

The Chamber View

A Time for Healing and Celebration

By John Bwarie, CEO, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

Three days after the tragic events of January 21, 2023 that shocked our entire community still in our minds, we knew that the 2023 Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival would take on deeper meaning when we got the "all-clear" to host the event as planned the following Sunday, January 29th. With just four days left to make adjustments, everyone involved - vendors, performers, staff, organizers, partners, and sponsors - had to be resilient in order to realize our most important new goal, which was to bring the community together to begin a process of healing.

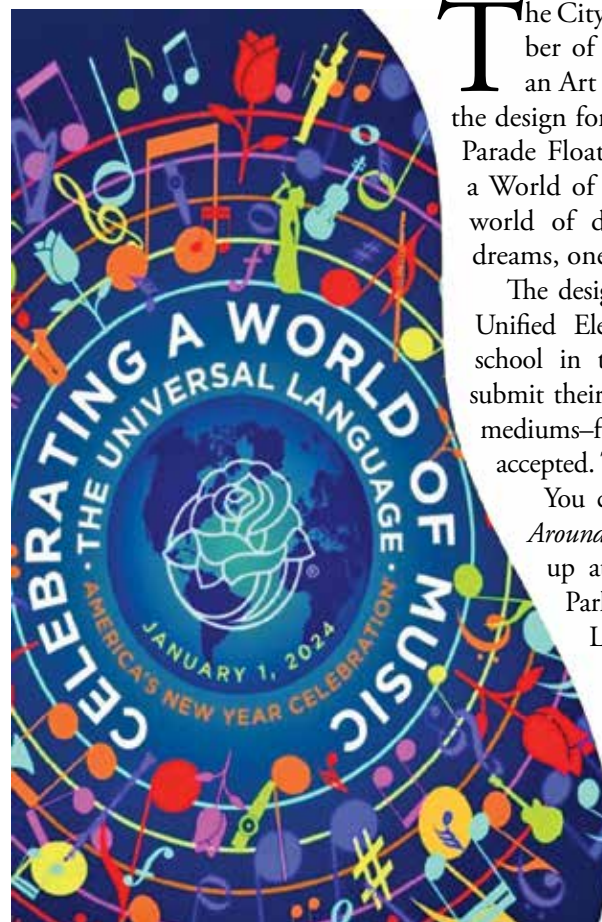
Working closely with our partners at the City of Alhambra, our programs had to be adjusted, tents and booths had to accommodate cancellations from those unable to find staff to participate, and there

was a rush to incorporate those who had been displaced by the cancellations of the second day of Monterey Park's festival. We were in uncharted waters as it came to having a celebration when shock, confusion, painful memorials, and bittersweet remembrance were almost all-consuming to the people of Alhambra, Monterey Park, and surrounding communities. We saw the festival as a moment for the community to focus on what had happened, and importantly, focus on what would come next.

The process to begin healing from a tragedy and attack like the one our communities experienced starts with a focused action that connects many affected people. This coming together of community jumpstarts the process to move forward, because with a community, anything, even healing from an

>> see **THE CHAMBER VIEW** Page 6

Student art contest to design Alhambra 2024 Rose Parade float



The City of Alhambra and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce once again have launched an Art Contest asking students to help inspire the design for the City's 2024 Tournament of Roses Parade Float. The theme for 2024 is "Celebrating a World of Music, the Universal Language." In a world of different cultures, beliefs, hopes, and dreams, one language unites us all: music!

The design Art Contest is open to all Alhambra Unified Elementary School students attending a school in the City of Alhambra. Students must submit their artwork along with the application. All mediums—from digital design to crayons—will be accepted. The artwork must be related to the theme.

You can find the application in this issue of *Around Alhambra*, or applications can be picked up at City Hall, Almansor Park, Alhambra Park, Joslyn Center and the Civic Center Library. The application can also be downloaded from the City's website. The deadline to submit the application is Thursday, March 16, 2023.

The winner of the art contest will be awarded two VIP tickets to the 2024 Rose Parade where they can watch their design float down Colorado Boulevard on New Year's Day morning.

AUSD community holds onto joy, celebrates Lunar New Year two weeks after tragedy

In 2020, the Asian American Association AAA Lunar New Year banquet was the last big district wide event before the pandemic shut down. In 2021, AAA did not have a banquet at all, and in 2022, they held a virtual event. In 2023, as the pandemic moved to the endemic stage, the district looked forward to a big traditional celebration for the Year of the Rabbit. The mass shooting in Monterey Park on January 21st changed all that as the community grieved collectively and

found strength and comfort in each other.

The 33rd annual banquet began on a poignant note with a moment of silence to reflect on the 11 victims killed in the Star Ballroom Dance Studio shooting. Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo and Congressmember Dr. Judy Chu touched on the tragedy in their welcoming remarks. Dr. Jaramillo was born and raised in Monterey Park; Dr. Chu served on the Monterey Park city council and was the city's mayor three times. They

acknowledged how deeply personal this shooting felt and were reminded of the lion-hearted courage and resilience of the community as they begin the journey to healing.

Elizabeth An, co-president of the AAA, also addressed the shooting. "The evening was a testament to the heart, indomitability, and unity of our community. It was touching to

>> see **LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL** Page 17



The community turned out in record numbers to support the Asian American Association and the AUSD scholarship recipients at the 33rd annual AAA Lunar New Year banquet, despite the Monterey Park tragedy.

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Mayor's Corner

By Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler

As your Mayor, I am charged as your public affairs representative, or voice for the city. It is a tall task, and one I take very seriously.

I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for doing a wonderful heartfelt job at organizing the 2023 Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival. In addition, a special shout out to Alhambra Police Department's Sergeant Brian Chung, who did the bulk of the tactical planning for the event and kept us safe. The highlight of course, was celebrating Brandon Tsay, the young man who stopped a gunman from potentially carrying out more killings at the Lai Lai Dance Studio here in Alhambra. He was a "capeless" hero that served our community well.

During the day-long Lunar New Year celebration, I had the opportunity to cook using an induction cooktop. *What is it, you ask?* "Induction cooking" refers to cooking with direct heat. Electromagnets inside the cooktop are used to stimulate the atoms inside the cookware which generates the heat that is passed through as radiant energy to food. Why induction? It's safer because cooktops don't get hot, you can control temperature better, it's energy efficient, and it heats faster. I cooked the long noodles for 25 people in the audience and had only 15 minutes in which to do it. What an experience!

This last month, in preparation for the City Council's annual strategic planning session on March 30, 2023 in the library from 9:00 am -2:00 pm, the Council heard the results and comparison of our



Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler

community surveys. The review allows us to plan with our community in mind, and the methodology allowed for statistically reliable data that questions satisfaction, priorities, and concerns as they relate to services, facilities, and policies we provide. I want to thank our respondents from our 5 districts who were randomly selected households and included a wide range of ages and demographics. The data showed the first three priorities include the desire for more affordable housing, improved public safety, and reducing traffic congestion. If you can, please join us on March 30th for the Council's annual strategic planning session.

Also this month – on March 11th – is the Read Across America day with the Alhambra Teachers Association. It's a

wonderful, annual event with reading stations and free books for children and teens. On March 16th, submissions are due for Alhambra's 2024 Tournament of Roses Parade float! The theme is "Celebrating a World of Music"; so parents of Alhambra Unified students, please contact the Parks

and Recreation Department 626-570-5044 or email parksandrec@cityofalhambra.org to be able to have your student enter!

And of course, this month: remember to shop and eat in Alhambra!

Thank you!
Your Mayor

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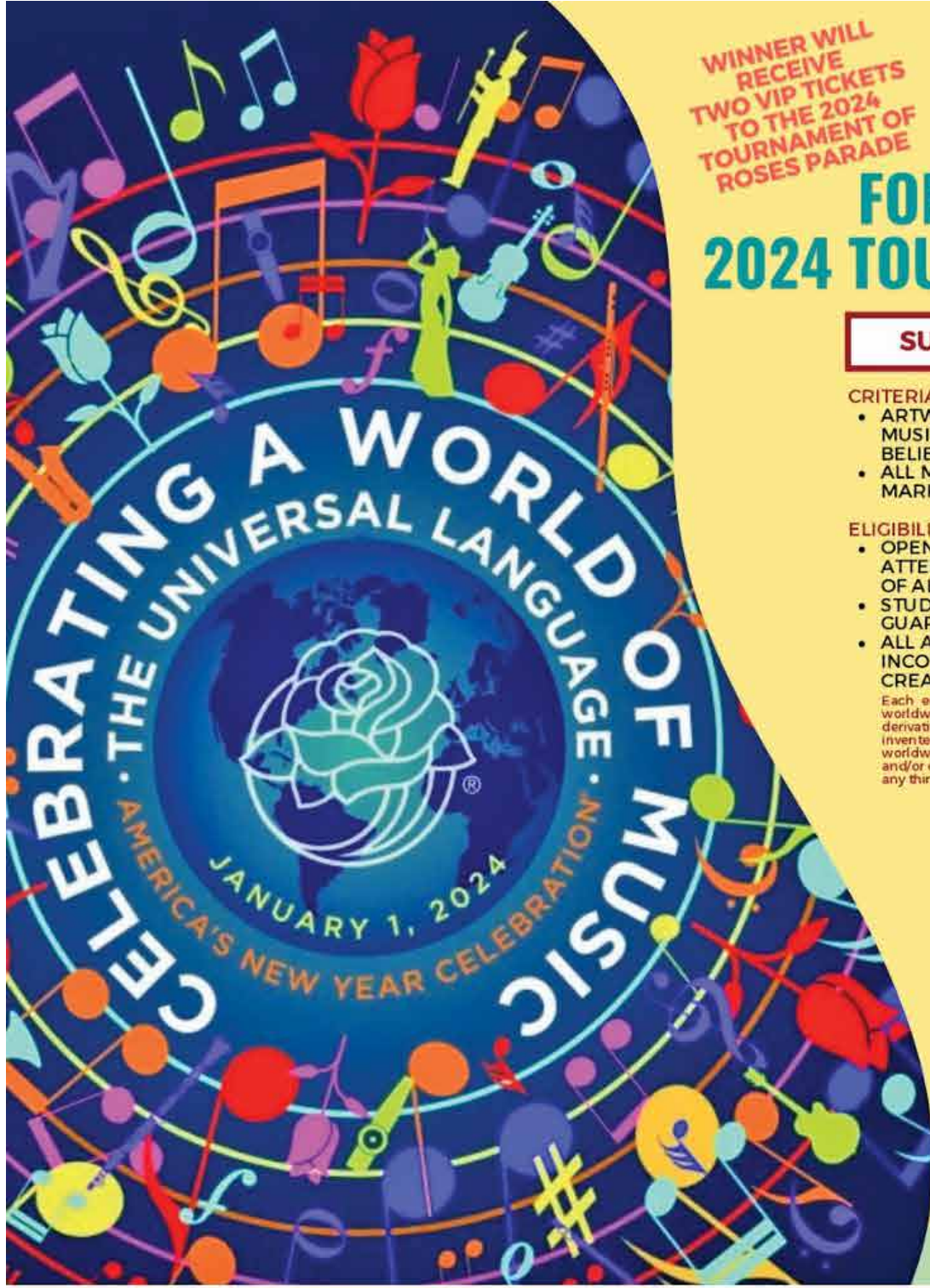
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- CRITERIA:**
- ARTWORK MUST RELATE TO THE 2024 THEME, "CELEBRATING A WORLD OF MUSIC, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE". IN A WORLD OF DIFFERENT CULTURES, BELIEFS, HOPES, AND DREAMS, ONE LANGUAGE UNITES US ALL - MUSIC!
 - ALL MEDIUMS ARE WELCOME, FOR EXAMPLE: PENCIL, PEN, CRAYONS, MARKERS, PAINT, AND/OR DIGITAL DESIGN.

