



# GATEWAY GUARDIAN

Serving the communities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, & La Palma



Happy Chinese New Year  
Friday, Jan. 31 - Year of the Horse

Jan. 23, 2014

www.thegatewayguardian.com

Vol. 1 No. 8

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Hawaiian Gardens Head Start Program Reopens in ABC School District**



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**Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony in Cerritos Features Entertainment**



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**Friends of the 1st CEB Send Care Packages to Marines in Afghanistan**



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## Cerritos City Council Approves Renovation of Shopping Center on South St. & Carmenita Rd.



Rendering of proposed refurbished shopping center shows remodeled exterior of buildings and upgraded landscaping. Orchard Home and Garden Supply Store will be located at closed "Tall Mouse" site (not shown). The center was constructed in two phases in the 1970s and 1980s.

By Jerry Bernstein

The Cerritos City Council approved a conditional use permit for the establishment of an Orchard Home and Garden Supply store located at the old "Tall Mouse" site in the Cerritos Plaza Shopping Center located on the northwest corner of South Street and Carmenita Road.

The Council also approved plans to remodel the exterior of the Center's buildings, and refurbish and upgrade the existing landscaping and park-

ing area. Applicant is property owner Cerritos Plaza LLC, in Los Angeles.

Senior Planner Sandy Cisneros said work on the renovations should begin sometime in April. The proposed project also includes a new Master Sign Program which would update the tenant and shopping center monument signs to complement the proposed architectural upgrades. Orchard Supply Hardware will utilize 8,041 sq. ft. for home and garden supplies.

As proposed, the shop-

ping center, built in the contemporary architecture style of the 1970s and 1980s, will be updated in the "Craftsman" design style, which is characterized by the use of stacked stone, wood beam and trellis structures, and new decorative tower elements.

In her report to the council, the senior planner noted the Center was originally built in several phases with the majority of the shopping center constructed in the first two phases.

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## Artesia Approves New Memory Care Facility

By Richard Guiss

The Artesia City Council held its first meeting of the year on Jan. 13 and approved more than a dozen items, one of which gave the okay for the Artesia Christian Home to build its new residential Memory Care facility.

Located at 18105 Mundare Ave., the facility will provide care for elders with memory impairments such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Lewy Body and other related dementias. The facility is licensed by the State as a residential care facility for the elderly and will be licensed and supervised by the Department of Social Services.

Artesia Christian Home's existing facility was not well suited to offer the services and care needed for individuals with memory impairments. Designed as a residential dwelling, there will be two separate houses, each having 14 beds, and it will hold a maximum of 28 residents.

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## ABC School District Receives 2 Golden Bell Awards

By Jerry Bernstein

We are all familiar with the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, but how many of us are familiar with California's Golden Bells? These are bells awarded to California schools for outstanding academic programs.

The ABC Unified School District was the recipient of two Golden Bell Awards recently, presented by the California School Boards Association at its annual conference held in November.

At the Jan. 9 meeting of the School Board Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu said, "This makes 13 Golden Bell Awards the District has won for its academic program since 2002."

The Association honors exemplary K-12 programs in 19 categories. This year the District was recognized for two programs. They are Nixon Elementary School's Jaguars in Arts and Media (JAM) Sessions under the leadership of Principal Melinda Ortiz and the District's Saturday Morning Academic Reading Time (SMART) Academy under the

direction of Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Valencia Mayfield.

The first District Golden Bell Award was won in 2002 for its Southside Schools Reading Collaborative in Partnerships and Collaboratives Category. The Southside Schools Reading Collaborative is a vertical team



of six schools including Aloha, Furgeson, Hawaiian, Melbourne, Fedde Middle School and Artesia High School working in collaboration to promote reading achievement.

The second Golden Bell Award in 2003 was for the Parent Leadership Academy and Conference in the Parental/Community Involvement Category. This is a yearlong pro-

gram that provides effective training for parents to become successful leaders for their children in school. The multi-language workshops are open to all parents.

In 2005 Leal Elementary School won the third Golden Bell Award for its Family Science Night in the Parental/Community Involvement Category. Family Science Night promotes science education with students and parents in a variety of fun workshops that are related to the state standards. Leal's PTA is a major partner with this annual event for almost 800 students and their families.

The fourth Golden Bell Award in 2006 recognized the STEP, PATH and STAY Programs. The STEP (Systems to Encourage Peace) program is an anti-violence program. The PATH (Pointing Adolescents Toward Health) and STAY (Smoking Tobacco and You) programs are an anti-drug and anti-tobacco programs. These programs help reduced the number of violent, harmful and non-healthy types of behaviors.

In 2008 ABC won its

sixth Golden Bell Award for the UNITE Show under the category of "Partnerships and Collaboratives." The show is a district cable production that communicates the exciting work of the District. It partners students, teachers and community volunteers to produce this

See Golden Bell Page 2

## Hawaiian Gardens Head Start Program Reopens in ABC

By Jerry Bernstein

Hawaiian Gardens parents whose youngsters are eligible to enroll in the Head Start Program received good news Jan. 14 with the announcement by Council member Mike Gomez that the Head Start program was being transferred back to Hawaiian Gardens.

Parents can now enroll their youngsters at two local ABC schools. These include Aloha, and Melbourne Elementary Schools. For addi-

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## GATEWAY GUARDIAN

11744 187th Street  
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[www.thegatewayguardian.com](http://www.thegatewayguardian.com)



Dedicated to providing a local community newspaper that serves the needs of the community and promotes goodwill throughout the Gateway region.

Our mission is to celebrate diversity, encourage critical thinking, and promote success between merchants, residents and local governments.

This mission will be accomplished through the partnership of neighborhoods, businesses and professional organizations that are dedicated to integrity.

### Melinda Kimsey

Publisher

(562) 522-8776

[mkimsey@thegatewayguardian.com](mailto:mkimsey@thegatewayguardian.com)

### Jerry Bernstein

Editor-in-Chief

(562) 650-0437

[jbernstein@thegatewayguardian.com](mailto:jbernstein@thegatewayguardian.com)

### Janet Beach

Design Editor/Copy Editor

[jbeach@thegatewayguardian.com](mailto:jbeach@thegatewayguardian.com)

### Richard Guiss

Staff Writer

[rguiss@thegatewayguardian.com](mailto:rguiss@thegatewayguardian.com)

### William G. Lee

Marketing Director

[wlee@thegatewayguardian.com](mailto:wlee@thegatewayguardian.com)

### Roger Williams

Website Designer

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Ad deadline is the Friday before publication date. Camera-ready copy is accepted or custom ads may be designed by the staff.

# WANTED

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Accepting two Golden Bell Awards presented at the California School Boards Association annual conference held in San Diego are ABC Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu, Board members, Nixon Elementary School Principal Melinda Ortis, Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services Valencia Mayfield and staff members.

## ABC Awarded 2 Golden Bells

From Page 1

monthly program, which builds a sense of community around school activities.

In 2009 ABC received two Golden Bell Awards. The seventh Golden Bell Award went to Tetzlaff's Red Carpet Media Festival under the Technology category. It is a culminating event that celebrates students who have demonstrated competence in using technology and media productions to produce video public service announcements, yearbook, photography, and Web page design.

The same year ABC won its eighth Golden Bell Award for its Network for a Healthy California under the category of "Wellness." The program encourages students, parents and teachers to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables, as well as raise physical activity to a minimum of 30 minutes a day for adults and 60 minutes for children.

