



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.

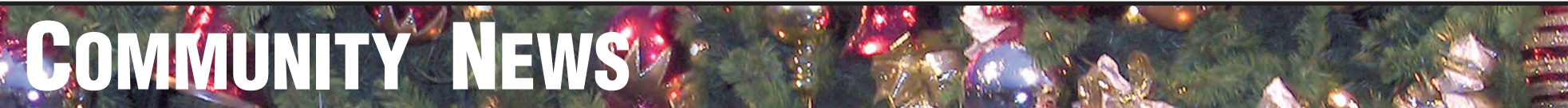
Early the next morning the Christmas pageant was begun. Shavano worried that the Christ child would be displeased with his insignificant gift. As the pageant procession began, and the shepherds in the play approached the doorway, they gasped in surprise, then cried, "Milagro, Milagro!" Miracle!

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.

"BUON ANNO"
"JOYEUX NOEL"
"VESELE VANOCE"
"MELE KALIKIMAKA"
"NODLAG SONA DHUIT"
"BLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDA"
"GOD JUL"
"FELIZ NATAL"
"BOAS FESTAS"
"FELIZ NAVIDAD"
"MERRY CHRISTMAS"
"KALA CHRISTOUGENA"
"VROLIJK KERSTFEEST"
"FROHLICHE WEIHNACHTEN"
"BUON NATALE-GODT NYTAR"
"HUAN YING SHENG TAN CHIEH"
"WESOLYCH SWIAT-SRETAN BOZIC"
"MOADIM LESIMHA-LINKSMU KALEDU"
"HAUSKAA JOULUA-AID SAID MOUBARK"
"N PRETTIG KERSTMIS"
"ONNZLLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA"
"Z ROZHDESTYOM KHRYSTOVYM"
"NADOLIG LLAWEN-GOTT NYTTSAR"
"FELIC NADAL-GOJAN KRISTNASKON"
"S NOVYM GODOM-FELIZ ANO NUEVO"
"GLEDILEG JOL-NOELINIZ KUTLU OLSUM"
"EEN GELUKKIG NIEUWJAAR-SRETAN BOSIC"
"KRIHSTLINDJA GEZUAR-KALA CHRISTOUGENA"
"SELAMAT HARI NATAL - LAHINGU NAJU METU"
"SARBATORI FERICITE-BUON ANNO"
"ZORIONEKO GABON-HRISTOS SE RODI"
"MERRY CHRISTMAS - HAPPY NEW YEAR"
"BOLDOG KARACSONNY-VESELE VIANOCE"
"FELICES PASUAS-EIN GLUCKICHES NEWJAHR"
"SHENORAAVOR NOR DARI YEV PARI GAGHAND"
"ROOMSAID JOULU PUHI - KUNG HO SHENG TEN"
"PRIECIGUS ZIEMAN SVETKUS SARBATORI VESLLE"
"BONNE ANNEBLWYDDYN NEWYDD DDADRFELIZ NATAL"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



LAHSA to Help Shelter Homeless



*Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, District 2
Los Angeles City Council*

Since taking office 11 months ago, I have sought to tackle a broad range of issues that are both regional and citywide. I have consistently pushed for greater reform at the Department of Water and Power, worked to preserve open space in the North Valley and have sought to end homelessness throughout our neighborhoods.

In November, my office hosted a Homeless Connect Day that paired about 50 homeless individuals with vital social services. That day, we also got nine folks off the streets when they accepted housing from the Los Angeles Family Housing Agency. In December, we are continuing our efforts to bring shelter to those in need while making sure our streets and businesses are safe.

Starting December 15, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will start a two-week trial run to deliver the homeless to a Sylmar shelter – an effort that, if successful, could deliver annual help to those who need it most in the cold winter months. Each night at around 5:30 p.m., a LAHSA van will pick up folks from the Sunland Park Recreation area and drop them off early the next morning. The van, which will also include homeless folks from Van Nuys and Sylmar, will then drop them off at the Sylmar Winter Shelter, which has been a mainstay in the northwest Valley for about a decade. This is the first time LAHSA is providing transportation from the Sunland-Tujunga area to their winter shelter, and I thank them for including this important community in their ongoing efforts to end homelessness.

Los Angeles has the highest street homeless population in the nation and our North Valley is certainly home to its fair share of folks in need of housing. While my office continues to work with various social service groups to care for and find permanent housing for those

who need it, the Sylmar Winter Shelter will bridge the gap to help those right now.

LAHSA has led or been a part of similar winter shelters throughout our city for years. They’ve been great neighbors by working closely with our office, the police department and the Neighborhood Councils to alleviate concerns.

That said, my office will continue to work closely with the community, with the LAPD and with social service groups to ensure this pilot program is safe and effective. I encourage you to call my office at (818) 352-3287 if there are any problems or concerns.

This is an exciting new step and one we can achieve to help the homeless this holiday season. I look forward to its success and invite you to join me as we continue to seek ways to once and for all end homelessness in Los Angeles.

For more information about the shelter, check SylmarShelter.com or call (661) 312-7262.

Local Golf Course Granted Permit for Alcohol

“Tee’s on the Green” Restaurant, located at the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Sunland-Tujunga, was issued their long awaited Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for beer and wine with the help of District Two Councilmember Paul Krekorian. Their Permit, that was held in limbo for over a year, had a direct impact on the restaurant and affected the use of the golf course as well, especially tournament bookings because they could not serve beer.

