



LAST SUMMER:
*Remember summer of 2009
 (See page 2)*

PHOTO COLLAGE:
*View the Bandito Art of Richard Stewart
 (See page 11)*

GET TO KNOW:
*Read about the Sunland Tujunga Alliance
 (See page 19)*

First Edition

Welcome to your newspaper

Bob Georgius

Our mission is to communicate a positive image of the Sunland-Tujunga-Shadow Hills community in a way that benefits the community as a whole with a particular concern for our young people, to improve the quality of life in our community, and to do this in a manner that shows respect for all in the community.

We are also online at: www.voiceofthevillage.org. We are published by The Sunland-Tujunga-Shadow Hills Community Fund, a non-profit, charitable organization which funds such projects as the Verdugo Hills High School Matching Grant Fund, the publication of the Verdugo Hills High School Newspaper, La Yuca, and other worthy causes.

We are advertising-supported. All profits from Ad-sales go to the Sunland-Tujunga-Shadow Hills Community fund and are used for the benefit of the community as a whole. Thus advertising with us is a way to give back to the community and may be tax-deductible as a charitable contribution as well. (Be sure to check with your accountant – circumstances may vary.)



MEET THE TEAM: (From L to R) Richard Stewart, Marlene Mitt, Fran Loiselle, Sonia Tatulian, Ray Loiselle, Susan Boughton, Ellis Robertson, Barry Geller, Mary Russo, Peter Schellenbach, Mary Nance Schellenbach, Bob Georgius. See page 14 for a photo of the Verdugo Hills High School staff.

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Our Staff, we have an all volunteer staff including:
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Sonia Tatulian and Mr. Michael Lucas – Advertising Sales
Barry Ira Geller – Webmaster
And the Journalistic “A-Team” from Verdugo Hills High School
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Julia Ginter and Katie Pelon – Student Editors in Chief
Wyatt Pendleton – Centerfold Editor
Isabella Carpio – Feature Editor
Georgiana Martinez – News Editor
Samantha Wilson – Opinion Editor
Yu Rha Choi – Entertainment & Online Editor
Amy Hwang – Sports Editor

Our reporters: you! It’s your paper and your contributions are not only welcome, they’re encouraged. We are looking for stories on Schools, Churches, Community Groups, Sports, Art, Event Announcements and anything you find interesting. Please submit your stories via email to editor@voiceofthevillage.org.

The village where there was nothing to do

Marlene Hitt

Once upon a time a small village sprung up beside a river. It began to grow, bit by bit. Another village started to the east, to the west, to the north and to the south. The downhill settlers were farmers; the uphill people were town folk. As the years went by the villages grew until the boundaries were invisible and all the villages became one town. Not only that, the villages shouldered up to a great metropolis and became a part of the city.

The settlements in the west were filled with stables and corrals housing horses, mules, donkeys, alpacas, llamas and all kinds of animals. The hills invited hikers and riders; streams cooled the feet of the people. In the canyons hid streams and waterfalls, pools and ferny ravines.

However, though the houses, stores, churches and schools multiplied, not much really changed. The Rotary put on the Fourth of July parade every year and on that day the whole town lined the boulevard as neighbors watched and waved to neighbors.

Later that evening a fireworks show lit up

the sky over the high school and everyone in town watched as they ate the great food sold there. People helped each other. The Chamber of Commerce put on the fireworks with help from the Coordinating Council, the Sunland/Tujunga Alliance, and the high school leadership class.

In the fall, the Lions hosted the Watermelon festival, now famous everywhere, even to a half page in *Westways Magazine*. They showcased not only the Lions and the great festival, but the other organizations as well at the festival.

The Coordinating Council and the local museum put together the overly well attended Historic Home and Garden Tour earning funds that supplied scholarships to Verdugo Hills High School students and upkeep of the Little Landers Historical Society.

At Easter time the Kiwanis shuttled people up a rutted road to the Cross of San Ysidro, a marker of pride in the days of the settlers, for the Easter Sunrise Service. The Lions hosted an Easter Egg Hunt.

The historical society gathered audiences in the clubhouse to hear lectures, music and parties in the old, old clubhouse. The museum was

visited by children from schools and adults who traveled to interesting places.

The Elks Lodge was filled with town folks for a comedy show, for breakfasts, and for community groups, for Elks- sponsored dinner dances and meals.

Churches had weekly services, open to everyone, concerts and plays. Schools were busy with their own galas and events.

At the parks, baseball games continued all season, carnivals sprung up over weekends, the people strolled in great numbers. Kiwanis members started and kept going a Little League program with local businesses helping out. Playground equipment was shiny new, a skateboard park well attended, basketball and handball and tennis courts available. Three parks were available and all were lovely.

The American Legion held Memorial Day and Veterans Day services with locals gathering around the memorial in the park and they put out flags on holidays.

Cafes had Internet access, music, sometimes poetry. Village poets met once a month at the library.

The Friends of the Library held summer reading programs for children and craft classes, programs, and lots of computers. Newspapers were provided for folks who loved to sit quietly in a temperature controlled book-lined room.

The local art center held classes in painting, ceramics, music lessons; art of all kinds over the years, and art shows.

A neighborhood council drew the civic minded, a land use committee shouted out for conformity, disaster preparedness appealed to many, the police were honored and the fire department too.

At the Senior Center, lunch was nutritious and inexpensive and the classes and parties were superb.

The YMCA with the pool and equipment kept all ages busy all day except when they had a meeting of Scouts, California Rangers, and other youth groups.

So much was going on in town that it was a real chore to find time to attend out of town activities.

Yet, the villagers said, as all villagers do, everywhere, THERE’S NOTHING TO DO!

Staff Acknowledgements:

Editor in Chief Bob Georgius	Team Leader/Journalism Teacher David Riemer	News Editor Georgina Martinez
Ad Sales – Contact: Sonia Tatulian Michael Lucas	Student Editors in Chief Julia Ginter and Katie Pelon	Opinion Editor Samantha Wilson
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Events of Our Times

Remembering Last Summer

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times,"

– Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*



From Festival to Fire – A Detective Story

Marynance Schellenbach

The 18,000 people who attended the Lions 48th Annual (and most successful ever) *Watermelon Festival* never expected that some of the money they spent would be needed so quickly to help victims of a deadly Station Fire less than a month later. When the fire hit, the Lions immediately set aside \$5,000 from the festival proceeds to help fire victims.

But locating people who had lost their homes in the fire was not that easy. Sonia Tatulian, coordinator of the Lion's Relief Fund, found that no names or other information on fire victims was available from any public agency; she had to gather such data from private sources. So she organized her fellow Lions, recruited help from members of the community and formed a squad of detectives with a mission to find people who had lost their homes in the fire. Reportedly, there were close to 90 homes lost; only 45

families have been located by the Lions to date.

(If you know of any families needing help that have not been contacted by the Lions, please call the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce, 818-352-4433 Mon.-Thurs. from 9 to 12.)

As soon as the fire was designated a disaster area more help and support flowed in providing even more money for the Lion's relief effort.

The Lions Clubs International Foundation released \$10,000 to the local district which was transferred to the Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club as the club most immediately affected by the disaster. An additional \$5,000 was donated by the Crescenta-Canada Lions Club.

More than 25 victims of the Station Fire were guests of the Sunland-Tujunga and Crescenta-Canada Lions Clubs at a dinner on Sept. 10. Each family in attendance who had lost its home was given gift cards from Von's, Trader Joe's, Walmart and Target. Gift

cards have been given to other families as they have been located.

The dinner was held in the meeting room of the Citibank branch in Montrose. It had been scheduled as a joint meeting to welcome the Lions District Governor and members of the District cabinet to hear a report on Lionism around the world but instead District Governor Dave Hebebrand used the occasion as an illustration of Lions at work on the local level drawing on the resources of Lions International.

He reminded the group that it was only a year ago that our district had received a grant of \$10,000 to help the victims of the Sylmar fire.

On October 8, the Sunland-Tujunga Lions voted to make a donation from the relief fund to the Wildlife Way Station to help defray the expenses incurred when the animals had to be evacuated. The remainder of the fund will be used to provide gift cards to each family for holiday meals and Christmas shopping.

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Going green with solar power

Greg Saunders

There is a lot of hype about solar and reducing your energy bill and carbon footprint with solar panels. But how does it all work and are they really cost effective? To that question, I thought I would put forth a little education on the matter.

First of all, there are two types of solar systems commonly installed today:

Photovoltaic systems (used to generate electricity) and thermal systems (used to heat water). In this article, I will discuss photovoltaic systems.

The most common type of photovoltaic system is commonly referred to as a grid-tied system. That means you are still connected to the utility company ("grid") and don't have batteries on site. Essentially, the utility company acts as your battery. During the day electricity generated by your solar panels (and not used by your home) is sold back to the utility company (making your electric meter actually run backwards). At night, when the sun is down and your panels are not generating power, your house is drawing electricity back from the utility company. In essence you are using the utility grid as a storage battery for the power that you generate during the day. Typically, the goal is to "zero" your usage. This contractual arrangement with the utility company is known as **net metering**.

Incentives

Solar installations are eligible for a couple of different government incentives. The newly passed federal tax credit covers 30% of the total installation cost for both residential and commercial. For residential, this comes to the purchaser in the form of a tax credit (not a tax write-off). That credit can be used all at once, applied 3 years retroactively, and/or 10 years forward. For commercial, that credit can also be available in the form of a cash grant.

Another substantial incentive available for solar installations are cash rebates from power companies. Each utility company in California has its own rebate system. Some are better than others. All of them have a finite amount of money that has been set aside in a tiered system. As such, the earlier you take advantage of the rebate, the higher the amount. As the funds get disbursed, the rebate amounts drop and eventually phase out altogether. These funds are totally independent from the

current state budgetary crisis because they are administered by an independent agency.

In order to qualify for a rebate, you have to submit a rebate reservation. To submit the reservation a solar installer will come out to your house and take all the measurements, shading readings (measured by a special device), analyze your electrical usage over the past 12 months and examine your main electrical panel. In most jurisdictions, the power company will also come out and do an energy survey and make suggestions on how to best reduce your electrical consumption.

Obtaining the rebate reservation quickly is an important step. As rebate reservation funds are allocated, the funds available decrease and the amount of the rebate itself decreases. Furthermore, power costs are anticipated to increase substantially over the next 3-5 years due to increased demand, steady supply and efforts to reduce carbon footprint. The combination of increased federal incentives and anticipated increased power costs has led to a flood of rebate reservations. Currently, the solar rebate processing office at DWP is 120 days backlogged so time is of the essence....

So what does it all Cost?

Here are some case study numbers on a recent residential installation in a Glendale single family residence, with south facing roof, approx. 2,500 square feet home (built in 1910 with almost no insulation and extremely drafty windows).

- The System size required to zero out (eliminate) their electric bill worked out to be approx. a 5.4 kilowatt system
- Gross installation cost (materials and labor): approx. \$40,000.
- LESS - Federal tax credit available to purchaser was 30% of contract cost: \$12,000
- LESS - Rebate from Glendale Water and Power was approximately \$21,000
- LESS - Tax credits from home office accelerated depreciation: \$1,500
- Giving an approximate *net cost for the installation of: \$5,500*

And best of all - Energy savings over the life span of the system (30 yrs): approx. \$115,000

In this case, the clients had a home office, so they were able to take advantage of some depreciation, which further decreased their net cost. Their initial investment paid for itself in approx. 2-3 years (in terms of electrical saving).

The system was installed a few months ago and so far the owner reports that he has zeroed out (eliminated) his electrical bill. As a side bonus, he reported that his house was 15 degrees cooler than before as the solar panels essentially acted as an insulator by shading his roof. In his case this was a quite pronounced decrease in temperature since the house had no attic, no previous insulation and an exposed beam ceiling. Furthermore, the client has told us how proud he is of knowing that is making a difference for the future of this planet.

Payback information and future increased rates:

The Los Angeles power grid is currently nearly maxed out. On peak summer days, as air conditioning units get cranked up around town, utility companies such as Southern California Edison are forced to purchase emergency power at extremely high rates from other states and Canada. These emergency rates are passed right along to the consumers as an average summer cost... However, this will change in the future. As "smart meters" are implemented, utility companies will be able to tell usage on a per minute basis. As such, in the hottest days of the year, those high emergency rates will be passed right along to each individual consumer as a direct cost, not an average cost. What will that translate into? Higher electrical bills for most consumers.

How can you avoid paying increased future rates?

The answer is solar. Solar panels have their highest production in those same summer months when the temperatures are highest. Since your solar system will be producing energy at those critical times when the power grid needs it the most, you will be paid a premium for the energy you produce. So... not only you will be avoiding those high surcharges, but you will be actually paid at a higher rate for producing power at critical times, helping utilities companies decrease their need for importing power from other countries and states.

What to do next?

The key to getting an accurate solar estimate is selecting a company that will take the trouble to analyze your individual site and consumption and properly size and engineer a system that provides the highest efficiency and best return for your money.

As a rule of thumb, it is better to select a company that strictly specializes in solar technology and carries a C46 license (solar). Roofers and electricians that advertise solar, often just buy pre-designed, cookie-cutter systems that have already been engineered for generic situations, sell the job and then farm it out to smaller solar contractors. This leaves the final consumer with a poorly designed system which is not optimized for their needs and for which they have paid the surcharge that goes along with buying things from a "middle-man." A rule of thumb: if a company can't handle the math involved in properly sizing and customizing a system for you, they probably shouldn't be in the business of selling solar.

If you are interested in doing further research here are a few web sites to check out:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/Energy/solar/>
<http://www.ecogeek.org/>
<http://www.mooresolar.com/howtosolarworks.html>

Taking steps to become energy independent is up to all of us. There are many ways you can cut your energy usage. A good way to start is to schedule a free energy audit from your electric company. Most utility companies have links on their website advertising energy audits and offer rebates for energy efficiency improvements aimed at lowering your overall consumption.

Beyond that, if you think solar might be for you, you should contact a reputable solar company to come out and do a free assessment of your site and usage.

