

# THE POMONA BULLETIN

## CELEBRATING \$50,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS!



THE POMONA BULLETIN

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CELEBRATING

Date JUNE 21, 2025

**\$50,000**

\$ **50,000**

IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Dollar

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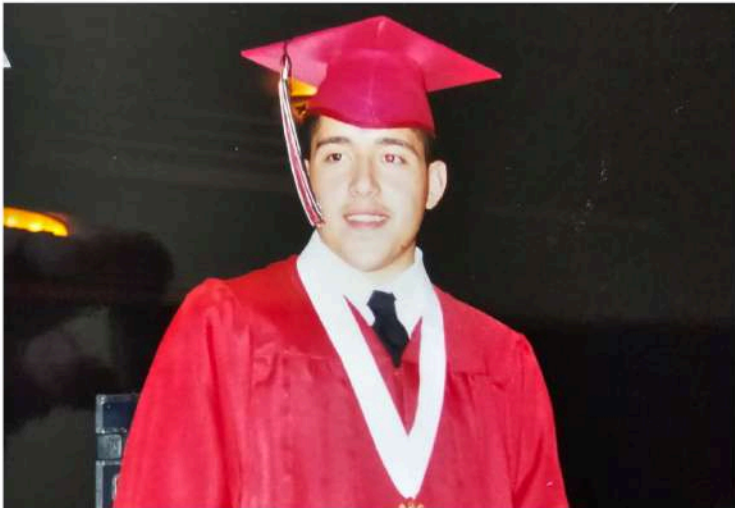
# 50 for 50: Changing Lives, One Scholarship at a Time

I'm turning 50 soon, and my family asked me the big question: "What do you want to do to celebrate?" Many people run marathons (not happening!), climb mountains, buy sports cars, or take off to Cabo. But I want to do something bigger. Something meaningful. Something that will make a real difference.

A few months ago, I was at a dinner party, sharing about my involvement in Kiwanis. That's when out of the blue my friend Martin told me how Kiwanis changed his life.

Martin grew up in Pomona in a family that struggled financially. Despite being a good student, college wasn't even part of the conversation. The expectation was that he'd graduate high school, get a manual labor job like his dad, and most likely stay in a cycle of poverty.

But one day, Martin saw an ad for a scholarship from the Kiwanis Club of Pomona. He applied, shared his story, and hoped for the best. When he was chosen, he was shocked. Strangers read his story and wanted to help him achieve something bigger.



He shared how his parents bought him his first jacket for the award dinner at the Pomona Mining Company—a place they had never been before. That night, Kiwanis didn't just give Martin a scholarship; they gave him belief. They treated his family with kindness, celebrated his potential, and gave him hope. That belief propelled Martin to pursue college, change his life, and break the cycle of poverty.

Today, Martin is a successful computer programmer. He travels the world with his husband, and they even lived in China for a time. But Pomona remains home. He still owns a home here and is proud of his roots.

Hearing Martin's story inspired me. For my 50th birthday, I know exactly what I want to do: raise \$50,000 to bring back the Kiwanis scholarship program and support Pomona students. That's why we're calling this event "50 for 50."



Unfortunately, the Kiwanis scholarship program was shut down a few years ago. But with your help, we can bring it back and continue the legacy of empowering students to pursue higher education and better futures.

We're throwing a party, and we need you to be part of it. We've partnered with The Endless Foundation to ensure that 100% of your donation is tax-deductible and will support students like Martin.

This is more than a party; it's a movement. It's about lifting up the next Martin, giving students the belief and support they need to change their futures. With the help of my family, friends, and our community, we can revive this scholarship program and make a lasting difference.

**Are you with me?**  
**Together, we can change lives.**  
**Let's do this!**



Donate or Apply Today



# MITCH STEIN'S Scholarship Fundraiser

CELEBRATE MITCH'S 50TH BIRTHDAY!

HELP US RAISE  
\$50K FOR  
SCHOLARSHIPS!

LIVE MUSIC,  
FOOD & DRINKS



LIVE MUSIC BY 80'S COVER BAND  
**FLASH PANTS**

**JUNE 21, 2025**

Proceeds fund scholarships  
for Pomona students!