The “Save the Golf Course Committee,” which is made up of members representing the foothill area communities in the region, have been strong supporters of a CUP for the restaurant. They are working hard to save the environmentally sensitive and historic course from

being developed into 229 homes by developer, Snowball Investments. They are helping to bring the course back into good financial position by encouraging the owner to advertise the course and put the greens back into good playing condition because it had been allowed to deteriorate which discouraged players. Their business has strong neighborhood support and is making remarkable progress for a business comeback.

The course’s business continues to improve since the restaurant received their permit. They now serve thirty brands of bottled beer and ten different brands of beer on tap along with food. They are becoming well known their hamburgers, which is only one of their specialties.

Course hours are 6:30 am to 9:30 pm. Prices have now been reduced to encourage more attendance, \$10.00 for Adults and \$7.00 for juniors. They have a well lighted driving range and also a Golf Pro on the premises to give Adult and Junior lessons at a very reasonable fee.

Karen Keene Zimmerman, a member of the “Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course” is requesting help from the public by playing golf and patronizing the restaurant. The address is 6433 La Tuna Cyn Rd, Tujunga 91042. She recommends holding a tournament there or play with friends and family. Reservations are suggested but not required. Call 818-352-3161 for more information or for reservations.

You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

The Crisis Response Team (CRT) - is recruiting new team members. Sponsored by the Mayor’s Office of Homeland Security and Public Safety, they are searching for community volunteers who will respond to traumatic incidents at the request of the LAPD and LAFD. They provide immediate on-scene crisis intervention between victims and emergency personnel regarding death and all other traumatic incidents. Bilingual Volunteers are also needed. Training classes for protocol will begin on **Monday, January 18** and end on Wednesday, March 3. Guest Speakers from collaborating agencies will also be on hand. For more information contact Jeffrey Zimmerman M.S.W., CRT Mgr. 213-978-0697 or email LACRT@lacity.org.

Small Businesses to get help - California Assemblymember Anthony Portantino has proposed a new credit to help small businesses pay for workers’ compensation premiums. His proposal would establish a new tax credit equal to 20% of workers' compensation annual premiums paid by a qualified small business with less than 20 employees. He says the money will not only help stimulate the economy but also help small business owners in a very significant way by allowing them to offset a portion of their workers compensation expenditure. The bill won’t change workers’ compensation coverage, but it will help small businesses with gross receipts of \$1 million or less pay by allocating \$200 million currently available under the poorly-utilized small business hiring credit to the newly established *workers' compensation credit* on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Open Space acquired - The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) the City of Santa Clarita and the supporters of “Rim of the Valley “ are celebrating the acquisition of 243 acres of open space

in the Rim of the Valley Corridor in Agua Dulce Canyon south of the 14 Freeway. The MRCA contributed \$750,000 of the total \$1,290,000 purchase price in Proposition 84 funds granted by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC). The Santa Clarita Open Space Preservation District paid for the balance that was established by the residents of Santa Clarita in 2007. According to Paul Edelman, Chief of Natural Resources and Planning. For the MRCA (Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority) “This is a keystone acquisition located near one of the most constricted sections of the regional wildlife corridor system under State Route 14, and it sets up a permanently protected stepping stone for animals to navigate this habitat linkage.”

Pets Worship too! - Pets are Welcome Service” (PAWS) is being held at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church for animal lovers and their beloved companions for song, prayer, a short message, and a time together. PAWS are held **each Sunday** at 5:00 p.m. in the little chapel. For additional information visit www.shadowhillschurch.com

The Foothill Mounted Patrol - is a non-profit Volunteer Equestrian Neighborhood Watch Group that is dedicated to the safety, education and assistance of the community. Their mission is to observe, educate, assist and act as the eyes and ears for the community and agencies they assist. Their goal is to preserve the history of the Hansen Dam Recreation Area, protect its’ beauty and help keep it safe for everyone’s enjoyment. New volunteers are welcome and training will be provided. Visit www.foothillmountedpatrol.com or call Linda Jones for more information at 310-890-9360.

Valley Native Appointed Chairman of the Armed Services Committee - Verdugo Hills High School graduate U.S. Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon, who repre-

sents the Twenty-Fifth Congressional District that includes half of Sunland-Tujunga will assume the chairmanship when the 112th Congress convenes in January. He will be responsible for the military’s resources, equipment and training. Also fiscal responsibility, accountability and transparency from the Department of Defense.

Yield to Horses' campaign - Equestrian Bert Bonner, whose horse was run off the trail by a reckless driver and had to be euthanized, sparked the Corral 20 board members into initiating a 'Yield to Horses' campaign. They are planning a kick-off on **Saturday, January 8th** by distributing flyers through out the equestrian community. They would like to see signage and plans for bridal paths on critical streets as well as a stop sign at Wheatland & La Canada Way in Shadow Hills. They would also like to have more volunteers to maintain and keep the trails open. They will be working closely with The Foothills Mounted Patrol. For more information email: imakowgirl@hotmail.com or call 818-489-6527.

Learn about the St. Francis Dam Disaster - during a presentation by Frank Rock, who grew up in the area, on **Saturday, January 8**, beginning at 1 pm, at Little Landers Historical Society/Bolton Hall Museum, in Tujunga. See calendar section for details. Mr. Rock is an expert and will separate the myths from the truth. Parking is available across the street at the Elks Lodge on Commerce Ave.

