

THE SANTA MONICA STAR

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The Greater
Westside

Volume XVIII Number 12

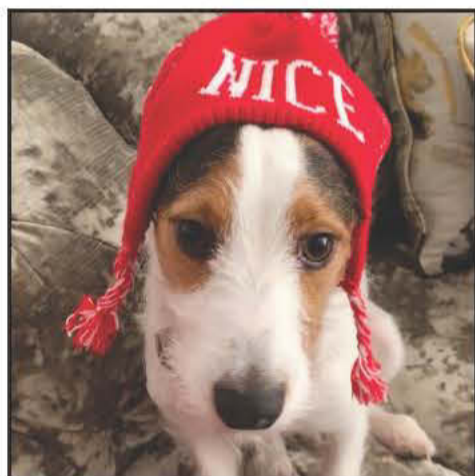
Where Local People Are Celebrities

December 2019



JoyCatchers make trees to give to seniors and veterans. See their story on Page 4. From left, Linda Pluta visiting from Canada and artist Anthony Schmidt.

Holidays Create Memories to Share



Finley sends greetings to you from England.



Julie Dobkin Gilberg photographs the Third Street Promenade.



Halley decorating the tree.



Qin with her one month old son and aunt many years ago.



A Salvation Army Shopping Spree at the former Sears store.



Rotarians Jean and Mike ringing the bell for Red Kettle Day downtown.

Nativity Scenes on Display

Calvary Baptist Church, one of the oldest Black churches in Santa Monica, will once again host the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes through January 6, 2020. The 14 life-sized scenes of the Christmas story will be displayed on the grounds of the church located at 1502 20th Street at Broadway in Santa Monica. Photo by Clara Wright



Where to Donate at the Holidays

By Anne Wallentine

Each holiday season brings a flurry of gift-giving. In addition to the friends and relatives on your list, consider directing the generous spirit of the season to local non-profits, which are always in need of more support. It's especially important at the holidays, when people in need are often left out of the glow and warmth. Several local organizations have provided their needs below.

At this time, the **Westside Food Bank** is especially looking for:

- High-protein foods
- Canned items with pop-tops that make for easy opening
- Breakfast cereals
- Healthy, low-sugar juices
- Disposable razors
- All sizes of diapers, but especially sizes 4-6. These are vital, as they are not covered under food stamps or other assistance.

Chrysalis, a nonprofit that supports jobseekers, accepts new and gently used interview clothing and accessories. There is a strong need for plus sizes, as they serve many clients in a 30-42 waist range. All items must be clean and ready to wear. They greatly appreciate:

- New or gently used men's dress pants (sizes 30-42 waists preferred)
- Men's dress shoes (all sizes)
- Men's belts (sizes 30-42 waists preferred)
- New socks (men's and women's, all sizes)
- New underwear and boxers (men's, all sizes, and women's, S-XXL)
- New or gently-used plus size professional attire
- Backpacks, as many of their clients only have plastic bags to carry their things.

The American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Santa Monica accepts donations of clean, gently-used clothing, handbags, and jewelry, which can be brought to the back door seven days a week. There is less of a need for household items at this location. All proceeds from their sale benefit the American Cancer Society.

The People Concern, which provides an integrated system of care for homeless individuals and victims of domestic violence, accepts donations of clean, gently-used clothing. They would most appreciate:



When you receive new clothes for holiday gifts, think about giving some of your gently used ones to those in need.

- Sweatshirts (men's and women's, larger sizes)
- Coats (men's and women's, larger sizes)
- Beanies
- Scarves
- Gloves
- Warm socks (new)
- Blankets
- Rain Ponchos

For more information about any of these organizations or detailed donation guidelines, you can contact them at Westside Food Bank, 310-828-6016; Chrysalis, 310-401-9400; the American Cancer Society Santa Monica Discovery Shop, 310-458-4490; and The People Concern, 323-627-2234.

Do You Recognize This Local Celebrity?
(Answer on Page 11)



Take A Look Inside

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Brain Matters

Combatting Weight Gain and Boosting Healthy Habits



By Lesley Bell
With the holidays right around the corner, it is easy to be swept up in all the festivities indulging a little too freely, and before you know it, the few extra pounds become difficult to shake off.

tips on how to combat weight gain and boost healthy habits not only through the holidays, but throughout your life.

• Watch your diet
Try to eat "real" food, meaning produce and lean meats. Don't go to the store hungry. Avoid items off the shelves that are high in sodium, especially anything that contains high fructose corn syrup.

• Increase physical activity
The CDC says only 23% of U.S. adults hit the minimum-required aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities - just two hours and 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise and two days a week of resistance (hitting every major muscle group).

• Limit smoking and alcohol intake
According to the CDC, both cigarettes and alcohol can increase your blood pressure, putting you at a higher risk for heart attacks and strokes. Limiting alcohol to one drink per day for women and two

drinks per day for men can help to avoid injuries, disease, and even cancer.

• Practice meditation and mindfulness

Doctors from Harvard Medical School have admitted that just 10 minutes a day of an easy, guided meditation has multiple health benefits, including being proven to increase brain activity while lowering stress, anxiety, heart rate, blood pressure, and cortisol levels.

Lesley is the lead cognitive fitness (CogFit) instructor, personal trainer and brain health coach at the Pacific Brain Health Center in Santa Monica. With a background in kinesiology, health promotion and psychology, she works side-by-side with medical doctors, psychologists, and neuroscientists to create innovative programs for treating brain health with physical activity, linking psychology to physiology. 310-582-7641/pacificbrainhealth.org.

Byte by Byte

Charging Up Your Lithium Lifespan



By Miceala Shocklee
With the holidays coming up and gift-giving on the horizon, it's likely that many homes will see an influx of new electronics. A key facet of keeping new smart devices as bright and shiny as when they first came out of the box is battery optimization.

The lithium battery in a smartphone is actually based around two main materials and the exchange of ions between them. Will Bedingfield over at Wired gives a fuller rundown of how such batteries... well, run down, but the top tips from his article "How to squeeze the most from your smartphone's battery" are:

- Keep your battery's charge in between 20% and 80% to maximize the function returned from the lithium ions available.
• Don't expose the phone to the "trickle charge" that happens when it's left plugged in overnight.
• Turn on battery saving mode on the phone and app settings, and turn off apps that aren't being actively used.
• Turn down the screen brightness manually or via the automatic adaptive brightness setting.
• Keep phones cool to reduce ion wastage in the battery.

