



Ready to sell were Troop 2 Scouts at the 2024 tree lot in Santa Monica. From left to right, top to bottom, Chris, Jefferson, Nick, Matt, Ryan, Owen, Oscar, Alex, Liam, and Evan.

Photo by Tara Kowalke Motter

The Season of Rebuilding: Hope Rising from the Ashes – A Reflection on Loss, Gratitude, and Renewal in Pacific Palisades

By Richard Lombardi

A couple of weeks ago, we reached for the turkey roasting pan – not realizing we hadn’t replaced it. It was one of those quiet reminders that life after loss is a series of discoveries. Some big, some small, but all part of the same journey toward rebuilding what was taken.

This December, as lights begin to twinkle across Pacific Palisades and the ocean breeze carries that familiar holiday chill, I find myself reflecting on a year that tested – and ultimately strengthened – the very definition of “home.”

Nearly 12 months have passed since the wildfire that changed so many of our lives. The January flames that tore through our hill-sides left behind blackened earth, displaced families, and broken hearts. But here we are – still standing, still rebuilding, and still finding light in the darkness.

Impromptu gatherings of displaced Palisadians became regular sessions – new friendships formed as we shared common challenges and small victories. What began as informal meetups around coffee tables evolved into support circles rich with compassion, humor, and practical advice. Nonprofit organizations – new, old, local, and national jumped in to assist survivors, offering everything from temporary housing and legal guidance, to mental health support and rebuilding grants. The sense of unity that emerged has been

nothing short of remarkable.

This season, though many of us may stand on lots where our homes once stood, or wait on funds to make needed repairs, we have something deeper: gratitude.

Gratitude for family – for the loved ones who keep us grounded when everything else feels uncertain. Gratitude for neighbors who became friends, and friends who became extended family. And, gratitude for the resilience of the earth itself – or the wildflowers now breaking through the ash, reminding us that beauty and life always return.

For Julia and me, this Christmas will look a little different. The ornaments handed down through generations, and collected through decades, will no longer make their annual Christmas tree visit. But, the ornaments that do hang – from a small tree in a temporary home – will shine just as bright. Because home isn’t built from wood and nails – it’s built from love, resilience, and faith that will will be better tomorrow.

As we turn the page on 2025, my wish for our community is simple: that we continue to rebuild not just structures, but lives. That we reach out to those still struggling. And, that we carry forward the lesson this year has etched into our hearts – hope is the most unbreakable foundation of all.

From my family to yours, Merry
(Continued on Page 6)

Santa Monica Boy Scout Troop 2 Opens Annual Christmas Tree Lot at New Location

Santa Monica’s Boy Scout Troop 2 has opened its annual Christmas tree lot this year at a new location at 2412 Pico Blvd., at the corner of 24th St. and Pico, behind the former Rite Aid drugstore.

The lot will operate from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends through mid-December, or until the inventory is sold out.

The Troop 2 lot has been a local holiday tradition for generations, offering fresh-cut Douglas and Noble fir trees – all shipped directly from Oregon, and known for their quality and long-lasting freshness. Shoppers can also pick up wreaths, garlands, holiday crafts, tree stands, and more.

The fundraiser is entirely run by the Scouts and their families, who handle everything from unloading trucks, to helping customers select and load their trees, to offering home delivery. Proceeds support the troop’s year-round programming – including monthly campouts, high-adventure expeditions and summer merit badge camps – while helping Scouts develop communication, leadership, and teamwork skills.

“Our tree lot teaches Scouts

about entrepreneurship and customer service, and all proceeds from the lot go right back into our program,” said Troop 2 Scoutmaster John Matise. “They help make possible the kinds of experiences that define Scouting, build

(Continued on Page 11)



On a recent trip, Troop 2 Scouts worked on a traditional dugout canoe with the Maijuna, an Indigenous community in the Peruvian Amazon who are only reachable by boat.

Photo by Kevin Lachoff

Tips to Get Your Home Ready for Holiday Hosting

Whether you’re planning a cozy dinner with friends or a full-blown holiday gathering, preparing your home for guests doesn’t have to be stressful. With a little organization and a few simple steps, you can create a space that feels warm and welcoming, allowing you to focus on what really matters: spending time together.

• Declutter and Deep Clean

Start by refreshing high-traffic areas, including the living room, kitchen, and bathrooms. Clear off counters and coffee tables, dust surfaces, vacuum carpet, mop tile or hardwood, and wipe down glass or mirrors.

• Tidy Up the Kitchen

The kitchen is the heart of many gatherings, meaning it’s important to clear both refrigerator and counter space to make room for food, drinks, and serving dishes. Before guests arrive, ensure your oven, microwave, dishwasher, garbage disposal, coffee maker, and other appliances are working properly. Don’t forget to stock essentials like paper plates, silverware, napkins, ice, and paper towels so you’re not scrambling later.



Plan ahead to get ready for entertaining.

• Refresh Guest Spaces

If visitors will be staying overnight, prep sleeping areas by changing the sheets, fluffing the pillows, and stocking extra blankets. Thoughtful touches like fresh

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What's Happening on the Westside

• **December 5 - January 4, 2026- The Enormous Crocodile** - He's greedy, he's grumpy, he's beastly! The Enormous Crocodile is weaving his way through the jungle of Los Angeles in search of delicious little fingers and squidgy podgy knees. This mischievous musical based on Roald Dahl's snappy book has toe-tapping tunes by Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab, a rib-tickling book and lyrics by Suhayla El-Bushra, and additional music and lyrics by Tom Brady. Developed and directed by Emily Lim, it features a menagerie of puppets by co-director and puppetry designer Toby Olié, with set and costume design by Fly Davis and puppetry co-designed and supervised by Daisy Beattie. The Kirk Douglas Theatre, Culver City. www.centertheatre-group.org/shows-tickets/venues/kirk-douglas-theatre.



