



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT IS DISCOVERED

by Marlene Hitt

This month many stress the concepts of peace, love, and good will to all mankind, as well to appreciate the births and values of children. We are used to the combinations of traditions which is so American – the Santa Claus of the Dutch, the tree of the Germans, Las Posadas of Mexico and many others. Most celebrate the season as the Christian holy day commemorating the birth of the Christ Child. At this time we all incorporate the spirit of giving.

One story having to do with gifting conveys this principle of the season, and that is the story of the Margil Vine. It seems that a poor and devout Indian boy was to attend a Christmas pageant in the mission church at Velero in Texas. All the people were taking gifts to the Christ child but the boy, Shavano, who had nothing at all to give. He wandered around, then sat for a while in his favorite poplar tree.

Padre Margil, after finding the boy with tears in his eyes, assured Shavano that a gift is only a token that we give to show our love. Shavano wasn't convinced, and wanted to give gifts of gold and objects of wealth as the other villagers had done.

He once again retreated to his poplar tree. After a while, he looked down to see an unusual bright wisp of green on the ground below. He climbed down to inspect the place and found a small plant, one so tiny that it could have been trampled without notice. The boy dug up the small plant, placed in it one of his mother's earthenware jugs and shyly hid it beneath the expensive and colorful gifts near the manger in the mission chapel.

Early the next morning the Christmas pageant was begun. Shavano worried that the Christ child would be displeased with his insignificant gift. As the pageant procession began, and the shepherds in the play approached the doorway, they gasped in surprise, then cried, "Milagro, Milagro!" Miracle!

Shavano wormed his way to the front of the group wondering what blessing the Christ child may have bestowed on the people. Before the door he stopped, his whole being quivered with ecstasy and his eyes filled with tears of joy. His little vine had grown mysteriously, had twined itself about and over the manger where the Jesus babe lay and had poured over the scene an abundance of bright green leaves and brilliant scarlet berries. The vine had become the most beautiful gift of all, even more beautiful than the gold and gifts of wealth. The Margil vine still grows in that Texas area and is enjoyed as Christmas decoration by Mexicans today.

Whether our memories are of Posadas, fiestas, prayers, decorations, lavish gifting, a military outpost, a prison cell, or a lonely room, Christmas season means much to all faiths and those of all beliefs. Let us once more petition for the gift of love, pray once again, and again, for the gifts of peace and good will toward one another in honor of The True Spirit of Christmas.

Have a Happy and Safe 2014

COMMUNITY NEWS

Earthquake Early Warning System



Congressman Adam Schiff
28th Congressional District

In November I was joined by other California Representatives urging the White House’s Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Sylvia Mathews Burwell, to provide the highest possible funding level for the Earthquake Hazard Program and the Global Seismic Network in their 2015 budget request. Over the past several years, some in Congress and the Administration have targeted the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program for budget cuts—including the early warning system still being developed by scientists in Southern California. For prototypes like the U.S. Geological Survey’s “Shake Alert,” which was partially designed by the USGS in Pasadena, budget constraints have slowed its implementation. Such an early

warning system would be enormously helpful in providing residents and first responders with advance notice that could help avert major infrastructure damage by shutting down mechanical systems like mass transit and elevators and save lives in the event of a major earthquake.

In the letter, the Members write: “As you work with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to craft its fiscal year 2015 budget request, we urge you to support the Earthquake Hazards Program and the Global Seismic Network at the highest possible level. As Members of Congress representing districts in the United States at risk from earthquake hazards, we are concerned with the deteriorating fiscal health of these programs. These modest investments will ensure USGS is able to continue its crucial mission of mitigating against earthquake hazards. Earthquakes are a serious threat to the United States, with over 75 million people in 39 states living in areas of significant earthquake risk...There

have been a number of devastating and costly earthquakes around the world in recent years and it is a matter of when, not if, such an event occurs in the United States. Therefore, it is critical we maintain our vigilance and expertise in earthquake research. The USGS provides seismic monitoring and scientific programs that serve the entire nation.”

“Every few months, we are reminded about Los Angeles’ and California’s vulnerability with tremors and small earthquakes rattling our homes and businesses. It is critical that the United States maintains its vigilance and expertise in earthquake preparedness, and I am hopeful that when the House and Senate meet to work out the appropriations bills, we will be able to secure funding for this vital program,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, who led the letter to the White House. “When we consider the lives that would be spared if we have just a little bit of warning before the next big one, it’s a very small but prudent investment.”

You Should Know...

Beginning January 1, 2014, shoppers will no longer be supplied with plastic bags for their purchased goods in stores of more than 10,000 square feet or have annual sales of \$2 million or more. The ban will extend to mini-mart type stores beginning July 1st. Shoppers will be required to bring in their reusable bags or pay 10 cents for each paper bag they need.

Mission City Community Clinic groundbreaking will take place at 8725 Sepulveda Blvd. In North Hills on **Monday, January 6**. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and U.S. Congressman Tony Cardenas will be in attendance to welcome the 20,000 sq. foot clinic. The clinic, a non-profit, provides health care for uninsured children and adults in the community. Visit www.mccn.org for more information.

FREE Community Emergency Response Team Training (CERT) is available. The LAPD Foothill Division along with their Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) is sponsoring a class beginning on **Tuesday, January 7, 2014** at Pacoima Charter School, 11016 Norris Ave, Pacoima, 6:30–8:30 pm. The once per week for 7-weeks program is taught by professional instructors from the Disaster Preparedness Unit of the L.A. City Fire Department. Call the Community Relations Office at 818-756-8866 to register in advance.

