



Getting ready to make Thanksgiving dinner? Go to Page 7 to read *Entertaining With Ease* by Maureen Molé for some holiday hints.

Attend the First Ever Healthy Aging Fair at the Santa Monica Family YMCA

The Santa Monica Family YMCA will be hosting a Healthy Aging Fair which will take place on Monday, November 17, from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. This fair is free and open to the public.

This event is a great opportunity to connect with the community, share valuable resources, and engage with local organizations that are dedicated to supporting

healthy, active aging. There will be over 30 booths for you to visit. You can also play ping pong or pickle ball, have refreshments, learn about Music Mends Minds, Meals on Wheels West, and so much more.

If you are interested in attending or have questions, contact Matthew at matthew@ymcasm.org, or call 310-393-2721, ext. 116.

Flapjax to Serve Happy Hour Dinner Menu Thursday Through Saturday

Studies have shown that it's very beneficial for families when parents have dinner with their children (sans phones). It's a chance for them all to talk about what they did during the day, and what concerns they have in their lives when everyone is listening.

A good place to go to talk with your family is the somewhat private patio at Flapjax restaurant at 2315 Wilshire, between 22nd and 23rd Streets. It is beautifully designed, relaxing, and pleasant.

Bring your family to Flapjax between 4 p.m.- 8 p.m. from Thursdays to Saturdays to enjoy the new Happy Hour Dinner Menu owner Bru created. The select menu includes Smash Burgers, Pastas, Crispy Chicken, Salads, an assortment of drinks, desserts, and a Kids Menu. A new specialty includes Chicken Rice & Noodle Bowls for \$10.95 each.

Flapjax is closed on Mondays. Hours to select from their daily menu with amazing choices of tempting dishes are from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more details, call 424-330-0340.



A yummy Smash Burger to savor.

Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?

(Answer on Page 11)



Preservation Awards to be Presented by the Santa Monica Conservancy

Join members of the Santa Monica Conservancy when they present their 2025 Preservation Awards on Thursday, November 13 from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Miles Playhouse. You will gather with community members, public officials, engineers, historians, architects, students, researchers, construction workers, and everyone who does the tangible work of architectural and cultural heritage conservation.

Every year, the Santa Monica Conservancy releases a survey to local community members requesting nominations for people and projects that steward history, champion sustainability, and celebrate craftsmanship. They then research these nominations through a process that culminates in the annual Preservation Awards. At this event, they recognize the role of historic places and local cultural narratives in shaping Santa Monica's future.

Admission is \$25. Purchase includes access to the awards and a reception where you will enjoy a "Taste of Santa Monica," sampling food from local restaurants, and docent-led tours of the historic Miles Playhouse.

The reception begins at 4:30 p.m. at the Miles Playhouse in Reed Park on Lincoln Boulevard. The awards begin with greetings at 5:30 p.m.

Awardees include **Jim Harris, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation**, President's Award; **Susan Healy**

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Diner Antonette was honored for commercial rehabilitation. Paige works in the shop that adjoins the restaurant. It used to be a bakery.



Jim Harris received the President's Award for his years of work at the Santa Monica Pier.

Calling All Elton John Fans!

Readers may remember the dynamic performance *Rocket Man: A Live Orchestral Experience* that was performed in Santa Monica last year at St. Monica Catholic Church. (The full concert can still be viewed at michaelsobie.com/rocketman). Michael Sobie was accompanied by an incredible orchestra and enthusiastic singers for over two memorable hours.

This month, the show's creator and lead performer Michael has launched a fundraising campaign to take this exciting concert beyond Los Angeles, starting in his hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Celebrating legendary icon and personal hero Elton John, Michael's show features his own orchestrations of these beloved hits, performed by a full symphony orchestra. For lovers of the performing arts, please consider supporting this exciting endeavor.

Visit michaelsobie.com for more information.



Michael Sobie performed Elton John songs at St. Monica Church last year in a concert where it was impossible to sit still.

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What's Happening on the Westside

• **Friday, November 1 - Sunday, December 21 - Huge Book Sale.** Over 1,000 high-quality gently-used books donated to help raise funds for the California Heritage Museum's exhibitions and community programming. 2612 Main St. at Ocean Park Blvd. 310-392-8537.

• **Ongoing through December 21 - The Macro World of Stamps.** Arcane Space, 324 Sunset Ave., Unit G. Venice. Drawn from a 20th-century collection from around the world, *POSTAGE – The Macro World of Stamps* examines the cultural and artistic significance of postage stamps. Each stamp tells a story – of its country in a particular time. From commemorations to portraits of notable figures, stamps are most often symbols of national pride re-

flecting the achievements, aspirations, and aesthetics of entire eras. They are small yet powerful emblems of history, design, and communication. Curated by Morleigh Steinberg and Keiden Oguri. Hours: Thursday - Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., or by appt. Visit www.arcanespacela.com.

• **Tuesday, November 11 - Happy Veterans Day.**

• **Saturday, November 15 - Open House at HVS Conservatory, West L.A.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The full-day experience will feature songwriting, performance, and vocal technique workshops, led by industry professionals Stephan Wunderlich, Ron Harris, and master vocal coach Jeffrey Skouson. "This open house is designed to give singers a real taste of what it's like to study at HVS Conserva-

tory," said Adreana Gonzalez, Executive Director. The Village Studios, 1616 Butler Ave. West L.A. Register at info@hvsconservatory.com.

• **Saturday-Sunday, November 15-16 - Verdi Chorus Fall 2025 Concert.** The Verdi Chorus prepares for concerts with rehearsals every Monday night. There, an amazing thing happens as over 50 singers gather from every walk of life to become the Verdi Chorus. This includes singers from 20 to 87 who come from a variety of professions, and yet have one thing in common – the desire to sing side by side each week and delve into the rich, dramatic world of opera. They in turn are joined by up-and-coming opera singers at the beginning of their careers, and college students

who have just begun to realize their operatic gifts, as all of them become one under the direction of Founding Artistic Director Anne Marie Ketchum. First Presbyterian Church, 1220 2nd St., Santa Monica. Time: 7:30 p.m. Saturday night, 4 p.m. Sunday.

