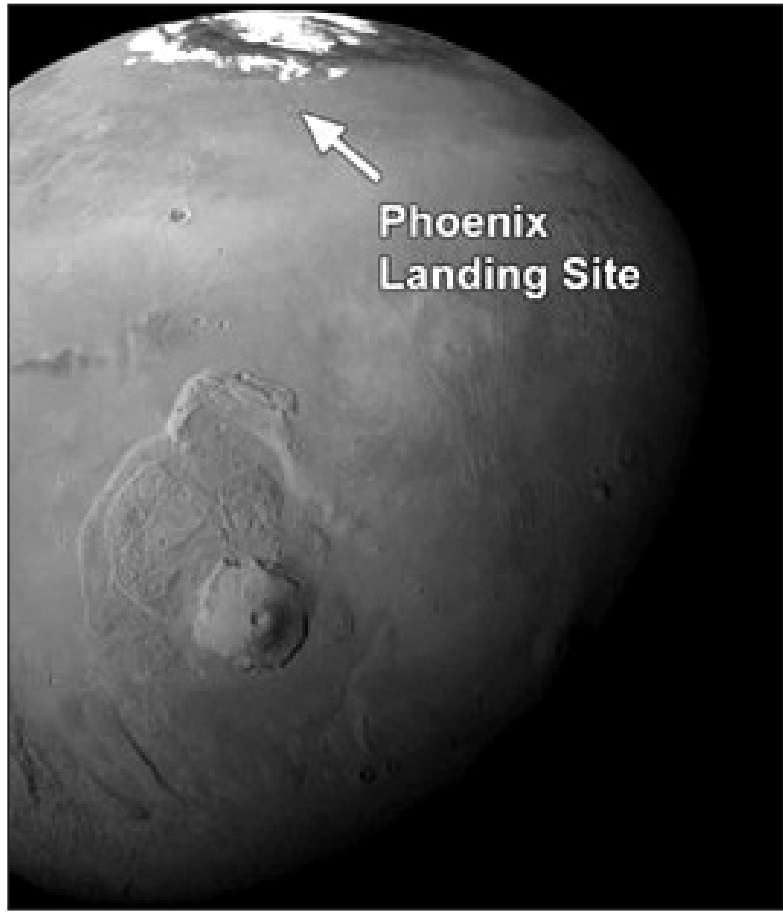
Mars Lander Sees Falling Snow

SNOW FALLING ON MARS? That’s what a meteorology experiment aboard the Mars Phoenix Lander recently detected, as reported by NASA September 29. A laser instrument designed to gather knowledge of how the atmosphere and surface interact on Mars has detected snow from clouds about 13,000 feet above the spacecraft’s landing site. Data show the snow vaporizing before reaching the ground.

“Nothing like this view has ever been seen on Mars,” said Jim Whiteway of York University, Toronto, lead scientist for the Canadian-supplied Meteorological Station on Phoenix. “We’ll be looking for signs that the snow may even reach the ground.”

The craft’s soil-chemistry experiments also have provided evidence of past interaction between minerals and liquid water, similar to processes that occur on Earth, yielding clues pointing to calcium carbonate, the main composition of chalk, and particles that could be clay. Most carbonates and clays on Earth form only in the presence of liquid water.

“We are still collecting data and have lots of analysis ahead, but



we are making good progress on the big questions we set out for ourselves,” said Phoenix Principal Investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Since landing on May 25, Phoenix already has confirmed that a hard subsurface layer at its far-northern site contains water-ice. Determining whether that ice ever thaws would help answer whether the environment there has been favorable for life, a key aim of the mission.

The evidence for calcium carbonate in soil samples from trenches dug by the Phoenix robotic arm comes from two laboratory instruments called the Thermal and Evolved Gas Analyzer, or TEGA, and the wet chemistry laboratory of the Microscopy, Electrochemistry and Conductivity Analyzer, or MECA.