The Los Angeles River Cooperation Committee - will be meeting on **Sunday, January 10** and will be discussing the CA High Speed Train Authority as well as the Trust for Public Land- L.A. River and the Aliso Creek Confluence Project. The City, County and Army Corps of Engineers will give updates. The meeting begins at 1 pm at the City of L.A., 1149 S. Broadway, in the 7th floor conference room.

Rise-N-Shine Cafe



Breakfast Served All Day

Omelets
Biscuits 'n Gravy
Chicken 'n Waffles
Chicken Fried Steak

Order Everything ☺ It's all Great!

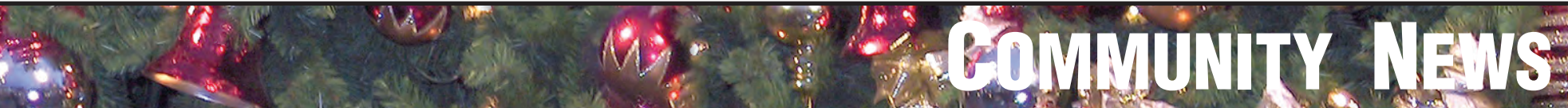
BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Home Cooked Food Made Fresh From Scratch

Sharon, Keith
& Family

818-352-5755

**9685 Sunland Blvd.
Shadow Hills**



Court of Appeals Blocks Judge’s Ruling on Jessica’s Law



Jessica Lunsford
Oct 1995-Feb 2005

By Katharine Russ

Proposition 83, passed by voters in 2006, is named after Jessica Lunsford, a 9-year-old girl who was kidnapped, assaulted, and buried alive by a close neighbor, who was a previously convicted 47 year old sex offender that did not report where he was living

Espinoza is the same Judge who ruled that Roman Polanski was a victim of judicial misconduct and corruption. He also ordered a man convicted in the execution-style slaying of a high school classmate (Ace of Spades killer- 1992) be released after Governor Schwarzenegger overturned three previous parole grants.

On November 18, a California Appeals Court ordered a stay on Judge Peter Espinoza’s ruling that blocked a part of Jessica’s Law prohibiting sex offenders from living within 2,000 ft of schools and parks.

Espinoza cited in his ruling on November 1 that Jessica’s law strict residency restrictions was unconstitutional, especially for those who live in densely populated cities. The ruling came from a lawsuit filed by four paroled sex offenders and is intended to be

temporary, pending the resolution of some 650 other petitions filed by other sex offender parolees.

In his 10-page ruling, Espinoza wrote, “Rather than protecting public safety, it appears that the sharp rise in homelessness rates in sex offenders on active parole in Los Angeles County actually undermines public safety. The evidence presented suggests that despite lay belief, a sex offender parolee’s residential proximity to a school or park where children regularly gather does not bear on the parolee’s likelihood to commit a sexual offense against a child.”

Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich called Espinoza’s ruling stupid and dangerous. “Jessica’s Law, passed by California voters in 2006, prevents sex predators from living near our children’s schools and public parks,” said Antonovich. “Placing the alleged rights of criminal sex offenders above the rights and safety of children and families is stupid and dangerous. This reckless decision needs to be appealed.”

Espinoza’s ruling misquoted Chief Charlie Beck on the prohibition of stable living arrangements for sex offenders, based on a report to the Los Angeles City Council by the Los Angeles Police Dept (LAPD) relative to the concentration of sexual registrants in residential housing, and not the merits of



Judge Peter Espinoza

residency requirements mandated in Jessica’s Law, Senator George Runner, the author of Jessica’s Law, was unsettled by Espinoza’s ruling. “I am extremely disappointed with this ruling. The court made the wrong decision to overturn the will of the voters and allow dangerous sex offenders to live near parks and schools. The notion that they are being forced to choose between prison and homelessness is ridiculous,” Runner said. “The best interests of convicted child rapists and other sexual predators cannot be elevated above the rights of their victims and the legitimate responsibility of the state to protect our children.”

There are an estimated 5,100 registered sex offenders living in Los Angeles, with 1,020 of them prohibited under Jessica's Law from living near schools and parks. In Los Angeles County, about 2,000 registered sex offenders are subject to residency restrictions.

Katharine.russ@charter.net

Holiday Season Reminder



Commander James Cancler
Assistant Commanding Officer
Operations Valley Bureau
Los Angeles Police Department

As we enter the Holiday Season we again wish to emphasize the importance of doing a few small things to keep you from becoming a victim of crime.

Burglary Theft from Vehicle (BTFV) Crime Prevention Tips

- Always lock your vehicle and close your windows

- Use a steering column locking device
- Do NOT leave your valuables in your vehicle, including laptop computers
- Always use your vehicle’s alarm system
- If possible, park your vehicle in a garage
- Park your vehicle as close to a streetlight as possible
- Do not leave garage remotes in your vehicle
- If you see any suspicious activity near any vehicle, call the police
- Some prime targets of BTFV are IPODS, IPOD Docking Stations, Money, Portable GPS Systems, Mail, Checkbooks, other Documents

The message is simple:

- Lock It: Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended and take your valuables with you.
- Hide It: Hide your valuables in your trunk, under the seats, in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle. Ideally, take your property with you.
- Keep It: Personal responsibility is the best prevention to safeguard personal property and to prevent becoming a victim.