Come to see what this crocodile is really like. Photo by Danny Kaan

group.org/shows-tickets/venues/kirk-douglas-theatre.
• **Saturday, December 6 - Music Mends Minds presents their world famous 5th Dementia Band** playing holiday music. 2 p.m. Brentwood Presbyterian Church, Bundy and San Vicente Blvd. Refreshments afterwards. Seniors will discover joy, memory, and community.
• **Saturday, December 6 -**

Montana Avenue Holiday Walk and Market - Kate Bransfield of Coldwell Banker invites you to bring your family to a Winter wonderland of crackling fires, music, holiday treats, and the real Santa, straight from the North Pole. Find Kate at 1608 Montana Ave. 4 p.m.-8 p.m. Santa will be taking photos with the children.
• **Tuesday, December 9 - Children's Holiday Book Fair** - 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Fairview Branch, Santa Monica. The Library's annual holiday book fair returns. Kids and teens are invited to "shop" for free gift books for their parents, siblings, or someone special, then wrap them up to share this holiday season.
• **Friday, December 12 - Winter Showcase - HVS Conservatory** - 8 p.m. The Village Studios, 1616



Meet Santa with Kate on December 6 from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at 1608 Montana to take a photo with him.

Butler Ave., West L.A. Free. All ages welcome. To RSVP, please visit <https://hvsconservatory.com/special-events/>, or contact our office directly at info@hvsconservatory.com.
• **Monday, December 14 - Get** (Continued on Page 3)

Help Those in Need at This Time of Year

By Roy Weiner
Local food banks and charity organizations are putting out the word again this year. Successful efforts begin with the donations provided by West Los Angeles and Santa Monica residents during this holiday season.
While local organizations here in are primed up and ready to help those with greater needs, efforts from the larger community make a big difference.
The Salvation Army supports multiple outreach projects. Its rehabilitation program is funded

through donations and sales at the organization's thrift store. Jesus Vargas Flores, a corporate assistant said, "The rehabilitation programs stay open by donations to the thrift store."
The Army seeks donations currently such as sweaters, shirts, hygiene kits, perishable and non-perishable food items (for families), and all types of canned goods. "We're not quite as stacked up as we're supposed to be," Jesus said. The organization will put out around 250 meals at its Thanksgiving dinner November 20. For

any questions, call 310-451-1358.
Other Santa Monica outreach nonprofits have similar needs. Chrysalis, which facilitates people finding jobs including those of any background, seeks professional type clothing for people going to office jobs.
"New placements may have no time to shop for appropriate wear," volunteer and program manager Ligia Castro said, "for interviews or on their first day on the job. Dress pants and slacks, men's belts, new underwear, socks, and men's dress shoes are also needed," she said. "But, backpacks are currently not needed," she stated. For more information, call 310-401-9400.
The People Concern, an outreach to homeless individuals here, is looking for sweatshirts and coats, especially larger sizes, scarves, gloves, socks, blankets, rain ponchos, and belts, donations coordinator Zoey Kon explained. For additional details, call 323-627-2234.
At the busy Westside Food Bank warehouse, accountant Ryon Barton mentioned high protein foods, including peanut and other nut



-Joe Analco



Happy December Birthdays to:
Mike Cveyich, Dee Menzies, Aaron Leland, Bill Bubar, RoseMary Regalbuto, JR Dzubak, Judi Barker, Herb Roney, Maureen Molé, Julie Thomas, Frank Lavac, Glenn Ricard, Gretchen Clore, Vicky Curtis, Scott Ferguson, Tammy Andrews, Zachary Perez, Monika White, Carole Mullaney, Steve Green, Carl McKinzie, Chuck Hustung, Monty McCormick, Susan Annett, Mike Gitchell, Bill Kleinheidt, and Brent Gutierrez

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Discover the Arts and Activities

“The Nutcracker” Celebrates its 10th Season at Segerstrom Center



The children and parents eagerly opening gifts.



The dance of the entertaining mice. Photos by Emma Zordan

Celebrating its 10th season at Segerstrom Center, everyone’s favorite holiday tradition returns with American Ballet Theatre’s critically-acclaimed production of *The Nutcracker*. Created by one of today’s most celebrated choreographers, Alexei Ratmansky, this dazzling holiday treat features ABT’s roster of superstar dancers along with gorgeous sets and costumes by Tony winner Richard Hudson, and Pacific Symphony playing Tchaikovsky’s timeless score. December 11-21. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa.

What’s Happening on the Westside (Continued from Page 2)

your latkes and menorah ready to light the candles for Hanukkah.

- **Saturday, December 13 - Mini Winter Festival** - Art booths, face painting, live music, local business booths, and more! Virginia Avenue Park. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 18 - Lyric Chorus: Songs of the Season** - 11 a.m.-Noon. Main Santa Monica Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium

The Lyric Chorus puts you in the holiday mood with their four-part arrangements of Broadway tunes and songs of the season. The 30+ member Chorus was founded in the 1940s and is under the direction of Tom Gerhold.

- **Saturday, December 20 - It’s Kwanzaa Time!** - 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Pico Branch, The Annex. Ina Buckner-Barnette, The Sunshine Storyteller, shares a West African folk song, highlights the 7 principles, and tells African folktales which illustrate the importance of this cultural celebration. For grades K-5.



“An American Christmas” Tree Exhibit Runs at the Reagan Library

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute (RRPFI) will open a new exhibit, *An American Christmas*, that will run through January 4, 2026. The exhibit features 26 uniquely decorated trees, each capturing a decade of American history and culture, from the nation’s founding in the 1770s to the present day.

The trees representing the 1700s feature copies of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. Other trees throughout the decades bear ornaments representing inventions, such as the first airplane and telephone, as well as significant world events and distinct cultural moments marked by popular



Look carefully to see who you recognize in the above tree from the ‘50s. There are 26 trees in the exhibit.

music, movies, and games. The 1980s tree commemorates Ronald Reagan’s time as our nation’s 40th president, while also celebrating other defining characteristics of the decade like the Cabbage Patch Kid doll, Beanie Babies, the Rubik’s Cube and personal computers. New to the exhibit this year is a tree representing some key moments of the 2020s.

This exhibition offers both a history lesson and a tribute to American popular culture. Guests are encouraged to visit multiple times, as the heavily-decorated trees ensure there is something new to see and learn on each visit.

More information about the exhibit can be found on the website, Reaganfoundation.org.