The TEGA instrument’s evidence for calcium carbonate came from a high-temperature release of carbon dioxide from soil samples. The temperature of the release matches a temperature known to decompose calcium carbonate and release carbon dioxide gas, which was identified by the instrument’s mass spectrometer.

The MECA evidence came from a buffering effect characteristic of calcium carbonate assessed in wet chemistry analysis of the soil. The measured concentration of calcium was exactly what would be expected for a solution buffered by calcium carbonate.

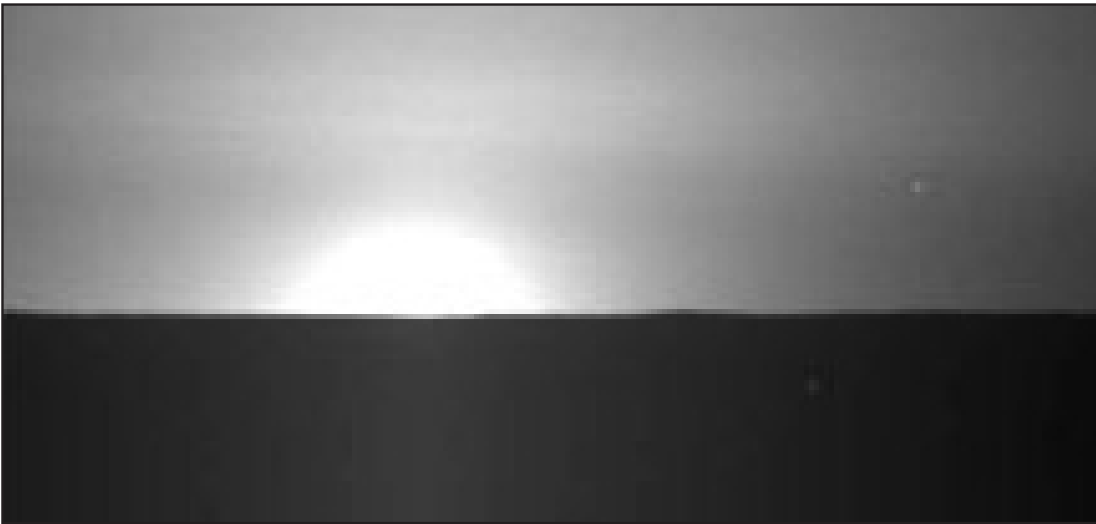
The Phoenix mission, originally planned for three months on Mars, now is in its fifth month. However, it faces a decline in solar energy that is expected to curtail and then end the lander’s activities before the end of the year. Before power ceases, the Phoenix team will attempt to activate a microphone on the lander to possibly capture sounds on Mars.

“For nearly three months after landing, the sun never went below the horizon at our landing site,” said Barry Goldstein,

JPL Phoenix project manager. “Now it is gone for more than four hours each night, and the output from our solar panels is dropping each week. Before the end of October, there won’t be enough energy to keep using the robotic arm.”



Photo by Aaron Dominguez



More information about Phoenix is at <http://www.nasa.gov/phoenix>

\*\*\*

On another world  
Would the winter evenings have  
Six-pointed snowflakes?

\*\*\*

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

From the Inside Out:  
Powerful Emotions By Mary Carney



We know that emotions are powerful; who among us hasn’t been lifted out of ourselves by a sudden rage? Or found ourselves in a despair so dark that we can’t see our way out? Or found ourselves with a slip of the tongue saying something out loud that we didn’t even know we thought, and that was absolutely awful? And the moment the words left the mouth we knew what we’d done but not known how to “undo it?” And been so utterly humiliated that we want to sink into the floor and disappear? Not to mention all the other emotions - anxiety and fear, guilt and blame, pride and scorn, craving an desire? How about lethargy? Agitation, laziness, strung up with tension? Aimless? Manic?

It’s finally official - there’s a chart out there that says, “Oh, you have one of those emotions? Well, that set of emotions affects this particular energy meridian, which inhibits or stimulates the production of “X” particular neurotransmitter, which requires these specific nutrients, and without them will directly affect “Y” areas of the body. “Z” color can help with this, which affects “A” immune function cells, and here are the specific nutrients herbs that can help.