(Greg Saunders has been in the solar industry for 5 years. As a contractor he designed and built a combined wind and solar power system for his off the grid desert cabin making it completely energy independent. Having caught the alternative energy bug he went back to college to study green technology and alternative energies and is now the "Green" columnist for the "Voice of the Village". Do you have questions about solar or other alternative energy issues? You can contact Greg with further questions at: gsaunders@mooresolar.com)

Y Belong



Why do so many people feel like they belong at the YMCA? One reason is no other single membership provides so many ways to exercise spirit, mind and body as the YMCA.

From winning basketball games to losing weight. From working out in the pool to working out differences in child care. From lifting weights in the gym to lifting hearts as a community volunteer.

Whether your life is focused on shaping up, studying up, meeting up or growing up....

It all begins at the YMCA!

www.ymcafoothills.org

Verdugo Hills Family YMCA

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Tujunga (818) 352-3255

John Loussarian, Executive Director

We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities

LAPD Community Newsletter – Sunland-Tujunga

Senior Lead Officer Richard Wall

Wall (SLO 59)

818-634-0754

E-mail: 30204@lapd.lacity.org

Crime Trends - Our largest crime concerns are still vehicle thefts, burglaries, and burglaries from motor vehicles. I can't express how important it is for everyone to keep their homes and cars secure. As I continue reviewing the crime reports there has been one recurring factor. Most of the burglars have been able to walk into an unlocked door or get into an unlocked window or car door. It is imperative that all of us help each other.

An old trick to knock and see if someone is home. Numerous Burglary From Vehicles crimes have occurred and the first thing they do is to check and see if the vehicle doors are unlocked. Even if it is locked, if they see something of value they will break a window.

Please leave nothing of value in your car! If you see someone hanging around the neighborhood that you know doesn't live there, please call the non-emergency number for the

Police Department (818) 734-2223. If you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1. Lock all your doors and windows when you leave or go to sleep at night. Remember to lock the doors on your vehicles as well.

Neighborhood Watch News - The big news is that National Night Out Against Crime 2009 for Tujunga was a tremendous success with a great turnout!

We have combined both Sunland and Tujunga for future neighborhood watch meetings. Last time we had 50 people show up and it was a great success.

Traffic Safety - Please remember to slow down. School is in and children are on the street. Valley Traffic Division will be enforcing traffic laws in the Foothill Area. I too will be monitoring and enforcing the law within the Tujunga area.

Please help yourself avoid the potential financial strain of a citation. Slow down. Give yourself enough time to get where you're going. Please remember to pick a designated driver prior to attending a party or barbecue. It would be a shame to have any of our residents become injured in a senseless act of drunk driving.

THE NOVEMBER CONTEST

Meet Your Local Merchants

We support our local businesses and there are a lot of them. They are your neighbors, great people who offer great products and services from shops, little and big, all around town. We invite you to explore, meet some of them and win a prize!

Here's how it works. The Voice of the Village is available for pick up in some 50 local businesses.

All you have to do to win is be one of the first 10 people to find 3 of the 5 stars!

What do you win? A one-day pass to the famous *Foothill Boot Camp* fitness program! If you are into fitness this is for you! If you're not into fitness maybe you will be after walking around to all those stores - and, failing that, it's a cool gift!

How to play: Find a merchant displaying our sign in the window. Stop in and check the back of the sign - if there is a star, note the name of the business and go look for more stars. (Or browse around and get acquainted!) When you

have found three stars email us at

Nov-Contest@voiceofthevillage.org and tell us where you found them.

All entries are due before the 25th of November. The first ten correct entries win.

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Challenges and Opportunities in Real Estate

Fran and Ray - Century 21 Crest

It was just a short time ago that everyone was saying the real estate bubble had to burst soon. In retrospect, that 'burst' was more like a long, slow leak but it hurt none the less. Home values dropped leaving many homeowners upside-down on their mortgages and, adding fuel to the fire, Adjustable Rate Mortgages adjusted up, leaving some homeowners unable to meet their payments leading to foreclosures and Short Sales which put further downward pressure on prices. Meanwhile many potential buyers held back, waiting for prices to 'bottom out'. But there is now some hope on the horizon: currently real estate prices are holding their own and we realtors are busy reviving the market with sales. Right now sales are dominated by REOs (Bank owned properties), or Short Sales on upside down loans, but there are plain old fashioned sales now happening at an increasing rate too. This situation means that there are opportunities and challenges for both buyers and sellers that should be looked at.

For Homeowners in Trouble

The typical scenario is the homeowner has a mortgage balance that is higher than the current value of his/her home and/or has an

adjustable mortgage that has 'adjusted' itself to the point that the payments are higher than the homeowner can afford. In this situation the homeowner has several possible options:

Your best option, if you can do it, is a loan modification, (consult with a reliable lender for this option.) Or, if that won't work for you, look at a Short Sale. In a Short Sale you sell your home for the market value and work with the lender to forgive any difference in what is owed and what is offered on the sale price. (Consult with an experienced realtor who is familiar with short sale procedures and can fully advise you of the pros and cons of this kind of sale.)

Besides the benefit of satisfying an upside down loan, in a loan modification or a short sale your personal credit recovery is achieved in a shorter period of time, typically 2 to 3 years after the loan satisfaction.

Your worst option is foreclosure; but even this doesn't have to be all bad. If a homeowner stops making the mortgage payments and chooses to retain possession until they are served a notice of default followed by a notice of sale (foreclosure), the homeowner may still have the option of exchanging the house keys for cash, a nominal amount paid by the lender upon vacating the property and obtaining the

keys. Credit recovery for the homeowner on a foreclosed property typically takes longer, possibly 5 to 7 years. If the notice of sale does not produce a buyer for the property, the property reverts back to the lender and becomes an REO property.

About REO Properties... An REO property is a property that has already gone through the foreclosure process and the mortgage holder/lender has possession of the property. These properties are being regularly released back on the real estate market through approved REO brokers who will market and sell the property through their real estate agents. While these properties are usually offered at fair market value, the demand is often so high that there are multiple offers made and once an offer is accepted the closing of this transaction usually occurs within a 45 day period.

Opportunities for Buyers As a buyer of a short sale or REO property there are a few matters of concern you should be aware of, such as:

A short sale is not short. It can easily take up to 6 months from the date of your purchase offer before a property even goes into escrow. If you have the patience to wait it out, the buyer will often times acquire a relatively decent house for a good price. If the homeowner stays

on the property during the short sale process, information about the details of the house are more readily accessible and while the property is always sold "AS IS", the property is usually habitable and may require only cosmetic or simple repairs.

An REO property will usually render a decision on acceptance of an offer within a period of 3 to 10 days. However, the condition of some of these properties are often more questionable and in many cases of buying the property 'AS IS' there are no contingencies and once escrow is opened the risk of losing the deposit is higher.

While this is a very broad explanation of the Short Sale and REO property's characteristics, these properties continue to be the bulk of what is available in our real estate market today. Conventional sales are slowly coming back into the mix and according to recent statistics approximately 70% of the home sales are selling for the list price or higher.

If you or someone you know is thinking of buying or selling property, please contact a licensed realtor

Trivia: The floors of buildings are called stories because early European builders used to paint picture stories on the sides of their houses. Each floor had a different story.

Swine Flu, Other Viruses and High Anxiety

By Jay Gordon, MD, FAAP

We're a month into the school year and it's the time of year when it seems our kids are spending more days sick than well.

Please don't be fooled into thinking that this winter is so different from previous winters.

Swine Flu does not pose a realistic risk to your family: There will be millions of cases reported and rare fatalities highly publicized.

Some of us will get high fevers and have to miss school and work for a few days and 99.9999% of us will remain completely unaffected after the flu season except that those who contract Swine Flu this year will be protected if it gets meaner and more virulent in coming years as expected.

Every winter there are dozens and dozens of different viruses. The immune system is built by catching and beating these bugs and acquiring antibodies and "memory cells" for the next time the virus appears.

There is no way around this process and no shortcut. Children, in particular, must suffer through a lot of winter illnesses because their immune systems are so inexperienced.

Colds and coughs have an acute phase of 2, 3 or 4 days during which children are contagious and may need to stay home from school.

Following this contagious period, there can be extra mucus, congestion, cough and malaise for another week or so. By the end of this ten-day period, most children will have been exposed to, and maybe contracted, *another* 2 or 3 other viruses! It's really no surprise that your children and many others might seem to be sick for weeks on end.

Some children and adults have allergies which compound the congestion and coughing problem.

A new study showed that when you examine the blood of children who've been sick for a couple weeks or more the majority of these kids show antibodies to 2 or 3 different viruses: In other words, children and adults don't have ten-day viral illnesses, they have a series of 2 and 3 day bugs which might look daunting but are actually just a part of a normal winter viral season.

Why do we get more illnesses in winter? There are more social and school gatherings in confined spaces, the air is drier, more people travel during winter holidays and we eat more junk food during these months.

New viruses get more people sick than older ones and this year the Swine Flu H1N1 virus is the newest common infection.

The media are taking advantage of this situation and are creating more anxiety about winter illness than at any time in recent memory.

Except, maybe, for the SARS scare. Or the West Nile Virus scare.

The CDC released fatality data this past week and were quite clear in their assessment of this relatively non-virulent strain of influenza:

75-80% of the 76 children had significant or severe underlying medical problems.

Any child's death creates an extremely difficult public

discussion but of the 300,000,000 Americans there are 45,000,000 children and teens and there have been 76 deaths of younger people. About 15 of these deaths occurred in seemingly healthy children and teens.

Please put all of these numbers in the proper perspective and realize that there are many important lifesaving topics for the media to publicize but none which sell papers and create TV viewership quite as well as this new flu.

In July CDC and World Health Organization officials stopped counting the number of cases of Swine Flu and are now relying on a patchwork reporting system which is reporting both "lab confirmed" cases of H1N1 and fatalities from cases which are associated with symptoms of Swine Flu.

The science is terrible but the publicity is geared towards increasing fear, selling vaccines and Tamiflu and keeping us all on edge.

They are reporting deaths from "secondary" bacterial infections and some unofficial sources are even urging people who might be sick with Swine Flu to immediately see their doctors to get vaccines which might prevent bacterial pneumonia. This, by the way, is a serious misinterpretation of certain vaccines' purpose and an even more serious misunderstanding of how long it takes a vaccine to work.

Vaccines, including the flu shots, should *not* be given to sick children or adults.

In the past 18 months, budget cutbacks have led to the loss of over 15,000 public health department jobs. It might be overly cynical to assume that a full court press about H1N1 could lead to some of these jobs being restored or, at least, might stem the budget cutbacks and preserve further job loss.

Every winter I tell the families in my practice that winter viruses—including this new H1N1—are very unlikely to cause serious illness in healthy people but you may choose to do your very best to avoid them before a vacation, an important school event or just because you want this to be a quieter winter for your family.

I **don't** think that this year's pair of flu vaccines will create disasters but I also don't think that they're a good use of our health care dollars.

They are definitely not worth the amount of media and medical attention they've received and continue to receive.

Swine Flu vaccines are now available and they *may* be just as safe as the CDC and others say they are but they are **not** the most important measure for keeping your children free of viral illness.

Try to get a good night's sleep!! Somehow.

- Wash your hands. Teach your children to wash their hands. A good long hand washing, about as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice or the ABC's once through is about what it takes. Hand sanitizer is acceptable in moderation when there is no soap and water.

- Work with your children's schools to have children wash their hands, especially before they eat snacks or lunch. Hand washing is no small benefit in flu and cold prevention but involves a good deal of parental requesting to truly implement at most busy schools.

- When you and your children come home, wash hands again.

- Avoid refined sugars, dairy and fried foods which make you and your children less healthy, replace antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables and may lower your immunity. Work with your children's schools to stop serving cupcakes at each and every birthday. If one kid's mom or dad brings in sweets for celebrating, then everyone's mom and dad does. Make it a "no one" does policy, so no one feels singled out and everyone stays healthy. Ask your child's school to not serve sweet sugary snacks at all. Get your Parent/Teacher groups on board. Pack healthy and well-balanced meals for your kids.

- Support your child's immunity with herbs and supplements (look for brands that are not loaded with additives and sugars) For the most part, they're not proven effective but most have centuries of safe use behind them and seem to help promote good health and stronger immunity.

- Astragalus: one dose three times a week will help support immunity during flu season (This herb seems to be valuable only before an illness and not during.)

- Echinacea and Goldenseal: one dose every day in a liquid or chewable form. My favorite is echinacea tea.

- Vitamin C and Bioflavonoids: I recommend for children (and take) 500 mg of vitamin C per year of age divided into 3-4 doses each day during cold and flu time. (A five year old would get 2500 mg and a 10 year old 5000 mg. The maximum dose is 10,000 mg—Less if C gives you diarrhea.)

- Elderberry is a patented and proven viral treatment

- Probiotics: 5 to 10 billion CFUs each day to build immunity.

Fever is one of the immune system's best tools for fighting viruses and bacteria and should be left alone whenever possible. Higher fever might need to be decreased for a child's comfort and, mainly, for assessment.

104 degree children **all** look like they might have a *terrible* illness. Using a long bath, natural remedies and even Tylenol or Ibuprofen will give you a "window" to look at a child with a much lower temperature. A cooler child will usually smile more, drink more and look more like him or herself.

You can then see that there might be a pretty big fever but the illness underlying the fever is a small illness. Worry and stress levels can drop.

If your child has an illness which is preventing good hydration or if lowering a child's fever still doesn't allow you to adequately evaluate the illness, call your doctor.

Again, this winter is not different than previous winters. Swine Flu does not pose a realistic risk to your family.



We Faced a Raging Fire, Evacuated and Returned our Beloved Animals, and Now... We Need YOU!



Dear Friend,

On August 26, what was to become the largest fire in Los Angeles history broke out on the Angeles Crest Highway. As we watched with grave concern, the "Station Fire" burned savagely through the canyons heading straight towards the Wildlife Waystation!