• **Monday, November 17 - Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion: Make A Circle.** S.M.Main Library, MLK Jr. Auditorium, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Join in for a screening of the documentary *Make A Circle* sharing real stories from teachers who care for young children. *Make A Circle* is a love letter to early educators and a rallying cry for a childcare system in crisis. Panel discussion follows with local early childhood educators, providers, and City and

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Caring for Your Indoor Plants

Family Features - Transforming your indoor space into a lush, green sanctuary starts with bringing in a bit of the outdoors by introducing houseplants to your living area. Once inside, though, it's important to properly care for them to keep your indoor garden thriving.

• **Understand Light Requirements** - Light is a crucial element for indoor plant health. Different plants have varying light needs, and understanding these requirements is key to their survival. Low-light plants, such as snake



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

plants and cast-iron plants, can thrive in areas with minimal natural light. Medium-light plants, like spider plants and ferns, prefer indirect sunlight and can be placed near windows with sheer curtains.

High-light plants, including succulents and cacti, need direct sunlight for optimal growth.

• **Water Indoor Plants Correctly** It's important to understand the specific watering needs of each plant. Typically, it's best to let the top inch of soil dry out between waterings. Remember, it's better to underwater than overwater, as most plants can recover more easily from slight dehydration than root rot. Consider using a moisture meter to accurately assess when your plants need water.

• **Choose the Right Pot and Soil** When choosing a pot, ensure it's slightly larger than the plant's current root system to allow for growth, and features drainage holes to allow excess water to escape. Most indoor plants thrive in a well-draining potting mix that retains some moisture but doesn't become waterlogged. Specialty mixes are also available for specific plant types and can provide the ideal growing environment.

• **Deal with Common Problems** Even with the best care, plants can encounter problems. Common issues include pests like spider mites and aphids, which can be

(Continued on Page 6)



-Joe Analco



Happy November Birthdays

Monty McCormick,
Ron Call, Tammy Andrews,
Mike Kallhoff, Andrew Lucier,
Andrea Gressinger, Dyllen Andrews, Greg Abrams,
Gary Hollander, Wei Chen,
Ashli Mason-Johns Shapiro,
Frances Bilak, Jay Trisler,
Renee Kontos, Brenda Maher,
Sydney Croskery, Bill Bubar,
Linda Dubow Eifer,
Richard Lombardi, Ilene Knebel
Tyrone Merriweather,
and Kelly Reynolds

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Discover the Arts and Activities

‘CRADLED’ Exhibition Curated by Frances McDormand and Suzanne Bocanegra Coming to Make Hauser & Wirth in Downtown L.A.



This exhibit was created in collaboration with the Shaker Museum in Chatham, New York.

Opening November 20, Make Hauser & Wirth Downtown Los Angeles will present ‘CRADLED,’ an exhibition conceived and curated by artist Suzanne Bocanegra and actor/producer Frances McDormand in collaboration with the Shaker Museum (Chatham, N.Y.).

‘CRADLED’ invites visitors into an environment where they are immersed, however briefly, in a vision of life shaped by the Shaker ethos of devotion made manifest in communal industry and care.

‘CRADLED’ will be on view Saturdays and Sundays through January 4, 2026. Central to the exhibition are Shaker cradles, crafted for infants and adults alike, designed to provide comfort at life’s beginning, and at its end.

Rarely seen beyond traditional Shaker circles, adult-sized cradles, striking in their simplicity, embody the group’s values of compassion, dignity, and support at every stage of life.

Inspired by the research done by Suzanne and Frances at the Shaker Museum, the exhibition features four of these historic Shaker cradles, on loan from Shaker museums spanning the country, from New England to Kentucky. Each cradle is paired with a tableau of Shaker rocking chairs and woven baskets filled with mending projects, offering visitors an opportunity to take part in the literal and figurative act of mending, an activity at the heart of Shaker values: to sit, to repair, to create.

Honoring the Shakers’ connection between song and caregiving, Suzanne and Frances collaborated with composer David Lang and

sound editors Skip Lievsay and Paul Umstrom on an end-of-life lullaby that resonates throughout the exhibition.

‘CRADLED’ includes a reproduction of an adult-sized cradle in which special guests will be gently rocked by Suzanne and Frances during the opening activation on November 20. That evening, singers from the Los Angeles-based volunteer choir Angeles Chorale will contribute to the lullaby and the exhibition’s soundscape.

In collaboration with Manuela LA, Shaker Lemon Pie will be served to visitors at the opening. Pies will also be available for purchase and featured on the restaurant’s menu during the run of the exhibition.

Artists’ statement from Frances McDormand and Suzanne Bocanegra:
‘To be cradled, held, supported by one’s community. From birth to grave. WITH RESPECT AND CARE. To be mended by an exchange of trust, loyalty and compassion. To be honored for one’s contribution to the whole and to believe one is contributing to the sustenance of the future. The contemplation of these thoughts and possibilities is what we hope to offer you in this space. TAKE YOUR TIME. ROCK YOURSELF. MEND, IF YOU LIKE. YOU ARE WELCOME.’

For more information, go to www.hauserwirth.com/make/cradled.

Hauser & Wirth Downtown Los Angeles is at 901 East 3rd Street. Phone: 213-943-1620.

The Greek Theatre Wins Award as Amphitheatre of the Year

The Amphitheatre of the Year Award recognizes venues across all sectors within membership.

Award applicants must demonstrate the venue’s high standards for programming and operational excellence, venue management, community impact, and visitor experience. Winners are selected by membership voting, peer-voted and peer-selected.

The Greek Theatre celebrated a phenomenal 2025 season, welcoming an incredible lineup of artists.

This year also marked several venue enhancements and hospitality upgrades, featuring deck renovations, refreshed VIP areas, updated box office windows, improved lighting, enhanced artist dressing rooms, curated artist

photography, a reimagined concessions menu, and more – each designed to elevate the guest experience while preserving the venue’s charm.

The Greek Theatre continues to champion community impact and sustainability through initiatives like the Green Zone Project, Amplify Her Voice’s Equal Exposure, Community Canned Food, Clothing, Animal Shelter, and Back-To-School Drives, comprehensive recycling programs, plastic-free policies, energy-efficient LED lighting, and the promotion of shuttle and public transit use.

While embracing modernization, the venue remains deeply committed to preserving the Greek Theatre’s historic character and cultural legacy.