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# HELP BRING BACK SCHOLARSHIPS TO POMONA!



For over 100 years, the Kiwanis Club of Pomona has been a driving force behind supporting the youth of Pomona. We've built parks, supplied grants for youth activities, provided college scholarships, and financially backed "Key Clubs" at Pomona High Schools. For those who don't know, Key Club is a student-led organization that helps high schoolers develop leadership skills through community service. It's the oldest and largest service program for high schoolers. Translation? We've been helping kids help other kids for a really long time.

But then... COVID happened. Fundraising flatlined, members drifted away, and sadly, all Key Clubs were deactivated. Worse yet, our beloved Scholarship Program was eliminated due to a lack of funds. It was a tough loss for the Pomona community. But we're not ones to stay down for long.

## We're Back and Ready to Party for a Purpose!

We've recently reactivated two Key Clubs and started fundraising to bring back our much-needed Scholarship Program. And what better way to do it than by throwing a party for a cause?

This year, Kiwanian Mitch Stein is turning the big 5-0, and what does he want for his birthday? Not socks. Not a watch. He wants to raise \$50,000 to bring scholarships back to Pomona's deserving students. Together with The Endless Foundation, Mitch is hosting a celebration that's all about making a difference while having a blast!

## Join Us for a Night of Music, Food, Drinks, and Community!

**Date:** June 21, 2025

**Why?** To raise funds for scholarships and celebrate a milestone birthday.

**Where?** The Union - 350 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767

And guess what? 100% of your donation is tax-deductible and goes directly to students. That's right—we're all volunteers, so every dollar you give is going straight to changing lives.



Donate or Apply Today at my Fundraiser for Scholarship Foundation

# JOIN THE 50/50 SCHOLARSHIP PARTY!

## Choose Your Gift and Join the Celebration!

### • \$50 General Admission (Standing)

"I'm ready to dance my stress away!"

### • \$100 General Admission (Standing)

"I love to dance and I'm happy to chip in a little more for the kids"

### • \$150 VIP Admission

"I love dancing, but let's be real—I'm old like Mitch. I need VIP lounge access with comfy chairs."

### • \$2,000 VIP Table Service for 8

"We're here to dance, relax in the VIP section, and enjoy our own reserved table. And yes, we'd like a server to keep the food and drinks coming."

### • \$5,000 Sponsor a Named Scholarship

"Everything VIP Table Service gets, plus:

- A scholarship named after me (or my organization).
- Two tickets to the Scholarship Awards Event where the scholarships are given out.
- A half-page ad in the Pomona Bulletin showing me giving scholarships like a boss."

### • \$10,000 Event Sponsor and 2 Named Scholarships

"Double the scholarships, double the impact! Everything in the previous package, plus:

- Two scholarships named in my honor.
- A full-page ad in the Pomona Bulletin because I'm kind of a big deal."



### • \$30,000 Main Sponsor

I'm changing TEN lives by providing scholarships to ten deserving Pomona students! Plus:

- VIP Table for 8 at this event and the scholarship awards.
- COVER story in the Pomona Bulletin highlighting me, my organization, and the ten students I helped.
- Be treated like a true partner with a **full-page ad in The Pomona Bulletin for 12 months**. This option gives your organization the **most exposure in the city**, putting you in **10,000 mailboxes every month**. That's a lot of Pomona eyeballs appreciating your generosity.



Select Your Gift  
& Support  
Scholarships!

### Ready to Make a Difference?

Join us, celebrate, and give back. Because when we invest in our youth, we're investing in the future of Pomona. And honestly, what better way to celebrate Mitch's 50th than helping 50 kids chase their dreams?

So grab your dancing shoes, your checkbook, and your best community spirit. Let's party for a purpose!

### RSVP Today and Select Your Gift!

Pomona students are counting on us—and we're counting on you.

(P.S. Donating is tax-deductible. Dancing is optional but encouraged!)