A **combined First Aid and CPR class** is being held on **Saturday, January 11**, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at Pacoima Charter School, 11016 Norris Ave., Pacoima. The class is being sponsored by the LAPD Foothill Division along with their Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) at a

discounted rate of \$40 for the combined class. This certified Red Cross class is being taught by a fire department professional. Bring money and a self addressed stamped envelope to the first class so final class certification can be mailed to you.

The **Delta Bay Conservation Plan** is a collaborative effort by state and federal agencies to restore the ecosystem of the Delta. They are studying how water can be exported in a way that’s environmentally sustainable and reliable in the face of environmental challenges as it seeks to modernize California’s water delivery system. The EIR/EIS public review documents opened on December 13 for a 120-day public review. Twelve public meetings will be held throughout California in January and February 2014 to provide more information on the contents of the draft documents and to accept public comments. Hearing will be held in the L.A. area **Tuesday, February 4, 2014, 3:00–7:00 pm** at the Los Angeles Convention Center 1201 S Figueroa St, 90015.

Comments can be sent to: BDCP Comments, Ryan Wulff, NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100, Sacramento, CA 95814. or email to: BDCP.Comments@noaa.gov and must be received on or before April 14, 2014.

LAPD Officer Don Boon, Senior Lead Officer for the Sunland-Shadow Hills-Lake View Terrace area of the Foothill Division has been promoted to Sergeant and now serves in the West Hills Division. Police Officer III Adriana Sanchez is filling his position until a permanent replacement is announced. Officer Sanchez is also a candidate for the Senior Lead position.

Low Cost Auto Insurance applications are available at the Pacoima Family Source Center at 11243 Glenoaks Blvd, in Pacoima. In order to apply, bring: a picture I.D., proof of address (gas, electric, telephone bill or a letter with your current address, proof of income, (pay stub, bank statement, public benefit statement) All documents must be current within 90 days of applications. The centers hours are 9:00 am–4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday.

Re-CodeLA has selected 21 members to represent the Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC). The ZAC will play a vital role in the re:code LA effort by providing guidance on zoning policy direction. These 21 individuals represent a variety of interests which include academia (environmental, transportation, and design), neighborhood organizations, social activism, business, and development. The ZAC members possess valuable expertise and unique perspectives on zoning and planning in the City of Los Angeles. Our areas of the North Valley will be represented by **Yvette Lopez-Ledesma** who is a Deputy Director at Pacoima Beautiful and sits on the Sustainable Commission for the City of Burbank. You can participate now in the MapIt feedback from the re:code.la website. MapIt organizes your observations of how the Zoning Code has impacted neighborhoods, for better or worse. To add your own feedback you will need to register on the re:code.la website. See more at: recode.la



Yvette Lopez-Ledesma

Granada Hills



Bill Hopkins

The North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens (NVC) has selected Bill Hopkins of Granada Hills as the recipient of their Environmental Citizen of the Year award for 2013, recognizing his support for environmental issues, and his efforts in promoting Emergency Preparedness in the community. Wayde Hunter, President of the NVC, says that “selecting Bill as this year’s honoree was an easy decision for our Board of Directors, due to his strong support for the environment, emergency preparedness, and his deep concern for our community.” The North Valley Coalition is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization of dedicated volunteers who receive no compensation for their labor and involvement.

Bill regularly attends the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Council meetings composed of a diverse group of citizens, Los Angeles city, county, and state agencies, and representatives of the landfill to address the multitude of landfill issues affecting the health and welfare of the local community. Bill says that “I’m honored to

receive this award, joining a select group of like-minded citizens promoting responsible stewardship of our environment while also addressing local concerns. By my actions, I strive to inspire others to consider our environment in all that we do.” Bill is a charter member of the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power’s and Bureau of Sanitation’s Recycled Water Advisory Group, known as RWAG. He installed solar electrical panels on his home ten years ago, which helps LADWP meet their renewable energy mandate that can provide power whenever utility power is lost. He diverted all downspouts to beneficially use rainwater, thus reducing urban runoff; replaced a thirsty lawn with drought-tolerant landscaping; and adopted other conservation measures, including driving an all-electric vehicle. He is a strong advocate for solar electrical power and alternative energy production.

In addition, Bill is a community-elected member of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC), and is their Emergency Preparedness (EP) Chair.

Environmental issues are but one of Bill’s passions. He continues to help the community prepare for the next major disaster by having relevant and topical speakers at monthly EP meetings, presenting the Map Your Neighborhood pro-

gram to help residents prepare their immediate neighbors for disasters, working with community partners and other interested parties in pre-staging emergency supplies for public use, and as a coordinator for the Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair. Bill reports that “Regular EP meetings are open to everyone, and are held on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at 11139 Woodley Avenue, Granada Hills.” He is also a regular contributor to the *Granada Hills Life* and *Porter Ranch Life* magazines, writing about Emergency Preparedness topics.

For the third year running, Bill has coordinated Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes in Granada Hills, supported by the GHNNC, and for the last two years it has been conducted with the Patriot Oil Community Benefit Trust Fund, administered by the North Valley Coalition, as a co-sponsor. Bill states that “We all know we should protect the environment and prepare for a disaster. Working together with community organizations like the NVC and neighborhood councils, we can learn how to incorporate easy habits into our daily lives, resulting in a brighter, safer, and cleaner tomorrow.”

Lake View Terrace

The 11th Annual “Spirit of Johny Carpenter” Awards, hosted by Courtship Ranch was held on Friday November 22nd. L.A. City Council Member Felipe Fuentes, CD7, presented certificates to the honoree’s, Pastor Ken Craft, Dale Gibson (Son Reid Gibson accepting for his father.) and Richard Stewart. Certificates of Recognition were also presented by Representatives of Congressman Adam Schiff and Assembly Member Raul Bocanegra. Representatives were also present from Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (who provided the tables and chairs), Equestrian Trails International, Foothill Mounted Patrol, San Fernando Rangers, Foothill Division LAPD, Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council and many more. OK Trophy donated plaques.