Lauren Stephen at Medium gives similar tips in "13 tips to extend the lifespan of your phone battery," and also adds:

- Lower the interim to screen timeout to prevent unnecessary battery use on screen display.
• Choose themes with dark colors when the screen is being displayed to reduce the amount of baseline battery being used.
• Be selective about which phone

(Continued on Page 10)

Planning Ahead

All About Probate Sales



By Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
Real property in a decedent's estate attracts a lot of attention. People think they may get a good deal if they can find a probate sale. That's generally not true. The Executor has a fiduciary duty to the beneficiaries to get the highest and best sale price. And, when the Court is involved, the Court won't approve a sale for less than 90% of a current appraised value.

cedures for sale of a decedent's real property in a Trust or Probate. It is critical that you work with an expert broker with long experience in this specialized area. An important difference in a sale from a decedent's estate includes a lower commission. In a Probate sale, the broker's commission is capped at 5%. And, the sale of a deceased person's home is exempt from some of the mandatory disclosures that otherwise apply in residential sales. It is critical that a purchase offer be made using specialized probate forms. A knowledgeable broker will

make sure that all the paperwork is done correctly.

In certain cases, a sale must be approved by the Court at a hearing with required notice, which may include publication in a legal newspaper. Failure to comply with notice requirements will delay the sale. A broker who specializes in Probate sales will make sure this isn't overlooked.

In a Court-approved sale, other people can come to the hearing and bid up the price in a sort of auction conducted by the judge. The over-bidding process has its own procedures. You will want a broker with you at the hearing who has experience with over-bidding.

In cases where Court approval is not required, all beneficiaries must receive notice of the terms of the sale with opportunity to object. If a beneficiary objects to the sale, it will go to the Court or fall out of escrow.

Before retaining a broker, make sure he or she has the required expertise. An inexperienced broker will result in more legal fees, since the lawyer will have to become more involved. The lawyer handling the Probate or Trust will have recommendations for the best broker to ensure the sale goes smoothly.

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Think about choosing foods that have been raised humanely.

Set a Humane Table for the Holidays

The holidays are a time to celebrate traditions, family togetherness, and our gratitude for the bountiful food and love we enjoy. As families across the country begin to think about preparing their seasonal feasts, American Humane, the country's first national humane organization, is calling on the American public to set a humane table for the holidays and support humane farming practices year-round.

"More people are concerned about how their food is raised than ever before and want to make choices that are in line with their values," said Robin Ganzert, PhD, president and CEO of American Humane, which was founded in 1877 around the issue of farm animal welfare. It has since become the largest certifier of the humane treatment of animals in the world.

"During the holidays, and all year round, we urge all Americans to help make a better world by choosing foods that have been humanely raised under ethical, common sense, and scientifically demonstrated standards."

Research by American Humane shows more than nine in ten (94.9%) Americans are "very concerned" about farm animal welfare. More than three-quarters (75.7%) stated that they were very willing to pay more for humanely raised eggs, meat, and dairy products. The survey also found in a ranking of the

importance of food labels that "humanely raised" scored higher than "antibiotic-free," "organic," and "natural." In a July 2019 survey by American Humane, 77% of respondents said it is important to see a third-party certification label on the packages of chicken they purchase to help ensure it was humanely treated.

• **Look for trusted humane labels**

Enlightened consumers should seek out trusted humane labels. The American Humane Certified™ program, for instance, is based on nearly 200 science-based standards that cover everything from adequate space to air quality, heat and lighting, humane treatment, and the ability for animals to be animals and express the natural behaviors of their kind. The standards were developed by the world's leading animal scientists, animal behaviorists, veterinarians, and animal advocates, and are reviewed and updated regularly by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee.

Today, the American Humane Certified™ program is the nation's first, largest, and most trusted third-party farm animal welfare certification program, helping ensure the humane treatment of nearly one billion animals.

"Some nine billion animals are raised in U.S. agriculture each year, yet only around one billion

(Continued on Page 10)

Eddie Guerboian Giving Back to Santa Monica College Where He Began

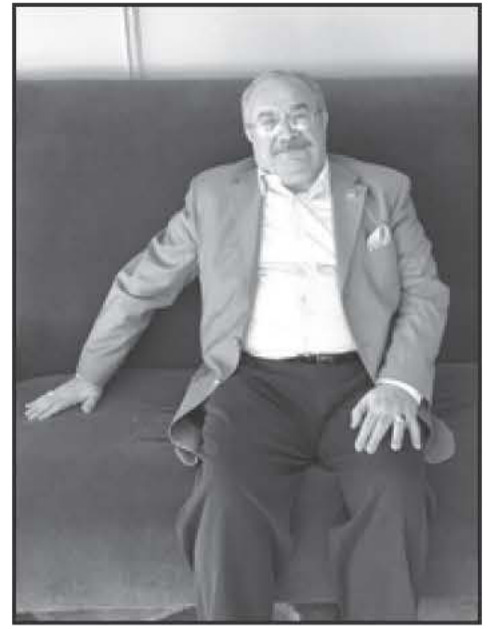
By Anne Wallentine

Well-known community member and jeweler Eddie Guerboian was recently named president of the board of directors of Santa Monica College Associates (SMCA), enabling him to give back to the college that kickstarted his life in America.

Born in Egypt to Armenian parents, Eddie came to the U.S. at age 16. He started taking classes at Santa Monica College (SMC) while working to support himself, his widowed mother, and three siblings. He then ran a successful family business, Readers Jewelers, for almost 45 years until 2016.

The SMCA aims to enhance students' educational experience and support their needs outside of the

(Continued on Page 8)



Eddie Guerboian
Photo by Anne Wallentine

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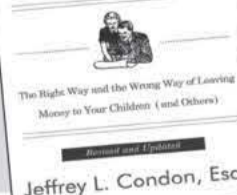
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Reflections From The East

An Unexpected Gift of Holiday Magic



By Qin Sun Stubis
Children are born pure and innocent. Their bedtime fairy tales kindle their imaginations, bringing magic to life.

It is no wonder that they believe in Santa Claus, his reindeer and elves. During these tender years, just the thought of Christmas or Kwanzaa approaching turns them into bundles of happiness, bursting with joy.

Kids make our holiday season extra special and magical. Whether making a gingerbread house, decorating a tree, or seeing a roast coming out of the oven, they charm us with their hopeful comments, silly giggles, and eager longings.

It makes us smile seeing them at the family table in their holiday pajamas, writing a letter to the North Pole, their little faces so serious because they believe full-heartedly in that burly man dressed in a red suit with a long white beard.