# SUPPORT POMONA

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# Save a Chicken, Eat a Plant: A Hilariously Honest Dive into Pomona's Vegan Scene

Let's start off by being real—I hate vegetables. Always have. I'm 49 years old (and yes, I'm clinging to that for as long as I can—but feel free to come celebrate my 50th birthday by going to this link: [www.bestpomonarealestateagent.com](http://www.bestpomonarealestateagent.com)). But seriously, I've spent most of my life dodging broccoli like it's an unpaid parking ticket. That is, until someone hit me with the wildest statement:

"You know, they make vegetables that taste like cheeseburgers."

Excuse me, what? Plants that taste like In-N-Out?

That sounded like a challenge, so I accepted.



## First Stop: Gorganson's Vegan Delight

📍 **Location:** 123 Green Street, Pomona, CA 91766

📷 **Instagram:** @GorgansonsVegan

Enter **Gorganson's**, the game-changer. One bite of their plant-based burger, and my taste buds were questioning everything they'd ever known. Was it meat? Was it magic? I didn't know, but I knew I wanted another bite. The burger had that satisfying, juicy, greasy goodness you'd expect from a double-double, but with zero side effects like guilt or the urge to take a nap immediately after.

Gorganson's isn't just about food—it's about community. The owners, passionate about plants and Pomona, host fun events like Vegan Comedy Nights (because apparently, plants are funnier than you'd think) and Meatless Monday Karaoke (where the only thing more entertaining than the singing is figuring out if that taco is actually made from tofu).

## Next Up: Borreguitas – The Mexican Vegan Experience

📍 **Location:** 456 Fiesta Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767

📷 **Instagram:** @BorreguitasVegan

Feeling brave, I ventured to **Borreguitas**, Pomona's first vegan Mexican restaurant. Now listen, I love Mexican food—the greasy, heart-attack-on-a-plate kind. But Borreguitas served up enchiladas, tacos, and burritos so good I didn't miss the artery-clogging grease at all. I was too busy enjoying the flavors to mourn the loss of my usual food coma.

This family-owned spot takes vegan cuisine to the next level, proving that great Mexican food doesn't need to come with a side of "instant regret." Plus, they regularly host community nights with cooking demos, where they prove that veggies can be spicy, saucy, and downright delicious. And let's not forget their Taco Tuesdays—a meat-free miracle that might just convert even the most die-hard carnivore.



## Final Thoughts

So, do I love vegetables now? Let's not get crazy. But I do love eating delicious food that makes me forget I'm technically eating plants. Whether it's the mind-blowing burgers at Gorganson's, the flavorful tacos at Borreguitas, or a refreshing juice from Phillips Ranch Health Bar, Pomona's vegan scene has something that can win over even the most skeptical veggie-hater (ahem, me).

So go ahead, save a chicken, eat a plant, and experience Pomona's tastiest secret. Your taste buds—and maybe your cholesterol—will thank you.

# Spring Into Action: Clear Out Your Garage for Pomona's Yard Sale Weekend!

Spring is in the air, and you know what that means: it's time to face the chaos in your garage that you've been avoiding since last spring. Yes, those boxes of "I'll get to it later" are still there, and let's be honest, it's starting to look like a scene from a storage reality show. But fear not! Pomona has you covered with upcoming events that will make decluttering a breeze and might even earn you a little extra cash.

## **Pomona Yard Sale Weekend: May 2, 3, & 4**

This is the perfect time to declutter and turn your old stuff into someone else's treasure. Set up shop, meet your neighbors, and maybe even score some finds of your own. One man's junk is another man's vintage collection—or at least a solid conversation starter.

## **Document Shredding & E-Waste Drop-Off: April 26 at Washington Park**

Got old tax documents from 1999? Or that ancient laptop that hasn't turned on since dial-up was a thing? Bring them to Washington Park on April 26 for free document shredding and e-waste disposal. It's the perfect way to declutter and keep your identity (and sanity) safe.



## **Give it Away for Free!**

Not everything has to be sold. Sometimes it's easier (and more neighborly) to give it away. Check out their website [buynothingproject.org](http://buynothingproject.org) & [fb.com/groups/467987950643775](https://fb.com/groups/467987950643775) and share your unwanted items with neighbors who could use them. You can also post your free stuff on the Pomona Bulletin Facebook page and help keep items out of the landfill while building stronger community connections.