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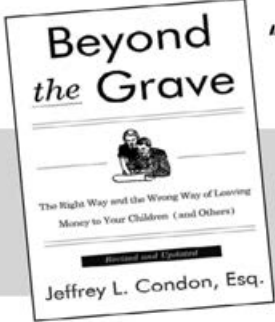


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Local Filmmaker Invites Community to Share Their 100 REASONS TO SMILE

Award-winning social impact filmmaker Cali Gilbert, founder of Tower 15 Productions, has launched a new short film celebrating hope and resilience in the wake of the Pacific Palisades and Malibu fires. Titled *100 REASONS TO SMILE* invites residents to answer one simple question – “What

makes you smile? – through short video submissions. The project aims to highlight the beauty of human connection and the power of joy rising from the ashes. Community members can participate by visiting www.tower15productions.com/100reasonstosmile and sharing their own reason to smile.



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Reflections From The East

Build Your Sense of Belonging This Thanksgiving



By Qin Sun Stubis
When this Thanksgiving arrives, the lucky ones among us know just where we'll go for the big gathering and how we'll contribute to the celebration.

Thanksgiving is an important family time. And, those friends who have been invited to join us are our honorary family members.

Besides the food, the conversations, and the hugs, it is the people we cherish the most, like our favorite uncle who dozes off all too quickly in front of the television, and our chatty aunt who can update us on everything about everyone in the family within minutes. They are the centers of our lives and our faithful annual pilgrimage proves it.

Some people have to book airline tickets months in advance, maneuver through congested airports, and endure long lines of

anxious waiting, all for the privilege of a seat at the turkey feast. Those who host such a party spend hours, if not days or weeks, thoughtfully preparing and decorating the house to make all the guests feel welcome and comfortable.

The longer our traditions last, the more likely we take such celebrations for granted – until one day some unfortunate event takes place and breaks up our reunion, shocking and forcing us to regroup for future holidays.

The truth is that within every important gathering, whether it is a wedding, a holiday celebration, a club meeting, or a school reunion, lies our very sense of belonging, which helps define who we are and gives meaning to our existence in this world. The lack of inclusion in such core social groups can sink us into depression, isolation, and loneliness.

After all, we are all social creatures and learn very early on in

life about ourselves through what we do and who we associate with. As we age and move around, we are constantly making changes and adjustments in our lives, which in turn, reshape our identity and sense of belonging.

Having been born in Shanghai over six decades ago as one of the four “worthless” daughters of a mother who herself had been given away as a young girl, I tried hard to build my sense of belonging early in life. My sisters and I were never invited to any family gatherings, and we grew up feeling lonely and sad.

Our only great fortune was that our mother loved us and she encouraged us to make friends with books. As avid young readers, we learned about our world through words. Since then, I have changed my identity many times over – from being a dejected little girl, to a college student, and then a tour guide for Americans visiting China in the 1980s. Later on, I flew ac-

ross the ocean to further my education and eventually planted my roots here in America.

I have learned never to give up exploring and searching for my new identities – whether as a Chinese-American immigrant, a mother and a wife, poet, storyteller, and published author. As a result of taking on all these new roles, my life is now richer than ever.

So, as we enjoy this year's Thanksgiving gathering, don't forget to give thanks to those who have given us a sense of belonging. It is also the perfect time of the year for us to contemplate how to expand our roles in this world to enrich our own lives and those around us.

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

Gratitude: Your November Superpower!



By Cheryl Thode
Well, we are in the second to last month of 2025! Where has the time gone? How has your year been? There have been so many life events globally, nationally, and within our own city this year. It is hard to believe we have made it to November.

In November, the days continue to shorten, the air feels crisper, and many of us have started to prepare for family gatherings, meals, and the rituals that close out the year. At the same time, our calendars are filled to the brim with work deadlines, school events, and the endless errands of daily life. Amazingly, in the middle of all our prepping, planning, doing, and living, the month of November continues to timely provide us with a much-needed release – a space for gratitude.

Gratitude is more than a polite “thank you.” It is a mood enhancer, a relationship strengthener, a stress reducer, and a physical health booster – making it one of the simplest, yet most powerful ways to improve overall well-being. And the best part? It's something anyone can practice.

For children, gratitude can begin with noticing the little things like a kind word from a teacher, a favorite story before bedtime, or a smile from a neighbor.

For teenagers and young adults, it might mean keeping a journal, reflecting on meaningful moments, or expressing thanks to friends and mentors. Adults can practice gratitude by pausing to appreciate small victories during the day like a delicious meal, a phone call with a loved one, or a quiet moment of reflection. For elders, gratitude often blooms in storytelling, providing lessons learned, or sharing cherished traditions and memories of holidays past.

Finding ways to be grateful and express our gratitude to others is as necessary a part of being human as eating, drinking, or breathing. Think of gratitude as brain food for the soul. Science has proven that noticing what we appreciate in other people and saying thank you doesn't just make others feel good – it actually boosts our own happiness, lowers stress, and even gives our health a little extra spark. Our brains light up when we practice it, and people who do it regularly bounce back faster from life's bumps.

There are lots of simple ways to bring gratitude into daily life. Some of my favorites are **1)** keeping a jar or notebook and jotting down one thing you're thankful for each day; **2)** taking short walks and really noticing the surrounding environment; **3)** pausing during meals, bedtime, or morning routines to share one highlight of the day with your family or friends; **4)** extending gratitude

outward through acts of giving; and don't forget, **5)** partaking in the storytelling from the older generations as they share their memories.

The holiday season is often filled with both joy and stress. Deadlines, shopping lists, family logistics, and expectations can feel overwhelming. Gratitude doesn't erase these challenges, but it shifts perspective – helping us notice what is present rather than fixating on what is missing.

By making time for gratitude, we connect more deeply with our communities, our loved ones, and ourselves.

Whether you are teaching a child to say their first “thank you,” calling someone far away, or sitting quietly with a loved one, gratitude is a practice that can enrich every stage of life. This November, consider making it a daily habit – a gift that costs nothing, but yields lasting rewards.

God Bless!

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Passing Through the Pico Neighborhood

Meals on Wheels West Welcomes Kaylee Hawkins



By Stacy McClendon
Kaylee Hawkins, the new director of Meals on Wheels West (MOWW), is bringing her extensive background and expertise in the animal welfare world to use it as a bridge that builds up clientele and new programs.