Growing up in China, I never experienced these kind of fantasies and celebrations. By the time I arrived in America, I was too old to

believe in fairy tales and fully enjoy that sense of playful, magical hope. Everything changed, however, when my kids were born. Through their young eyes and tender minds, the holidays finally came to life for me.

Every morning in December, we shared the excitement of religiously peeling open a panel on an Advent calendar, counting down the days before the arrival of Christmas. The kids challenged my imagination when they asked questions such as where Santa kept his reindeer or what Santa's most favorite cookies were.

I can still hear in my ears how they chattered in high-pitched little voices about what kind of surprise gifts they'd make for every family member. They had endless creative ideas, ranging from drawings and paper cutouts to math puzzles and Play-Doh figurines.

After our Christmas Eve dinner, I would accompany them to an upstairs bedroom. We gathered around a window, searching the night sky for a possible sighting of Santa and his sleigh. And yes, we always "heard" his sleigh bells ring

at some point and then dashed downstairs to the family room where a cozy fire was roaring and a dazzling tree was magically surrounded by a pile of presents. There were always gifts from Santa.

The children grew up all too quickly. When they did, I felt Christmas had lost its special shine. Then, unexpectedly, a holiday miracle occurred when we adopted a little dog named Banjo. He quickly came to understand that when we brought home a Christmas tree, something special was surely going to happen.

Now, each year, it's my kids' turn to take our furry little one upstairs after a special dinner so he can scout out signs of Santa outside the window. When the signal is given, he dashes down the stairs with his floppy ears airborne. His eyes shine and his tail wags when he sees the presents under the tree. We all laugh as he eagerly sniffs the presents and circles around the tree. Then he sits like a good boy, waiting anxiously for the holiday magic to continue. As Banjo enjoys his treats and toys,



Banjo is waiting to see Santa outside in the night sky.

we enjoy watching him, grateful that he has brought us all back that special Christmas magic.

You can always reach me at qstubis@gmail.com.

Qin Stubis has been a regular contributor for several years. She lives near our nation's capital city.

JoyCatchers Tradition of Giving Decorated Holiday Trees Continues

Fourteen years ago, a group of friends got together in Mar Vista to decorate mini trees to give to a convalescent hospital in Santa Monica.

They had fun and were so happy to find a way to give a bit of holiday joy to bedridden seniors that when

they left, they said "Let's do this again." And so it was that the annual tradition of decorating mini trees for seniors and veterans began. Needing a proper name, their founder Charla King came up with the name JoyCatchers to re-

flect the purpose of the group - to catch joy and to give trees to help others catch joy for themselves.

The holiday season is for many a very lonely, sad time. Their living space may have been reduced to a small apartment, or a hospital bed.

Their family and friends may no longer be around or seldom visit. So, the arrival of a brightly decorated tree they can have at the bedside or in their living space helps to uplift their spirits. Many trees are

(Continued on Page 7)

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From the Santa Monica History Museum



Red Cross Volunteers, December 1948—
Santa Monica High School Junior Red Cross volunteers pose with a Christmas tree and gift boxes they've packed to ship overseas.
Courtesy: Santa Monica History Museum, Bill Beebe Collection
[For historical reprints, please contact SMHM and specify image #3.2.8066.]

Holiday Gift Guide: Financial Gifts With a Lasting Impact



By Carolyn Hemann, CFP

The gift-giving season is fast approaching. So, if you are like a lot of people,

this means you are spending time trying to brainstorm gifts to give your loved ones – something that they will use and appreciate. For those disillusioned with giving gifts that are quickly used up or forgotten the moment the wrapping paper comes off, consider a financial gift designed to make an impact. Here are a few financial gift ideas you can feel good about giving:

- **Start a savings account.** Help instill the importance of saving with the gift of a partially funded savings account. A variation on this gift idea would be to open a Roth IRA if your loved one is working full time but hasn't yet established a retirement account. Roth IRA investment earnings grow tax-free, which make them a good option.
- **Purchase a savings bond.** Give someone you care about a secure way to save. Savings bonds are low-risk investments backed by the U.S. government. There are no fees or expenses, and bonds do not trigger state or local taxes.
- **Donate to charity in the recipient's honor.** A charitable donation is a thoughtful way to acknowledge a cause your loved one cares about. As you research charities to support, look for ratings that indicate how efficiently these organizations use donations.
- **Buy socially responsible stocks.** This is another way to support something that is bigger than both of you. Choose your criteria and look for companies that exemplify the values that matter most to you and your loved ones. Stock has the potential to increase in value over time, so your gift also represents savings that double as financial security.
- **Fund an education savings plan.** Your generous gift can help a grandchild start saving for future college costs. There are several types of savings accounts designed to help parents and students save

for future education expenses. Every little bit helps.

- **Help chip away at a debt.** Many young adults are burdened by student loan debt. Juggling work and loan repayments can be challenging. Your loved one will be pleasantly surprised when you relieve them of loan payments.
- **Help with a down payment.** Purchasing a car or a first home may be out of reach for many young adults. If you have loved ones who could use a little help, your financial gift can assist them as they get settled and on their way to greater financial stability.
- **Give the gift of cash.** Everyone appreciates a cash infusion. If you're so inclined, you can suggest how the money is spent, especially when recipients are not inclined to treat themselves.
- **Gift an appointment with a financial advisor.** Help your loved ones establish a financial plan with the assistance of an advisor you know and trust. This thoughtful gesture has lasting value by helping lay the foundation for future financial security.

Carolyn Hemann is a Private Wealth Advisor with Hemann, Preator & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. in West Los Angeles. She specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for over 30 years. She can be reached at 310-477-2500 or online at carolynhemann.com, 11835 W. Olympic Blvd. Suite 735 E, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

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From Me to You...



By Diane Margolin

While the Hallmark Channel offers Christmas stories non-stop with its stable of actors playing various roles, the Lifetime Channel has also produced holiday stories for our viewing pleasure. Their stories feature a variety of new actors, of all ages and ethnic groups, reflecting the community of people who may be watching.

One story I saw was about keeping a traditional department store open in spite of its falling revenues. There had been a popular tearoom that was closed for some time. When a few employees brought out the old decorations that had been stored away, fond memories were rekindled for the customers. The tearoom once again opened to very appreciative customers. The setting reminded me of Lord & Taylor, one of my favorite department stores in New York, which closed recently. It also made me remember tearooms in department stores here, which were special places for us to visit.

The beautiful and stately Bullocks Wilshire department store had a wonderful restaurant where models walked around wearing clothes that could be purchased in the store. The building is now a law school campus.