I love it! Why? Because it shows that if I just

balance? Well (brisk rubbing of hands) we’ll just put you on this course of medications / supplements and come back in a couple weeks or a month and we’ll see how things are going.” Yes, this may help - for a while. Results can seem miraculous, in fact! But until the emotional / belief / spiritual / deep inner pressure that has created the imbalance has been released, and the energies that had been locked up into that pattern redirected towards balance, medications (or supplements) are only a stopgap. Over time, buried emotions go deeper, create more pressure, and overpower medication’s effects.

As this economic constriction continues, and the flow of money becomes less free, finding ways to save money becomes important. Which would you rather do? Spend money on every month on drugs (the average adult over 60 is on between 9 and 13 medications). Or have a few sessions with a skilled practitioner of modern techniques like the Emotional Freedom Technique ([www.emotionalfreedomtechnique.com](http://www.emotionalfreedomtechnique.com)), or BioDecoding ([www.biodecoding.com](http://www.biodecoding.com)) is based on Dr. Hamers

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<b>Guilt &amp; Blame</b>	Gall Bladder 1	Acetylcholine	Inhibits
<b>Pride &amp; Scorn</b>	Liver 14	Acetylcholine	Increases
<b>Apathy &amp; Despair</b>	Large Intestine 20	GABA	Inhibits
<b>Anger &amp; Hate</b>	Lung 1	GABA	Increases
<b>Grief &amp; Regret</b>	Conception Vessel 24	Dopamine	Inhibits
<b>Craving &amp; Desire</b>	Governing Vessel 27	Dopamine	Increases
<b>Lethargy</b>	Stomach 1	Histamine	Inhibits
<b>Agitation</b>	Spleen 21	Histamine	Increases
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<b>Manic</b>	CX 1	Excitatory	Increases

find a way to deal with the emotional pressure that is “stuck” in my body / mind / spirit system, over time the pressure created by these “stuck” emotions will balance out, and many of the most unpleasant symptoms will just quietly “disappear”.

We all know this at some level, of course. I find it fascinating that one of the more widespread religions in the world encourages “confession”... on a weekly basis, if you can believe it. Why? Because many times if we can bring ourselves to say out loud, in a safe place, what is most deeply distressing us, the very fact of expression often releases the pressure. We feel lighter, not as “trapped” inside ourselves.

Not being from that particular religion, that avenue of expression was not part of my growing up. If something happened and I got angry, there was no place for the anger to go. Same with guilt, and all the others. I think that’s why there’s so much need for psychological counseling these days. In general, there’s not another safe socially acceptable structure for dealing with our buried emotions.

What is out there, however, is a whole machine that says, “Oh, your neurotransmitters are out of

work ([www.newmedicine.ca](http://www.newmedicine.ca)), or Holographic Repatterning ([www.holographic.org](http://www.holographic.org)), or Theta Healing ([www.thetahealingblog.com](http://www.thetahealingblog.com))? Individual sessions may seem expensive, but if it takes 4 sessions that result in deep release, over time the health benefits can be huge, and the money savings dramatic.

Finding the courage to “get rid of,” or “let go of” your anger or hate against someone can be challenging. Becoming willing to totally release and remove guilt and blame, shame and humiliation. Especially when, as soon as the subject is mentioned, every fiber of your being rises up in resistance and refusal to “let go” to what seems like such an important part of oneself.

How wonderful to know that, in the absence of trained clergy in most of the religions, there are processes outside the “months and years of ‘talk therapy’” that can relatively quickly get to the heart of a matter, release the pressure, and enable us to move forward in new ways. It’s an inside job ... and here, for your delectation and delight, are four of the columns from “the chart”.