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- Geffen Playhouse**
10886 Le Conte Ave., L.A.
310-208-2028
- Miles Memorial Playhouse**
1130 Lincoln Blvd., S.M.
310-458-8634
- Morgan-Wixson Theatre**
2627 Pico Bl., S.M.
310-828-7519
- Palace Theatre**
630 S. Broadway, L.A.
213-629-2939
- The Broad Stage**
1310 11th St., S.M.
310-434-3200
- The Odyssey Theatre**
2055 S. Sepulveda Bl., L.A.
310-477-2055
- Westchester Playhouse**
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Santa Mike and Sara send holiday greetings!



Steve Litvack carves the turkey for his family every year.

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Reflections From The East

Holiday Remembrances From a World Away



By Qin Sun Stubis

Every December, my family celebrates the holiday season with big feasts, a sparkling tree, and lots and lots of thoughtful gifts, something I could never have imagined having when I was growing up in Shanghai, China in the 1960s. Immersed in holiday music and spirit, we sit around the tree and exchange our tokens of love. At the same time, the festivities of the present always spark in me a bittersweet nostalgia for my past, a past that is now a world away in time and space.

Back then, as other families around us shopped for their holiday and New Year’s dinners, my

three sisters and I anxiously waited for a miracle to happen. We were very aware of the fact that we had maybe only a single handful of rice left in our cold, empty house, and whether we had dinner on a night the rest of the country celebrated depended on if our father could persuade one of the communist party leaders at his workplace to come and see what dire need we were in. In such cases, a small check might be issued to the needy.

The end of each month was always hard for us anyway. My father was paid at the beginning of the month and his meager pay often meant eating plain porridge with some pickles for a few days before the next paycheck arrived. But, my father was determined to give us a good dinner every New

Year’s Eve. When he had to, he sat at his leaders’ office and waited until they agreed to come to our home. It would usually be very late in the afternoon. By the time he got the money and passed it onto my mother, most families already had their dinners cooked. We were the exception. My mother usually arrived at the market just as it was about to close.

By the time we got to eat our dinner, it was always late at night. None of us children ever complained about waiting or being hungry. We all enjoyed inhaling the delicious air in anticipation of our feast, even though the shrimp in the scallion and ginger sauce were very small, and the braised pork belly cubes could have used more cooking time.

If we were lucky that night, our mother would even offer us each a handful of hard milk candies after dinner. Their colorful cellophane wrappers made loud, cheerful, crinkling noises as I held them in my two hands. Before I hid them under my pillow, I always gave way to the temptation of opening one and popping it into my mouth. I fell asleep as soon as it was dissolved, leaving a sweetness that lingered into my dreams and made me smile. To the little me, it was a perfect holiday celebration.

You can always reach me at qstubis@gmail.com or please visit me at www.QinSunStubis.com. You can find a copy of my book, *Once Our Lives*, online at Amazon.com.

Want to Truly Enjoy the Season? Make a Memory Jar



By Cheryl Thode

There’s something magical about December in Santa Monica. The palm trees glow with lights, shop windows sparkle, and neighbors smile a little more easily under the soft glow of the season. But even here, with the ocean breeze and the sunshine, the holidays have a way of rushing past us. The lists grow longer, the days grow shorter, and before we know it, December has turned into one big blur of errands, events, and expectations.

This year, what if – instead of chasing the perfect holiday – we focused on creating a meaningful one? The kind that fills the heart instead of the calendar.

Years ago, a friend introduced me to the idea of a Memory Jar. It was a simple, but powerful concept. At the start of each new year,

she’d set out a jar and fill it with little reminders of joy – notes, momentos, photos, ticket stubs, anything that captured a meaningful moment. Then, at year’s end, she’d empty the jar and relive all those memories.

I loved the idea so much that I began doing it myself. Even after marriage and kids, the tradition stayed, and now it’s something my family looks forward to every year.

In the spirit of that practice, I’d like to invite you to create your own Memory Jar this December – a small, mindful way to slow the pace of the holidays and savor the moments that matter most. How do you make a Memory Jar?

First, gather your supplies. You don’t need much – a jar (a mason jar, cookie jar, or even a repurposed candle jar), some paper, and a few pens. If you’re feeling crafty, decorate it with ribbon, seashells, or a little glitter.

Next, set your intention. Place the jar somewhere visible – your kitchen table, entryway, or next to your Christmas tree. Let it serve as a daily reminder to pause and notice what’s good

Third, fill it up. Each evening, jot down a small joy from the day – something that made you smile, laugh, or feel grateful. Maybe it’s a walk along the beach at sunset, cocoa by the fire, a kind gesture from a friend, or a funny moment during dinner. If your memory comes in the form of an item – a photo, a ticket stub, a note, tuck that in, too.

Fourth, share the tradition. If you have children, invite them to add their memories or drawings. Couples can write notes to each other. Empty nesters might add reflections from visits or phone calls with loved ones. If you live alone, invite friends or neighbors to contribute when they stop by.

Finally, open it together. On

Christmas Eve or New Year’s Day, gather around the jar, pour out the memories, and read them aloud. You’ll be amazed by how many bright moments filled your month.

It’s simple, yes, but that’s the beauty of it. In a season that can feel like a blur, this small ritual gives us a few quiet minutes to slow down, reflect, and reconnect.

There’s no right or wrong way to do it. Some people decorate their jar in classic reds and golds, others keep it plain and clear. Some slip in letters to themselves, or to loved ones they miss. What matters most is the practice of noticing – and remembering.

So, this holiday season, take a few moments to reflect on your days, collect your memories, and share your blessings with the people around you. Wishing you all a peaceful, joy-filled Holiday Season. God bless!

Help Those in Need At This Time (Continued from Page 2)

butters, canned items with pop-up juices, and all sizes of diapers are needed. Call the Food Bank at 310-828-6016.

Finally, Goodwill seeks gifts and goods for the home, apparel, shoes, books, electronics, furniture, and other items according to

Shavone Turner, senior director of retail and customer engagement. Call 323-539-2104 with questions. This is the opportunity for you

to make a difference for those who are not in a position to buy new items for themselves, their families, and friends.

Mini Message Bulletin Board



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On The Menu

In Search of Good Soup



By Lori Berezin
Welcome to my new column, On the Menu, where I hope to tempt your taste buds each month highlighting an array of local eateries. It's December in Santa Monica, which means longer nights and cooler days. Thanksgiving is history, but we still look forward to more festive holiday meals before our New Year's resolutions kick in.