The 2013 honorees reflect Johny Carpenter’s words on the sign welcoming everyone to the original Heaven on Earth Ranch. “The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth.” The Honorees were:

Ken Craft: President /CEO of “Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission” served 20 years as a pastor and 8 years as Mission Director of a homeless shelter. His hands on approach to caring for the needs of the homeless and hungry serve as a model of servant leadership. His passion is to help those most in need and assist them on the road to recovery.

Dale Gibson: Host and past chairman of the “Ride for a Cure” events for seven years. Raises money for Parkinson Disease Research, Cancer Care and other charities. Has been President of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood

Council and President of the Los Angeles Equine Advisory Committee, protecting equestrian rights and safety.



Left to right: Pastor Ken Craft; Council Member Felipe Fuentes, CD7; Richard Stewart; Reid Gibson (Accepting for his father Dale Gibson)

photo by: Michael Carpenter



LA County DPW Plans Massive Project in Northeast SFV

by Dan Feinberg

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the LA County Flood Control District, (DPW/FCD) are planning to remove millions of cubic yards of sediment from the Pacoima Reservoir, located on Federal Government land located in the Los Angeles National Forest above Sylmar in the San Fernando Valley and is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Sediment has built up in the reservoir and must be removed to ensure sufficient water capacity.

Los Angeles County’s Department of Public Works and County Flood Control District (DWP/FCD) are responsible for the Pacoima Dam and Reservoir. They operate a total of 14 reservoirs and 162 debris basins in Los Angeles County that were designed to store and provide water and to protect people living below them from floods.

Sedimentation in a reservoir is the build-up of dirt and material caused when waters carrying the sediment are stilled behind a dam, reducing the reservoir’s water storage capacity. According to sedimentation experts, effective sediment management utilizes “a combination of methodologies”¹ to ensure the best results. These experts suggest “reducing sediment yield by utilizing soil conservation measures, correction of landslides and accelerated erosions, reforestation, debris dams, construction of off-stream reservoirs and sediment exclusion structures”¹ and other tactics to mitigate the flow of sediment into reservoirs.

The DPW/FCD have stated that their “sediment management plan” consists solely of allowing sediment to build up in its 14 reservoirs (rising to what has frequently been near emergency levels), before taking action by removing the sediment and depositing it in what they call Sediment Placement Sites (SPS). They said, “Sediment removed from dams and debris basins is currently managed by transporting it to SPS on local hillsides.”⁴ And these hillside SPS are typically located above and adjacent to thousands of homes and tens of thousands of LA County residents.

An example of this is the 50-year-old May Sediment Placement Site in Sylmar, which is the largest SPS in LA County with 4.87 million cubic yards original capacity. According to the DPW/FCD, May SPS has an estimated 3.3 million cubic yards of remaining capacity as of January 2011. They estimate it will be used for 15 to 40 more years giving it a total life of 65 to 90 years. They also state that they use May SPS exclusively for material from dams and debris basins around LA County and that this sediment is trucked into Sylmar to May SPS by up to 300 trucks per day that drive on Sylmar streets and into May SPS during each rain season.

“Sediment Management” must be more than removing and dumping sediment says CASM SFV Inc., a grassroots 501c3 non-profit organization based in Sylmar that focuses on environmental issues facing the San Fernando Valley. CASM agrees with the experts and expects the DPW/FCD to have a comprehensive, proactive, strategic countywide sediment management plan that goes beyond their minimalist approach of removing sediment and dumping it across



LA County and that will ensure that all of their 14 reservoirs have the necessary water storage capacity.

Rather than allowing the sediment to build up in reservoirs and then reacting to the build-up by removing and dumping it, CASM expects the DPW/FCD to be proactive and develop a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to effect a comprehensive sediment management plan that involves (1) modifying the surrounding lands in order to (2) reduce the flow of sediment into its reservoirs and (3) developing plans to put the sediment back onto the National Forest lands where it came from instead of dumping it above communities of homes and people.

CASM expects the DPW/FCD to work its comprehensive sediment management plan on an ongoing, full-time, basis as reservoir sedimentation is a never-ending problem that requires constant attention and continuous management efforts. CASM is also very concerned that they have allowed sediment to build up in Pacoima Reservoir to an unacceptable, near emergency level because they have not removed sediment in 30 years. The last sediment removal project was in 1983 when 1.07 million cubic yards (MCY) of material was removed via sluicing [Rhymes with “juicing”; A sluice is an artificial channel for conducting water, often fitted with a gate—“sluice gate”— at the upper end to regulate the flow.]. CASM is in favor of removing the sediment from Pacoima Reservoir because they allowed the sediment to build up to such a high level, However, before any plans or work is started, a number of very significant issues need to be addressed by the DPW/FCD to the community’s satisfaction. Note, all of these issues also apply

to the 13 other DPW/FCD reservoirs around Los Angeles County: Where did the sediment come from? Where will it be put? How will the sediment be transported? What will the impact be on the environment and the community? Why isn’t the DPW managing sediment instead of just removing & dumping it? What is Dow’s agenda and how will it affect LA County residents?

The sediment in the Pacoima Reservoir is transported into the reservoir by the water flowing down Pacoima Creek and rains washing down the slopes surrounding the reservoir. Sediment in the reservoir came from the National Forest lands surrounding the reservoir. Why does the DPW/FCD want to transport millions of cubic yards of National Forest sediment out of the reservoir, through the dam, and dump it onto land in Los Angeles County next to homes in the City of Los Angeles?