The fire moved with fury and without mercy destroying everything in its path. Forest Service representatives on the scene advised us that everything was likely to burn if the fire reached the Waystation! *[Insert Photo of fire coming over ridge which Waystation has]*

During our 35 year history, other natural disasters have come our way, but nothing came close to the impending catastrophe that now threatened our 160 acre sanctuary and the 400 animals that consider the Waystation "home." It was clear the animals were in imminent danger and there was only one sure way to keep them out of harms way – we would evacuate!

The evacuation and return of the animals took almost three weeks. During this time our efforts were non-stop and while expenses continued to mount - this part of the problem was not given a thought – it simply had to wait until the danger had passed and the animals were safely back home!

Monday, August 31, we began the monumental task of evacuating our beloved inhabitants: exotic birds, small primates, reptiles, llamas, wolves, tigers, mountain lions, bears, 45 chimpanzees, ostriches and a zebra – to name a few! Since the smoke presented a serious danger to the exotic birds, they were the first to be evacuated followed by small primates whose tiny lungs could also be damaged by the smoke.

Meanwhile, calls were going out and coming in to arrange for facilities to provide temporary refuge for the animals, cages to transport them, as well as flat bed trucks to complete the mission.

For 35 years we have rescued animals across this country and internationally! Most came from deplorable conditions, such as defunct roadside animal shows, research labs, "pets" that could not be kept, left abandoned in buildings or tied to the gate of a zoo. Many were also mistreated and maimed. These animals simply and tragically had no other place to go. So, we took them in and promised that we would provide them with loving care and safety for the rest of their lives!

Fires had evaded us for years – this time we were in the path of the biggest fire in LA history. But, we had saved these animals once – and we were ready to do it again!

Moving the animals took great patience and understanding as most of the animals were not used to being moved. Our objective was to get them to safety but just as important was keeping them as calm as possible to avoid stress or injury.

As the evacuation was underway, fire crews were doing everything they could to protect our sanctuary. Hoses had been laid on the property, along with portable reservoirs of water. Back fires were lit, trenches were dug, brush was removed and

there were continuous chemical and water drops. Depending on the wind, smoke sometimes made it difficult to see. The Forest Service, firefighters, including the Hotshot Crews, worked diligently to save the sanctuary, many were there 24/7. They were our *Heroes!*

And as all this was going on, animals were being placed in cages and driven down the winding, smoky canyon road to temporary safety.

Fortunately, animals have incredible intuition and can often sense things, such as natural disasters, long before people can as well as people's thoughts and emotions. The animals at the Wildlife Waystation did both during this evacuation and the return. With few exceptions, most of the hundreds of animals who were evacuated were not used to being moved or being out in public, yet their cooperation was amazing!

One wonderful example was the chimpanzees who can be quite excitable. Yet, the day they were evacuated, they seemed almost philosophical, accepting this as something that needed to be done. They were loaded into large crates, transported and accepted their "temporary home."

When the time came to bring them back, they seemed to understand and were very quick to do whatever the trainers asked of them. And as they anxiously waited for "their turn" to get in a crate, they seemed to communicate "we want to go home!"

[Insert Photo of Martine w/ flat bed & chimps!]

The tigers also took their evacuation and return in great strides. They too traveled to their temporary safety - but not before they gave the courageous firefighters who slept on the ground at the Waystation during this perilous week, an opportunity to see these magnificent animals "up close and personal." *[Insert Photo of firefighters photographing tigers]*

The 100+ degree temperature, combined with the heat from the fire, was oppressive for both people and animals and two of our bears, Cinnamon and Kachina, were no exception. When they arrived at the transport trailer they were hosed down to cool off. Once inside, they discovered a large tub filled with water and as these two great bears splashed around they gave the fire crews some unexpected and much needed entertainment! *[Insert Photo of Neil hosing down the bears]*

These are but a few of the incredible stories of our animals interacting with trainers, accepting the presence of firefighters, dealing with the heat and smoke, being loaded into cages, put on trucks and moved down the canyon and across freeways to places totally unfamiliar. While they always had keepers with them to give them a level of comfort and familiarity – they also did so much, intuitively and on their own!

And there are more people stories too. Professional animal trainers, our staff, including the vets, and the volunteers all willingly put themselves in harms way to do whatever they could to help the animals. The staff moved the animals to safety, stayed with them, and brought them back. The staff and volunteers did whatever else was needed: fielding and making calls, renting

equipment, purchasing supplies to assist with the evacuation as well as food and water for everyone who was there for over a week. Many of them were also here 24/7. They are *Heroes* too!

For almost two weeks our efforts were non-stop to get our animals safely evacuated and returned home to the Wildlife Waystation – and we did it!

Today, the magical sounds of lions and tigers roaring, exotic birds singing and squawking and wolves howling - once again fill our beloved canyon!

Yet, as result of the fire we are faced with a new financial burden. Every month we struggle to survive and the unexpected expenses for the evacuation, and return, were monumental.

While there was danger many of you prayed for us, and I want you to know how grateful we were. Now we are asking for your help in another, URGENT WAY. Your financial contribution will enable us to continue to care for these wonderful animals, who during this emergency cooperated so extraordinarily that, in their own way – they became *Heroes* too!

Please do not put this letter aside to "think about it." The chimpanzees, the tigers, Cinnamon, Kachina and all the other wonderful animals you did not meet in this letter need your help!

So please send a contribution and be as generous as you can. You will be "their" *Hero* and ours as well! On behalf of all the animals, I thank you from the bottom of my heart ~ and theirs!

Sincerely,

Martine Colette
Founder

P.S. We do not receive any financial support from the federal Government or the state of California and are totally dependent on fundraisers and donations.

Your much needed and appreciated, tax-deductible donation will help us to pay the monumental expenses incurred by the fire and allow us to continue to care for and feed the FOUR HUNDRED wonderful animals who know the Wildlife Waystation as – "HOME."

Please help us ~ help them! And, again ~ Thank You!!!

Additional ways to support the Waystation are a few local upcoming events:

Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th our friends at Corsica's Deli in Sunland will donate \$2.00 for every sandwich sold between 10AM and 6PM.

Sunday, November 8th is our Annual Ride for the Wild Motorcycle Poker Run being held at the Agua Dulce Vineyards from 10AM to 3PM. Visit our website for more information.
www.wildlifewaystation.org



Letter to the editor

On behalf of the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA, I would like to congratulate those involved in the establishment of the Voice of the Village community newspaper. We have been long awaiting a publication that represents our community in a positive light while highlighting the talented writing ability of the students at the Verdugo Hills High School. I am confident that our local community groups, churches and businesses will embrace this newspaper and contribute stories, photos and event information that will help serve as a catalyst bringing our community together as one united force to serve the needs of our residents.

Sincerely yours,

John Loussararian
Executive Director
Verdugo Hills Family YMCA

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Who We Are

The Character and Characters of Rancho Tujunga



INTER

Noemi Agagianian

Interact is a part of Junior Rotary for high school students aged 14 to 18. It is a student-run club which is expected to complete a minimum of two service events a year: one within the community and one international event.

During the 2008/2009 school year the club participated in some 15 community events and produced two events on their own. One was Game Night which was extremely popular with the students. It was an international event held at Verdugo Hills High that raised \$350 for Direct Relief International which provides healthcare to people all over the world. And the Foothill Students' Anti-Drug March—a community event produced in conjunction with the Interact Club at Delphi Academy in Lakeview Terrace which won recognition from the Mayor of Los Angeles! (And we have a plaque to prove it.)

As a result of the popularity and success of these two events the club was delighted to see a two-fold increase in membership for the 2008/2010 school year. The effect of this increase was immediately seen. Since the beginning of the school year over 40 of the 70 Interact Club members participated in the local Creek Restoration project and the Los Angeles

AIDS Walk on Sunday, October 18, donating a total of \$100 to the cause.


The clubs projects for this year include a newer, bigger and better Game Night called "Game Night Revolution", and a repeat of the award-winning Students Anti-Drug March and, to kick it up a notch, a brand new international project. Our club has been invited by the President of the Glendale Community College Rotaract Club, the college equivalent of Interact, to join them in a project they have been participating in for years. Several times a year, their Rotaract Club takes a trip to the Estado 29 Orphanage near Ensenada, Mexico, where they spend the weekend interacting with the children.

This year, 15 Verdugo Hills High students will be joining them. The trip will be held on the first weekend in December, and the club is preparing in every way they can. On Friday, November 20, the Interact Club will be hosting Game Night Revolution, a variation of the original Game Night, to raise money for the children of the orphanage. The goal is to raise enough money to buy each individual child a new pair of shoes—a privilege these children are sadly deprived of.

Excited, this record-setting group of 70 students is sure to make this one the best years

ACT



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The Birth of a Newspaper

Marynance Schelbacher

Name - "The Voice of the Village"

Born to - the communities of old Rancho Tujunga which include Sunland, Tujunga, Shadow Hills, and Lakeview Terrace.

Where - Rancho Tujunga

When - October 30, 2009

Weight - 10,000 copies

Length - Sunland Blvd. and Foothill Blvd. through Shadow Hills, Sunland and Tujunga.

Community leaders have been excited over the birth of a new voice for the community for many months. Meeting in the office of the Chamber of Commerce, they have given shape to a dream many people have had for a number of years - a newspaper that truly expresses our community identity as a place that is positive and special and well, *home*.

Voice of the Village intends to be a paper that is "of the people, by the people and for the people" - a paper that is beneficial, unifying, fair, accurate and uplifting, builds community spirit, connects us with each other, and supports our youth, local institutions and businesses.

The focus of the paper is to provide a venue where the many activities that take place in Rancho Tujunga can be shared with everyone who lives here. There will be a special emphasis on school and youth activities.

Schools, organizations, churches, temples, associations, families and individuals are invited to submit stories, photos and articles to the paper. Local businesses are encouraged to advertise in and distribute the papers. Copy may be sent to Editor Bob Georgius at bobbygee@earthlink.net by the 15th of November for the December issue. Photos should be digital in gif or jpeg format.

In conjunction with the birth of our new community newspaper, a new community website has also been born www.voiceofthevillage.org.

Information sent to the Voice of the Village for publication will also appear on the website. Click on "The Village Square." The community calendar page can be accessed at <http://calendar.sunland-tujunga.com/month.php>. Contact Barry Geller at barryg@infoprovider.com for more information.

The Voice of the Village is a non-profit, 501c3 corporation, edited by volunteer Bob Georgius, run by community volunteers and governed by a board of directors drawn from every segment of the community. It is produced by the

Journalism class at Verdugo Hills High School under the direction of teacher David Reimer. At this time, it will be published monthly with the possibility that it will become a twice-monthly paper.

For advertising, please contact Sonia Tatulian at 818-384-9670 or Mike Lucas at 818-621-3304.

The Board of Directors are led by president Dan McManus, Vice President Mike Lucas, Secretary Susan Boughton, and Treasurer Sonia Tatulian. Members include AnnMarie Flaherty, Marlene Hitt, Fran Loiselle, Andrea Manning, James Moore, Ellis Robertson, and Marynance Schellenbach. Advisors are Louie Buono, Regina Clark, Barry Geller (I.T.), Ray Loiselle, Greg Saunders and Richard Stewart.



WORKING TOGETHER: Angeles Pena and Adam DeLucia at Stonehurst Park.

Boy Scouts Work With Tree People

Beverly DeLucia

Sunland resident, Adam deLucia from Boy Scout Troop #509 at JPL completed his Eagle Project in conjunction with the TreePeople on October 10th. He chose this project because he wanted to do something for his community with lasting results.

A sophomore at Verdugo Hills High School, deLucia was joined by many of his classmates and team members from the school's water polo team. Stonehurst Park in Shadow Hills is an established park with mature trees which are approaching the end of their life. The trees being planted will be established when Mother

Nature determines the mature tree's life cycle. A second project with the TreePeople is scheduled in January 2010, planting over 70 trees at Stonehurst Park.

Besides working with the TreePeople, deLucia's project is part of Los Angeles Major Villaigosa's project, Million Trees LA, in which the trees planted will be counted towards the goal of one million trees planted in the city of Los Angeles, creating an urban forest.

Adam and three of his fellow Scouts, Ryan Wallace, Lee Sullivan and Connor Chavaria attended training classes with the TreePeople over the summer to insure that the planting went smoothly.

The Green Team worked with more than 75 volunteers on the proper techniques on tree planting.

Tujunga resident and Native American, Angeles Pena did a blessing for the participants and the trees, which was the highlight of the day. With the help of 75 volunteers, the 28, 15 gallon trees were successfully planted at Stonehurst Park. Lunch provided by Chipotle' of La Canada.

Other donors were Starbucks, Corisca's Deli, Trader Joe's, El Pollo Loco, Panda Express, Goldstein Bagels and Vons. To volunteer for future projects with the TreePeople, including the burn areas, go to www.treepeople.org.

COMING SOON!