Kaylee’s background in animal welfare started in 2011. She spent 12½ years at Best Friend’s Animal Society, based in Utah, in their Mission Viejo office. When she joined Best Friends, they were in the process of becoming the City of L.A.’s public partner, and their team of eight quickly multiplied to 130.

She held many roles while at this non-profit organization. The goal of the organization was to prove that massive animal shelters can maximize the life span of animals. When she started they were saving 57% of their animals, and by the time she left, 89.7% of animals were being saved. This equates to 10,000 more animals. She also managed a coalition of partners and community members and wrote grants which helped increase offerings for the animals.

Kaylee ended her role at Best Friends in 2023 and went to work for the corporate VCA headquarters on Olympic Boulevard. At the time, they had started building urgent care facilities for animals. She worked there for one and a half years, and during that time helped open 25 urgent care facilities nationwide. VCA decided to pivot away from building facilities, and closed the innovation department where Kaylee worked.

From there, Kaylee shifted her focus to consulting work with animal organizations and applied for positions that piqued her interests and were nonprofits in her community.



Stop by to meet Kaylee Hawkins as she becomes the new director of Meals on Wheels West.

Soon thereafter, she received a call back regarding the Director position at Meals on Wheels West. Kaylee was already familiar with the program, as her grandmother Maxine had utilized the program for 15 years. That allowed her to see firsthand how beneficial the program truly is.

Kaylee is excited to use her knowledge to help clientele remain independent and to be able to stay in their homes, with the help of food received and programs utilized. She would also like to share the demographics of aging Americans with the various generations.

Kaylee was also excited to share that MEALS has begun delivering dog food to clients that currently receive meals. This is a big win – for both the clients and their dogs.

To learn more, or to volunteer for Meals on Wheels West, please visit mealsonwheelswest.org.

Stacy McClendon is a longtime Pico Neighborhood resident and Santa Monica City staff member.

Senior Care

Understanding How to Fund Senior Healthcare and Aging in Place



By Tim Petlin
As people age, one of the most pressing concerns they often face is how to afford the healthcare they may need in the future. For seniors, healthcare costs can be unpredictable and may increase significantly due to chronic conditions, long-term care needs, or unexpected medical emergencies. This uncertainty can create anxiety about whether savings, insurance, or government programs like Medicare will be sufficient to cover necessary treatments and support services.

Many seniors also worry about becoming a financial burden on their families or having to deplete their life savings to pay for care. These concerns make financial

planning for healthcare a critical, yet often complex, aspect of preparing for retirement and aging with dignity.

There are several ways to pay for future care needs, including:

- 1. Out-of-Pocket/Family-Funded:** Using personal savings, retirement funds, pensions, or selling assets. A financial advisor can assist in planning.
- 2. Private Insurance/Long-Term Care Insurance:** Policies designed to cover skilled nursing, assisted living, or in-home care costs, depending on the coverage and eligibility.
- 3. Long-Term Care Insurance Partnerships:** State partnerships that encourage purchasing long-term care insurance by offering asset protection.

(Continued on Page 11)



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Troop 223 Scouts Visit Gooding Christie’s Classic Car Auctions

By Phineas Hsiao
On a Thursday afternoon last month, a group of scouts from Scout Troop 223 visited the Gooding Christie’s Classic Car Auctions in Santa Monica to have their Career Trip.

These scouts, Christian, Ari, Phineas, Alex, Braden, Owen, and Noah arrived at the office. Once they were in the conference room, they were greeted by Morgan Carter, the VP of the company.

As the Patrol Leader of the

scouts, I gave Mr. Carter two purple ribbons with pins on them. The purple ribbons in Troop 223 are called Mother’s Ribbons and are given to the scout’s mother. Morgan Carter and his brother are both Eagle Scouts, so his mother had two ribbons, but unfortunately, they were lost in the Palisades Fire.

The scouts in Troop 223 are divided into patrols. This patrol is the Falcons patrol, and Morgan

(Continued on Page 11)



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-Michael Beck

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Planning Ahead

What Assets Are in Your Trust?



By Lisa Alexander, Esq.
Congratulations! You made it this far – you set up your Trust. But, are all your assets in the Trust?

Transferring assets into the name of your Trust is called “funding.” The estate planning attorney does his part – advising and drafting your Trust and other Estate Plan documents, maybe even including a Trust Transfer Deed to transfer real property (typically your home) into the name of the Trust.

The rest of the funding is up to you. You have to make the request at the bank or your brokerage to move your accounts into the name of the Trust. And, don’t forget to update beneficiary designations on your life insurance and retirement accounts.

Funding takes time and the temptation is to “do it later.” But, if the unthinkable happens before you get around to it, your estate may end up in Probate anyway, and it’s possible a beneficiary won’t receive the inheritance you intended.

Take the example of Jane, a single woman with two sons, both adults. Jane died recently with assets that included her home in Brentwood, an investment account with over two million dollars, and several accounts at Bank of America and First Citizens Bank that totaled about \$500,000. And, because she helped one of her sons buy his house in Culver City, she is a co-owner as a joint tenant of that son’s home.

Jane created her Trust five years

ago leaving everything in equal shares to her sons. Her son’s purchase of the Culver City house happened only a year ago, and she had not involved her estate planning attorney. If she had done so, her Trust would have been amended to leave extra money to the other son to equalize for the financial help Jane gave to her first son.

When Jane died, her Brentwood home and her investment account were in the name of the Trust, but all of the bank accounts were still in her individual name.

So, what will happen? In a few months, when Jane’s affairs are settled and the Brentwood home is sold, her sons will receive the proceeds from sale of the home and the investment account. Jane’s interest in her son’s Culver City house will transfer to the son as the surviving joint tenant.

The bank accounts will have to go through Probate and it will be close to a year before her sons receive that money. Jane spent \$5,000 to create her Trust, which was intended to avoid Probate.

Now the Probate will end up costing her sons at least \$15,000. And, there are some hard feelings between the sons that Jane helped one of them to buy his home, but not the other son. If only Jane had funded her bank accounts to the Trust and updated the provisions for her sons, her Trust would have worked as she intended.

Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
JAKLE, ALEXANDER & PATTON, LLP
2001 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 420
Santa Monica, CA 90403
Main Line: 310-395-6555

Neighborhood News Gone National

In early October, I stopped on the way home to get gas at the Sinclair station on 26th Street and San Vicente Boulevard.