## **Why Bother?**

Clearing out clutter isn't just about making space; it's about creating room for new memories, less stress, and maybe even finding that long-lost mystery box from your college days (no judgment if it stays unopened).

So let's do this, Pomona! Let's clear the clutter, share with our neighbors, and welcome the new season with clean garages and open hearts.

Because nothing says "spring cleaning" like finally being able to walk through your garage without tripping over a box labeled "miscellaneous."

## **Spruce Up Your Yard Too!**

And once the garage is clean, why not give your yard some love? The City of Pomona is giving away free compost on May 3rd at 636 W. Monterey Ave. It's a great way to refresh your garden and give back to the earth—literally.

## **Help Keep Pomona Beautiful!**

If you really want to make a difference, join Pomona Beautiful on Facebook or Instagram. Connect with your neighbors and come together once a week to help keep Pomona beautiful. It's a fun and easy way to give back to the community and make our city shine!

## **Stay in the Loop!**

All these dates and more details are posted on our website and Facebook page at [ThePomonaBulletin.com](http://ThePomonaBulletin.com). Check it out and stay connected with what's happening in Pomona!

## **Happy Spring Cleaning!**



# Plant, Grow, Connect: The Best Community Gardens in Pomona

## Growing Roots Garden

A space for food, education, and community! Established in 2020, Growing Roots Garden partners with local schools to provide fresh produce, workshops, and events for all ages. Volunteer with us and make a difference! 192 E Center St, Pomona, CA 91767

- 635 Lincoln Ave, Pomona, CA 91767



## Sarvodaya Institute & Ananda Community Garden

Nurturing the earth, cultivating connection! Ananda Community Garden is more than just a garden—it's a space where people come together to grow fresh, organic food, share wisdom, and build a thriving community. Rooted in regenerative living and sustainability, we're working toward a healthier, more harmonious world. Come grow with us and be part of the change!

- 995 W. Holt Ave, Pomona, CA 91768



## Gente Community Garden

More than just a garden—Gente Community Garden is a space for unity, sustainability, and empowerment. Managed by Gente Organizada, we nurture both plants and people, fostering a greener, stronger community.

Join us in growing change!

- 1191 Buena Vista Ave, Pomona, CA 91766



## Semillas Community Garden

Planting seeds, growing community! Semillas Community Garden is a space where neighbors come together to cultivate fresh produce, share knowledge, and build connections. Through sustainable gardening and community-driven initiatives, we're creating a greener, healthier Pomona—one seed at a time. Join us and grow with purpose!

- 810 S White Ave, Pomona, CA 91766



## Center Street Community Garden

Grow, connect, and cultivate change at Center Street Community Garden! Since 2011, we've provided local residents with affordable garden plots, tools, and resources to grow fresh produce while building a stronger community. Join us and plant the seeds for a healthier future!

- 192 E Center St, Pomona, CA 91767



## Tri-City Therapeutic Community Garden

Healing through nature! The Tri-City Therapeutic Community Garden offers a peaceful space for mental wellness, featuring community plots, a meditation labyrinth, and a fruit orchard. Cultivate well-being with us today!

- 2008 N. Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767



# Mitch Turns 50: Free and Funny Ways to De-Stress in Pomona



April is Stress Awareness Month, and if anyone is aware of stress, it's me. I recently found out that I don't have just one, but two aneurysms, so living a stress-free life has taken on a whole new level of importance. And now, I'm turning 50. That magical age when "going out" means running errands, "late night" means staying up past 9 PM, and "fun" is finding a parking spot right in front of Catalyst. But I'm not ready to let stress win. No sir. I'm ready to fight stress the old-fashioned way: with a little humor and a lot of free activities around Pomona.

## 1. Take a Stress-Reducing Stroll in Ganesha Park

A brisk walk through Ganesha Park is my kind of stress relief. Scenic, peaceful, and free—plus, some trees are carved into art. It's nature with a creative twist. If I walk fast enough, I might outrun my midlife crisis. Bonus points for greeting strangers like I run the place.