You work hard for what you have. Don’t make it easier for someone to ruin your celebration. We want you to enjoy a very Happy Holiday Season!

Special Task Force Cleans Up



Captain Joseph M. Hiltner
Commanding Officer,
Foothill Area Station
Los Angeles Police Department.

Working toward LAPD Chief Charlie Beck’s mandate to reduce crime in the city by five per cent for the current year, Foothill Division initiated a division wide Special Task Force geared toward the 83 per cent Part I Property Related Crimes in the city. Part 1 crimes consist of Burglary, Burglary/Theft from Motor Vehicles, Grand Theft Auto, Receiving Stolen Property and Grand Theft.

The two-day sweep, held on November 11 and 12, was completed with the assistance and cooperation of several LAPD Valley Divisions as well as other law enforcement agencies. Specialized Property Crime and other Units came from LAPD’s Valley Divisions: Van Nuys, Topanga, North Hollywood, Devonshire, and West Valley along with Valley Operations Bureau. Also included in the Task Force were State Parole, County Probation and the Los Angeles Unified District’s School Police. All participants worked together out of the Incident Command Post located at the Foothill Station. Some of their tasks included checking for fugitive warrants, parole violators, possession of illegal firearms, checking Auto and Pawn Shops and student truancy.

The two day special effort that took place in the communities of Pacoima, Lake View Terrace, Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, Sun Valley and part of North Hollywood resulted in the following:

44 Arrests - 13 Felons, 30 Misdemeanors, 96 Probation locations were checked and 59 Firearms were recovered along with approximately 90 pounds of ammunition, 1 high capacity magazine, 1 body armor and various narcotics along with \$4,100. 11 Auto locations

were checked and 7 arrests were made. 18 Fugitive Warrants were attempted and 3 Arrests made. Pawn Shops were also checked resulting in 3 arrests

On a lighter note, the holiday season is here and we want to help you and your loved ones have a joyous holiday season by reminding you of a few safety measures to practice in order to assure you will remain safe and secure and reduce your chance of becoming a victim:

- 1.Park your car in well lighted areas when shopping or out for the evening. Double check that all windows are closed and always use a club or other locking devise if your vehicle doesn’t have an anti-theft device or alarm system.
- 2.Always be aware of your surroundings when walking to and from your car or walk with a friend, especially at night.
- 3.Do not leave anything inside your car for easy viewing by others. Deposit all packages in your trunk in order to safeguard them. If you don’t have a trunk, find a way to hide them from sight.
- 4.If you must use an ATM late at night, ask a friend to go with you. Always make sure you are in a safe location, or drive to your local police station where machines are located in the lobby.
- 5.When shopping, do not leave your packages unattended. Women with purses should keep them closed. It would be helpful to have shoulder purses that go across the body to prevent purse snatching.
6. Please have a designated driver or other transportation arrangements if you plan on drinking alcohol while out celebrating during the holidays.

The life you save may be your own.

We want to wish you and your loved ones a very happy holiday season and we hope you will have a safe and happy new year.

Steven Zipperman, New Chief of Police for LAUSD



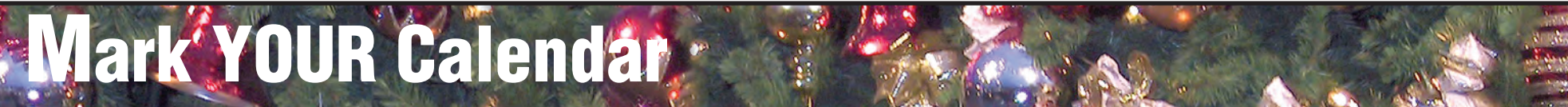
On January 1, 2011, Steven Zipperman, a former Captain at LAPD's Foothill Division will take the helm as Chief of School Police for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Zipperman retired from the Los Angeles Police Department in December as Captain of the Southwest Division.

He joined LAPD in 1979 and worked numerous assignments including patrol, special problems unit, vice, narcotics and Metropolitan Division before being promoted to sergeant in 1986. He then worked a variety of assignments including, patrol operations, vice, administrative staff research, adjutant and Internal Affairs before being promoted to Lieutenant and he worked patrol watch commander and a bureau vice coordinator and adjutant before promoting to Lieutenant II. He was then assigned to Metropolitan Division and held the positions of Officer in Charge of Operations Section, Mounted Platoon, K-9 Platoon and Assistant Officer in Charge of the Special Weapons and Tactics Platoon until he was promoted to rank of Captain on October 15, 2006.

Zipperman graduated from Verdugo Hills High School, received an AA degree from Los Angeles Pierce College, a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Cal State University, Bakersfield, and a Master's Degree in Organizational Leadership from Woodbury University. He also attended the Department-sponsored West Point Leadership Program and the Valley Leadership Institute. His professional organization memberships include The National Tactical Officer's Association (NTOA) and the California Association of Tactical Officers (CATO).

Lydia Grant, Parent Representative for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council says "I am very excited that we will have a new Chief of School Police and I am looking forward to working with him and addressing concerns in our community.”



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

Please support your NVR Advertisers so we can support you.