The DPW/FCD has a plan to create two huge, new Sediment Placement Sites in Sylmar using two pristine canyons, which are on lands the DPW/FCD would have to purchase. They call them the “North & South Canyons” and located below Kagel Mountain adjacent to thousands of homes and tens of thousands of residents in Sylmar. These new SPS would be in addition to the May SPS, which means the DPW wants Sylmar to have three Sediment Placement Sites.

CASM is aware of the DPW/FCD admitting that it wants to “acquire additional SPS properties and other alternatives such as gravel pits.”² The DPW/FCD has clearly stated this is its agenda and CASM understands that their sediment management plan is to simply remove sediment from reservoirs and dump it in new and existing Sediment Placement Sites that they can own and manage. Their goal of acquiring additional SPS properties explains why they want to purchase 6 parcels of hillside land and use the North and South Canyons to create two huge, new Sediment Placement Sites in the San Gabriel Mountain foothills above Sylmar.

As part of the CEQA process, the LA County DPW will hold two Scoping Meetings in Sylmar in late January or early February at which time they will present their plans and alternatives to the community. CASM is working to inform and educate the community and help with the outreach so the San Fernando Valley communities have an opportunity to learn first-hand about the project and how the DPW will protect the environment, the communities, the San Gabriel Mountains, and the people from risks including Valley Fever, air pollution, potential carcinogens in the sediment and other possible hazards.

1. Source: Economics of reservoir sedimentation and sustainable management of dams” Journal of Environmental Management (2001), A. Palmieri, F. Shah and A. Dinar http://mycourses.ntua.gr/courses/CIVIL1086/document/Economics_of_reservoir_sedimentation_Palmieri_et_al_2001.pdf page 3 & 4
2. Source: <http://www.sylmarneighborhoodcouncil.org/land-use/2010-TownHall-SPS.pdf> LA
Editor’s Note: Dan Feinberg is President of CASM-SFV. Visit: www.CASM-SFV.org for more information.

What’s Going on with the Housing Department?

By Jackson Graham

General Manager, Mercedes Marquez, returned to the L.A. Housing Department after she left when the owner of the Cecile Hotel in L.A. sued the Housing Department because it was interfering with their right to run their business, which resulted in being settled out of court.

Ms Marquez then took a position with HUD (Housing and Urban Development) in Washington D.C. She also left that position after she and HUD lost a lawsuit filed by Rob Astorino, Elected County Executive of Westchester County, N.Y., because she apparently believes in the “redistribution of wealth” which is known in Westchester County as HUD’s “Grand Experiment.” For more important and specific information regarding the thuggery demands by HUD against Westchester County as presented in a 12 minute video by Rob Astorino, visit: <http://www.democratsagainstunagenda21.com/1/post/2013/08/thug-politics-hud-vs-westchester-county-new-york.html>

Why did Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa rehire Marquez as General Manager of the Housing Department, when she returned to Los Angeles after her two failures?

Why did she recently change the Housing Departments name to add “Community Investment Department” to its title and is now called the HCIDLA? Is it to control the money for a new “CRA” which now makes it the most powerful department in the city?

Why is the Housing Department involved in the real estate business?

Why were thousands of dollars spent to make and initiate a new logo as well as stationary instead a using the City Seal the same as other departments do?

Why is it that Housing Inspectors still do not have business cards, which have supposedly have been on order for several years?

Why does Code Enforcement personnel have very limited use of Toner Cartridges for their printer?

Why does executive management spend their time monitoring cell phone calls instead of spending their time efficiently?

Why isn’t the Code Enforcement Division a Bureau of it’s own? Could it be because they are the major revenue generating section of the Rent Stabilization Ordinance Department?

Why, despite escalating fees, is the Systematic Code Enforcement Program four months behind in inspections when they promised they would be done every three years, as demanded by law?

Why are Inspectors understaffed? Is it because the administration is top heavy and there appears to be nepotism and friends hired rather than qualified personnel?

Why does the housing department partner with 501c3 independent housing organizations? How are they selected and why are they not audited?

Apparently Marquez’ contract was not being renewed in October, so why was she allowed to stay until December 31? Since she announced that she is setting up a consulting business, does this allow her to put her cronies in place and set herself up with the city for personal future business?

Why is the Housing Department allowed to override Community Specific Plans?

Why are legitimate landlords suing the Housing Department? Could it be because penalty fees are now 200 per cent and they have a late fee charge of 500 per cent? Even Marquez refers to the fees as “gangsta fees.” And, is it because Housing Department may not have recorded the payments in a timely manner resulting in penalties because they are understaffed? Visit <http://www.lacity.org/CitywideServices/ServiceDetail/index.htm?laServiceId=2895>

for more information regarding the HCIDLA. Code Enforcement and Rent Stabilization Divisions are only two of many departments under the powerful Housing Department. These questions will continue to be investigated and an audit by the City Controllers office is being sought.





MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Share your events with your neighbors through:
InformNVR@aol.com FREE!
Arl - Arleta, **G.H.** - Granada Hills, **K.C.** - Kagel Canyon, **LA** - Los Angeles, **LVT** - Lake View Terrace, **LTC** - La Tuna Canyon, **M.H.** - Mission Hills, **NR** - Northridge, **NVCH** - North Valley City Hall, **Pac** - Pacoima, **S-T** -Sunland-Tujunga, **S.V.** - Sun Valley, **Syl** - Sylmar, **V.N.** - Van Nuys, **PC** -Panorama City
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thursday, Jan.2

Kiwanis Club Of Nrtrdg
CSUN Orange Grove Bistro
Zalzah & Nordhoff St.,
Nrthrdg.
12:00 pm

4th Annual Race for Youth
Mission Comm. Police
Council
MB2 Raceway, Kart Racing
13943 Balboa Blvd., Syl.
12:00 pm-10:00 pm.