2010 Historic Sunland-Tujunga Calendar



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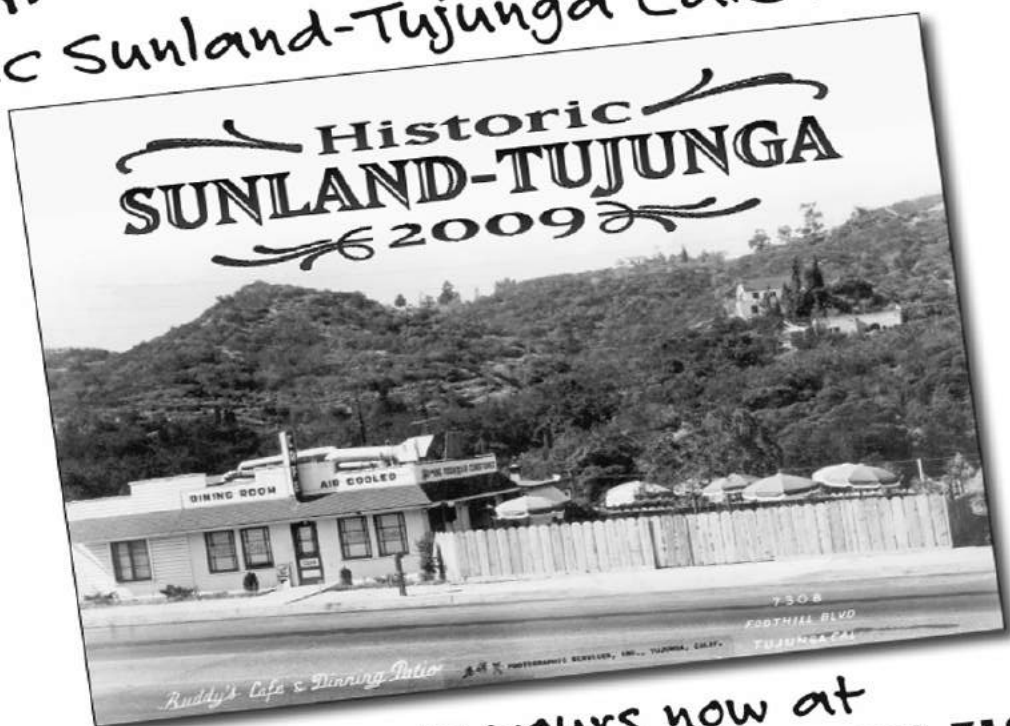
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Freedom Is Not Free

Regina Clark

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – the year is 1918 – an armistice has been declared on the battlefields in Europe. The fighting has stopped and World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28th, 1919. In 1938, legislation was passed to declare November 11th “Armistice Day” to honor all WWI veterans. In 1954, after our Country had been victorious in World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the legislation and replaced the word “Armistice” with the word “Veterans” and Veterans Day was established to honor all American veterans from all wars.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with or combined with Memorial Day. Memorial Day was originally called “Decoration Day” and was first celebrated on May 30th, 1868 as a way to honor those who died in the Civil War. “Decoration Day” more commonly became known as “Memorial Day” after WWII and the name was officially adopted in 1967. Memorial Day is set aside to remember, honor and be thankful for all American military personnel who died in service to our Country, especially to those who died in battle or died as a result of wounds sustained in battle. They paid the ultimate price for our freedom. On Veterans Day, November 11th, we honor and thank all American veterans, living and dead, who have honorably served in the military both in wartime and peacetime.

Think about what our Country would be like if we did not have American veterans. Would Naziism have taken over the world? Would we be living with a Fascist government? If the answer to these questions is “yes,” then you may not be around to talk about it. You could have been born with the wrong color skin or a birth defect or practice the wrong religion or felt the need to speak your mind – you would have been eliminated. Because we have veterans, we have the freedom to openly speak out for or against the political status quo. We can go to church wherever we want. We can own a home and a car. We can own a business. Why do so many people from countries all over the world try to come to America? If they thought their countries were so great, they’d stay in their own country.

My family’s story is similar to many other American family stories. My grandparents legally immigrated to America from Croatia and Italy in the 1890’s and 1900’s. They raised their children to be law-abiding Americans. When the wars broke out, my father and uncles joined the military and were proud to serve our Country. None were drafted, they all volunteered. My parents instilled this sense of patriotism in both my brother and in me. After graduating from high school, I joined the Air Force



FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM: Sgt. Vincent Verrengia, Paratrooper, 11th Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, Korean War Veteran, father of Regina Clark

and my brother joined the Army. At that time in my life, it was the absolute best decision I could have ever made. The reasons for serving our Country in the military are as varied as the service members themselves. In the time of war, some may have been drafted, many volunteered. They had to overcome fear because of the real possibility of being killed or wounded in action.

In peacetime, they could have joined because they wanted an education or just wanted to leave home. They all wanted to be a part of something bigger and more important than themselves. Whatever the reason, in wartime or peacetime, our active duty

military and our veterans deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. They have chosen to protect and defend America: “I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same....”

The next time you want to openly question or criticize our government or cast a vote in an election for a new leader or change our laws, thank a veteran. This freedom comes at an enormous price. The great freedoms we enjoy in America are not free nor can they ever be taken for granted.

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LAFF!

Richard Stewart

The Sunland-Tujunga Rotary Club had the pleasure of meeting the “Little Tujunga Hotshots” at Coco’s Restaurant the Wednesday before LAFF Night II. The Club immediately approved Past President Ellis Robertson’s suggestion that we offer to buy them a desert after their meal. “It’s the least we can do for firefighter ‘Green Berets’ who put their lives on the line for our community,” said Ellis. All the Hotshots were invited to the upcoming “LAFF Night II” event.

Andy Kern’s “The Comedy Machine” was on-stage again for a night of fun and “LAFfs” on September 26th at the Elks Lodge at 10137 Commerce Ave., Tujunga. The success of last spring’s LAFF Night prompted the service clubs of Sunland-Tujunga to come together again to produce another night of light-hearted fun for the community. Providing the entertainment for LAFF Night II was a team of professional and seasoned stand-up comics.

The Sunland-Tujunga Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Neighborhood Council and the Elks Club have joined forces not only to have fun, but to raise funds to purchase a community electronic notice board.

Richard Stewart, Co-President of the Rotary Club commented, “An electronic sign would have been very helpful during the recent fire emergency. Everything could have been posted on the sign from where the evacuation shelters were located to where the mandatory evacuations were being ordered. Of course, the original intent of the sign is to announce various community activities and events, but the emergency announcement capability makes the sign even more valuable.”

Rotary Past President, Ellis Robertson, had come up with the idea to use the proceeds of the event for the electronic sign after negotiating a price at a fraction of what had been previously quoted. The timing was right and the group leaders agreed that the sign would be an excellent use of the proceeds.

There was talk of cancelling the event due to the Station Fire and the community attention on helping those who have lost their homes or have been otherwise adversely affected by fires. The mutual agreement though, was that due to all the stress, tension and anxiety, the community would benefit from a night out for relaxation and comic relief – and they did. It was a blast!

Hopefully the word “FIRE” will never have to be seen on our new sign. Our community has had its share and now everyone is ready to have a night out for fun and LAFfs. For more information contact Richard Stewart (818) 321-5912 or richard@richardpaint.com.

Heaven On Earth

Michael Carpenter

For 24 years Johny Carpenter's Heaven on Earth Ranch on Foothill Place in Lakeview Terrace was a haven for the physically and mentally challenged children and young adults. Here Johny gave them the opportunity to experience a western theme town, to ride a horse, and see to Johny and his fellow stuntmen perform. It was the best medicine they could ever receive. Johny's gone now, he died in a Burbank nursing home on February 27th, 2003, at age 88, but his legacy lives on, kept and honored by The All Nations Church which purchased the property where the ranch once stood. Here is Johny's story.

Johny Carpenter was born June 25th, 1914 in Debinsville, Arkansas and aspired to be a major league ballplayer. His dreams were shattered, however, in 1936, when a near fatal car accident ended his baseball career. During his rehabilitation he saw the many children who were afflicted with crippling and debilitating diseases and injuries and made this pact: If God would let him walk again; he would spend his life helping the handicapped.

Johny did recover. His physical recovery due, in part, to his return home to his family's farm where rode horseback for physical exercise. In the early '40s Johny traveled west to Hollywood where he put his horsemanship skills to good use as

a movie stuntman and later starred in many "B" westerns. More importantly, he kept his pact. Beginning in the 1940's Johny saw to it that the forgotten children had a Thanksgiving dinner, paying for this out of his own pocket; a tradition he continued for over 50+ years.

But that was not enough for Johny, in the mid '40s he established the Heaven on Earth Ranch in Glendale. The ranch has had several locations over the years but finally found its permanent home in 1970 on Foothill Place in Lake View Terrace. Since then thousands of children from the L.A. school system and from such groups as the United Cerebral Palsy/Spastic Children's Foundation were greeted at the gates by Johnny as they spent the day for free touring the western town set and riding horseback, with Carpenter's help if need be.

Readers Digest published a feature story on this and Johny received national acclaim. The countless list of dignitaries including President Reagan, Governor Deukmejian, Mayor Bradley, Congressman Gallegly offered their public recognition lauding his unselfish deeds. From his modest apartment in North Hollywood, Johny kept the Ranch going for over 24 years; it became a regular stopping point for local schools. The annual Thanksgiving dinner was joined by a Christmas Party with Santa Claus arriving by helicopter.

All this ended, however, in 1993 when Johny was evicted by the property owner to make way for a housing development. Johny fought back and a temporary location was found close by. It was never the same, however, and the ranch ceased operations in 1995.

But instead of a housing tract, The All Nations Church purchased the property and, upon learning of the ranch and what had taken place here for so many years, formed the "New Heaven on Earth Ranch" Foundation in 2004 to not only honor Johny Carpenter the man but to continue his mission on behalf of those less fortunate. Once again the sign that stood over the original ranch that had Johny's faith written plainly, "The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth" will again be heard.

And those Thanksgiving dinners? They continue too. This year The All Nations Church proudly hosts a Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ along with the "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards. The event will take place Friday November 20th, 2009. Dinner begins at 6:00pm in the church cafeteria with the awards presentation at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. A classical music concert will follow. There will also be a silent auction to benefit the New Heaven on Earth Ranch. Admission is free and you are all invited!

Our History

Marlene Hitt

Yes, we have history – Rancho Tujunga, as our community was originally called back in the 1800s, includes Tujunga, Sunland, Shadow Hills, Lake view Terrace, and more. It has been around a while. It's seen changes in all aspects of life: Ethnicity, Culture, Art, Architecture, Politics, Commerce, and Real estate to name but a few. Over the years these changes and transition have been driven by, what else, people and their needs, interests and activities leaving a fascinating story that is "Our History".

These changes are chronicled and preserved in the Bolton Hall Museum, operated and maintained by the Little Landers Historical Society. Historical information comes from collected newspapers, documents, oral histories, and the like, all carefully organized and preserved. The collection also includes maps, scrapbooks, albums, and obituaries from the Record Ledger Newspaper as well as cemetery records, phone books, the Record Ledger on microfilm, and yearbooks.

Little Landers also works with City, State and National agencies and officials to designate and preserve historic buildings and sites as well as open spaces. (A nearly completed project is the refurbishing of the Little Landers Park.)

The Bolton Hall Museum, in downtown Tujunga at the corner of Valmont and Commence, serves the public by providing: free monthly programs about local history, two afternoons of docent-guided tours (docent means 'teacher', a rank just below professor) per week, and guided tours and research.

The Little Landers Society also provides special social events, educational material for students and researchers, a monthly newsletter featuring historical information and highlights of our many programs including special group tours for scouts, school children and for adults, a shop containing one-of-a-kind historical information, and exhibits showing information by, for and about the local area, such as the history of local clubs, churches, artists and writers from the past to present, tools, stone houses and stone masons, the exhibit "Faces of Freedom" which included the Veteran's registry, and 30 more in addition to our permanent exhibits which showcase the development of the area once known as Rancho Tujunga.

We provide organizations with Slide show and PowerPoint presentations on the history of our community and, for a small fee, any interested person may access hundreds of photographs showing people and places as early as the late 1800s, books, a research library and research service.

We interact and cooperate with most community events and groups. During summer months we have hosted concerts in the park, movies, and Children's programs. Bolton Hall serves as a voting site in all elections, has assisted in the Historical Home and Garden Tour, the Watermelon festival, the Easter Carnival, "We Tell Stories", the Shouting Coyote Performing Arts Festival, Street fairs, the Fourth of July Parade, the Poet Laureate Program, and interaction with other historical societies. The Community Directory has chosen to use our story and some of our local photos.

Little Landers itself is an all-volunteer group, sustained only by our own efforts, the Little Landers Historical Society has contributed greatly to the historical and educational needs of the community. Our fund raisers, in addition to the home tour are the Spring plant sale, Christmas party, sales, and restaurant group meals.

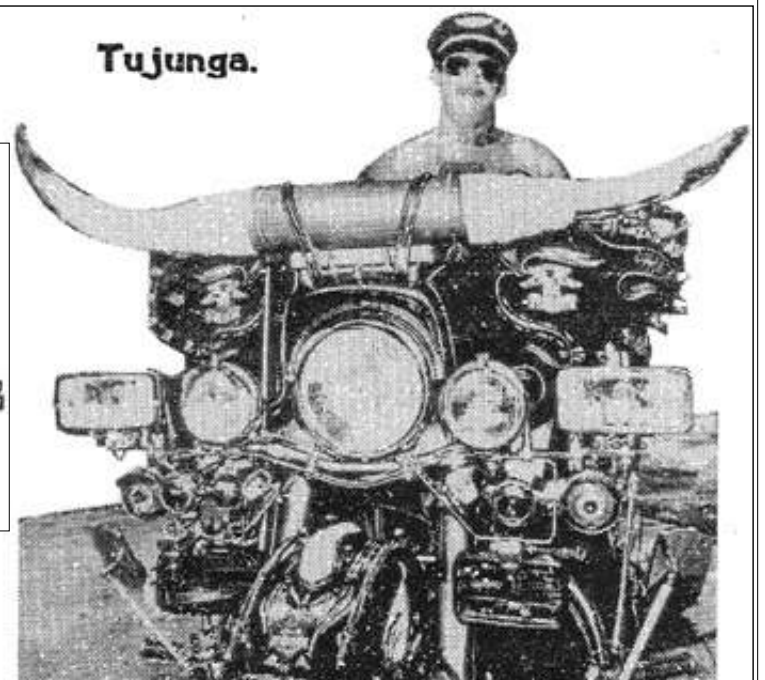
And now that you know us... We welcome you to our museum at Bolton Hall and invite you to join us in the adventure that is our history. This Village means a lot to us and to all who live and have lived here. We'd love to share it with you.

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unusual as their customs.