One of my favorite comfort foods this time of year is a hearty bowl of soup. I've created a few from scratch, but they never compare to the ones I've sampled at some of my favorite restaurants. I thought I'd share a few with you. I'm always looking for ways to cut salt, so I was delighted that Bangkok West Thai would customize their healthy, delicious Ginger Soup with Fillet of Fish and Rice with no salt and rice on the side. Tender white fish float in a delicate ginger and garlic broth. It's my go-to meal whenever I need a healthy boost. They're open every day from 4 p.m. 606 Santa Monica Blvd. 310-395-9658.

It's hard to top the chicken soup at Fromin's Delicatessen. They hit the Matzo Ball Soup out of the park every time. Whether you order it with a large scrumptious matzo ball or just noodles and chicken, it's always a home run. I also enjoy their hearty Vegetable Soup, loaded with carrots, zucchini, and other tasty veggies surrounded by a rich tomato base. Their huge menu includes traditional fare, from soup, eggs, and salads, to sky-high sandwiches and mouth-watering desserts. They're open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. 1832 Wilshire Blvd.



Enjoying a warm bowl of chicken soup from Fromin's Delicatessen is a great way to feel better on a rainy Winter day.

310-829-5443.

Another longtime favorite is the Rustic Chicken Soup from Tender Greens near the 3rd Street Promenade. You can order it as a side dish or on its own. An array of carrots, potatoes, celery, onion, and thyme float lazily beside thin strands of chicken in a light and flavorful chicken broth. They're open from 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., seven days a week and offer a shady patio and ample indoor seating. 201 Arizona Ave., 310-587-2777.

If you're looking to stock up on healing soups, Kreation offers an abundance of nutrient-packed soups and juices to get you through the Winter and beyond. The company began in Santa Monica in 2007, and continues to grow. Although their soups are created offsite and packed in various sized glass jars, they still taste homemade. I especially enjoy their creamy Paleo Butternut Squash Soup with coconut milk and aromatic Chicken Bone Broth made from chicken bones, veggies, and spices, including their special Kreation blend of peppers, paprika, and cumin. 1023 Montana Ave. 310-458-4880.

Song Contest Held in Celebration of Route 66 Centennial

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism (SMTT) is proud to launch the Route 66 Song Contest as part of the official kick-off of the iconic highway's Centennial celebration in 2026. This competition invites songwriters and musicians over the age of 18 to submit an original song capturing the spirit of Santa Monica and its ties to the historic road, for the chance to win \$10,000 USD.

As music speaks many languages, we invite artists based in the U.S. and around the world to share their original pieces celebrating this globally-beloved symbol. Affectionately known as The Mother Road, Route 66 runs 2,448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, and officially terminates

at the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard. The end of the legendary highway is commemorated by an honorary marker on the Santa Monica Pier.

The Santa Monica Route 66 Song Contest presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for music lovers to be part of this historic anniversary by invoking their artistic imagination and sharing what the road's legacy and Santa Monica's connection means to them.

The competition will run through April 30, 2026, with the winner to be selected in June 2026. Visit santamonica.com/route66 for the full contest details.

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Senior Care

Preventing Infectious Diseases as You Age



By Tim Petlin
Staying healthy as you age comes down to a mix of good fortune and smart choices. Preventing infectious diseases is one area where we have real control. With a few simple habits, older adults can greatly reduce their risk of illnesses like the flu, RSV, pneumonia, and shingles.

• **Why Prevention Matters**
As we grow older, the immune system becomes slower at fighting off viruses and bacteria. This makes infections such as the flu or pneumonia harder to recover from, and can sometimes lead to hospitalization. Staying ahead of these illnesses helps older adults remain independent and active.

• **Key Infections to Watch**
RSV: RSV – a virus that often feels like a bad cold – continues to send

many older adults to the hospital. Health experts recommend the RSV vaccine for everyone 75 and older, and for people 50–74 with chronic heart or lung conditions.

Flu: The 2024–2025 flu season was one of the toughest in a decade. Even when flu shots aren't perfect, they still prevent many severe cases. Getting a flu shot each Fall remains one of the easiest ways to stay healthy.

COVID-19: Still circulating and still risky for seniors. Staying current on boosters provides the best protection against severe illness.

Pneumonia: This lung infection is a leading cause of hospitalization among older adults. Pneumococcal vaccines can prevent many types of bacterial pneumonia, and most adults 65 and older should receive at least one type if they haven't already.

(Continued on Page 11)

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SMBEA Holds Third Annual Unity Gala

Under the leadership of Kera Blades-Snell, the Santa Monica Black EMpowerment Association (SMBEA) Gala drew an enthusiastic crowd to attend their third annual fundraising event in November.

Honorees were Rev. Dr. Joseph P. Metoyer, Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, and Rev. Lemuel “Mack” Mossett, III from Calvary Baptist Church.

Dr. Metoyer is the founder of ACTS (A Church That Studies), whose mission is to minister to the “hopes and hurts” of the people of our community through connecting them with resources and available benefits.

Pastor Baskin-Bell became the first female pastor of the 104-year old First African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is an instructor for the Southern California Conference Board of Examiners.

On August 3, 1920, a group organized Calvary Baptist Church, the first African American Baptist Church. On November 4, 2018, Rev. Mossett, III became the spiritual leader and undershepherd.



Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell of First AME Church



Rev. Dr. Joe Metoyer, winner of the Dr. Al Quinn award, with his painting by Jean Rene Rinvil, right.



Pastor Mack Mossett of Calvary Baptist Church



Friends of members and honorees enjoyed the dinner also.

Building Confidence from the Classroom to the Pool



By Araceli Alejandre
At the Santa Monica Family YMCA, our mission is to nurture the potential of every child, and support families through every stage of early development. Our fully-licensed Early Learning Center provides quality care and education for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children (ages 3-4), creating a safe and supportive environment for young learners.

This year, we’re thrilled to announce the addition of swim lessons to our preschool curriculum – bringing an essential life skill right into the school day. By introducing water safety early, we empower children with the confidence and awareness they need around water while giving families one less thing to juggle in their busy schedules.

“Learning to swim isn’t just about strokes and kicks – it’s

about safety, confidence, and fun,” says Kobe Brown, Aquatics Director at the Santa Monica Family YMCA. “We’re a coastal community which makes swim lessons so important. It’s a life-saving skill.”