GH Womens Club Meet
10666 White Oak Ave., GH
10:00 am

GHSNC Gen. Mtg.
GH Charter School
10535 Zelzah Ave., GH
6:30 pm

PNC Outreach Com.
Pacoima Library
13505 Van Nuys Blvd., Pac.
5:00 pm-6:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 4
Friends of Granada Hills
Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am

LADWP MOU Comm.
Hollywd Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Holly,
8:45 am

LANCC Meeting
Hollywd Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave. Holly
8:45 am

PCNC LUC
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

Sunday, Jan.5
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110, Commerce Ace., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday, Jan 6
Mission Com Clinic
Ground Breaking
8527 Sepulveda Blvd., N.
Hills
10:00 am -12:00 pm

Northridge South NC
Northridge Middle School
17960 Chase St. Nrth
Exec. Com. 5:00 pm
Transport. & Public Works
5:30
Budget and Finance 5:45
Planning & Land Use 6:15

STNC LUC
7727 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

Mission Hills NC
Gen. Meeting
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:45 pm

North Hills West NC
Sam’s Café
15725 Parthenia St. No.
Hills.
6:30 pm

FTDNC
Bldg & Outrch Meet.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
6 :00 pm
Exec Brd Mtg follows

Tuesday, Jan 7
STNC LUC.
7747 Foothills Blvd. S-T
7:00 pm

Arleta NC
13821 Osborne St., Arl
6:30pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Free Course
Community Emergency
Response Team
LAPD/CPAB sponsored
11016 Norris Ave., Pac
Sgt Herrold Egger
818-756-8866
Nina Royal
818 -563-1962
6:30 pm

FTDNC LUC
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SVANC
Ex Board Mtg
9040 “B” Sunland Blvd.,
SV
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan 8
STNC Gen Meet.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
818-951-7411
7:00 pm

FTDNC Exec. Board
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am

Neighborhood Council
Elections Season Mixer at
Valley Relics – SFV Mu-
seum
21630 Marilla St. Chats-
worth
6-8 p.m.

Thursday, Jan 9
LAPD Foothill Div. CPAB
Japanese Amer. Comm. Ctr
12953 Branford, Pac
818-756-8866
6:00 pm

Kagel Cnyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:00 pm

Valley Alliance of NC’s
Sherman Oaks Hosp.
4929 Van Nuys Blvd. S.O.
6:30 pm

Friday, Jan. 10
Region 1 Neighborhood
Councils
Rally in the Valley
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd, S-T
6:30 pm

Saturday, Jan. 11
Plan Check NC
Hollenbeck LAPD
Boyle Heights
Community Room
Speaker: Urban Design
Studio
10:00 am 12 Noon

GHNNC, Rules &
Policy Comm.
11139Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

Little Landers Hist. Society
Presents: Time Exposure
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave. S-T
8189-352-3420
1:00 pm –3:00 pm

Sunday, Jan 12
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Campo de Cahuenga Ren-
actmnt**
3919 Lankershim Blvd.,
Studio City
12:30 pm-2:15pm

Golden Hands Gala
Boys & Girls Club
Sheraton Universal
For tickets
Nicole.chase@bgsfv.org

Plan for Healthy Living
L.A. Plan. Comm.
Braude Const. Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., VN
4:30 pm– 5:50 pm

Monday, Jan. 13
FTDNC Budget & Outreach
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SNC LUC
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

PCNC Committee Meetings
US. Bank
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
Commerce : 9:00 am
Outreach: 5:00 pm
City Life: 5:30 pm
Rules: 6:00 pm
Education: 6:40 pm

SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

Northridge West NC
Beckford Elem. School
19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
7:00 pm 818-892-2414

GHNNC Safety Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm
Sun Valley Chamber Meet
Villa Scalabrini Ret Home
10631 Vindale Ave., SV
12:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan 14
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents : “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

CERT, Free Course
Community Emergency
Response Team
LAPD/CPAB sponsored
11016 Norris Ave., Pac
Sgt Herrold Egger
818-756-8866
Nina Royal
818-563-1962
6:30 pm

GHNNC
Public Safety Comm. Mtg.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm

SVANC
Board Mtg.
10631 Vinedale Ave., SV
6:30 pm

Devonshire CPAB Mtg.
17037 Plummer St., Nridge
7:00 pm

GHNNC
Citywide Issues Mtg.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan 15
LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:15 pm

Rotary Club
Coco’s Restaurant
10521 Sunland Blvd., S-T
818-951-5299
7:00 pm

North Hills West NC
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy HS
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge
7:00 pm

No. Valley Emrgency
Team Mtg.
10124 Balboa Blvd., GH
4:00 pm

PNC Meeting
11243 Glenoaks blvd., #3,
Pac
818-624-4242
6:30 pm

Strathern Nh’brh’d. Watch
Church of the Nazarene
12120 Strathern St., NoHo
6:30 pm

Mission Area CPAB
11121 Sepulveda BI MH
6:15 pm

Sylmar NC Green Comm.
Sylmar Park & Rec. Cent.
Susan B. Anthony Bldg.
Polk & Bordon Ave., Syl
7:00 pm

Hansen Dam Advisory Board
Lake View Terr. Rec. Ctr.
11075 Foothill Blvd., LVT
7:00 pm

Thursday Jan 16
FTDNC Gen. Meeting
www.ftdnc.org for location
7:00 pm

Neighborhood Watch
Block Captain’s Mtng.
Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave., Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Meet
L.A. Fire Station 89
7063 Laurel Cyn., No Ho

