



# The Downey Patriot



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Friday, March 14, 2008

Vol. 6 No. 47

8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240

## Mayor expresses 'guarded optimism' for city's future

■ David Gafin's State of the City address lends an eye towards a seemingly promising future.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** — Downey is reaping the benefits of past conservative spending, and several prominent community developments are currently in the works, allowing for "guarded optimism" by Mayor David Gafin, who spoke at last Friday's State of the City luncheon sponsored by the Downey Chamber of Commerce.



David Gafin

Gafin made the remarks before an estimated 100 community leaders who packed Sambi's restaurant in Downey.

According to Gafin, a declining economy has resulted in a projected downturn in sales tax revenue for the city, although property taxes are expected to increase by 6 percent.

"There will be no major expansions of city programs, but we do not expect any cuts either," said Gafin.

Gafin touted several construction projects currently underway, including the Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center, scheduled to open as soon as August; Iglesias de Christo Church on Woodruff Avenue, scheduled to open by September; a 50-unit industrial condominium project on Hall Street, scheduled for completion by May; a 16-unit residential complex at 7714 Stewart & Gray Rd., also by May; and a dialysis center on the former Stats property on Lakewood Boulevard, which should be completed by June.

Kaiser Permanente's new hospital "will have a major impact on our city," said Gafin. The 390-bed hospital with an 80-bed emergency room is expected to create 3,000 new jobs in the city.

Downey lost an estimated 3,250 jobs when Boeing closed several years ago.

Gafin said the city is in the process of "trying to find the best use" for Downey Studios, which

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## WWII veterans share intimate stories of their fight for freedom

■ Library is displaying first-person accounts of veterans' battles during Second World War.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

There's no doubt about it, practically every video store offers a variety of war films to be viewed, ranging from the documentation of war's most brutal and bloody battles, to providing the more "sugar-coated" aspect of war. No matter your selection, however, there's nothing better — nor more real — than learning of the dynamics of war from a veteran himself.



On Feb. 2, some of World War II's bravest veterans shared their captivating, and sometimes heartbreaking, photographs and stories with the Downey City Library, an event that is now documented and displayed at the library's entrance. The 26 veterans featured, all with Downey ties, include men and women from all military branches — Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

They each had their own stories — stories that varied in more ways than one. Some were drafted, while others joined willingly. Some were injured, while others watched their comrades die. And some worked behind the scenes, while others were ordered to front lines.

But the one commonality they share is that they all fought for, or contributed to, our country's freedom.

They are the men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and WWII, and went on to build modern America. Their generation is the one we learn about in textbooks, and it is their generation that is the basis for Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation," the library's choice for the "One Book, One Community" reading program.



This display recounting memories of local veterans during World War II will be on display at the Downey City Library through the end of March. Photo by Brooke Karli

Brokaw writes, "Millions of men and women were involved in this tumultuous journey through adversity and achievement, despair and triumph. Certainly there were those who failed to measure up, but taken as a whole this generation did have a 'rendezvous with destiny' that went well beyond the outsized expectations of President Roosevelt when he first issued that call to duty in 1936.

"This was not a perfect generation," Brokaw says. "They made mis-

See VETERANS, page 9



Downey High School senior Caleb Shifflet has been accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard announced this week. "I am extremely proud of Caleb," Roybal-Allard said. "He is an exceptional young man who earned admission to one of our nation's most prestigious service academies through his hard work, commitment and leadership abilities."

## Delinquency prevention Juvenile Hall battle cry

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Judge Philip K. Mautino, who has served as presiding judge at the Los Padrinos Juvenile Court facility in Downey for the past seven years, doesn't question the research finding of social scientists that there are three major causes of juvenile delinquency: 1) lack of education, 2) bad attitude of the parents, and 3) bad peer group.

He wishes kids were more serious about their schooling ("I believe crime begins in truancy"), supported and pushed more by themselves enlightened and upright parents (Imagine the further impact of school and church, especially in their formative years!), and shielded from bad peer influence ("The best place for kids is the home"). He knows, nevertheless, that in the case of erring juveniles, in this present day and age, this is like asking for the moon.

He doesn't mind the odds he faces, though. Judge Mautino is personally, professionally, absolutely, on the side of juvenile delinquency prevention rather than incarceration.

Sitting in one of three courtrooms at the facility at 7281 East Quill Drive (situated by the Los Amigos golf course), where youths 18 years or younger are brought in for judgment on a whole range of legal infractions, Judge Mautino says his first duty as a juvenile judge is to "protect the public." Applied specifically to juvenile recalcitrants, this means trying to "rehabilitate the minor."

Indeed, the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall facility, with its holding capacity

See MAUTINO, page 8

## Citing low profits, Taro's Tapas out at Embassy

■ Firestone Grill replaces Taro's Tapas as hotel chain revamps policy on restaurant leases.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** — In an attempt to increase overall profit and improve customer satisfaction, Hilton Hotels Corporation, the parent company of Embassy Suites Hotels, has decided to no longer lease out their hotels' restaurants and instead have them managed by an in-house management team, said George Korkar, director of food and beverage at Embassy Suites in Downey.

The decision signaled the departure of Taro's Tapas inside Downey's Embassy Suites and the addition of Firestone Grill.

According to Korkar, leasing out the restaurant had raised some issues dating back to when Gregory's restaurant occupied the space.

"When a hotel leases out the restaurant area, there are two main problems," said Korkar, who has worked for Hilton for 12 years. "One, the tenant doesn't necessarily have to abide by Hilton policies because they are independent from Hilton, and two, any problems that may occur at the restaurant can ultimately affect the hotel."