In 2010 the ninth Golden Bell Award was given to Nimes Magnet School's Environmental Science Fair and Festival Program in the Science Category. The Fair and Festival empowers students to become active participants in the stewardship of our planet.

Students display their knowledge of grade level science concepts and gain access to the Science Lab, Nature Center, Green Kids Club, Environmental Stewards Club and Environmental Festival Green Program.

In 2011 the District was honored with two Golden Bells. The 10th went to Carver Academy's Enrichment Clusters Program in Partnerships and Collaboratives Category. This program brings together students and adults in the community with common interests and provides enrichment classes.

The 11th Golden Bell Award went to Carmenita Middle School's Distinguished Schools Program in the Middle School Category. This program accelerates learning for students who strive for excellence in a specific subject area

and helps them move to the next level of excellence.

In 2013 the District was again honored with two Golden Bell Awards. The Smart Academy focuses on increasing reading achievement by using academic language and a positive attitude toward school. The program focuses on African-American and Hispanic-Latino students in 4th-6th grade attending Title I schools.

Students receive extended learning time on reading comprehension strategies and academic vocabulary development. Parents also participate in workshops on strategies to support and increase their child's learning.

Also in 2013, the 13th Golden Bell Award was awarded to the JAM Sessions. The JAM Sessions provide opportunities for Nixon Elementary students to explore their particular strengths and talents.

The sessions occur Friday afternoons for one hour during a six-week period. The goal of JAM Sessions is to engage students in their own learning through creative experiences that take place outside the traditional classroom.

## A Message from the ABC Superintendent

"Welcoming a New Year"



By Dr. Mary Sieu

First, I'd like to wish a belated "Happy New Year" to the entire ABC school community! At the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday evening, the Board and I rang in 2014 by ringing the 13 Golden Bell Awards we have received since 2002.

The Golden Bell Awards are given for exemplary programs in school districts by the California School Boards Association. We have been honored to have received a Golden Bell Award almost every year since 2002.

More importantly, the ringing in of a new year with the Golden Bells demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement in ABC Unified School District.

It was an exceptional year for ABC in 2013. We celebrated with two schools honored as a National Blue Ribbon School, two secondary schools recognized as California Distinguished Schools, two programs awarded the Golden Bell Awards, seven schools honored as STAR Schools and nine schools in Cerritos recognized as SCHOLAR Schools by the California Business for Education Excellence.

We celebrated with the City of Hawaiian Gardens

when Artesia High School became a 2013 California Distinguished School and two of our elementary schools serving Hawaiian Gardens met the State's benchmark of 800 or above on the Academic Performance Index. The City of Artesia recognized seven of the schools serving Artesia for meeting the State's benchmark.

In looking ahead at the new year, we recognize the enormous changes ahead of us. This includes the transition to the Common Core State Standards that the State has adopted, a new State assessment, new Local Control Accountability Plan and new Local Control Funding Formula.

Work has already begun in many of these areas but thoughtful implementation and communication will be required in order to be successful. Last November, our Board of Education approved to change from an at-large election to a trustee area election system beginning 2015.

Numerous steps will be undertaken throughout 2014 in order to make this transition. In addition, this year, the Board and I will be discussing and exploring putting a bond measure for November, 2014. This will require considerable input from the community and transparent communications regarding why additional funds are critical to the success of the District in the years ahead.

As we welcome in the new year, we are fully aware of the changes in front of us. As with any highly effective organization, we, in ABC, look forward to continuous growth and improvement!

Follow me on Twitter: @absupt

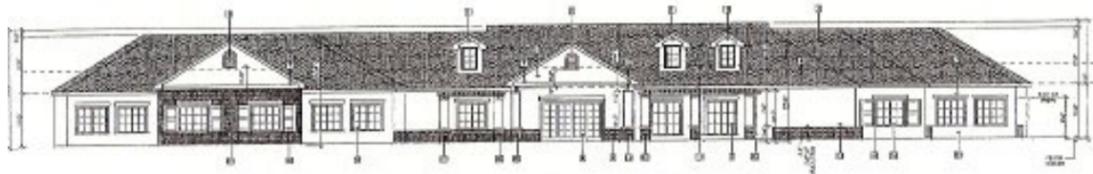
## Leal Elementary School Receives Blue Ribbon



Congratulating Leal Elementary Principal Laura Makely upon the school's receiving National Blue Ribbon School Recognition are members of the ABC Board of Education and Superintendent Dr. Mary Sieu. Leal was one of three schools in Los Angeles County to receive Blue Ribbon Recognition and one of 15 in California.

## Artesia Approves Memory Care Facility

From Page 1



Typically, persons with middle stage dementia wander and have difficulty finding their way around a larger facility.

The new residence will have two smaller homes located around the living area so residents will never be far from their rooms.

### Community Development Projects

The Council approved the use of a \$109,072 Community Block Grant for improvement projects. On the list is the Teen Center Rehabilitation at AJ Padelford Park, the Teen Program (public service) at the park, and sidewalk repairs. All the projects are scheduled for completion by June 30.

A portion of the grant, a little over \$16,000, will be used for the Teen Program, which pro-

vides afterschool teen programs including special events and excursions. The program will utilize the maximum of 15 percent of funds which can be used for public service programs.

The Residential Home Improvement Program will supply grant funds of \$50,000 to the City's existing Pilot Resident Home Program to assist low income residents with needed home improvements.

The remainder will be used to repair city sidewalks for ADA compliance. The areas slated for improvement are at the northwest corner of Pioneer Boulevard and Arkansas Street and Norwalk Boulevard from South Street to 186th Street.

### Certificates of Appreciation

The Council presented a certificate of recognition to Lee Omar, who after 23 years

of service as a bus driver, retired from the Oldtimers Foundation.

The winners of the 2013 Home Decorations Contest were also present to receive their certificate of recognition and gift card.

First place for "Best Use of Lights" went to the residents of 18435 Roseton Ave. and second place went to the home at 11231 Carver Ln. The residence at 11457 187th St. received the top spot for "Best Lawn and Roof Display" and second place went to 11953 168th St.

In the "Animated Display" category, first place went to 11402 Curry Ln. and 18128 Elaine Ave. took second. The first place winner in the "Total Display" category went to 18505 Corby Ave. and second went to 11949 Ashworth Ave.

## Head Start Program Reopens in ABC

30 Slots Available; Enroll Students as Soon As Possible

From Page 1

tional information, parents should call the District Office at (562) 926 5566 ext. 25447.

Gomez said he filed a complaint to the Department of Education in Sacramento receiving a letter back saying his letter had been received and Hawaiian Gardens children would be eligible to enroll in the above schools.

ABC's Director of Special Projects Mike McCoy said there were approximately 30 slots available and parents should enroll their children as soon as possible. He said notices had previously gone out to Hawaiian Gardens homes.

The program, open to children between the ages of three and four years old, had been operating in the city's Helen Rosa Center when it was closed by the Orange County office during the summer of 2013. Parents were notified they would have to take their children to the Buena Park site. Gomez said this created a hardship for the parents who did not have available transportation. He said the Orange County office was adamant Hawaiian Garden children had

no choice but to go Head Start classes in Buena Park. McCoy said the problem involved federal and state funding which has now been resolved.

### Red Curb

In other business the council approved the installation of a red curb along a portion of Belshire Ave. adjacent to the driveway at 21819 Belshire Ave. to improve visibility for drivers exiting the property's driveway. Community Development Director Joseph Colombo said vehicles parked on the street adjacent to the driveway on its north creates a visibility hazard for drivers exiting the property's driveway. He said the painted curb would be approximately 20 ft. in length. A fire hydrant on the south side of the driveway with a associated red curb alleviates visibility to the south.