Bullocks in Westwood also had a wonderful restaurant, spacious and

welcoming, that we would go to after our classes at UCLA.

On the northeast corner of Fairfax and Wilshire was the May Co. Wilshire. They decorated windows during holiday time. I remember my grandmother taking me to their tearoom and telling me family secrets. The food was always good at these restaurants and priced so that we could afford to visit often.

Do you remember the restaurant on the third floor of the Broadway department store (now Bloomingdale's) in Santa Monica Place? It was kind of hidden, but I recall it was a good place to meet a friend for lunch.

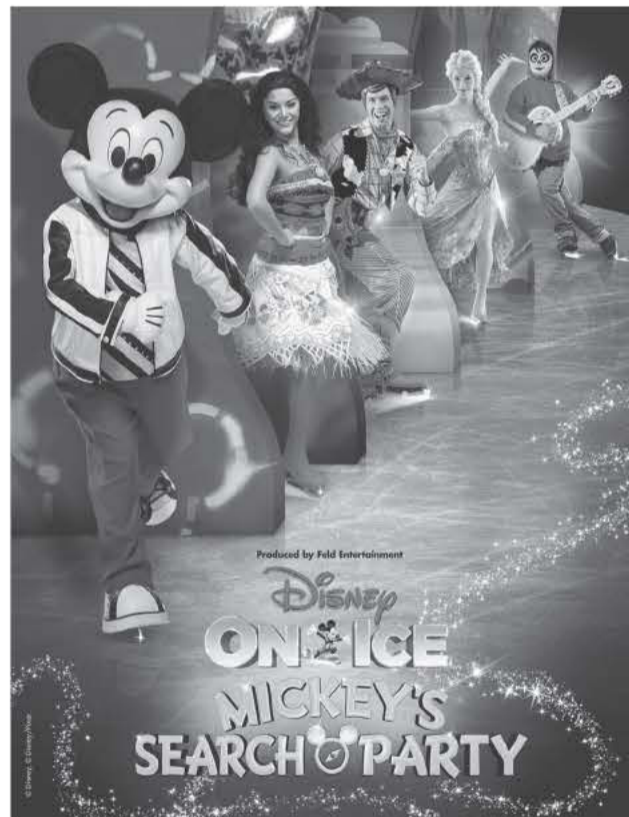
Nordstrom's still has restaurants in most of their stores. The one in Santa Monica Place used to have the Blue Stove on the third floor. It's another hidden spot. The food was wonderful. We loved going there in the summer, as it was air-conditioned. It is now called Bazille, and is still a very good place to eat. You can watch the cooks prepare the food, or sit in a booth. The staff is very helpful and friendly.

My friend Judy Scholer reminded me about Blum's in I Magnin on Wilshire Bl. in Beverly Hills.

May Co., which became Robinsons on Pico and Overland, also had a restaurant we liked to visit.

I wonder about the appeal of those restaurants. Was it a slower-paced time in our lives?

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and happy new year.



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Remembering Santa Monica History Group Goes Behind the Scenes at Fisher Hardware and Lumber

By Anne Wallentine

On November 12, Erik Jorgensborg, president of Fisher Hardware and Lumber on Lincoln Boulevard, shared the history of his family business with the Remembering Santa Monica group. The group meets monthly at the Santa Monica History Museum to share and preserve their reminiscences of local history.

Founded in 1923, Fisher Hardware and Lumber is the second-oldest business in Santa Monica. It has been a local mainstay for 96 years. Though the landscape has changed a lot in that time, the business has stayed “pretty much the same,” Erik described, though he noted that “there are many more engineered products available now.” Erik also shared photos from

the early decades of the business’ operation, when street names were painted on curbs and phone numbers were just five digits – an era many attendees remembered.

“We don’t have as many products [as the major hardware chains],” Erik said, “but we have what people need.” The local difference is also in the emphasis on personal service: Erik and his employees recognize

and build relationships with customers who have patronized the business for generations. However, Fisher Hardware will close for good in August 2020, as their lease-held property is being redeveloped by the City.

The gathering appreciated the opportunity to learn a little more about a longstanding family

(Continued on Page 8)

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Holiday Safety Tips

The National Crime Prevention Council, home of McGruff the Crime Dog®, sends tips to help you enjoy shopping safely.

- **Do not buy more than you can carry.** Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or asking a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
- **Save all receipts.** Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
- **Don't flash the cash.** Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as onetime or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders, including at online stores.
- **Wait until asked by a cashier before taking out your credit card or checkbook.** An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your information.
- **Packages should not be visible on your car seat.** Lock them in the trunk, or if possible, take them directly home.

Bring Peppermint Pie to Your Holiday Table

(Family Features) Whether you're huddled around the fireplace, gathered at the table or strolling through a winter wonderland, the holidays are all about enjoying pure and memorable moments with family and friends. With all of the seasonal gatherings, you can certainly expect that almost any host or guest will attempt to provide a classic holiday treat for everyone to enjoy.

This year, you can give your traditional holiday bake a refreshing twist sure to spread all kinds of holiday cheer with this Enjoymint Peppermint Pie topped with homemade whipped cream than can easily be whipped up with less than 10 ingredients total.

From pumpkin pies to gingerbread cookies and everything in-between, an option like DairyPure heavy whipping cream can be a must-have kitchen staple this season, one you can feel good about, knowing it's sourced from trusted dairies.

For more recipes for the holidays and every day, visit DairyPure.com, and find DairyPure on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest.

Enjoymint Peppermint Pie

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes



Enjoymint Peppermint Pie

- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 2-1/2 cups DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream, divided
- 8 ounces soft peppermint candy
- 1 crushed chocolate cookie crust
- Peppermint candies, for garnish

- Soften gelatin in water; set aside.
 - In small saucepan over low heat, cook 1/2 cup whipping cream with candy until candy melts.
 - Add gelatin; mix well.
 - Whip remaining whipping cream. Let gelatin mixture cool and fold in whipped cream, reserving 1/2 cup for garnish.
 - Pour into crust. Chill.
- Before serving, top with reserved whipped cream and crushed peppermint candies.

JoyCatchers Tradition of Giving Holiday Trees

(Continued from Page 4)

kept up long after the holidays are over. It is about far more than a tree. It reminds the recipients that someone cares and made something for them during a hectic time of year. "It's amazing that something so small can brighten someone's room and make them smile. It is a privilege to receive them. Joy Catchers they are indeed!" said Carrie, recreation specialist for the Department of Veterans Affairs in West L.A.