Doris Rui, an accountant for Taro's Tapas, said that the restaurant, open from February 2006 to January 2008, closed simply because Hilton



took it over. Korkar said that Hilton took over the restaurant because it wasn't being managed properly and not bringing in the numbers needed to make it profitable, a poor reflection on the Embassy Suites.

Before Taro's Tapas occupied the space, Gregory's leased the restaurant from 1985, when Embassy Suites in Downey opened, to 2005. According to Rick Andro, son of the late Gregory Andro, Gregory's was planning on partnering with Shunji Muso, general manager of Taro's Tapas, in managing the restaurant, but those plans fell through.

The Gregory's located at North Anaheim's Embassy Suites closed December of last year, when Hilton decided to take it over, Andro said.

"We really miss being in Downey," said Andro. "We would still be there if we could."

Andro said he hopes to open another Gregory's as soon as possible, and is looking at the Riverside area as the next potential location.

Firestone Grill, named after Firestone Boulevard, is Hilton's attempt to revamp the hotel's restaurant and increase the overall revenue. The restaurant officially opened on Jan. 22, one day after Taro's Tapas closed.

Firestone Grill, which is not a chain restaurant, offers everything from salads to pasta to grilled chicken, salmon and steaks. Menu prices vary from \$4 to \$30. The restaurant also offers daily lunch and dinner specials, as well as Sunday brunches and buffets for special occasions such as Easter and Mother's Day.

Firestone Grill is open from 11 a.m. to midnight daily and is located inside Embassy Suites in Downey, 8425 Firestone Blvd.

## Sometimes all they need is a chance

■ Finding work is already difficult, but when you're disabled, it can be nearly impossible.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

I want a job — give me a chance and I'll prove I'm an excellent worker." It's the only thing the workers at Arc of Southeast Los Angeles are asking for, is a chance.

They don't want a handout.

They don't want special treatment.

Lord knows they don't want to be pitied over.

All they want — all they need — is a chance to work and be productive, to earn their keep, to pay taxes and be a contributing and productive member of society.

A chance to live life as normal as possible, just like you and me.

Chances, sadly, are increasingly difficult to come by.

It's not any fault of Arc, which continues to expand their vast array of in-house programs in hopes of getting their "consumers" (their preferred term for the developmentally handicapped persons they assist) jobs in a "regular" workplace.

Last October, Arc began renting out small retail offices across the street from their headquarters on Woodruff Avenue for the new Southeast Employment Center. In the matter of a day, the rooms can be transformed

See ARC, page 11



Job seekers practice putting away "go-backs" in a simulated grocery store provided by Arc of Southeast Los Angeles. The workers, suffering from mental and/or developmental disabilities, are seeking employment. Photo by Eric Pierce

## Family lobbies for arthritis awareness

■ The Minnig Family of Downey travels to Washington after 3-year-old Mikayla is diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.

BY BROOKE KARLI, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – It was Thanksgiving Day when Mikayla Minnig made her first trip to the hospital. She was three at the time and all her parents knew was that something was wrong.

“Her neck and shoulders were just so stiff,” said Janet Minnig, Mikayla’s mom. “It was so bad that she would clench her teeth when talking.”

At first, doctors couldn’t pinpoint the problem, diagnosing the stiffness as a result of a severe ear infection. Mikayla was prescribed antibiotics, but the stiffness continued to worsen.

Nearly a month later, while driving home, Janet rushed Mikayla directly to the hospital.

“She would cry and scream every time the car hit a bump in the road,” said Janet, a special education aide at Rio Hondo Elementary School. “She was just that stiff.”

Mikayla was admitted to the hospital immediately. Even after numerous tests were conducted, doctors still could not pinpoint the problem and advised Janet, and her husband Michael, to take Mikayla to a neurologist at USC, as they thought her condition probably had to do with some type of disorder in her nervous system.

A week before her fourth birthday, Mikayla’s left knee became very swollen and hot to the touch. Ironically, following months of testing and going from doctor to doctor, it was her orthopedist that said, “I bet she has Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis,” also known as JRA.

That following Monday, she was diagnosed with pauciarticular JRA, the most common and mildest type of JRA which affects one to four joints, including the knees, ankles, fingers, toes, wrists, elbows and hips.

Although the cause of JRA is unknown, a number of things can lead to it, including an immune system that is too active and attacks joint tissues; viruses or other infections that cause the immune system to attack joint tissues; or having a certain gene that makes the immune system more likely to attack joint tissues.

Mikayla also tested positive for Antinuclear Antibodies (ANAs), which are found in patients whose immune system is inclined to cause inflammation against their own body tissues. ANAs also put the eyes at risk for inflammation as well.

“Mikayla has always had really good eyes,” Janet said. “But we visit her pediatric ophthalmologist every three months to monitor inflammation.”

Since her diagnosis, Mikayla, a fourth-grader at Trinity Christian School in Norwalk, has been on and off medication, as she can go into remission for up to two years at a time. Although she is on the school’s cheerleading squad, she knows when she needs to take it easy.

“She has become very aware of her limitations and knows when she needs to rest,” said Janet, a 1980 graduate of Warren High School and life-long resident of Downey. “Instead of saying, ‘I can’t do it,’ she says, ‘It doesn’t work right’ – and we all know what that means.”

**RESOURCES ON THE WEB**

**Arthritis Foundation**  
www.arthritis.org

**WebMD**  
arthritis.webmd.com

**CDC**  
www.cdc.gov



The Minnig Family is lobbying Congress to pass the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act, which supporters say will help raise awareness of juvenile arthritis.

Recently, Mikayla and her parents participated in the 2008 Arthritis Foundation Advocacy and Kids’ Summit in Washington, D.C. Feb. 25 – 27. The family joined nearly 400 people in lobbying to pass the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act (S. 626/H.R. 1283).