- ELIGIBILITY AND RULES:**
- OPEN TO ALL ALHAMBRA UNIFIED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ATTENDING A SCHOOL IN ALHAMBRA. ENTRANT MUST RESIDE IN THE CITY OF ALHAMBRA. ONE ENTRY PER STUDENT.
 - STUDENTS MUST HAVE PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION.
 - ALL ARTWORK MUST BE EXCLUSIVELY ORIGINAL AND CANNOT INCORPORATE ANYTHING, IN WHOLE, OR IN PART THAT IS OWNED OR CREATED BY A THIRD PARTY.

Each entrant grants to the City of Alhambra and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce a non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual, assignable, royalty-free license to publish, reproduce, distribute, display, perform, create derivative works, transmit or disseminate the Works in all media or platforms whether now known or hereafter invented. City of Alhambra and Alhambra Chamber of Commerce and its designees shall have the perpetual, worldwide right to publish and use the entries in any way and in any media for trade, advertising, promotional, and/or other purposes as Sponsor and/or its designees may determine without further consideration to Entrant or any third party.

DELIVER YOUR ARTWORK IN PERSON OR BY MAIL TO ALHAMBRA CITY HALL, PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 111 SOUTH FIRST STREET ALHAMBRA, 91801 BY 03/16/23

FLOAT DESIGN ENTRY FORM

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SCHOOL: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

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FLOAT TITLE: _____

DESCRIBE HOW YOUR FLOAT DESIGN AND TITLE RELATES TO THE THEME OF THE 2024 ROSE PARADE "CELEBRATING A WORLD OF MUSIC":

AROUND ALHAMBRA 

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A monthly publication with a circulation of 34,000, Around Alhambra is mailed to every business and residence in the City of Alhambra and to all interested local, state, and county officials.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories and will make every effort to include all appropriate information. Articles submitted and printed in Around Alhambra do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce or its Board of Directors. Please e-mail submissions to AA@alhambrachamber.org

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At the Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival, Wells Fargo's Joseph Chow announces \$25,000 donation to kick off the the Alhambra Foundation Small Business Relief Fund.

Alhambra's Small Business Relief Fund kicks-off with \$25,000 donation from Wells Fargo

In the wake of the January 21, 2023 tragic mass shooting in neighboring Monterey Park and the attack on Alhambra's Lai Lai Ballroom thwarted by Brandon Tsay, the Alhambra Foundation established a Small Business Relief Fund. The fund's mission is to help those small, family-owned businesses impacted by the tragedy; providing them with

financial resources to remain open, keeping local residents employed, and maintaining the vibrancy of our community during this challenging time of recovery.

At the Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival, Wells Fargo announced a \$25,000 donation to the fund, which will provide grants to impacted businesses. Funds will be

dispersed in coordination with local officials, based on an assessment of need. To join Wells Fargo and other leaders that have established this fund, consider donating. Please help us reach our goal of \$70,000, which will be used to help local businesses recover during this difficult time. To make your donation, visit AlhambraFoundation.com.



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Tax Tips

Middle Class Tax Refund update

By Michael Aston, E.A.

The California Middle Class Tax Refund (MCTR) has been a headache for many tax preparers and taxpayers. In November, I broke down who was eligible and, according to the state, when taxpayers were going to receive the refund. There has been a lot of confusion and many questions with this payment, so I hope to address a few issues here...

When California first started talking about giving out money in 2022, it was originally going to be a gasoline rebate, and the payouts were going to be based on how many cars you owned (with a maximum of two cars per address). That got too crazy for them to figure out, so they changed it to the MCTR, with the maximum payout of \$1050 for a married couple with a dependent. I have had multiple clients tell me they got their gasoline rebate from CA but that they did not get the MCTR. They were unaware that it was the same thing; there were not two separate payments. If you have not received your MCTR, you should call the state at 800-542-9332. Originally, all of the payments were supposed to be completed by January 15; then, they said February 22; and now, they have no deadline.

The debit card is a headache in itself – CA should have mailed checks! The California MCTR card is being mailed from a company in New York. A lot of complaints I had from my clients is that there is a fee every time they use it, and I have had many clients that had direct deposit on their tax return, but they still received the physical card. The card was supposed to be sent to anybody that did not do direct deposit or whose bank changed. There are many stories about cards being stolen. You can contact the company that issues the card by calling 800-240-0223.

The IRS and California recognized the MCTR as federal income, so the state issued 1099-MISC to everybody that received \$600 or more in 2022. The IRS expected the MCTR as income even if it was under \$600. The MCTR would be classified as other income on your 1040 and then backed out on the California 540CA. **On February 10, 2023, the IRS announced that they will not be taxing the MCTR.** At the time of writing this,



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the IRS has not announced if they are going to fix all the filed tax returns that included the MCTR or if the taxpayers need to amend. This is not the first time the IRS has changed treatment of income. The most recent was in March 2021, when the IRS announced that part or all of 2020 unemployment would not be taxable. At that time, they asked taxpayers not to amend their returns and the IRS will make the adjustment. They were still working on taxpayers 2020 refunds in 2022.

If you would like to get more information, you can go to the Franchise Tax Board website at ftb.ca.gov. At the top of their home page, they have a link to the IRS announcement on Feb. 10, and they have another link about the MCTR, along with other ways of contacting the state and debit card company.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Michael Aston, E.A., who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse financial advice recommended by this author or any other provider.

Your Insurance

Why do landlords require renters insurance?

By Regina Talbot

Renters insurance protects more than your belongings in the case of a loss. Learn how renters insurance can benefit you as well as the landlord.

While a rental dwelling policy covers the building itself for the property owner, a renters insurance policy covers the personal belongings of the tenant and also provides liability coverage for certain types of bodily injury or property damage. Purchasing renters insurance with coverage for personal property is a smart move. But, most tenants won't purchase it unless a landlord requires it.

What are the benefits of renters insurance?

Renters insurance helps protect the renter. In many cases, the insurance a landlord carries covers only the building. Personal property loss or damage, caused by theft, vandalism or fire are typically not covered by the landlord's policy. Without renters insurance, the tenant may have to bear the financial burden of a loss to their personal property.

A renters policy might:

- Compensate you if your belongings, like a bike, laptop or television are lost, stolen or damaged.
- Protect against liability claims from a guest injured while in your rental.
- Cover your personal property, like your cell phone, clothes in a storage unit or laptop left in your car, regardless of where it's located.

What are the benefits for landlords?

By requiring renters insurance, landlords potentially avoid liability claims from tenants due to damaged property caused by fire, or other covered losses. A tenant's rental insurance policy could help with:

Relocation expenses

A renters policy might cover the cost of temporary housing due to natural disasters or fires.

Protection against property damage

If a tenant's belongings are stolen, that tenant might sue their landlord for failing to protect their property. However, if their renters insurance covers the damage for their lost belongings, they may be less likely to sue their landlord for damages.



Regina Talbot
Talbot Insurance Agency Inc.
State Farm Insurance
Regina Talbot, Agent
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Damage or injuries from pets

A rental insurance policy might help mitigate the risks of damage or injuries caused by pets to others or others' property. However, if your pet causes damage to your apartment, it may not be covered by your renters policy.

Is renters insurance required?

Typically, the law does not require tenants to purchase renters insurance. Nonetheless, given its benefits to both landlords and tenants, your landlord has the right to require it prior to leasing you a property. The landlord may require renters insurance by including a clause in the lease that says: "Lessee is required to provide proof of renters insurance within 14 days of the lease start date."

While landlords require renters insurance to help minimize their risks, renters insurance also benefits the tenant by protecting their property and minimizing their risk. It's a method to help ensure respect of property by both parties, keeping the rental in tip top shape.

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Chef Bill Yee Inspires Alhambra

Alhambra Culinary Foundation Chef Bill Yee joined the 2023 Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival as a key figure at the inaugural Lunar New Year Culinary Stage at the Alhambra Lunar New Year Festival, sponsored by Southern California Edison. The induction cooking stage allowed Chef Yee to showcase his culinary expertise as well as his skill as a crowd-pleasing host. He kept the audience entertained with compelling stories and intentional jokes for the audience's delight.

Chef Yee's leadership extended beyond his own omelette demonstration, as he also was able to arrange for his colleagues from the Alhambra Culinary School and the American Culinary Federation, where he serves as Executive Director of the Los Angeles Chapter. Lejan Torres, part of Chef Yee's professional chef team, closed

out the day-long culinary stage programing with her famous beef Pho that warmed the bellies of the eager audience members who were able to sample her savory soup. The stage, with Chef Yee's participation, was a hit with Festival attendees.

As artistic director of the Alhambra Performing Arts Center (APAC), which dedicated the previous night's sold-out Beatlemania Concert to the victims of the tragedy, Chef Yee was able to donate funds from his January Beatlemania performance to the victims fund. And during the Festival, Chef Yee was also able to personally present local Alhambra hero Brandon Tsay with a \$500 check from the R.W. Johnson Trust as a small token of gratitude for thwarting the gunman from taking many more lives here in Alhambra after the tragedy in Monterey Park.

All Around the Town

McDonald's on Main: Number 5 of 38,000

By Glenn Barnett

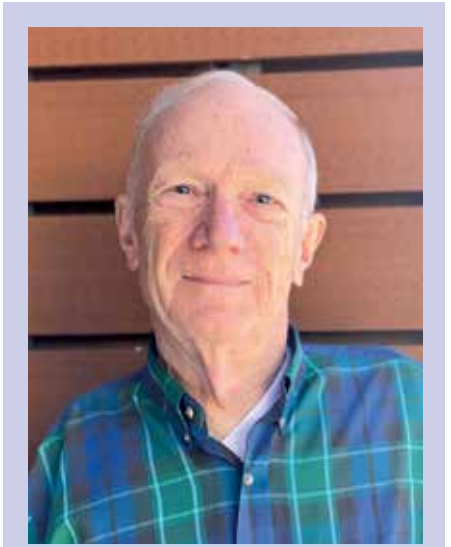
If you are interested in the history of Alhambra, the guy you want to talk to is Gary Frueholz. Gary has a column here in *Around Alhambra* and often writes about our city's past. Many years ago, he researched and wrote an article about the McDonald's restaurant on Main Street and Granada. I am indebted to him and our mutual friend, Denis Kerechuk, for their research and interest in Alhambra's past which contributed to this column.

