

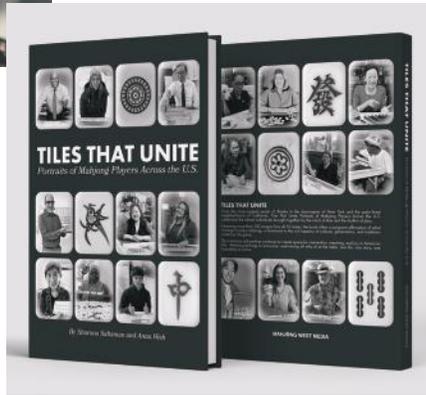
COMMUNITY

People in the News



and cultural impact. Antique sets sparked questions about the generations who played before, and a trip to China with her daughter offered firsthand insight into the game's origins. Back in the U.S., Saltzman curated a pop-up exhibition at New York's Museum of Chinese in America, highlighting both the game's roots and the players who sustain it today. The exhibition brought

Those experiences led to *Tiles That Unite*. The book features more than 150 players from all 50 states, pairing their personal photographs with their stories. From collectors and competitors to teachers and casual enthusiasts, the book demonstrates how a shared game can foster connection, preserve tradition, and create community. It is not a manual on gameplay; it is a portrait of the people who keep mahjong alive.



Saltzman is a writer, producer, and cultural curator. She is the founder of Mahjong West Media, a platform dedicated to documenting the cultural life of mahjong and the individuals who quietly sustain its legacy.

From living rooms and libraries to senior centers and college campuses, one truth emerges: the tiles are only the beginning. What endures are the relationships, the laughter, and the moments of connection that unfold with every game.

Tiles That Unite is available on Amazon.

When Encino resident Sharona Saltzman's only child left for college, the quiet in her home led her to American mahjong — and to a discovery that would shape her next creative project. Though she had tried the game years earlier, this time it clicked. Beyond learning strategy, she became intrigued by the people who played and the communities they formed.

Her interest soon expanded into a broader exploration of mahjong's history

together stories, photographs, and sets, showing how mahjong connects individuals across time and place.

English Channel
By Rodger Sterling
 English Channel offers the best of the late editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

- This from my daughter's good friend: When I miss my parents, I put 13 expired salad dressings and condiments in my fridge and it feels like home.

- "Doctor," the woman asked. "Every fortune teller I have met is either really depressing or overly enthusiastic." The doctor replied, "It's hard finding a happy medium."

- This from my favorite "church lady" Niki Budd. A poorly worded announcement in the bulletin that read, "Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."

- Never put off till tomorrow what you can get someone else in your office to do today.

- Who said "They couldn't shoot an elephant at this dist..." General John B. Sedgwick, a Union army officer who was killed instantly by a Confederate sharp shooter.

- Overheard at Lovi's Deli. "Our neighbor died yesterday." "Who, Ray?" "I really don't think cheering is appropriate, Kevin."

- What happened when Jack was jilted by a street cleaner's daughter? Why, he was going to sewer.

- A little boy eating candy was approached by an elderly man saying if the boy continued eating candy he wouldn't live to be 80 like the old man. To which the boy replied, "My grandfather is 91 and he got that way eating candy and minding his own business."

- A curious observer saw a man at the Super Bowl with an empty seat next to him. He leaned over and asked him how there was an empty seat. The man told him that he bought the tickets several months ago for him and his wife, but the wife unfortunately passed. The observer give his condolences, and asked him why none of his family members took the ticket. He responded that they were all at the funeral.

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