Sylmar NC Equestion Com.
Sylmar Rec Ctr
13109 Bordon Ave. Syl
7:30 pm

Sunday, Jan 19
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday, Jan 20
Martin L. King Day
Breakfast w/Mayor Garcetti
Boys & Girls Club SFV
11251 Glenoaks blvd, Pac
8:00 am

Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

STNC LUC – Cancelled
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

GHNNC LUC-cancelled
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan 21
Arleta NC Gen. Meeting
Beachy Elem. School
9757 Beachy Ave., Arl
6:30 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

CERT, Free course
Community Emergency
ResponseTeam
LAPD/CPAB sponsored
11016 Norris Ave., Pac
Sgt Herrold Egger
818-756-8866
Nina Royal
818-563-1962
6:30 pm

GHNNC Gen. Meet
Exec Comm Mtg
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
6:00 pm

LAPD Neighbrhd Watch
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tuj
6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Sylmar Block Captains
& Neighborhood Watch
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm-7:45 pm

Thursday Jan 23
PCNC
Brd of Dir Mtg.
Mission Comm, Hosp.
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
2nd Fl, Rm. 208
818-714-2133
6:30 pm

SNC Board Mtg
13109 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Saturday Jan 25
PNC Ed and Com
Engagemnt Fair
10115 Haddon Ave., Pac
11:00 am-2:00 pm

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gram**
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Sunday, Jan 26
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Monday, Jan 27
Arleta NC
Comm Imprvmnt Com
13306 Branford St., Arl
6:30 pm

FTDNC
Rules & Elec Comm
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHNNC Gen. Meeting
12227 Balboa Blvd., GH
6:30 pmSVANC LUC
9040 Sunland Bl., SV
6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Tuesday. Jan 28
Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Time Exposure”
Docent Tours
10110 Commerce Ave., Tuj
818-352-3420
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

CERT, Free course
Community Emergency
Respns Team
CPAB sponsored
11016 Norris Ave., Pac
Sgt Herrold Egger
818-756-8866
Nina Royal
818-563-1962
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan 29
STNC Exc Com mtg
N.V. City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:00 pm-8:00 pm

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Important dates on reverse side.



COMMENTARY

Means Should Justify End

By Robert J. Barbera



In a perfect world shouldn't everyone have what they want? Would it not be great if we had a Genie granting us endless wishes? We know the Genie magic is only a fantasy. However, too many people believe and expect this fantasy.

How could free offerings of goods or services possibly be free? In the consumer world, the costs of the products and services are included into the prices. The choice to use these products or services is up to the consumer.

Promises made by social engineering have come at a very expensive price. Unmerited awards do not work. Prolonged entitlements simply extend entitlements. College admission by unqualified students limits the admission of qualified students. Home lending privileges at special in-

terest rates distort the value of homes and limit the value of savings. Mandating policies of equality prolongs inequality.

We have replaced truth with relativism. We have replaced honest language with politically correctness. We have replaced family relationships with government relationships. We have replaced employer management with union management.

Often times well-intended ideas result in unintended consequences. In trying to get to the perfect world, the means should be justified. To advance a new idea by any means amounts to coercion. Our American foundation is based on freedom and responsibility. Our market economy is based on choices.

Fantasy intervention will not pass the test of time. Individuals should have the opportunity to succeed. Financial successful should not be rewarded by burdensome taxation. Creative people should be free to create. Rules and regulations should not stymie productivity.

The journey is as important as the destination. In all the experiments of communism, utopias, Leviathan and now progressivism which are all systems of equalizing man and building governments have failed. An ideal world cannot come from imperfect man.

Taking the goods from one group and giving it to another group is nothing short of stealing.

The market system has been the best experiment. A society is made up of people so complex even the most advance computers cannot process all the human needs and intentions. The very notion of creating a perfect world cannot be created by ignoring the means.

When we have centralized power in the hands of a few, their notion of ruling goes beyond their ability to rule. Invariably biases develop because of their bias. Power corrupts and they overextend their capacity to judge equitably.

Editor's note: Robert Barbera Chairman of the Board, Americanism Educational Leaders

Could Party Be Over for DWP Union Leader D'Arcy?

By David Barron



A victory for Mayor Garcetti against DWP union boss, Brian D'Arcy, would elevate Mayor Eric Garcetti to a higher level that no other previous mayor dared to challenge or had the courage to attempt to achieve.

Cheers to Garcetti! We finally have a mayor who is taking the lead like the Navy Lieutenant he is, reaching out to Neighborhood Councils, residents and businesses with an open door policy, listening to constituent's suggestions and their concerns. He is willing to take a stand to ensure a DWP contract delivers real reform with the best interest of the City's ratepayers who are desperate for a leader who can begin to throttle back sky rocketing utility rates.

Garcetti displayed his leadership by showing up at the Neighborhood Councils' Town Hall budget meeting held

at City Hall soon after being elected and comfortably took questions from angry ratepayers. The Mayor's action showed that he wants LA to have the best public utility in the nation, including a contract that allows us to reform DWP and end secret deals on costly DWP work rules. Work rules for example, mean employees may get extra pay for riding a bike to work, among hundreds of other such examples. Most members of the city council support the DWP union deal negotiated by the previous mayor's administration and understandably so. After all, most of the council members received thousands of campaign dollars from the DWP union while candidate Garcetti distanced himself from DWP. But, we as rate payers, must change the strength that the union leaders have on our elected officials. And, we have the ability to do so. To help protect our checkbooks from bleeding dry because of anticipated sky-rocketing utility rates, taxes, and fees, I recommend that we do all we can to outreach to our neighbors, our community organizations, and small

businesses to encourage them to support Garcetti's vision so City Council and Sacramento Legislators can see that he has an electorate power of strength behind him who will not tolerate any legislation or city policy that would impact our communities or a family's budget in a negative way.