John Fawcett, owner of the station, came to my car window, and stated, “You should do a story on Claire, the dinosaur. About ten days ago, she was stolen. And, then she was returned this past weekend, taped up in a bag, with a note.”

He handed me a wrinkled piece of white paper. The message from the thief, printed in all capital letters, read, “I’m sorry for stealing Claire. Please do not press charges.” John had a video tape of the theft and the return. He recognized the thief as the same person who had taken Claire.

John described the excitement from the community, saying the day before there were about 100 people all over his station lot, eager to welcome Claire home.

News media from everywhere swarmed the streets around his station. John got calls from friends in Maine and Arizona who heard about Claire’s adventures.

I met Oliver Forster, from



Oliver Forster, CBS cameraman, was checking with Claire, the dinosaur, who had been returned to her home in the Sinclair Gas Station.

CBS, who was coming to check on Claire as part of his daily assignments.

John was busy putting a Dodgers’ T-shirt on Claire to get ready for the upcoming World Series. Claire is always dressed for special occasions. You never know who may be driving by. -D.M.

Caring for Your Indoor Plants (Continued from Page 2)

managed with natural insecticidal soap or neem oil. Yellowing leaves can indicate overwatering, while brown leaf tips often signal underwatering or low humidity.

Research the specific needs of your plant species for best results and visit eLivingtoday.com for additional guidance.

Source: eLivingtoday.com.

Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

Sharing Difficult Times With Your Children



By Michael Margolin

We are several months into Alexa’s second year in middle school, 7th grade, and I am reminded that I am not quite as sure about what is going on all of the time, as I was just a couple of years ago.

Not that I knew exactly what happened every second of every day when she was in elementary school, but it is different. I mention this because I know who her friends are and most of the people she eats lunch with, but I was much more familiar with the friends she had when she was younger. There are newer names and new friendships, and some of these newer faces I have only seen several times.

If Alexa is going to somebody’s house we are not as familiar with, it has been for a party, and Enjoli has always made contact with the friend’s parents ahead of time. I trust Alexa to make good decisions when it comes to the people she decides to socialize with. Surrounding yourself with good people not only makes your life better, but easier as well. Fewer concerns and less worry and more people you can trust. The older she gets, the more familiar we will be with who she really gets close to. I have a hard time finding myself being able to welome any young man she brings over. Again,

I trust her and her judgement, so I guess I will have to lean on that.

I have written before about how satisfying it is when your children impress you. In the Spring, my stepmother Joyce passed away. As I have expressed in other articles, Enjoli and I have not been afraid to be up front with our kids when it comes to some of life’s difficult circumstances.

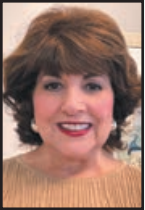
Certainly there are details that are left out, but we feel it is important for them to get honest, clear answers from us. Jake, who is nine, asked more questions about where grandma went and particular events. Both kids were about as mature and respectful as one could ask them to be at both services we had for her. I have certainly learned that when life’s bigger events include my kids in one way or the other, it affects me greatly. Last month, we had a wonderful memorial tribute for Joyce. It coincided with one of Jake’s soccer games.

Our family rarely misses games. When I told Jake we would miss his game, I was not certain exactly what his response would be. He is nine, so maybe there would be signs of disappointment or questioning if we could get to some of his game before or after the service. His response was immediate, “It’s okay. It’s worth it.” This is the same boy that just last year put his arm around me while driving our golf cart on a local golf course, and told me he was sorry because

(Continued on Page 9)

Entertaining With Ease

Thanksgiving Dos and Don’ts



By Maureen Molé
As Thanksgiving approaches and family and friends gather, there are some **Dos** and **Don’ts** for hosts and guests.

Hosts -

- **Do** save money and time by asking guests to bring a dish for Thanksgiving dinner. **Don’t** invite them first and then tell them after they accept the invitation, that they must bring a dish.
- **Do** plan a menu that your oven and stove can handle. **Don’t** try to bake one dish and broil another dish simultaneously. Think about that when discussing what guests might bring.
- **Do** set a colorful, seasonal table that guests will admire and feel special because you made the effort. **Don’t** scrape leftovers on dishes at the table.
- **Do** encourage your guests to put phones away during dinner so they can express their gratitude for each other’s company.
- **Do** prepare in advance a list of pleasant topics to discuss, especially ones that show interest in the guests’ lives and activities.

Guests -

- **Do** tell the host what dish you

plan to bring so that the menu will be coordinated. **Don’t** bring a dish that requires too much time in the kitchen. Remember, other guests may also bring dishes that may require oven or stove time.

- **Do** participate in the conversations with as many guests as possible. **Don’t** just speak to one person, or worse, look at your phone.
- **Do** admire the table setting and decorations at the host’s home. **Don’t** take photos of the party and post on social media without the express permission of the host and all the guests.

In my family, we use place cards for our sit-down Thanksgiving dinner. The children decorate the paper place cards with crayons, markers, stickers, and glitter. On the back of each place card, they write the name of another guest.

During dinner, each guest turns their place card around and says a little something about why they are thankful for that person.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Maureen Molé 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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From the Santa Monica Pier Guy

Recognizing the Impact



By Jim Harris
Picture 250 smiling children’s faces, each wide-eyed, as most of them were seeing the Santa Monica Pier, the beach, and the ocean for the first time ever in their young lives. Each of their chaperones, equally eager to enjoy this free trip of a day at the Pier, had smiles and wide eyes almost as stunning as the children’s. Our October 11th Youth Day on the Pier fully defined the word “joy.”
As we head into the month of November, in which we are all reminded to be thankful, I am most thankful for this recent Youth Day – our first one ever. Much like our first-ever fundraiser, A PIERfect Benefit back in early September, the entire affair was a glaring reminder of purpose and power, and the perfect reminder as to who the Santa Monica Pier Corporation really is – an organization driven by heart.
We have always been known for producing free public events on the Pier, and I think that sometimes it is easy for people to take what we do for granted. For 35 fun-filled summers we produced the Twilight concerts, something that people revered so much and still yearn for today. We also pro-

duce events specifically targeted for locals to enjoy as well as events which give a loving nod to Santa Monica’s history and heritage. We offer free wellness programs, history presentations, and share the Pier worldwide through our social media.
All of these have great impact, of course, but the impact of each of those long-beloved events – or even the impact of all of them combined – has never been as obvious as what we have witnessed with A PIERfect Benefit and Youth Day. These events both fully displayed our purpose as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; they emphasized the heart of our charity.
As the nationwide annual Giving Tuesday approaches on December 2, I hope that people realize who we are, what we do, and the fact that we are indeed a charity worth contributing to. Donating is easy. If you wish, simply visit our website: santamonicipier.org/support.
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