MountainViews-Observer 280 W Sierra Madre Blvd. No. 327 Sierra Madre, Ca. 91024 Office: 626.355.2737 Fax: 626.609.3285 Email: [editor@mobserver.com](mailto:editor@mobserver.com) Website: [www.mvobserver.com](http://www.mvobserver.com)





## The Senior Friends . . your life depends on them!

By Bruce Lamarche

Hang on to your friends for dear life! You may have heard that good friends actually help us live longer. According to the Nurses' Health Study conducted by the Harvard Medical School, not having close friends or confidants was as detrimental to your health as smoking or carrying extra weight.

As we age, several factors can diminish our social networks, including retirement and death of a spouse. When asked, "What is the hardest part about retirement?" Inevitably concerns over health insurance and loss of income come up. Many, though, discover an unseen effect of retirement with the loss of social connections at work.

Death of a spouse can also throw our support systems into turmoil. Widowers are especially susceptible to isolation. Wives often play the role of best friend, primary caregiver and social coordinator, so a man's social networks greatly diminish after she dies. While widows often struggle with their identity, recent research shows that women are better equipped hormonally to create the friendships they need. One UCLA study concluded that while men have a "fight or flight" response to stress, women will "tend and befriend."

Whether you are a man or woman, a social butterfly or wall flower, there is hope for reaping the health benefits of friendship. Dr. Gene Cohen, Director of the Center on Aging, Health and Humanities at George Washington University, says a social portfolio is just like a financial portfolio. Here are some suggestions to begin developing yours:

- 1. Diversify your assets.** Dr. Cohen defines assets as the diverse interests and relationships you develop and draw upon over your lifetime. Take a class at your local community college. Visit your area recreation center for lessons or clubs. Volunteer with a political campaign. Engage in a variety of activities to create a web of social connections.
- 2. Have a safety net.** He describes the safety net as "the protection you develop when you cultivate a healthy range of interests that include group and individual activities that require high energy/high mobility as well as low energy/low mobility". Religious organizations are the top membership category for seniors. These are a good outlet for both high energy activities such as volunteer projects and low mobility opportunities such as worship.
- 3. Start early.** No need to wait for retirement or the loss of a loved one. Dr. Cohen reminds us that the earlier we take these steps the more prepared we'll be for life as we age. Determine to keep the friendships you already have and be open to the new ones you will make through new activities.

You can start to build a stronger social network today with one simple step: Learn a joke, then share it. People with a sense of humor tend to be less lonely. So, did you hear the one about the duck who walked into a bar...

Remember, "You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing." (Michael Pritchard)

**Got a question? Ask Bruce by phone-(626)335-3412 or e-mail: [blamarche@verizon.net](mailto:blamarche@verizon.net)**

This article is provided by Bruce Lamarche, a member of Society of Certified Senior Advisors', [www.csa.us](http://www.csa.us). Bruce's company, R & B Reverse Mortgage Services (Glendora) helps seniors make an informed decision about obtaining a reverse mortgage. [www.LASeniorMortgage.com](http://www.LASeniorMortgage.com)

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By Pat Birdsall

## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

### Visa: More Than A Credit Card Part III

What I thought would be a routine trip to the vet with my cat Visa turned out to be the beginning of a two-week nightmare from which I am slowly waking up. I have to rewind this story to mid-September when the senior member of my feline family, Elizabeth, was nearing the end of her life's journey. I had expected to have the vet concur with me that her time had come. Instead, she recommended tests and hospitalization. After five days I was told that she might do better at home. She did not. Watching her struggle through that weekend was heart-wrenching. I took her back to the vet on Monday and asked them to please afford her the right to rest in peace. I kissed her goodbye, and they did just that.

It was just about a week after Elizabeth's passing that I noticed Visa was pawing at her mouth and drooling profusely, which I detailed in a previous column. I took her to the vet (a different one this time) and he told me that Visa had gingivitis. She had a sizable ulcer on her gum that was causing considerable pain, and hence the pawing at her mouth. He checked her teeth carefully and was surprised to see that they were perfectly white and not covered with the plaque that is usually associated with gingivitis. He gave her a shot that he said would help ease the pain of the ulcer, and medications for me to take home to give her the following day and for several days thereafter. The shot seemed to relieve the pain but did nothing for the excessive drooling and lethargy. Eating was very difficult for her, needless to say. She was hungry and would rush to the bowl but could not eat. It was extremely stressful watching this happen to my girl... my stomach was constantly churning.