JoyCatchers, now in its 14th year, has requests this year for 1050 trees, up from 950 given away last year. Trees are individually decorated by JoyCatchers volunteers and given to organizations to hand deliver to the people they serve, including seniors in assisted living, adults in hospice, and veter-

ans on the WLA VA Campus. The JoyCatchers tree trim activity is also taken annually to veterans, seniors, people in cancer support programs, and to adults with dementia and Alzheimer's for them to create just the style of tree they would like. Other groups now also decorate trees to be given away, including Saatchi & Saatchi and a group of family and friends, who both make this their annual tradition of giving back. JoyCatchers is 100% volunteer-driven and funded by individual donations. To learn more about the organization, how to donate money and time, and how to become involved, check out the website www.JoyCatchers.org, or contact Charla King, founder, at info@joycatchers.org.

Marion Weihe Celebrates 100th Birthday

Marion Weihe, an active Santa Monica community member, celebrated her 100th birthday on November 30 with family and friends.

She was an active member of the Keys, an organization of the Assistance League that supported Santa Monica Hospital. She also worked with the Santa Monica Historical Museum for many years.

Marion moved to Venice, California from Appleton, Wisconsin in 1925. She graduated from Venice

(Continued on Page 10)



All the best to Marion Weihe.

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Passing Through the Pico Neighborhood



By Clara Wright
History is in the making as the First African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church by the Sea appoints its first female pastor in the 90-year history of the church.

Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell was introduced to the church by John Bowman, CEO of Fame Redevelopment, and welcomed by the congregation during the worship service when she began her leadership role as pastor last month. Congratulations, Pastor Carolyn Baskin-Bell.

On this past October 27, the Reverend Carolyn Baskin-Bell was appointed the first female pastor of the 93-year-old First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Santa Monica, by Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Presiding Prelate of Fifth Episcopal District.

Prior to her appointment to FAME Santa Monica, Reverend



Reverend Carolyn Baskin-Bell

Baskin-Bell's life revolved around service even before joining the ministry. For 30 years, Reverend Baskin-Bell worked as a mentor

and advocate for special needs students in the capacity of as-Speech/language pathologist for the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

However, in addition to her Masters degrees in school management and communication disorders, Reverend Baskin-Bell also holds a Masters of Divinity from Claremont School of Theology. In 2006, she helped plant the Rose of Sharon African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she served as founding pastor for nine years.

Prior to founding the Rose of Sharon AME Church, Reverend Baskin-Bell had served as an associate minister at Grant AME in Los Angeles for 23 years. At Grant, Reverend Baskin-Bell not only preached, but also drew on her background in education while running empowerment workshops and conferences.

In 2016, Reverend Baskin-Bell took her gifts in faith and teaching

to the Second AME Church, becoming Second's first appointed female pastor. At Second, Reverend Baskin-Bell expanded the church's education and outreach by starting church school classes, new members' training, bible study, leadership and stewardship training for the church's youth.

Reverend Baskin-Bell's efforts were recognized through a long history of awards, including the 2016 SCC Women in Ministry Jarena Lee Leadership Award and 2016 Windsor Hills Christian Center Women of Influence Award.

Reverend Baskin-Bell is excited to undertake her community-supporting work at her latest appointment at FAME Church in Santa Monica. She has a demonstrated a passion for people, and her service is driven by a desire to make a difference in the lives of those she encounters.

Eddie Guerboian Giving Back to Santa Monica College

(Continued from Page 3)

classroom. Inspired by his own student experience, Eddie especially wants "to support students with food [and economic] insecurities so they can stay at SMC and thrive."

For Eddie, "Children are priority one. They are our future - and I like to set them straight from the beginning in the right direction." He and his wife Evelyn applied this principle to their own family, first for their three children and now as proud new grandparents. Their son Avo has followed in his father's footsteps and will soon reopen his own jewelry boutique, Edward Avedis in the remodeled lobby of

the Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

"The jewelry business is the happiest business to be in," Eddie describes, "and I love to make people happy." He continues to make pieces for private clients as well as support his son's growing business. Eddie also aims to make many others in the community happy through fundraising.

Eddie has always been active in this goal, first by coaching basketball for the Boys & Girls Club and then by being on their board for 40 years. He has also been involved in the Santa Monica Chamber, Kiwanis, and now, the SMCA.

His iconic moustache, source of his nickname "The Stache," has even served a role in his community efforts by inspiring Stache Night, an event that involves Scotch, cigars, and fundraising for the John Wayne Cancer Institute.

While his energy and generosity have been dedicated to the broader Santa Monica community, SMC has always remained integral to Eddie's efforts because it empowered his life, business, and community from the start.

Remembering Santa Monica History Group

(Continued from Page 6)

business, comparing the vast differences between its founding era, the 1920s, to its ending one in 2020.

The group also welcomed several first-time attendees at the meeting and is always open to new guests.

The next meeting is on December 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Santa Monica History Museum. The group will be discussing holiday traditions.

To reserve your spot, please call John Klopping at 310-395-2290.



Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

What to Expect As the Kids Mature



By Michael Margolin

I had been told by people that once your children get into school, time begins to go by even faster than it already does.

More people will tell you that the older you get, the faster time goes. Truer words have never been spoken. Now, Enjoli and I have the combination of seeing both kids in school and getting older. Time can have the feeling of going so fast without any brakes. Jake is in preschool three days a week, and Alexa is in first grade. We have an idea of what to expect for Jake in preschool, but every day that Alexa moves forward is uncharted waters for all of us.

We watch her growing before our very eyes. And, sometimes she just seems older. Older in a way that I cannot really define. It is as if we catch glimpses of maturation. Sometimes she acts as a young lady, and at others, she's almost a teenager. That can cause fright or excitement in me. I have complete confidence Alexa will be a wonderful teenager. However, I am also completely aware that we all have our moments.

Sports is a pretty big deal in our house. A big deal to me, anyway, and Alexa appears to not be far behind. And again, I am frightened and excited. Excited because I have enjoyed countless hours of rooting

for my favorite teams. And, I am frightened for pretty much the same reason. Alexa has been eager to know the scores of Lakers games that have ended after she has had to go to bed. She cried when she knew players of our household's favorite football team, the Kansas City Chiefs, were injured. She has found and watched weeks-old Chiefs' games on the internet and complained about referees not calling pass interference. All of this is strong evidence that this apple does not fall far from the tree.

Alexa has done other things that remind me of what I did at her age. The first Super Bowl I watched was when I was six. So, maybe Alexa turns into a fanatic, and maybe she does not. But, I am going to enjoy every second of this phase. Alexa's soccer season finished up, and it was a good one. She is six, so we do not keep actual records, but we do remember their team scores.