For our teachers, the excitement goes beyond the pool. “It’s incredible to watch our students light up when they realize what they can do,” shares Christy Corsinita, Early Learning Center Director. “The swim program not only builds independence, but it gives our parents important family time back. We tend to lose that with so much going on in our days.”

From learning their ABCs to floating on their backs, children at the Y are growing, thriving, and gaining confidence every day. It’s just one more way we’re giving families peace of mind and more quality.

Go to smfamilyymca.org for more details.

The Season of Rebuilding (Continued from Page 1)

Christmas, Happy Holidays, and here’s to a new year filled with light, laughter, and homes that once again, feel whole.

Richard Lombardi is a Pacific Palisades resident, Real Estate Wealth Advisor with Sotheby’s International Realty, 2nd Vice Commander of American Legion Post 283, Vice Chair of the Pacific Palisades Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), and Board Member of the Santa Monica Family YMCA.



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Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

Reflecting on the Year That Has Passed



By Michael Margolin

It does not take much this time of year to make you think and reflect upon what you have to be thankful for. I

am certainly forever grateful for a happy and healthy family. I see most other things as fixable. As long as Enjoli, Alexa, and Jake fit into that category of happy and healthy, I really have no complaints. Alexa is 12 now and Jake is nine and there are particular traditions and rituals that I wonder how long will last.

For Halloween, there was never a doubt that the kids would dress up and go trick-or-treating with friends, and that we would be with them and some of the other parents. But, Alexa is 12 and next year, gulp, she will be a teenager. I wonder if she will push to be a little more independent with her friends of the same age. I cannot see Alexa not wanting to dress up next year. But, will she mind as much if her parents are in tow? Jake will still want to dress up next year. And, for as much as Alexa adores her younger brother, maybe her independence will leave him with his own friends and parents as well. It remains to be seen.

I do not have a guidebook for my growing daughter or a roadmap. And, when I am lying on the couch and she calls down to me, asking me to come upstairs to tuck her

in, how can I say no? I have to climb up about 25 steps, which seems like the last stretch to the summit of Mt. Everest when I am comfortable on the couch. But at some point, she will stop making that request. So I fulfill every one of those nighttime appeals that I can.

The time keeps going faster and faster and 2025 was no exception. Alexa is right smack in the middle of middle school, and is navigating it well. Jake is only a year and half away from embarking into middle school himself. The kids have academic and athletic accomplishments that made us smile proudly this year. We went on trips and stayed active. The kids and the rest of our family also dealt with loss this year with the passing of my wonderful stepmother, Joyce. We try to fill the void now with happy memories and the gratitude we all have for being able to have known and loved her for so many years.

Good, bad, and plenty of things in between, 2025 has left its own unique mark on me and my family. With health and happiness comes the anticipation of what is next. For me, my kids have become more fun and more interesting the older they get. I do not see nor hope 2026 will be any exception to that model.

Mike Margolin has been writing for us since his daughter Alexa was born 12 years ago and son, Jake, nine years ago. He also coaches each child's soccer team.

Entertaining With Ease

Top Ten Holiday Party Tips for Easy Entertaining



By Maureen Molé

As the worst of the pandemic is over and the world faces global unrest, we see the need more than ever, to connect with

people. So, as the holidays arrive, whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or Las Posadas, start to plan your party with family and friends.

1. Host a Holiday Dessert Party. It's easy when you serve all finger-food desserts – cookies, candy canes, peppermint bark, and bite-size cake – no utensils needed. The bar might include a mulled cider or holiday punch. Set everything out in advance and enjoy.
2. At your holiday dinner, place a tree ornament at each person's place setting. Put their names on it and they'll really feel special.
3. At the table, a good conversation starter is "What is your favorite holiday memory?"
4. Do you find your guests are always gathering in only the kitchen? Dim the kitchen lights and set up the bar in one room and the food in another room. This encourages your guests to mingle in rooms other than the kitchen.
5. Invite your friends for wine and cheese. Surprise them by taking a photo of their home or from their social media, insert it into a small Lucite frame with a ribbon, and hang it on your holiday tree. What a fun memento for them to take home.

6. Holiday cocktail party chit-chat needn't be boring or superficial. Start the conversation by asking the person's favorite holiday tradition or childhood holiday gift.
7. Tie flatware and a napkin with colorful ribbon to make a handy and space-saving bundle at your buffet.
8. Plan a Holiday Caroling Party and really encourage everyone to sing. Serve an easy menu – cup of soup, a six-foot-long deli sandwich, and holiday cookies for dessert.
9. For better mixing at a cocktail party, never have enough chairs. You don't want all your guests sitting in one big circle.
10. If you know anyone who is going to be alone, invite them to your holiday get-together.

Please remember, the two most important aspects of entertaining at home. First, be sure to make your guests feel welcome and special. Second, be sure to enjoy your own party. Happy Holidays.

Maureen is the author of *The Book of Entertaining at Home*, a product spokesperson, and lecturer. Follow her on Instagram #Entertain_at_Home_with_Maureen, or email MaureenMole@gmail.com.



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Santa Monica Elks Club Hosted Over 30 Veterans for Dinner

Celebrating Veterans in November were several members of the Santa Monica Elks Club. Home-cooked dinners were served by the club members, right.



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From the Santa Monica Pier

Recognizing the Impact



By Jim Harris

On November 13, the Santa Monica Conservancy honored me with their President’s Award for my decades of work at the Santa Monica Pier. I don’t share this to boast, that’s simply not my style. I share it to highlight something meaningful: the power of individual love and dedication.

That love is what qualified me for this award, and for that, I’m both proud and deeply grateful. I began my Pier journey in September 1989 as a bartender at the old Boathouse Restaurant (where Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. is today). At that time, the Pier’s west end was still being rebuilt after the 1983 storms, and the amusement park wouldn’t open for several more years. I thought it would be a short-term job, maybe a year at most.

But within weeks, I was captivated by the stories of longtime visitors, tales full of joy, nostalgia, and heart. What was meant to be temporary became a lifelong calling. Thirty-six years later, I’m still

walking those creosote-soaked deck boards, now sharing the very stories that once inspired me.

The “old timers” who used to tell me about the Pier’s past have become my peers, and I’ve followed in their footsteps by writing books, leading tours, giving talks, and helping preserve and celebrate our city’s most iconic landmark.