Two days later, the nightmare increased by leaps and bounds. Rosie was drooling and extremely lethargic. Oh no! This can't be happening again! I packed her up in the carrier, meeting no resistance whatsoever. That alone told me how sick she must be. I rushed her to the vet where she too was diagnosed with gingivitis, but had a more severe case. Her temperature was off the charts and she was very, very sick. Due to the timing, and the fact that both cats had gingivitis, it was decided that it was probably caused by a virulent airborne virus brought home from the first vet's office via Elizabeth.

After 10 days Visa is almost back to her "normal" self which, as those of you who have cats know, is an oxymoron. Rosie has been home from the hospital after a five day stay since Tuesday and is on a slower road to recovery. But, "recovery" is the key word. I am very grateful and want to express my thanks to Dr. Robert Bell and the staff at Foothill Veterinary Hospital for the wonderful care and genuine concern shown to both Rosie and Visa. You are the best!

## SENIOR HAPPENINGS...

By Pat Birdsall

### FYI:

#### Charity "Hit" List

Once you give to one charity, your contact information may quickly turn up on other lists. One way to slow down the flow of calls is to tell the charity that you do not want it to rent, sell or exchange your name, address and phone number with any other group. Say you won't donate again if it doesn't follow your wishes.

It is true that charities are exempt from the National Do Not Call Registry, but many maintain their own Do Not Call lists. So tell any callers to add your name to their lists if you do not want to receive calls. If you are getting solicitations by mail, write to the source. The American Institute on Philanthropy has a sample letter you can use to tell the charity to stop or reduce mailings to you. You can find it at: [www.charitywatch.org/articles/fundraising.html](http://www.charitywatch.org/articles/fundraising.html)

AARP Bulletin

### ~Helpful Hints~

Got a tough tomato stain on your blouse or shirt? Just spray some WD-40 on it, wait a couple of minutes, then wash as usual.



### Happy Birthday

Sole Krieg and Pat Birdsall

## Recipe of the Month:

### Chili-Roasted Sweet Potato Wedges

1 ½ pounds (2-3 medium) sweet potatoes  
2 Tbsp olive oil  
1 Tbsp sugar  
1 tsp chili powder  
Coarse salt and ground pepper

1- Pre-heat oven to 425. Cut each potato lengthwise into 8 wedges.  
2- On a large rimmed baking sheet lined with parchment paper, toss potatoes with oil, sugar, chili powder, 1 tsp coarse salt and 1/4 tsp ground pepper, until coated. Arrange wedges, cut sides down.  
3- Roast potatoes until browned and tender, 15 to 20 minutes. Season with additional salt if desired. Serves 4  
4 Everyday Food



### For Your Funny Bone

Letter from College

Dear Dad, \$chool i\$ really great. I've made lot\$ of friend\$ and am \$tudying hard. With all my \$tuff I \$imply can't think of anything I need, \$o if you would like you can ju\$t \$end me a card, a\$ I would love to hear from you. - Love, your \$on

Dear Son, I kNOW that astroNOMy, ecoNOMics and oceaNOgraphy are eNOough to keep even an hoNOr student busy. Do NOT forget that the pursuit of kNOwledge is a NOble task, and you can never study hard eNOough. - Love, Dad

~ ~ ~

According to a recent study conducted by Harvard University, the average American walks about 900 miles a year. According to the American Medical Association, Americans drink an average of 22 gallons of alcohol a year. This means, on average, Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon. Is this a great country or what?