In the past few years I've often written that the only serious way taxpayers can get an accounting of our spent tax dollars or to investigate an out of control city department like the DWP and its union leader is for city elected officials to issue subpoenas, hold public hearings, and go over some documents.

But at last, it was refreshing to hear newly elected City Controller Ron Galprien say that issuing subpoenas may be his next step in the investigation of DWP's \$40,000,000.00 nonprofit secret funds.

Editor's note: Mr. Barron Is a long time civil servant and a Commentator for the NVR.

I've Seen the Best of America

By Anthony Portantino



I attended a meeting with a Pasadena City College Board of Governors member, regarding education, and I was excited to hear good news. She detailed several proud accomplishments and goals for this terrific Community College. Students are getting the classes they need and are on track to graduate and articulate to four year colleges/universities, or full time employment, in record numbers. They also have a plan in place to ensure success and accountability for their students and school and. PCC is nearing the completion of its \$150 million dollar bond campaign and are on extremely sound financial footing which is rare for a public institution. They are proud that they are in the top 10 of the National Program for Veterans. PCC highlighted their Student Veterans, who were out in full force at a Veterans Ceremony, to receive respect and admiration

I also attended the American Legion mural unveiling honoring Veterans in Sunland-Tujunga, and it is a superb addition to the foothills. My father was a WWII Veteran

and part of the "greatest generation" written about eloquently by Tom Brokaw. One of the benefits of living in the foothills is the number of men and woman from my father's era that I encounter. I always enjoy hearing their stories and listening to their perspectives on life. I am amazed to see today's younger Veterans at commemorations and gatherings with WWII, Korean and Viet Nam Vets. We owe them our gratitude for their service to our country. Since we've closed up my mom's house in New Jersey, I've had the opportunity to reminisce with many family photos of simpler times, complete with photos of my dad and uncles in uniform. They're amazing men, who along with so many other Americans, worked hard to give their families a better life after their military service.

As 2013 comes to an end, two remarkable women touched me dramatically in the past 12 months. Diane Nyad, spoke eloquently about her historic swim from Cuba to Florida, "I wanted [this swim] to be a lesson for my life that says, Be fully engaged. Be awake and alert and alive every minute of every waking day." And, Pakistani student activist Malala Yousafzai, who was shot in the head by the Taliban in 2012. Her words are perhaps the most meaningful of the past year, "One child, one teacher, one book, and

one pen can change the world." Yes they can Malala and you certainly did.

Finally, we saw the best of America in 2013 as we dealt with unprecedented fires and floods, best captured by Boulder Colorado President Kim Schuler, "It does give you a perspective on humanity...They just came in, they helped, and they left." Which brings me to acclaimed author George Saunders comment during the Syracuse University Commencement, "What I regret most in my life are failures of kindness." Perhaps more of us, including myself, need to have a few less regrets and a few more acts of kindness as we head into 2014. Saunders helped me find my New Year's resolution for 2014. I was very grateful to Readers Digest for printing these and other significant quotes from 2013.

Happy Holidays everyone! Please have a safe and happy new year!

Editors' Note: Anthony Portantino is the former 44th Dist. Assemblymember, a visiting fellow at the USC Unruh Institute of Politics, a member of the California Film Commission, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Board, Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy Board, PCC Bond Oversight Committee, PASAGMC and La Canada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce Board.

I Am Not Satisfied With What I See!

By Jesse Torrero



I have lived here in the North East San Fernando Valley for 50 of my 52 years. My parents came here in 1962 from Chicago, Ill., where I was born in the summer of 1960. The next 25 years I grew up in an America, that I recall, was just like paradise.

I look around today and think about the yester-years of my life here. The memories of Sun Valley, Sunland-Tujunga, Lake View Terrace, Pacoima, Arleta, Sylmar, North Hollywood, Panorama City and Van Nuys resonate in me like 4th of July Fireworks. Yes, age has something to do with this; I know every generation thinks it had it better. The world of the next generation of people seems so stressful, so dangerous, so disrespectful, and non-caring to older folks like myself, but is it really just my age making me feel this way? Am I just becoming like my 81-year-old Dad, and my Grandpa, who lived to be in his 80s? Am I just turning into them?

No way, it can't be that? Can It?

I'm in Real Estate & Loans as a Broker for 30 years here in the north east valley, I'm a Community Activist who had a graffiti paint out and trash pick up service, coached troubled youth in baseball, helped get rid of transient drug houses, and now am Co-Director of a 'Coalition Against Human Trafficking' here in my Valley. I have had 3 hit records, been on the radio for over 30 years, and have traveled to 23 nations and 300 U.S. cities. I've always kept an open mind to change.

I'm not becoming my Dad and Grandpa; *I am not satisfied with what I see!*

Here is what I see on top of the paradise here in my Valley: Houses locked up like prisons, yards guarded by vicious dogs, trash all over the street, graffiti everywhere, destroyed infrastructure, profanity used by everyone from the youngest to the oldest, disrespect for others, violence in the families, drugs, gang members, drop outs, ten different languages, schools that look like prisons, dangerous parks, prostitutes, pimps, and johns, marijuana stores on every corner, homelessness, filth, disgusting public behaviors, angry people all around...where everyone wants to be a tough guy, corrupt politicians, overrun hospitals, an over worked and under paid police department, the smell of trash in the

air, sirens all night, congested stop...and never go traffic, complainers, whiners, finger pointers, perverted teachers, a poor education system, a two system unfair court for the wealthy and everyone else, land of accusations, neighbors that never talk, teen age un-wed pregnancy, a world run by computers, and inhumane corporations, a belief that I deserve a hand out, and I am entitled to it, gimmie, gimmie, gimmie! We also have over worked moms and dads, under paid families and very few stand up heroes,

What happened to paradise? It's been covered up with a huge mountain of trash.