Many of you know the story of this iconic brand and leader of the fast food industry. Two brothers named Dick and Mac McDonald opened the first McDonald's restaurant in 1948 in San Bernardino. It featured a limited menu of burgers, fries, pies, and drinks. Employees focused on one task, such as cooking the burgers, taking customer orders, quality control, etc. Everyone knew what to do and could stay on task.

The McDonald's model was so successful that the brothers decided to franchise the operation and opened nine more restaurants based on what they had learned. The McDonald's at 909 E. Main Street in Alhambra opened on October 1, 1953. It was only the fifth in a familiar chain that would reach around the globe and number over 38,000 outlets.

The brothers then turned over that task to Mr. Ray Kroc who really stepped up the franchise expansion and soon bought out the brothers while keeping their name for the business (after all, it sounds better than Kroc's burgers).

My first time at any McDonald's was at the Main St. franchise in the summer of 1960. I recall the original building with two arches (as in the 'golden arches') that were included in the architecture of the building at the time.



Glenn Barnett

I bought a hamburger for 18 cents and fries for about 15 cents. Nothing on the menu was over a quarter. How's that as a baseline for inflation? At the time there was no inside dining or tables in front, only walk up windows meant for takeaway food.

In front of the store was a sign that announced how many burgers McDonald's had sold. This was upgraded a few times a year until sales reached several million, then billions, and then they stopped counting.

Over the years, the McDonald's on Main has had at least two complete remodels keeping up with the times and what customers wanted such as indoor dining and a children's area for families. These upgrades are also in response to the growing number of fast food options that we are seeing in the Alhambra area and across the world. I just like knowing that Alhambra was there at the beginning and helped lead the way to quick service at low prices.



The Downey McDonald's retains the original design as it was built at 909 E. Main St. in 1953.


THE CHAMBER VIEW From Page 1

immense tragedy, is possible.

While our 2023 Lunar New Year Festival did not take place as originally envisioned, it was perhaps among the most important events we will have in Alhambra. We were able to gather as a community to offer our heartfelt gratitude to local Alhambra hero, Brandon Tsay. We also were able to cheer for local school children as they performed their Lunar New Year songs and dances that they had practiced for weeks. There was laughter as friends greeted each other on Main Street and families shared special memories.

Thousands of people, including residents, visitors, business owners, civic leaders, and government officials at all levels, came together to heal as well as celebrate and honor the traditions that typically bring joy and hope. Some say that the Year of the Rabbit is associated with reaching goals, so that may be a welcome approach to all of us at this time.

With the healing we have begun together during this difficult time, and the celebration we have managed to have alongside it, I look forward to a positive and prosperous year for us all.



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Is the drought over? the answer is ...read on!

By Mark Paulson, Board of Directors,
Division I – Alhambra
San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water
District

I know you won't believe me if I told you that the drought was not over. Truth is, as welcome as all the rain (and snow) has been, it's too soon to declare the drought over in the San Gabriel Valley.

The first reason is that we've been in a three-year drought and water supplies have fallen well below desired levels. In our area, about 18 inches of rain a year are normal. We've received nearly 20 inches to date, but it's not enough to make up for the dry years. It could take several years of above average rain for us to be drought free.

The second reason is that we've only had an average "rain year" to date. Last year at about this time we'd also experienced heavy precipitation. Then, from January through March 2022, we had the driest three-month period in history, and the drought worsened. Déjà vu? The latter part of January and the early part of February 2023 have been dry. We don't just need a few big storms in a short period. We are better off with more frequent small to medium storms spread out over several months.

The most important reason is the source of our local water supplies: Groundwater. In the San Gabriel Valley, 80% of the water we use is pumped from 50 to several hundred feet below ground. Imagine what it takes for new rain and surface water to move all the way down through paved areas, vegetation, roots, sand, dirt, rocks and clay (and sometimes in hot, hot weather), to reach the level where it can be pumped for us to use. It takes time... from weeks to months to years depending on ground and soil conditions (see image below). Thus, the saying, "it takes a long time to get into a drought and a long time to get out."

So, the drought is not over... yet.

We live in a dry region where drought is normal, where water supplies are limited and where climate change complicates matters. If we're not in a drought, we are



Mark Paulson
Board of Directors,
Division I – Alhambra
San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District

probably either getting into one or recovering from one. And conservation has no timetable or time limits. Conservation needs to be an ongoing practice and ethic. "Let's save water now when it's wet...for when it's dry."

Visit the District's website (www.sgvmd.com) for information on rebates, conservation tips, grants for schools and non-profit organizations, and water-wise landscaping tips customized to the City of Alhambra (https://sgvmd.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/CalScape_Alhambra_web.pdf). Consider scheduling an educational presentation to your school or organization by contacting Evelyn Reyes, External Affairs Manager (626-969-7911; info@sgvmd.com).

Note: Alhambra has activated "Level 2" of its drought contingency plan, so please follow the guidance of the City Council and Alhambra's water utility (<https://www.cityofalhambra.org/575/Water-Conservation>).

Remember, every drop of water we save is one that does not need to be pumped, stored, treated, imported, transported, recycled, desalinated...or paid for!



Ramona Convent Cultural Studies course instructors Chanel Rich and Matt Marshall thank Composer Michal Dawson Connor and his accompanist for an amazing performance and guest lecture with their sophomores.

Ramona Convent Cultural Studies course welcomes guest lecturers

Ramona Convent was honored to welcome two talented artists to present their work to the Cultural Studies students. In honor of Black History Month, both guest lecturers used their craft to teach the truth about history, Black culture, the struggle, and where it all fits together today.

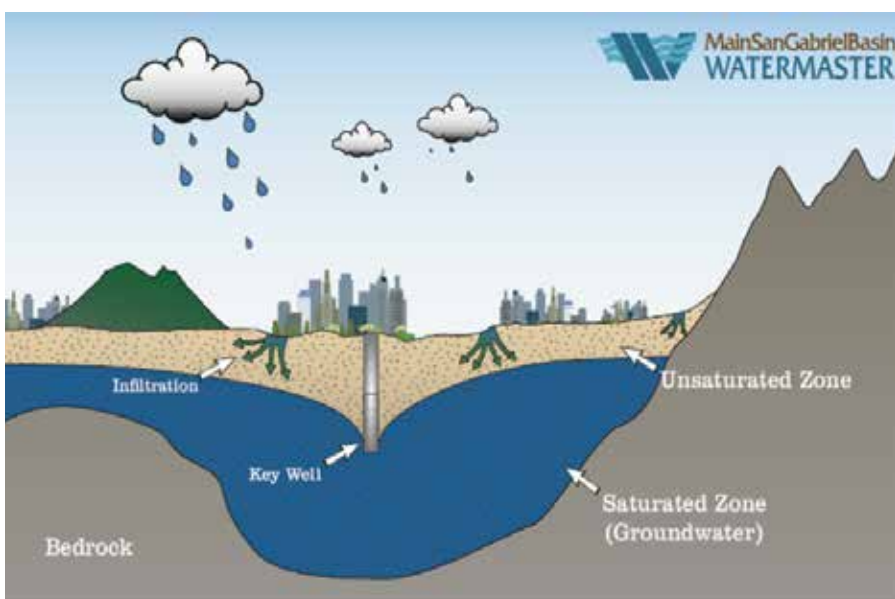
Mr. Michal Dawson Connor has spent years working on a presentation called "The Slave Letters." The presentation is the culmination of his research on actual slave letters that were read during the performance and captivated the audience through a historic journey. Mr. Connor also wrote many of the songs that he performed. Students were moved and shared about how grateful they were for the experience.

Ramona also welcomed Mr. Jason Petty, better known by his stage name Propaganda, to perform for all. He shared poems that he created and has performed over the years. Mr. Petty answered questions, and even helped students create their own poem as a class. He encouraged creativity and invited everyone in the room to participate. The inspiring performance led students to share about how connected they felt to him and how "cool" he was.

Ramona Convent's Cultural Studies course is designed to engage both the theory and practice of cultural studies. The

survey course allows for students to share a brief experience with four (4) different cultural groups: African American, Latinx American, Asian American, and Indigenous Americans, with a focus on basic concepts that inform cultural studies such as: history, ideology, gender, law and politics, spirituality, and resistance. By studying the histories of race, ethnicity, nationality, and culture, students cultivate respect and empathy for individuals and solidarity with groups of people locally, nationally, and globally to foster active social engagement and community building. The Cultural Studies class engages experts in their fields, like UCLA professor Dr. Kyle Mays and the distinguished chef and alumna Jessica Luevano, both of whom participated in the 2022 Fall semester. Ramona continues to build a rich and powerful experience for students, bringing in powerful guests to enhance the Cultural Survey experience.

Ramona Convent is a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for young women committed to excellence in education. Ramona's graduates are empowered, resilient, socially conscious leaders well prepared to meet the challenges of life as contributing members of the global community with the strength of a legacy of more than 130 years of distinction.



Daylight Saving Time begins on
Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2:00 A.M.
on Saturday night, clocks are set forward
one hour to "spring forward."



Spring Forward

Verdugo Hills Art Association hosts member art show at Alhambra City Hall in April

If you visit Alhambra City Hall during the month of April, you'll be in for a feast for the eyes! Starting April 3rd and running through the 27th, Alhambra City Hall will host the The Verdugo Hills Art Association (VHAA) member art show, a juried exhibition of paintings and images under the theme "In Awe of Nature."

As artists and observers, VHAA members derive inspiration from their surroundings, and their prime motivator is nature. Nature provides every possible hue, variation and color combination. It allows them to see shapes both organic and symmetrical.

"Nature has been our constant inspiration throughout the pandemic and currently as we meander in and out of flu season." said the exhibit organizers from VHAA. "Our members love to travel not only to experience the people and cultures of different places, but also to explore the ecology and natural phenomena that make places unique. As we share our experiences, we enrich our lives and those of our friends."

The exhibit's theme arose from one

such discussion among their large group of landscape and nature painters and photographers. As a juried exhibition, prizes will be awarded by the judging artist. Entries must have been created within the last two years and have not been in a previous VHAA member exhibition.

VHAA is a community of artists of all skill levels, in which members can develop and build their own capabilities in a fun and supportive environment. They do this through a range of programs that give their members the opportunity to learn while forging strong relationships with other artists. These programs include monthly demonstrations by well-regarded professional artists, workshops with member-favorite artists, several juried exhibitions per year, art sharing opportunities at our monthly meetings, and weekend group paint-out days.

"In Awe of Nature" exhibit runs from April 3rd to April 27, 2023 at Alhambra City Hall, 111 S. First St. Alhambra, CA 91801. For more information about Verdugo Hills Arts Association, visit <http://www.verdugoarts.org/>.



"Mother Nature Speaks" is painted in watercolor by Nikki Thomas.



"I Stand Unknown" is painted by Dilmit Singh in oils.



"Winter Harmony" is painted by Dilmit Singh in oils.

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 MUSIC 音樂

Date: March 18 (Saturday)
Time: 1-4pm
Location: 110 W. Woodward Avenue
 Alhambra CA 91801
Tickets: \$3 (\$5 at the door)
 To purchase tickets please contact
 Minister Justin Chang (justinchang@mbcla.org)

In Their Own Words with Malcolm Varner & Kevin Rodriguez of Alhambra Coin Center

We visited Malcolm and Kevin at the Alhambra Coin Center located at 245 East Main Street, Alhambra, CA 91801. Malcolm has garnered a national reputation as a rare coin expert, with over a billion dollars in rare coin sales. Beyond their prowess in rare coins, Malcolm and Kevin have expertise with watches, estate jewelry and antiques. With nearly a half-century in business, Alhambra Coin is a landmark in Alhambra. Here's an excerpt from our far-ranging conversation:

What it's like being an institution in the City of Alhambra?

Kevin: Easily more than 50% of our clients are repeat customers that we see on a regular basis, so that's a nice thing about the community. We see several generations of families, since we have been in business here for decades.

In your experience, who are the type of people collecting coins?

Malcolm: Well there's a collecting mentality. I don't think there is any one type of person that buys coins, we have a lot of people who just buy gold and silver and platinum as a investment as a hedge against inflation and then we have people who are very serious who just love acquiring and building sets of coins, it's quite a mixed group of people.

Some people love to acquire things and collect things. They get interested in a topic, whatever it's baseball cards or rare coins and they pursue it. With rare coins, it's not an inexpensive hobby. You're collecting items that cost hundreds and thousands of dollars, so it's for people to maybe start off small. As they raise their income level, then they get more serious and get into the higher value coins.

Kevin: They typically also like the historical aspect of it too, because you're basically holding a piece of history in your hands.

Malcolm: We also have ancient coins that are 5000 years old. You know the first coin that was issued was in about 500 BC so there's a lot of history in everything we do.

What's something about collecting coins that might surprise most people?

Malcolm: People who aren't into collecting anything, when they first come into the shop here in Alhambra and they're going to buy some silver or gold as an investment, they don't realize that the collecting community is billions

of dollars a year into rare coins. It's a huge industry. They look at it as if you're going to a train store or a hobby type of store and it's nothing at all like that. It's a very large business, very sophisticated collectors, sophisticated dealers. It's quite a large industry.

Kevin: Some of the price points of the extremely rare coins are comparable to rare art like a Picasso or an exotic vintage car. One coin can be valued in the millions of dollars.

Malcolm: I sold a silver dollar a few years ago to one of the biggest collectors in the country for a million and a half dollars and it was one of only three that were made. People who don't know this industry are shocked at the monetary value of these collectibles.

Is it still a thrill to be in business after all these years?

Malcolm: I think Kevin touched on it earlier, our industry, the people who like to collect things, who like to buy quality things, it's a passion. I would say whether it's the dealer on one side of the counters or the collectors on the other side of the counters, we're all passionate about what we are doing. I'm 74 years old, been doing this for 55 years and I have just as much excitement over acquiring a rare coin as somebody Kevin's age who's only been in the industry for about a decade. I think passion is the most important thing.

How does a collector get started?

Kevin: Most people don't know about this industry or investment field so if they have any questions, we're very friendly here. If they just want to learn: whether it's about rare coins, or gold and silver, or bullion investment type products they can feel free to talk to us anytime. We're an open book. You don't need to buy something to come in.

Malcolm: We have a lot of staff here that are all experts in various parts of the industry and one of the things we excel in is customer service. We like to talk to people to educate them because an educated client is going to be your best client. We invite everyone to come visit us at Alhambra Coin Center, to come in and just ask questions. We're really happy to deal with it. *Alhambra Coin Center located at 245 East Main Street in Alhambra. Visit alhambracoin.com.*

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Kevin Rodriguez and Malcolm Varner from the Alhambra Coin Center.

If you have a story you would like us to consider for our "In Their Own Words" series, please submit (with a photo if you like) to aa@alhambrachamber.org. We reserve the sole right to approve it for publication, as well as edit it and make revisions. Publication does not reflect endorsement.

Recognizing our local emerging artists!

The Academy of Special Dreams Foundation, in collaboration with the City of Alhambra, proudly celebrated the achievements of more than 50 emerging artists from Alhambra Unified School District. This event showcased the incredible diversity of backgrounds, abilities, and perspectives represented in the arts, held at the stunning Alhambra City Hall.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the artists, including the internationally recognized talents of Maru Huerta, Gabriel Miranda, and Maestro Reyes Gomez, whose art and mission of inclusion inspire us all. The academy's CEO Michael Dergar said, "This exhibition aims to celebrate the talents of diverse artists and educate mainstream society on the importance of inclusive art exhibitions in a post-pandemic world."

The academy is immensely grateful to its sponsors, including The Alhambra Unified School District, The California Arts Council, The City of Alhambra, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, The Alhambra, and all the friends of the Academy, whose generosity and support made this event possible.


The Academy of Special Dreams Foundation believes that all persons, regardless of their disabilities,

should have equal opportunities to express their talents and to be successful in the Arts. As a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Special Academy's mission is to increase public awareness, appreciation and recognition of the creative talents of people with disabilities by providing opportunities that encourage, promote and showcase their artistic expressions.

Please visit us to learn more at www.specialacademy.org.




Michael Dergar CEO and Founder of The Academy of Special Dreams Foundation, Emerging Artist from Lift South, AUSD Ahmad Hamideh, and Alhambra Unified School District Superintendent Denise Jaramillo.



ALHAMBRA CONNECTS

The Alhambra Chamber of Commerce's premier networking event



Mayor Adele Andrade-Stadler
Guest Speaker

Mayor Andrade-Stadler has spent a lifetime in service to others, having worked for the then-congress member Hilda Salis, LA Unified School District, and other nonprofits. She previously served as an Alhambra Unified School Board member from 2004 until she was first elected to the city council in 2018. She continues to volunteer in service of the community with various nonprofits including the Alhambra Latino Association.

Though this event is complimentary for Alhambra Chamber Members, advanced registration is required.

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

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Moors Players of the Game: Josh Soto, Josh Garcia, and Marc Hernandez.

Local Sports News from AUSD High Schools

By Mike Koski, President
Alhambra High School Sports
Hall of Fame Committee

2022-23 Varsity Basketball

Four of the AUSD High School Varsity Basketball teams qualified for the CIF Southern Section Playoffs after the regular season ended. The Mark Keppel Varsity Girls Team swept the Almont League finishing 10-0, is 24-6 overall, and received a "Bye" in the first round of Division 2A. They defeated Calabasas 57-47 in the second round to make it to the Quarter Finals and hope to advance beyond that in their quest to win a Championship.

The Keppel Varsity Boys and Alhambra Varsity Boys tied for second place in the Almont League behind Schurr. Keppel won their first round playoff game by defeating Bethel Christian 83-39 before losing to Esperanza 59-52 in the second round and finished the season with a 20-10 record. Alhambra lost to Woodbridge 67-51 in their first round game and finished the season with an 18-9 record.

The Alhambra Varsity Girls team finished the regular season strong to make the playoffs and won two games before losing to St. Monica, 71-37, in the second round. They opened the playoffs as a Wild Card and defeated Animo Leadership 63-7 to advance to the first round where they defeated Samueli Academy 49-29.

2022-23 Varsity Soccer

Both the Alhambra Varsity Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer teams qualified for the CIF Southern Section playoffs. The Boys traveled all the way to Arrowhead Christian and won 3-0, before losing a tight game to

Fairmont Prep, 1-0, at Moor Field. The Girls traveled to San Bernardino to play Arroyo Valley in a Play-In game and lost 4-1.

2022-23 Varsity Baseball Begins

The Alhambra Varsity Baseball team began their season with a 14-1 win over Cantwell as Josh Soto, Marc Hernandez, and Nero Navarro each had four hits to lead the way. Damian Chacon pitched five scoreless innings on the mound, while Jaime Macias finished the game pitching the last two innings. Soto's double drove in 3 runs in the top of the 7th inning to take a 6-5 lead against Marshall in the second game of the season. Mark Hernandez drove in the other 3 runs with a triple in 5th inning. The game was suspended due to darkness and will be resumed when the Moors host Marshall at Moor Field.

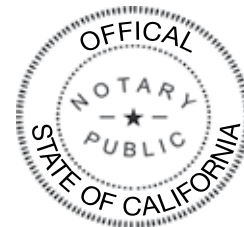
San Gabriel opened up their season with a loss to Bosco Tech while Mark Keppel lost to Baldwin Park. Both teams are trying to improve on last season's records.

2022-23 Varsity Softball Begins

The Alhambra Varsity Softball team opened up their season with a doubleheader losing to Garfield, 8-1, and beating Torres 13-0. Keppel opened up against La Salle while San Gabriel played against Azusa in their season opener.

2022-23 Varsity Tennis Begins

The Mark Keppel Varsity Girls Tennis team is off to a good start with a 7-2 record while Alhambra and San Gabriel are 2-4 and 2-6 respectively. All three teams are looking to be competitive in Almont League play just like last season.



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Observe COVID-19 guidelines.

Caltrans Dump Day comes to Alhambra

Caltrans District 7 will host a Clean California Dump Day event for Alhambra residents on Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 8 a.m. to noon (or until capacity is reached). Caltrans welcomes the public to bring non-hazardous, unwanted items to Dump Day where staff will be on-site to accept furniture, mattresses, rolled area rugs, and bundled palm fronds. Enter the Alhambra event at 1 South 3rd Street and follow signs and staff directions. Proof of Alhambra residency will be required. No hazardous waste, appliances, electronics, construction debris or tires will be accepted. For more information about Dump Day in Alhambra, visit <http://bit.ly/3JwMSzG> or email recycle@cityofalhambra.org.

Remember that you have access to disposal services year-round for household trash, bulk items, and electronics. Republic Services collects household trash accepted weekly from all residents in Alhambra. In addition, single-family residents can schedule free bulk item pickups for up to four items (furniture, appliances, electronics, etc.) four times per calendar year and multi-family residents can schedule pickup for one large item per year. To schedule this service, email Alhambra@RepublicServices.com or call 800.299.4898 at least 24 hours before your regular collection day to

request a bulk item or electronics pickup. Additional pickups are available year-round for a fee. Republic Services also offers temporary rental dumpsters in various sizes for larger cleanouts or remodeling jobs. To learn more about all recycling and waste services offered locally, visit RepublicServices.com/municipality/alhambra-ca.

Household hazardous waste is not accepted at Dump Day with household trash. However, Los Angeles County offers both permanent facilities and mobile collections for proper disposal of these materials. To learn more, visit CleanLA.com.

All of these programs are designed to serve Alhambra residents and businesses and minimize illegal dumping. Not only does illegal dumping create an eyesore but it also endangers the health and wellbeing of our residents. Illegally dumped material can become a breeding ground for rodents and mosquitos, endanger children and adults, release harmful chemicals and damage the environment, and lower property values. To report illegal dumping activities or sites, please call the City of Alhambra Community Development Department Complaint Hotline (available 24 hours/day) at 626.570.3230 or email recycle@cityofalhambra.org.



Cal-Trans-Dump-Day. Photo Courtesy of Caltrans District 7.



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All Souls' TK students got an introduction to golf at the school Golf Fair on February 3, 2023. Photo by Ari G Arambula.

Alumni, parents, and friends are invited to All Souls' "Fore the Kids" Golf Tournament on March 10

All Souls World Language Catholic School will host its 3rd annual Golf Tournament on Friday, March 10, 2023. The tournament, started by the All Souls' Dad's Club in 2019 and took a hiatus during the COVID shutdown, is now back in full swing. Over 100 golf participants will play at the exclusive, private golf course: California Country Club. Proceeds from the event will help support the school's education and sports programming.

"We are excited to raise funds to build up our athletic teams," said Mr. Boris Palomino, Golf Committee Co-Chair and parent of Kindergarten and 2nd grade students. "To prepare our students for the best high schools, it is important our students are ready academically and with extracurricular skills, including sports," he added.

Event sponsors include Glenn E Thomas Dodge, McDonalds, FF Gomez Inc., "We are grateful for the sponsors, raffle prize

donors and the players who are supporting this fun fundraising event for our kids," said Dr. Patrick Allison, Co-Principal. "We know our students love sports, and we are eager to provide a well-rounded athletic program for them," he added.

Golf Tournament participants include parents, alumni and business and civic leaders in and around Alhambra who welcome the opportunity to network and enjoy a round of golf with friends -and all are invited. Tee time is 12PM, and a 6 PM banquet dinner-only option is available for non-golfers. In addition to the tournament prize, raffle prizes include VIP tickets to **Dodgers, Rams, Chargers, and LAFC** pro games. For sponsorship, raffle, and golf registration, visit: www.allsouls.org

All Souls is a two track (English/Mandarin and English/Spanish) dual language Catholic School in Alhambra founded more than 100 years ago. For more information on the school, visit www.allsouls.org.

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11 Critical Home Inspection Traps to be Aware of Weeks Before Listing Your Home for Sale

Alhambra - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved. To order a FREE Special Report, call toll-free 1-888-300-4632 and enter 1003. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

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Come and See: Spring Shadow Days at Saint Therese Carmelite School

Students interested in applying to Saint Therese Carmelite School are invited to attend one of their Spring Shadow Days on either Wednesday, March 22, or Thursday, March 23. Shadow Days are open to students entering TK-8th grade.

During these shadow days, prospective students will have a chance to experience classroom life at Saint Therese. Students will be able to speak to teachers, visit classrooms, and explore the rich school curriculum. Prospective parents will also be able to take a group school tour in the morning.

Saint Therese Carmelite School was founded in 1926 and serves students in TK through eighth grade. The school educates students through the Catholic classical model to equip them with the logic, critical thinking, and language skills necessary to succeed throughout their lives. As an alternative to Common Core, this model is developmentally appropriate and aims to provide a well-rounded education,

including classic books, math up to Euclidean geometry, science, Catholic catechesis, Latin, music, art, and P.E. Students' standardized test score averages are above the 75th percentile in Math and above the 65th percentile in Reading, not excluding any outliers.

According to Saint Therese, their graduates have been admitted to all local high schools, with many admitted with high commendations, honors at entrance, and merit-based scholarships.

The school is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the Western Catholic Educational Association (WCEA). Saint Therese is also a premier member of the Institute for Catholic Liberal Education (ICLE). Also, 100% of its staff members are practicing Catholics.

For more information about and to schedule a shadow day, please contact Saint Therese at (626) 289-3364 or admin@SaintThereseCarmeliteSchool.com.

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ALHAMBRA'S 2023 LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL: A COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER



On January 29, 2023, the City and Chamber hosted Alhambra's 29th annual Lunar New Year Festival presented by Kia of Alhambra on Main Street, for the first time ever at this location. The annual celebration was also a special time for the community to come together after the tragic events of January 21 in Monterey Park. Our local hero Brandon Tsay, who thwarted an additional attack here in Alhambra, was recognized with certificates and accolades from city, county, state, and federal officials, as well as the appreciation from community members and visitors. The festival was filled with cultural arts, food, entertainment, and traditions, as thousands came together in our community to welcome the Year of the Rabbit.





Alhambra USD celebrated the Options Inclusion Pre-School at Park School for the district's littlest learners at a ribbon-cutting in January. By combining special education and general education students, the Options Pre-School at Park program offers a bigger learning experience for all children and a new model for pre-schools around the state.

AUSD celebrates Options Inclusion Pre-School at Park School, sets a new model

Alhambra USD joined Park School and Options to officially open their new inclusion preschool classroom and playground. The littlest students — as young as three-years-old— added to the joy of the ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration of the long-standing partnership between AUSD and Options.

AUSD is the birthplace of Options. To open the very first state preschool in the area, district personnel created the nonprofit Options in the early 1980's. It set the preschool model across Southern

California.

"This inclusive preschool model sets a new blueprint in LA County for special education and general education pre-schoolers who can now learn together and learn from each other," AUSD Superintendent Jaramillo noted at the January ribbon-cutting.

AUSD is in the process of building an Early Education Center and will share more information with the community as the project progresses.

LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL From Page 1

see so many come out in support despite the recent tragedy in Monterey Park." She continued, "I am incredibly proud of our scholarship winners and grateful for the support from dignitaries like Congresswoman Chu, members of the Alhambra and Monterey Park councils, Alhambra Unified School District and Board members, and local alumni. It was truly a night to remember and a celebration of the bright future ahead for our students."

The celebration included recorded performances from the Mandarin Dual Immersion students, multiple opportunity drawings, and traditional Lunar New Year lion dancers. The centerpiece of the evening was the recognition of the 2023 Asian American Association's Scholarship Recipients: Marcus Partida (Alhambra High School), Emily Morugares (Independence High School), Callie Thai (Mark Keppel High School),

and Jasmine Luong (San Gabriel High School). Due to technical difficulties, the video of these young scholars explaining their future plans and goals was unavailable. Please view the moving video here: <https://youtu.be/ksZAmY9ncl>

With over 400 guests in attendance, the banquet was the largest crowd ever; the proceeds of the evening go toward next year's scholarships. "We're so thankful to the community for coming out to support our event and these incredible students," said Dr. Huang. "Thank you to everyone who attended or sponsored the banquet. We had a magnificent evening — and in just one event — were able to raise almost enough to cover all the scholarships for next year. The community's generosity helps us continue to offer financial support to our 8th graders and seniors. The evening felt like a large step on the path to our collective healing."



Alhambra High welcomed 22 Korean high school students in February as part of a leadership exchange program that takes AHS students to Korea during spring break.

22 Korean students enchant AHS community with their delight + civility

In February, Alhambra High School welcomed 22 Korean high school exchange students for a nine-day stay — and the whole school fell in love with them. On their first day, straight from LAX, the Korean students arrived at the AHS campus with their big rolling suitcases to meet their host students, tour the campus, and taste their first tacos. The tacos were a hit.

For a week, they attended classes and activities with their host students, joined culinary arts and ceramics classes, played a rowdy lunchtime game of dodge ball with the Dream Center VISA Club, participated in the dance team practice and ASB.

Eleven AHS families hosted the Korean students. As part of this exchange, the AHS

students travel to Korea during spring break. AHS host students included Leonardo Campos-Yu, Aiden Kniess, Michell La, Kyra Lau, Van Lee and Angela Lee, Mariah Mancilla Hernandez, Matthew Phan, Carys Tam, Aiden Wong, Nathan Yee, and Raymi De La Rocha.

“This student leadership exchange project has been planned by teacher Jayson Pineda since before the start of pandemic,” said AHS principal Diana Diaz-Ferguson. “Everyone was thrilled for the exchange to finally come together.”

Mr. Pineda said what many were thinking, “The grace, civility, and sense of delight of our Korean visitors were a balm for the sorrow of Monterey Park tragedy.”



There were many tough and talented competitors at the Los Angeles County Poetry Out Loud February 4th competition, but the eloquence of Zenina Adao surpassed most of them, earning her runner-up in this prestigious competition.

MKHS junior shines at LA County 2023 Poetry Out Loud competition

Mark Keppel High School junior Zenina Adao was named runner-up at the Los Angeles County Poetry Out Loud competition. Zenina brilliantly recited two poems to earn the LA County runner-up recognition: “I Am Offering this Poem” by Jimmy Santiago Baca and “How to Triumph Like a Girl” by Ada Limon.

Dottie Burkhart, MKHS teacher and SNAP (Speak Now All Poets) advisor/coach said, “I am extremely proud of all the students who worked so hard to prepare for this competition, thrilled that Zenina

was recognized for her amazing oratory and interpretation skills, and appreciative that competitions like Poetry Out Loud give students the opportunity to have their voices heard in a public forum.”

Since 2005, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation have worked with thousands of schools and organizations nationwide to bring students a unique way to learn and love poetry. Through Poetry Out Loud, students read, memorize, and recite classic and contemporary poems.

Donate books: Celebrate reading on March 11 with Alhambra teachers’ “Read Across America” family fair

For two hours on Saturday, March 11, hundreds of families and children will gather at Alhambra Park between 11 am and 1 pm for the beloved Alhambra Teachers Association’s annual festival of reading, Read Across America.

There will be free books, storytelling, reading stations, theatre, local authors, music, strolling poets, entertainments, activity booths, celebrity readers and volunteers from AUSD, the city of Alhambra, Alhambra Educational Foundation, and the San Gabriel Valley.

Geared to sparking an early love of reading in children, the festival attracted more than 500 people last year. An even bigger crowd is expected on March 11 this year.

The festival highlight is always the moment kids get to select their own free book to add to their home library. Offering more than 500 free books to children requires the whole community to pitch in, says Ralph Hernandez, ATA president. In a district where students speak 17 home languages, there is a real need for books for young readers in Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

“Ignite a love of books and reading in children by donating books or funding to



This captivated young reader at the 2022 Read Across America family fair selected a free book and stopped everything to read the first book of his very own. He is just one of many reasons to donate children’s books to ATA’s 2023 March 11 festival. Call 626-289-1933 to contribute books or funding to the Alhambra Teachers Association’s Read Across America reading festival.

the March 11th ATA Read Across America family fair,” Mr. Henandez urged. “We know that children who fall in love with reading succeed at school and in life. Call the ATA office 626-289-1933 to organize your contribution to our future leaders of our community.”



ATA
Alhambra Association

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If you cannot make one of the dates, Please contact the office to set up an alternate date 626-289-1933



The ATA Food Pantry benefited tremendously from the 1050 donated cereal boxes used in the Ynez School Cereal Box Domino Challenge, and they in turn help hungry families in the Alhambra Unified School District community.

Ynez school-wide project enhances academic skills, builds kindness + empathy, battles food insecurity

Beginning in November, Ynez School launched a school-wide campaign to collect boxes of cereal for a fun and educational Cereal Box Domino Challenge project. The goal was to have students use their math and physics knowledge to build a domino-type chain of cereal boxes, knock over the first box to create a reaction that would then knock down the rest of the chain.

For the event, students collected a total of 1,050 boxes. On January 26th, the entire school gathered on the playground to set up the domino chain and then knock down all the boxes. Afterward, all the cereal was donated to the Alhambra Teachers Association ATA food pantry for twice-monthly distributions. Dry goods, like cereal, are extremely popular in food pantries because they can be eaten any time of the day, with or without milk. With two truckloads of donated cereal, the ATA pantry replenished its shelves and is set to continue supporting our community's hungry families.

Students deployed their physics knowledge to build the cereal box domino chain, and their math skills to estimate and predict the quantity of boxes and the length of boxes (if they were laid out) collected. Class winners of the Golden Cereal Box Award for closest quantity prediction were: Ms. Leticia Diaz, Ms. Kandra Pierce, Ms. Janai Castillo, Ms. Pier Huynh, Ms. Terrie Lum, Mrs. Sandra Gonzalez, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hubert. The Golden Ruler Award for closest length prediction went to: Mrs. Sandra Gonzalez and Mrs. Laura Benavides. Teacher Mrs. Tammy Scoria took the lead coordinating this project and her enthusiasm must have really motivated her students because they ended up as the class that collected the most donations (299 boxes).

Already, plans are under way to make this an Ynez annual project with the aim of making the chain longer each year, perhaps one day beating the world record of 6,877 boxes!



Author and AHS alumna, Elizabeth Michele Cantine, in red, returned to her alma mater to donate 30 copies of her book, *Brush with Greatness*, to the Dora Padilla school library. On hand for the donation were AHS librarian Joan Lee; classmate and former Board of Education member, Jane Anderson; her husband, Richard Cantine; CTE specialist, Dr. Leeann Huang; and AHS student journalist, Juliana Tapia.

Author + AHS alumna donates 30 copies of her well-reviewed book to school library

Author and Alhambra High Class of 1962 alumna, Elizabeth Michele Cantine, returned to her alma mater in February to donate 30 copies of her well-reviewed book, *Brush of Giftedness*. The book is filled with her original poetry and painted artistic interpretations of famous art by Heidi Dong, a gifted artist with autism.

"My motivation to embark on this current endeavor with artistic Heidi and the Quotable Quartet was to show that those with autism, Down syndrome, and other challenges do not need to vocalize — the arts validate their volumes of verses." Mrs. Cantine said. "Also, I wanted to share my poetry as a means of expression and enrichment. This book has been a career-long dream! I appreciate the many gifts and geniuses of past and present students, poets, and artists; I wish the world to see the *Brush*

of Giftedness in everyone."

Mrs. Cantine was accompanied by her classmate, Jane Anderson, former Alhambra USD teacher and Board of Education member, and her husband Richard Cantine. AHS Librarian Joan Lee was thrilled to accept the books on behalf of the school to add them to the library's collection. Dr. Leann Huang represented AUSD's Educational Services at the donation.

AHS junior Julianna Tapia, who will be writing about the donation for the school newspaper, was also on hand.

AHS students can check out a copy of the book in the Dora Padilla Library. To find out more about *Brush of Giftedness* or to order your own copy, visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Brush-Giftedness.../dp/1732116318>

2022-2023 OPEN HOUSE INFORMATION

SITE	DATE	GRADE	TIME
Baldwin	Wednesday, 3/22/23	TK - 8	6:00-7:30 PM
Brightwood	Wednesday, 5/3/23	TK - 8	5:30-7:00 PM
Emery Park	Thursday, 3/23/23	TK-8	6:00-7:30 PM
Fremont	Wednesday, 5/10/23	TK-8	5:00-7:00 PM
Garfield	Thursday, 3/23/23	K-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Granada	Wednesday, 3/22/23	K-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Marguerita	Wednesday, 3/22/23	TK-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Monterey Highlands	Thursday, 3/23/23	TK-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Northrup	Thursday, 5/4/23	TK-8	5:30-7:30 PM
Park	Wednesday, 4/19/23	TK-8	5:30-7:30 PM
Ramona	Wednesday, 5/10/23	TK-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Repetto	Wednesday, 5/3/23	TK-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Ynez	Wednesday, 3/22/23	K-8	5:30-7:00 PM
Moor Field	Thursday, 4/13/23	Pre-K	5:30-7:00 PM
LIFT North	Wednesday, 3/22/23	12+	5:30-7:00 PM
LIFT South	Thursday, 3/23/23	12+	5:30-7:00 PM
AHS	Thursday, 3/23/23	9-12	6:00-8:00 PM
IHS/VLP	Thursday, 3/23/23	9-12	5:30-7:30 PM
VLP	Thursday, 3/23/23	TK-8	5:30-7:30 PM
MKHS	Thursday, 3/23/23	9-12	5:30-7:30 PM
SGHS	Thursday, 3/23/23	9-12	6:00-8:00 PM

JANUARY 2023

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 Marcus Foster Award for Administrative Excellence

Alhambra Management Association (AMA) Chapter Awards
 (Nominees for ACSA Region XV Awards)

MICHELE YAMARONE Alhambra Charter Award	DEBBIE KOTANI Elementary Principal
VIVIEN WATTS Classified Leader	DEBBIE STONE Secondary Principal
JOHN SCANLAN Personnel / Human Resources	ANGIE JUAREZ Special Education
LINH LY Promising Administrator	DENISE JARAMILLO Superintendent
JOCELYN CASTRO Secondary Co-Administrator	LILY JARVIS Valuing Diversity Award

All honorees will be celebrated at the ACSA Region XV Spring Awards Banquet on April 21st.



Pictured are some of the Alhambra USD student winners of the Alhambra Council PTA and First District PTA 2022-23 Reflections art program. A special shout-out to Monterey Highlands 4th grader Elizabeth Mejia whose film entry is moving to the State-level competition. Alhambra Council PTA consists of all 14 elementary/middle and high school PTA's within the Alhambra and Monterey Park area. The PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality through engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Alhambra Council PTA announces 2022-23 Reflections Art Program winners

At a January 26 in-person ceremony at Mark Keppel High School, Alhambra Council PTA announced the winners of their 2022-23 Reflections Art Program.

Alhambra USD students created artwork in response to the student-created theme "Show Your Voice." Christina Lerma, President of Alhambra Council PTA said, "Every year I am inspired by the creativity and artistic talent of our students. Alhambra Council PTA is proud to be a part of a national program that helps students 'show their voice' through the creative process."

Alhambra Council PTA received 132 student art submissions from five schools including Brightwood Elementary School, Martha Baldwin Elementary School, Monterey Highlands Elementary School, Mark Keppel High School and San Gabriel High School. Students submitted artwork in six categories (Music Composition, Literature, Photography, Film Production, Visual Arts, and Dance Choreography) and five divisions (Primary - Grades TK-2; Intermediate - Grades 3-5; Middle School - Grades 6-8; High School - Grades 9-12 and Special Artist - All Grades).

Here are the award-winning 2022-23 Alhambra Council PTA Reflections Art Program Artists:

Dance Choreography

Abigail Kusama, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Primary Award of Excellence
Zara Inada, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Intermediate Award of Excellence
Ann Lao, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Middle School Award of Excellence
Faith Doan, Mark Keppel High School, High School Award of Excellence

Film Production

Elizabeth Mejia, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Intermediate Award of Excellence

Andrew Mejia, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Middle School Award of Excellence

Camilla Chan, Mark Keppel High School, High School Award of Excellence

Literature

Clara Lam, Martha Baldwin Elementary, Intermediate Award of Excellence

Emma Lucero, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Intermediate Award of Merit

Aditya Kumar, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Middle School Award of Excellence

Kristine Sy, Mark Keppel High School, High School Award of Excellence

Music Composition

Jolie Wong, Brightwood Elementary, Intermediate Award of Excellence

Eleanor Chatzipantsios, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Intermediate Award of Merit

Aditya Kumar, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Middle School Award of Excellence

Camilla Chan, Mark Keppel High School, High School Award of Excellence

Photography

Mason Amimoto-Ha, Brightwood Elementary, Intermediate Award of Excellence

Chloe Suh, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Intermediate Award of Merit

Drexel Ngo, Brightwood Elementary, Middle School Award of Excellence

Aditya Kumar, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Middle School Award of Merit

Faith Doan, Mark Keppel High School, High School Award of Excellence

Visual Arts

Constance Guo, Martha Baldwin Elementary, Primary Award of Excellence

Sherihan Khalil, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Primary Award of Merit

Sarah Hutchins, Brightwood Elementary, Primary Award of Merit

Kaylee Yoshimoto, Martha Baldwin Elementary, Intermediate Award of Excellence

Ariannie Quach, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Intermediate Award of Merit

Miles Ho, Brightwood Elementary, Intermediate Award of Merit

Michelle Lee, Monterey Highlands Elementary, Middle School Award of Excellence

Aubree Bute, Martha Baldwin Elementary, Middle School Award of Merit

Hope Tran, San Gabriel High School, High School Award of Excellence

For over half a century, PTA's Reflections Art Program has been teaching students the value of art and encouraging their creativity. Each year, more than 300,000 TK-12th grade students nationwide create artwork through the program. Entries are judged locally with winning submissions moving to council level, state level, and ultimately to the national level. Thirteen of the Alhambra Council PTA entries received awards at the First District PTA. Elizabeth Mejia's film entry won first place at First District and has been forwarded to the California PTA competition. National PTA Reflections Art Program winners are announced annually in May.



Highlands Huskies learn math is fun at family Math Night

Monterey Highlands School brought back Math Night and it was a rousing success. Highlands PTA hosted local business Mathnasium on January 18th for a night of family centered math games and puzzles. They had pizza, prizes, and a ton of fun — and can't wait to continue this tradition in the future. Mark Keppel and Highlands students took leadership roles alongside the Mathnasium staff members. Mark Keppel High School California Scholastic Federation, Math Club students, and Highlands seventh and eighth graders volunteered at the event and staffed the math games for the younger Husky students.



Two AUSD elementary schools win 2023 CA Distinguished School honor

AUSD was proud to join Monterey Highlands and Repetto Schools at the official ceremony to honor their 2023 California Distinguished School award designation from the CA Department of Education presented by California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond in February.

On hand were AlhambraUSD Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo and Assistant Superintendent Janet Lees. Representing Monterey Highlands School were principal Dr. Rosa Soria, AP Abel Bourbois, Alana Acosta, Khanh Nguyen and Victoria Perez. Representing Repetto School were Principal Dr. Steve Suttle, AP Isaac Alvarado, Denise Canseco, Rachel Freng, Denise Perez, Missy Vu and Sandy Yip.



Alhambra High senior Sam Luo and 2023 U. S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts nominee in spoken word performance, performed his original poem at the 2022 Gay Pride Parade.

Alhambra High senior is YoungArts award recipient, nominee for 2023 U. S. Presidential Scholars Program

Alhambra High School senior Sam Luo won the YoungArts 2023 award for spoken word performance poetry and is one of 60 young artists in the country nominated for the 2023 U. S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts Program. The award is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify artistic and academic excellence.

Sam is a first generation immigrant who arrived at age five with his parents to the San Gabriel Valley. As young boy and an English learner, Sam often felt alienated. He credits the poetry nonprofit Get Lit Words Ignite with helping himself find himself through writing and performing poetry, attending their writing workshops, and the invitation to join the teenage troupe of Get Lit Players who perform around the county.

At the request of teacher Dottie Burkhart, Sam wrote and performed his memorable poem "Linguistics of a Gay Man" at the 2022 Gay Pride Parade. One line in the poem is "When my poems are always about the way I'm heard and not the way I sound..."

Sam also performs in videos for the CA Department of Education College Planning website <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ec/collegeplan.asp>

"I believe powerful storytelling is a force that can change the world," says Sam. "Spoken word performance has a double impact on listeners, creating an immediate empathy and understanding in the audience."

Sam's dream is to attend UCLA where he hopes to continue using his gift for storytelling through performing original poetry.



2023 ROTARY MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

Alanna Acosta Martin	Stephanie Dunne	Carmine Ida Mojahedi
Sandra Amador-Gonzalez	Julie Eyre	Lorena Molina
Rodolfo Netza Bravo	Wendy Hang	Lynn Nevin-Greep
Ana Campos	Nicole Hart	Amy Ngo
Sarah Casey	Katey Huynh	Shaiday Rosales
Maritza Cha	Peir Huynh	Bonita Sharma-Ngan
Gennie Cheng	Susie Kline	Jamie Stewart
Lena Chui	Francine Lam	Shirley Suen
Anny Cruz	Susan Lam	Stephennie Teng
Jeanny Cuevas	Lilly Lam & Amy Ebert	Marine Wei
Ana Dacaret	Jessica Lan	Lisa Wong
Jennifer Daza	Deborah Lee	Stephanie Yoon
Sheila Diaz-Guzman	Winnie Liu	
Nichole Doggett	Kenneth Ma	

\$5,614 Awarded

THANK YOU, ALHAMBRA ROTARY!

Alhambra Rotary mini-grants near quarter-million mark

Congratulations are due to the 40 recipients of the 2023 Rotary Club of Alhambra mini-grants. This year, Rotary awarded over \$5,400 to support special activities and projects throughout Alhambra Unified School District. In the 31st year of its mini-grant program, Rotary has distributed over \$246,000 to hundreds of grateful AUSD teachers, counselors, and other staff.

Members of the grant committee include Dr. David Snyder (chairperson), Sister Kathleen Calloway (Rotary president), Joyce Coffey, Erica Deacon, Maria Gao, Edgar Garcia Mora, Dr. Denise Jaramillo, Janet Lees, Cynthia Reimers, and Linda Wong. Additional funding provided by The Alhambra, Maria Gao, Denis Kerechuk, Dr. Beggis H. Lieberg, SPARK, and Transtech Engineering.

ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-24 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

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ALHAMBRA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Final Sessions:
March 9, 2023 (Middle School)
March 23, 2023 (High School)

All meetings held 6:30pm - 7:30pm via Zoom!

The Board of Education and the Superintendent have enjoyed meeting with community members during these informal chat sessions. Please join us at a Community Conversations this year, and share what is on your mind.

Sign up at:
<https://tinyurl.com/AUSD-StudentConversations23>

From the Desk of Kimberly Flowers

Memoir Writing Basics: Start Today

By Kimberly Flowers, Chief Development Officer, Atherton
214 South Atlantic Blvd, Alhambra

All of us need seniors to share their stories. A wealth of wisdom and wit resides inside the memories of every senior, and these are not treasures to be lost. Families need to have stories that can be remembered to provide a context for family values and history. Seniors themselves can assign meaning to the legacy of their lives by writing from their own perspective.

So let me ask you: Have you ever felt the need to reach deep down into your past, across the chasm of memories, and retrieve a glimmer of your life? The memories pour out as you start to write authentically and vividly either on your laptop or on paper. For more detailed information on Memoir Writing, I suggest doing some research. I started with Memoir Writing for Dummies by Ryan G. Van Cleave PhD. You may also consider attending a writer's conference to connect with people who love to tell stories.

The important thing is to start. Here is the best news: You don't have to try to start at the beginning. Start with a memory that keeps surfacing or one that became a turning point in your life. As you concentrate on telling this story, your mind will go further and further into memories of people, places, and events from before and after that point. Keep a list of these because you will come back to them. But first go back to that pivotal story and make it interesting on

its own. Here are some tips to help:

• **Limit what's included.** A memoir focuses on parts or specific elements of a life, whereas an autobiography includes everything about a life, from birth to death.

• **Be truthful.** There is no need to embellish or exaggerate.

• **Use narrative elements.** Tell the story with detail and emotion. Think about all five of your senses, and help the reader feel like you are talking directly to them.

• **Show desire.** When the main character of the story desperately wants something, the story becomes interesting. Be specific and clear about what your main character wants, and your readers will want to continue reading.

• **Have conflict or adversity.** No one has a perfect life, or even a perfect day. In fact, when a character can't get what they want or faces some type of hardship that is when the story gets interesting. Tell that story for a strong memoir.

Telling your story in human terms from your real point of view is necessary to connect with your reader. Do you want the structure of your story to be chronological, starting from the beginning and traveling linearly to the end? Sometimes, stories that start at the end - or even in the middle - keep things interesting. Ask yourself: "what message or lesson do I want to share with the world?" This will help you decide the type of structure that fits your personal style.

Establishing the setting and scene makes the memory from the past come to life. Your reader can magically create


that moment in their mind. Beyond the physical area, also include social and cultural forces. Are there background noises or smells in the air? Are you indoors or outdoors? Is it hot or cold? These elements and many more will draw a picture for the reader.

To make the characters in your story memorable, think about what you can convey that will express a good sense of who they are and what they mean to you. You might pick from their physical appearance, personality, IQ and schooling, talents, skills and gifts, shortcomings and flaws, mannerisms and tics, main goals, secondary goals, fears, secrets, etc.

These elements help your reader develop the same emotional attachment to the character that you have.


Don't worry about the words or sentences at first. Just write what comes. Then you can go back and smooth out the rough edges and polish up the grammar.

As you relive your past, moment by moment, you will see a story take shape and grow into something that is a message of love, kindness, compassion, humility, and humanity. That is a memoir. You don't have to be a well-educated person of letters or an expert in grammar. You just have to start. Perhaps the time is now.




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Your Health

23 Timely Tips for Happy Living

By Sheila Yonemoto, P.T.

I used to make New Year's resolutions every year and would review them periodically to see how many I had achieved. Mostly, they went undone, and then I added them to the list for the following year. So, I quit writing them down. Instead, I try to make each day count and read inspiring articles and books, and watch webinars that give practical information to make life better.

Here are 23 tips to make life a little happier:

1. Take time to look at nature and appreciate whatever you see.
2. Find at least one thing you can be grateful for and smile about it.
3. Think how you can make this a better world and do something about it.
4. Make time to visit someone who makes you happy.
5. Clean up your space to make it a little nicer to look at.
6. Say hello and smile at someone you see everyday, making them feel like they matter.
7. Look at yourself in the mirror and pay that reflection a sincere, positive compliment.
8. Count your blessings before you fall asleep.
9. Drink more water to be sure you are hydrated.
10. Eat more fresh fruits and vegetables to get enough fiber.
11. Make someone smile or laugh.
12. Watch more sunrises, sunsets and rainbows.
13. Do deep breathing.
14. Sit up straighter by pushing your feet into the floor for 5-6 seconds, 5-6 times every hour.
15. Be kinder and nicer to everyone around you.
16. Say thank you more often.
17. Say you're sorry and make amends more often.



Sheila Yonemoto, P.T.
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(626) 576-0591

Sheila Yonemoto, P.T., has been a physical therapist for more than 40 years, specializing in integrative manual therapy, utilizing a holistic approach. She can be reached at Yonemoto Physical Therapy, 55 S. Raymond Ave, Suite 100, Alhambra, CA 91801. Sheila also offers a Qigong "Chinese Energy" exercise class. Your first class is FREE. Call (626) 576-0591 for more information or visit www.yonemoto.com.

18. Hang out with people who make you happy.
19. Help others to be the best they can be.
20. Chew your food 30-70 times per bite to make digestion easier.
21. Go to bed at a regular time each day and get 7-8 hours of sleep.
22. Talk less and listen more.
23. Make every moment count. Life is too short to waste.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Sheila Yonemoto, P.T., who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse medical advice or any remedies recommended by this author or any other provider.

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40 years! We are still here and still learning and bringing new things to the patients



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IMPORTANT MEDICARE QUESTIONS

- 1 How well does my current plan meet my needs?
- 2 What are my other Medicare plan options?
- 3 What kind of changes are allowed during the Open Enrollment Period?
- 4 What is the difference between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage?

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I speak Mandarin and Cantonese

Katherine Yu Simms
Medicare Insurance Agent
License #0M21975

Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.

Nightguard protects your investments

by Dr. Krasnodara Gashparova, DDS (also known as Dr. Dara)

When it comes to protecting our teeth from the damaging pressure of clenching and grinding, nothing is more important than using a dental nightguard.

guard recreates that natural spacer between the teeth.

- cushion that absorbs the pressure from grinding and clenching.

implants are more susceptible to damage from grinding and clenching.



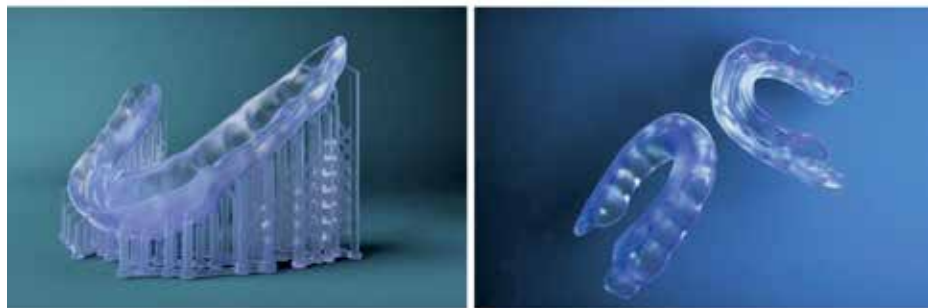
Our natural teeth have built in “shock absorbent” located between the root and the surrounding bone, made of different fibers. Its primary function is to keep the tooth connected to the bone but also has the ability to squish slightly when excessive force is applied and lower the teeth. Implants do not have this type of ligament as they are artificially placed inside the bone. So, when excessive force is applied the natural teeth slightly sink in but not the implants. That makes the pressure way more damaging to the implant and the surrounding bone. Over time, this can lead to implant failure, which can require costly repairs or even replacement.

There are several different types of dental nightguards available, so it is important to talk to your dentist about which one is best for you. Your dentist will consider your individual needs, your bite, the amount and



Dr. Dara, D.D.S.
(626) 289-6131

Dr. Dara Gashparova, D.D.S. is located at 70 S. Palm Ave., Alhambra 91801. Readers with dental questions or concerns should contact her at (626) 289-6131, or e-mail daradds@yahoo.com



A dental nightguard is an oral appliance that is worn while sleeping. It is a custom-made device that is created by your dentist to fit snugly over your teeth and implants. They are typically made of a slightly flexible material and fit over the top or bottom teeth. Since they are custom-made, they are designed to fit your mouth perfectly and provide maximum comfort.

Nightguards work on a few simple principles. They create a

- platform between the upper and lower teeth to slightly open the bite. This chewing platform keeps the TMJ/mandibular hinge in a more comfortable, resting position. When you are in a resting position and not talking or eating, your teeth are slightly apart. The night

- mechanical barrier on top of the teeth, which helps to reduce the wearing and tearing of the tooth structure.

Grinding and clenching of the teeth, also known as bruxism, is a common condition often caused by stress. It can lead to several serious issues, including enamel erosion, tooth sensitivity, fracture, and TMJ (temporomandibular joint) disorder.

Nightguards can also help to reduce headaches and jaw pain caused by clenching. By providing a cushion and a spacer, the nightguards can reduce the amount of tension and strain on the jaw muscles, that aligns the jaw and relaxes the muscles, which in turn can help to reduce pain and discomfort.

Nightguards are especially beneficial for those who have dental implants. Dental

pattern of grinding that occurs during sleep, and will be able to customize it accordingly.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Dr. Krasnodara Gashparova, DDS, (also known as Dr. Dara), who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse medical advice or any remedies recommended by this author or any other provider.

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Your Insurance

Do you have medicare questions? I have the answers!

By Katherine Yu Simms

We're in the middle of the MA OEP, that's Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period. It's the time of year when you can switch plans for many reasons if you're on a Medicare Advantage Plan. No matter what your reason is, or why it's important to change your plan, disenrollment and new enrollment requests should be submitted at the same time.

Determining if a change in plans is the best move, attending to the details, and following the Medicare rules can be confusing. That's why I'm here! I grew up here in the San Gabriel Valley where I learned to share my time and knowledge with others. I have my license as a Medicare Agent, serving seniors like you for about 20 years. You can rely on me for all sorts of information. My expertise extends from Medicare, Medi-cal, to estate planning, taxes, downsizing, planning trusts, Veterans Administration questions, and much more. Talking things over with me is always complimentary!

My heritage is Chinese, so if English is your second language, no worries. I am fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese. I am able to understand and converse with you to help you make the best choices. I care for all of you, so don't



Katherine Yu Simms
(323) 854-2868

Katherine Yu Simms has supported seniors in making difficult and important decisions for many years. She can be reached at 323-854-2868, or e-mail kyusimms@rey-top.com.

stress and scratch your head, just pick up the phone and call me at 323-854-2868.

This column is provided to Around Alhambra by Katherine Yu Simms, who is responsible for the content. Around Alhambra does not endorse financial advice recommended by this author or any other provider. For more information and to contact Katherine, email her at kyusimms@rey-top.com.

MARCH 2023



ALHAMBRA Restaurant of the Week

PRESENTED BY THE ALHAMBRA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Enjoy delicious, local cuisine!

The **Alhambra Restaurant of the Week (ROTW)** highlights the unique flavors of our community. Every week, we showcase the diverse culinary offerings that represent the best of local dining in the City of Alhambra!

February 27 - March 5



Dog Haus creates hand-crafted hormone and antibiotic-free hot dogs, sausages, burgers, plant-based proteins, all served on Kings Hawaiian rolls. Crush one, then wash it down with one of their local craft beers, signature cocktails, or premium shakes.

Visit them at 410 E Main St, Alhambra



March 6 - March 12



Michoacana Alhambra is famous for its wide selection of delicious and authentic Mexican ice cream flavors, including flavors made with fresh fruits and spices. The shop also offers treats such as paletas, churros, elotes, raspados, and more!

Visit them at 2130 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra



March 13- March 19



At **Papa's Tacos**, you can enjoy a variety of Mexican classics such as tacos, tortas, and burritos, in addition to breakfast crowd-pleasers like Huevos con Machaca, Steak & Eggs, and Huevos Rancheros that are guaranteed to satisfy your taste buds!

Visit them at 2130 S Fremont Ave, Alhambra



March 20 - March 26



Pho N Mor serves a variety of authentic Vietnamese dishes such as, vermicelli bowls, rice plates, vegan specialties, and their generous bowl of Pho. Come by to enjoy a satisfying and flavorful Vietnamese meal!

Visit them at 2320 W Commonwealth Ave, Alhambra



Follow the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce on Facebook and Instagram to learn more about these restaurants or visit alhambraeats.com.



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Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the 12th Annual Downtown Alhambra Pub Crawl

Revelers and residents will celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Friday, March 17th on Main Street, thanks to Downtown Alhambra Business Association's 12th Annual St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl. For over a decade, hundreds of people travel Main Street together for the fun, festival annual event. Donning holiday outfits, matching t-shirts (while supplies last), and lots of laughing, this Alhambra tradition is not to be missed.

The St. Patty's Day Pub Crawl is a free event for those 21 and older. Crawlers will check-in at Ohana Brewing (7 S. 1st Street) at 5pm and move from bar to bar through-

out the evening as a group, led by a bagpipe player. The first 50, 21+ people to RSVP and show up at Ohana Brewing Company at 5pm will receive a free commemorative St. Patty's Day t-shirt. Please visit www.downtownalhambra.com to RSVP and for the map and event schedule.

Want to celebrate even more? Visit businesses on Main Street for St. Patrick's Day promotions and celebrations! Check out www.downtownalhambra.com or on Instagram at @downtownalhambra for more information and to RSVP for the Pub Crawl!

APAC Admission Free with RSVP at alhambra.eventbrite.com or \$20. Donation at the door

Saturday April 22, 2023 - 7pm

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Real Estate

Alhambra dirt: more valuable than you would think

Gary Frueholz, Dilbeck Real Estate

The next time you dust off your shoes in Alhambra, think twice. You might just be surprised at the value of Alhambra dirt - at least, if you own the land it comes from. As a realtor, I can roughly calculate the value of land, i.e. dirt, whether it be for residential, commercial, or vacant land. When a home sells, the value of the improvement on the land can also be estimated. This value can include the actual cost of the building, entitlement process, architects, and more.

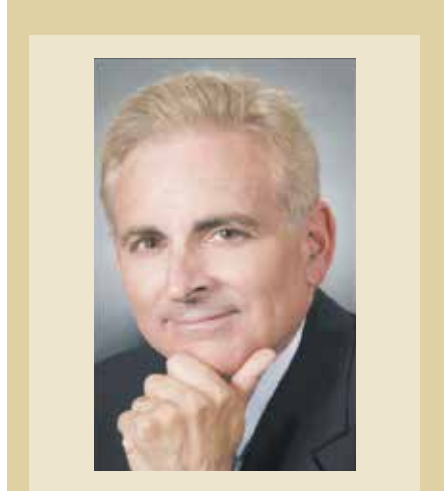
When the cost of construction of a home on the land is subtracted from the sale price, a rough approximation of the value of the land is ultimately left. In other words, this is the value of the dirt. It is not unusual for nearly half of the cost of a Southern California home to be for the lot that the house is on.

HomeAdvisor calculates that the average cost of construction for a home in Southern California ranges from roughly \$280 per square foot to \$400 per square foot. The category HomeAdvisor calls "best standard homes" has a construction cost of \$400 per square foot, while the category referred to as "good standard homes" is calculated at \$280 per square foot.

During the past three months, the median total price was \$640 per square foot for single family detached homes sold in Alhambra. Alhambra's land is very valuable due to its location next to Los Angeles and the character of the city itself. And the humbling reality for recent buyers in our city is that they paid a lot for the dirt.

But what the land represents is what makes it so valuable. Land in Southern California and Alhambra represents a lifestyle: the lifestyle of the Golden State. This value reflects one of the most popular locations in our country. Alhambra is the best place to enjoy mountains, beaches, professional sports, glitzy entertainment, and diverse restaurants. Our location also translates into outstanding proximity to jobs and efficient means to commute to work via freeways and public transportation.

Our city has another appealing quality.



Gary Frueholz
Dilbeck Real Estate
(626) 318-9436

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Dilbeck Real Estate, a past member of the Alhambra Planning Commission, a Certified Senior Real Estate Specialist, Certified International Property Specialist, and can be reached at 626-318-9436. See his stories at www.garysstories.com.

It is its own incorporated city. Alhambra has its own highly rated school system, police department, fire department, library system, and even its own water supply with wells.

Another factor in price is the scarcity of land in Southern California. Alhambra too has very little open land for new construction. With the population increasing, another force that increases the cost of land is introduced.

My non-scientific analysis also showed our Alhambra land is slightly more valuable than Monterey Park and almost identical to Temple City and San Gabriel. Livability.com ranked Alhambra in the top 25 Best Places to Live in the United States for mid-sized cities. So, the next time you are sweeping the sidewalk in front of your home, ponder the value of what you just collected and enjoy the fact that our dirt has value.

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224 E. Fernfield Dr, Monterey Park
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14038 Rockenbach St, Baldwin Park
3 Bed | 1 Bath | House | 1,174 ft²



330 N. Rural Dr #205, Monterey Park
2 Bed | 2 Bath | Senior Condo | 838 ft²



210 N. Monterey St #404, Alhambra
1 Bed | 2 Bath | Senior Condo | 870 ft²



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119 S. Atlantic Blvd, Monterey Park
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18039 Crenshaw Blvd #304, Torrance
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City	Property Type	Average Price JAN '23	Average Price JAN '22	YOY%
Monterey Park	Single Family House	\$972,800	\$994,000	-2.13%
	Condo/Townhome	\$546,375	\$762,000	-28.30%
Alhambra	Single Family House	\$927,666	\$1,007,945	-7.96%
	Condo/Townhome	\$608,925	\$666,828	-8.68%



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