### Charging Station

The council also approved a request from the Community Development Department to install a charging station for city alternative fuel vehicles. Colombo said the council

had previously authorized the purchase of two alternative fuel vehicles. He said four bids were received with a low bid of \$15,500 by Hotwire Electric. to install the charging station.

### Code Enforcement

A code enforcement report regarding the regulation and use of permanent and temporary signage throughout the city resulted in a council discussion and consensus that it appeared Code Enforcement officers were playing favorites and not enforcing city code. Mayor Pro Tem Barry Bruce said the code is there to be enforced and the council agreed.

The city's code regulates permanent and temporary signage throughout the city. Generally, commercial buildings are identified by street numbers and provide a business name via a sign that is permanently affixed to a building. Concerning banners they are only permitted for a maximum of 60 days per calendar year. A temporary business sign may also be used by a business for 60 days while obtaining a permit for a permanent sign.

## COMMUNITY calendar

Mark Your Calendars  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



### Artesia Spring Baseball League

Registration for the Spring Baseball league begins on Thursday, Jan. 2. Opening Day will be held March 15 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Pee-Wee Ages 4 - 6: Resident \$50, Non-Resident \$69  
All Other Age Divisions: Resident \$59, Non-Resident \$81  
Register early to ensure your child's spot on a team.  
Volunteer coaches needed! Volunteer to manage a team and one child plays free!

### Artesia Library Events

Family Story Time and Art Activity, Tuesday, Jan. 28, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Free practice SAT Exam for students in grades 9-12 to be held in the Albert O. Little Community Center on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for students to take the exam without it affecting the score record. Students can sign up on-line at [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com). Students will receive their test results in the mail.

### Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Free tax prep assistance will be offered through AARP at Artesia Park. Tax assistance will be provided by trained volunteers on software made available by the IRS. Appointments will be on Mondays from 1 - 4 p.m. beginning Feb. 3 and will continue until tax day. Registration begins on Jan. 6 for residents and on Jan. 13 for non-residents. Call Artesia Park for details: Albert O. Little Community Center, 18750 Clarkdale, Artesia, 90701 (562) 860-3361

### Cerritos Festival of Friendship

Saturday, Feb. 1 • 12 - 4 p.m. Los Cerritos Center Festival of Friendship

### Hawaiian Gardens Community Events

Student Government Day - Feb. 25 at C. Robert Lee Activity Center

### Hawaiian Gardens: Little League Baseball & Softball Registration

Jan. 25 • 12 - 3:30 p.m.  
Early Bird Sign-ups - Ages 4-18  
Fedde Middle School Sports Complex Baseball Fields  
21709 S. Elaine Ave., Hawaiian Gardens  
For more information, call (562) 209-2065

## LOVE IS A CIRCUS



### Cerritos Senior Center VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE

Friday, Feb. 7 6 - 9 p.m.  
**\$18 per person**

Guests must be 50 years and older.  
Registration now underway. Call 562-916-8550.

## Every Day is like a Blank Page in Our Diary Every Person We Meet is a Lively Essay



By Jerry Bernstein

It was quiet in the office. Most of our staff either had left for the day or were out on assignment. I looked at my watch. It was 5 p.m. I was finishing a school district story when my Friend from Fruitcake, Florida walked in. He had a big grin on his face. "Well?" he asked.

"Well, what?" I shot back.

"We did it."

Did what?" I asked, suspecting he was referring to the Rose Bowl game and the last minute win by Florida State over Auburn.

"We beat Auburn 34-31. That's what I mean," he asserted.

"It was a good game," I said. "I knew we were going to win, even when the first half ended with Auburn leading 21-10."

My Friend from Fruitcake, Florida looked at me. "What do you mean you knew Florida

State would win? he asked.

"It's a known fact," I answered, "You never count FSU out in the second half. They have a habit of coming back and winning the game."

My friend looked at me. "You know, now that you mention it, you're right. Look what happened when they played Boston. They were down 14-3 but rallied in the second half to win 48 to 14."

"And they rallied against Auburn to win 34-31," I interjected.

My Friend from Fruitcake, Florida didn't say anything for a minute or two. I could tell he was putting it all together. "You know," he finally said, "I believe Auburn was the toughest team they played all season. The Atlantic Coast Conference isn't the strongest conference. I hope FSU learned something from this game."

"I suspect they have," I answered.

"Well it was a good game and will be talked about for a long time," he said. When did you graduate from FSU?" he asked.

It was 1957," I said. "Why?"

"Just wondering. You've

been around for a while," he said.

"Yes I have," I replied. My Friend from Fruitcake, Florida had something else on his mind beside football. I sat in my chair and waited.

"I see the Cerritos 1st CEB Marine Adoption Committee assembled Care Packages on Jan 15 for the Marines serving in Afghanistan."

That's correct. The volunteers really turned out. Since Cerritos adopted the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion in 2007, the community has really supported the movement. Did you know that Cerritos is the only city in Los Angeles County to have adopted a Marine Battalion?"

"I didn't know that."

"The Friends meet twice a month at the city's Liberty Park to plan fundraising events and projects to assist the Marines and their families throughout the year."

"That's very commendable," he replied. "In Fruitcake we have a similar program, only instead of Marines, we've organized a Help Our Veterans group. There are

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Letter to the Editor

A little over 50 years ago, I saw for the first time the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE SIGHT seeing the statue of Abraham Lincoln.

After marching down Constitution Avenue with 250,000 people, I found myself standing 100 feet in front of the podium as Martin Luther King was delivering his famous I HAVE A DREAM speech.

Seventeen times, Dr. King used the words "I HAVE A DREAM," followed by statements so powerful that they live on in history as part of the greatest speeches ever given.

"I have a dream that someday my four little children will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

"I have a dream that someday black men and white men, Catholics & Protestants, Jews and Gentiles will sit down together at the banquet of brotherhood."

A less quoted but equally important part of his speech was his statement: "We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of NOW. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing Drug of GRADUALISM."

As we fast forward to celebrate MLK's birthday this week, we agree that much of Dr. King's Dream has come true. But this week's speeches will say "more needs to be done."

I would opine that if Dr. King were alive today, he would say that there is the fierce urgency of NOW when it comes to Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Almost everyone I talk to agrees that our Immigration system is broken.

However, a significant number of those who agree that

the system needs to be fixed continue to take, in MLK's words, "the tranquilizing drug of GRADUALISM." They do not agree with Dr. King that NOW IS THE TIME. Although the U.S. Senate has passed an Immigration Reform Bill, the House leadership has yet to take up this urgent matter affecting 13 million people who are forced to live in the shadows.

Some say we should take a piecemeal approach. Dr. King would ask "how long do we have to wait? Is this just another way to delay justice? Are not these delaying tactics the same as taking the tranquilizing drug of Gradualism?"

A large number of the undocumented are young people brought here when they were 2 or 3 years old. America is the only country they have known. Dr. King would say NOW IS THE TIME.

A large number of undocumented are people who work two jobs and pay their taxes. Dr. King would say "NOW IS THE TIME."

In my Faith Tradition, we answer YES to the question in the Torah "Am I my brother's keeper?" and we follow the imperative "Love thy neighbor as thyself." As Martin Luther King would remind us, we are all brothers and sisters in the family of God.

Let us pray that our undocumented brothers and sisters in the family of God will not have to wait until certain people have finished taking the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Let us honor Dr. King in realizing the URGENCY OF NOW in fixing our broken immigration system.