## 2. Pretend I'm an Artist at the Pomona Arts Colony

Walking through Pomona's Arts Colony during the Art Walk is oddly relaxing. I wander through galleries, pretending I understand the art. Most artists are half my age, so I try to see through their eyes—though it's tricky with bifocals. I even dressed the part, vintage jacket and all. Did I pull it off? Probably not. Luckily, Mia from Conceptual Art Therapy was there, keeping me from mistaking wall fixtures for masterpieces. With her help, I almost looked sophisticated. Almost. But really, just walking, laughing, and soaking in the creative energy makes for a great night.

## 3. Meditate (or Nap) at Lincoln Park

Meditation is a proven stress reliever—or so I've been told—and Lincoln Park offers just the right amount of shade and serenity. I can sit under a tree, close my eyes, and embrace my inner zen. If meditation turns into an accidental nap, even better. I'm not lazy—I'm deeply in touch with nature. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

## 4. Dance!!!! At my fundraiser for Scholarship Foundation

They say dancing relieves stress, but dancing at my 50th—where every step funds a Pomona youth scholarship—feels like pure joy. Forget meditation; nothing clears the mind like offbeat clapping and realizing you're having too much fun to care. With Flashpants blasting '80s hits, you'll be transported back faster than you can say "big hair."

Every move isn't just a celebration but an investment in the future. And if my attempt at the worm to Footloose inspires donations, even better. So come for the cause, stay for the nostalgia, and dance like no one's watching—because I definitely will.

## 5. Take a Free Crochet Class with Khaos Crafts

Crocheting might not be the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about stress relief, but it's surprisingly calming. I'll take a free crochet class with Khaos Crafts and try my hand at it. But here's the catch—don't talk to the people who are actually crocheting. If they lose count, you might just get kicked out. And if my first attempt looks more like a tangled mess than a masterpiece, I'll just call it "abstract." It's a high-stakes hobby, but the stress relief (and laughter) is worth it.



Donate or Apply  
for a Scholarship

### 6. Sit with the Goats at Lopez Urban Farm

Sometimes, stress relief means sitting with goats at Lopez Urban Farm—no worries, no deadlines, just peace. If I'm feeling daring, I'll try their skate ramp. Nothing says "great idea" like skateboarding for the first time at 50.

If that doesn't work, I'll write a poem with the folks at Lion Like Mind State. Who knows? Maybe I'm a poet. You can even watch me read it at The Pomona Bulletin. And if it's bad? I'll just call it abstract.



### 9. Join Pedal Pomona on a Bike Adventure Around Pomona

Pedal Pomona offers bike adventures that are a perfect way to stay stress-free. There's something about cruising through Pomona's streets, letting the breeze do the heavy lifting, and feeling like you're a kid again. I recently joined them on a bike tour of all the community gardens, which gave me the perfect chance to show off my new bike helmet—a purchase from Antique Row during another stress-relieving activity I like to call "spending my children's inheritance." I guess running with Pomona Valley Runners could be fun—if you're looking to trigger a heart attack. Personally, I'll stick to my e-bike and let it do the work while I enjoy the ride. Less sweating, more sightseeing, and way less chance of needing a medic. Now that's stress-free fun.

### 10. Do Absolutely Nothing and Call It "Mindfulness"

I'll lay in my backyard or at the park, stare at the clouds, and call it mindfulness. If anyone asks, I'm practicing intentional stress relief. If they ask again, I'll pretend I'm meditating on the mysteries of life at 50. Boom—I'm deep.



### 7. Take a Self-Guided Mural Tour

Pomona is full of colorful, vibrant street art. I'll take a free, self-guided mural tour and marvel at the creativity of others. I'll tell myself it's "art therapy" but really it's just walking and looking at cool stuff. Bonus points if I snap a selfie and caption it "Finding my inner peace... and better lighting."

### 8. Join the Mario Kart Tournament at Pomona Pride Center

Sometimes, stress relief comes from a little competition. I'll hit the Pomona Pride Center's free Mario Kart tournament, where a well-timed banana peel can change everything. Sure, a blue shell might take me out, but for a moment, I'm a racing champion—even if my real driving is more slow and steady than Mario Andretti. Win or lose, it's all about the fun.