I’m just one person who loves the Pier and wants to protect its place in history while helping shape its future.

If you share that same love, I invite you to connect with us at the Santa Monica Pier Corporation. There are so many ways to get involved, learn, and help us tell the Pier’s story. Whether through supporting our mission, or sharing your own connection to this special place, we’d love to hear from you at info@santamonicipier.org.

Jim Harris is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the pier visitor experience, as well as the author of the Pier’s official history book, “Santa Monica Pier: America’s Last Great Pleasure Pier.”

Teen Talk

A Report From a Busy High School Student



By Michelle Li

Just like with many other words, Gen Z has adopted “faded” and evolved its definition into one that is more modern and abstract. “Faded” originates from a Latin word, “fatuus,” meaning silly or insipid. Eventually, it evolved into the French word “fade,” meaning dull or insipid. From there, the English word adopted the definition “growing weak.” Today, “faded” is the past tense of the verb “fade.” “Faded” means for something to grow faint and disappear. It can also mean for something to come in and out of view. In golf, it means for the ball to deviate to the right.

The gap between generations may feel wider and wider, especially with the differences in culture, facilitated by social media. Here are some nongeneric, personalized gift items for teens with specific hobbies or interests.

Examples of gifts for athletic teens are sportswear, custom water bottles, or fitness trackers. Some popular fitness trackers today are Oura Rings, which can track 50+ bodily measurements; Fitbits, and Apple Watches. Recovery equipment, such as massage guns or foam rollers, are also good gifts.

For artistic or creative teens, proper tools can be important. Some gifts could be high-quality markers, sketchbooks, paints, etc. As everything is getting progressively digitalized, a drawing tablet or a software subscription could be deeply appreciated. Another option is some simple yarn and hooks for crocheting or knitting. Another functional gift is a sewing machine. For particularly crafty teens, this can help them tailor

or even make their own clothes.

Custom phone accessories and headphones are gifts anyone would appreciate. In addition, LED lights, mini speakers, and technology-based ornaments could be useful for teens looking to decorate their rooms. For teens who particularly enjoy video-games, specified headsets, game subscriptions, monitors, or gaming chairs are good gifts.

The best way to gauge what to get your teen for Christmas is to simply ask them! Many have exhaustive lists of what they would like.

Christmas and Hanukkah are some of the most well-known holidays in December. However, there are countless more that are based in other cultures, as well as some that are pure fun. Today, I want to share some of these holidays in an attempt to help them gain exposure and awareness.

Here are some fun holidays in December. December 31 is Unlucky Day; it is the last day of the year and represents the last day to get rid of all bad luck and forget about all the bad days. December 5 is Walt Disney Day, celebrating Walt Disney’s role in creating and popularizing cartoons. December 9 is Christmas Card Day.

Although December is full of joy and cheer, there are some serious holidays that also deserve celebration. December 1 is Rosa Parks Day, December 2 is International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, and December 7 is Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance. December 10 is Human Rights Day, December 11 is the birthday of UNICEF, and finally, December 15 is the Bill of Rights Day.

Here are some celebrations from cultures all around the world. Bodhi Day is December 8 and

(Continued on Page 10)

Community Service on the Westside

The Santa Monica Elks Lodge - Is it the Best Kept Secret in Santa Monica?



By Ilene Knebel
Welcome to December at the Santa Monica Elks Lodge! This month we have some special events.

- Our Hoop Shoot on Saturday, December 6, is a free throw contest taking place at the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Clubs at 1238 Lincoln Blvd from 9 a.m.-Noon.
- On Saturday, December 13, we are placing wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes at the Los Angeles National Cemetery. You can purchase a wreath at this link: wreathsacrossamerica.org/.
- Mark your calendars for Wednesdays, December 10 and 17, for the Westside Winds Mahjong game

play from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Also early sign ups are happening for our Mahjong Mania Fundraiser for children with disabilities on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Contact Dr. Lisette Gold at 310-804-6659 for all the details. Finally, we have Drug Awareness and Americanism contests for the youth in our community. The deadline for submissions is December 15.

For more information on all these listed above, as well as membership information, go to www.santamonicaelkslodge906.org for the events we have planned.



An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber
The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) was proud to join over 900 women's clubs across the country for the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) Annual Day of Service in late September. The GFWC asked the clubs to dedicate the day to programs that serve organizations helping women of domestic violence. The SMBWC volunteers met at the Club to assemble care bags of personal grooming items that were then delivered to Santa Monica's local organization, Sojourn House. We also took the time to put together mini packets of hygiene items for "We Care." These are sent to deployed troops by the "For the Troops" organization.

A new, ongoing project is collecting our magazines to be donated to St. John's Hospital for use by the patients. Club members have been asked to drop them by the Club. Our holiday luncheon on December 8 will take place immediately following the Club's business meeting.

The regular Monday Club activities will continue as usual throughout December. These include bridge, canasta, and Mahjong. Anyone interested in learning to play canasta should contact Sue Price-McGough at sue.mcgough@yahoo.com. It is easy to learn and a fun, addictive card game. Mahjong lessons may take place in the new year so anyone interested should contact Margery "Minkie" McKevitt at min-kiejean@gmail.com.

The Walking Group and Book Club will not meet in December, picking up again in January. The Walking Group meets the first Saturday of each month in front of the Club, and Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

As a reminder, Club membership is not a requirement to participate in these activities, however, please note that due to Club member allergies and other conditions, pets are not permitted in the Club. Certified Service Pets will be allowed. For information on renting the Club, call 310-395-1308.

The Santa Monica - Pacific Palisades Lions Are Always on the Go



By J. Kingsley Fife
We Santa Monica-Pacific Palisades Lions always look forward to our dinner meetings held on the first Wednesday of every month. It gives us a chance to do some family socializing, catch up on all the latest news, enjoy a delicious buffet dinner, and sit back to experience a delightful program. Recently our speaker was Teague Weybright, Director of the Santa Monica Community Gardens Program. He gave us a fascinating slide show of the activity they are involved in. It was started by the City in 1976, and they have five Gardens that provide active planting opportunities and a way to engage in urban agriculture. They

presently have four locations with plots available to rent. They have numerous monthly programs and events. The quickest way to see the full scope of their activities is to Google their name.