Sunday, Dec 19

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Free Holiday Concert
Valley Symphony Orchestra
Forest Lawn
6300 Forest Lawn Dr., LA
2:00 pm

Food Truck Feast
VFW Post 2323
17522 Chatsworth St., GH
1:00 pm – Entertainment

Tuesday, Dec 21

Arleta NC Gen. Mtg.
Cancelled

Friday, Dec 24
Christmas Eve

Saturday, Dec 25
Merry Christmas

Sunday, Dec 26

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Open Poetry Reading
The Village Poets
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
818-352-3420
4:30 pm
dskiles@ca.rr.com

Monday, Dec 27

GHNNC Gen. Mtg.
Rinaldi Adult Center
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec 28

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Friday, Dec 31,
New Year’s Eve
Don’t Drink & Drive
The life you save may be Mine!

Saturday Jan 1
Happy New Year!

Check these schedules
Friends of GH Library
10640 Petit Ave., GH
10:30 am

LADWP MOU Comm.
Hollywood Com. Center
6501 Fountain Ave., Hillywd
8:45 am

Sunday, Jan 2

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-35-3420

Monday, Jan 3

STNC Land Use
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

FTDNC Outreach Comm.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan 4

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-4270

FTDNC Land Use
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

MHNC Zoning & Land Use
LAPD Mission Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH

Wednesday, Jan 5

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

NHWNC Comm. Forum
Holy Martyrs Armenian School
1667 Parthenia St., NH
7:00 pm

Bingo
S-T Elks Lodge
11037 Commerce Ave., S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-2098

MHNC Safety Comm.
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

Thursday, Jan 6

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

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
12:00 pm -1:30 pm 818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:00 pm

S-T League of Women Voters
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
1:30 pm 818-782-4236

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd., KC
7:30 pm

MHNC Board & Gen Mtng.
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

NHNE NC Outreach
Valley Plaza Library
12311 Van Owen St., No Ho
6:30 pm

Best Start Regional Mtng.
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., No. Hills
11:00 am

Saturday, Jan 8

Plan Check NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth St., L.A.
10:00 am -1:00 pm

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

Sunday, Jan 9

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Monday, Jan 10

FTDNC Budget Comm.
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SNC Land Use Comm.
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Jan 11

BONC Special Mtng.
Saticoy Elem. School
7850 Ethel Ave, NH
6:00 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 818-714-2133

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

SNC Outreach Comm.
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
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

PCNC Outreach
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-714-2133

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

Sun Valley Chamber Mtng.
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vindale Ave., SV
12:00 pm

Wednesday, Jan 12

STNC Gen Meet.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill, S-T
Refreshments 6:30 pm
7:00 Mtng. 818-951-7411

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

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

No Hollywd.Nh’brh’d Watch
Pentecostal Church
6800 Radford St., No Ho
6:30 pm 818-331-1398

FTDNC Equestrian Mtng.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Pan. City Neighborhood Watch
9261 Wakefield, PC
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Thursday, Jan 13

Valley Alliance of NC’s
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys Blvd., SO.
6:30 pm

FTDNC Equestrian Comm.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHsNC Gen. Mtng.
Granada Hills Pavillian
11128 Balboa Blvd., GH
7:30 pm

LAPD Foothill CPAB
Big Jims Restaurnat
Sheldon Ave. & Laurel Cyn., SV
6:00 pm

Friday, Jan 14

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

Sunday, Jan 16

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Monday, Jan 17

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

GHNNC Land Use Comm.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

STNC Land Use Comm
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

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- Tuesday, Jan 18**

Arleta NC Gen. Mtng.
Beachy Elem. School
9757 Beachy, Arl.
6:30 pm

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

S-T Neighborhood Watch
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
6:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan 19

LAPD-CPAB
Mission Division
11121 Sepulveda Blvd.,
MH
6:30 pm

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

Pacoima NC
6:30 pm -Gen. Mtng.
Pacoima Comm. Center
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
- Northridge East NC**
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave.,
Nrdge
7:00 pm

Bingo Night
S-T Elks Lodge
10137 Ave., S-T
6:30 pm 818-352-2098

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

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

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

Thursday, Jan 20

FTDNC Gen. Meeting
www.ftdnc.org for loca-
tion
7:00 pm
- Neighborhood Watch**
Block Captains Mtng.
Sylmar High School
13050 Borden Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge East NC
Northridge Academy
9601 Zelzah Ave.,
Nrdge

NHNE NC Board Mtng.
Arminta Elem. School
11530 Arminta St., No
Ho
7:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Mixer
John Wells Driving
Range
11501 Strathern St., No
Ho
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Monday, Jan 21

GHNNC Gen. Mtng.
Rinaldi Adult Center,
17450 Rinadli St., GH
6:30 pm

By-Law Reform Group.
Bario Family Center
4927 Huntington Dr.,
LA
10:00 am – 12:00 pm.
- Sunday, Jan 24**

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch”
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420


Open Poetry Reading
The Village Poets
Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Ave.,
S-T
818-352-3420
4:30 pm
dskiles@ca.rr.com

Tuesday, Jan 25

Bolton Hall Museum
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1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 818-352-3420

Saturday, Jan 29

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Telephone 818-563-1962
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P.O. Box 674, Tujunga Ca 91043

Publisher/Editor
Nina Royal

Layout Design
Paccio Ad & Design

Contributing Writers
Robert Barbera, Tomi Lyn Bowling,
Commander Cancler, Cindy Cleghorn, Marlene Hitt,
Ron Kaye, Anthony Portantino, Dr. Tom Williams