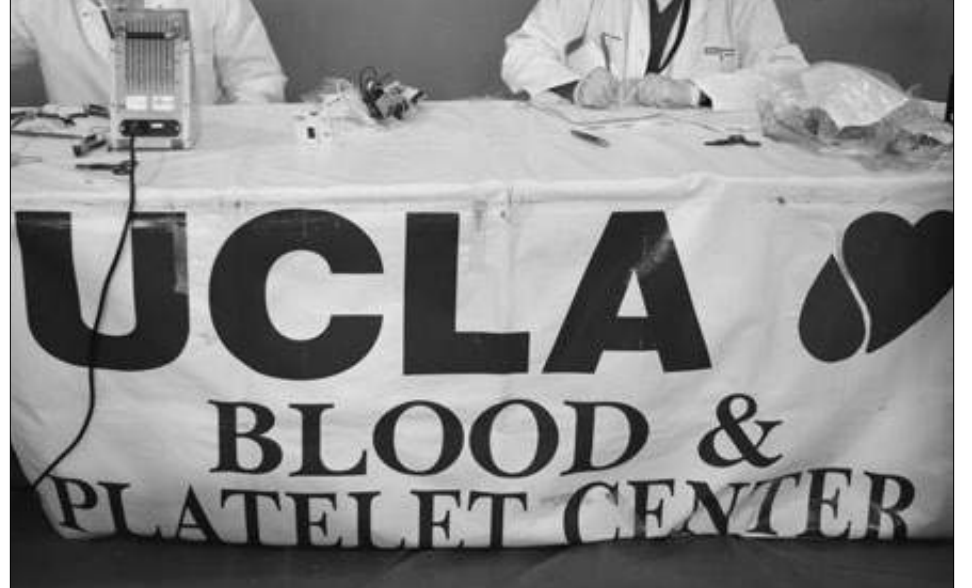
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ToriYen The best sushi in the boonies.

A La Yuca Sampler

From the October issue of the Verdugo Hills High student newspaper
Blood drive: a pint can save three lives



Josh Esquivel/La Yuca

Jeremy Shackel
Staff Writer
Katie Pelon
Editor in Chief

On September 29, 2009 the Verdugo Hill Dons gathered in the big gym to donate blood for the UCLA blood drive.

The process of donating blood takes about 25 to 45 minutes. Students were first asked to fill out a detailed questionnaire regarding their medical history to confirm that they were eligible to give blood. Donors reclined cots, which helped them relax. Either a doctor or nurse from the UCLA hospital then began the process of taking blood.

A blood pressure cuff was wrapped around one of the donor's arms. The doctor would poke a small hole in the finger and have blood drip out. The blood was then dropped

in a solution. If the blood dissolves, it shows that the patient is anemic, which means the blood does not contain enough iron. If the blood does not dissolve, the patient's blood contains enough iron to be considered healthy. Once a vein is located, doctors marked a place on the arm from which to take the blood.

The area was scrubbed clean and the needle was inserted. Donors were then asked to squeeze a stress ball in order to elevate their blood pressure and ease the flow of blood into a container.

After donating blood students were given a choice of which color bandage to have put on their arm to cover the wound. People who donated blood mentioned that they felt "dizzy and nauseated." After donating blood the Dons drank apple juice, ate some cookies

and consumed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

One pint of blood was collected from each donor. All together the Dons donated a grand total of 128 pints of blood. Each pint of blood donated has the potential to save three lives, meaning the Dons saved 384 lives in total.

The reward for donating blood was a five-dollar gift card to In-N-Out, and an AMC movie ticket.

Nick Brown, senior, said, "It does not hurt to give blood." He also expressed how happy he was to save three lives.

Many students volunteered to help out with the blood drive through Mr. Stirpe's leadership class.

Donors were required to be at least 17 years of age and 102 pounds. The doctors were thrilled to see so many people willing to donate blood.

A day at the beach



All Photos by Katie Pelon/La Yuca

Katie Pelon
Editor in Chief

Over six million volunteers from 127 countries helped to purify the planet's oceans by collecting trash from beaches and rivers as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 19.

The annual event has been deemed the world's largest 24-hour volunteer event by the Guinness Book of World Records: 298,686 pounds of trash and 1,726 pounds of recyclables were removed by the 14,038 volunteers in Los Angeles county alone this year. Worldwide results are currently being calculated.

Within the county, volunteers could choose from any of 69 locations to volunteer at, ranging from the Tujunga Wash to Long Beach to Compton. Four "code red" sites, two of which were at points along the LA River, were added to the list this year and required extra effort in order to remove their large amounts of debris that had collected over time.

The entire event is led by Ocean Conservancy, an organization whose goal is to "start a sea change [to] return the ocean to health," according to their website.

Certain cleanup areas were run by local organizations; the non-profit organization Heal the Bay was in charge of all cleanups within LA County in partnership with the California Coastal Commission and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Upon arrival at a chosen cleanup location, volunteers were required to sign a liability waiver. Volunteers were then given an orange plastic trash bag, one latex glove, and a data card to tally the different kinds of trash collected. Heal the Bay employees briefly explained important safety precautions and the history of the event before allowing volunteers to embark on their hunt for trash.

Some of the items I collected at the Santa Monica Pier included balloons, plastic eating

utensils, and bottle caps. The most common items collected were cigarette butts and plastic bags. More unusual items collected included a plastic human skull, a dead sea lion, and a severed goat's head at the Redondo Beach, Ballona Creek, and Malibu Lagoon cleanup sites.

Near the end of the three-hour event, the trash bags were assembled into a pile and data cards were collected. That data "goes into the Ocean Conservancy's international database, which is used to identify the sources of trash and to help devise solutions to the marine debris problem," according to Heal the Bay's website.

All participants in the event were granted free entrance to the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, which is owned and operated by Heal the Bay.

Volunteer events such as this one are meant to raise awareness about just how much trash makes its way onto beaches and ultimately into the ocean.

Waste in the ocean isn't only from litter on the beach, but also from urban runoff, which is when rain washes trash, chemicals, and anything else that was discarded on the street through storm drains and straight into the ocean. LA County's storm drain system and sewage system are separate, which means anything in storm drains passes completely untreated into the water, one Heal the Bay employee explained.

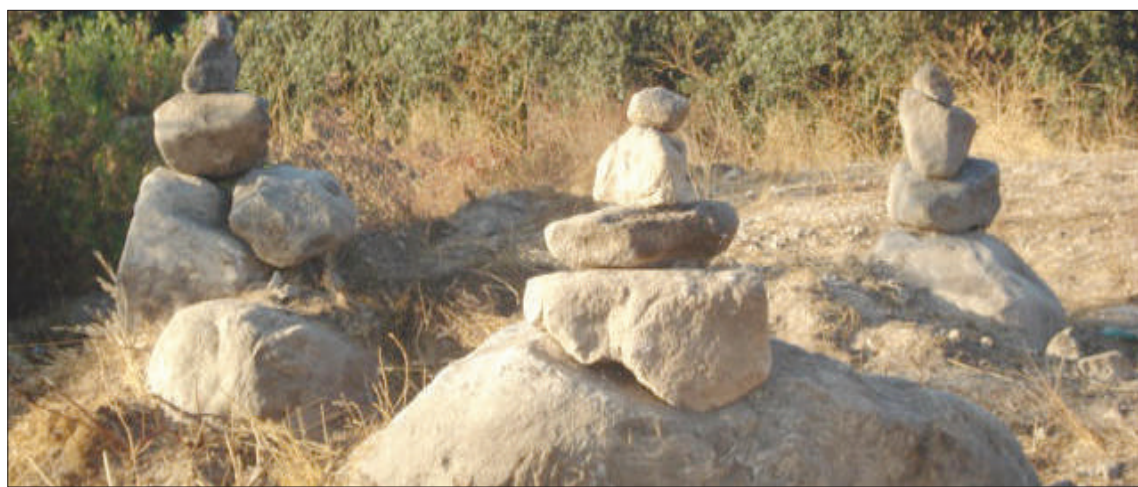
"Coastal Cleanup Day is a remarkable day of action," said Karin Hall, executive director of Heal the Bay. "Volunteers removed a record amount of trash, but the biggest benefit of the day is raising so much awareness about the everyday steps people can take to reduce marine-bound pollution throughout the year."

Coastal Cleanup Day is held every third Saturday in September. This year's event marked the 25th anniversary of the program.

Heal the Bay also organizes monthly beach cleanups throughout the year at various locations in the county. The next cleanup will be held in Playa del Ray on October 17. For more information, visit www.healthebay.org.

The Arts

We Celebrate Them All



The “bandito art” of Richard Stewart



Richard Stewart

England may boast of Stonehenge and the mid-west may be dotted with crop circles but we in Rancho Tujunga have our own claim to mysterious fame – that Rock Art that keeps popping up along Tujunga Canyon Blvd. The big difference is that here we have a diligent Sheriff who... Well read on.

Sunland-Tujunga Honorary Sheriff, Dave Bellusci, detained Richard Stewart at the Bolton Hall jail for questioning.

A tarnished reputation now looms over Neighborhood Council member and Rotary President Richard Stewart, who is said to be seeking legal representation.

A series of reports reached the desk of Sheriff Bellusci regarding Stewart allegedly stacking rocks and exhibiting peculiar behavior at the outskirts of town off Tujunga Canyon Blvd.

After standard finger printing and a police file photo, Stewart

was questioned by Bellusci. The normally sequestered transcripts of the police interview were released to Sonia Tatutalian, just in time for the inaugural issue of The Voice of the Village. The uncensored transcripts are published below:

Bellusci: Where were you, Richard, Saturday night, October 10th between the hours of 10PM and midnight?

Stewart: I was home twiddling my thumbs, gumshoe.

Bellusci: Don't get smart with me, Stewart, or you're going to have a permanent address here at Bolton Hall jail cell #2.

Stewart: I have my rights! I want my mandatory phone call!

Bellusci: A phone call to your Mom isn't going to help you here, Stewart. We have evidence you have been stacking rocks off Tujunga Canyon Blvd. What do you have to say about that?

Stewart: I didn't do it. Nobody saw me do it. You can't prove anything!

Bellusci: That's funny, Richard, because I have a statement here from

Council member Cindy Cleghorn, who says she drove by Tujunga Canyon Blvd and saw you carrying large rocks out in the field.

Stewart: Well, who are you going to believe – Cindy Cleghorn or me? One of us is telling the truth and you are talking to him.

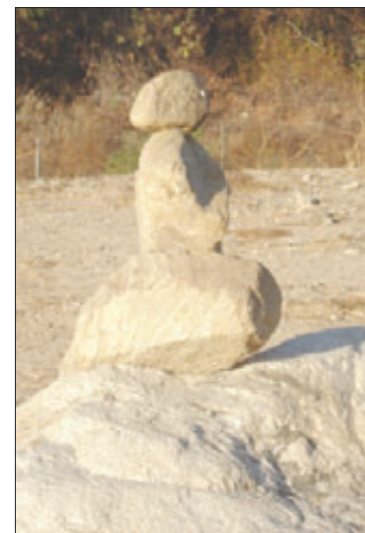
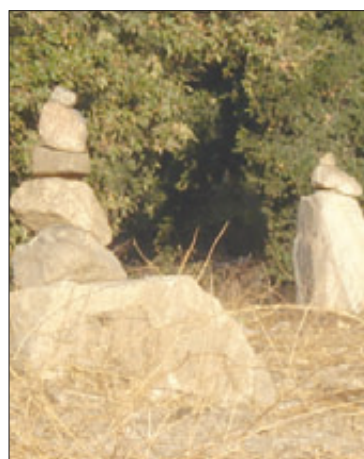
Bellusci: Then I guess Abby Diamond is lying too as she told me you mentioned the rocks on your own Face Book page and she has photos. Now who is lying?

Stewart: I take the Fifth Amendment. I want my phone call!

Bellusci: Book him, McManus!

Editor's Note: Neither Cleghorn nor Diamond could be reached for comment but Stewart later confessed to Bellusci on a plea bargain deal. He said he was merely doing his share to clean up the neighborhood. "I was pulling weeds and picking up litter and trash and I just got carried away with the rocks" said Stewart.

You can contact Richard with your comments or to help him post bail at Richard@richardpaint.com.



All photos by Celina Pearson



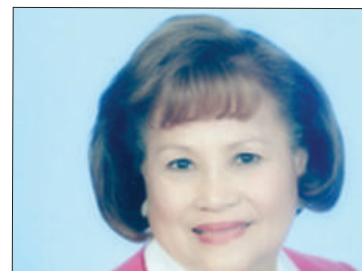
From top to bottom: Fran and Ray, Ira Bland, and Lucy Metcalf



From top to bottom: Trish Ramsey, Penny Blackwell, and Tessie Dimaguila



Congratulations to Voice of the Village, Community paper – First Edition.



Cookin' with Mary

By Mary Russo

Polenta translates as corn meal mush, but it's much more. It's the staple food of North Italy, where it still outshines pasta, and can be served in innumerable ways, as a first course, baked, with stews, or even as a bread substitute. Here are a couple of recipes you might like to try.

Traditional Polenta Recipe

Makes 6 servings

Need

- 4 cups water
- 1 teaspoon salt (I like to use chicken Bouillon for savory recipes)
- 1 cup instant polenta
- 1 ½ Tablespoons of Butter or Olive Oil

Preparation

Oil an 8 X 8 glass baking dish with cooking spray.
Set aside

In a heavy saucepan bring water and salt (or bouillon), butter (or olive oil) to a boil and gradually whisk in polenta in a thin stream. Cook polenta over moderately low heat (it should be barely boiling), stirring constantly, until very thick and pulls away from side of pan, about 5 minutes for Instant polenta. Check your package for instructions some take longer.

Remove pan from heat, spoon polenta in oiled 8 X 8 glass baking dish. Cover with foil to keep warm. The polenta also needs to set for about 10 minutes. (Polenta will keep warm, covered, about 15 to 20 minutes)

Italian Sausage on Polenta

Makes 6 servings

Need

- Quart Italian Marinara Sauce.
- 1 ½ pounds bulk, Hot or Mild Italian Sausage or links with skin removed.
- 1 Medium Red Bell pepper sliced thin (the length of the pepper).
- 1 Medium Green Bell pepper sliced thin (the length of the pepper).
- 1 Medium Yellow Bell pepper sliced thin (the length of the pepper).
- 1 Medium Onion sliced thin (the length of the onion).
- Olive or Vegetable Oil for cooking.
- Grated Italian Cheese
- Cooked Polenta

Notes: If you don't like sausage you can substitute boneless chicken pieces or ground Turkey, actually any boneless meat even left over cooked stew meat. Just make sure the meat is fully cooked and tender before you add the vegetables and sauce. You will also need to add salt & pepper to taste, (the sausage has those ingredients). **Nice with a green Salad and a glass of San Antonio Classico Chianti!** (You can find some of these ingredients at Corsica's Deli in Sunland Call Mary (818) 352-7213.)