**Quote: "You are only young once, but you can stay immature indefinitely."**

- Author Unknown

### Activities:

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

**Lunch Program:** Monday- Friday at the Intervale Café -12:00 Noon-Call (626) 355-0256 to make your daily reservation. Suggested donation \$2.00 for seniors (60+) and \$3.75 for visitors

**Monday:** Free Strength Training Class with volunteer Lisa Brandley 1:00- 1:45 PM

**Tuesday:** Bingo: 1:30-3:30 PM .25c per card. Yoga- 5:30 PM- 7:00PM Instructor Andrea Walsh- \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over.) Call 355-5278 for more information

**Wednesday:** 1st & 3rd Wednesdays-Community Lunch & Learn Program

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

Yoga- 5:00 PM- 6:30PM \$6.50 for seniors (50 and over) Call 355-5278 for more information

**Friday:** Ping-Pong- 1:30 PM

**Saturday:** Senior Club for those 55 and older- Brown bag lunch at 11:30AM. Meeting at Noon- Bingo at 12:30 PM -Only .25c per card



Can you donate one hour of your time per month? Local volunteer drivers are desperately needed for the Sierra Madre Meals-on-Wheels program. Please call Darlene Traxler at 626.355.6220. You can make a difference in someone's life.

### Monthly Excursions:

\*For reservations and further information call Susan Clifton at (626) 355-7394 or stop by and see her at the Hart Memorial Park House- 9:00 AM- 2:00 PM

**October 16-** Save the Date- 8:00 AM- 6:00 PM- Excursion to Julian to celebrate the apple season. Details to follow.

**Fall Swim Pass-** The Sierra Madre Pool is open as of September 2nd for lap swimmers and water walkers. For more information call 355-5278.

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

**Free Homeowners & Renters Assistance Program** - Don Brunner is volunteering again this year from 1:00 PM- 2:00 PM every Wednesday from July 2nd to October 15th by appointment only. If you are 62 or older or disabled and have income less than \$41,000 you may be eligible for money back from the State of California. For reservations and more information call (626) 355-7394.

**NEW Program- Financial Consulting** Joohee Lee, MBA, an Arcadia resident, is a financial service professional with New York Life Insurance Company in Pasadena. She will assist you with repositioning your assets to maximize income, and return benefits your heirs. She will be volunteering on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Hart Memorial Park House from 10:00AM- Noon. Call (626) 355-7394 for an appointment.

### Meals-On-Wheels:

Meals are delivered to homebound seniors through the YWCA Intervale lunch program M-F with frozen meals for the weekend. \$2.00 suggested donation per day  
Call Susan Garcia at (626) 858-8382



## One Of A Kind:

Featuring unique homes & gardens and the people who create them

By Chris Bertrand

## Spruce Up Your Garden Using Some Great Websites

You can feel that this is a comfortable family home as well as a majestic residence. Just off Orange Grove's "millionaire's row" this stately home offers a breathtaking bridge from elegant yesteryear to today's 21st century living.

Lovingly restored and maintained, the home offers a floorplan for grand entertaining, while maintaining the feeling of a real home. Family members can kick off their shoes and watch the big screen flat panel in the family room or actually sit down and read or study in the vintage designed library with one of the three fireplaces. Beautiful disappearing pocket doors allow the floorplan to be open and flow for a gathering of 200, or create privacy by closing off a section of the main floor.

Everything in the home is tastefully done, harmonious with the original period, yet very functional for today's lifestyle. I hesitate to use the word Victorian, because the home doesn't feel segmented into individual, non-integrated rooms the way many other Victorians do, making them a tough transition for homeowners who want historic architecture AND internet connections at the kitchen planning desk.

Originally designed by architect H.L. Smith for Mrs. Emily Macy in 1896, this was just ten years after Pasadena incorporated as a city, and years before they even began to issue building permits. A large addition and extensive alterations were accomplished in 1929 by Marston and Maybury. A 640 square foot "den" was added in 1972, though all appear seamless. Along the way, a three car garage was built in 1983, and new HVAC system went in during 2003.