According to the Arthritis Foundation’s Web site, www.arthritis.org, the legislation will:

- Strengthen arthritis public health initiatives, allowing more people to be diagnosed early and avoid pain and permanent disability;
- Expand the reach of evidence based self-management activities such as weight control and physical activity, which have been proven to reduce pain and reduce health care expenditures;
- Ensure that limited federal funding for arthritis is used in the most strategic manner possible through the formation of a federal interagency coordinating committee; and
- Authorize a remedy to address the country’s severe shortage of pediatric rheumatologists.

Ultimately, the bill will provide aide to the more than 46 million

See ARTHRITIS, page 9

## Downey youth skate into spring break

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey Community Services Department is offering a skate camp for youth ages 6 to 16 from March 24 – 28 at Independence Park.

The camp is designed to challenge youth with activities conducted by trained and skilled skating personnel.

The camp will also include excursions, guest visitors and mini-skate park trips throughout the week. The camp will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily and costs \$80, which includes supervision, supplies, snacks and bus trip.

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

## Ezra features ‘Jews Around the World’

**DOWNEY** – The Ezra Center for Mature Adults of Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will have its next meeting, “Jews Around the World,” on March 18 at 9:45 a.m.

Stuart F. Tower, author, lecturer and traveler, will talk about his experiences in discovering Jews in places such as Asia, Africa, South America and Europe, as well as in North America.

Registration, coffee and tea, and refreshments will begin at 9:45 a.m., followed by the program at 10 a.m. A catered luncheon will be served after the program for \$6 for Ezra members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call Miriam Brookfield at (562) 943-3170.

## Spring camp offered to Downey’s kids

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey Community Services Department is offering a spring camp for youth ages 6 – 14 from March 24 – 28 at Wilderness Park.

Cost for each camp is \$80 a week and \$75 for a second child from the same family. Fees include supervision, lunch beverage, daily snack and an excursion, which will take place at Knott’s Berry Farm on March 28.

Camp hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with extended care from 7 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 6 p.m. Extended care costs \$35 and \$30 for a second family member.

For more information, or to register, call (562) 904-7238.

## Workshop explores ‘Your Best Year Yet’

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Church for Spiritual Enrichment is hosting a workshop, “Your Best Year Yet!,” on March 16 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The workshop, conducted by Rev. George Hines, is based on the book “Your Best Year Yet!” by Jinny Ditzler. The workshop will cover goal setting, setting priorities and exploring the beliefs that could ultimately limit achievement.

A \$10 donation is suggested but not required.

The church is located at 10000 S. Paramount Blvd. in Downey.

For more information call (562) 869-6053.

## Textbooks available for reviewing

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Unified School District invites the community to examine textbooks being considered for adoption by the Board of Education for use in middle and high school special education, middle and high school visual and performing arts, high school English, and high school science classes.

Copies of the textbooks are on display on the second floor, adjacent to the office of secondary education, at the Gallegos Administration Center located at 11627 Brookshire Ave.

Textbooks will be available for review from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, through April 14.

Anyone wishing to offer suggestions or criticism about the textbooks proposed for adoption must submit comments in writing to the superintendent seven days prior to the board meeting at which the books will be adopted. Adoption will be recommended at the Board of Education meeting scheduled for April 15.

Congratulations go out to George & Marilyn Royce, who on March 16, 2008 will celebrate 50 years of marriage. George & Marilyn met in grammar school, where after some name calling and dirt clod throwing they decided, although much later, that they like each other. George graduated from Bell High School and Marilyn graduated from Downey High School. After they were married, George worked for Dixon Crane and finished out his career at Bragg Crane. Marilyn worked for Non Corrosive Products in the office before quitting to stay home with her family. They’ve lived in Downey for over 50 years and raised three children and are now enjoying retirement right here in Downey where it all started!!



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For tickets please contact  
The Downey Symphony office at (562) 403-2944

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DINE OUT IN DOWNEY

SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE ACROSS THE WORLD

## Larkin-Guerra issues surface at meeting

■ Mario Guerra abstains from vote appointing Maria Larkin to city's parking commission.

BY ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – Maria Larkin was appointed to the Parking Place Commission on a 4-0 vote by the City Council this week, with Mayor Pro Tem Mario Guerra abstaining after citing a previous conflict with Larkin over the Holiday Lane Parade.

At Tuesday's meeting, Guerra read out loud portions of a letter Larkin reportedly sent to Fire Chief Mark Sauter in November of last year, informing him that the department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) would not be allowed to participate in the parade.

Larkin serves as parade chairman and oversees the Holiday Lane Parade Committee, which organizes the event on behalf of the Downey Chamber of Commerce.

In the letter, Larkin wrote that the Holiday Lane Parade Committee voted not to allow any committee to participate in the parade, in the interest of being fair to other committees and organizations in the city.

The letter, which was addressed to Sauter and copied to City Manager Gerald Caton and Chamber executive director Sue Nordin, prompted a reply by Guerra, who disputed the decision.

Guerra specifically challenged CERT's designation as a committee.

A follow-up letter by Chamber president Jaime Garcia, dated Feb. 11 of this year and sent to Guerra, Sauter, Mayor David Gafin, and Chamber president-elect Rick Rodriguez, said CERT members would be allowed to participate in the parade and ride atop a fire truck.

At Tuesday's meeting, Guerra said he would not vote for Larkin's appointment.

"I told myself when I was voted into office last year that I would do what I thought was best for the city," said Guerra.

Last year Larkin accused Guerra of confronting her in the City Hall lobby at the Dec. 5 mayoral transition, where she spoke out against the City Council's decision to vote Guerra mayor pro tem, bypassing Councilwoman Anne Bayer.

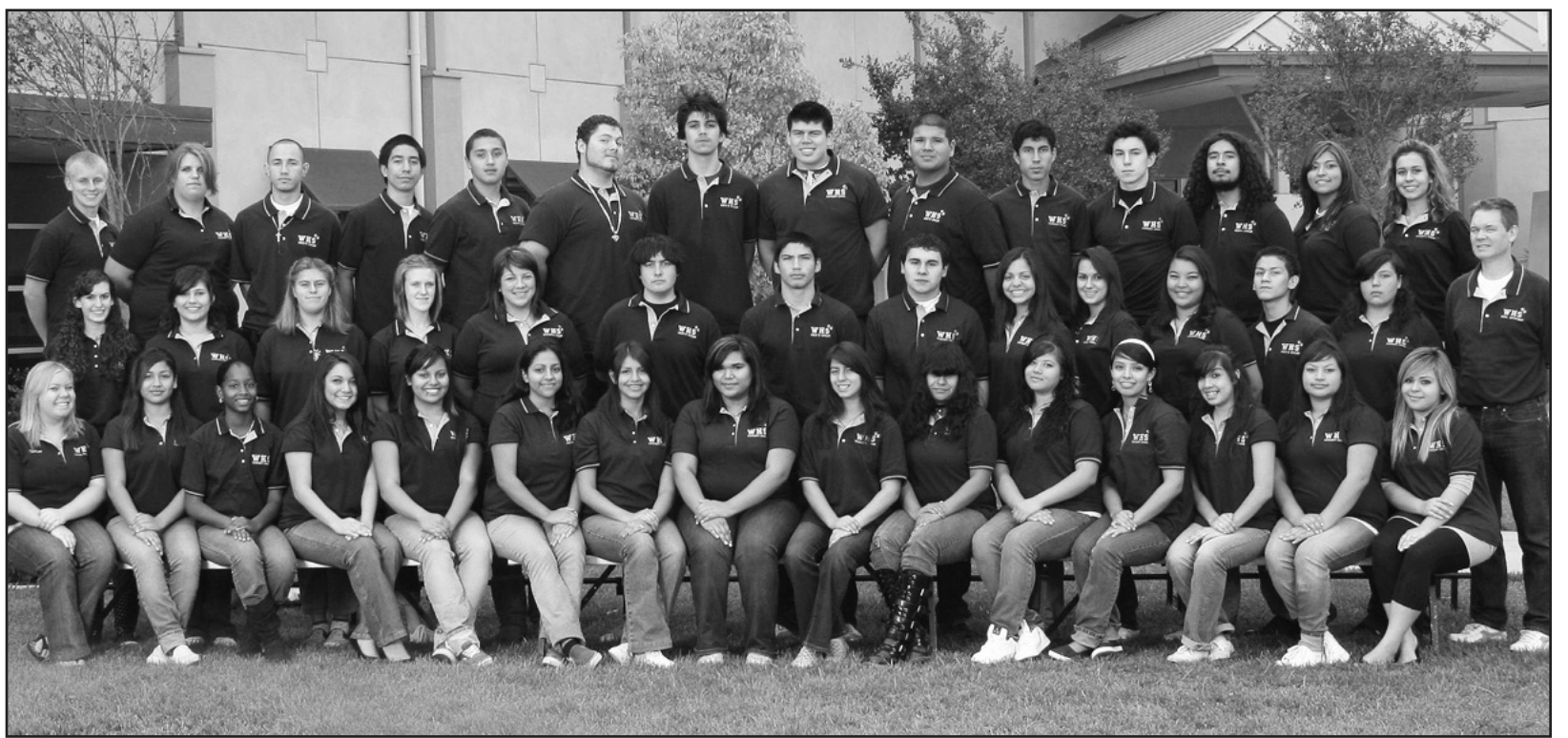
Bayer nominated Larkin for the Parking Place Commission.



Maria Larkin



Mario Guerra



The 42-voice Warren High School Concert Choir, under the director of Robert Petersen, will perform at tomorrow's Songfest 2008 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 12425 Orizaba Ave. in Downey.

## City Council breezes through routine agenda

■ An operator is chosen to run Downey's upcoming farmers market, set to debut next month. Schools are expected to have an active role.

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY**—Working with a more abbreviated agenda than usual, the City Council Tuesday:

\*Introduced, after the requisite public hearing, an ordinance approving Code Amendment No. 07-170, which moves the Subdivision Ordinance within the Municipal Code from Chapter 2 to Chapter 9, of Article IX, as the new updated format will require the use of Chapters 1 through 8, inclusive, of Article IX for the Zoning Ordinance;

\*Also after the required public hearing, introduced an ordinance approving an amendment to the city's Comprehensive Zoning Map, changing the zoning classification of the property at 9520 Telegraph Rd. from R-1 5,000 (Single Family Residential) to R-3 (Medium Density Multiple-Family Residential), and adopting the appropriate negative declaration;

\*Approved an agreement with California Certified Farmers Markets, Inc., operators of ten markets in Los Angeles County and known to fund school gardens and other programs in their areas of operation (which promote the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables in nearby schools and communities), whereby the latter will operate and manage a farmers market in Downey;

\*Approved the Chamber of Commerce Street Faire permit for May 3;

\*Approved the contract with Willdan for Engineering Division's plan check and traffic engineering services, due to the lack of qualified candidates for several unfilled positions within the department;

\*Referred the appeal of Young Ae Oh for the denial of a Massage Technician work permit to a Hearing Officer (in conformance with Downey Municipal Code 6404);

\*Adopted a resolution appointing Maria Larkin to the Parking Place Commission for Council District No. 4;

\*Adopted a resolution reciting the fact of the special municipal election held last Feb. 5 as being consolidated with the Presidential Primary Election held on the same date, and declaring the result (defeat of measure G – on Term Limits) and such other matters as provided by law;

\*Adopted an ordinance establishing the franchise fees, public access support fees and customer service penalties for state franchise holders that provide video service within the city of Downey; this provides a legal framework where Downey will, among other entitlements, be empowered to collect the standard five percent franchise fee based on franchisee's gross revenue, etc.;

\*Approved a loan request with the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum for a quarter-scale space shuttle model currently on display at the Calgary International Airport, and which is intended for use as a museum display artifact at the Columbia Space Learning Center; and

\*Heard a presentation proclaiming the 110th anniversary this year of the Woman's Club of Downey.

The next regular public City Council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25 at City Hall, 11111 Brookshire Ave.

## Kids Day celebrates healthy youth

**DOWNEY** – The city of Downey Community Services Department will host the annual "Kids Day" event on May 10 at Furman park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's theme, "A Celebration of Healthy Youth in a Caring Community," will feature a fun run, various health and youth sports vendors, live entertainment, carnival games and a giant slide for the youth. There will also be displays and demonstrations from the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments.

For information, call (562) 904-7238.

## Tap Project raising water awareness

**DOWNEY** – Six Downey restaurants have signed on to participate in Tap Project, the United Nation Children's Fund humanitarian aid program that partners local restaurants with their customers in an all-volunteer grassroots campaign to bring to the world's poorest children clean drinking water and basic sanitation.

Between March 16 - 22, Granata's Italian Villa, Pop's Café, Gourmet Café, Nordic Fox Restaurant, Sambi of Tokyo and Marisa's will invite their customers to donate \$1 or more for a glass of tap water they would normally receive for free. Donations will be directed through UNICEF.

For more information, visit [www.taproject.org](http://www.taproject.org).

## Six-Foot Sopranos stand tall at concert

**DOWNEY** – The Six-Foot Sopranos & Jay will perform on March 16 at the 3rd Sunday Coffee House at Christ Lutheran Church at 6 p.m.

Cantor Ellen Jaffee-Gill of Temple Ner Tamid in Downey leads the group, which also consists of Leah Elias, a founding member of the Los Angeles Zimriyah Chorale and featured soloist at Temple Adat Ari El in Valley Village, and Cantor Jay Harwitz, who directs the High Holy Days quartet at Congregation Beth Shalom in Whittier and has conducted pit orchestras at the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center for productions "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "Fiddler on the Roof."

The event is free and the community is invited to attend. Coffee and desserts will also be served.

Christ Lutheran Church is located at 7707 Florence Ave. in Downey.

## Thai dance troupe performs at local church

**DOWNEY** – The Thai Dance & Drama Troupe from Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand will be performing at the First Presbyterian Church of Downey on March 26 as part of their United States tour.

Led by Rev. Rob Collins, director of Payap University's Christian Communications Institute, and his wife, Esther Wakeman, the troupe consists of seven professional dancers and actors.

Their program will feature a number of dances from various regions of Thailand, as well as a traditional Thai Likay (melodrama).

Performances at the church will include a children's matinee at 3 p.m., followed by an evening performance at 7:30 p.m. Performances are free, but there will be an opportunity to contribute to the troupe's tour expenses.

For more information, call (562) 861-6752.

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Saturday, March 15, 2008  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
FREE ADMISSION

All Arts and Crafts are Handmade  
Breakfast and lunch items will be available throughout the day

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- Grades 4-8 include Algebra, Life, Earth & Physical Science and Religion- High School Preparatory
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- Total Enrollment 150
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- Additional Programs: Keyboard Lessons, Dance Class and Manners/Etiquette Classes Offered at Cost
- Before and After School Child Care Available

For Additional Information or a Tour of the School Please Call (562) 869-7213  
E-mail: [info@stmarkschooldowney.com](mailto:info@stmarkschooldowney.com)

**Arc**  
Southeast Los Angeles County  
12049 Woodruff Ave. Downey, CA 90241

**Arc Walk for Independence Saturday, April 5, 2008**

**Get Your Walking Team Together!**  
A one or three mile Walk to raise funds for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.  
**Stonewood Center – Downey**

Acapulco Restaurant  
(Corner of Firestone and Lakewood)  
Opening Ceremonies  
8:00 a.m.  
Walk Starts at  
8:30 a.m.

➤ Registration Fee \$10.00  
**Free Breakfast Courtesy of Acapulco Restaurant**  
Come celebrate and "Walk the Walk". Great fun for the family!  
You can make a difference! Join us for a morning of Giving and Hope!!!

• SPECIAL GUEST – PHILLIP PALMER (KABC)

For Registration Info. – Call 562-803-4606 ext. 262  
or register on-line at: [www.arcelac.org](http://www.arcelac.org)  
E-mail: [ARCKMAC@aol.com](mailto:ARCKMAC@aol.com)

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## Stauffer, Brabant honored as 'volunteers of the year' by Downey school district

■ Stacy Brabant, a volunteer who has held virtually every executive board position in Downey PTAS, is lauded as the epitome of "service with a smile." Stauffer needs no introduction.

By HENRY VENERACION,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY**—The Downey Unified School District Board of Education Tuesday honored Dr. Mary Stauffer and Stacy Brabant with "Volunteer of the Year" awards in the area of Parent/Community Relations. Making the presentations was Superintendent Wendy Doty.

Saying that Stauffer needed no introduction because of her well-known multitudinous and selfless donations and contributions not only to DUSD but the city, Doty thanked her and briefly traced how the Toledo-born philanthropist's high scholastic achievements early on propelled her to medical school and service in the medical field for 63 years before she retired at age 80. She has nevertheless continued working, this time as the CEO and COO of the foundation that bears her name. Among the many reminders of her munificence and good works is the Biological Science building at Downey High named Stauffer Hall.

Doty quoted one of Stauffer's favorite sayings: "Education is the way to knowledge, knowledge creates wisdom, and wisdom is the key to action." Stauffer, Doty said, continues to live her life "by leading with wisdom and passion."

A dedicated volunteer for the past 15 years, wife and mother of five Stacy Brabant, said Doty, has not let her busy family life deter her from serving the Downey community in a variety of ways.

Doty cited Brabant's work with the San Antonio Guild of Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, the Gypsy Johnson Auxiliary of the Assistance League of Downey, while "she has held virtually every executive board position in Downey PTAs. But she is best known for her "over-the-top sense of humor and love of life," said Doty. "She is the epitome of 'service with a smile'. There is no one more deserving of this honor than Stacy."

Prior to the presentations, the Board and audience were serenaded by the Price Elementary School Mixed Chorus, under the direction of Steve Toay, Jennifer Jara, and Lauren Chin.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude donations in cash and in kind from several donors, including \$5,000 from Alameda Elementary School PTA for student field trips, and \$1,500 from the Ellen and Clarence Foundation, to be used to provide eye glasses and eye exams for students in need, as well as \$2,900 worth of dictionaries from the Downey Elks Lodge, to be used in the district's 3rd grade classrooms; other beneficiaries were Gaudin and Lewis Elem. Schools, West Middle, and TLC Family Resource Center; Boardmember Barbara Samperi, in oral comments, said the donations were most welcome, especially "in these times of tight budgets";
- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;
- Ratified the general agreement with Autism Behavior Consultants for FY2007-08;
- Ratified payments for Special Education services;
- Ratified the mediation agreement in the settlement of attorney's fees of \$5,000;
- Approved the proposed revisions to AR 3111 (Regular School Calendar for 2008-09);
- Approved the proposed revisions to AR 3162 (Title 1 Parent Involvement);
- Approved the proposed addition to AR 6360 (Purchasing of Supplies—Department);
- Approved the Community-Based Tutoring (CBET) Program for FY2008-09;
- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;
- Ratified payments for hourly, overtime, and Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services for the month of January;
- Ratified B warrants for payment of authorized purchase obligations



Stacy Brabant



Mary Stauffer

incurred by law or district policy for February, 2008;

- Ratified the agreements between the Downey Adult School Career and Education Center and Centro Medico Santa Cruz, Mission San Juan Clinic, Retina Macula Institute, and the Norwalk Regional Health Center, for furnishing practical experience to students enrolled in the Medical Assistant program;

- Ratified Amendment #1 to the agreement with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for facilities, supplies, and services relating to Special Education Programs;

- Approved the fourth year renewal of a contract involving the services of electricians with Spike Electric of Anaheim in the estimated amount of \$500,000;

- Accepted and approved the use of the L.A. County Internal Services Department master agreement by and between L.A. County and Graybar Electric Co. of Los Angeles, for electric supplies and related services, by DUSD on an as needed basis, to take advantage of same advantages, terms and conditions;

- Approved the change orders for various phases of the modernization project at Warren High School, and for the Building "B" project at Downey High School, with the amounts to be charged to Bond Funds, as well as for speech-language pathology services (with Jane Haddad of Long Beach) and purchase of chicken products with Kings Delight of Atlanta, GA;

- Accepted as complete concrete, electrical, fencing, and backhoe services performed by various vendors;

- Approved the upward and downward adjustments of the 2007-08 General Fund restricted and unrestricted budgets, as well as the 2007-08 Adult School and Cafeteria Fund restricted budgets, along with those of the County School Facilities Fund and the Cafeteria Fund;

- Approved the purchase of equipment, as listed, in accordance with established purchasing policies and regulations;

- Approved routine Personnel items until subsequent action is taken by the Board of Education;

- Approved various job elimination and classification changes;

- Received the 2006-07 annual report of the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee from Chairperson Annie Casey, who received praise for her handling of the reports; she in turn praised her team members for doing a wonderful job over their term;

- Approved the Developer Fee Justification Study as provided by Public Economics, Inc.;

- After a public hearing, adopted a resolution to increase the school facilities fees on new residential, commercial, and industrial development;

- Reviewed the proposed revisions to AR 1105.1 (William Uniform Complaint Procedure);

- Reviewed the middle school and high school textbooks proposed for adoption for the 2008-09 school year;

- Received the 2007-08 Second Period Interim Financial Report (as of Jan. 31, 2008), and approved the positive certification that DUSD can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the 2007-08 fiscal year;

- Approved the amendments to the master agreement with the California School Employees Association, Chapters 248 and 746, effective July 1, 2007, including a 4.4 percent salary increase, effective Aug. 1, 2007; and

- Endorsed the actions taken by the Superintendent on student cases, deliberated on with the Board in closed session.

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be a Special Study Session meeting to which the public is invited to be held on Wednesday, April 2 at 8 a.m. in the ROP Room of the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

## The Poet's Corner

### My Wife's Death

We knew how it should be  
but it wasn't like that at all.  
She tried to explain.  
(She loved correcting me.)

She wanted to tell me what it was.  
She wanted to console me  
but I was calming her convulsing body  
when her last breath evaporated on my cheek.

Now I must learn for myself.

— Richard Thormodsen,  
Downey

### It Ain't Irish

I've been to the Auld Sod  
and find it quite odd:  
corned beef and cabbage  
just ain't all the rage.

As for Irish coffee  
it's for you and me only.  
The Irish don't touch the stuff  
e'en when the goin' gets tough  
they prefer the tan softness  
of the sout from Art Guinness.

And I ain't being mean  
when I say that the green  
is a color they don't wear  
on St. Paddy's over there;  
unless...they host a faire  
to part the Yanks from their  
hard-earned green lucre.

— Ron Davis,  
Downey

### Poem

I was walking down the peaceful country lane, my feet started swelling  
Crieke, I loudly said to myself, my feet, I forgot to put on my jellins

I approached the stream and considered the cross  
and reached down to stroke my pet  
I slipped down the bank my butt and my mutt and landed in the drink  
I considered the swim, maybe not, it's a stream  
instead jumped on the chihuahua  
We struggled across, one foot on the bottom  
Salmon and Swordfish abound  
With fish in mouth the chihuahua and I finally found some dry ground

I called the Patriot's Eric -- come rescue my butt and my mutt  
and don't forget the bone  
To which Eric replied -- with Brooke laughing in the background  
Shirley, anyone who writes a poem like this  
can surely make it on their own.

And he did.  
— Shirley Johnson,  
Downey

### 20Years to Present

Twenty years ago before I was born  
They settled disputes still I reap their scorn  
The jeans I wore today nobody will wear  
Twenty years later I'm sure we'll all don a pair  
There once was a teen  
Said he'd be a skater  
Twenty more falls and I'll see you later  
I saw a mom clean after her kids well through fall  
Twenty years later who bothers return her calls  
Before I saw I worked so hard  
Not knowing hard work doesn't always get you far  
And so I sat on my porch  
Wondering all along  
What will it be when I am gone.

— James Hernandez,  
Downey

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## Who you calling fat?

Dear Editor:  
 When I saw the picture of Johnie's Broiler ("Bob's Big Boy Agrees to Tentative Lease Deal," 3/7/08), I immediately looked for Chubby holding his hamburger. There he was beneath the sign 'Johnie's Broiler.'  
 Two previous letters to the editor called Chubby 'Fat Boy.' Chubby is the name of Harvey's hamburger.  
 Hopefully the correct name Chubby will be restored. No more 'Fat Boy!'  
 Soon Chubby will be joined with Bob's Big Boy.  
**—Catherine Reed,  
 Downey**

## 7 dirty words to never link to Baby Boomers

BY CHUCK UNDERWOOD



They are the Forever-Young Generation. How did that happen?  
 They came of age during perhaps the greatest time in American history to be a kid: the '50s, '60s, and '70s. As their generation was molding unique and lifelong core values, their nation was taking on its biggest problems and solving them. Finding cures to disease, confronting and erasing its own unfair prejudices, landing men on the moon.  
 Neighborhoods were safe, families were strong, jobs for Dad were secure, commercial radio and television were upbeat and clean-talking. Neighbors helped neighbors. As the opening sequence of the TV sitcom "The Wonder Years" accurately describes it, it was "a golden age for kids." And beyond their control, they are the generation that would enjoy the remarkably good fortune to arrive on the planet just then.  
 The Baby Boomers.  
 When they passed through their formative years, anything seemed possible in this magnificent country called America. Norman Rockwell was illustrating, and idealizing, day-to-day American life in terms of two constant themes – love and hope – on the covers of Saturday Evening Post.  
 And it is that sense of love and hope, burned forever into their brains, that will keep Boomers a Forever-Young Generation. Oh, they know they'll "age" because aging is unavoidable, but they'll never "grow old." Boomers have decided growing old is an option, and they've pretty much decided against it.  
 They'll always be peeking around that next corner in life with excitement and anticipation and optimism. For Boomers, life is always about tomorrow.  
 With this generation, never say never.  
 And that explains why marketers who try to lure Boomers with their advertising messages now recognize the Seven Dirty Words to Never Link to Boomers:  
**Senior Citizen:** A noble label for mom and dad, but not for Boomers.  
**Retiree:** Boomers will never retire. This generation defines itself by its work, by its contribution. They might retire from career-number-one but promptly begin career-number-two, perhaps in volunteerism or starting their own business or going back to school to learn a new trade.  
**Aging:** Ohmygosh, donnnnn!!  
**Golden Years:** Ditto!  
**Silver Years:** Good rule of thumb? No references to any precious metals.  
**Mature:** Never insult Boomers by calling them mature. Regardless the wrinkles on the outside, they will always be Mouseketeers on the inside.  
**Prime Time:** To describe their future as the "prime time" of their lives is to discount their past. Boomers feel they've been in Prime Time every second of their lives, squeezing each day for all of its satisfactions.  
 This is the only generation that has re-written that good ol' "book of life" just about every day of their lives. They have done so many things so differently from the ways they had always been done before.  
 And for those other generations who had assumed – or at least hoped! – that those crazy Boomers would one day slow down, grow a bit more conservative, and go gently into the night?  
 Guess again.  
 Example: Boomer mothers are forming their own rock-and-roll bands around the country and scheduling Saturday night gigs around their mommy and career schedules. Among the names of their bands: from Detroit, The Mydols; from New York City, Housewives on Prozac; and only from our sisters out in wonderfully wacky California could we get a Boomer-mother band that chooses to call itself The Lactators.  
 Boomers will continue to re-write that book of life, and at every future age marker they will drastically alter the consumer model, career model, and lifestyle model from what they have always been before. All because of the hope and love that surrounded the formative years that would mold them for life.  
 Forever young.  
*Chuck Underwood is author of the book, "The Generational Imperative: Understanding Generational Differences in the American Workplace, Marketplace and Living Room."*