Alexa and the Pink Unicorns were very successful. Some of my proudest moments were seeing how quickly Alexa got up after taking a bump or a tumble. She always popped right back up and looked for the ball. No complaining. No standing around or pouting. To me, these are glimpses of a strong young woman. And of that, I could not be more proud.

Mike Margolin is an avid sports fan and a soccer coach.

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Community Service in Santa Monica

Getting Ready for the Holidays



By Marilyn Schalit
Hark! Do you hear what I hear? Santa Monica Lions Club volunteers are ringing bells next to Salvation Army

kettles in the rear parking entrance of Bristol Farms Market on the corner of Wilshire Blvd. and Berkeley on Friday, December 13, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Please stop by and donate generously.

The Salvation Army provides housing, food, and services to homeless and low-income people. At our first December luncheon meeting on Thursday, December 5, we met at Salvation Army headquarters on Fourth St., north of Colorado, in Santa Monica to provide personal donations. Their musicians played holiday tunes to which we sang along.

In November, Lions club members provided homemade baked goods to Fisher House on the Veterans Administration grounds in West Los Angeles. Military personnel and families stay there while they or family members receive treatment at the Veterans Hospital.

We will gather in fellowship and frivolity for our annual holiday party on Sunday, December 8, at Daily Grill. There's a delicious meal, gift exchange, and games and activities as we celebrate a year of community service activities.

On December 20, Lions Club volunteers will meet at Barker Hangar at Santa Monica Airport for the One Voice event to fill food baskets for low-income families. Please be our guest at our lunch meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month to meet members and learn more about our club. We meet at the Elks Lodge at 1040 Pico Blvd. from 12:15-1:30 p.m. Please RSVP to me at marilynnschalit@yahoo.com, or to Membership Co-chair Yoriko Fisher at yorikofisher@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you.

Rotary Club Supports Community Groups

By Sharon Gavin
President, Rotary Club of Santa Monica

This Fall, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica continued its tradition of supporting our community by awarding over \$22,000 to ten local non-profit organizations. These donations were made via our Community & Youth Grants program, which awards grants up to \$3500 each. The recipients included the Boys & Girls Club of Santa Monica, who will use their award to support a new technology room. The Clare Matrix Foundation was granted money to furnish a medical service room at their facility, and theighthouse Christian Academy received support to purchase an automated external defibrillator.

Our club also funded new patio equipment for Wise & Healthy Aging, iPads and letterboards for the Aurelia Foundation, and sensory friendly library material for the Santa Monica Public Library. The Pico Youth & Family Center will use their grant money to purchase film

equipment to expand their documentary film program.

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica is also proud to continue its support of our local educational institutions. We provided funds to enable SMMUSD to replace books at the John Muir/SMASH library that had been destroyed by vandalism last spring. The Santa Monica Education Foundation was a grant recipient as well.

Yet another grant recipient was the Santa Monica Chamber Foundation. The funds from their award will be used to purchase new office furniture and equipment.

For more information on how non-profits can apply for Community & Youth Grants, check out the Rotary Club's website at www.rotaryclubofsantamonica.org. We will be accepting the next round of applications in spring.

Our Rotary club meets on Fridays at noon at the DoubleTree Hotel on 4th Street in Santa Monica. Call 310-917-3313 for more details, and come join us.



The Santa Monica Elks recently hosted a dinner for 140 local and homeless veterans. The vets were each treated to a chicken dinner, toiletry kits, and a new jacket. The Elks had musical entertainment and a special guest speaker from the University of Southern California. He was a Mr. Lightfoot, who spoke about job opportunities for veterans. The lodge members were assisted in serving dinner by 17 Girl Scouts from four local troops.

Photo by R.A. Pickett, PAVP

Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club a Home Away From Home



By Tesi Treuenfels
Friendships carry us through this life. We set sail with another kindred spirit, and our journey on this planet feels more meaningful. With

a friend, we are secure, complete, joyful, and pained when that friend is lost.

This past month, we lost a brilliant star, our much-beloved member Clerry Westerling, who died. Clerry was huge in spirit, a fighter to the end, and lovingly generous of character. It was a gift to have known her even for the short time I did. She played bridge at the club every Monday afternoon. In honor of a life well-lived, I offer you Kabalevsky's *Overture to 'Colas Breugnon' Op.24 Allegro-Presto* (available on YouTube). It's so Clerry.

We share the joy of our President Becky Church who now has a beautiful new grandson. Funny and wonderful how life works the way it does.

Our country is coming up to the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. There is much talk from the newly elected representatives of Virginia about the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) finally passing. It's only been 96 years since it was first proposed by Alice Paul, suffragette, in 1923! The amendment in part reads "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Pretty basic, making one wonder what the holdup was?

On December 9, we will be having a luncheon. The proceeds from this

lunch will go once again to fund a cabin for seven-and eight-year-old girls at Happy Trails winter camp.

Everyone is welcome to participate in our ongoing weekly and monthly activities. We play bridge and canasta on Mondays from noon to 4 p.m. New this fall, we are beginning duplicate bridge on Thursdays. For information, call Darlene at 310-403-6999. Both bridge games are five dollars to the general public, and three dollars for club members. Best deal in town.

Also, members, bring in your arts and crafts projects to work on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) book group will meet on December 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the club. This month's selection will be *House on Fire* by Bonnie Kistler. If you would like to be placed on the email list, please contact Susan Barry at sbarry1015@sbcglobal.net.

Our historic landmark building is located at 1210 Fourth Street, Santa Monica. To learn more about us, see our new website at www.SMBWC.com, or call 310-395-1308. Our facility is available to rent for private events, and we welcome new members throughout the year.



Holiday greetings to our readers.

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Paws and Claws

Is Owning a Dog Good for Your Health?



By Dr. Frank Lavac MS, DVM, VCA
Q: One of my co-workers told me that owning a dog is good for your health. Is that really true?

A: Yes, multiple studies have shown that pet ownership is beneficial to your health. But, don't adopt a pet without looking at

the responsibilities that it entails. The Center for Disease Control's (CDC) website shows many benefits to pet ownership. They include decreased blood pressure, decreased cholesterol levels, decreased triglyceride levels, decreased feelings of loneliness, increased opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities, and increased opportunities for socialization.

Harvard Medical School's website lists benefits as well. Their list of benefits includes love and companionship as pets typically provide unconditional love. Taking care of a pet can provide a sense of purpose and feelings of validation. One study in the Journal of Science showed increased oxytocin (the "feel good" hormone) levels in dogs and their owners.