Directions

Prepare **Sausage & Vegetables with Sauce**; cover and keep warm.

Heat a 10-inch skillet over high heat.

Add oil to coat skillet, add bell peppers and onion; stir-fry about 3 to 4 minutes. Remove and place in a dish, cover to keep warm.

Add a little oil to coat skillet, add sausage; stir-fry crumbling the sausage meat for 2 minutes, lower heat cook until sausage is no longer pink. Drain.

Add vegetables to drained sausage in skillet; stir fry 1 minute.

Add marinara Sauce bring to a boil; simmer 5 minutes.

Prepare **Traditional Polenta Recipe**. Cover & set aside for 5 to 15 minutes.

Cut polenta into 6 pieces.

Place a piece of polenta on plate.

Top polenta with sausage mixture. Sprinkle with cheese.

Eat & Enjoy!

For Dessert - Lemon Polenta Cake

Makes 8 servings

Need 9-inch spring form pan

Note: Whip Heavy Cream with a little granulated sugar to taste about 1 to 2 tablespoons and 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract, on a hot day chill bowl & beaters before whipping) Cover & refrigerate for later. (You can find some of these ingredients at Corsica's Deli in Sunland Call Mary (818) 352-7213.)

Ingredients

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- ¼ cup instant polenta
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup regular olive oil or melted butter cooled (Do NOT use pungent olive oil like Extra Virgin Olive Oil)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest
- 1 cup heavy cream well chilled
- ¼ cup confectioners' sugar

Note: Whip Heavy Cream with a little granulated sugar to taste about 1 to 2 tablespoons and 1 teaspoon Vanilla Extract, on a hot day chill bowl & beaters before whipping) Cover & refrigerate for later. (You can find some of these ingredients at Corsica's Deli in Sunland Call Mary (818) 352-7213.)

Directions

Preheat the oven to 325°. Butter a 9-inch spring form pan. Sift together the flour, polenta, baking soda and salt. In a small bowl, combine the olive oil (or butter), lemon juice and vanilla.

In a large bowl, beat the eggs with the granulated sugar at medium speed until thick, about 3 minutes. Gradually beat in the oil mixture and the lemon zest. Gently fold in the dry ingredients just until blended.

Scrape the batter into the prepared pan and bake for about 50 minutes, or until the center springs back when lightly pressed. Let the cake cool on a wire rack for 5 minutes. Remove the side and let cool completely.

Transfer the cake to a serving plate and sift the confectioner's sugar over the top. (Sift the sugar on top of cake enough to make it look nice just before serving, the cake is moist and will absorb the sugar) Serve with the whipped cream. Nice way to end an Italian Meal!

Bona Fortuna! (Good Luck)

Poetry Corner

Passing Over

By Barry Ira Geller

Spliced dreams of my father
Can not personify
a table cut in two, without time;
It is not a pathway for
wonder, should it also
be open like a lamb,
a door, a cup to Elijah
who never shows up for the
ceremony but somehow you know
He's there & the Door
swings wide, there is a whoosh!
from the hallway and my sister and I
(five years old and me eight)
look carefully about us, stealing glances
of awe, this slight silence, this possible
confirmation of the mystery of faith,
this
tableau of ancient pleas from our Hebrew
history &
then, the moment is gone, I'm
gone, history is gone, memories
are gone. Only the menace the stern voice
of my father remains which carries
so much certainty, so much power as he
continues
to read on endlessly (we are so hungry),
continuing those savory
processes of ritual wonder & youth
(he was so young, then)
& pride about his future. Oh how we all
believed
in him --- then. But
ten years later we left him & never returned.

Now, the opened Door becomes more
of the sacrificial lamb, our minds are posts
aground in deserted sand; his menacing skies
barely remembered; his menacing years
of laboring hindsight scattered
with his ashes, & in the end,
parched and not so patriarchal,
a menace to no one at the table now,
my table, my son now; the memory of my
father
has finally transformed: He is nothing more
than what comes through that Door
as a whoosh!

..... the distant howling of the wind.

AUTUMN WALK®

By Marynance Schellenbach, 2009

Autumn comes
with
Silver sliver new moon
Western sky aglow

Eastern sky
Dark velveting
Enspangles self
With sparkled light

Crispcold air
Now windswept clean
Touches
Startles
Wakens skin

Breeze-fingered leaves
Chat whispering
chuckle
Shift in endless dance

Fireplace fragrance
Wanders, wafts
It teases
Beckons invitation


Windows richly warm
Welcome families
gathered
Love promised shared

Air dinner-scented
Meanders past
Returns
Plays hide and seek


Autumn
Wraps itself around me
casts
Its magic spell

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McGroarty Arts Center launches an innovative new program for seniors

Leslie Fischer

Since 1953, McGroarty Arts Center has been the center of arts and culture in Sunland-Tujunga, loyally serving the Foothills through classes, exhibitions and community events. Best known for its children's classes and annual ceramics show, McGroarty has been quietly expanding the reach of its programs to some of the most underserved residents of our community.

Two years ago, Executive Director Claire Knowlton received a letter from a 98 year old student. Her health was failing, she could no longer drive at night, and the uneven surfaces of the historic McGroarty Arts Center were too much for her to handle. After countless years of faithful attendance to her weekly art class, she sadly explained in the hand-written letter that she could not return to the center.

"That letter was a wake up call for us," explains Executive Director, Claire Knowlton. "We have a lot of seniors attending our classes. We give out \$10,000 each year in scholarship awards and a good percentage of that goes to seniors on fixed incomes. But there was a whole other population of seniors that we weren't reaching."

Knowlton began working with her staff and board of directors to develop a program that would reach those seniors who were unable to travel to the center due to physical ailments or financial

difficulties.

The most direct, affordable, and simple option was to bring the art to the seniors where they reside, eliminating the need for transportation.

In September, McGroarty launched the first phase of Art Reach: Art for Senior Citizens, an innovative new program designed to reach the low-income, non-mobile senior community. The program provides highly trained instructors, teaching assistants and art materials for arts classes that take place at senior centers. Classes are offered free of charge to the participants and the host organization.

The program provides seniors with personalized, artist-designed instruction in drawing and painting, and gives each participant a positive, hands-on experience in creating thoughtful artwork. The in-depth fine art classes help seniors increase intellectual and physical activity levels, build an ongoing rapport with professional artists, and provide an outlet for personal expression. Works created in the senior art classes will also be displayed in residences following culminating exhibitions. Pilot classes are being offered at the Alicia Broadus-Duncan Multipurpose Senior Center in Pacoima.

While the program has gained little attention in Sunland-Tujunga, it has managed to garner the support of some notable foundation funders. Thanks to new strategic approaches led by

the organization's dynamic Executive Director, Claire Knowlton, McGroarty Arts Center has been successfully secured new sources of funding to reach out to the senior citizens in our community.

In the last 8 months, the program has received grant support from The California Community Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, and the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles.

McGroarty Arts Center is currently identifying additional adult day care centers and assisted living facilities interested in hosting the next phase of Art Reach: Art for Senior Citizens program in 2010 and 2011. Qualified sites must be located in Sunland-Tujunga or the North-East San Fernando Valley and serve low-income seniors who lack personal transportation. Interested sites should contact McGroarty's Program Director, Leslie Fischer, by emailing leslie@mcgroartyartscenter.org.

McGroarty Arts Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit run in partnership with the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs. Programs at McGroarty Arts Center are funded in part by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the California Community Foundation, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, The Annenberg Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

For further information contact McGroarty Arts Center at (818) 352-5285 or visit www.mcgroartyartscenter.org.



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School News

Mount Gleason Middle School continues to show improvement

Deborah Acosta, Principal

Mount Gleason is pleased with the progress students made on the 2009 California Standards Test given in May. The percentage of all students scoring proficient and advanced for each grade level in 2009 increased significantly from 2008. With an increase of 11 percent in English-Language Arts, Mount Gleason made the highest gain of all middle schools in LAUSD. Significant gains were also made in the area of Mathematics, with a 10 percent increase in students scoring proficient or advanced, placing Mount Gleason as one of the top middle schools showing improvement.

The Academic Performance Index, known as the API, is a single number that reflects a school's performance level based on the results of statewide testing. Its purpose is to measure the academic performance and growth of schools. This year's API is 744, a 20-point increase from 2008 and a 50-point increase from 2007.

The Mount Gleason staff is working collaboratively to look at curriculum, plan lessons with strategies to address any gaps, and look for interventions to support their students. They look forward to continued growth in 2010.

Superintendent Cortines and school board member Nury Martinez visit Mount Gleason



Deborah Acosta, Principal

On Friday, October 2, 2009 Superintendent Cortines and School Board Member, Nury Martinez visited Mount Gleason Middle School. Below are the contents of an email sent by Mr. Cortines with his reflections on his visit.

Dear Principal Acosta, Mt. Gleason Middle School Staff, and Students:

I appreciated the opportunity to visit your school along with Board Member Nury Martinez. Before Board Member Martinez arrived at your

school, I walked around your campus looking into classrooms, visiting the library, and talking to teachers and staff. I was very pleased at what I saw.

I was also extremely pleased with the responsibility students exercised during the nutrition break. I was impressed that when the bell rang, teachers were in front of doors ensuring that students made it to their classrooms in a timely manner. I observed some outstanding instructional programs.

The campus could not have been cleaner. I had the opportunity of talking with one of your Safety Officers. He mentioned complementary things about the

school staff as well as the students.

Further, I cannot help but mention the increase in percentage points on your school's API this past year.

I want to thank each of you, whether you work in the cafeteria, in the office, in the library, teaching in classrooms, or providing administrative leadership. You should be commended for what you do on behalf of our students every day.

Ray Cortines

Our Lady of Lourdes student council holds Family Day

Cathy Ercek

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School's Student Council kicks off the school year with Family Day! Held on the first Friday of each month, the student body divides into little "families" and eat lunch and play games together. This provides an opportunity for children from kindergarten through eighth grades to get to know each other which deepens the bonds of friendship and unity. Other Student Council activities include Red Ribbon Week when students learn about the dangers of drug use and promise to live drug free. Last year, each class planted flower bulbs throughout the campus. When you drive by Our Lady of Lourdes



Photo courtesy of Cathy Ercek

School in the spring, you'll see daffodils sprouting tall seeming to say, "O.L.L. kids are drug free!"

Jeans for Jesus raises money for our disadvantaged Catholic schools. Students donate a dollar for the privilege of wearing jeans to school one day instead of their uniform pants. O.L.L. Student Council Commissioners lead the student body in many other activities throughout the year. To learn more about the school, our Student Council or to donate to one of the leadership events, call the school office at 818-353-1106 or visit the school at 7324 Apperson St. in Tujunga.

Voice of the Village newspaper production staff

Yurha Choi
La Yuca Entertainment/Online Editor

As an editor of La Yuca Newspaper, I can confidently say that all of our journalism staff and advisor Mr. Riemer were totally hyped to be a part of Voice of the Village. After hearing about the fact that we would join the Voice of the Village staff to create a community paper, it felt as if La Yuca had finally found its welcomed sponsor.

Although we have our own newspaper to create, we gladly took part in making the community paper. The first edition of Voice of the Village was accomplished with much sweat and teamwork. The editors all stayed after school almost every day for a week to finish editing the paper.

There is no greater feeling then seeing our finished layouts since we put so much time and effort into them. We have always taken pride in our newspaper and now we can take pride in being apart of the creation of Voice of the Village

If you would like to see a sample of our work, turn to page 10.



Photo courtesy of Galia Petrosian

VVHS Journalism Editors and Advisor, Production Team for Voice of the Village: (From L to R) Advisor David Riemer and editors Yu Rha Choi, Amy Hwang, Julia Ginter, Samantha Wilson, Katie Pelon, Georgina Martinez, Wyatt Pendleton pose for a picture.

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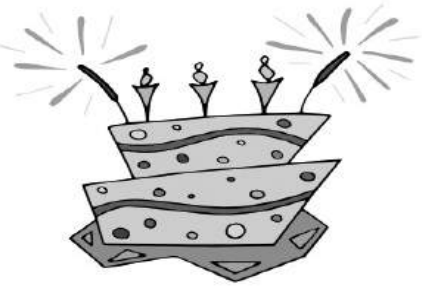
Announcements

A Birthday Shout-out!

Roaring out of her 20's

It's hard to believe that our family miracle turns 30 on November 20th, 2009. Cheyanna Morence is a loving mother of 3, a wonderful sister, daughter, and granddaughter. Hard working, compassionate, patient, understanding, dedicated, strong, smart, elegant are just a few words we use to describe you. Hope this birthday is unforgettable.

Love, the Family



Something Good Going On At Shadow Hills

Presbyterian Church!

Our annual *Fall Treasure Sale* will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is the NOT A RUMMAGE SALE, SALE – collectibles, jewelry, crystal, quality items will be available at very reasonable prices.

If you have extra items in your attic or garage you would like to get rid of call Andrea Manning at (818) 254-5625 to arrange a pick up. We will be collecting items starting November 1st.

Proceeds from the sale go to fund community projects such as these: On October 3, nearly 100 members of SHPC and friends went out into the community and served in multiple facets of ministry, from assisting at *The Food Bank at Bailey Center* to providing some conversation and companionship and music at *Foothill Retirement Home*. Others prepared and served a free pancake breakfast to those in need of a hearty breakfast and conversation. The youth group created Christmas greeting cards for the children and youth in juvenile detention center, and the Junior Missionaries delivered homemade cookies and goodwill to local firetrucks, library staff and the homebound. Let's not forget the team who collected boxes of books and reading material to start a library

at *Shadow Hills Convalescent Hospital*.