Thoughts From a Busy High School Student



By Michelle Li
Welcome to this month’s episode of “Speaking Gen Z,” where I introduce terms the young’uns are currently using.
Our first term is “clock it.” This phrase means to recognize or call out something other people may have missed. It is usually used when someone is caught in a lie. For example, one might say, “She clocked that excuse immediately.” It can also be used in response to someone saying something true about another person. For example, if someone denies saying something, and another pulls out receipts, one might say “clock it.” It can also mean that something is very true. For instance, if someone says “he is so obnoxious,” someone else may say, “clock it.”
Next is “aura.” In the English dictionary, aura means an atmosphere that is generated by a person, place, or thing. In Gen Z slang, it means the vibe or cool factor of a person’s, typically counted in “aura points.” Doing something embarrassing can be quantified as “losing aura.” If someone trips, people may say “that’s minus 1000 aura” or “he just lost aura.” Positive actions, or cool actions, can gain aura. For example, making a basketball shot blindfolded? That’s “plus 1000 aura.” Gen Z has gamified social interactions by turning it into a point system that measures coolness.
The last term today is “calm.” The traditional meaning of this word is peaceful or relaxed. Its repurposed meaning is essentially cool, acceptable, or agreeable.

Similar to aura, if someone does something cool, you can say “that’s calm.” Another use is if someone suggests a restaurant, you can say “that’s calm” in agreement. This word is also related to nonchalant, where Gen Z tries to seem apathetic and unconcerned.
What we can gather from these terms is that the new generation has an obsession with being cool – which is defined as unbothered.
Ask a teenager what they are grateful for and you may expect a spiel about their phones and the various entertainment apps they have installed. In reality, when you ask a teen what they are grateful for, the answer you will get is surprisingly consistent with previous generations. As I asked around, I discovered that even though the world has changed drastically, the core values remain the same.
Family, friends, and food remain at the center. Almost everyone questioned replied that a family member or friend is a recipient of their gratitude. Grace names her mom, while Fisa names her sister. Charlie is particularly grateful for a best friend who lives in a different state but manages to remain close with him, despite the distance. Many also list food as an important thing they are grateful for. Some things never change.
Music is another popular thing teens are grateful for. Rosalie listens to remakes of old songs, particularly music from the ‘90s. Iris is grateful for her Spotify Premium, which allows her to listen to music ad-free. While in the past, teens explored music using their radios and mixtapes, teens
(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

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the building at 1040 Pico Blvd. Maybe you have driven by recently and seen our new mural, part of a local Girl Scout's Gold Award Project?

For over 100 years, the Santa Monica Elks Lodge has been serving the community through many charities, grants, and scholarships. We support Veterans, children with disabilities, and the unhoused.

Elks are American citizens who

guide their course in life by the cardinal principles of our order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love, and Fidelity.

We are a primarily a private membership club. We welcome you to stop by and see how you can get involved, or rent our facilities for your next event. Call our office at 310-452-3557 to schedule a visit. You can also check out our website at www.santamonicaelkslodge906.org to see all the amazing events we have planned.

Watch for news about our second annual Mahjong Mania fundraiser for children with disabilities on Saturday, January 24, 2026.

An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber

Every Monday at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC), you will find members and guests at tables enjoying card playing and Mahjong. The current game of choice now seems to be Mahjong, and we have a growing number of members and guests who have made Monday at the Club lively with their playing. We have had new players come for lessons which were offered a few weeks ago. Lessons for anyone interested in learning won't start again until after the new year.

The other card game played every Monday is canasta, a game that was invented in Uruguay in 1947. It became very popular in the U.S. in the 1950s, and it was then that possibly our members started playing at the Club. There are many versions of the game, but the one played at the SMBWC is the same one that began at the Club all those decades ago. For anyone familiar with the normal 52-card deck, our version of canasta is rather easy to learn. But to meet the demand of those interested in playing, one of our

members who plays every Monday would be happy to conduct lessons. Sue Price-McGough is the contact for inquiries about lessons. Reach her at email address: sue.mcgough@yahoo.com.

The Club's main activity for October was Socktober 2025. Each year, members of the SMBWC, in conjunction with the Santa Monica Travel & Tourism Bureau, collect new socks to be distributed to various homeless shelters. Last year, our members donated 954 pairs of socks!

Three miles and 7,000 steps were covered during the September 6 Walking Group trek. More members join this group each month. They meet outside the Club on the first Saturday of each month at 8:45 a.m. Walking begins at 9 a.m., and the routes are decided then and there by the participants. The last walk for 2025 will be on December 6. Participants are encouraged to suggest length and routes. Contact Alicia Syres, aliciasyres@gmail.com, for questions.

For information on these activities, or rentals and membership, call the Club at 310-395-1308, or see our website at smbwc.org.

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



By J. Kingsley Fife

We Santa Monica-Pacific Palisades Lions are now beginning to enter a very busy last couple of months of the year.

At our last dinner meeting, we all enjoyed watching the induction ceremonies of our newest member, Captain Ty Baze with his wife, Captain Heather Baze. We were fortunate to have Past District Governor Carol Ann Emmitt as the inducting officer. Representing our Club was our President Pam Andrews who was Captain Ty's official sponsor. Captains Ty and Heather are Chiefs of the Santa Monica Corps of the Salvation Army. They came here just four months ago after spending five

years of very successful service as Chiefs of the Corps in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

We're so happy that they are now Lions and the Club looks forward to working together with them on many mutual projects.

At our monthly dinner meeting on Wednesday December 3, we will have our Annual Salvation Army visit when Captains Ty and Heather will bring with them the Salvation Army Band. It will be a wonderful festive time when we sing carols and raise a lot of \$ for their worthy causes. We will also be participating in the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Day bell ringing, where we will be manning two stations at Bristol Farms Market on Wilshire Blvd.