Investigative Reporter
Katharine Russ

Proofreaders
Paula Warner

Photographers
Cindy Cleghorn, Lloyd Hitt,

North Valley Sales Respresentatives
Gordon Lee, Betty Salazar

Special Recognition to:
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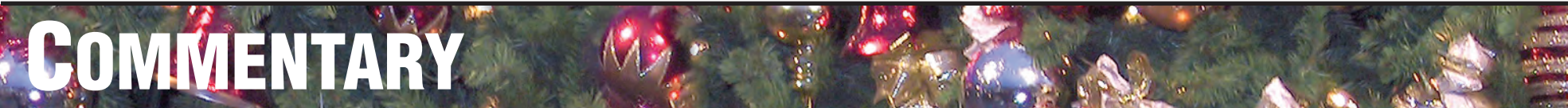
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Beware... More Political Fraud Ahead



By Ron Kaye

More money for libraries, pension reform, controls on the Department of Water and Power and city spending – these are among the subjects of nearly a dozen measures Los Angeles’ mayor and City Council will put before voters in the March 8 election.

They call them “reforms” and will raise millions of dollars from unions, developers and other special interests to support them as well as candidates for seven Council seats and so too for the L.A. School Board and the L.A. Community College Board. Don’t fall for it.

It’s just another fraud on the voters brought to you buy the very same people who have failed you for so long. Look at the record over recent years and there’s not much to take comfort in beyond the genuine reforms that have restored credibility and effectiveness to the LAPD after scandals of corruption and abuses of the poor and minorities.

Tens of billions of dollars of taxpayer dollars have gone into building beautiful new facilities for public schools and colleges. Yet, the schools are still failing, with some exceptions, and the colleges are raising fees and cutting classes – proving it’s not the

buildings that educate students.

Taxes, rates, fees and fines have soared even as libraries and parks have closed and core services have been slashed. Yet, the city sinks inexorably in the quicksand of bankruptcy next year or the year after.

Not a single one of the ballot measures actually fixes a single problem facing the city; few of the incumbents have established a record of service to the public that makes them worthy of consideration for re-election.

What’s so tragic about the state of Los Angeles is that the people who hold public offices aren’t crooks – at least not the majority. They are captives of a corrupt system in which the money from special interests and the influence of powerful individuals, businesses and organizations command their obedience. They are addicted to their huge salaries, nearly twice what New York City officials are paid, staffs eight times larger than New York’s, the lavish perks and benefits they get, the unfounded sense of their own self-importance. And they are afraid to lose all of that if they stand up vigorously and consistently for their constituents and the common good of the city as a whole.

They have a lot to fear. People in every part of the city are fighting back and getting organized and starting to make a difference. They are angry about the loss of

services, about being forced to pay for basic services while their tax money is given away to developers whose projects harm the quality of their lives, about wages and benefits for public employees that are unaffordable and mortgage the city’s future.

The wrath of the people can prove to be a powerful force for real reform. Dozens of qualified candidates have stepped forward to challenge the incumbents and the LA Clean Sweep political action committee is raising money and working with them with training and efforts to mobilize support.

Only 7 to 13 percent of registered voters are expected to turn out for the March elections so every vote truly counts. If those numbers rose by only a few percentage points, new people beholden to the community—not special interests—could win election in many of the Council districts.

The future of L.A. looks grim today, but people who are independent, honest, open, fiscally responsible and committed to putting the “public” back into public service can turn it around. We have nobody to blame but ourselves if we don’t get informed and get involved, if we let a failed system destroy the city we love.

Editor’s Note: Ron Kaye, a former Editor of the Daily News, writes for the NVR and RonkayeLA.com.

Political Relativism



By Robert J. Barbera

The United States has a republic form of government with duly elected representatives. Most often, our representatives belong to a particular political party. We generally choose a political party from our parent’s choice, (if it was good enough for my father it is good enough for me) our associates, or the people who have the same career. In some instances, our political party choice is from self interest or convenience. When we establish a party, we cannot avoid political relativism.

Time and time again politicians vote by party line. If a political party advocates a particular position contrary to some in the party, political party representatives follow in lock step. This type of activity suggests political

relativism. As a consequence, issues are mindlessly decided because they follow a political party. We have ignored individual selection when we faithfully follow political parties. Political parties through their representatives advocate ideologies to keep their diverse constituencies who have different points of view.

On the political left, a party that supports jobs and advocates minimum wages is short sighted because statistics have shown that raising minimum wages results in some wage earners to lose their jobs. When the left impedes innovated technology, it sacrifices efficiency which in the long run causes loss of jobs. On the political right, the party holds life is precious but advocates the death penalty. The political right advocates smaller government but seeks military protection.

Our political parties are at odds with each other trying to gain one- up-man-ship. The unreasonable opposition

by a party is justified as the loyal opposition. Our country policies move from left to right and right to left. Sometimes it is a small minority that tips the balance of power in elections or worse yet infiltrates the American system with un-American policies. Our acceptance of political relativism allows this to happen. As a consequence, our political achievements are watered-down or not achieved at all.