### Final Thoughts from Mitch

Turning 50 isn't about slowing down; it's about finding new ways to embrace life—and laughing through the stress. Especially when facing health challenges, reducing stress isn't just a goal; it's a necessity. Luckily, Pomona offers plenty of ways to relax, reflect, and have a little fun without spending a dime.

Because if there's one thing I know, it's that the best things in life are free—like a good laugh, a deep breath, and a stress-free afternoon in Pomona.

Happy Stress Awareness Month!

# The Mindful Advocate

## Mindfulness with a Purpose



The storms cleared Friday evening making way for bright moonlight to taunt me as I tucked in for the night. Taunt because over the past couple of weeks any hint of clear skies seemed to be swept away with more clouds and rain just as quickly as it pierced through. The next day I awoke not to my alarm, for once, but to the sun streaming through the windows and dancing on the wall across the room, playing with the shadows from the curtains. Could it be?

Rustling out of bed, my good friend Mitch Stein texted me excitedly about the big 7-mile ride through the city with stops where we would visit three urban farms, sponsored by Pedal Pomona and All Wheels Pomona. I met Mitch at his home off of Towne Avenue, and he and I loaded up our backpacks, jumped on his ebikes and rode to the first farm. In order the first was **Growing Roots** ([wearegrowingroots.org](http://wearegrowingroots.org)), the second **Sarvodaya Farms & Nursery** ([sarvodayainstitute.org](http://sarvodayainstitute.org)), and the final was **Gente Community Garden** ([genteorganizada.org/gentecommunitygarden](http://genteorganizada.org/gentecommunitygarden)).

Although all three farms provide free food for the community residents and those in need, they also offer different approaches to urban farming and programs. Arriving by way of the side alley off of Towne Avenue at Emerson Middle School we approached the farm gates at Growing Roots where we were greeted with smiles from other riders, a delicious lemon cake, and some herbal tea...oh, and of course Julieta Muñoz. Julieta shared with us of the different programs at Growing Roots such as collecting compost from the community and Plot Holding where you can reserve your own plot and grow your own food. Growing Roots is a modest farm with a familial and welcoming spirit.



Hopping on our bikes, the nearly 30 of us riders pedaled against the brisk morning air cooling our warm cheeks and inviting the hair on our necks to stand on end. We zig-zagged through the streets of Pomona and found ourselves at the Sarvodaya Farms & Nursery on San Antonio Avenue just across from Washington Park. If you're driving a bit too fast you'll certainly miss it, barely noticing the home that is settled in front of the farm at the street. Lauren Gibson was there with refreshing tea and a small bit of honey to sweeten it up just a tad. This was by far the largest farm boasting greenhouses, a nursery, community stage, native garden, and a new pond. This is a one stop farm shop where you will find all you need to start, cultivate, and grow your own home farm.



The final farm would test our endurance as it was a couple miles further across Pomona's south end down Grand Avenue. We made a right turn onto Buena Vista Avenue and discovered a beautifully carved and burnt wooden Ranch Gateway Sign greeting us with the words "Gente Community Garden". It wasn't too long before we were greeted by the artist of the sign and farm extraordinaire Berenice (Bee) Martinez. Bee gave us a tour of the farm including the rows of kale and lettuce, the kitchen under construction being made of traditional mud adobe bricks, and the soon to be firepit. Bee has dreams of storytellers reliving the traditions of the elders with the youth around the firepit. This moderate sized farm has produced people with big dreams and even bigger hearts.

Serving Together,  
Brian S. Symonds, M.Div.



What makes these big dreams so exciting is that the three women, Julieta, Lauren and Berenice are only a handful of the many people forming a coalition to better support the farms where each works and serves the community of Pomona. The farming coalition has such an appropriate name, Pomona Crece Comunidad, which means Pomona Grows Community. The double meaning was not lost on this pack of 30 riders. This coalition is growing and harvesting produce to feed a community which in turn is growing and producing an engaged community through vital experiences of belonging and connection to the earth and her resources. The act of digging our hands in the earth, nurturing a seed to fruit, caring so much at the sprouting of what will feed a neighbor brings a smile to all, and causes within us a feeling of belonging to something greater than ourselves - each other, the system of vegetation all around us, and keeps us rooted in a wholeness that can only leave us all better for having participated.



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