Charlie Ara  
(a married Catholic priest/  
psychotherapist with a  
counseling office in Cerritos)

## Letters TO THE Editor



The Gateway Guardian encourages  
submission of Letters to the Editor.

- Letters must be no more than 200 words, typed and double spaced or sent electronically.
- Letters must be signed by the author and must include the author's address and phone number.
- Opinions expressed in letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Gateway Guardian staff.
- The editors reserve the right to refuse or edit editorial content, without notice, for length, grammar, clarity or libelous statements.



## Scholarship Opportunities for Hawaiian Gardens Adults

The Adult Scholarship Program in Hawaiian Gardens will award scholarships to low income, adult residents who are interested in pursuing higher education.

The applicant must be a Hawaiian Gardens resident who can provide proof of "low income" status (according to the CDBG standards).

Applications must be submitted by the deadline, and applicants must dress appropriately and professionally for the interview. Interviews are face to face, and interview times are not negotiable. Applicants may only apply for one scholarship.

### Program Guidelines

Funds will be applied to the Financial Aid Office at the college/school of enrollment. Funds will be distributed per semester for units in one institution.

The scholarship will expire two years from award date.

Students enrolled in masters program are not guaranteed to receive a scholarship. Students may only apply for one city sponsored scholarship.

### Checklist

- ✓ Application completely filled out
- ✓ Proof of income (2013 income taxes only)
- ✓ 500 word essay
- ✓ Proof of address

All applications will be considered, and the top applicants will be invited to attend an Interview Session as part of the screening and selection process.

The application package must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 21, 2014 at the C. Robert Lee Activity Center, 21815 Pioneer Blvd., Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716.

For more information call Juan Serrano, Special Events Coordinator, at (562) 420-2641 ext. 256.

### City of La Palma

## Utility User Tax Exemption for Low Income Households

The City of La Palma allows very low income families or households to be exempt from the City's local Utility User Taxes (UUT) on telephone, electricity, cable, and natural gas bills.

Residents must meet the "very low income" standards established by the California Department of Housing and Community Development in order to qualify.

If the total household gross income is less than the income thresholds, listed in the table below, the resident can apply for an UUT exemption.

The application process is fairly simple. It only requires

a completed UUT Exemption Application and copies of all household members' previous year wage and income statements (W-2's, 1099's, etc.).

Once an application is approved, the local utilities will be contacted to suspend the UUT collection. This process can take a few billing cycles.

Exemptions are valid through the calendar year and a new application is required each year. Application materials are available on the City of La Palma's Web site: <http://www.cityoflapalma.org> or for more information, please visit La Palma City Hall, or call 714-690-3334.

### 2012 Combined Gross Income Criteria Number of Persons in Family

Household Members	Gross Income
1	\$33,750
2	\$38,550
3	\$43,350
4	\$48,150
5	\$52,050
6	\$55,900
7	\$59,750
8	\$63,600

## Be a Hero for Your Community

Artesia is hosting a Community Emergency Response Team training series in February. It is three 8-hour classes that are taught by the L.A. County Fire Department. The classes are FREE!

The topics will include disaster preparedness, fire suppression, medical operations, search and rescue, disaster psychology and organization, and terrorism. After these top-

ics, simulations will put each person in a hypothetical scenario where the CERT training is applied.

During each session participants are required to wear closed-toed shoes and long pants for safety purposes. The course will be held on three consecutive Saturdays. Participants MUSTS attend all three sessions to receive their CERT certification.

The dates for the February 2014 CERT training are Feb. 1, 8, and 15. Classes are from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Artesia Park's Community Center, in Room A. Latecomers will not be admitted.

Register at [www.fire.lacounty.gov/CERT](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/CERT), or Email Pradeep at [pelayath@cityofartesia.us](mailto:pelayath@cityofartesia.us).

For more information, call (562) 865-6262.

## Around and About – The Riverside Mission Inn



By Dr. Bob Hughlett

The first week of the new year, over 100 students, staff, Board members and presenters were off to the annual Associated Students of Cerritos College Leadership Conference at the historic Mission Inn in Riverside. The first of this two part column will be devoted to the truly remarkable facility, while the next will deal with what took place inside its walls.

Frank Miller was a budding entrepreneur in Riverside at the turn of the century – 1902 to be precise. His ventures prior to then in real estate, retail and citrus farming met with moderate success.

He found his niche that year, however, when he opened the four story, U-shaped Mission Inn. The warm winter climate of the area was very attractive to affluent easterners who came to town looking for investment opportunities and escape from the snow shovel but could find no suitable ac-

commodations for their stay.

The Mission Inn was the answer. As popularity grew, so did the Inn. Over the next 30 years three more wings were added. In 1910 the Cloister Wing, as well as public spaces such as the Music Room, St. Cecilia's Chapel and catacombs, all appeared.

By 1931 an entire city block was covered by the addition of a Spanish Wing (complete with an art gallery, and patio for outdoor dining) and two additional floors of guest rooms. The catacombs (formally known as the Cloister Walk) was complete with niches, side chambers and art objects aplenty became a major local attraction – which has unfortunately been closed from general viewing.

Next was the International Rotunda Wing. Now patrons and locals could enjoy an open-air, five story spiral staircase, a wall dedicated to early pioneers of aviation (which went by the prosaic name the "Wall of Famous Flier") and a magnificent chapel

built around a huge gold leaf cedar altar screen created in Mexico in the eighteenth century. The chapel also featured, and still prominently displays, stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany.



Frank Miller's reputation and fame grew as did that of his hostelry. President Theodore Roosevelt was an early guest when he came to town to

participate in the ceremonial planting of the original orange trees for the region.

Andrew Carnegie, Sarah Bernhardt and Pulitzer Prize author Hamlin Garland were occasional visitors, as were royalty from Russia, Japan and Sweden.

Frank's death in 1935 began the slow decay of his magnificent structures. An increasingly mobile population began to point their cars to Palm Springs, while Riverside generally and the Mission Inn specifically continued to decline. The family sold the Inn in 1956 to what became a series of owners with benign neglect in mind. During this time, many of the priceless art objects were sold or deteriorated beyond repair.

The Riverside Redevelopment Agency purchased the Inn in 1976 and established a Foundation to maintain the structures and continue operation as a commercial venture. Modest starts at renovation were haltingly attempted until Duane Roberts created a new

corporation in 1992, which was able to purchase the Inn. After an almost eight-year closure for renovation, the Mission Inn once again opened doors in 1993.

Today the arcades, turrets, domes, staircases and carillon towers are beloved landmarks in Riverside and beyond. Fine wrought iron turnings, Spanish tile work (and a dragon or two), and imported cannons remain prominently displayed.

Our conference was regrettably after the Christmas season so we were unable to enjoy what is considered to be one of the most splendid Christmas displays of lights and figures in Southern California. The renovation of the Inn has led to a similar re-birth of the surrounding areas, complete with pedestrian walkways, excellent shopping and restaurants.

If you have the time to drive the short 45 miles down the 91 freeway, the Riverside Mission Inn is a worthy destination. Just be sure to avoid the rush hour or unpredictable construction schedule of our beloved CALTRANS.

Let me know what you think about this column at [b.hughlett@verizon.net](mailto:b.hughlett@verizon.net).

# Cerritos Holds Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony



Members of the Essence Dance Ministry of Zoe Christian Fellowship perform "God Blocked It at the Martin Luther King Ceremony."



City Council members and guests congratulate winners of the Writing Contest (above) and the Art Contest (below).