Come and enjoy time while you shop for yourself or as gifts for the holidays. SHPC is located on the corner of Sunland Boulevard at Johanna Avenue 10158 Johanna Avenue, Shadow Hills.



The Power of Peace – A Poster Contest

Each year, Lions clubs around the world proudly sponsor the *Lions International Peace Poster Contest* in local Middle schools and youth groups. This contest encourages young people worldwide to artistically express their visions of peace. The contest promotes the arts and spreads peace and international understanding.

The theme of the 2009-2010 Peace Poster Contest is "*The Power of Peace*." Students who are 11, 12 or 13 years old on November 15th are eligible to participate.

The Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club is sponsoring three local contests; one at McGroarty Arts Center, another at Our Lady of Lourdes Middle School and the third at Delphi Academy. Chairman Lion Liz Thompson said that "the contests will conclude on Thursday, November 5 when the completed posters are picked up from each location." "Judging will take place on Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Sunland Farmer's Market and Swap Meet, 8330 Foothill Blvd., Sunland where the posters will be on display for the rest of the weekend." The creators of the prize-winning posters will receive a gift certificate from Blick Art Supplies in Pasadena.

Each year's contest consists of an original theme incorporating peace. Participants use a variety of mediums, including charcoal, crayon, pencil and



paint, to express the theme. The works created are unique and express the young artists' life experiences and culture.

Each poster is judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme.

Twenty-four international finalists are selected each year, representing the work of more than 350,000 young participants worldwide. Posters are shared globally via the Internet, the media and exhibits around the world.

Posters advance through several judging levels: local, district, multiple district and international. At the international level, judges from the art, peace, youth, education and media communities select one grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners.

One international grand prize winner will receive a trip to a special award ceremony with the sponsoring club president and two family members at Lions Day with the United Nations in New York City, New York, USA (subject to change). During the ceremony, the winning artist will receive an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$2,500.

Each of the 23 merit award winners will receive a cash award of \$500 and a certificate of achievement.

Information and guidelines are available from the project chairperson, Lion Liz Thompson, 323-646-4892 or from Lion Marynance Schellenbach, 818-353-4554.

Mark Your Calendar!

**November 6th and 7th,
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For every Sandwich Corsica's Deli sells

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Christmas Light Decoration Contest

(Any questions? Call us at 818-804-6715)

We are going to sponsor a Christmas light/decoration contest in December for our portion of Sunland.

The boundaries of the contest are Sunland Blvd. on the south, Fenwick Street on the east, Foothill Blvd. on the north and the 210 Freeway in the west. This is the area of houses just to the north west of the Ralphs in Sunland.

Fran and Ray from the Century 21 Crest in Sunland have agreed to judge the contest. There will be three monetary prizes; \$200 for 1st place, \$100 for 2nd place, and \$50 for 3rd place. The judging will tentatively be done the week before Christmas, Dec. 25th.

(Our house will not be in the contest to rule out any conflict of interest.)



YMCA of the Foothills—Youth & Government Delegation Meets Wednesdays

Contact: Kim Beattie, Director of Communications and Public Relations (818) 790-0123 ext.266

The Crescenta-Canada and Verdugo Hills Family YMCAs are a charitable association of YMCAs that offer an expansive menu of on-site and outreach programs that help the entire family enjoy healthier, more active lifestyles focusing on the development of **spirit, mind and body**. Activities include sports programs, summer camps, preschool, after school programs, a variety of exercise classes, senior wellness programs, extensive offering of aquatics programs, Yoga, Pilates, and a state-of-the-art workout facility.

Introducing our Youth & Government Program

This fall, Youth & Government at the Verdugo Hills Family YMCA meets every Wednesday night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This program dates back to the late 1930's, and is a national program of the YMCA for high school students grades 9 through 12.

The Verdugo Delegation is beginning their second exciting year as a state wide decorated delegation. Recognized by the California State University System, Youth & Government provide our



students leadership training, public speaking, critical writing, community activism, and civic engagement, trips to Sacramento and lots of fun! (Megan Jennings, VHHS Senior is this year's President. The attached photo was taken at last Wednesday's meeting.)

The YMCA strives to turn no one away due to the inability to pay. Please consider supporting these programs with a donation for supporting the costs of instructors, travel, hotel and food. Our Board of Directors are asking individuals, companies and foundations for donations to these programs to permit as much financial scholarships as needed for Tujunga and Sunland students. However, you can also show your support by encouraging teens in your neighborhood to join!

For additional information on Youth & Government, contact Vince Iuculano, Youth & Teen Director at 818-352-3255 ext. 331 or email Vince at viuculano@ymcafoothills.org.

For additional information contact Kim Beattie, Director of Communications and Public Relations at (818) 790-0123 ext. 266 or at kbeattie@ymcafoothills.org.

Community Scholarships to Be Presented

Lake View Terrace, CA: *All Nations Church* will again present scholarships to worthy students from the community, not affiliated with the church. They will be presented at the 7th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ along with the "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Awards. The event will take place Friday November 20th, 2009. Dinner starts at 6:00pm in the cafeteria with the awards and presentation at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. A classical music concert will follow. There will also be a silent auction to benefit the *New Heave bib Earth Ranch*. Admission is free.

The dinner is held annually to honor the memory of the late Johny Carpenter, Actor, Stuntman & Cowboy. His original Heaven on

Earth Ranch stood on Foothill Place for almost 25 years. Johny built an authentic Wild West town and taught physically & mentally challenged children and young adults how to ride horses. He held a Thanksgiving Dinner for the kids. The church created the "Spirit of Johny Carpenter" Award to give out to those individuals and groups in the community whose works best reflect what Johny did. This year, the church has reached out to community organizations to be part of the committee to recommend and choose the recipients. If you would like to know more about the community scholarship program and its qualifications or to RSVP for the BBQ, call 818 470-5235 or email: lamikec@yahoo.com.



Photo from: www.onnurila.com

Support Boy Scout Troop #509 and Give a Holiday Gift!

Boy Scout Troop #509 at JPL is selling Holiday Gift Products. These beautiful handcrafted Holiday products come directly from Northern Minnesota and are delivered fresh to your recipient's front door via UPS within the 48 states, the first week of December. Troop #509 serves boys throughout the Foothill communities.

Select from six different holiday designs, the Victorian, the Wintergreen or the Classic Wreath. Also available is the Wintergreen Spray, a tabletop Living Christmas Tree and the Candlelit Centerpiece. These are perfect gifts to send to your clients, employees or co-workers, your Aunt Millie in Texas or to the hostess with the most-ess! Each item is hand assembled in Minnesota by Mickman Bros. a family owned business since 1934.

An added bonus is that a tree will be planted in a National Forest in honor of the gift recipient as part of the "Nature's Holiday Gift Program". It's a win-win, support Troop #509, plant a tree and

cross several gifts off your holiday to do list! For

more product information or to order Holiday Gift products, contact Troop chairperson, Beverly deLucia (818) 429-2528.



Tip A Cop – Don't Miss This Event!

Meet your local police officers as they switch roles from servicing the community to serving you lunch and dinner. Yes, LAPD's Best will be your waiters and waitresses for the day.

Join us in Support of this worthy cause!

DATE: Tuesday, November 3, 2009

TIME: 11:00 am to 9:00 pm

LOCATION: Acapulco's Mexican

Restaurant

8431 Sunland Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA. 91352
(818) 767-4240

Bring a Friend!! Pass the Word!!

All tips will be donated to the Foothill Divisions' Jeopardy "Balance the Odds" Foundation. This necessary program provides our community with after school tutoring, remedial education, parenting classes, counseling and mentoring, also providing gang prevention and intervention to youth and their families

For more information contact Jeopardy Family Center at (818) 837-1167
foothilljeopardy@gmail.com

Community Neighborhood Watch Monthly Meeting

Date: (Every Third Tuesday) November 16, 2009

Time: 7:00-8:00 PM

Place: Council District #2 Office
7747 Foothill Blvd Tujunga

Topics of discussion:

- Senior Lead Officer, crime updates
- Guest Speakers (various topics)
- Representative from City Council Office's
- Open Forum

Featuring:

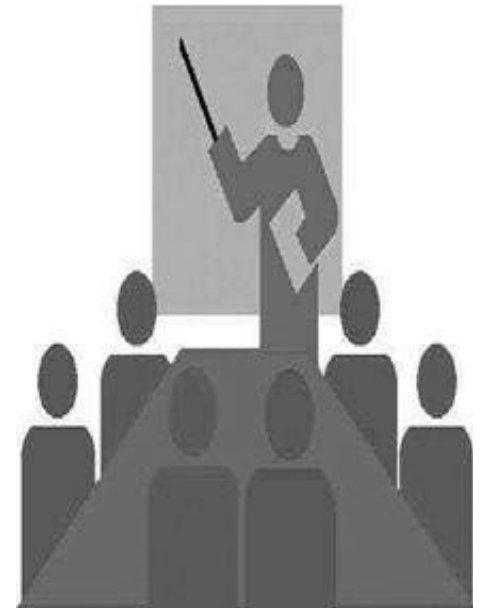
Senior Lead Officer Richard Wall at (818) 634-0754

30204@lapd.lacity.org

Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez at (818) 634-0705

31179@lapd.lacity.org

For additional crime updates in your area go to www.lapdepolicing.org



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Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner

This year's dinner will be at the Angeles National Golf Course Country Club on November 20th, 2009 Cocktails at 6:30 and Dinner at 7:00.

The cost is \$30 per person – must be paid in advance. Please RSVP to Nancy at (818) 352-4433 by November 16th.

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Service Clubs

Working Together for Change

Getting to know Sunland-Tujunga Alliance



Marynance Schellenbach

When Halloween is over and the decorations come down, DON'T THROW THEM AWAY, RECYCLE them! The Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club is

planning to create a Halloween Haunted House in cooperation with McGroarty Arts Center in 2010. Your recycled decorations will help make it - really scary. From "spiderwebs" to scarecrows; plastic pumpkins, witches hats, black cats

and broomsticks; coffins and skeletons and ghosts and things that go bump in the night - the Lions can use them all. Inflatable figures, spooky CDs, wigs and make-up and costumes are on the wanted list. Even artificial fall foliage

can be used by the ghoulish decorators. Recycling is easy. Just give Frightful Frank a jingle on his phone and he'll be there to pick it up or he can tell you where to drop it off. 818-640-1187.

CoC's president message

Hello Sunland-Tujunga!

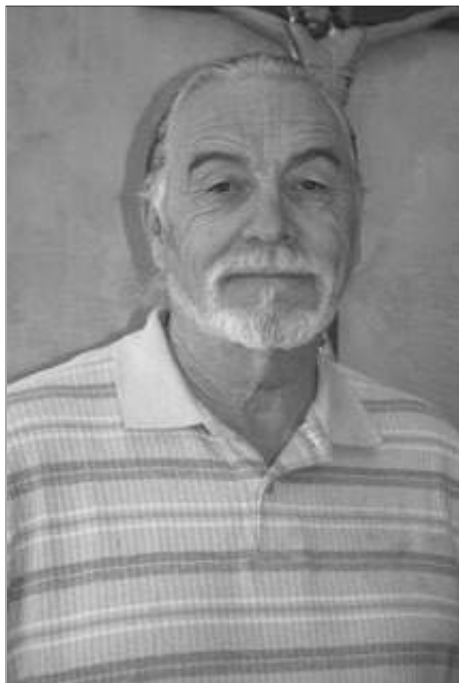
Well the year is almost gone; I would like to thank everyone who supports our local shops. Our town is a small town with two main streets with businesses, Foothill and Commerce. As we have seen many businesses come into town only seasonally, I encourage you to support our permanent businesses during the holiday season; those that are here all year round.

These out of town businesses that come in during the season really do take away from our local shops. They do not support our town and they do not contribute to our community events. It is important to help support our local businesses as they are closing one by one. These are the businesses that contribute to our community and it is hard for them to keep their doors open. They are counting on us to keep them afloat during hard times and to thrive during the good.

I would like to take the time to thank Bonner's Rentals for their contribution and support with the 4th of July Fireworks. They have been a great asset to our community and the Chamber greatly appreciates their support.

I would also like to thank everyone who has supported my business, Moore Bros & Sons. I feel grateful to have my doors open and to be able to continue serving this community.

In conclusion, I would like to leave you with a positive message: Let's stay together as one great town. Please visit www.stnc.org/calendar website put together by Fran Loiselle of the Coordinating Council. She has done wonderful job of posting events from all the different organizations of happening, come out get to know your



Sunland-Tujunga. Check out what is neighbors and let us get to know you!

Sincerely,

Your Chamber of Commerce President

Jim Moore
Owner of Moore Bros & Sons

Kiwanis Club

David Bellusci

The Sunland-Tujunga Kiwanis Club is one of the oldest Service Clubs in the area. This club was chartered in 1923 and has been going strong for 86 years. The main goal of the Kiwanis Club is Service to the Community with children as priority one. Here are some of the things we are doing and have done.

Our next project is the Halloween Harvest Days. This will be held at the Sunland Park. Starting Friday Oct. 30th, Saturday Halloween Oct. 31st and Sunday Nov. 1st. This a joint project sponsored by both the Kiwanis Club and Sunland Recreation Center.

There will GAMES, FOOD, FAMILY FUN, and RIDES. The Carnival Rides provided by The Paul Maurer Shows. Paul Maurer has been providing his Carnival for the past 4 years. This will be a great time to take your children to a safe, friendly place for Halloween, and have fun.

Highlights of Past and Ongoing Projects. **The Kiwanis Baseball League** - In 1940 The Club started the Kiwanis Baseball League which it ran for 65 year. The program was started to have kids active during the summer months. Games were played on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at Sunland Park from 6pm to 10pm.

Sunland-Tujunga Kiwanis was the only club in the entire Kiwanis Organization that ran a complete league. Most clubs just sponsored a team. We, on the other hand, had as many as 36 teams a season.

Teams were set up in 5 divisions: Tee Ball, Minors, Midgets, Juniors, and Seniors providing a venue for kids from age six

to fifteen. The goal of the club was that all kids played no matter their skill level.