This month, at our meeting we inducted three new members into our "Lions pride." They were Becca Brando, Chris Carrico, and Captain Ty Baze, the new Chief of the Santa Monica Corps of the Salvation Army. It was also the annual visit of the Salvation Army to our Club. Their band was present, the atmosphere was festive and we enjoyed singing holiday carols.

On our December schedule, we also will be participating in the S.A. Red Kettle Bell Ringing, decorating the Lions Float for the

(Continued on Page 11)

Make New Friends While Giving Service



By Mitchell Kraus
As December arrives and the spirit of giving fills the air, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica continues its century-long tradition of serving others – both here at home and across the globe. While many think of Rotary as a weekly lunch meeting with local leaders, it's so much more than that. Rotary is a network of neighbors, professionals, and friends who believe that together, we can make a meaningful difference.

Throughout the year, our club provides scholarships to local students, supports youth leadership programs, funds community service projects, and partners with non-profits making an impact right here in Santa Monica. From helping feed local families to supporting sustainability initiatives, our members roll up their sleeves and put "Service Above Self" into action.

But Rotary's reach extends far

beyond our city limits. We're part of a global organization of 1.4 million members working to end polio, provide clean water, improve education, and promote peace worldwide. Each project, local or international, reflects the same simple idea: that compassion, connection, and collaboration can change lives.

As we celebrate this season of gratitude and generosity, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica invites you to join us. Whether you're a business owner, a community leader, or simply someone who wants to give back, you'll find fellowship, purpose, and inspiration in our club.

Come for lunch. Stay for the friendships. Make a difference that lasts long after the holidays. Visit www.rotaryclubofsantamonica.org to learn more information.



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Historic Broadway

Philomathean Charity Club Inc. to Receive Landmark Status

A celebration of the Philomathean Charity Club Inc. receiving landmark status from the City of Santa Monica, will take place on Tuesday, December 9.

The plaque, installed on their building located at 1802 Broadway, will be unveiled for public viewing. All are welcome to attend when the ceremony begins at 10 a.m. —Carolyn Edwards



The Philomathean Charity Club building (above) will receive landmark status on December 9.

Thoughts From a Busy High School Student (Continued from Page 8)

celebrates the day Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) achieved enlightenment. December 12 is Feast Day of Lady Guadalupe, which celebrates the patron saint of Mexico. Yule is celebrated from December 21 to January 1. It is

celebrated by Wiccans and Neo-Pagans who celebrate the Winter solstice through the Yule festival. Lastly, Kwanzaa is an African American holiday that is celebrated from December 26 to January 1.

Tips to Get Your Home Ready (Continued from Page 1)

towels, water bottles, and a charging station can make guests feel at home.

• **Create a Functional Flow**
Think about how guests will move through your home. Designate areas for food, drinks, games, and mingling, arranging furniture to encourage conversation. If you're expecting a large crowd, add extra seating options.

• **Add Seasonal Touches**

For seasonal warmth, swap out throw pillows, add greenery and candles or hang a wreath or other decorations. Scattering cozy blankets and simmering a pot of cinnamon and citrus on the stove can also help create a warm, inviting atmosphere.

Visit eLivingtoday.com for more tips and guidance to get your home ready to welcome guests.

Paws and Claws

Common Holiday Hazards That Can Affect Our Pets



By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM

• **Avoid Mistletoe, Holly, and Lilies** - Mistletoe and Holly can cause GI disturbances. Lilies, while not toxic to dogs, can lead to irreversible kidney failure in cats.

• **Avoid Tinsel** - Tinsel can lead to a GI obstruction.

- **Christmas trees** - Secure Christmas trees so that they don't fall over.
- **Chocolates** - Chocolates, particularly dark chocolates, can be toxic. Avoid leaving chocolate in a bag or on the counter where your dog can easily access it. Google Chocolate Toxicity Calculator---Veterinary Merck Manual.
- **Leftover holiday food** - No food scraps for pets! Refrigerate leftovers immediately or dispose of them in a trash can with a secure lid. Ingestion of leftovers can lead to severe GI upset and pancreatitis.
- **Food or gum sweetened with xylitol** - Xylitol can lead to GI upset, ataxia, and seizures.

If you have any questions, you can always contact Dr. Lavac at 310-828-4587.

Adopt a Pet



We rescued Chubby after his owner entered assisted living. He is 13 years old and extremely sweet. Chubby loves to explore and is good with both cats and dogs. He loves everyone, and is so cute with his short legs. He is just the best! Please contact LangeFoundation.org or call 310-473-5585 for more details on adopting Chubby.



-Joe Analco

Hot Days, Cold Nights: Pet Safety in SoCal Winters

By Katie Pippin

Communications Volunteer

Southern California Winters can swing from chilly nights to warm, dry afternoons, and both extremes can be dangerous for pets. The American Red Cross reminds owners that safety starts with knowing the numbers and taking the right precautions.

When It's Cold

Even shorthaired or small pets can develop hypothermia when temperatures dip below 45 degrees Fahrenheit, which is the average low between December and February in and around Los Angeles. In the Valley, temperatures dip even lower, averaging about 40 degrees nightly. To counteract this, limit outdoor exposure on cold, windy, or rainy days and bring animals inside overnight. Provide insulated bedding (raised for outdoor pets) and check paws for cracks caused by cold pavement or salt. Signs of cold stress include shivering, whining, and sluggishness. Bring pets inside right away if you notice any of these signs.

When It's Hot

On the flip side, sunny Winter days can still overheat animals. Asphalt can reach 125 degrees when the air temperature is just 75 degrees, and 150 degrees when it's 85 degrees out, which is hot enough to burn paw pads within seconds. Before walks, press the back of your hand to the pavement for seven seconds. If it's too hot for you, it's too hot for them. Use booties or protective wax, walk

during early morning or evening hours, and keep pets hydrated.

Never leave pets in parked cars, even with cracked windows. Interior temperatures can increase more than 20 degrees in 10 minutes, reaching deadly levels.

Be Prepared

Keep a year-round pet emergency kit stocked with food, water, medications, and vaccination records. Find more tips on the Red Cross Pet First Aid app – search “American Red Cross” in your app store or visit redcross.org/pets.