There are still charming peeks into century old technology, like a control panel from the original intercom system. A three car garage and a long side drive provide ample off street parking for the owners and guests.

Come New Year's Day every year, you can even look forward to a priceless behind the scene glimpse of the Budweiser Clydesdale horses lining up in anticipation of the annual Rose Bowl Parade. That's about as steeped in tradition as you can ask for!

Listing agent, Tink Cheney, points out that this residence, located in the "Governor Markham Historical District" of Pasadena, might qualify for the property tax benefits of Mills Act status.

With four bedrooms on the second floor and three (originally intended for live-in staff) on the third floor, there's ample room for a large or extended family, au pair quarters, or large home offices for the owners.

The current owners are reluctantly ready for a single level home happily raised six children here, though the home doesn't show the wear and tear that might happen with a large family. In contrast to many large, vintage homes, all the rooms have been beautifully finished, even on the third floor.



The master suite is a closet lover's delight, with so many closets, I might have missed one! The dressing room is fabulous, and leads to an elegant, large master bath. On the other side of the master suite, a door connects to a full bath then to another bedroom. Perfect for nighttime access to a young child's nursery without disturbing the rest of the household... or a beautiful home office overlooking the magnificent grounds.

I'm sure the dining room has seen its share of magnificent dinner parties. It easily seats ten now, but could easily manage more. The up to date kitchen, with sparkling white cabinetry and deep green granite counters offers breakfast bar seating, a kitchen planning desk, a large exhaust hood and a huge vintage triple-wide Roper gas stove.

The landscape was redesigned in 1983 (remember that was after the house was already 96 years old!) by well known landscape architect Michael Schmidt. The grand scaled back yard includes a beautiful pool and spa, paddle tennis

and basketball court surrounded by expansive, lush lawns. I can just imagine a beautiful garden wedding here!

The home is currently offered at \$3,795,00 by Tink Cheney of Coldwell Banker. More information is available on the home's unique website: [www.344Bellefontaine.com](http://www.344Bellefontaine.com) or call Cheney directly at 626-356-8129.

Know of a unique home, garden or person who helps create them? Contact Chris at [Chris@BertrandOnline.com](mailto:Chris@BertrandOnline.com).



Chris Bertrand



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## KEEPING SCORE

By Ray Masters

### Fantasy Football – or Why I Love Clinton Portis!

Last night, my eleven year old son raced up to me and said, “What happened in the football game, Dad?” Not “who won?” or “How did the Chargers do?” And why would my boy not particularly care if his hometown team won its pivotal game with the Dolphins? Because he and I are engaged in an intense rivalry of fantasy football.

Once upon a time, grown men and boys (and a few women, too) would bet on the outcome of football games. Clandestinely, like bootlegging. My father would talk in hushed tones on the wallphone to men named “Fuzzy” and “Nick the Greek” and produce little white cards with numbers on them that could turn \$100 into much more. It was a guilty pleasure, and, for me, a rite of passage to bond with Dad. I don’t ever remember winning much, but the THOUGHT of winning was enough for me. (Dad paid for the bet, so that took some of the heat off. If the cops ever came down on us, I knew he’d take the rap for both of us, as a good Dad would.)

Suddenly, I was watching football games other than those of my hometown team with great interest. Now, I could curse at the TV as part of the Sunday ritual, and such cursing was no longer limited to those two precious hours per week when the locals played. Cursing and gambling – what a life!

So, what about Washington Redskins’ running back Clinton Portis? It’s all part of the Fantasy of Fantasy Football. Red-blooded American football fans now focus on not so much the teams as the individual players when gambling. Currently, well over 100 million Americans bet on football in some form, and fantasy football is the most advanced form of such activity. In short, the number of players in a fantasy football league “draft” their favorite players and get points (and, in some cases, money) bet in friendly and not so friendly ways

based on the performance of their selected weekly roster of players.