By Jerry Bernstein

The morning was warm as Cerritos residents and friends gathered in the Cerritos Civic Center Plaza Jan. 20 to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Mayor Bruce Barrows greeted everyone and introduced Pastor Ronald Fowler of Fulfilled for Life Family Ministries, who gave the invocation.

The guest speaker was Dr. Lana Walton, instructor at the University of Redlands Graduate School of Education. She greeted everyone by saying, "What a wonderful way to start a new day, celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King."

She described him as a social justice advocate and servant leader who diligently put into practice what he believed,

which was serving others during the Civil Rights movement, in particular people of color, the poor and the working class.

"My charge today," she said, is that we continue to build upon Dr. King's social justice mission by working individually and collectively on our jobs, in our homes, and in our communities, and most certainly this country.

She paused a moment and then continued. "Let your minds drift to Ellis Island in New York, to the Statute of Liberty and the vision of the inscription written by Emma Lazaru, a Jewish woman in the 1800's - an inscription that welcomed immigrant arriving on ships. It reads: "Give Me Your Tried, Your Poor, Your Hungry, the huddled masses yearning

to breath free, the wretched refuse of your teaming shore, send these the homeless tempest to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

Dr. Walton explained that "the golden door represents the promise of America, an entrance into liberty and freedom from oppression - a promise Dr. King worked to make a reality in his service to people."

"Dr. King said 'We as a people are all yearning to breathe free. None of us is free

unless we all are free. The solution? We must embark by acquiring care, sensitivity and understanding for all populations.'"

In conclusion, she said that if Dr. King were present today, he would agree that we are all stakeholders on our jobs, in our communities and this country. Therefore, no man is an island. We are all together and we must make it our duty to service one another decently and rightly.

## Award Winners



### Art

Ages 5-7

- 1st - Medha Kappagantu
- 2nd - Prabodh Rao
- 3rd - Chloe Sorrell

Ages 8-10

- 1st - Sumedha Polu
- 2nd - Sriya Kappagantu
- 3rd - Vincent Huang

Ages 11-13

- 1st - Sahana Ramesh
- 2nd - Ashika Raghavan
- 3rd - Daniel Huang

### Writing

Grade 7-9

- 1st - Amita Muralidharan
- 2nd - Karishma Muthukumar
- 3rd - Sharan Raghavan

Grades 10-12

- 1st - Albert Chon
- 2nd - Nina Wang
- 3rd - Joseph Strawn



Asha Greenidge, 9, recites the poem "Harriet Tubman" by Eloise Greenfield, and Ayanna Greenidge, 4, recites "Merry-Go-Round" by Langston Hughes. Other performers included Kulayd, who sang the National Anthem; Sheréa VéJauan, who sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing"; Kaelyn Robinson, who sang "Roar" and Shaun Miller, who sang "I Know Where I've Been."



The City of Cerritos thanks the community members and organizations who participated in the City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day program. Your involvement and support for the program is greatly appreciated.

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Restaurant Review

# Chinese Lunar New Year- Year of the Horse



**SINGPOLI GROUP FLOAT:** The winged-horses marking the Year of the Horse in the Chinese Zodiac – Extraordinary Trophy Winner in the 2014 Rose Parade.

By William Lee

“Gung Hay Fay Choy” is a Chinese New Year greeting we hear among Chinese all over the world, and it means “Wishing you happiness and prosperity” in Cantonese. The Chinese New Year 4712, which begins on Jan. 31, is the Year of the Horse.

Those born in the “horse” year are cheerful, skillful with money, perceptive, witty, talented and good with their hands. Legend has it that in ancient times Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year, but only 12 came, so Buddha named a year after each one.

He also announced that people born in each animal’s

year would have some of that animal’s personality. If you were born in 1918, 1930, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002 or 2014, you were born under the sign of the “Horse.”

The Chinese New Year is also a time of family reunion, like America’s Thanksgiving. Families gather for dinner on New Year’s Eve, as well as the first meal on New Year’s Day. Today, many Chinese American families usually like to go out to Chinese Restaurants to celebrate during the New Year period which will last for a couple of weeks and sometimes even months to come.

One popular restaurant in our community is New Peking in Cerritos that has served delicious food for three genera-

tions. Jerry Wang, owner and manager of the restaurant for the past 23 years, says that the food is served family style, with orange chicken being the favorite among patrons.

When a couple of friends and I went there, we shared three different dishes - Orange Chicken, Almond Chicken and Kung Pao Three Flavor. Each was served with either steamed rice or fried rice and an egg roll, and they were all very tasty.

Before the main course, we had a choice of egg flower or hot & sour soup and after the meal, we had a deep-fried pineapple and a fortune cookie.

Besides the great food, New Peking has very reasonable prices, with lunch ranging from \$5.95 to \$6.95. The menu includes Beef and Broccoli, Sweet and Sour Pork, Chicken Chow Mein, Szechwan Shrimp and more.

Dinner prices range from \$7.95 to \$18.95, and three “Family Dinners” are between \$10.95 and \$14.95.

New Peking, which has an “A” rating from the Health Dept., is located at 19131 Bloomfield Ave., Cerritos, and the phone number is (562) 865-8139.

Check out Yelp online and you will see that people love this restaurant as much as I do.

# Grandstand Grill Offers Good Food, Cold Beer & 20 HDTVs

By Linda Bock

One of my dear friends loves going out for breakfast. So if I want to find him, I know exactly where to look - at Grandstand Grill. Can’t say I blame him.

Owner Kasturi, her husband Danny, and their kids take great pride in having the best breakfast in town. It’s hard to disagree with them. Grandstand Grill offers 10 different omelets, Belgian waffles, and all the classic breakfasts we all expect. Kasturi, whose culinary background includes studying at Prueleigh College in London, tells me that her favorites are the Denver and Spanish omelets.

Don’t let the wonderful breakfast menu fool you, though. This is a fun sports bar. There are 20 HDTVs so that you can be sure that even on the busiest weekend, you can watch your favorite team.

I can’t speak for everyone, but for me, nothing beats watching the Super Bowl while enjoying a plate of Buffalo Wings, some sliders, and a pitcher of cold beer.

Since not everybody feels that way, Grandstand Grill offers a whole variety of appetizers, including garlic wings, BBQ wings, Angus Sliders, and yummy pork sliders.

Let’s be honest. Hamburgers are one of the mainstays of Super Bowl Sunday, and Grandstand Grill offers some of the best. In addition to your

traditional beefy burgers, Kasturi offers chicken and fish variations.

The menu offers a great selection for even the most fussy diners. You’ll find an excellent selection of sandwiches (love that Reuben grill) and wraps. Salad, steaks, and pasta with homemade marinara are also standards on the menu, and the prices are very good. You’ll even find some tasty Mexican entrees, like enchiladas and fajitas. Fun!

If you bring the kids, you’ll find an excellent selection for them, including chicken nuggets, spaghetti, burgers, and grilled cheese. Even your most picky eater will find something yummy here.

I really liked their wine menu. While not extensive, they have selected some nice, flavorful wines. Clois du

Bois Chardonnay and Mondavi Cabernet are inexpensive but always make a nice accompaniment to dinner. If you’re the outdoor type, you’ll enjoy the patio with a fireplace and HDTV. Smoking is permitted on the patio.

Grandstand Grill has only been open for four months, so even though the location is familiar (they are on the corner of Carmenita and South in the Ralph’s Plaza), the new look inside will be a very pleasant surprise. Sports fans will definitely feel at home!