To keep the cost down for the players and for their families the club ran its snack bar, held a pancake breakfast, and arranged for teams to be sponsored by local merchants. The Club received many commendations this program for 65 years.

Easter Sunrise Service - For the last 85 years Sunland-Tujunga Kiwanis, in conjunction with the Verdugo Hills Ministerial Association, has produced an Easter Sunrise Service at the Cross of San Ysidro atop Mt. McGroarty.

As the Producer, the club is responsible for cleaning up the area at the cross, grading the road, setting up chairs, providing the sound equipment, electricity, lighting and transporting an average of 400 attendees to and from the Cross site where the Verdugo Hills Ministerial Association delivers the service; and cleaning up the area after the service is complete.

In addition the these projects the club sponsors a Little league Team, Key Club, YMCA, Tierra Del Sol, Ahead With Horses, 4th of July Fireworks, Halloween at the Park and supports the Sunland -Tujunga Chamber of Commerce.

If you are interested in being part of this service club and helping us create a better community and a brighter future for our children come and join us! The Kiwanis Club meets at Joselito's Mexican Restaurant every other Tuesday 6pm. The meeting nights for the rest of the year are November 10th, and 24th, December 8th, and 22th.

For further information regarding The Kiwanis Club, call Dave Bellusci at (818)353-4260 or email dbellusci@ca.rr.com.

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See our public access Community Calendar at www.calendar.sunland-tujunga.com. Add your own events!

Rotary Rocks!

Richard Stewart

Sunland-Tujunga-Shadow Hills Rotary Club is leading the way in community service! Of course we are bragging, but HEY.... Check out just a few of the things we have done this year:

The 4th of July Parade on Foothill Blvd. Yep, this is what we do every year and we are proud of it. This year we are especially proud that we featured the Mount Gleason Runners with a foot race opening the parade! They definitely added excitement to the parade and you will see them again next year!

The Watermelon Festival. Nope, we don't put it on. That honor goes to our buddies in the Lions Club. BUT, we are responsible for the FUN stuff. We put on the Greased Watermelon Relay Race and the Watermelon Eating Contest this year and it was a BIG success. We are happy that the Lions Club has allowed us to work with them on such a widely successful event.

L.A.F.F. Night & L.A.F.F. Night II. Yep, we helped to spearhead this one, but we have to acknowledge the rest of the gang who also contributed to these comedy jams - the Lions, the Kiwanis, the Chamber of Commerce, STNC and the good folks at the Elks Lodge - all come together for these unique and entertaining community fund raisers.

But if you really want to hear us brag, ask us about our junior Rotarians! They are now the famous Rotary Interact Clubs of Verdugo Hills High School and Delphi LA Academy. From creating a now annual Foothill Students Anti-Drug Walk to trips to the orphanage in Ensenada and too many other projects to list, these guys are amazing!

This year Verdugo Hills High School had over 70 kids showing up at their regular weekly meeting. (See article in this issue on the Mayor's Certificate of Recognition Award presented at STNC on Oct 14th to both Interact Clubs.)

So...WHY ROTARY? Well I could brag again and tell you it was the world's first Service Club that was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1905.

I could also tell you that Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build good will and peace in the world.

And, of course, I could tell you that Rotary International's most ambitious undertaking, announced in 1985, is the Polio Plus Program, a massive campaign that has helped to eradicate Polio worldwide. But if I told you all of that, you would say I am bragging. I would never do that. I'll do something better: I'll simply invite you to come and visit one of our meetings and find out for yourself why we are smiling. All guests are welcome, Wednesday nights 7-8 PM at Coco's Restaurant on Foothill Blvd. Come join the fun.

The BPW

Penny L. Blackwell
CPM

You are invited to attend our Legislative Dinner, on November 17, 2009 at . The topic is "Re-Forming California / /Re-Forming Our Communities, A New Constitution for California?" Please call to get time, location and to R.S.V.P. by Thursday, November 12, 2009. Penny Blackwell 818-371-3231 or Sally Hall 818-370-8807.

Sunland-Tujunga Business & Professional Women received their Charter in 1949. Since that time our focus has been on elevation of women in all areas of their lives. We are active on the Local, District, State and International levels and would welcome your interest and participation in our many programs. We are here for you.



Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club

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PHOTO WITH STNC BOARD MEMBERS AT CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOODS/COMMUNITY BUDGET DAY HELD SATURDAY OCT. 10, 2009: L-R: Ed Novy, STNC Region 4 Rep; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Nina Royal, VP Outreach & Safety Chair; Wendy Greuel, City Controller; Belinda Woodruff, Region 4 Rep; Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary; Mark Seigel, Treasurer. Lydia Grant also attended this event.

Cindy Cleghorn
Secretary

The STNC was certified in May of 2003 by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) with bylaws that were approved by a vote of community members.

STNC's officially elected Board of Directors are involved, in an advisory capacity, with city budget planning, city development plans, officially address our community and city issues with governmental officials and departments. The STNC has a \$45,000 Neighborhood Council Funding budget annually to allocate to community improvement projects and Neighborhood Council operations.

YOU, as a STNC stakeholder, may be elected to the Board, attend the public meetings to gain information, hear diverse opinions, and

foremost, to express concerns, potential solutions and ideas to the STNC Board of Directors, who are empowered to take appropriate advisory action.

COUNCIL MEETINGS - The STNC meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 p. m. to 9:00 p. m. at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall. All stakeholders are encouraged to attend, participate, ask questions and speak. STNC regular meetings are open to the public and are subject to the Brown Act.

STNCSTAKEHOLDERS - STNC community stakeholders are defined as individuals who live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the neighborhood council.

Additionally, individuals who participate in educational and faith-based institutions, and community services, youth, business and special interest organizations that are located or that

meet regularly in the community are considered to be community stakeholders.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED - We want to hear from YOU! What's happening on your block? How can your neighborhood be improved? Become a Neighborhood Block Captain and let your voice be heard. Attend a meeting. The Land Use Committee meets the first and third Mondays at 7 p. m. at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga and is one of the most active committees in the community.

Visit the STNC web site at www.stnc.org. You can also sign up to receive e-mail notices for the latest news and meeting agendas and check out the STNC News Blog at <http://stncnews.blogspot.com/>

Contact info: secretary@stnc.org OR 818-951-7411 - www.stnc.org

Making a difference-the Service Clubs of Rancho Tujunga

Marynance Schellenbach

Hey there! Would you like to be a member of the Rotary Club, or the Kiwanis Club, or the Lions Club? How about joining the Optimist Club?

Huh?"
"Uh, what are they? Why would I want to join one?"

Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Optimists - are service clubs, made up of dedicated volunteers meeting needs in our community. The clubs are all members of international associations, committed to meeting needs wherever they exist. The members use their time and talents to provide hands-on assistance to enhance our community - whatever the community needs to make life better, service clubs are there to help.

They offer you personal fulfillment, new friends and new experiences, opportunities for personal growth and business networking.

Service clubs offer many ways for you to acquire new skills, meet new challenges, learn, grow and assume new roles. You learn a lot about yourself in the process.

Service clubs offer you extensive

opportunities for the kind of volunteer experience you desire. Do you want to pursue a leadership role? Be a supportive member of the team? Work on projects that interest you? Is there something in our town you'd really like to change, but can't do it by yourself? Many people working together can achieve more than individuals acting alone.

Volunteering your time as a member of a service club not only helps those in need and enriches lives, but gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment from deep within. There is nothing like that feeling in the world.

Learn how you can become a service club volunteer in our "village."

The Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club
We Serve!
www.stlions.com

The Rotary Club of Sunland-Tujunga-Shadow Hills
Service Above Self
www.rotary.org/en/AboutUs/SiteTools/

ClubLocator

The Sunland-Tujunga Kiwanis Club
Serving the Children of the World™
www.kiwanis.org/FindaClub/tabid/84/Default.aspx

Sunland-Foothill Optimist Club
Friend of Youth
www.optimist.org/onlineforms/Inquiry.cfm



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Sunland-Tujunga Community Council



Jackie Karvas

Coordinating councils were organized to help find solutions to problems and needs in communities, with a focus on youth, family and a healthy environment. The first coordinating council in California was formed in 1919 in Berkeley, followed by other cities, and by 1939 there were 145 councils throughout the State.

The Sunland-Tujunga Coordinating Council began in 1934, under the presidency of Mrs. Katherine Burton. Its activities included a Christmas Basket project, purchasing instruments for the high school band and other recreation and camp youth projects.

The Council initiated the move toward a local YMCA, and supported the case for a branch library. In subsequent years it was actively involved in advocating services for seniors, youth employment, and local clinics for medical and drug abuse problems. The Council continued to award scholarships to high school seniors and provide food baskets to needy families, and sponsored toy drives. In 1997, under the leadership of Joanne Wright, the Sunland-Tujunga Coordinating Council partnered with

Little Landers Historical Society to organize the first Sunland-Tujunga Historic Home & Garden Tour, a tradition which continued for 13 years and grew to be known as the Sunland-Tujunga Home, Garden & Landmark Tour. The proceeds from the tour funded scholarships for Verdugo Hills High School graduating seniors.

The following year the Council explored the idea of a street fair, and a committee was formed along with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and community members. The first Olde Towne Commerce Street Faire held in 1998 was a huge success, drawing hundreds of people and public officials.

In recent years the Council has continued with projects that benefit the youth and local community. Current Presidents Fran and Ray Loisele have initiated an online Community Calendar as a central site to list activities going on Sunland-Tujunga.

This site is available for viewing at www.calendarwiz.com/daphne or through the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council at www.STNC.org or through the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce at www.stchamber.com.

If you would like to post an event, please

email the information to STCalendar@aol.com. Last year we asked the Verdugo Hills Art Students to design our current logo. Jose Hernandez designed our current logo and received a \$100 cash prize. During our 13th Annual Historic Home, Garden & Landmark Tour, the Coordinating Council initiated the first Verdugo Hills High School Art Exhibit held at the McGroarty Art Center. This allowed a select group of artists to publicly display their various medians of art and qualify for cash awards disbursed to those artists receiving the most favored votes.

Future projects being discussed are an international food tasting event, a youth talent show and possibly another Historic Home, Garden & Landmark Tour. If you or anyone you know might be interested in participating in the next Historic Home Tour, please email us and let us know.

The Council Board meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, 11:30 am, at Joselito's West. Persons interested in learning more are invited to attend. For more information or to share your thoughts and ideas, please contact Fran and Ray at CoordCouncilST@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

The Sunland-Tujunga Lions club has been a vital part of our community with many projects and successes to tier name. Here is a wrap-up of both recent and on-going activities.

The Watermelon Festival - In August, the Lions Club of Sunland-Tujunga had something to be proud about - the 48th annual Watermelon Festival. 18,000 people came from all over Southern California to enjoy free entertainment, free cold watermelon, food from the International Food Court and interesting merchandise from the Marketplace.

Kids of all ages enjoyed the carnival and the games, and hundreds of people spit watermelon seeds, hoping to set a new record! The money from the Festival will allow the Lions to give financial assistance to many local groups throughout the year and to give greater support to the Lions Clubs primary concern, eradicating preventable blindness around the world.

The Lions are already busy preparing for the 49th Festival. New attractions will include a second stage featuring entertainment for the youngest set. We've heard that Ronald McDonald may stop by to say hi to everyone. New contests are being planned and new recipes developed.

Put the dates on your calendar - August 13, 14, and 15, 2010! Lions International Peace Poster Contest - Being a Sunland-Tujunga Lion is more than putting on the Watermelon Festival!

Each year, S-T Lions join with Lions clubs around the world to proudly sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in local middle schools and youth groups. This Contest encourages young people worldwide to artistically express their visions of peace.

The theme of the 2009-10 Peace Poster Contest is "The Power of Peace." Students, ages 11, 12 or 13 on November 15, are eligible to participate. Promoting the Arts - Each year's contest consists of an original theme incorporating peace. Participants use a variety of mediums, including charcoal, crayon, pencil and paint, to express the theme. The works created are unique and express the young artists' life experiences and culture.

Spreading Peace and International Understanding - Twenty-four international finalists are selected each year, representing the work of more than 350,000 young participants worldwide. Posters are shared globally via the Internet, the media and exhibits around the world.

Judging and Awards - Each poster is judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme.

Posters advance through several judging levels: local, district, multiple district and international. At the international level, judges from the art, peace, youth, education and media communities select one grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners. International winners will be notified on or before February 1.

- One international grand prize winner will receive a trip to a special award ceremony with the sponsoring club president and two family members at Lions Day with the United Nations in New York City, New York, (subject to change). During the ceremony, the winning artist will receive an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$2,500.

- Each of the 23 merit award winners will receive a cash award of \$500 and a certificate of achievement.

Lions - Knights of the Blind - The S-T Lions collect used eyeglasses for Lions In Sight. You can help by donating used glasses or by organizing a drive to collect used glasses in a school or your workplace.

Please contact Lion Cookie Dapp, 818-353-9556 for more information.

Collection boxes may be found at Sunland Family Optometry, 8043 Foothill Blvd., Big Tujunga Veterinary Hospital, 6934 Foothill Blvd., and Jason's Automotive Specialty Shop, 7517 Foothill Blvd.

Challenged by Helen Keller in 1925 at their annual convention to use their energies to combat blindness, Lions Clubs International officially voted to become "The Knights of the Blind," vowing to fight all causes of blindness and help those with visual disabilities. Lions In Sight of California and Nevada is an important part of this effort.

After the glasses are collected, they are sent to a processing center where they are cleaned, repaired, labeled and packed to be taken by teams of volunteer Lions to remote areas around the world.

The doctors on the team examine the eyes of hundreds of people who have never had access to vision care. A prescription is written for each patient, and other volunteers on the team find a pair of glasses that matches the prescription and fits the patient. Each team takes about 20,000 pairs of glasses as their personal luggage. The team frequently visits more than one location in their week-long stay.

As of December 2008, Lions In Sight had conducted 182 clinic missions in 31 countries and had helped over 188 thousand people improve their vision and lives. Learn more at www.lionsinsight.org.

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