Pets can serve as a source of comfort and support. This is particularly apparent when pets are brought into hospitals or nursing homes to reduce patients' stress and just make patients smile!

Happy Holidays, and give your pet a hug!

Dr. Frank Lavac can be reached by calling the VCA Animal Hospital at 310-828-4587.

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Teen Scene

Coping With School Finals

By Julia Abbott

As final exams begin to approach, many students are in the beginning stages of grief, procrastination, and sadness. All of the hard work of the semester can hinge on one high-stress, high-stakes test.

Known as "finals," in one of its more appropriate names, they are the highest source of stress for 31% of students according to an article by the American College Health Association. However, although American students may be dreading the next couple of weeks, students in other countries have it much worse.

The infamous Suneung in South Korea is an eight-hour marathon of back-to-back tests that is one of the biggest determining factors in a student's life. More similar to an American SAT than finals, the precedent still stands. In fact, shops are shut, banks close, and the stock market opens late. Construction work halts, planes are not allowed to depart, and military training ceases. Students late to

exams will receive a police escort. Test proctors are told to not wear squeaky shoes. The test writers are taken to isolated complexes and banned from any contact with the outside world for a month.

In England, at Oxford, final examinations are among the toughest in the country. Students report feeling shamed for taking too long of a lunch break preparing for these finals that can decide whether or not one graduates.

In the Russian Federation, students spend an average of ten hours solely on homework a week. During finals, students take their finals in separate high school locations and are checked with metal detectors before entering the room.

So, to all my fellow American students, just remember: even though finals may have us pretty stressed, at least we don't have as much stress on our finals or SAT as in some other countries!

Julia Abbott is a student in the tenth grade.

Disney on Ice Presents Mickey's Search Party at the Staples Center on December 12

Create unforgettable memories and become part of the story when Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party comes to Southern California this holiday season. This brand new immersive ice skating experience brings the magic closer to fans than ever before through engaging elements that take place on the ice, in the air and in the seats, as performer athleticism mixes with acrobatic and aerial stunts to bring skating skills to new heights.

An exciting participatory adventure told through multi-leveled performances that immerse fans into the fantastic worlds of Disney-Pixar's Coco, Frozen, Moana, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, Toy Story and The Little Mermaid, this all-new show will be skating into the Southland, playing in L.A., Anaheim, Long Beach and Ontario from December 12 - January 5.

At the Staples Center from Thursday, December 12 through Sunday, December 15, showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on December 12 and 13; and on December 14 and 15, shows will be at 11 a.m., 3 p.m.

and 7 p.m. The Staples Center is at 1111 South Figueroa Street in Los Angeles. Ticket prices start at \$25.

Discount opening night tickets are available for as low as \$16 each on select seating (not valid for premium VIP/Front Row seating.)

Tickets are available for purchase online at AXS.com, charge by phone at 888-9AXS-TIX, or in-person at the venue box office. Prices are subject to change; additional venue/ticketing fees may apply.

Set a Humane Table (Continued from Page 3)

are living under scientific and verifiably humane welfare standards set by an independent humane organization," said Dr. Ganzert. "By looking for trusted humane labels such as American Humane Certified™, you can set a humane table for the holidays and all year round, giving thanks to and helping ensure a better life for the nation's farm animals."

Marion Weihe (Continued from Page 7)

High School in 1937. She began her career with Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica. She then worked for Rand Corporation in Santa Monica and Washington, D.C., an engineering group in Spain, and back to Rand where she retired. In 1943, Marion married Albert Sidney "Tommy" O'Neil, who died in the battle at Iwo Jima in WWII. In 1963, she married Cecil A. Weihe, who died in 1977.

Marion has been an active member of St. Monica Catholic Community.



Charging Up (Continued from Page 2)

radios (eg. GPS, NFC, and Bluetooth) are left on.

Decide whether push vs. fetch on email notifications works better for your phone.

To delve into the details of what these other tech authors have to say on how to get the most life out of your lithium, check out Bedingfield's full article at https://www.wired.co.uk/article/improve-battery-life-phone and Stephen's full write-up at https://tinyurl.com/stephenbattery.

Miceala Shocklee, a Caltech graduate, is our editorial assistant and a monthly columnist.

Merry Christmas is spoken in many languages around the world. Below is a list of countries and their special holiday greetings. Circle each country in the word search below.

- Mexico - Feliz Navidad
Netherlands - Hartelijke Kerstroeten
Norway - Gledelig Jul
Poland - Boze Narodzenie
Portugal - Boas Festas
Romania - Sarbatori Vesele
Spain - Felices Pascuas
Sweden - God Jul
U.S.S.R. - Hristos Razdajetsja
Wales - Nadolig Liawen
Belgium - Zalig Kerstfeest
China - Sheng Tan Kuai Loh
Denmark - Glaedelig Jul
England - Happy Christmas
Finland - Hauskaa Joulua
France - Joyeux Noel
Germany - Froehliche Weihnachten
Greece - Eftihismena Christougenna
Ireland - Nodlaig Mhaith Chugnat
Italy - Buon Natale

Word search grid containing letters for finding countries and greetings.

Advertisement for Evelyn Lauchenauer, a real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services. Includes contact information and a photo of Evelyn.

Community Calendar

By Miceala Shocklee

• Ongoing through December - Photos with Santa - Reserve your family's spot to take photos with Santa at his oceanside workshop through Santa MonicaPlace.com. Professional photo packages also available for purchase. Santa will be present from 12 p.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Sundays. On Sunday, December 8, enjoy photos with a special Surfing Santa at Central Plaza next to Pier Burger from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. For information on this one-of-a-kind event, call 310-437-0303.

• Ongoing through December - The SantaLand Diaries - Adults and older teens are sure to enjoy Joe Montello's adaptation of David Sedaris's classic story of working as a Yuletide elf at Macy's, *The SantaLand Diaries*. Performance running throughout December at the Santa Monica Playhouse. For times and tickets, visit <https://www.santamonica.com/santaland-diaries.html> or call 310-394-9779, ext. 1.

• Ongoing, Fridays and Saturdays in December - Winterlit Holiday Market - Support local artists and artisans while doing your holiday shopping this year through the Winterlit Holiday Market at the Third Street Promenade on Fridays from 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

• Ongoing, December 9 to 13 - Holiday Book Fair - Franklin Elementary School students can enjoy perusing their holiday book fair in the cafeteria all week! Parents can call 310-828-2814 for details.