Call Grandstand Grill at 562-860-7005 if you feel more comfortable making a reservation.



City of Cerritos  
Recreation Services Division  
**FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP**  
2014

Connecting Cultures Through Dance and Music

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 NOON-4 PM LOS CERRITOS CENTER**

The City of Cerritos and the Let Freedom Ring Committee, in conjunction with the Los Cerritos Center, invites participants to attend the annual Festival of Friendship. The festival provides the community with a unique opportunity to learn about the City’s rich diversity through a variety of cultural acts performed on several stages throughout the mall. Local community groups will be the featured entertainment as they display an assortment of ethnic songs and dances of their native cultures. Visit each stage to obtain a special commemorative gift during intermission only. For more information, please call the Recreation Services Division at (562) 916-1254.

**FOREVER 21 STAGE**

NOON-1:20 PM	DA’ HABIBI CERRITOS CLUB	DANCE
1:20-1:50 PM	CERRITOS FOLK DANCERS	DANCE
1-1:20 PM	COUNTRY PICKERS	DANCE
1:00-1:40 PM	AMOR DE MODOCO	DANCE
2-2:20 PM	CERRITOS CHINESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION	DANCE
2:00-2:40 PM	CHINESE CULTURE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	DANCE
3-3:20 PM	PHILSILA	DANCE
3:00-4 PM	ORIENTAL WOOD-DO SCHOOL	DEMO

**SEARS STAGE**

NOON-1:20 PM	LIBERTY PARKET LOT	MUSICAL
1:20-1:50 PM	JC CULTURE FOUNDATION	DANCE
1:00-1:20 PM	ADAPTIVE RECREATION	DANCE
1-1:20 PM	CHINESE YUN-CHI DANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA	DANCE
1:00-1:40 PM	PRIDE DANCE	DANCE
2-2:20 PM	HA IPO HILA	DANCE
2:00-2:40 PM	PHILIPINO STRIPPERS BY CERRITOS ASSOCIATION	DANCE
3-3:20 PM	S.O. CAL. PHIL-LES VETERANS ASSOCIATION	DANCE
3:00-4 PM	EMERALD HILL	MUSICAL

**NORDSTROM STAGE & CHILDREN’S AREA**

NOON-1:20 PM	DANZA FOLKLORICA PURO COCACOM	DANCE
1:20-1:50 PM	GRACE AUTO HARP	MUSICAL
1-1:20 PM	HUNGARI HILA HILALI	DANCE
1:00-1:40 PM	DANCEYTT DIRECT	DANCE
2-2:20 PM	SUSANNA HILBA CLASSICAL SWANSH & FLAMENCO DANCE	DANCE
2:00-2:40 PM	HAPPY SINGERS	DANCE
3-3:20 PM	BANGLADESHI WUNDERBAND	MUSICAL
3:00-4 PM	ISLAND VIBES	MUSICAL



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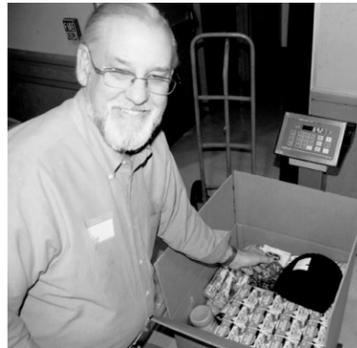
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1st CEB Adoption Committee

# Volunteers Prepare Care Packages for Marines



Volunteers pick up their bags as they get ready to pack various items for the 1st CEB Marines in Afghanistan and at Camp Pendleton. Each bag contained about 16 items, including a dozen cookies donated by Polly's Pies.



By Janet Beach

The Friends of the 1st CEB and many community volunteers came to Cerritos Park East on Jan. 15 to pack individual bags and community boxes for the Marines.

Each bag contained about 16 items, including foot powder, shaving cream, baby wipes, toothbrushes and tooth paste, playing cards, gum, candy, snacks, hot sauce, beef jerky, caps, socks, cookies and more.

When the Care Package

Project began several months ago, the 1st CEB Adoption Committee planned to send about 450 bags to Marines in Afghanistan.

However, since some troops came home early, the group sent 260 bags overseas, and the rest were sent to the Marines who had returned to Camp Pendleton.

Items that did not fit into individual bags were sent in "community boxes." These included Cup of Noodles, trail mix, peanut butter, nuts, coffee and

creamer, cough drops, breath mints, magazines and more.

In all, 61 boxes, each weighing about 70 lbs., were taken to the Post Office the next day and mailed to Afghanistan. The remainder of the boxes were taken to Camp Pendleton.

The 1st CEB Adoption Committee would like to thank all of the individuals, groups and organizations that helped collect items for the bags, as well as everyone who helped pack the bags.



*A Special Concert Benefiting*

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**SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014**

**6:00 PM Pre-Show Reception / 8:00 PM Concert**

With a 7 piece band, two female vocalists, and choreography, the award-winning cast of Let's Hang On! brings to life the timeless repertoire of the legendary Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons with classic songs such as Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like a Man, and Can't Take My Eyes Off of You.

All proceeds to benefit arts education programs for K-12 students

F&A Orchestra Section & 100 level boxes \$125  
(125 tickets includes pre-show reception & parking)

Orchestra - back & Grand Tier \$ 85

Gold Circle & 200 level boxes \$ 75

Upper Tier & 300 level boxes \$ 60

Upper Circle \$ 45

Tickets available through the

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts Box Office

562-916-8500 • 800-300-4345 • www.cerritoscenter.com



## The Friends of Arts Education At the Cerritos Center For the Performing Arts (FAE)

- A non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing education through high quality arts experiences.
- FAE brings the transformative power and beauty of the performing arts to thousands of children from all socio-economic backgrounds each year.
- Serving schools representing more than 20 school districts in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.
- FAE's core program consists of three inter-connected components designed to provide an in-depth experience:
  - 1) Professional Development Workshops for Teachers
  - 2) Educational Performances at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts
  - 3) Creative Expressions: In-class follow-up activities

FAE's core program features professional productions in dance, music, theater and multimedia that meet curriculum standards and bridge the connections between the arts and other subjects such as science, mathematics, social studies and language arts.

**For more information on FAE or to become a Friend with a tax deductible donation, please call 562-916-1293.**

# City of Cerritos to Honor 1st CEB Meritorious Marine

By Chuck Sooter

The residents of Cerritos and surrounding communities have an opportunity to meet one of the many servicemen who are defending our country.

Sgt Edgar Arroyo, a member of the U.S. Marine Corps 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, stationed at Camp Pendleton, will be hosted and honored in the City of Cerritos on Jan. 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel Fountain Court.

The public is invited to meet Sergeant Arroyo and his family and attend a presentation by the Mayor and City Council of a city proclamation to commemorate his service.

After the ceremony, Sgt Arroyo and his family will be given a tour of the city by his hosts, Jim and Connie Edwards, and then spend the weekend enjoying the amenities of the community with lodging and meals complements of our sponsors: Sheraton Hotel and restaurants Grille 91, Mimi's, TGI Friday, Ranch House BBQ, BJ's Restaurant, and the Macaroni Grill.

The City of Cerritos is providing tickets to attend the evening performance at the Cerritos Center, Hotel California - A Tribute to the Eagles.

As one of the senior licencing Marines in his unit, Sgt Arroyo's knowl-

edge and expertise was pivotal in training, mentoring, and licensing new Marine operators on the High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV) in preparation for an upcoming deployment aboard Naval ships-at-sea (Marine Expeditionary Unit).

He was also trained and certified Marines as drivers for the Logistical Vehicle System Replacement (LVSRLVSR 16), a key logistical support asset. Beside training, Sgt Arroyo also provided direct logistical support by operating these and other tactical vehicles, driving over 1,000 accident-free miles and delivering 4,400 gallons of fuel to multiple receiving units.

Sgt Arroyo's exceptional professionalism, unrelenting perseverance, and loyal devotion to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Navy.

The City of Cerritos "adopted" the Marines and Sailors of the 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, stationed in Camp Pendleton on Nov. 11, 2007.

A large contingent of Marines from this engineering battalion is already deployed in Afghanistan. On Jan. 16 the Friends of the 1st CEB mailed care packages to all the deployed Marines and Sailors.

# Cerritos College Offers Day, Evening ESL Courses

Cerritos College's Liberal Arts Division offers classes in English as a Second Language (ESL) with the start of the spring semester on Jan. 13.

Classes are offered at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, and are available for \$46 per unit (most classes are three units).

Several classes are offered during both the day and evening. ESL classes at Cerritos College offer: Pronunciation, Oral communication, Speaking and listening, Grammar, Reading, Vocabulary, Writing and structure, American expressions and culture, Spelling,

and Editing.

The 18-Week Session goes from Jan. 13 - May 23, 2014, and the second 9-Week session goes from March 24 - May 23, 2014.

Cerritos College is located at 11110 Alondra Blvd Norwalk, CA 90650 A map of the campus is available at [www.cerritos.edu/map](http://www.cerritos.edu/map) or [www.cerritos.edu/google-map](http://www.cerritos.edu/google-map).

**CONTACT:** For more information, please contact Lucia Coulter at (562) 860-2451, ext. 2847 or by e-mail at [lcoulter@cerritos.edu](mailto:lcoulter@cerritos.edu). The cost is \$46 per unit; parking is \$2 per day or \$40 a semester.



# Pathways Volunteer Hospice Invites Public to 'Death Trap'

A play within a play. "Death Trap" is an alluring story about Sydney Bruhl, a morally ambiguous, yet talented, Broadway writer. Discouraged by a series of script flops, he believes his fortune may change when he comes across a potentially successful script.

The play is filled with plenty of plot twists and turns, cleverness, humor and suspense!

Pathways Volunteer Hospice invites you to join us for a special night out with family and friends at the Long Beach Playhouse on Feb. 13. Enjoy a private performance of the play adaptation of this unique story, Death Trap.

Relish in complimentary beverages before the show. During intermission, Pathways board members and volunteers will be on hand to serve complimentary coffee, wine and dessert.

mentary coffee, wine and dessert.

The Long Beach Playhouse is located at 5021 E. Anaheim Street in Long Beach. The doors open at 7 p.m. and curtain call is 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices are only \$25, and all proceeds go to benefit the many programs and services offered by Pathways at no charge to the local community.

For nearly 29 years Pathways has been a trusted resource in the Long Beach and surrounding communities, providing volunteer caregiving for the frail-elderly, hospice services for the terminally ill and bereavement counseling and support for children and families.

For more information, tickets and reservations, please call Pathways at (562) 531-3031 or visit our website at [www.pathwayshospice.org](http://www.pathwayshospice.org).

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**United States Air Force Band of the Golden West**  
**SUN, FEB 19, 3:00 PM**

Dear Friend:

In honor of Presidents' Day, the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts invites you to join us for a free concert by the U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West. The performance features standard wind ensemble literature, military marches, Jazz and Pop arrangements, Broadway standards and patriotic music with vocal and instrumental solos. The concert will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 19.

Stationed at Travis Air Force Base in the San Francisco area, the band tours California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Idaho, entertaining millions of fans with radio broadcasts and live performances.

Obtain complimentary tickets at the CCPA Ticket Office or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the number of tickets desired to the CCPA Ticket Office at 12700 Center Court Drive, Cerritos, CA 90703. There is a limit of six free tickets per household. Seating is General Admission. A stand-by line for overflow seating will be implemented if the concert sells out.

Best regards,  
 Diane Cheney, Executive Director, CCPA

**Box Office Hours:** Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 12 - 4 p.m., On Performance Days: Open two hours prior to performance and until 1/2 past curtain.

# Every Day is Like a Blank Page From Page 4

many veterans who have come back from combat who need our help. The government and Veteran's Administration seem to be bogged down and many veterans slip through the cracks.

We decided to help out by holding fundraising affairs like you do, visiting them in the VA hospitals and their families. In fact, some of members have been taking their dogs to visit with the veterans. I don't know what it is about dogs, but they sure cheer them up."

"You know," I said, Sometimes we get so caught up in our own lives

that we forget there are those who went to war so we could do that, and we forget what they did for us."

"Isn't that the truth," he said. "I hope the Florida State-Auburn game in the Rose Bowl not only uplifted our veterans, but also the fans who watched the game."

"I suspect it did. It was a game that fans will be talking about for a long time."

With that, my Friend from Fruitcake, Florida lifted himself up from his chair. "I have to go," he said. "I'll see you around."

**INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR OWN COMIC STRIP?**

**Call Jerry at (562) 650-0437**

A History of the School

# Our Lady of Fatima School Holds Open House

The parish church, Holy Family Church, was established in 1930. It was originally located at the corner of Corby Avenue and 188th Street. In 1943, Holy Family welcomed its fourth pastor, Fr. Patrick O'Connor.

Within months of his arrival, he initiated plans to expand the parish facilities and in 1945, he was granted permission by the Archdiocese to purchase a 4-1/2 acre site at what was then, 17th and Vine Street (today 187th and Clarkdale Avenue).

This area would serve as the home of a parish plant to include a new church, a convent and school, a church rectory and additional office space.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary were invited to run and staff the school. And as they had before, parishioners rallied behind the plans, particularly members of the Our Lady of Fatima Society.

Led by Mrs. Joe (Ade-line) Fernandes, Sr., they set out on a door-to-door campaign, collecting donations (over \$50,000) to ensure the construction of the new educational facility.

Three years later, on Aug. 22, 1948, the Most Reverend Joseph T. McGucken, Auxil-



iliary Bishop of Los Angeles, officiated at the dedication of a new elementary school, and three weeks later, on Sept. 13, 1948, Our Lady of Fatima School opened.

The school was named in honor of the Blessed Mother who appeared in Fatima, Portugal. The school's name, different from the parish name, was chosen to honor the hard work and generosity of local Portuguese and Dutch parishioners who made this school a reality.

At the time, OLF held the unique distinction of being one of the few Catholic schools not named after its home parish, and the only school in the United States named after Our Lady of Fatima.

The school was quickly recognized for its educational excellence, providing instruction for the elementary and middle school grades. In 1951, the first school uniforms were introduced, and in 1953, the school hired its first lay teacher for grade 7.

Headed by its first principal, Sister Blanche Marie, the motto of the school, "A Caring Place to Grow" became well-deserved. Several alumni still remember with pride and fondness the knowledge, self-discipline, confidence, and mutual respect they gained at the school, which have become hallmarks of its well-rounded

See **Open House** Page 11

# A Reflection on Baptism

By Melinda Kimsey

As we move through the Bible, we are reminded of the Gospel of Matthew as we reflect on the life of John the Baptist. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by John.

Recognizing Jesus, John tried to prevent Him by saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet You are coming to me? Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."

Then Jesus allowed John to baptize Him. After Jesus was baptized, He came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon Him. A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus' adult ministry begins with His baptism. Without a doubt, His baptism was a defining moment in the life of Jesus, as well as, the fulfillment of the Scriptures.

He emerges from years of obscurity to become a public figure at the baptism. Jesus came to be baptized, but does not need to be baptized. The paradox of who Jesus is begins early in his public life. The circumstances following his bap-

tism suggest that something momentous is happening in this experience. The heavens are opened. The veil that separates the heavenly realm from the earthly is pulled back, and the gap between God and creation is revealed.

Next, a heavenly voice is heard and the voice speaks in heaven, but the echo is heard on Earth. This signals that Jesus is the Son, the Beloved, and the One who pleases God. This otherwise unknown person knows that He is the Son of God, and now others will see Him as the embodiment of God, as the essence of God's reality on Earth.

Our baptism parallels this event in Jesus' life. For we also are immersed into water, and when we arise we are new and whole. We are transformed. The barrier between ourselves and God, a barrier between sin and God is removed. With Jesus we are surrounded by the warm, loving Spirit of God.

The Voice echoes in us that we are known to be loved by God, from whom all things come. With Jesus, we emerge from baptism empowered to do battle with our demons and become the person to carry the Word into the world. Also, we are called to spread the Good News.

We can give thanks to God for insights gained and for our direction on Earth secured as we reflect on our own baptism.



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## Cerritos Shopping Center From Page 1

The eastern portion was approved by the City Council in 1975 and the western portion in 1983.

Cisneros said the Center contains several large anchor tenants including Ralph's grocery store, CVS Drug Store, Cerritos Bowling Center, and the vacant "Tall Mouse" site that will be occupied by Orchard Supply Hardware.

In addition, free standing tenants include Well Fargo Bank, Chase Bank, Grandstand Grill Restaurant, and two multi-tenant retail buildings, for a total of 198,892 sq. ft. with a total of 967 parking spaces. Access to the site is provided by five driveways: two off Carmenita Road and three off South Street.

In her report to the council, Cisneros said the proposed project includes an updated pedestrian circulation plan. She noted the Center that was developed in the 1970's and 80's.

Parking, pedestrian areas and walkways were designed in accordance with the guidelines of that time.

The changes will include illuminated up-lighting for increased nighttime visibility. "Caution Pedestrians Present" signs shall meet the standards of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for streets and highways. In addition all walkway areas around the buildings, enhanced paving on designated pedestrian crossings from vehicle drive aisles will be included.

The proposed project provides required ADA ramping and path of travel from the shopping center walkways to the pedestrian sidewalk adjacent to South Street and Carmenita Road.

The landscape architect has proposed to change the on-site plant material with more native California landscaping in an effort to reduce water needs.

The new plant material will replace older plants installed in the 70's and 80's and is designed to reduce landscape maintenance while providing a more colorful and vibrant environment for tenants and customers.

Additional trees will also be installed in the field parking areas in new diamond shaped landscape planters. Missing trees in the center will be replaced with tree species that will not block views of business signage.

No decision has been made about replacing the art pieces that were stolen off the property last year or using the rescued pieces stored in the city yard.

### Underground Utilities

In other business the council approved the installation of underground utility lines on Shoemaker Avenue from Droxford Street to 183rd Street replacing the existing overhead lines.

In his report to the council, Assistant City Engineer Kanna Vancheswaren said Southern California Edison sets aside

funds for the undergrounding of utilities in Southern California cities. At its Aug. 8, 2013 meeting, the council recommended moving forward with the project.

The council authorized an underground district be formed where existing above ground utilities must be removed and relocated underground, paving the way for Edison to precede with the installation and maintenance of the lines.

### Tree Removal

The council also approved a request by Valleycrest Landscape Maintenance on behalf of property owners, Teacher Insurance and Annuity Association of America with offices in Newport Beach, for the removal of 58 trees and their replacement in a portion of the Cerritos Industrial Park.

In her report to the council Senior Planner Sandy Cisneros said trees were diseased and needed to be removed.

She said following an inspection of the trees by a certified arborist, it was determined the health of the trees were declining due to a combination of infections called Verticillium wilt and Elyella fastidiosa which cause leaf loss, dead branches and the ultimate death of the tree. She said there was no cure for the condition.

Responding to a question from Mayor Pro Tem Mark Pulido, she said the disease appears to be limited only to the above mentioned trees.



Thirty-five college professors from 15 vocational colleges from China recently visited CTE programs at Cerritos College.

## Cerritos College Hosts Professors, Deans from China

Cerritos College hosted 35 education leaders from China on Jan. 15. The visiting group included deans and professors from 15 Vocational & Technical Colleges from China.

"The purpose of their visit was to see first-hand the successful community college career technical education programs at Cerritos College," said Cerritos College Board trustee Dr. Shin Liu, who orchestrated the visit.

The group was greeted by the Dean of Health Occupation, Sandra Marks, the Dean of Technology, Dr. Nick Real and the Dean of Culinary Art Program, Michael Pierini.

Cerritos College's Technology and Health Occupation Divisions offer various CTE programs that train students in the high demand skills and prepare them for employment in current or emerging occupations, including but not

limited to, automotive, cosmetology, culinary arts, dental hygiene, manufacturing technology, nursing, pharmacy technology and many more.

The visitors first visited the Culinary Arts Program. Michael Peierini introduced the curriculums and led the visitors on a tour of the kitchen, faculty dining room and student café.

The visitors then toured the Automotive Technology classes and the Skills Lab, where they learned about the Technology and Health Occupation Division programs at the college.

The delegation was particularly interested in the automotive technology, nursing program and Culinary Arts Program. They hope to establish student/faculty exchange programs with Cerritos College and eagerly asked questions about these areas.

## Our Lady of Fatima Holds Open House From Page 10

curriculum. In the course of the past 60 years, thousands of students have benefited from the quality education that is second to none.

Father O'Connor was also in large measure responsible for the school's notoriety, energetically expanding its sports program. Throughout the 1950's, under his guidance and support, OLF became the site of the grade school annual basketball tournaments, with athletes from surrounding parishes and districts competing for titles not only inside the auditorium, but on the numerous courts extending across the campus blacktop.

The many basketball hoops located even today behind the church are one testament to Fr. O'Connor's sports program, as are the numerous trophies won over the years.

One of the most beautiful landmarks located on the parish grounds dates back

to 1956. In May of that year, during the Our Lady of Fatima celebrations, dedicated and committed people came together to erect the open-air shrine in the school courtyard of the Fatima apparition.

The shrine was designed by architect Earl Trudeau and was built under the supervision of Robert Lee of Westminster, with stone work by Hendrik DeBoer of Anaheim, and tile work by Roy Applegate of Long Beach. At its centerpiece is a magnificent eight-foot marble statue of Our Lady sculpted in France by the renowned artist Georges Serraz.

For more than 50 years, this peaceful corner of greenery nestled between the auditorium and the school office has held special significance for students, faculty, and parishioners, commemorating the three shepherd children who witnessed and transmitted the messages of the Blessed Mother to the world.



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- Meet Assemblymember & district staff

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Dennise Silva ([dennise.silva@asm.ca.gov](mailto:dennise.silva@asm.ca.gov)) or call (562) 861-5803.

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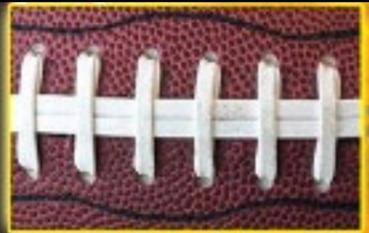
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