To help this wonderful

(Continued on Page 11)

Rotary Means Fellowship and Philanthropy



By Mitchell Kraus

If you thought service clubs were all handshakes and bland chicken lunches, you clearly haven't been to the Rotary Club of Santa Monica lately. Our members have been proving once again that community service pairs best with laughter, dancing, and the occasional celebration, such as a longtime member's 90th Birthday.

Each month, our club does community service and hands out checks to local students, organizations, and worldwide causes. But the heart of our club is our weekly lunch. Last month, our first meeting was one for the ages – literally. We surprised longtime member and past president George “King George” Collins with a rousing 90th birthday celebration. The man of the hour, an attorney by trade and “award-winning salsa dancer” by Rotary legend, took the spotlight with his trademark grin (and thankfully, not his trademark dance moves). The applause might

still be echoing somewhere on Wilshire Boulevard.

In true Rotary fashion, the program mixed sentiment with substance. We roasted “King George” while playing some great games. Other recent speakers included a Salsa champion and a USC professor talking about Milton's *Paradise Lost*. This month, we'll have our annual Rivalry Week celebration with Dan Coffee of the UCLA Luskin Center, visiting among others.

In addition to our meetings, we had a special project come to fruition last month. Raising some money with other local clubs, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica donated a sauna to the fire department. We dedicated it to them to help the firefighters detox after smoke exposure and for cardiovascular health.

So if you're looking for a place to laugh, serve, and maybe even dance a little – come see how Rotary does it, Santa Monica style. Visit our website at rotaryclubof-santamonica.org for more information.

Sharing Difficult Times (Continued from Page 7)

I had just received word that my manager had passed away. I think there are some things that are either impossible to teach or at least very difficult to. Those responses to these moments were not taught or rehearsed. But, they were moments I will never forget,

and will forever be impressed with as the years go by.

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.

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Preserving the Stories of Historic
Broadway in Santa Monica

The Legacy of Garfield Elementary School

By Michael Ano

From 1906 to the mid '80s, Garfield Elementary stood at 16th Street and Olympic Blvd. It was a neighborhood school that for decades anchored Santa Monica's Black and Brown communities.

Carolyn Edwards, a former Santa Monica resident, recalls her time at Garfield during the Summers of the 1950s. She was there most days of the Summer, as her Uncle Al Quinn and Auntie Dottie had started a Summer youth program.

Kids from throughout the neighborhood would come and spend the day doing wood crafts, playing games and sports, square dancing, and visiting the toy loan bungalow.

Garfield laid a foundation for many youth at the time through its community programs. Its athletics program nurtured young talent and teamwork, most notably athletes R.C. Owens and Ernie Neal. Its playground is the birthplace of Santa Monica's first Little League team. Its toy loan bungalow, like a library for playthings, fostered imagination and sharing, teaching children responsibility and community care.

By the 1970s and '80s, Garfield became the center of debates over school boundaries and diversity. At the same time, redevelopment, freeway construction, and the displacement of families from the



A vintage shot of the Garfield Elementary School playground.

Broadway and Pico neighborhoods changed the community Garfield had long served.

By the 1980s, the school was repurposed as a continuation school. Soon after it was torn down, its site became the Santa Monica-Malibu Board of Education administration building.

For Carolyn, remembering the Garfield Elementary School honors the resilience of Santa Monica's early Black and Brown families while keeping their stories alive as part of the City's history and future.

On November 8, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., prepare for the Fall holidays and enjoy a Gourd Craft class at the Quinn Research Center, 18th Street Arts Center, 1639 18th St., Santa Monica. Call 310-853-5029 for details.

Paws and Claws

What Are Some Myths About Dogs?



By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM

Q: What are common misconceptions and myths about dogs?

A: A wagging tail means he is happy

and friendly. Not always. A raised, slow wagging tail can be a sign of aggression.

• Some short hair dogs are hypoallergenic. There is no such thing as a hypoallergenic dog.

And, it's primarily the protein in the skin and saliva, not the fur, that causes human allergies.

• Dog mouths are cleaner than human mouths. Neither are particularly clean. Dog bites can cause serious infection (as can human bites often through cuts on hands during a fight).

• A wet or dry nose can signal an illness. Both are typically completely normal.

• If a dog has multiple extractions, he may never be able to eat kibble again. Once the extraction sites are healed, the dog can return to his original diet even if it was kibble.

• Raw food is healthier for your dog since wild dogs, lions, and tigers eat raw food. Raw food can carry pathogenic bacteria and is not typically a balanced diet.

• My dog feels hot, so he must have a fever. Dog's body temperature normally runs from 100-102.5, so they feel warmer. But it is difficult to tell if they have a fever without a thermometer.

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



-Joe Analco

Adopt a Pet



Meet Patches and Spoons, two friendly, and very entertaining guinea pig brothers. They love strawberries, smiling for the camera, and apple chew toys. To adopt any of the available animals, visit the Santa Monica Animal Shelter located at 1640 9th St., just north of Olympic Blvd. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Closed 12 p.m.-1 p.m. for lunch). Call 310-458-8595 for more information on the shelter. For how you can help the animals while they are waiting to be adopted, go to smasf.org.

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Preservation Awards (Continued from Page 1)

Keene, Mary Ann Hays Volunteer Service Award; **Santa Monica Library Read, Engage, Discover (R.E.D.) Kits**, Community History Award; **2501 2nd St, 518 Adelaide, and 4th Street Bungalows**, Rehabilitation Residential Awards; **The Google Store, 3rd Street Promenade, and Diner Antoinette, 1213 Wilshire Blvd.**, Rehabilitation Commercial Awards; **Morgan Sykes Jaybush**, The Historic House Relocation Project for Fire Recovery; and **The Levy House, 137 Hart, The Laurel Apartments, 1413 Michigan Avenue, and Samohi Senior Bench and Viking Statue Restoration**, Stewardship Awards.



The Levy House on 2nd Street won an award for residential restoration.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving



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

these days have headphones and music streaming apps. Zoey is specifically grateful for Santa Monica High School's music program, which has provided her with a wonderful community.

Now, this is where the differences become apparent. Along with the values listed above, teens are also grateful for their electronics – items that did not exist in past generations. I guess it's not too wrong to expect an obsession with the Internet for the generation that grew up online.

Funding Health Care (Continued from Page 5)

4. Whole Life Insurance: Some policies allow borrowing against the cash value or offer accelerated benefits for long-term care.