One of the most grievous issues about political relativism is the unquestionable loyalty of the political party mantra. Political relativism has put us in fixed ideologies and political war. Open discussions to reach just conclusions are not achieved. If we look for pure truth, we will not find it. If we seek statesmanship, we will not find it. If we look for consistency, we will not find it.

Continued on page 7

Report on Adoption of the Community Plan Implementation Overlay District Ordinance (CPIO)



By Dick Platkin

On Wednesday, November 10, 2010, the Los Angeles City Council adopted the new Community Plan Implementation Overlay District Ordinance (CPIO) -- without hearing any public testimony.

This new ordinance is enabling legislation which allows the City of Los Angeles to ostensibly implement a Community Plan through an overlay zoning ordinance covering an entire Community Plan area. In addition, a CPIO can have sub-areas as small as a single lot (i.e., spot zoning).

But would such local zoning ordinances actually implement a Community Plan? The answer is: hardly at all. The title of this new legislation misleads the public, in particular because, in practice, CPIO’s could usher in many zoning and environmental changes to local communities which conflict with Community Plans.

This is because the nexus between a CPIO and the Community Plan it purports to implement is tenuous. In fact, the Council’s enabling legislation contains no criteria to determine if a CPIO actually implements a Community Plan or has environmental impacts. Changes to local zoning ordinances enacted through a CPIO could and probably would, therefore, conflict with Community Plans.

The foremost reason for this disconnect is because the City’s elected officials, with the Department of City Planning in tow, long ago abdicated their formal, legally required role to plan Los Angeles.

For them the “planning” process has become an appendage to the City’s Department of Building and Safety, whose primary task is to issue building permits for private projects. Planning is not, therefore, the rigorous

preparation, legal adoption, annual updating, and careful implementation of a vision for governing Los Angeles.

As anyone who has taken the time to review the City’s aging General Plan Framework or one of the 35 Community Plans quickly learns, these plans address 100 percent of the land area in Los Angeles.

This is why they contain page after page of thoughtful policies and programs addressing such public infrastructure as parks, and such public services as libraries and sanitation.

These portions of the General Plan and its implementing land use element, the Community Plans, address 80 percent of the land area of Los Angeles. They should, therefore, guide CPIO’s, as well as the City’s annual budget, its Capital Improvement Program, and the work program of City departments.

Furthermore, only 20 percent of the city’s surface area is in the private lots to be regulated by CPIO’s, and only a small amount of the activity on these private lots is new construction whose zoning is reviewed for the approvals granted by the Departments of Building and Safety and City Planning.

More importantly, the CPIO enabling legislation and the local ordinances it will foster totally fail to implement any of the policies and programs for the 80 percent of Los Angeles carefully addressed in Community Plans, but which are under the jurisdiction of the big city departments. These include such important agencies as LADWP, Harbor, Airports, Public Works (Engineering, Street Services, Sanitation), Police, Fire, Transportation, Libraries, and Recreation and Parks.

Instead each local CPIO will streamline the approval of building permits, many with potentially extensive and adverse environmental impacts, while the

CPIO ordinances themselves will fall flat in the implementation of Community Plans.

Since City Planning long ago abdicated any role other than processing these zoning permits, they have proposed an ordinance which claims to implement the Community Plans. In practice, however, these overlay zoning ordinances will become a back door for circumventing discretionary zoning permits (e.g., variances, zone changes) and their environmental reviews.

What Los Angeles needs is real implementation of its existing and future adopted city plans, not misleading ordinances which claim to implement the General Plan and Community Plans, but which, at best, do nothing of the sort. Furthermore, at worst, they may actually sabotage the very plans they claim to implement.

An update: a City Watch commentator made two additional claims about CPIO’s which, if correct, indicate that their impacts could be worse than expected.


First, since the City no longer maintains its legally required plans, the real role of CPIO’s is to implement local zoning changes desired by Councilmembers. Despite claims to the contrary, any connection of these local zone changes to Community Plans would be wholly coincidental.

Second, since CPIO’s will become an alternative to the implementation of community plans through zoning and discretionary actions, in practice they will allow real estate investors to utilize supportive Councilmembers to champion local ordinances easing specific zoning and environmental rules restricting neighborhood-level property speculation.

Dick Platkin is a Los Angeles based city planning consultant. He invites questions and comments on this article at rhplatkin@yahoo.com. CityWatch is a twice weekly online publication available at CityWatchLA.com

THIS N THAT

HERE'S MY CARD



Carrick's Journey —Part Thirty

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Fanella, Drake and Sebastian were wobbling back in forth in “the bucket” as it was aptly nicknamed. It was the same vessel that found the lost Maddie and picked up Drake whilst he and Whisker’s were hiding out. Maneuvering one of these rickety old tin flying machines through a forest was a trick indeed. Fanella was one of the few who was so skilled, that she made it look quite effortless. Whilst turning her head to chat, passengers turned pale with fear looking outside the front window, as tree after tree past them with seemingly impossible clearances and speeds that shattered any sense of reality.

Drake had never seen her navigate through the forests like this. His last trip in one of these old heaps was wearing a burlap sack over his head for most of the trip and then being so drugged. He could scarcely even recall being in one at all. Drake’s eyes were popping out from his face as he glared out through front window and he was starting to look a bit green. Fanella turned and asked, “are you OK?” as she dodged another six trees that simply did not appear to have enough room for a ship to get through.