Here's how We must fix it. We all must get involved beyond the box of our independent free lives. We all must understand that there is something at stake here, something to fight for, something to stand up for in the face of wrong, with the will of what's right on our side. We all must believe that good guys do win. We all must make up for what is messed up. We all must unite and start right so it ends right. This is what we all must do to dig paradise out of the pile of trash it lies under. I am willing.... are you!?

Editors Note: Mr. Torrero is a long time community activist and member of Foothill CPAB who is instrumental in cleaning up problematic San Fernando Road corridor.



News from LAPD Operations-Valley Bureau



Jorge A. Villegas
Deputy Chief
Valley Bureau

The Los Angeles Police Department, Operations-Valley Bureau overseen by Deputy Chief Jorge A. Villegas continues to make enhancing community relationships a priority. Operations-Valley Bureau is comprised of seven geographic areas and Valley Traffic Division, spanning almost 227 square miles and serves a population of over 1.4 million residents. Operations-Valley Bureau motto, “One Team – All In” applies not only to the team building encouraged within the organization, but as importantly applies to the partnerships between the various communities within the increasingly diverse San Fernando Valley. Proactively working in partnership with community members allows the officers to address safety concerns as well as quality of life concerns in the various neighborhoods. In addition, it fosters relationships between the officers and individuals, with the hope that positive lasting impressions and perceptions will result.

Effective partnerships require communication, understanding and teamwork. The means of accomplishing that

goal go well beyond the daily interactions of law enforcement in the community. The Divisions within the Bureau hold Town Hall Meetings. In this type of informal setting open discussions are encouraged to share ideas and focus on relevant issues. Topics that affect and are of interest to the varied communities are heard through direct and honest dialogue. The Department Community Police Academy is yet another avenue to increase our community member’s understanding of local law enforcement. This is an eight-week program that is offered quarterly. The curriculum is designed to present those in attendance an opportunity to gain inside perspective of police-activities and daily law enforcement operations; it is offered in Spanish as well as English. The knowledge and education received through the Community Police Academy allows the enrollees to gain a more comprehensive understanding of law enforcement’s role while providing the opportunity to interact with law enforcement in a relaxed environment.

Operations-Valley Bureau also hosts Community Forums throughout the year. These forums are designed to encourage a more intimate and meaningful exchange of ideas between the community and the commanding officers throughout the San Fernando Valley and have proven successful in opening lines of communication between the Los

Angeles Police Department and the community. In many cases the Community Forums have been instrumental in the successful resolution of specific neighborhood concerns and forming long lasting relationships between law enforcement and community members.

In addition to the ongoing events hosted in Operations-Valley Bureau throughout the year, most recently on October 24th, police officers throughout Operations-Valley Bureau participated in the Mission Possible 2013: Autism Awareness Symposium at Los Angeles Mission College. The event was designed with the specific goal to develop and increase the relationship between law enforcement and the community on a personal level. Seventy officers were paired with an Autism Spectrum Disorder student from the Los Angeles Unified School District for the day. Through one-on-one interaction and a variety of exercises, in a positive and safe environment, each participant gained a personal understanding of the other.

The events, forums and meetings are designed with the sole intent to create positive, open exchanges and continue to improve the relationships between the law enforcement community and the valued and diverse communities within the San Fernando Valley that we serve with pride.

Focusing on Foothill



Captain Sean Malanowski
Commanding Officer
Los Angeles Police Department
Foothill Division

Our Foothill Area has seen a decrease in crime over the past two years. In addition to good police work and great arrests being made by energetic officers, a good percentage of crime reduction can be attributed to the relationship that has been established with the communities that we serve.

When you report crimes in progress, officers respond and apprehend those individuals that are engaged in criminal activity. That is why the Neighborhood Watch program continues to be so successful. As we enter the last quarter of this year, it is our hope that more neighborhoods within Foothill will come together to start a Block Watch group.

Purpose—The purpose of the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH program is to:

- Teach you to know when you observe suspicious activity how to report it. You are the EYES and EARS. OBSERVE AND REPORT ONLY!
- Make you aware of the steps you and your neighbors can take to make your home more secure against crime.
- To be trained in how you and your neighbors can help each other protect your neighborhood, and
- Make local law enforcement agencies more effective in the fight against crime through YOUR involvement and participation.

Benefits of neighborhood watch:

- Deter criminal activity.
- Create a greater sense of security and reduce the fear of crime.
- Build bonds with neighbors; people look out for one another.
- Stimulate neighborhood awareness.

- Reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim and reduce the physical, financial and psychological costs of crime.
- Instructs residents on how to observe and report suspicious activities in your community.
- Addresses quality of life issues and mutual interests in your community.

If you want to start a neighborhood watch on your block, contact your Senior Lead Officer for the area that you live in. Set up a day and time for your first meeting (plan for at least 30 days in advance.) You can hold the meeting in a home, in a park, at a church or community center. The Los Angeles Police Department likes to see at least five homes in a neighborhood watch group. There is no cut off of how many. Choose who will be the Block Captain for your neighborhood then schedule your meetings.

If you wish to begin a Neighborhood Watch on your street, contact your local LAPD Division Community Relations Office. For the Foothill Area Community Relations Office, call (818) 756-8866.

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South
Kevin Taylor, Independent Elections
Administrator

Region 1
North East Valley - Candidate Filing
Ends Jan. 22, 2014
Arleta, Foothill Trails District, Mis-
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Panorama City, Sun Valley Area,
Sunland-Tujunga and Sylmar
Jose Sandoval, Independent Elections
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