Since my boy plays video games like “Madden 2009”, he actually knows today’s players better than I do. He knows that Merion Barber “rocks” for the Cowboys and Chad “Ocho Cinco” Johnson is bound to have some big games this year, so he drafted those guys. This put me, surprisingly, at a disadvantage, although I played fantasy football in a league with about eight friends for a decade before taking time off to help raise my son.

One year, I actually met Jerry Rice, my personal number one draft choice. “Jerry, do you know who my number one was this year?” “No, Mark, I don’t” “It’s you! How about that!” “Well, thank you very much,” he deadpanned. I can still see Rice’s eyes roll toward the back of his head to this day. I mean, what a thrill for him!

My favorite form of betting on football (although money is nice) is humiliation. The humiliation of getting my opponent to have to do something for me when he or she loses. My son, having lost to me for four of the last five weeks, is beholden to make my breakfast each day for the week, to remind him of my supremacy in the world of fantasy football. I do run the risk of being too good, however, and then the whole thing backfires. I mean, sportswriters are now talking about Clinton Portis as the league’s most valuable player, and my son isn’t taking to losing and humiliation all that well. Ever since his number one, Tom Brady, had his knee torn up, my son feels that the whole game is rigged against him.

No worries, I will go easy on him this week. LT has a sore toe and Plaxico Burress may still be suspended for conduct unbecoming to his team. I’ll put those two in my lineup and throw a game. It will only cost me a week of making oatmeal, but the memories will last forever.

## First Tee Of Pasadena Keeps Kids Swinging



Photo and Story By Teresa Baxter

Following the proclamation by the PUSD’s Governing Board and the City of Pasadena declaring October as “First Tee of Pasadena Month”, the organization held an all-day event of fun, festivities and fundraising at Brookside Golf Club last Tuesday.

The First Tee was founded by the World Golf Foundation as a way to bring golf to youngsters that otherwise would not be exposed to the game and its positive values.

“The First Tee holds programs directed towards youth ages 7 to 17, with a specific target for fifth through eighth graders. The cost to each youth is \$25 for each 10-week session,” said Bob Baderian, executive director of the local chapter. “This activity fee allows members to utilize the golf course, the Learning Center and enters them into the First Tee Life Skills Education program.”

In 2005, the Pasadena City Council and the Rose Bowl Company united with the idea of developing a junior golf program and local schools were quick to participate. The majority of programs are based at Brookside Golf Club, but recently affiliates have sprung up at Eaton Canyon and Altadena, with the Arroyo Seco Golf Course planning to be involved soon. “Obviously, the idea is to have programs filled in areas where transportation is not a major challenge,” said Baderian. “Especially when you want to involve young boys and girls who may not have the means to be transported, and wouldn’t be able to otherwise participate.”

Ellen Harkins, a retired school teacher, has volunteered as a coach for the local chapter since its inception and has seen participation expand from approximately 100 children to the current count of 300.

“I love to see the impact that this has on their lives because they really get into the game, they enjoy it and they take it very serious,” said Harkins. “Our program is based on teaching the core values of life such as sportsmanship, perseverance, respect and confidence through the game of golf.”

Tanja Cole heard about the program and thought it might be a good fit for her 7-year-old daughter, Alyssa, to become a part of. “I looked it up and it was very impressive,” said Cole. “The organization is committed to community service and they teach the children about discipline, dignity and other core values in addition to the sport.”

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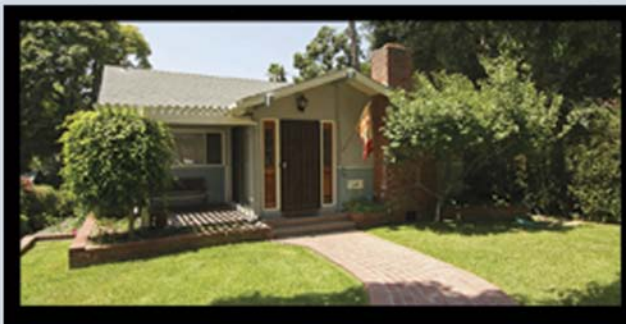


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