Drake, who was sort of standing a bit behind them, turned away, unable to watch outside the window any longer. Unwilling to show that he was feeling ill, he simply walked to the back of the ship and yelled back his reply “I’m fine. I’m going to look at...um... (his eyes gazed around for some reason to give)....these maps...uh ...and see if our plan needs anything else.” Fanella just giggled to herself and looked at Sebastian.

Sebastian, stood up, well almost, there wasn’t room enough to stand completely, and walked, half stooped over, to the back of the ship. “I’ll come with you Drake” he said not wanting to let on or in any way make Drake feel less competent. Both knew but were working very hard to keep Drake’s dignity in tact and keep his little secret. As the pair hovered over the maps talking, sounding very knowledgeable and convincing, Fanella continued to navigate through the dark forest with an occasional sunny patch where trees had not completely covered the daylight sky. Suddenly Fanella gasped and had to bring the bucket to a complete stop, sending Drake and Sebastian both flying from the back of the ship to the foot of her seat at the front along with anything else that was not fastened down...*to be continued...*

Continued from page 6 — **POLITICAL**

Our two party systems does produce some problems, however consider if we had a different number of parties. In a one party system we would have totalitarianism. If we had many parties, we would have anarchism. By having a democracy, our two political parties are held in check at election time. Our political system with political relativism is not perfect, but it is the best system.

Editor's Note: Mr. Barbera is Chairman of The Americanism Education League whose Mission is to educate America's young people about the moral, political, social and economic values that made America free and strong. Visit: www.americanism.org.

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“Spirit” Awards Presented during Korean BBQ



The Eighth Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ & “Spirit of Johny Carpenter” Awards, held Friday November 19th, 2010, attracted approximately 500 people. The event was held at All Nations Church located on property that was once owned by the late John Carpenterand his Heaven on Earth Ranch. He held Thanksgiving Dinner and Stunt Shows for the mentally and physically challenged children and adults who he taught to ride horses. The All Nations Church and community carry on that annual tradition to honor his memory.

The 2010 “Spirit” award to honor those who actions best represent what Johny did at the ranch were given to Richard Troy, Andrea & James Guttman and Eva Lund.

Community Groups also chose five students to receive \$500 scholarships from the church: Elisa “Mitch” Blancardi, Jose Berrios, Gilbert Figueroa, Jannine Rojo & Gabriela Chavez.

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Veterans Parade 11-11-10



Photo courtesy of Mission Hills NC
Grand Marshal, Admiral Michael G. Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Grand Marshal Danny Trejo , surrounded by Officials, cuts ribbon starting Pacoima's Christmas Parade December 4, sponsored by the Pacoima Chamber And Councilmember Alarcon



Photo courtesy of Becca Dotten

By Marlene Hitt

Those who participate in parades will ask at least once, "Why am I doing this? My feet hurt. It's so hot! I hate all this waiting! Perspiration gets in my eyes! I keep making stupid mistakes! The people in the crowd sometimes hurt my feelings! My uniform has shrunk again! My hat is too big! People are lookin' at me!"

Yet we look forward to the town parade and love every minute of it. Parades are not new. The dictionary describes a parade as a public procession or ceremonial occasion, a pompous display, an ostentatious show, a promenade or a display of troops at which time armed forces could show their strength, condition, equipment and skill.

The public march began about 3000 BC in ancient cities in which elaborately constructed streets were made for the main function of providing a place for processions. Occasions could be about anything honoring a person or an occasion, offering a mood of joyous excitement or solemn dignity.

The Eucharist in some places has been a movement in which the priests, robed in higher meaning, descend from the altar to the lower places, then ascend again, symbolizing the descent and ascent of Christ. This ritual has a rich and true meaning to the participants.

Townpeople have processed for centuries on many village streets for weddings or funerals, or for pageants. In 590, in Sicily, there was the penitential litany, the march ordered by Gregory the Great after Rome had been inundated and pestilence had followed. Those seven processions of clergy, monks, laymen, nuns, matrons, the poor

and children started from seven churches and proceeded to hear mass at Santa Maria Maggiore. Those processions were accompanied by songs and prayers.

Other parades celebrate military victory as we often see in documentaries. In present days there have been processions where livestock shows were culminated in a grand parade to show the finest beasts. In Saskatchewan I watched a procession of tractors and farm machinery, ancient and new, purchased and store bought, children with prize calves, many animals, and a flatbed truck with the original members of York School seated in folding chairs. In Green Valley, CA, young Chris marched the route of his town on the Fourth of July with his pet chicken under his arm.

The Little Landers Historical Society won a prize in Class A floats by civic bodies in the 1925 Pasadena Tournament of Roses. The float, designed by George Harris, showed the word Tujunga spelled out in wildflowers and sage. That float was built at a cost of \$154.65

We all tend to enter the procession for several reasons: community pride, to see all our friends, to advertise a business or organization, just to say hello, or to show opinion.

Whether we are parading in Sunland-Tujunga, the Idaho boat cruise, the Doo Dah in Pasadena, the Daffodil Festival, Chinese New Year, Martin Luther King Day parade, or any of the hundreds of others, we will enjoy every pompous, ostentatious moment!

Editor's Note: Marlene Hitt is a former Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga and Director of Bolton Hall Museum



Photo courtesy of Linda Williamson

Granada Hills—Children are having a “blast” riding on the float during their annual Holiday Parade sponsored by the Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce.