## AROUND ALHAMBRA



SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024 | GATEWAY TO THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

www.alhambrachamber.org

### The 2024 Guide to Dining in Alhambra

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Whether you're a local resident or just passing through, the 2024 Restaurant Guide is here to help you navigate the rich culinary landscape in Alhambra. From cozy family-owned eateries to trendy new spots and Michelinrecognized meals, Alhambra's dining scene has something for every occasion.

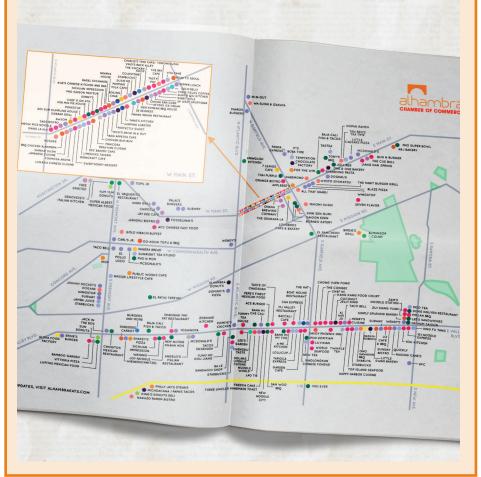
Alhambra's restaurant ecosystem is a mosaic of flavors, reflecting its multicultural charm. Explore the diverse array of restaurants scattered throughout the city, each promising a unique and flavorful experience. Alhambra is home to many hidden gems and local favorites as a melting pot of cultures, as immigrants from all around the world put down roots in the city.

With over 200 restaurants, there's guaranteed to be something for everyone. Just a quick stroll along

Main Street downtown will bring you past a Southeast Asian eatery, Italian cafe, Korean barbeque, Peruvian fare, Michelin Bib Gourmand dim sum, and a stock exchange-themed bagel shop.

Being in the San Gabriel Valley, Alhambra is one of the most well known destinations for Asian cuisine, and it certainly delivers. All six of the Alhambra restaurants recognized on the 2024 Michelin Guide offer Asian specialties. But just about every kind of restaurant can be found in Alhambra, including one of the original McDonald's franchises, to satisfy your every craving.

Dive in, discover your new favorite spot, and savor the best that Alhambra has to offer. View the complete map of restaurants in Alhambra on pages 14 and 15. Bon appétit!



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**CAR-RT SORT** 



Thank you to the many AUSD staff members and families who submitted photos as part of the #AUSDFirstDay campaign. We received well over 200 submissions this year! This collage features just a handful of the joyful photos submitted.

## Celebrating the First Day of School in AUSD

Our campuses were full of excitement successful start to the school year. and anticipation as over 14,000 Alhambra Unified School District students returned to school on August 13 to begin the 2024-2025 school year. They were greeted by music, balloons, decorations, and of course, smiling staff members and volunteers. The day marked the beginning of another academic year, but also the start of new adventures, friendships, and opportunities for growth.

Despite an unexpected earthquake the day before school resumed, our facilities were in great shape, thanks to the dedication and hard work of the district's facilities, custodial, and maintenance crew. Additionally, our teachers, administrators, and support staff worked tirelessly to ensure classrooms were ready, schedules were set, and every detail was in place to welcome students back for a

We are excited to have three schools with new principals at the helm: Mr. Isaac Alvarado at Garfield School, Mrs. Alejandra "Alex" Perez at Mark Keppel High School, and Ms. Jocelyn Castro at San Gabriel High School. Another exciting addition for this school year is the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classes to all 13 elementary schools, including TK classes for both the Spanish and Mandarin Dual Immersion programs. Early learning experiences like TK provide important foundational academic and social skills, and the addition of these young learners brings added joy to each campus.

AUSD continued its tradition of encouraging members of the AUSD family to capture a... >>First Day of School in AUSD, p 20

#### Did You Know?

If you're injured in an accident, it's crucial to document your medical treatment thoroughly. Detailed records of doctor visits, prescriptions, and therapy sessions can significantly strengthen your personal injury claim and ensure you receive fair compensation.

#### Practice Areas / 执业领域

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### **AROUND ALHAMBRA**

Published by the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, Around Alhambra is 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 informa-

Articles submitted to 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

For advertising rates and other information, contact: Alhambra Chamber of Commerce 104 S. First St., Alhambra, CA 91801 Tel: 626-282-8481 Fax: 626-282-5596 www.alhambrachamber.org

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### Mayor's Corner

## Celebrating Alhambra's Culinary Charm

By Sasha Renée Pérez

Hello fellow Alhambrans and friends,

As your Mayor, there are countless reasons I'm proud to represent our vibrant city. But today, I want to shine a spotlight on one of our greatest treasures: the incredible array of restaurants that make Alhambra a true culinary haven.

Walking through our city, it's clear that Alhambra is a melting pot of cultures, and our dining scene reflects that beautiful diversity. From charming family-run eateries like Charlie's Trio to upscale dining establishments like Henry's Cuisine, each restaurant tells a unique story, adding flavor and character to our community.

Let's start with our beloved local favorites. The aroma of freshly baked bread from A&J Bakery, or the comforting warmth of a hearty bowl of ramen from Kosuke, brings a sense of home to so many of us. It's not just about the food; it's about the familiar faces and the comforting environment that make these places special.

And who could forget the rich, savory delights of our authentic Mexican cuisine? Restaurants like Baja Cali Fish & Tacos and El Ranchero offer a taste of Mexico that is both genuine and unforgettable. Their dedication to quality and tradition is something we can all appreciate and

Our dining scene wouldn't be complete without mentioning the vibrant Asian cuisine that has become a hallmark of Alhambra. From the dim sum at Lunasia Dim Sum House to the spicy Szechuan dishes at Sichuan Impression, these eateries offer a window into the diverse culinary traditions that thrive here. They're not just restaurants; they're cultural experiences, providing a taste of far-off lands right in our backyard.

Let's also acknowledge the innovative spirit of our newer establishments. Free Spirited's alcohol-free craft cocktails and Yang's Kitchen's fusion menu serve as reminders of how Alhambra continues to evolve, blending modern trends with our rich culinary heritage. Their creativity and dedication add a fresh, exciting dimension to our dining landscape.

In celebrating our local restaurants, we're also celebrating the people behind them—chefs, servers, and entrepreneurs who pour their heart and soul into their work. Their commitment to excellence and community enriches our city in countless



Mayor Sasha Renée Pérez City of Alhambra

ways. They're not just feeding us; they're contributing to the fabric of our shared experiences and memories.

So, next time you're looking for a place to eat, remember that Alhambra has a treasure trove of options waiting to be explored. Whether you're a lifelong resident or just passing through, our city's dining scene offers something for everyone. Let's continue to support these local gems and appreciate the role they play in making Alhambra such a dynamic and delightful place to live.

Bon appétit, Alhambra!

## NEWS ${\mathcal E}$ NOTES

#### > Historical Francis Q. Story House saved by anonymous donor

The historic Story House, located at 502 North Story Place, was anonymously purchased and gifted to the Alhambra Historical Society for preservation as a historic site in Alhambra. The Story House is a Victorian residence that was built in 1883 for Francis Quarles Story, who is credited with founding the national advertising campaign that made the Sunkist Orange famous. Story was instrumental in the development of the City of Alhambra throughout the late 1800s and early 1900s, and donated a portion of his land to the city for what is now Story Park!

#### Alhambra resident writes "fun" cancer book

Long time Alhambra resident Scott Halversen has written a "fun" cancer book titled "Suddenly My Zodiac Sign Changed from Gemini to Cancer." Through a humorous style and illustrated cartoons drawn by his son-in-law, Ben Andersen, the book describes Halversen's battle with stage 4 lymphoma and a secondary brain

#### The Alhambra's sustainability efforts recognized for 13th year

The Alhambra's eco-friendly innovations have earned it an Energy Star score of 87, marking the 13th year of certification. The score means that The Alhambra is more energy efficient than 87 percent of similar properties nationwide. It has also been certified LEED Gold by the U.S. Green Building Council since 2012, which identifies the Alhambra Community as a standout example of sustainability and demonstrates its commitment to building a healthy, sustainable future.

> Alhambra resident becomes Cal State LA's first three-time Academic All-American For the third straight year, Cal State LA's Morgan Sjoerdsma has received a big academic achievement, and this one is the biggest of them all. The Alhambra resident became Cal State LA's first three-time Academic All-American on Tuesday when she was named to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Women's At Large first team. Her first-team recognition is only the third in Cal State LA history and the first since 2018.

#### > Alhambra Latino Association Celebrates 30 Years

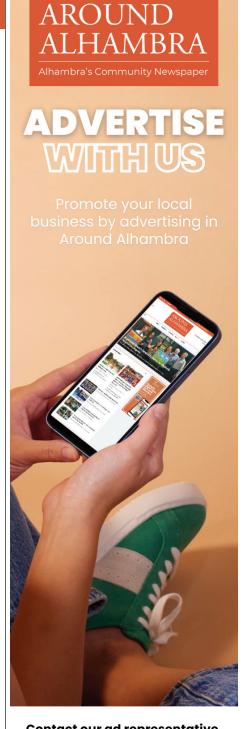
The Alhambra Latino Association, a nonprofit organization committed to supporting educational and cultural growth of children and parents in our community, kicked off its 30th year in August. The ALA will be hosting events and celebrations coming soon, you can subscribe to their newsletter at alhambralatinoassociation.com to learn more.

#### > Street Parking Closures for the Pumpkin Run

The eleventh annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run will take place on Sunday, October 27. From October 26 at 7 pm to October 27 at 12 pm, all of the streets within the race zone will be closed to traffic. The following streets will be closed during the race:

- Main St: Atlantic Ave to Vega St (No Cross traffic will be permitted)
- Garfield Ave: Commonwealth Ave to Woodward Ave

Overnight parking restrictions will be relaxed from October 26 through October 27, from Granada to El Molino, and from Main St. to Commonwealth. If you have questions, please call Public Works at 626-570-5067, or view the map and information on the City's website at cityofalhambra.org or on @AlhambraPumpkinRun on Instagram.



Contact our ad representative, at 626-282-8481 or send an inquiry to aa@alhambrachamber.org to reserve your space today.

## Who's Running For City Council District Four?

Current Mayor and Councilperson of the Fourth District Sasha Renée Pérez will not be running for reelection in the upcoming Municipal Election on November 5, as she is instead running for State Senate in District 25. Here are the candidates for the open seat in District Four:



KATIE CHAN Director/Caseworker/Environmentalist

KARSEN LUTHI Businessman



NAN "NOYA" WANG **Engineer/City Director** 



**JE-SHOW YANG** Commissioner/Nonprofit Manager

Katie Chan is a caseworker for the Eunisses Hernandez and is President and Commissioner of the Environmental & Sustainability Commission for the City of Alhambra District 4.

improve public transportation, establish a Climate Action Plan.

Karsen Luthi is a businessman and Company and other breweries. He owns and manages commercial and residential properties and also volunteers his time with local business organizations like DABA.

for fire and police departments, small business development.

Nan "Noya" Wang is a civil engineer City of Los Angeles for Councilwoman advisor to companies like Ohana Brewing and the Public Works Director for the Pacific Islander Forward Movement and City of Rosemead. She currently serves as a committee member on the Safe Clean Water Program and was previously Chair of the Alhambra City Planning Commission.

Key Issues: push for rent stabilization, Key Issues: housing access, recruiting talent Key Issues: improve public safety, keep our Key Issues: create safe streets, promote green city clean and beautiful, use taxpayer dollars spaces, support small businesses.

Je-Show is a program manager at Asian also serves on the Alhambra Environmental Sustainability Commission and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Learn more about Katie at katiechanforalhambra.com Learn more about Karsen at working4alhambra.com

Learn more about Noya at noyawang4alhambra.com

Learn more about Je-Show at yangforalhambra.com

These summaries are based on information from the official filings of the candidates with the city. Visit AroundAlhambra.org in October to read full profiles of each candidate.

#### The Chamber View

By Maria Gao

As the brand new board chair of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, I now have been given the honor of taking up words in this publication and in turn, your precious time. I thank you for allowing me to use these lines to make an introduction.

The Chamber was essential in helping to relocate my work into the city in 2012. We were welcomed into the community and quickly felt right at home.

Over the years, our business

benefited from the many connections the Chamber helped us forge and I met people to whom I could look up and from whom I would learn. I learned from experts, professionals, public servants, and folks from various walks of life. As the company grew and I alongside it, I realized that at the end of the interactions we had with our Chamber and community was always someone who was being of service. As a result of their services, a bond that connected our community was built.

With the honor of serving as the president of the Chamber, I hope to continue building our community and the bond that connects us to each other and our communities. I hope to leave the organization and this community better than when I found it and I know I won't be alone. I will be supported by those that have come before and more that will arrive after. If you would like to be a part of a cause, I hope you will join our community. Hope to see you around Alhambra!



Maria Gao President Alhambra Chamber of Commerce

## Alhambra Events Calendar

#### MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL CRAFT WORKSHOP

Reese Hall, Alhambra Library, 101 S 1st St Visit alhambralibrary.org for more information.

**SEP 12** 

SEP 7

**11 AM** 

**TO 1 PM** 

#### LEMONADE STAND

Silverado The Huntington, 1118 N. Stoneman Ave Visit silverado.com for more information.

**2 PM TO 4PM** 

**SEP 15** 

#### FIESTA ALHAMBRA!

**ALHAMBRA** 

Farmers Market, 100 S. 2nd Street Visit cityofalhambra.org for more information.

**10 AM** 

**TO 1 PM** 

**SEP 28** 

**TO 12 PM** 

**8 AM** 

#### RECYCLES EVENT Granada Park, 2000 W Hellman Avenue

Visit cityofalhambra.org for more information.

## September - October 2024

#### **ALHAMBRA** DAY OF SERVICE

Various Locations Visit bit.ly/adosep24 for more information.

#### **NOTEWORTHY PUPPETS HOLIDAY HIJINKS**

Reese Hall, Alhambra Library, 101 S 1st St Visit alhambralibrary.org for more information.

#### **ALHAMBRA PUMPKIN RUN AND** HALLOWSCREAM FESTIVAL

Downtown Alhambra, 132 West Main Street Visit alhambrapumpkinrun.com for more information. **OCT 27** 

TO 3:30 PM

**8 AM** 

TO 11 AM

**OCT 26** 

2:30 PM

7:45 AM TO 1:00 PM

FOR DETAILS ABOUT THESE AND OTHER **COMMUNITY EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT** AROUNDALHAMBRA.ORG/CALENDAR.

## Save Water... Usely Usely



## Boost Water Efficiency and Save with Free Smart Irrigation Retrofits This Fall

By Mark Paulson, President, Board of Directors and Steve Placido, Vice President, Board of Directors; San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

As the hot weather sticks around this summer, water conservation becomes more critical than ever. With rising temperatures and extended daylight hours, water usage in households and commercial properties tends to increase significantly, particularly for outdoor irrigation. However, there are effective strategies to manage water consumption while maintaining lush, healthy landscapes. One such solution is the use of irrigation smart controllers.

Smart irrigation controllers are designed to optimize the watering schedule of your landscaping. Unlike traditional timers that run on a fixed schedule, smart controllers adjust watering based on real-time weather data, soil moisture levels, plant types, and landscape conditions. This means your garden receives the right amount of water it needs precisely when it needs it, reducing water waste and promoting healthier plants. By tailoring the irrigation schedule to the actual needs of your plants and the local weather conditions, these devices can reduce water usage by up to 30%.

Reducing water consumption not only benefits the environment but also lowers your water bills. Over time, the investment in a smart controller can pay for itself through the savings achieved on your utility bills.

The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District is excited to reveal an updated initiative aimed at enhancing water efficiency and conservation in the community. The updated Smart Irrigation Retrofit Program builds upon the District's commitment to sustainable water management by offering residents a comprehensive upgrade for their irrigation system, completely free of charge.

Managed in partnership with WaterWise Consulting, Inc., the program begins with a thorough irrigation inspection conducted by a certified professional. This inspection includes identifying and repairing leaks, replacing inefficient spray nozzles, and optimizing the system layout for improved water distribution. Qualified participants of the program will also receive a state-of-theart weather-based smart irrigation controller at no cost.



Mark Paulson
San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District
info@sgvmwd.com



Steve Placido San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District info@sgvmwd.com

The District encourages residents to take advantage of this opportunity to upgrade their irrigation systems. The Smart Irrigation Retrofit Program not only helps conserve water but also promotes healthier landscapes and reduces water bills for residents. Funding is limited. For more information on eligibility and how to participate, go to www.sgvmwd.com or contact WaterWise Consulting, Inc., directly at 1 (888) 987-9473.



## Alhambra Farmers Market Celebrates 40 Years

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Watermelons, bok choy, orchids, honey. These are just a few of the fresh farm goods you can find at the Alhambra Farmers Market on 2nd St between Main and Commonwealth every Sunday. The Alhambra Farmers Market celebrated its 40th anniversary on August 18 in style, with live bands, food stalls serving everything from fresh fruit juices to wontons, and the produce booths that have stocked fridges in Alhambra for the past four decades.

The Farmers Market started in 1984 as a traditional style of market that connected small farms directly with the people making the food, starting out with just 15 vendors and growing to 45-55 vendors each week now. While most other farmers markets today have expanded to become bigger productions, with other non-produce booths like handmade goods, the Alhambra Farmers Market maintains the spirit of a traditional market serving both farmers and the community.

It's one of the things both vendors and residents love about the Alhambra Farmers Market. Eileen Wang, a longtime resident, says, "I just love the vibe of the farmers market - you know why? Because it's community-oriented. You've got people who are growing food, they're down-to-earth. People talk, people converse, people connect. It feels really like the old human way, before social media."

Wang visits the market often with her partner, John Kwong. The two are eager to support local farmers and small businesses, especially as Kwong has personal ties to the market — he used to perform here with his band, and has a fondness for the food stalls in particular. While he eats, Wang shops for Asian vegetables.

Cary Harris of Harris Family Apiaries is one of two farmers that has been at the Farmers Market since it opened. His dad, he says, started their beekeeping business decades ago in a natural progression from a side job removing bees from people's properties. He's spent his whole life at farmers markets, but the Alhambra market is his favorite and he comes every week to sell honey.



Cary Harris at the Harris Family Apiaries booth, where he sells honey jars, bee pollen, honey sticks, and beeswax.

"In the 80's, there weren't a lot of people doing markets. When the City was putting this market together they sent a letter to my dad inviting us to come out. He said yes, we came, and we've been doing this ever since," Harris sums up.

The Alhambra Farmers Market isn't like any other market that's still around. Harry Wong, the Farmers Market Manager, is proud to maintain the focus on only offering fresh produce and farm goods at the market. That doesn't mean the farmers market is small or limited by any means, it actually has more variety than other markets around Los Angeles. Wong says that it is rated third among farmers markets in Southern California.

"It's not like other markets because oth-

er markets have arts & crafts, this one has more greens. If you take a walk like twenty feet that way, you can see some nice stuff, like Asian produce," said Edgar Ornelas, who's been selling his vegetables from Ornelas Produce at the Alhambra Farmers Market for five years. "For me it's a good thing, because there's variety."



Customers browsing the greens at Ornelas Produce

"There's fresh seafood usually, there's beef and lamb and chicken that they cut up and bring here. There's more here than at most markets because people demand that they can do most of their grocery shopping here. The diversity of this market is drastically different, the choices in vegetables – there's sugarcane here, and bitter melon," Harris explains, gesturing to each booth as he points it out.

He shares Wong's vision for the ideal farmers market and believes it's better for both the farmers, who can sell their goods at reasonable prices, and the community who can access fresh greens and meet the growers themselves, a connection that's not possible at a grocery store. "The reason this exists is because the small family farmers were being driven out of business so farmers had no places to sell their stuff, and then the community wasn't able to buy with their hard-earned money what they deserved. The solution was to create farmers markets so the public would have a way to have accessibility to whoever was growing it, you could ask questions 'was this sprayed, how was it grown?' You can find out about the food you're eating."

Wang agrees that this is a huge draw for her. "It's also important to support local growers," she says. "Isn't it amazing, you get food in season, you know where it's coming from. It's so beautiful. Sometimes we take it for granted, you know, but it's way better than the quality you get at the supermarkets."

While the 40th anniversary celebration made the market feel a little more festive than usual, with the live music and more non-produce stalls, the weekly market is a steadfast, positive community space. It accepts food assistance programs like EBT to uphold the concept of making produce more accessible.

Josephine Zazueta, who was at the celebration with her son, moved to Alhambra eight years ago for precisely that reason. "I really liked that it was a small community. We like this market since we're used to everything, we like the special shops we go to. Chavez Farm has the best strawberries. We're just so used to the community here, every time we come we run into people and we know our neighbors."

The Alhambra Farmers Market is on every Sunday, rain or shine, except on Easter and on the occasion that Christmas or New Years Day falls on a Sunday. Ornelas recommends stopping by, "It's a good time, just come out and walk and you'll always find something new here."

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COSTUME CONTEST | KIDS ZONE
TRICK-OR-TREATING ON MAIN ST. | FARMERS MARKET











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# MDS GOSTUME GONTEST

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 TH 11:00 AM

AT ALHAMBRA PUMPKIN RUN HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

\*MAIN STAGE\*
101 S. 1ST ST. ALHAMBRA

\*FOLLOWED BY TRICK-OR-TREATING ON MAIN ST. 1PM-3PM!







## World of Music Invites Students to Enjoy Learning and Performing

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Opening its doors in August, World of Music pays homage to Pedrini Music, a beloved music school in Alhambra that founder Ernesto Molina frequented in his youth. Today, the new retail and learning space on Main Street offers a variety of lessons, including one-on-one instruction in piano, keyboard, guitar, electric bass, drums, voice, congas, and DJing. The store also features a curated selection of instruments and accessories from renowned brands, catering to musicians of all levels.

Born and raised in Ramona Gardens, Molina has been immersed in music since he was born because his older brother already played piano and began teaching him early on. Throughout his school years, he would go on to pick up every musical instrument he could. "I was in orchestra, I was in mariachi, I was in jazz band, I was in marching band, I was in every concert, everything you could imagine," he said. "Just playing a lot every day in junior high and high school." By junior high, he picked up bass with the dream that one day he would play in a band with his brother. Around the same time, he also started playing the guitar in mariachi, attributed his love of that iconic cultural music to his father and uncles.

From his mastery of salsa to Afro-Peruvian music to Carlos Santana, Molina says that World of Music is named after his studies of world music from his experience traveling and touring in various bands, including his own band, East L.A. Sabor Factory. "I really got to learn cultures from their own neighborhoods," he said. "L.A. is lucky that we have the whole world here."

Before opening World of Music, Molina was playing shows seven nights a week and offering music lessons on the side. After the pandemic shut down his gigs, he decided to focus more on his teaching work. "I always loved to teach." Molina explained. However, because he didn't have a college degree, it was difficult to get a job. One of his first paying educational jobs was teaching short term music programs at LAUSD schools. He would lug around 20 keyboards and teach a group of students for three weeks at a time, culminating in a final recital.

"Music has always been there for me throughout my life, in a positive way emotionally and mentally. I see how it helps my students come out of their shells, from hiding behind the curtains to playing recitals"

When word of mouth of his private music lessons began to spread among his kids' classmates, he began looking into starting his own business. Eventually, he brought World of Music to Alhambra in honor of Pedrini, the original music school in Alhambra he used to visit often when he was younger.

Keep an eye out for more information on its student recitals, which are held twice a year.



Julio's favorite restaurants: Raising Cane's, Baja Cali Fish & Tacos, and In-N-Out Juan's favorite restaurant: Gen Korean BBQ

# Cricket Party Services Brings the Party to You

By Nancy Liu, Editor

When Juan and Julio Colis were young, their father had a stroke. His left side was paralyzed and he would get tremors that would only calm down when

he heard the sound of a cricket chirping. The name "Cricket Party Services" is their way of paying homage to their dad, who still had the heart to get up and help



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them start this small business while he was recovering.

Cricket Party Services started in 2020, in the midst of the pandemic. Julio, the younger brother who was let go from his job at Planet Fitness when the pandemic shut it down, saw a new opportunity in renting out waterslides.

"He noticed everything was closed for kids, there was no playgrounds in McDonalds, there was no Disneyland," Juan explained. In this vacuum of children's activities, with everyone cooped up together indoors, there was a new demand for engaging, quarantine-friendly entertainment. As everyone else was baking sourdough or watching "Tiger King," Julio got to work.

"We bought the water slide, one turned into two, turned into three," Julio said. Then, they brought in other rentals. Chairs, tents, decor. It got to the point where they could do this full-time.

Juan left his job as a general manager for McDonalds after two decades with the corporation, having worked his way up since he was 16 years old, when Cricket Party Services started picking up. His operations experience was the perfect combination with Julio's marketing experience at Planet Fitness, and the two were a great team.

"When we started, I told him, 'You do what you do good, let me do what I do good, and the company will work perfectly fine.' That's how we work really well," Juan said.

The brothers grew up in Alhambra and decided to buy a warehouse for Cricket Party Services in the area half from practicality and half from sentimentality. Juan, who manages the operations, said, "In Alhambra, we're in the middle of a really good area. Alhambra, we don't have a lot of events, but we're in the middle of the San Gabriel Valley, close to Downtown LA, we can go anywhere. Wherever the customers are."

For Julio, it's more about the community here. "I was born and raised in Alhambra, so it's always been sentimental to us. We like doing the big parties, but we also love giving back to the community. We do events, like the other day we were at the Ronald McDonald House of Charity and we're doing the National Night Out for Alhambra. It's a give and take, both sides of the coin."

Recently, Cricket Party Services has been gaining traction on social media, which has made people view the company as a bigger corporation. It's still the same small, family-owned business, but Juan and Julio are always looking ahead to the future.

"Our goals are bigger than just rentals," Juan shared. "We're a family-owned business. Since Instagram took off, people are looking at Cricket as a bigger company, and think you're a corporation, but we would not treat our customers like we're a corporation. I don't want to move into the corporate world."

Still, they've got big ideas they're already getting started on. First up is to open a venue that can hold at least 150 people for bigger events like weddings. Whether you're planning a party or want to splash around on some waterslides in the Southern California heat, visit cricketpartyservices.com for more information.

## Reach Media Says: Go Big on Social Media

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Move over, Yelp. Instagram is where younger generations are finding new businesses and deciding where to eat, shop, and hang out today. Vertical video has taken over the screens of young adults. From TikTok to Instagram Reels to Youtube Shorts, the short-form videos — which usually start with a panned shot of the business interior, followed by close ups of the products and a voice-over saying, "This is the best dim sum in Southern California" — are the best way to reach new customers and their friends.

It's not just for sit-down restaurants, stylish coffee shops, or special popups either. Social media is where people get most of their information these days. According to Pew Research Center, 85% of adults say they often or sometimes get news digitally. As younger generations get older, it's up to businesses to meet them where they are in order to attract new customers and stay in business.

Older members of Gen Z are now reaching their mid-20s. They're entering the workforce and have more money to spend than they did a few years ago, when social media was just emerging. While Gen Z has grown up on social media, it's not as easy for older business owners who aren't as used to all the new technologies and apps that have come out in the past few years.

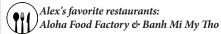
That's a problem, according to Alex Lin, Founder of Reach Media. "A lot of businesses don't realize, especially if you have a younger demographic you're trying to serve, if we look up your business and see no social media, we're not gonna come."

Lin was born and raised in Alhambra and loves the city. He left to attend college at UCLA, but now that he's back, he wants to help the businesses here get on the map, especially for the youths.

"That was one of the biggest things I noticed when I came back here," Lin said. "Some of the businesses don't have the social media presence needed to attract young people and bring in more attention."

"We have a lot of amazing food and awesome businesses," he added. The roadblock is making sure people know about those businesses, which means that for





most businesses, social media isn't optional

"Now, the way that social media is, it's very saturated and there's a ton of people on it, there's a ton of content being posted every day. You have to be very intentional about what you're posting and you have to be intentional about who you're trying to reach." It's precisely that expertise and attention to detail that Reach Media offers to businesses who are trying to build a presence on social media.

Reach Media started as a one-person side project in college, but over time, more people reached out to Lin for help getting started on social media. Lin now works with a small team of videographers and video editors that were all raised in Alhambra, too. He wanted to make Reach Media a platform and outlet for local creatives to build a career. The fact that his team are all Alhambra natives is purposeful, and a

"Since we're young and born and raised here, we have a good idea of what people are interested in, what they like, the kind of demographics that are here. We're part of the youth so we have a good idea of the content that would make it around here," he said. "We're really focused on taking our insights about the community and transferring it onto a social media platform and helping businesses build and grow."

Lin is planning for the long term. He's invested in the neighborhood and in staying here. "There's a disconnect in the community — everyone lives pretty private lives around here, there's not a lot of places to socialize in the first place so getting some of these activities and events on the map for these businesses to bring a closer-knit community is very important to me. It helps me live in my city that I love, it helps businesses bring attention to their business, and it helps gather people, so it's a win-winwin for everybody."

Want help with your social media strategy? Connect with Reach Media on Instagram: @reachmedia626 or visit their website reachmediala.com.

#### All Around the Town

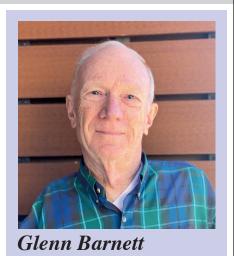
## Alhambra High School Alum Keeps on Making Good

By Glenn Barnett



In the May issue of Around Alhambra, mention was made of actor Ke Huy Doom (1984). Soon after that he would also star in another Spielberg movie, The Goonies (1985).

Quan began life in 1971 in Saigon, Vietnam. His family is ethnic Chinese, who were an unloved minority in Vietnam. In 1978, his family joined the 'boat people' fleeing the restrictive new government in the country. He, his father, and five brothers spent a year at a refugee camp in Hong Kong with hundreds of others fleeing Vietnam. The family remained there until receiving visas to the United States where they were reunited with Quan's mother and three other siblings.



Glenn's favorite local restaurant:

years. He spent his time behind the camera, choreographing martial arts fight scenes in the U.S. and Hong Kong and serving as an assistant director. When he watched the success of the movie Crazy Rich Asians, he knew it was time to return to the big screen.

His agent gave him the script of Everything, Everywhere, All at Once and he loved it. He was cast to play the part of Waymond Wang opposite Michelle Yeoh, who he describes as, "The Queen of Martial Arts." At the 2023 Academy Awards event, Yeoh took home the Oscar for Best Actress, while Quan accepted the Best Supporting Actor Award and a standing ovation that included his first mentor, Steven Spielberg. That year, he also won a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award. He had come a long way from that refugee camp in Hong Kong and he is not done yet.

Quan signed on to the Disney + project, American Born Chinese, which was screened at the White House for President Biden. At the event, Quan introduced the President himself. He was next cast in the second season of the Marvel Universe project Loki for Disney + in which he portrays a quirky character who can fix anything. His performance earned him a Critics Choice Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Drama Series. In June of 2023, Quan was invited to join The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as a voting member and in December of last year, signed on as a voice actor for the movie Kung Fu Panda 4.

To paraphrase an old Hollywood saying, "It has taken a long time for this Alhambra High School Alumnae to become an overnight success."



After graduation from Alhambra High School, Quan went to USC and studied in the school of Cinematic Arts. Unfortunately, after his promising start in acting he found that the parts available to Asian actors dried up for almost 20



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## Local Sports News from AUSD High Schools

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

#### 2024 Varsity Football

If you don't have anything to do on a Friday evening, go out and support your favorite local high school football team. Games began on August 23 for the three AUSD high schools. Of the three, San Gabriel has been the most successful in the last few years having made it all the way to the State Championship Game in 2022.

San Gabriel could be a contender in the Almont League while Alhambra and Keppel will look for marked improvement over last year. The Matadors will return four of five starters on the offensive line and will have two solid running backs in Louie Navarro and Adam Mascorro who both made All League First Team last year. The Moors have a new Head Coach

in Mike Mackintosh while Quarterback Bryan Leonard returns as a third year starter. Halen Tsang and Devin Martinez will lead the running game while Nero Navarro, Marco Vasquez and Christian Mina lead the receivers group. The Aztecs have two All League players returning on offense with Jasper Wong and Hunter To but will look to improve on the defensive side of the ball.

You can find game schedules and scores for your favorite teams at MaxPreps.com. Regular season games continue through November 1.

### 2024 AHS Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon

Former Moor and MLB Pitcher Noe Ramirez will be the Keynote Speaker at the Moors Hall of Fame Luncheon to be held on October 20, at Almansor Court. Ramirez excelled for the Moors from 2004 through 2008 before playing at Cal State Fullerton. After his junior year, Ramirez was drafted by the Boston Red Sox in the fourth round of the 2011 MLB draft. He made his major league debut for the Red Sox in 2015. He played for the Los Angeles Angels from 2017 through 2021 and last pitched in the major leagues for the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2022.

The 2024 Luncheon will induct the following into the AHS Hall of Fame: Collette Seguine (Basketball & Softball), Scott Mena (Basketball), Arath De La Torre (Football, Basketball & Track), Mike Macias (Baseball & Football), Zion Babb (Football & Track), Anthony Brown (Football), Lou Torres Jr. (Football), Erik

Daniels (Baseball & Football), Louis Gomez (Baseball), Gary Ottoson (Football & Track), Lou Torres Sr. (Coach), and Jack Gardiner (Coach). In addition, Actor Ke Huy Quan, Sports Writer Steve Bisheff, and Author Gerald Petievich will be inducted as Distinguished Alumni.

The luncheon is \$70 per person. This year we will offer two plated entrée options: Grilled Carne Asada or Chicken Chardonnay. A vegetarian option is also available. Entrees include salad, seasonal vegetables, rolls & butter, desert, and coffee or tea. A social hour will begin at 11 am followed by the luncheon and Induction Ceremony beginning at 12 pm. For more information and a registration form, please email us at ahssportshalloffame@gmail.com.

## Michelin Guide 2024 Drives Locals to Enjoy World-Class Alhambra Eateries

By Nancy Liu, Editor

Restaurants help put Alhambra on the map for tourists and locals alike. Using eateries to encourage travel started in the 1900s with the Michelin Guide, a prestigious and influential series of guidebooks published by the French tire company Michelin, to encourage more road travel (and consequently tire purchases). Today, even without stars, being included in the Michelin Guide is a sign of quality and excellence, as only the best restaurants make it into the guide. In our community, you don't have to travel far to enjoy some of Michelin's celebrated dining spots.

Alhambra has six restaurants currently inn the Michelin Guide, ranging from a dim sum parlor to a Malaysian cafe, and many more that were recognized in previous years. Five of the six are Michelin rated "Bib Gourmands," which the guide cites for "good quality and good value cooking." That means Michelin-quality, but not fine-dining-prices.



Only a short drive, or walk, from anywhere in Alhambra is Sichuan Impression. A downtown staple, Sichuan Impression brings Chengdu's iconic numbing spice to Alhambra. It's recognized as a Bib Gourmand and has maintained its place on the Michelin Guide since 2019.

The restaurant industry is notoriously difficult to survive in, as it's subject to the volatile economy with rising food costs, rents, wages, credit card processing fees,

and ever-changing consumer trends. Virality only lasts so long and even small restaurants that are beloved by the community struggle to stay open. Sichuan Impression celebrating its tenth year in Alhambra is no easy feat.



Kelly Xiao, co-owner, attributes Sichuan Impression's success and Michelin-level quality entirely to her team and their persistence in serving great food that represents their hometown.

Xiao's family ran a restaurant when they first came to the United States, while her co-founder Yang Liu comes from a traditional culinary family, a match made in heaven. They started Sichuan Impression together in Alhambra in 2014. According to Xiao, the timing was good for opening a Sichuan restaurant in the San Gabriel Valley. While the competition has only gotten tougher with time, Sichuan Impression stood out when they opened and has focused on keeping that passion ever since.

Sichuan Impression's menu started out the way every chef learns how to cook: with their favorites. "In the beginning, we put our favorites in the menu, but through running the restaurant we figured that it's not that simple," Xiao explained. "We have to think about where to get the material, how to prepare it, how to stock it, and how the employees would cook it. So we have to think about the whole line to design the menu, but the concept is to bring the authentic Sichuan flavor to the area. The food taste is the soul of the restaurant."

For the test of Sichuan Impression to be appreciated by Michelin was just more motivation for Xiao to do better.

"Receiving awards is always exciting, but the more honors we receive the more motivation we have to do better," Xiao said. She also credits the supportive community for giving her and Yang more inspiration and motivation through the ups and downs over the years. "It's not easy. During Covid, I received a lot of inspiration from our customers. The people told me, 'we need you, we want your food.' That really inspired me to keep doing it."

Sichuan Impression is far from the only Sichuan restaurant in San Gabriel Valley today; it's not even the only Sichuan restaurant in Alhambra on the Michelin Guide (Chengdu Taste is also recognized as a Bib Gourmand.) Rather than focus on standing out from the competition, Xiao is more focused on preserving Sichuan Impression's original spirit and drive.

"Every restaurant has their characteristics. For ourselves, I really focus on our restaurant. I don't do comparisons with other restaurants, so I'm really dedicated and I want to put my soul into this business. We just keep doing the same thing, keep our quality. I just focus on ourselves. For the past ten years, we're really dedicated to this business. Even now, in this moment, we're still part of the daily management. During Covid, I came to Alhambra [from Irvine] every day. I think the core management remained the same, I have to say that persistence is our key."

It hasn't been an easy journey — far from it — but the appreciation for Sichuan Impression's dishes, including from Michelin, helped Xiao and Liu open one location and then another in Tustin and West Los

Angeles, bringing the same Sichuan taste to new mouths across Los Angeles.

Her advice to aspiring restaurateurs? "Don't do it," she said with a laugh. "It's like a jealous lover. It'll steal all of your time from your family."

For those eyeing a nod from Michelin, in more serious advice, Xiao added, "For myself, I always learn from others. Now, if someone asks me 'am I capable to do the restaurant business,' I'll ask her a question, 'when you're at home, do you like cleaning all the time?' I think if you like it, then you can try."



Running a restaurant isn't just about being good at cooking, as Xiao pointed out, but about serving a community. In starting Sichuan Impression, Xiao and Liu were not only thinking of bringing Sichuan cuisine to Alhambra but also of introducing their hometown to more people around the world. This is still their goal, and hopefully the Michelin Guide recognition will convince more people to make the trip.

If you're new to Sichuan cuisine or are looking for a recommendation, Xiao said the most popular dish at Sichuan Impression is the tea-smoked ribs, but her personal favorite is the big mouth ginger frog.

#### Your Insurance

## Life Insurance at Every Age

By Regina Talbot State Farm Insurance Agent, Insurance License # 0G05807

If you're wondering when to get life insurance, there's no better time than today. Let's take a look at how your life insurance needs may differ by age.

Life insurance is a key component of your personal financial plan, which means it should grow with you. You may start off with a small policy in your 20s, but you'll want to expand your coverage throughout your life. Here are a few ideas to consider.

#### Life insurance in your 20s

When you're a young adult, life insurance probably isn't top of mind, but it's the best time to get coverage. Since you're young and likely healthy, you'll typically qualify for more affordable premiums.

#### Life insurance in your 30s

By the time you're 30, you may have children and a mortgage, which makes the financial protection offered by life insurance more important than ever. getting married, or having children. Remember to account for your children's education costs in your life insurance discuss your unique needs with State coverage in case you pass away. If you find Farm® agent Regina Talbot at yourself underinsured, don't wait until you get older to bolster your coverage — rates typically rise with age.

#### Life insurance in your 40s and 50s

career is likely more stable than in previous from this author or any other provider.



Regina Talbot Talbot Insurance Agency regina@reginatalbot.com

stages of life, and your children may be nearing college age.

## Life insurance in your 60s and

As you approach retirement, life insurance can help you leave a legacy for your beneficiaries, and it can be a useful tool in estate planning.

#### Learn more

It's a good idea to revisit your coverage whenever you experience any significant life event that affects your finances, such as buying a home, We encourage you to learn more and

(626) 357-3401.

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#### Tax Tips



## **Energy Credits**

By Michael Aston, E.A. Alhambra Tax Center

Homeowners who make improvements like replacing old doors and windows, installing solar panels, or upgrading a hot water heater may qualify for home energy tax credits.

#### Who can claim the credits?

Taxpayers making improvements to annually with no lifetime limit. their primary, and in some cases secondary, residence may be eligible for these credits. In some cases, renters may also be able to claim specific costs. Landlords can't use these credits for improvements newly constructed home. Qualifying made to any homes they rent out.

There are two tax credits to help improvements.

#### Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit

Taxpayers can claim the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit only for improvements, additions or renovations to an existing home. It doesn't apply to newly constructed homes. Qualifying costs may include exterior doors, windows, skylights, and insulation materials; central air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces, boilers, and heat pumps; biomass stoves and boilers; and home energy audits.

The amount of the credit taxpayers can take is a percentage of the total improvement expenses in the year of installation. From 2023 through 2032, the percentage is 30% up to a maximum of \$1,200



Michael Aston, E.A. Alhambra Tax Center michael@alhambrataxcenter.com

#### Residential Clean Energy Credit

separate annual credit limit of \$2,000

Biomass stoves and boilers have a

Taxpayers can also claim the Residential Clean Energy Credit for qualifying costs for either an existing home or a costs may include solar, wind, and geothermal power generation equipment; offset costs of making energy efficient solar water heaters; fuel cells; and battery storage.

The amount of the credit taxpayers can take is a percentage of the total improvement expenses in the year of installation. From 2022 to 2032, the percentage is 30% with no annual maximum or lifetime limit. In 2033, the percentage goes down to 26% with no annual maximum or lifetime limit and in 2034, it goes down again to 22%.

To claim these credits, taxpayers should file Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits, with their tax return.

This information is from the IRS Tax Tip 2024-62.

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SKY ZONE



New President, Julie Carlson, receives Certificate of Congressional Recognition from U.S. Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-28).

## Soroptimsts Install 2024-2025 Board Of Officers

On June 19, 2024, Soroptimists of Alhambra, San Gabriel, San Marino conducted their 2024-2025 Board of Officers Installation and Retirement of the 2023-2024 Board under the leadership of President Barbara Messina.

The new President is Julie Carlson, pictured here with 30+ year Soroptimist member, U. S. Congresswoman Judy Chu. The installation ceremony and luncheon took place at The Derby Restaurant in Arcadia.

The new board consists of: VP Fundraising: Jacqueline Coulette; VP Programs: Jessica Lupian & Alma Urbin; Recording Secretary: Jane Carlson; Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Messina; Treasurer, Sophia Tsoi; Assistant Treasurer, Dr. Karen Chao; Two Year Director, Barbara Messina; and One Year Director, Jane Carlson. The new board was installed by Camino Real Governor and 25 year member, Cynthia Jarvis.



## 11th Annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run & Halloween Festival is Coming to Downtown Alhambra

Get ready, Alhambra! The Downtown Alhambra Business Association and the City of Alhambra are excited to present the 11th Annual Alhambra Pumpkin Run & Halloween Festival on Sunday, October 27, 2024, in the heart of Downtown Alhambra.

This beloved community event features a 10K, 5K, and 1K run, all benefiting the Alhambra Educational Foundation. Proceeds from the run will be donated to support our local schools, making a positive impact on students right here in Alhambra. The day kicks off at 7:45 am with the first run, followed by a Halloween-themed festival immediately after. Be sure to stick around for the trick-or-treating on Main Street at local participating businesses from 1 pm to 3 pm—perfect for the kids!

The starting line for all races will be at the corner of 2nd Street and Main Street, right in front of Rick's Burgers. The festival, which promises fun for the entire family, will be held on 2nd Street between Main Street and Commonwealth, along-side our weekly Farmers Market.

Highlights of the festival include the 10K and 5K runs that wind through Downtown Alhambra, a 1K & Kiddie Fun Run, live music, and a vibrant Farmers Market. Adults can enjoy the Beer Garden sponsored by Ohana Brewery, while kids can participate in a costume contest and play in the Kids Zone powered by Sky Zone. Don't forget to register by September 30th to take advantage of regular pricing!

For more details, visit alhambrapump-kinrun.com and follow us on Instagram @alhambrapumpkinrun for the latest updates.



Ralph Kiner, Alhambra's Baseball Hall of Famer is memorialized with a statue at Almansor Park just west of the baseball fields.

## Alhambra Historical Society to Present "Swinging for the Fences — Alhambra's Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner" on Sept 26

by Joyce Amaro, Alhambra Historical Society

Join Alhambra Historical Society at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26, 2024, as they present their fall program "Swinging for the Fences — Alhambra's Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner." The program will take place at the Alhambra Masonic Center, 9 West Woodward Avenue, Alhambra, CA. The event is free to the general public and all are invited to attend.

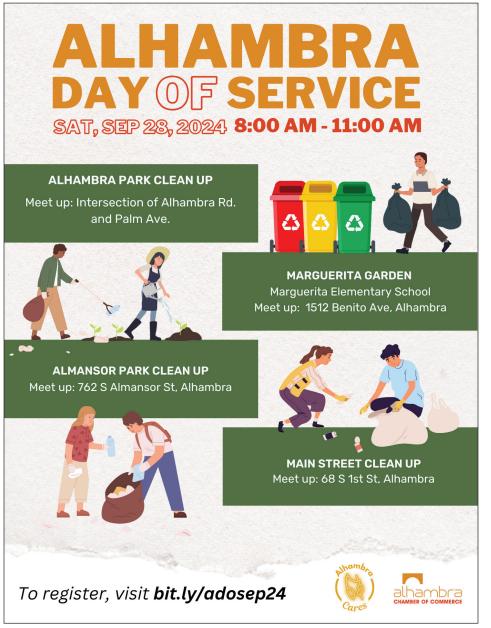
Alhambra has had more than its share of great athletes but none have been greater than Ralph McPherran Kiner. Known as the "Maulin' Moor," Kiner played at Alhambra High School (1938-1940) as an All-Southern California baseball star and went on to play professional baseball (1946-1955) before being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1975. His career took him into the broadcast booth where he announced major league baseball games for another 52 years (1961-2013).

The evening's presenter will be Joe

Castillo, Alhambra Historical Society Board Trustee and Treasurer. Mr. Castillo is also the author of five historical books and a historical column for the San Gabriel Valley Examiner.

Light refreshments will be served and parking will be available at the Alhambra Masonic Center and on surrounding city streets

The Alhambra Historical Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization working towards preserving Alhambra's robust history and educating residents about the historically significant people and places that are unique to Alhambra and surrounding San Gabriel Valley. The Alhambra Historical Society museum is located at 1550 West Alhambra Road, Alhambra and is open from 1 - 4 pm on the first and third Saturday of every month. For more information, visit alhambrahistoricalsociety.org.



## ALHAMBRA QUICKBITES "Lunch for Locals" SEP-OCT 2024



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Denny's in Alhambra has been serving the community with warm smiles and hearty meals since day one. Their passion stems from a love of creating a welcoming space where people can enjoy delicious, comforting food at any time. Don't miss their classic burger deal: a juicy, all-beef patty with crisp lettuce, ripe tomatoes, red onion, and pickles on a soft brioche bun, served with wavy-cut fries and a choice of Coke or iced tea.

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Classic burger, fries and drink combo. \*price Inclusive of tax.

Denny's Alhambra

369 W Main St, Alhambra



#### The Box Combo

Raising Cane's is the perfect spot for lunch, dinner, and late-night cravings. As the 67th location in California, the Alhambra Raising Cane's is famous for its premium chicken tenderloins, hand-battered and cooked to order, along with its signature Cane's sauce, crinkle-cut fries, coleslaw,

Texas toast, sweet tea, and lemonade.

\$12.99\*

4 Chicken Fingers, Crinkle-Cut Fries, One Cane's Sauce, Texas Toast, Coleslaw, Regular Fountain Drink/Tea \*price before tax

Raising Cane's

1300 E Valley Blvd, Alhambra







#### Loco Moco or Katsu Chicken

Aloha Food Factory, founded by Auntie Betty in 1994, has long been a favorite in the Alhambra community. Famous for their macadamia nut pancakes and generous portions, the eatery offers breakfast all day, making it perfect for gathering with friends. Though the restaurant changed ownership a few years ago and recently came under new management, Auntie Betty remains closely connected with the team. She hopes her cherished recipes and the warm spirit of aloha will continue to delight loyal customers for years to come. Stop by to savor their signature plate lunch, featuring your choice of Loco Moco or Katsu Chicken, served with rice, vegetables, and the ever-popular macaroni-potato salad.

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Loco Moco Plate Lunch with Egg **OR** Chicken Katsu Plate Lunch Mention "Quickbites" for a FREE Hawaiian Sun canned drink with your plate lunch order. \*price before tax

Aloha Food Factory

2990 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra

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Alhambra Quickbites aims to provide our workforce with quick lunches under \$15 from local eateries. Employees who mention the Quickbites program will be eligible to order a discounted meal at participating restaurants during lunchtime on weekdays. Enjoy a delicious lunch without breaking the bank! \*\*Valid from September 1 to October 31, 2024.





## What You're Missing About Their Kitchens and Careers: Five Restaurant Owners Share Their Passion

#### **ALOHA FOOD FACTORY**



Cassandra and Aaron Liu

Q: What's the story behind your restaurant opening?

We got into the restaurant business because my fiance, Aaron, has a passion for home cooking and expresses his love for people with his culinary adventures. I (Cassandra) have a history of working in both fine dining and live entertainment (Chinese lion dance, Polynesian dance, and fire performance). I fell in love with Aloha Food Factory when I discovered it to be the perfect place for me to express my love for people and Polynesian culture by sharing food and dance.

## Q: How did food become the focus of your working life?

The original owner, Auntie Betty, spent some time living on the Hawaiian islands where her husband, Uncle Ernie, was stationed. There, she learned to perfect some of the local dishes and even traveled back and forth between the continent and the islands for some time to achieve the best recipe she could for the macadamia nut pancakes and more!

## Q: What dish deserves the spotlight but is often overlooked?

We simply cannot settle on one dish. Our wontons are made in-house from scratch by our own Auntie Beck who uses an old family recipe. They are a must-add to any of our soup and noodle dishes.

Aloha Food Factory was originally supposed to be named "Aloha Burgers" by Auntie Betty, so the burgers are sure to never disappoint! The patties are thick and grilled to your liking with many customization options available.

Our current lead cook, Chris, has fashioned his own dish, the katsu chicken sandwich served with zucchini fries. It serves as a "secret item" on our menu and is half off at \$7.00 for a limited time!

#### FREE SPIRITED



Amber Pennington and Arleo De Guzman

Q: What's the story behind your restaurant opening?

Amber started in restaurants like most

teens: in a fast food chain. Her school had scheduled a trip to France and while her mom paid the upfront cost, she wanted to make sure Amber understood the value of money. It worked out incredibly well and now Amber has experience all the way from fast food to Michelin level. Arleo's restaurant journey began after college when he was unsure if he wanted to pursue higher education after getting his biochemistry degree. A karaoke bar in West LA took him on staff even though he had no experience and he slowly worked his way all over LA County.

## Q: How did food become the focus of your working life?

Our food is a mix of many cultures; Filipino, French, Italian, Mexican and seasonal items of different origin. As one of the few dedicated gluten free restaurants in LA and a vegan friendly spot, we wanted to create food for those with dietary restrictions that may miss certain types of foods. Our primary focus is gluten free: Amber developed a gluten intolerance after being hit by a drunk driver and trying to navigate a lot of restaurant menus with her one intolerance is more difficult than some may expect. We took out most major allergens from our menu (nuts and shellfish, most dairy) to make at least one place that people with those restrictions could peruse a menu with no worry.

## Q: What dish deserves the spotlight but is often overlooked?

We feel blessed that nearly every dish and drink has been a guest's new favorite item they've ever tried. For those who have visited us before and had our Hapa popcorn, you can understand why it's a crowd favorite. So much so that it slightly overshadows another delicious seasoning we have, our BBQ popcorn!

In terms of our sober cocktails, all of the drinks in our "Caffeinated" section are a bit overlooked, though that may be from people trying to avoid caffeine during our late hours. If the flavors of those drinks sound interesting but you don't want to stay up too late, they're all available decaffeinated!

## AWSOM WINGS PIZZA & BURGERS



Danny, Harout, and Garo Kazarian

## Q: What's the story behind your restaurant opening?

The reason we got into the restaurant business was because we wanted to help out our parents. We saw them struggling when we were kids and me and my brothers always talked about owning a restaurant and creating a menu. My mom was a great home cook and my dad's a

baker, so it was natural for us to go into the restaurant field. After graduating college, we weren't satisfied. We still wanted to do what was in our heart and that was to open up a restaurant. In 2001, we were blessed with an opportunity to do just that. Throughout the whole process of opening the restaurant, our purpose was to help my dad retire and buy a house for my parents. And we were able to do that in the first two years of our operation. It felt great. Our journey was not easy, but together as a family, we overcame a lot of obstacles and were able to grow our company to six locations.

## Q: How did food become the focus of your working life?

Since my dad's a baker, it was natural for us to choose pizza. He helped us with our recipe for our signature dough and sauces, while my mom helped us create dishes that we still serve today. We love comfort food and eating things like pizza, burgers, and pasta reminded us of our childhood. Wings were a new thing coming around the West Coast at the time and we love fried chicken so that's how we added the wings to our menu.

## Q: What dish deserves the spotlight but is often overlooked?

I think the dishes that are overlooked in our menu are our grilled items. We do a fantastic job making sandwiches but people know us more as a pizza and wing place. We offer great grilled items such as our Philly cheesesteak and grilled pastrami sandwich.

#### DELHI BELLY



Sagar Ghosh

Q: What's the story behind your restaurant opening?

I got into the restaurant business because I've always been passionate about food and wanted to share that love through creating exceptional dining experiences. The restaurant industry allows me to unleash my creativity, from designing unique dishes to crafting an inviting atmosphere for guests. I was also drawn to the restaurant industry by the challenge and excitement of starting my own business and bringing my vision to life.

## Q: How did food become the focus of your working life?

North Indian food is known for its rich flavors, diverse ingredients, and varied cooking techniques. Delhi Belly encompasses the culinary traditions of several states in Northern India, including Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi.

## Q: What dish deserves the spotlight but is often overlooked?

On our menu, I believe the saag buratta

is often overlooked. It's a unique offering that doesn't always get the attention it deserves. This dish, which features creamy spinach puree with Indian spices and a huge burrata cheese on top, has a rich, nuanced flavor profile that really represents the essence of North Indian cuisine. I encourage our guests to give it a try because it's not only delicious but also showcases the depth and diversity of our culinary offerings.

#### **VITA CANE**



Allison Mayrena

## Q: What's the story behind your restaurant opening?

Vita Cane Alhambra was previously owned by the Vita Cane Corporate and operated by Kenny Voong and Vinny Diep. I was offered to purchase this branch through the encouragement and mentorship of Kenny Voong, whom I share family connections with. Prior to acquiring this business, I was actually an early childhood educator. My career and educational background involved teaching and managing preschool programs. Through the support of the Alhambra Downtown Association and the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, I have built new connections with other businesses and have learned new skills to keep my business thriving. I look forward to contributing to Downtown Alhambra's success through the time and services that

## Q: How did food become the focus of your working life?

Vita Cane's organic sugarcane sources directly from Vietnam where this vegetation thrives at its best condition. We also offer sugarcane drinks that are blended with natural fruits to provide added flavor options and nutrients. Our newest menu addition this summer is our Vietnamese Coffee. Coffee is dripped to perfection, topped with the choice of Ube, Pandan or Egg foam.

## Q: What dish deserves the spotlight but is often overlooked?

CocoJack is the latest sugarcane drink from our Mixology Drinks menu. I believe it gets overlooked because some people have gotten jackfruit confused with durian fruit. Although both fruits share slight similarities in color and appearance, they taste and smell very different. Our CocoJack drink is blended with natural jackfruit, coconut sorbet, and a bit of ice with our sugarcane. Those who have tried it are coming back for more! Our hope is for more people to give this refreshing drink a try for themselves.

Vita Cane was recently recognized by Republic Services for "An Outstanding Job with SB 1383 and Compost Sorting."



## Enjoy delicious, local cuisine!

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

September 2 to September 8



**38 Degrees Ale House & Grill** is headed by James Boyle, Brian Sugita, and Mike Fata, 38 Degrees Ale House & Grill has proudly served the Los Angeles area with one of the most diverse selections of ales and lagers accompanied by some of the most creative and well-executed food menus of New American cuisine in the area.

Visit them at 100 W Main St, Alhambra



September 9 to September 15



**Baccali Cafe & Restaurant** is a locally owned and operated restaurant committed to serving delicious food at a reasonable price to the Alhambra community since 2002. The Hong Kong-style cafe features a diverse menu from rotisserie chicken to traditional Hong Kong style dishes to every day American favorites.

Visit them at 245 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



September 16 to September 22



**Thai Purple** was founded by Khun Chatree, who comes from a long line of food lovers and great cooks, with over 20 years of experience serving authentic Thai vegetarian food in Bangkok, Thailand. He brought his cherished family recipes from his hometown to the Alhambra community and created Thai Purple in honor of his mother, named after her favorite color.

Visit them at 27 N Garfield Ave, Alhambra



September 23 to September 29



**Ai Wei Ju** is a family-owned restaurant specializing in jian bing, a Chinese crepe-like street food with various fillings, and a limited menu of other items including noodles and sides. Combine your jian bing with an order of youtiao (Chinese fried dough) and fresh soy milk to get a taste of the most popular Chinese street breakfasts.

Visit them at 31 E Valley Blvd, Alhambra



September 30 to October 6



**Bobacraft Cafe** serves food and bubble tea with authentic Taiwanese snacks. Bobacraft is especially known for its wheelcakes, a fluffy pancake with a variety of filling options. It's a great spot for a quick pick-me-up and sweet treat or to sit down and get some work done, with ample seating and fast wifi. Bobacraft won't disappoint among the numerous boba and cafe options in Alhambra.

Visit them at 410 W Main St, Alhambra



October 7 to October 13



**For The Win** was created during the onset of the Covid Lockdowns in March of 2020 at what once was Papilles Bistro, a Michelin Bib Gourmand French restaurant, and recently opened a location in Alhambra by Santos Wy, a self-proclaimed burger afficionado. For the Win is known for its extrasaucy, lacy-edged burgers.

Visit them at 19 E Main St, Alhambra



October 14 to October 20



**Vita Cane Sugarcane Juicery & Acai Superfood** is owned by Allison Mayrena, a former early childhood educator who was brought into the food service business by a family member. Vita Cane sources its sugarcane directly from Vietnam and offers sugarcane drinks, acai bowls, and Vietnamese coffee.

Visit them at 9 W Main St, Alhambra



October 21 to October 27



**Auntie Qiu Kitchen** opened its new location in Alhambra in August, bringing the same authentic Shanghai flavors from its Arcadia spot. Auntie Qiu's carefully handcrafted Shanghainese menu specializes in dim sum and noodles, served in a cozy setting where you can watch the chefs behind the counter make soup dumpings.

4

Visit them at 16 W Main St Alhambra





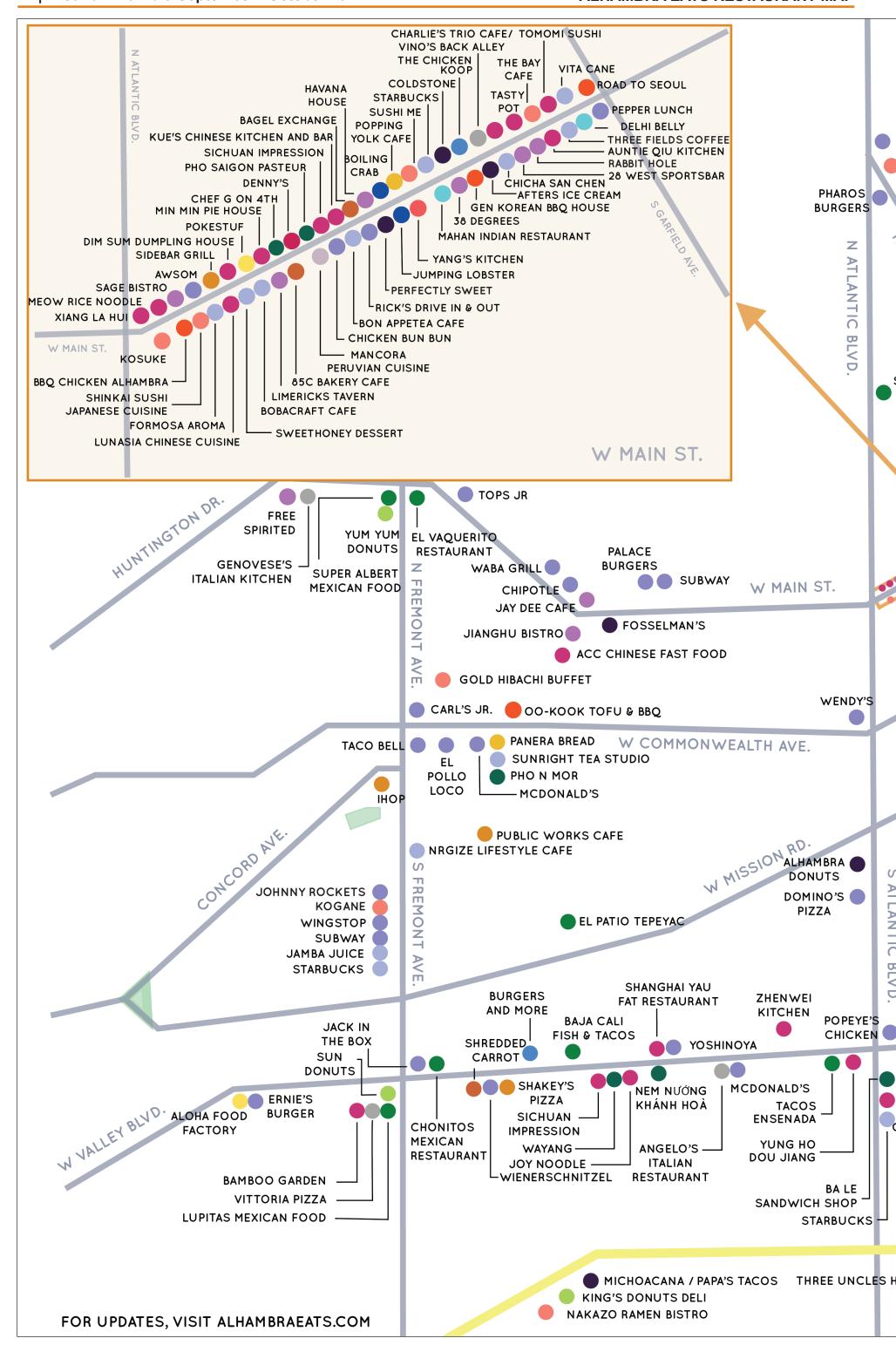
**Taste of Chaoshan** is another new addition to the Alhambra culinary scene, offering authentic Teochew cuisine from Chaoshan. Taste of Chaoshan has unique noodle dishes and some of the best beef balls in the San Gabriel Valley, which are made in-house from scratch. A definite must-try when you're next in the area.

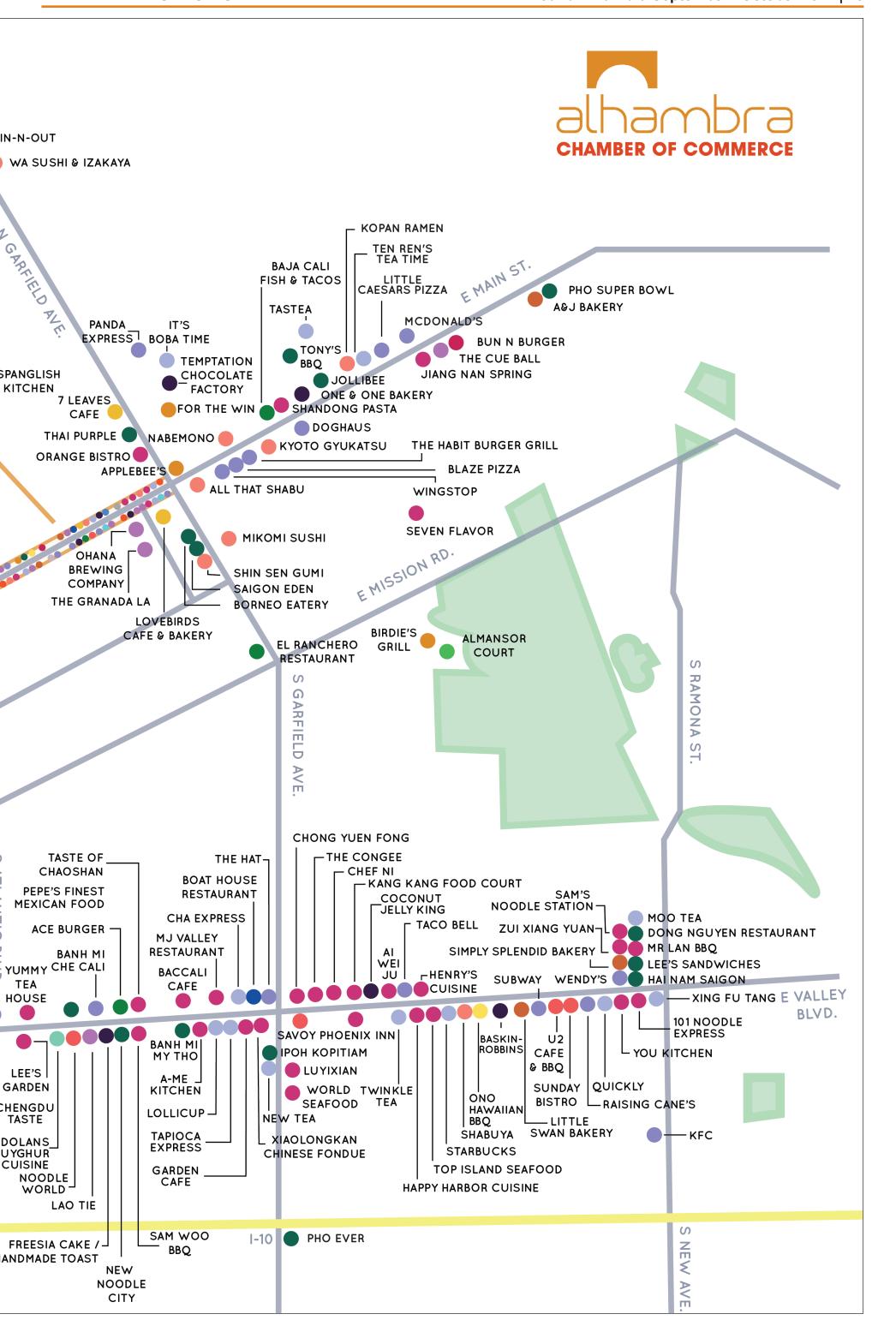
Visit them at 501 W Valley Blvd, Alhambra



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







#### 2024 ALHAMBRA EATS RESTAURANT GUIDE

Applebee's Neighborhood

Grill & Bar • 21 E Main St

Birdie's Grill • 630 S Almansor St

For the Win

• 19 E Main St

International House Of Pancakes

• 701 S Fremont Ave

Public Works Cafe

• 900 S Fremont Ave

Shakey's Pizza

• 2234 W Valley Blvd

Sidebar Grill

#### • 433 W Main St American-Mexican Fusion Burgers And More

• 2133 W Valley Blvd The Chicken Koop

#### • 101 W Main St C

**Asian Fusion** 

Noodle World

• 700 Valley Blvd Savoy Kitchen

• 138 E Valley Blvd

Sunday Bistro

• 1032 E Valley Blvd

U2 Cafe & BBQ

• 1200 E Valley Blvd

Yang's Kitchen

#### • 112 W Main St

85 Degrees Bakery Cafe - Alhambra • 300 W Main St

A&J Bakerv

• 1300 E Main St

Bagel Exchange
• 137 W Main St

Little Swan Bakery • 1024 E Valley Blvd

Shredded Carrot • 2428 W Valley Blvd

Simply Splendid Bakery
• 1273 E Valley Blvd

Bar / Lounge 28 West Sportsbar

• 28 W Main St

38 Degrees
• 100 W Main St

Free Spirited

• 3020 W Main St

Havana House Cigars & Lounge • 133 W Main St

Jay Dee Cafe

• 1843 W Main St

Jianghu Bistro

• 2000 W Main St

Lao Tie

• 640 W Valley Blvd

Limericks Tavern

• 300 W Main St #110

Ohana Brewing Company

• 7 S 1st St

Rabbit Hole

• 24 W Main St

The Cue Ball

• 934 E Main St

The Granada L.A. • 17 S 1st St

Vino's Back Alley • 10 N 1st St

7 Leaves Cafe

• 151 N Garfield Ave

Bon Appetea Cafe

• 7 S 2nd St Lovebirds Cafe & Bakery

• 10 S 1st St Panera Bread

• 2300 W Commonwealth

Popping Yolk Cafe
• 119 W Main St

Sage Bistro

#### • 521 W Main St Cajun / Creole

Boat House Restaurant • 25 W Valley Blvd

Boiling Crab

• 129 W Main St Jumping Lobster\* • 118 W Main St

Chinese Min Min Pie House

• 405 W Main St 101 Noodle Express

Taiwanese

• 1408 E Valley Blvd

A-Me Kitchen

Cantonese

• 288 Valley Blvd #110

ACC Chinese Fast Food

• 38 S Palm Ave Ai Wei Ju

• 31 E Valley Blvd

Auntie Qiu Kitchen\*

• 16 W Main St Baccali Cafe

Hong Kong-Style

• 245 W Valley Blvd Bamboo Garden

Szechuan • 2632 W Valley Blvd

Chef Ni
• 21 E Valley Blvd

Chengdu Ťaste

Szechuan

• 828 W Valley Blvd Chong Yuen Fong

• 7 E Valley Blvd Dim Sum Dumpling House 417 W Main St, Alhambra

Garden Cafe Hong Kong-Style

• 228 W Valley Blvd

Happy Harbor Cuisine • 736 E Valley Blvd

Henry's Cuisine

• 301 E Valley Blvd

Jiang Nan Spring Shanghainese

• 910 E Main St

Joy Noodle

• 1900 W Valley Blvd

Kang Kang Food Court

• 27 E Valley Blvd Kue's Chinese Kitchen and Bar\*

• 201 W Main St

Lee's Garden Taiwanese

• 1428 S Atlantic Blvd

Lunasia Chinese Cuisine • 500 W Main St

Luyixian

Shanghainese • 2 E Valley Blvd #1E

Meow Rice Noodle

• 555 W Main St A MJ Valley Restaurant

• 203 W Valley Blvd

Mr Lan BBQ • 1277 E Valley Blvd

Orange Bistro

Taiwanese

• 11 W Main St

Phoenix Inn Chinese Cuisine • 208 E Valley Blvd

Sam Woo BBQ

• 514 Valley Blvd Sam's Noodle Station

• 1281 E Valley Blvd

Seven Flavor

• 421 E Bay State St

Shandong Pasta • 345 E Main St

Shanghai Yau Fat Restaurant

Shanghainese • 1721 W Valley Blvd

Sichuan Impression

• 235 W Main St SuiteB

Taste of Chaoshan • 501 West Valley Blvd

Tasty Pot • 33 W Main St

The Bay Cafe

• 39 W Main St

The Congee

• 19 Valley Blvd

Top Island Seafood

• 740 Valley Blvd World Seafood Restaurant

• 1412 S Garfield Ave

Xiang La Hui Szechuan

• 621 W Main St Xiao Long Kan Chinese Fondue

• 46 W Valley Blvd

You Kitchen

• 1402 E Valley Blvd

Yummy Tea House • 525 W Valley Blvd

Yung Ho Dou Jiang Cantonese

• 1124 W Valley Blvd

Zhenwei Kitchen

• 1227 W Valley Blvd Zui Xiang Yuan

Szechuan • 1269 E Valley Blvd

Boba Craft

• 410 W Main St

Cha Express
• 35 W Valley Blvd Chicha San Chen

• 30 W Main St

Formosa Aroma • 560 W Main St B Jamba Juice

• 1131 S Fremont Ave B

Lollicup Fresh

• 228 W Valley Blvd

Moo Tea

• 1457 E Valley Blvd Nrgize Lifestyle Cafe

• 920 S Fremont Ave

Quickly • 1328 E Valley Blvd

Starbucks Coffee

• 101 W Main St Starbucks Coffee

• 2120 W Main St

Starbucks Coffee • 1131 S Fremont Ave A

Starbucks Coffee • 2400 W Commonwealth Ave

Sunright Tea Studio • 2320 W Commonwealth Ave

SweetHoney Dessert • 410 W Main St

Tapioca Express • 228 W Valley Blvd

Tastea • 349 E Main St #104

Ten Ren's Tea Time • 707 E Main St

Three Fields Coffee\* • 12 W Main St

Vita Cane Alhambra • 9 W Main St

#### Xing Fu Tang • 1468 E Valley Blvd Dessert

Afters Ice Cream

• 36 W Main St

Alhambra Donuts • 701 S Atlantic Blvd Baskin-Robbins

• 838 E Valley Blvd Coconut Jelly King

• 29 E Valley Blvd Coldstone

• 101 W Main St Ste B Fosselman's

• 1824 W Main St Freesia Cake

• 640 W Valley Blvd Ste B Michoacana/Papas Tacos

• 2130 S Fremont Ave One and One Bakery • 111 E Main St

Perfectly Sweet • 126 W Main St Temptation Chocolate Factory

#### • 15 E Main St Three Uncles Handmade Toast

• 640 W Valley Blvd Ste B

Diner Bun N Burger

• 1000 E Main St

Denny's

King's Donuts Deli

• 369 W Main St

• 2140 S Fremont Ave Sun Donuts

• 2644 Valley Blvd Yum Yum Donuts

• 9 Fremont Ave **Event Space / Catering** 

Almansor Court
• 700 S Almansor St

Fast Food Ace Burger • 525 W Valley Blvd

Awsom Wings Pizza & Burgers (former Alondras)

• 515 W Main St Blaze Pizza

• 100 E Main St Carl's Jr.

Chicken Bun Bun • 222 W Main St

Chipotle Mexican Grill • 2121 W Main St

Doghaus • 410 E Main St Domino's Pizza

• 703 S Atlantic Blvd El Pollo Loco • 2528 W Commonwealth Ave

• 2521 W Commonwealth Ave

Ernie's Burgers • 2970 W Valley Blvd In-N-Out Burger

• 1210 N Atlantic Blvd Jack in the Box

• 1129 S Fremont Ave

• 2531 W Valley Blvd Johnny Rockets

Jollibee • 347 E Main St Kentucky Fried Chicken

• 1425 Ś New Ave

Little Caesars Pizza

• 715 E Main St

McDonald's • 909 E Main St

McDonald's

• 2310 W Commonwealth Ave

McDonald's
• 1520 W Valley Blvd

Palace Burgers
• 1703 W Main St

Panda Express

• 5 E Main St

Pharos Burgers • 1129 N Garfield Ave Popeye's Chicken

• 1013 W Valley Blvd Raising Cane's

• 1300 E Valley Blvd Rick's Drive In & Out

• 132 W Main St Subway

• 1129 S Fremont Ave A Subway • 1701 W Main St

Subway • 1020 E Valley Blvd Taco Bell

• 2588 W Commonwealth Ave Taco Bell • 241 E Valley Blvd

The Habit Burger Grill • 100 E Main St The Hat

• 1 Valley Blvd Tops Jr
• 2407 W Main St

Waba Grill • 2121 W Main St Wendy's

• 245 S Atlantic Blvd Wendy's
• 1201 E Valley Blvd

Wienerschnitzel • 2301 Valley Blvd

Wingstop
• 1129 S Fremont Ave Wingstop • 100 E Main St

Yoshinoya West/Beef Bowl • 1701 W Valley Blvd

Aloha Food Factory • 2990 W Valley Blvd

Ono Hawaiian BBQ • 2320 W Commonwealth Ave

Pokestuf

Delhi Belly

• 401 W Main St

• 8 W Main St. Mahan Indian Restaurant

• 110 W Main St Angelo's Italian Restaurant

• 1540 W Valley Blvd Charlies Trio Cafe • 47 W Main St

Genovese's Italian Kitchen • 2900 W Main St Vittoria Pizza

• 2622 W Valley Blvd All That Shabu

• 100 E Main St Kogane • 1129 S Fremont Ave

Kopan Ramen • 645 E Main St Kosuke Ramen

Kyoto Gyukatsu • 150 E Main St

Mikomi Sushi

• 27 E Main St

• 618-B W Main St

• 2 S Garfield Ave Nabemono Shabu Shabu

Nakazo Ramen Bistro • 2120 S Fremont Ave New Gold Hibachi Buffet • 2223 W Commonwealth Ave

Shabuya • 820 E Valley Blvd

Pepper Lunch
• 6 W Main St

Shin Sen Gumi • 45 S Garfield Ave Shinkai Sushi Japanese Cuisine
• 500 W Main St

• 115 W Main St Tomomi Sushi • 17 W Main St

Sushi Me

Wa Sushi & Izakaya

• 1132 N Garfield Ave

Gen Korean BBQ House

• 68 W Main St

• 345 E Main St #102

Dolan's Uyghur Cuisine • 742 W Valley Blvd

an asterisk (\*)

BBQ Chicken Alhambra

• 560 W Main St

- 31 E Main St
- 2001 W Valley Blvd

### • 1142 W Valley Blvd

Super Albert Mexican Food

Mancora Peruvian Cuisine • 240 W Main St Southeast Asian

Vietnamese • 647 W Valley Blvd

Banh Mi My Tho

Vietnamese

Thai • 5 N 4th St Dong Nguyen Restaurant Vietnamese

• 1425 E Valley Blvd Ipoh Kopitiam

Nem Nuong Khánh Hoà Vietnamese • 1700 W Valley Blvd

• 1 E Hellman Ave

Pho N Mor

Vietnamese

Pho Ever Vietnamese

• 2320 W Commonwealth Ave

Vietnamese • 29 S Garfield Ave Thai Purple

• 1300 E Main St

Saigon Eden

Thai

Wayang Indonesian • 1936 W Valley Blvd

are opening soon.

Oo-Kook Tofu & BBQ

• 1 W Main St

• 2201 W Commonwealth Ave Road To Seoul

Mexican Baja Cali Fish & Tacos

Baja Cali Fish & Tacos Chonito's Mexican Restaurant • 2505 W Valley Blvd

El Patio Tepeyac • 800 S Palm Ave El Ranchero Restaurant • 511 S Garfield Ave El Vaquerito Restaurant • 14 Fremont Ave Lupitas Mexican Food • 2620 W Valley Blvd Pepe's Finest Mexican Food • 511 W Valley Blvd

• 2600 W Main St Tacos Ensenada

Spanglish Kitchen

• 526 N Atlantic Blvd

Ba Le Sandwich Shop Vietnamese • 1426 S Atlantic Blvd Banh Mi Che Cali Restaurant

• 304 W Valley Blvd Borneo Eatery (Kalimantan) Indonesian • 19 S Garfield Ave

Chef G on 4th Thai Street Food

• 1433 Valley Blvd Hai Nam Saigon Vietnamese

• 1411 S Garfield Ave Lee's Sandwiches Vietnamese • 1289 E Valley Blvd

Malaysian

New Noodle Čity Vietnamese • 628 W Valley Blvd

Pho Saigon Pasteur Vietnamese • 235 W Main St Pho Super Bowl Restaurant Vietnamese

• 27 N Garfield Ave Tony's Barbecue Filipino

Restaurants marked with



Principal Alberto Chavarria and President Sr. Kathleen Callaway met with Associated Student Body Leaders for a strategy session at the start of the school year.

## Ramona Convent Celebrates 135 Years of Excellence in Educating Young Leaders

Ramona Convent, a rigorous college-prep high school for young women, prides itself on presenting an elaborate curriculum. This school year, additional extracurricular programming that includes a Song Leaders Team and a Flag Football Team, will enhance the plethora of additional opportunities for students to get involved in the full life of the school.

Ramona's unwavering commitment to student success is evident in the support and guidance provided by its dedicated faculty and staff. Although the school year has not begun, Ramona's 9th-grade Guidance Counselor has met with new families to create a collaborative plan for a successful high school journey. Throughout the summer, the 12th-grade

Guidance Counselor has also met with families to explain the upcoming college process and held a Boot Camp to help seniors get a head start on their college applications and portfolios.

This year, Ramona is expanding opportunities for highly motivated top 8th-grade students to apply for 4-year renewable merit scholarships valued at \$40,000. Additional grants are also offered to daughters of our U.S. Military and First Responders.

For 135 years, Ramona Convent has graduated over 9,200 empowered, resilient, socially conscious leaders who are well-prepared to meet life's challenges as contributing members of the global community.



Ramona, a welcoming Catholic college-prep high school for girls in grades 9 - 12, graduates empowered, resilient, socially conscious young women prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

#### **DISCOVER RAMONA!**

#### **Tiger Play Day**

for prospective students Saturday, October 26, 2024

#### **Open House**

for prospective families
Sunday, November 3, 2024





#### **Campus Tours Half-Day Visits**

for prospective families
Various Dates

#### HARVEST FESTIVAL: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 1 P.M. - 6 P.M.

To learn more, visit ramonaconvent.org 1701 West Ramona Road | Alhambra, CA 91803 | (626)282-4151

# Emmaus Lutheran School and Preschool Begins the New School Year with Exciting Additions

As the new school year kicks off, Emmaus Lutheran School and Preschool in Alhambra is thrilled to announce several new additions that are sure to enhance the educational experience for all students.



## Preschool Thriving with Loving and Caring Staff

Our preschool continues to thrive, providing a nurturing environment where young learners are encouraged to explore, grow, and prepare for the future. We are excited to welcome Ms. Mandy Kaiser as our new Preschool teacher. Ms. Kaiser will be leading our P4 classroom, specifically designed for children ages 4-5, helping them build a strong foundation as they prepare to excel in Kindergarten and beyond. Families have long appreciated our small class sizes, which allow for personalized attention, as well as our big, beautiful campus, which boasts large classrooms and a wonderful outdoor play area.

#### Middle School Welcomes a New Science Teacher and Student Band

Our middle school students are also in for a treat this year with the addition of Mr. Ryan Gross, our new Science teacher. Mr. Gross brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for Science and Technology, and he is eager to inspire our students in these critical areas. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Gross will be starting a student band, offering students the opportunity to explore their

musical talents and participate in a new and exciting extracurricular activity. At Emmaus, we are proud to offer a well-rounded education where students can engage in sports, music, student government, and much more.



#### A Warm Welcome to Pastor James Yue

Emmaus Lutheran Church is also blessed to welcome Pastor James Yue as our new Chinese pastor. Pastor James brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to our community. He has previously served as a missionary and we are excited for his call to our church. He is playing a pivotal role in merging his former congregation from El Monte with ours here in Alhambra. Our Chinese congregation is now bustling with new friends and vibrant traditions, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere for all.

#### **Looking Ahead**

There is so much that Emmaus Lutheran School and Preschool is looking forward to this year—spiritually, academically, and developmentally. As



a Preschool and Elementary/Middle school offering grades K-8, we are committed to nurturing the whole child, helping each student grow in Christian faith, knowledge, and character.

For more information about Emmaus, please visit our website at EmmausAlhambra.org or call (626) 289-3664. We look forward to another year of growth and learning at Emmaus.





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19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

## SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA

Grab your friends! It's time to shop the deepest discounts of the year and support the

## **Alhambra Educational Foundation**

all in one day!

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Exclusive discounts to many of your favorite fashion brands

### **ENJOY**

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### WIN

\$90,000 in prizes including gift cards to your favorite brands.



www.citadeloutlets.com/shoppingextravaganza.com

100 Citadel Drive, Los Angeles CA 90040

CITADEL 🕷 OUTLETS

## Saturday, September 21 9 AM - 9 PM

















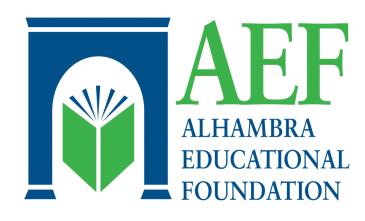






Alhambra Educational Foundation ● 1603 Chestnut Street ● Alhambra, CA 91803 ● (626) 943-3080 ● www.aef4kids.com ● support@aef4kids.com





We want to thank our community for your continued support of AEF, and for voting us the BEST Non-Profit
Organization in the San Gabriel Valley.





PROCEEDS BENEFIT ALHAMBRA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

## **SUNDAY | 10.27.24**DOWNTOWN ALHAMBRA



LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT | BEER GARDEN
COSTUME CONTEST | KIDS ZONE
TRICK-OR-TREATING ON MAIN ST. | FARMERS MARKET



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www.alhambrapumpkinrun.com



Celebrating the First Day of School in AUSD

from Page 1

... special moment on the first day of school and to submit it for showcasing on the various AUSD platforms. For several weeks, the @AlhambraUSD Facebook and Instagram pages were filled with happy faces, proud poses, and cheerful waves.

"As I visited schools on the first day,

I was impressed with a sense of both excitement and calmness at each campus," explained AUSD Superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo. "I loved seeing our staff welcoming our students and families back to school, and I look forward to a fantastic school year ahead, filled with learning, laughter, and endless possibilities."



"Nightshade Manor" is open to all members of the public and is a perfect kick-off to the Halloween season. However it will feature special effects makeup and scary themes. It is NOT recommended for children under 12 and parental discretion is advised.

## AHS Thespians Annual Haunted House Returns with "Nightshade Manor"

Last year Alhambra High School resurrected its annual Haunted House with smashing success. A review by respected haunt authority, Haunts of LA, called it an, "intense...very impressive haunt. Their talent for horror goes beyond most experienced haunts." This October AHS returns with plans for their biggest haunted house yet, "Nightshade Manor."

"Nightshade Manor" will feature two intertwined mazes that will diverge at different points within the haunt, allowing patrons a choice between two possible unique experiences per entry. The creepy mansion theme will hit on classic horror themes, while also adding a few new surprises. With special effects makeup, construction, and performances by AHS



These are just a few of the volunteers and staff members who worked behind the scenes to successfully launch the new AUSD/ATA Community Food Pantry on August 7, 2024.