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Preventing Infectious Diseases (Continued from Page 5)

Shingles: About one in three people will develop shingles, and the risk rises with age. The Shingrix vaccine is highly effective and recommended for everyone 50 and older, even if you’ve had shingles before.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis): Severe coughing fits can be dangerous for those with breathing problems. Adults should get a Td or Tdap booster every 10 years.

Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs): UTIs are more common with age and can sometimes cause confusion or falls. There’s no vaccine, but staying hydrated, practicing good hygiene, and getting prompt treatment can prevent complications.

• Smart Habits for Staying Protected

Get vaccinated: Vaccines are your first line of defense. Stay current with flu, COVID-19, RSV, pneumonia, shingles, and tetanus shots. Pharmacies and clinics often provide multiple vaccines in a single visit.

Practice good hygiene: Wash hands often, especially before eating and after using the restroom. Wipe down common surfaces like doorknobs, phones, and countertops.

Avoid exposure: If someone is coughing or feverish, keep your distance. Friends, family, and caregivers should avoid visiting if they’re sick.

Improve indoor air quality: Open windows for fresh air when possible, or use an air purifier to reduce airborne germs.

Maintain healthy habits: Eat nutritious foods, stay active, get enough sleep, manage stress, and avoid smoking. These habits naturally strengthen the immune system.

Stay hydrated: Drinking plenty of water helps prevent UTIs and keeps your airways moist, making it harder for germs to take hold.

Travel smart: During the busy holiday season, wash hands frequently, bring medications, and rest as needed.

Help Is Out There: Talk with your health care provider about which vaccines and preventive steps are right for you. Many can create a vaccine schedule so nothing gets missed, and pharmacists can also provide vaccines and answer questions.

Family and friends make a big difference, too. Whether it’s giving a ride to an appointment, helping with prescriptions, or checking in regularly, small acts of support help older adults stay as healthy as possible.

For more information, contact Right at Home of West Los Angeles at www.rahwestla.com, at 310-313-0600, or email Tim Petlin at timp@rahwestla.com.

Santa Monica Boy Scout Troop 2 (Continued from Page 1)

community and nurture life-long friendships.”

Over the past year, funds raised through the tree lot helped open the door to an unforgettable journey for Troop 2 this Summer – an expedition into the heart of the Peruvian Amazon.

Dozens of Scouts took part in the high-adventure trip, designed to expose them to the unspoiled rainforest ecosystems and the culture of the Indigenous Maijuna tribe. Alongside local guides and researchers, they helped with environmental fieldwork that included setting up camera traps, surveying mineral licks, and mapping wildlife habitats.

The Scouts also learned about Maijuna agricultural practices, beekeeping, and sustainability, while practicing their own outdoor skills through piranha fishing, birdwatching, canoeing, hiking, and even an impromptu soccer match with local teens.

In addition, they completed several service projects with the Maijuna, including building a floating dock, painting their school and community center, and plant-

ing trees. It was an incredible cross-cultural experience in one of the most remote parts of the world – one that left a lasting impression on both the Maijuna hosts and the Troop 2 Scouts and parents.

Troop 2 has been serving the young men of Santa Monica since 1946. In addition to its fundraising work, the Troop gives back through partnerships with local schools and Eagle Scout service projects that improve public spaces and community facilities across the region.

“We see families who’ve been buying their trees from us for decades,” said Troop 2 Tree Lot Chair Roger O’Brien. “Kids who once sold trees are now bringing their own children to pick one out.”

The Scouts will also be out in the community this season, serving hot drinks and treats at the annual Montana Avenue Holiday Walk on Saturday, December 6.

Remember that buying your tree at the Troop 2 lot directly supports local Scouting.

The Santa Monica - Pacific Palisades Lions (Continued from Page 9)

Rose Parade and having fun at our annual holiday party.

Are you interested in learning more about Lionism, perhaps filling a void in your life and developing new friends? We'd love to invite you to one of our dinner meetings. For more information, contact me at jkfife88@yahoo.com.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Star Comments

“At a recent community event, a woman introduced herself, saying she has enjoyed reading my monthly columns. I have gained several new clients who contacted me after reading my articles. My articles raise my visibility in the community and I enjoy writing them.”

Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
Jakle, Alexander & Patton, LLP



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Planning Ahead

Providing for Your Pet Family



By Lisa Alexander, Esq.

After Diane Keaton’s death, there were reports that she left \$5M to her golden retriever, Reggie, in a pet trust, and the bulk of her estimated \$100M estate to her two children. I am not aware of any public confirmation of Ms. Keaton’s estate plan. Likely that is because her estate plan involved one or more trusts to avoid the public nature of a Probate.

Diane Keaton’s provisions for Reggie recalled the famous case of the much-disliked New York entrepreneur and businesswoman, Leona Helmsley who died in 2007 leaving a \$12M pet trust for her Maltese dog named Trouble. After a court challenge, this amount was reduced to \$2M, which was still sufficient to keep Trouble well cared for until he died four years later in 2011.

California recognizes “pet trusts.” The pet trust must have a Trustee to manage and invest the trust money and to pay the expenses of the pet as directed in the trust. The pet trust can also name a specific person to enforce the trust on behalf of the pet, including the right to visit the pet to make sure the pet is well cared for and appropriately homed, and the right to review the financial records of the trust. The pet trust must also name the beneficiary(ies) to receive what is left of

the trust when the pet dies. Pet trusts are subject to legal requirements that ensure accountability on behalf of the pet, and the beneficiaries designated, to receive the trust assets when the pet has died.

Of course, a pet trust that will last for several years has its own expenses in the form of taxes, accounting, and legal fees. Unless you are leaving tens of thousands or even millions of dollars for your pet’s care, it is more common for people to forgo the complexity of a pet trust and opt instead to prearrange rehoming of their pet with the gift of a generous amount to cover the anticipated future costs of their pet’s care.

You could name a relative or friend who you know would take your pet into their home if needed. Or, you could name a trusted rescue organization that you are confident will find a new home for your pet. If you will name a rescue organization, you should ask about the dollar amount of the donation the organization would expect to receive in exchange for taking your pet. If you will name a relative or friend, plan to be generous, recognizing how much of your own budget goes to the care and feeding of your pet.

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Church: 6 p.m. · 8 p.m. · Midnight

Christmas Day Masses: Dec. 25
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†LIVESTREAM
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