• Ongoing, December 16 to 19 - Finals Study Hall - High school students are welcome to a quiet space with free coffee and snacks as they study for finals. Study hall to run in the activity room at the SMPL Main Branch Library from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. from December 16 through December 19. Call 310-458-8621 for more information.

• Thursday, December 5 - Christmas Jazz - Enjoy the sounds of Sean Stackpoole's Christmas jazz at the Main Branch of the Santa Monica Public Library (SMPL), 601 Santa Monica Blvd. Performance to begin at 7 p.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium. For more information, call 310-458-2608.

• Saturday, December 7 to Sunday, December 8 - Chili Bowl Fest and Arts & Crafts Faire - Buy a handmade ceramic bowl for your homemade chili. Artisan vendors, live music featuring Franny McCartney on Sunday, baked goods, cookie painting, and more. McGroarty Arts Center, Tujunga. 818-352-5285.

• Saturday, December 7 - Music Mends Minds 5th Dementia Free Holiday Concert - Flagship band. 2 p.m. Brentwood Presbyterian Church. San Vicente Blvd. and Bundy Drive. Refreshments will be served. Details: www.musicmendsminds.org.

• Saturday, December 7 - Have Yourself a Movie Little Christmas with Alonso Durande - Enjoy a discussion of the quirky roots of holiday movies with thewrap.com author and film critic Alonso Durande. Afterwards, Durande will screen his favorite holiday film, a 1949 romantic comedy featuring Janet Leigh and Robert Mitchum. Event to start at 2 p.m. at the Fairview Branch Library. Call 310-458-8681 for more information.

• Sunday, December 8 - Meet Me Under The Fig Tree - Enjoy refreshments, entertainment, a visiting Santa, snow-themed crafts for the kids, and more from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel, 101 Wilshire Blvd. Call 310-576-7777 for more details.

• Tuesday, December 10 - Gingerbread House Engineering - Kids ages three to 10 are challenged to put their engineering skills to the test to see how



It seems that many adults remember the traditions they did with their families during the holiday season so fondly that they want to recreate them with their own families. Our favorite Santa, John Lehne, is shown above at the Riviera Country Club many years ago with his trusty elves who are now in high school and college.

tall of a gingerbread house they can build at this Montana Avenue Branch Library! Supplies are provided, but space is limited. Free tickets will be handed out 15 minutes before the event begins at 6 p.m. Call 310-458-8682 with questions.

• Wednesday, December 11 - Roosevelt in Motion - Students and parents at Roosevelt Elementary are welcome to get moving together with morning aerobic exercises from 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the basketball court. Call 310-395-0941 for details.

• Thursday, December 12 - Impeached in the USA: A Brief History of Presidential Impeachment - UCLA Professor of Law Jon Michaels will explain the facts and history behind America's past of presidential impeachment. Question and answer session to follow. Event to begin at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the SMPL Main

Answer to Neighborhood Celebrity

(Continued from Page 1)



Glenn Sorgenstein is the longtime owner of Wilshire Coin on Lincoln Blvd. just below Arizona. They buy and sell gold, silver, coins, and jewelry. Open 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. during the week.

Branch Library. Call 310-458-2608 with questions.

• Thursday, December 12 - Lincoln Middle School Band Concert - Enjoy a holiday performance by the Lincoln Middle School band in the auditorium, beginning at 7 p.m. Call 310-393-4297 for more information.

• Friday, December 13 - Santa Monica High School Winter Concerts - The Samohi Winter Choral Concert will begin at 7 p.m. in Barnum Hall. For details on this year's concert, "Motus Perpetuus," and to purchase tickets, call 310-395-3204. The University High School Fall Music Concert will also be held on the high school campus during periods 3 and 4.

• Saturday, December 14 - Bolton Hall Museum Annual Holiday Party - The Randy Van Horne Singers along with mistress of ceremonies Franny McCartney will be featured. Free event beginning at 1 p.m. Will also include prize drawings, refreshments, and a Christmas sing-along. Call 818-352-3420 for more details.

• Saturday, December 14 - Holiday Pop Up Market - Featuring local vendors with handmade gifts, free snacks, a craft corner for the kids, and more. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. California Rediscovered, 2116 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica.

• Sunday, December 15 - Snowy Plover Beach Walk - The L.A. Audubon Society will lead a free guided walk along the beach looking for and discussing the snowy plover, which makes Santa Monica its winter home. Advance reservation required. Meet at the Annenberg Community Beach House before 8:30 a.m. on the day of the event. Details: 310-458-4904.

• Thursday, December 19 - John Adams Middle School Choir Concert -

The JAMS Choir will perform at Barnum Hall, 600 Olympic Blvd. from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. For tickets and details, call 310-452-5352.

• Saturday, December 21 - Matzo ball making workshop - Celebrate Hanukkah with a matzo ball-making workshop at the West Los Angeles Library, 11360 Santa Monica Blvd. Event to start at 2 p.m. For ADA accommodation, call 213-228-7430 at least three days prior to the event.

• Sunday, December 22 through Sunday, December 29 - Third Street Promenade Menorah Lightings - Come together with the Jewish community and local synagogues to celebrate the winter Festival of Lights. Ceremonial menorah lightings will occur each evening at the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade just after sunset. Call 310-393-8355 with questions.

• Monday, December 23 - SMMUSD Winter Break Begins

• Saturday, December 28 - Polar Bear Plunge - Participate in Santa Monica's 3rd annual Polar Bear Plunge by jumping into the Pacific and then warming up in a heated pool afterwards! Plunge is free, but admission to the heated pool and deck at the Annenberg Community Beach House requires paid tickets - \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors aged 60+, and \$4 for youth ages 17 years and below. Plunge to occur at 9 a.m. For details and registration, call 310-458-4904 or email beach.permits@smgov.net.

Happy December Birthday to Mike Cveyich, Dee Menzies, Aaron Leland, Bill Bubar, RoseMary Regalbuto, JR Dzubak, Bob Sullivan, Judi Barker, Herb Roney, Gita Runkle, Julie Thomas, Nat Trives, Monika White, Gretchen Lightfoot, Frank Lavac, Joyce Margolin, Glenn Ricard, Scott Ferguson, Tammy Andrews, Monty McCormick, Carl McKinzie, Susan Annett, and Mike Gitchell.

Deadline for the Community Calendar is the 10th of the month before the event.

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Email: SMStarNewspaper@gmail.com
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Editorial Assistant: Miceala Shocklee
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Graphics: Nancy Slanchik
Contributing Writers:
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