## AUSD and ATA Launch New Community Food Pantry

In partnership with the Alhambra Teachers Association, the District's Student Support Services division, and MANY community and non-profit organizations, AUSD is excited to announce the launch of a brand new community food pantry. The addition of this food pantry will enable our schools to support their struggling families and ensure students do not go hungry.

During the summer months, an army of volunteers (including students from Alhambra and Mark Keppel High Schools) sorted, filled, and organized shelves. They held a kick-off event on August 7th that included the distribution of food, backpacks, and school supplies to invited families.

Throughout the year, schools will reach out to families who might benefit from the Community Food Pantry. School community coordinators, counselors,

In partnership with the Alhambra and other staff members will gather bags achers Association, the District's of food from the central location and then distribute the bags to the identified families at their schools.

"We know healthy children learn better. If students are hungry, they can't concentrate on what is being taught in class and they can't focus on studying at home," explains Lindsey Ma, assistant superintendent of Student Support Services. "Helping to meet the basic needs of our most vulnerable families benefits the individual students, their families, and the entire school community."

We are grateful to the many volunteers who helped to sort supplies, organize the shelves, and fill bags. The food pantry is always happy to accept monetary and in-kind donations. To make a donation, please call 626-289-1933 to make arrangements.



## AUSD Student Support Services Prioritizes Community Outreach; Joins APD at National Night Out

Alhambra Unified School District's Student Support Services (SSS) division is always busy at the beginning of each school year. One of their traditions is to join the Alhambra Police Department for their annual National Night Out event, which was held Tuesday, August 6th at Almansor Park. SSS is making community outreach and engagement a priority of their division, so watch for more opportunities to connect with members of the team throughout the year, including at Alhambra's Trunk or Treat event in October.

theater students, this event will showcase the talents of the AHS technical theater and drama programs.

"Nightshade Manor" Haunted House is a one-night-only event and takes place Friday, October 11th from 2:45pm until 8:30pm at the AHS Auditorium (101 South 2nd Street in Alhambra). This haunted house is produced as a joint effort by the AHS Thespian Society and AHS

Theater Boosters. It is directed by AHS Theater Arts teacher Rachel Snow with design and technical direction by Brian Cole.

Tickets are available online at ahstheater. com (\$8 for students and \$10 for adults). Tickets will also be available at the door. To volunteer or donate to the AHS Theater program and Thespians, please send an inquiry to: moorstheaterboosters@gmail.

## A Year of Service and Growth: Reflections from AUSD's First-Ever Student Board Member

By Justin Wang, AUSD 2023-2024 Student Board Member

As we welcome Keiko Rakin into her new role as the AUSD 2024-2025 student board member, Justin Wang shares his thoughts about his year in this student leadership role and its impact on him and the district.

It's hard to believe it was just one year ago that I took my official Oath of Office as Alhambra Unified School District's student board member. Because I was the first student to serve in this role, I did not have a full understanding of what my role would entail, but I knew I wanted to set a positive example for my peers and to others who would follow me in this important position.

Every month, I looked forward to the Student Advisory Council (SAC) meetings at the district office, where my fellow SAC members and I held many meaningful conversations with district administrators and board members to understand and solve concerns in the district. The inclusive and open environment allowed me and my peers to voice our opinions in a safe and welcoming space.

Throughout my term, I attended many community events hosted by various organizations. Although the food and activities provided were outstanding each time, I was most excited to represent the students of AUSD and establish a presence in discussions that directly affect us. Many other SAC members also attended these events, allowing important community members to recognize that students have a voice too.

For all students, especially those who want to run for student board member or other leadership positions, I highly encourage you not to be afraid to speak your mind and voice your concerns. One thing that I have learned this past year is that if you speak thoughtfully, clearly, and to the right audience, people will listen. Make sure to



Justin Wang, AHS Class of 2024 graduate and AUSD's former student board member, is now a student at UC Berkeley where he continues to seek leadership opportunities and find ways to make a positive impact on his community.

stay respectful and constructive, and many adults will value your comments immensely. You will amaze yourself at what you can do and who you can influence.

I would like to thank board members Mr. Bob Gin, Mrs. Kaysa Moreno, Dr. Marcia Wilson, Mr. Fred Chang, and Mr. Ken Tang, along with Superintendent Dr. Jaramillo Jaramillo (and so many others) who supported my journey, established this student leadership opportunity, and believed in me. It was my absolute honor to serve as the first-ever student board member of AUSD. Congratulations to Keiko Rakin, the new student board member! I worked with her closely during our year together on SAC and I know she will continue to represent students well and achieve many new milestones.



# Please Join PTA!

## http://jointotem.com

Alhambra Council
PTA®

everychild.one voice.®



Visit this site and then search for your preferred PTA!

All PTAs are currently accepting memberships for the 2024-2025 school year. Each member of your household can become a member and give back to these worthwhile organizations.

## Stronger Together: The Power of Parent Involvement through AUSD's PTAs

One of the most impactful ways Alhambra Unified School District parents can support their child's education is by joining the Parent-Teacher-Association (PTA). PTA is a community of parents and educators (as well as students at the high school Parent-Teacher-Student-Associations) who work together to enhance the learning environment for all students. By joining PTA, you can build stronger connections with all community partners, help plan events that enrich your child's learning experiences, and become an advocate for schools and education.

Being involved in PTA also sends a powerful message to your child that education is a priority and that you are an engaged partner in the success of their school. Research shows that students with involved parents are more likely to perform well academically, have better social skills, and adapt more easily to changes.

"Our PTAs are part of the First District PTA, which - as its name implies - is the very "first" PTA district established

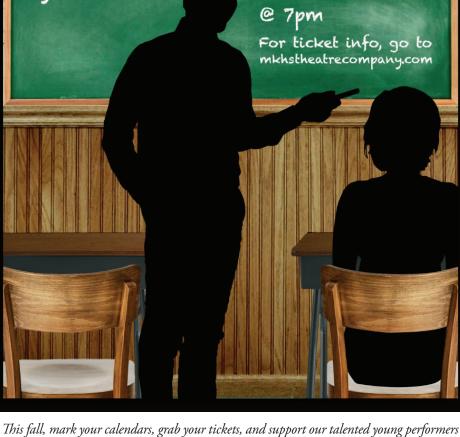
in California in 1912, so our schools and district have a very long and rich history with PTA," explains AUSD superintendent Dr. Denise Jaramillo. "There are so many enrichment activities and opportunities at each of our schools that would simply not be possible without the selfless dedication of our PTA members. They are incredibly valued partners in all we do."

The last of AUSD's schools are in the process of re-establishing their PTAs, which means AUSD will soon have an active PTA (or PTSA) at each of our 16 elementary and high schools. Please become a member of your child's PTA by visiting http://JoinTotem.com and searching for your child's school. (Please Note: Repetto School recently re-established its PTA and is in the process of activating its online membership platform. If you don't see Repetto listed on the membership site yet, please check back soon or contact the school. Granada School is in the final stages of re-establishing its PTA and hopes to complete the process by the end of first trimester.)

## AUSD's Board of Education expands as Keiko Rakin Officially Assumes Role as the New Student Board Member

Alhambra High School junior Keiko Rakin took her Oath of Office on August 27th and now officially serves as Alhambra Unified School District's Student Board Member for the 2024-2025 school year. Keiko becomes only the second AUSD student to serve in this important role. She also chairs the district's 12-member Student Advisory Council, along with vice chairperson and Student Board Member Alternate Madison Kang (a senior at Mark Keppel High School). Having a student as part of AUSD's Board of Education helps ensure student voices are heard and considered as part of the district's decision-making process.





as they bring the magic of live theatre to life.

## High School Drama Departments Gear Up for Fall Productions

The fall season is about to get more dramatic in the Alhambra Unified School District, as our local thespians prepare to showcase their theatrical talents through their highly-anticipated fall productions

San Gabriel High School will open the season with ALICE BY HEART, a musical retelling of Lewis Carrol's Alice's

Adventures in Wonderland. Set amongst the rubble of the London Blitz of World War II, the story follows Alice and her friend Alfred as they are forced to take shelter in an underground tube station. Alice encourages Alfred to join her as she escapes the harsh realities of war by diving into their cherished book and journey



## AHS Senior Among Students Selected for Summer Leadership Program

Congratulations to Alhambra High School junior Keiko Rakin (pictured far left, front row), who was one of 18 juniors and seniors selected to be part of Assemblymember Mike Fong's Young Leaders Program this summer. For two weeks, student leaders from across Assembly District 49 gathered together to learn about state government and issues affecting their local community. "I am so grateful to be part of Assemblymember Mike Fong's Young Leaders Program. I have learned so much about politics, civic engagement, community organizing, networking, legislation, and the list goes on! I created a project about human rights and an op-ed to spread awareness on the issue," explains Rakin. "I also want to thank my amazing instructor Jennifer Tang and the rest of my peers for creating an unforgettable experience. I hope to continue my work in politics, advocacy and to continue to learn!" Keiko's experience will be invaluable as she takes on new and continuing leadership roles at AHS and the Alhambra Unified School District.



## **AUSD's Induction Welcomes** our Newest Educators

On August 5, the Alhambra Unified School District and the Alhambra Teachers Association warmly welcomed the newest group of AUSD teachers to our district. Throughout the 2024-25 school year, the district's exceptional Induction Leadership Team – Monica Yew, Diana Han, Ann Wilson, and Monica Hinojos (pictured left to right) - will mentor 21 Year-1 teachers and 22 Year-2 teachers as they work towards clearing their teaching credentials and growing into educational leaders. Congratulations to all our new teachers, and welcome to our team!

down the rabbit hole to Wonderland. For tickets and more information, please As they travel through the tale, Alice by Heart explores the poignancy of first love, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward. The musical encourages the audience to celebrate the transformational power of the imagination, even in the most difficult of times. SGHS' performances will run September 27-28 and October 2-5. Tickets can be purchased at: https:// sghsdrama.ludus.com/index.php

Mark Keppel High School will bring the comedic genius of Neil Simon to life with their fall production of FOOLS. Set in a small Ukrainian village, the play follows the story of Leon, an enthusiastic young schoolteacher who arrives to find the entire village is under a 200-year-old curse of chronic stupidity. As Leon tries to break the curse, hilarity ensues. This classic comedy is appropriate for all ages. Catch the production October 17-18.

visit mkhstheatrecompany.com.

Alhambra High School is currently focusing on their upcoming haunted house in October, but immediately after, they will launch their fall production of CLUE. This murder-mystery farce is adapted from the film, Clue, which in turn was based on the popular board game. Audiences will experience a fun and witty whodunit that will leave them laughing as they try to guess the final twist. Ticket information and more details will be shared later at ahstheater.com.

This fall, make sure to support our local high school drama departments by attending some (or all) of these productions. We encourage community to nurture the creativity and confidence of our young performers while supporting these local live theatre and our arts programs.



This year is the first year AUSD is offering TK classes at all our elementary campuses. The entire group of TK teachers and assistants met together on August 9th for professional development.

### Transitional Kindergarten Program Expands to ALL Alhambra Unified Elementary Campuses

is proud to announce the expansion of its Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classes to all 13 of our elementary campuses. Two additional TK classes opened as part of our Dual Immersion programs: Spanish at Fremont School and Mandarin at Northrup School.

The TK program gives AUSD's

The Alhambra Unified School District youngest students early social and learning a play-based classroom design and experiences that lay the foundation for future success in school. TK teachers bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their roles. In addition to holding multiple-subject teaching credentials, each is required to have completed at least 24 Early Childhood Education units.

The State of California recommends

curriculum and AUSD was fortunate to receive a grant to help support these classes. "The grant has allowed us to purchase new furniture, materials, and additional collaborative time for teachers to design their units," explains deserie Bradvica, AUSD Instructional Specialist in Literacy. The team of teachers will work together throughout the year, and are also guided by a consultant, Kristi Mraz, who designs learning opportunities for Early Childhood educators across the San Gabriel Valley.

The expansion of our TK program will help ensure these young students will enter kindergarten the following year prepared and ready to learn, grow, and thrive.



## Do You Know an **AUSD Game Changer?**



Here's how to nominate a deserving employee... Go to www.ausd.us/badges:

- · Click on "Recognition"
- Click on one of the two badges that you want
- Fill out a short, fast form: your name, who you nominate and what they do, how you know them, and very briefly why you want them to be recognized.
- · Submit!

NOMINEES FOR THE "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY" AND "SPOTLIGHT" BADGES TO THEN BE ELIGIBLE TO BE SELECTED FOR THE "GAME CHANGER" BADGE, WHICH WILL BE AWARDED EVERY MONTH DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR TO TWO AUSD EMPLOYEES.

The two monthly Game Changer winners will each receive a \$100 award from Schools First Federal Credit Union, recognition by the AUSD Board of Education, and be featured on our District website.



## Game Changer Recognition Seeks Nominations of Outstanding AUSD Staff Members

AUSD continues the tradition of honoring its employees through the Game Changer recognition program.

Alhambra Unified School District is proud to continue celebrating the exceptional contributions of its staff members through the Game Changers recognition program. Each month, we shine a spotlight on two individuals who go above and beyond to make a positive contribution to the lives of students, colleagues, and the broader community.

We invite the entire AUSD community - parents, staff members, and students - to participate in this program by nominating an employee who has made a meaningful impact to

them. To nominate a deserving employee, visit www.ausd.us/ badges, click on "Recognition," select one of two badges and fill out a short, fast form.

Two AUSD Game Changers will be selected each month and recognized by the Board of Education and featured on the District's website. Schools First Federal Credit Union will also award each Game Changer \$100. More importantly, by recognizing our amazing employees as "Game Changers," they recognize that community appreciates and celebrates their hard work, dedication, and commitment.



## Alhambra Unified Spotlights Employees of the Year at Opening Day Meeting

One of the highlights of the Alhambra Unified School District's annual All-Staff Opening Meeting is the celebration of the Employees of the Year. This year, the district honored three exceptional individuals: Jesus Murillo, custodian at Fremont School; Nelson Santos, Director of Facilities and Transportation; and Page Phillips, drama teacher at Mark Keppel High School. Each of these outstanding employees received a commemorative bell, symbolizing both their remarkable service and the high esteem in which they are held by their colleagues. As part of the celebration, tribute videos created by their peers and supervisors were shown, expressing heartfelt appreciation for their hard work and setting a tone of gratitude and inspiration for the school year ahead.