5. Hybrid Life Insurance: Combines life insurance and long-term care benefits, allowing access to funds for care.

6. Viatical Settlement: Selling a life insurance policy to a third party for immediate funds.

7. Reverse Mortgages: Home-owners aged 62+ can convert home equity into cash to pay for care.

8. Veterans Assistance Programs: Includes Homemaker and Home Health Aide Care, Long-Term Care Services, and the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers. Eligibility depends on medical needs and enrollment in VA health care.

While the thought of financing future healthcare can feel overwhelming, it's important to remember that you're not alone – and you have options. With careful planning, informed decisions, and the support of financial and healthcare professionals, it's entirely possible to create a strategy that protects your well-being and preserves your independence.

For more information, resources, and to have a comprehensive guide sent to you on *Ways to Pay for In-Home Senior Care*, contact Right at Home of West Los Angeles at www.rahwestla.com, at 310-313-0600, or email Tim Petlin at timp@rahwestla.com.

Troop 223 Scouts (Continued from Page 5)



Scouts visiting antique cars with CFO Morgan Carter. From left, Christian, Ari, Phineas, Alex, Braden, Owen, and Noah.

also happened to have been in the same patrol when he was in Troop 223. In the conference room, Morgan Carter talked about his career. He stated he was made CFO of the company right out of college because of the leadership skills he learned in Troop 223. He later became the VP of the company.

After that, the group headed through the office, looking at the different rooms. Then, Morgan led the excited boys to the car room. There were two vintage Mercedes, an Aston Martin, and a 113-year-old Mercer. Morgan answered many questions about the cars.

Since I am the Patrol Leader of the Falcons, I organized the Career Trip with emails and coordinated with the scouts' parents.

Troop 223 offers an exceptional leadership program for the patrol leaders, equipping them with valuable leadership skills, including budgeting with real money, managing patrol expenses, organization, planning, communication, and leading a group of boys.

If you are interested in having your son or daughter join Troop 223, please contact Greg Frost at frostfamily@frostinvestigations.com.



Lions Are Always On the Go (Continued from Page 9)

organization is just one more opportunity we have, as Lions, to aid those in need and give back to the community. It's a truly satisfying experience.

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 jfkife88@yahoo.com.

Answer to Our Neighborhood Celebrity (Continued from Page 1)



Mr. Luu, is owner of Montana Nail Salon on Montana Avenue and Lincoln Blvd. The customer service is wonderful here.

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Join UCLA's Innovative Memory Research Study!



UCLA Memory Study explores Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation as a potential treatment for memory impairment.

Are you sometimes forgetting things? If you are right-handed and between 55 and 100 years old, UCLA invites you to be part of their cutting-edge Memory Research Study.

Why Participate? Nearly seven million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease (AD), with projected increases to 13 million by 2050. Amnesic Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) is a milder form of memory loss that is twice as prevalent as AD and progresses to AD at an annual rate of 10-15%. Currently, there are only a limited number of FDA-approved treatments, which only temporarily slow the disease's progression rather than cure or reverse it.

This clinical trial aims to utilize Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) as a treatment to enhance memory and improve overall brain function. Whether you're experiencing mild memory problems or have been diagnosed with MCI or Alzheimer's disease, your participation can make a significant impact towards finding new treatments for memory loss.

What to expect? Transcranial

Magnetic Stimulation uses gentle magnetic energy to affect brain activity. The techniques used in the study do not involve invasive procedures or radiation. Participants will undergo neuropsychological (memory and cognitive) testing, two functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) brain scans, and 15 stimulation sessions. Participants will receive either active TMS treatment or receive a placebo TMS. Those receiving placebo TMS may be eligible for active treatment upon study completion. Participation in the study requires a time commitment of 20 days over the course of approximately three months.

What you Gain: Participants will receive financial compensation of \$600 for completing the study in addition to parking costs. Additionally, you will receive neuropsychological testing results and a picture of your brain!

For more information, contact the Suthana Lab at UCLA, via email at tmsmemorystudy@mednet.ucla.edu, or call 310-210-6978.

What's Happening On the Westside and Beyond (Continued from Page 2)

- Santa Monica College representatives. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Literacy and ESL Tutoring** - Volunteer tutors work one-on-one with adult learners to achieve their learning goals. For more information, call or text 818-255-8142 or email literacy.program@santamonica.gov.
 - **Thursday, November 20 - Montana Branch Book Group** - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. 1704 Montana Ave. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets in person at 6 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. This book group discusses a mix of fiction and nonfiction titles, often on topics chosen from current events. Titles include: November 2025: *The Women* by Kristin Hannah, and December 2025: *Profiles in Courage* by John F. Kennedy.
 - **Friday, November 21, 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 22, 6 p.m.** *Scrooge: The Musical*. First United Methodist Church's All Community Theater (ACT), in collaboration with Community United Methodist Church (UMC) of Pacific Palisades and St. Paul's Lutheran Church are presenting *Scrooge: The Musical*. Suggested ticket donations are just \$10 each and may be purchased online here: www.santamonicaumc.org/act. A reception will follow. Don't miss the show!
 - **Sunday, November 23 - Lompoc Valley Botanic and Horticultural Society Autumn Plant Sale.** Succulents, cacti, indoor and outdoor plants, holiday specialties, bulbs, and seeds, all for sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Route One Farmers Market, 3745 Constellation Rd., Lompoc. More info, go to lvbhs.org.
 - **Tuesday, November 25 - Thanksgiving Centerpiece Flower Arranging Workshop.** Viola Floral Studio, 1639 11th St., Suite 162, Santa Monica. \$175. Purchase tickets by calling 310-425-2422, or emailing bloom@violafloral.com.
 - **Thursday, November 27 - Happy Thanksgiving to all of our readers.**
 - **Saturday, November 29 - Holiday Market.** Santa Monica Elks Lodge, 1040 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. Proceeds to benefit West L.A. Veterans Administration. Over 20 plus vendors. Including five youth vendors. Hours: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 - **Tuesday, December 2 - Come to the Annual 18th Street Arts Center Winter Gathering.** From 5 p.m.-7 p.m. There will be music, snacks, and a white elephant gift exchange. (Bring a wrapped gift under \$10 to participate.) Contact Michael Ano at 310-853-5029 for more details.

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