Ask Dr. Dara, D.D.S.

## Are Dental X-rays Safe?

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

X-rays have been used in dentistry for over a century. Along with a visual mouth examination, they provide your dentist with a more complete view of what's happening under the surface.

#### Benefits of Dental X-rays

Early detection of problems: X-rays can reveal cavities between the teeth, leaking restorations, bone loss, periodontal disease, and tumors. This allows for early intervention and treatment, preventing them from becoming more serious and requiring more extensive procedures later.

**Treatment planning:** X-rays provide a clear picture of your teeth and jawbone structure, which is crucial for dentists to plan treatments like root canals, implant placement, or orthodontic work.

Monitoring dental health: X-rays help dentists check teeth development in children as well as track the progression of existing dental problems and assess the effectiveness of treatments.

Dental X-rays are generally considered safe. The amount of radiation exposure from a dental X-ray is very low compared to other sources of radiation, such as natural background radiation or medical X-rays of other parts of the body.

Radiation is measured in millisieverts (mSv). For example, regular checkup dental X-rays expose a patient to about 0.005 mSv. This is less than an average daily dose of radiation from background sources we encounter in everyday life. By comparison, you would be exposed to about 0.035 mSv of cosmic radiation if you were to fly within the United States from the east coast to the west coast.

#### Risks of Dental X-rays:

Radiation exposure: While the amount of radiation from a dental X-ray is very low, it's not zero. However, the benefit of early detection often outweighs this minimal risk.

**Pregnant women:** Though generally safe, X-rays are typically avoided during pregnancy unless necessary due to

potential risks to the fetus. Because dental X-rays focus on the head, the risk to the fetus is small but if you have to have an X-ray while pregnant, make sure that you wear the lead apron correctly to protect the baby from radiation.

#### **Minimizing Risks:**

Digital X-rays: Modern dental offices use digital X-rays, which significantly reduce radiation exposure compared to traditional film X-rays.

Targeted X-rays: Dentists will only take the specific X-rays needed for your situation, minimizing unnecessary radiation exposure.

Protective gear: Lead aprons can offer additional protection. Avoid X-rays during the first trimester of pregnancy.

X-rays are an important tool for dentists to diagnose dental problems, but the concern is that exposure to radiation may damage cells and cause cancer. For a healthy adult, the benefits of dental X-rays far outweigh the small risks. However, there is no one size



Dr. Dara, D.D.S. Advanced Dentistry Alhambra daradds@yahoo.com

fits all and it is very important for you and your dentist to make an informed

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

## Alhambra: You Deserve A Break Today

by Gary Frueholz

"You deserve a break today" is one of the most successful and profitable slogans in the history of advertising. The catchphrase captured the notion of mothers being given a day off from cooking in appreciation of their everyday hard work. The genius marketing campaign was developed by Mc-Donald's and Ray Kroc. It would become one of the longest running advertising slogans in American history spanning over four decades.

Alhambra would have its place in McDonald's folklore. Alhambra's original McDonald's at 909 East Main Street was one of the first McDonald's ever constructed. Alhambra City records show that the permits for this McDonald's were pulled in the Spring of 1953 and the Certificate of Occupancy was given on September 1, 1953 (Certificate of Occupancy number 2489).

I recently called McDonald's Corporate Customer Care Center and spoke to Ken Hall. Mr. Hall confirmed that the Mc-Donald's at 909 East Main Street was the fifth McDonald's franchise to be opened. McDonald's records show it was formally opened on October 1, 1953.

A woman named Harriett C. Charlson is listed by McDonald's as the initial franchise owner. And the name H.C. Charlson shows up on all Alhambra permits as the owner of the restaurant. The original McDonald's in San Bernardino was owned by two brothers. Initially, the McDonald brothers issued nine franchises. Alhambra was one of the original nine.

By 1954 the McDonald brothers would enlist the aid of Ray Kroc, a salesman who directed national franchising of malt mixer machines for restaurants. By the late 1950's, McDonald's and Kroc were franchising over 100 new restaurants a year. McDonald's now has over 41,800 restaurants in 118 countries (as of 2023). But Alhambra's East Main Street McDonald's was the fifth franchised restaurant opened.

Alhambra's original McDonald's on East Main Street displayed the two classic golden arches erected over the building. In front of the restaurant was one additional golden arch with a rendering of a chef highlighted in neon lights who had a hamburger for a face. The friendly chef was nicknamed Speedee. Speedee held a sign that proclaimed "15 cents," presumably for a hamburger.

Speedee had greater significance than just being cute. This mascot of the original McDonald's presented a profound message that good food was served fast. McDonald's kept their menus very simple at first and this facilitated a quick and economical walk up service.

What Henry Ford did for the automotive assembly line, McDonald's did for the developing fast-food industry. Workers specializing in specific cooking roles, taking orders, and conducting quality control became a standard.

Speedee remained the company mascot until 1962, when he was replaced by Ronald McDonald. One reason for the change was that McDonald's wanted to remove any comparison to Alka-Seltzer's mascot, also named Speedy.

The building on East Main Street was simple. There was no interior area for customers. They walked up to the window and gave their order and were quickly served. Young couples in Alhambra could take the family out to dinner and not impose their rambunctious children on other patrons in the restaurant.

I can recall my Little League team here in Alhambra, the Max West Kiwees, celebrating our victories at McDonald's. It was an institution designed for working-class families and their children. As Walt Disney redefined the concept of an amusement park to be a wholesome family experience, so McDonald's transformed the notion of the hamburger stand.

Like most early McDonald's, rows of red and white tile wrapped around the Alhambra by Gary Frueholz, who is solely rebuilding on East Main Street. The roof had a 1950ish mid-century look of being flat and slightly angled upward approaching



Gary Frueholz Engel & Volkers Real Estate (626) 318-9436

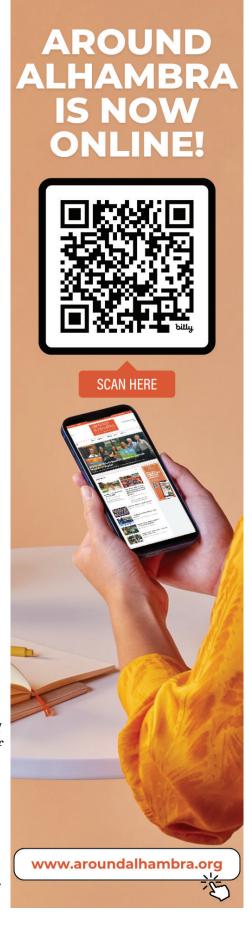
the front. The roof provided an element of shade as customers stood in line and ordered.

Since Alhambra's original McDonald's was part of the original nine franchises awarded by the McDonald brothers, it was not subject to modernization requirements that McDonald's Corporation placed on its franchises given out by Ray Kroc. However, the original restaurant would be leveled more than once and rebuilt from the ground up.

On June 18, 1953, as the McDonald's was being built, the City of Alhambra issued a rather unusual building permit for the property on East Main Street. This final permit, number 50038, allowed the contractor to attach some additional elements to the restaurant being constructed. The description of the work being added by the permit states "steel arches decorative attached to building."

Gary Frueholz is a realtor with Engel & Volkers 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.

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#### Your Insurance

#### What to Consider for Your Healthcare Plan

By Katherine Yu Simms

Medicare's Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for 2024 is from October 15 through December 7. During this time, you can change your Medicare plan coverage, and your changes will take effect on January 1, 2025. Here are some things to consider before open enrollment:

Review your current plan: Look at your costs, health needs, and any changes to your plan for 2024. If you have a Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, you should receive an Annual Notice of Change by September 30. You can also check for notices about plans terminating coverage, which should be sent by October 2.

Compare your options: Compare plans side-by-side, looking at coverage, costs, and quality ratings. When shopping for plans, you can consider things like:

premiums, deductibles, copayments, and me for a free consultation as I'm here other payments not covered by Medicare. to help you navigate and find the most

Prescription drug coverage: Consider eligibility requirements, medication coverage and costs, and whether the plan in your area. Any information prooffers generic or brand name drugs.

Healthcare needs: Think about any upcoming surgeries or doctor appointments you may have in the coming year.

Travel plans: If you plan to travel outside the country, you may want to Alhambra by Katherine Yu Simms who is consider a supplemental insurance plan.

consider a plan that offers rides to and this author or any other provider.



Katherine Yu Simms Medicare Insurance Agent lovemygoldenyears@gmail.com

from doctor offices.

Vision/Dental: If you are considering dental work or need reading glasses, consider yearly allowances for these services.

If you need assistance in evaluating Out-of-pocket costs: This includes your current plan, please reach out to appropriate plan to fit your needs.

Only some plans are available vided is limited to plans offered in your area. Please contact Medicare. gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

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Disclaimer: We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all your options.

### From the Desk of Rev. Craig Statton

## Happy Retirement, Rev. J. Craig Statton!

After 12 years of devoted service at Atherton, Rev. J. Craig Statton will retire as Chief Executive Officer on September 30, 2024. Atherton, a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) that serves 350 residents, offers 218 Independent Living Units, 32 Assisted Living Units, 4 Companion Care beds, and a 99-bed Skilled Nursing Facility.

Craig began his journey with Atherton in February 2012, quickly advancing to Chief Operating Officer in January 2014 and subsequently to Chief Executive Officer in August 2014. Prior to joining Atherton, he served as the Senior Pastor of Selma First Baptist Church in Selma, CA, for 18 years, bringing a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to his role.

Under Craig's leadership, Atherton experienced remarkable financial growth and successfully navigated through various transformations and improvements. His dedication to professional development is evident through his numerous credentials, including becoming a Certified Gift Planning Professional, Residential

Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE) Administrator, as well as completing a Graduate Certificate in Long Term Care and earning a Nursing Home Administrator's License.

As Craig embarks on his well-deserved retirement, Atherton extends heartfelt gratitude for his years of leadership, service, and unwavering dedication to the community. His legacy will leave a lasting impression, and he will be remembered fondly for his many contributions.

Congratulations and Happy Retirement, Rev. J. Craig Statton!



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We are committed to helping our residents continue their lives of independence at Atherton, with their safety and wellness as a priority.



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In order to support individual real estate professionals serving Alhambra, the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce has created a new designation to help residents and property owners distinguish who is "community-based." The following real estate professionals are active members of the Alhambra community, serving on boards, active in community projects, and civic leaders in their own right. These are the community real estate professionals who truly *know* the Alhambra community.



Jimmy Tram SoCal Group | eXp Realty | SoCal Group | eXp Realty

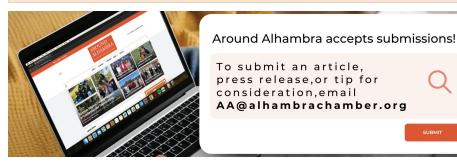


**Clarence Yeung** jimmytram.exprealty.com clarenceyeung.exprealty.com



Suzi Dunkel-Soto Century 21 Village Realty homesbysuzi.c21.com

This designation does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation of services by the program designees. The Alhambra Chamber has established this program as a promotional tool and does not create any promises of services, as is the case with any of our members.



#### T LANTERN TERRACE -

#### New Affordable Apartment Homes Available in Alhambra!



#### 103 N Chapel Ave. Alhambra, CA 91801

Lantern Terrace will be accepting applications for our studio, one-, two-, and three-bedroom affordable rental units. Applications will be accepted through our online portal LanternTerraceApts.com from September 7, 2024 to September 21, 2024. Paper applications will also be available for pick up in person at the leasing office located at 403 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, California 91776. Paper applications must be mailed to the address on the application and must be postmarked by the application deadline to be included in the electronic lottery. The lottery will be held after the application period closes to establish the waiting list order. Applicants may request a reasonable accommodation if one is needed to assist in completing an application by calling 949-414-9631 TTY: 711 or by emailing LanternTerrace@Related.com.

Lantern Terrace has 44 units, including studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom affordable rental units available (one three-bedroom unit is designated as a manager's unit). Studios and one-bedrooms are units designated for formerly homeless individuals or Transition Age Youth. All applications for these units must apply through CES or selected service provider. These households will pay approximately 30% of their adjusted income in rent. Rent range for 2 BR: \$808 - \$1,744 and 3BR: \$1,645 - \$2,005. Applicants must be income eligible and meet occupancy guidelines. Households must earn no more than the maximum gross income levels noted below:

30% of Area Median Income (7 Studios, 14 One-Bedroom Units, 1 Two-Bedroom Units and 2 Three-Bedroom Units)									
Household Size	1 RES.	2 RES.	3 RES.	4 RES.	5 RES.	6 RES.	7 RES.		
Max Annual Income	\$29,130	\$33,270	\$37,440	\$41,610	\$44,940	\$48,270	\$51,600		

#### 50% of Area Median Income (4 Two-Bedroom Units and 4 Three-Bedroom Units)

Household Size	2 RES.	3 RES.	4 RES.	5 RES.	6 RES.	7 RES.
Max Annual Income	\$55,450	\$62,400	\$69,350	\$74,900	\$80,450	\$86,000

#### 60% of Area Median Income (6 Two-Redroom Units and 5 Three-Redroom Units)

Household Size	2 RES.	3 RES.	4 RES.	5 RES.	6 RES.	7 RES.	
Max Annual Income	\$66,540	\$74,880	\$83,220	\$89,880	\$96,540	\$103,200	

Application and lottery information can be found at LanternTerraceApts.com or may be requested by email at LanternTerrace@Related.com or by calling our information phone line at 949-414-9631 TTY: 711. Electronic or paper applications must be received 9/21/2024 to be included in the application lottery. For more information on our community and to view available floorplans please visit us at LanternTerraceApts.com. Income limits are subject to change based on changes to the Area Median Income as published by HUD, HCD and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee.







#### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**



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Fleming Street, Pomona

4 beds | 3 baths | house | 2,584 sf



Balboa Blvd, Newport Beach

7 beds | 4 baths | house | 3,322 sf



1778 Laurel Dr, Monterey park

3 beds | 2 baths | house | 1,628 sf



11541 Laurelcrest Dr, Studio City

2 beds | 2 baths | house | 1,345 sf



402 N Alhambra #G, Alhambra

2 beds | 1 baths | condo | 934 sf



209 La France #C, Alhambra

4 beds | 3 baths | condo | 2,024 sf



1204 Orange Grove, S. Pasadena

2 beds | 1 baths | house | 1,466 sf



762 Divina Vista St, Monterey Park

2 beds | 2 baths | house | 1,082 sf



WE SIMPLIFY THE BUYING, SELLING AND INVESTING PROCESS

Let us take care of it

**CALL US TODAY** 



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