## Letters to the Editor:

### Pursuit of happiness

Dear Editor:  
 This is to answer Julian Gutierrez, the ungrateful kid who won't salute our flag and gets a free education at taxpayer's expense. ("Claims of Assault," 3/7/08)  
 Julian seems to be totally ungrateful for the freedom American citizens enjoy. Perhaps he would be happier saluting some other country's flag.  
 If the choice were up to most Americans, Julian would be deported, not just suspended from school for five days. Julian apparently has no respect for the history of all Americans of many ethnic backgrounds who have fought wars and died to keep America free and have given their lives for "our flag."  
 Americans love and honor our flag. An incident happened at Dodger Stadium on April 25, 1976, when center fielder Rick Monday stopped two dissidents from burning our American flag. Rick Monday saw two despicable young males attempting to set fire to the matches that would burn the lighter fluid-soaked flag. Rick saved the flag. In a few minutes, when the crowd at Dodger Stadium realized what Rick had done, the crowd collectively began singing "God Bless America."  
 Julian, if you don't choose to respect the American flag and this free country, just go sit in a corner and be quiet until you finally graduate or quit school. Then I hope you just leave the United States. Maybe the utopia you wish for exists someplace else, and we will be happy when you have left out United States. The United States does not promise happiness, only the pursuit of happiness.  
 I am a World War II veteran who served in the Navy in the South Pacific.

**—Dr. & Mrs. Henry G. Clute,  
 Downey**

Dear Editor:  
 Mr. Gutierrez's letter concerning his alleged mistreatment by the Downey Unified School District administrators conjured up a few thoughts. Having two kids in high school here, I was intrigued by some of his statements.  
 First, I doubt anyone in the school district is under the delusion that it is a "smoothly running educational system." With approximately 20,000 students to oversee, every day brings new challenges from the administrators, to the principals, to the teachers, and to the students. There are the obvious ones: attendance, illness, tardiness, problems at homes, etc. Then there are the major ones: race wars, gangs, drugs, weapons, fights. It is a beautiful day when things do run smooth.  
 Second, it is depressing that search dogs have to be used. However, if that's what it takes to keep our schools free of weapons and drugs, then bring in the dogs. Take a look around, it is worse in the surrounding school districts.  
 Also, I don't claim to know what happened in his particular case, but we're only hearing one side of the story. I suspect there is more to the situation to warrant being suspended for five days. My guess is administrators don't intentionally slam doors on legs and torsos to physically assault them. They have enough problems on their hands. But I do know this: If I didn't stand for the Pledge of Allegiance when I was young, I wouldn't have had to worry about the principal, but the back of my dad's hand. Different era though.

My last thought is this, Mr. Gutierrez. If the letter from the March 7 issue was written by you, then you should be thankful to the school district for educating you well enough to put together such a well-written, grammatically correct letter. Perhaps with your knowledge of the constitution you should make something positive out of your "experiences" with administration and go into law school or criminal justice.  
 It sounds like you have lots of energy. Use it in a positive way. If you can stand up so vehemently for your rights, then stand up for the Pledge of Allegiance. It won't kill you.  
**— Jeff Marifian,  
 Downey**



Dear Editor:  
 Our United States Code – Title 4, Section 4, states: Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, manner of delivery:  
 "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart.  
 Not knowing if Julian E. Gutierrez is a United States citizen, or one of our estimated 10 million illegal residents, he does have a right to return to his country of origin, or follow the law of our country. United States citizens have both rights and privileges, provided in the Constitution of the United States. I am not aware of what rights the citizens of other countries have, or what their responsibilities are, if any.  
 Downey students are taught American Government in the fifth, eighth and eleventh grades. If Gutierrez is a student, he should pay attention to his lessons.  
**—Donald G. Souza,  
 Downey**

Dear Editor:  
 A lot of brave young men have given their lives to protect the freedoms he enjoys in this wonderful country. Because these young men died protecting his freedoms he thinks we have to tolerate his disrespect and dis-allegiance to our flag.  
 If he does not want to respect our flag and this country perhaps he should leave for a country he believes offers greener pastures. This veteran would not mind his leaving today.  
**— George Teats Sr.,  
 Downey**

Letters to the editor may be submitted by writing to The Downey Patriot, 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey CA 90240 or by e-mail to downeypatriot@yahoo.com. Letters may be edited for style and/or length. Letters must include a full name and address.

## Tax credits a boon to working families

BY CONGRESSWOMAN LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, CA-34



Each year, thousands of hardworking families in the 34th Congressional District and throughout the Los Angeles area lose money they're entitled to because they fail to take advantage of two important tax credits – the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). Could you be one of them? As the April 15 deadline approaches for filing your taxes, I encourage you to find out whether you qualify for one or both of these credits. The answer could mean more money in your pocket, even if you don't owe taxes.  
 If your family earned less than \$39,783 in 2007, you may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Eligibility for the credit depends on factors such as your total income and family size. For some families, the Earned Income Tax Credit is worth up to \$4,716. The funds are first used to pay any federal taxes owed by an eligible worker. After any tax liability is paid off, tax filers receive all of their remaining Earned Income Tax Credit dollars in the form of a check from the IRS.  
 The Child Tax Credit allows families to claim a credit worth up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under 17. Similar to the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit is first used to reduce or pay off any taxes owed by the family. After that, depending upon a family's income, some filers might also qualify to receive a refund of all or part of any leftover Child Tax Credit funds.  
 In 2004, I was pleased to support measures passed by Congress to permit more military families earning combat pay to qualify for both the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit. These tax credits provide a welcomed financial boost to our deserving men and women in uniform.

By taking advantage of the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, eligible families can keep more of their hard earned dollars. Additional eligibility information about both tax credits appears below. Your questions can also be answered by calling the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 or by visiting the federal agency's web site at www.irs.gov.  
 Free tax preparation services from trained community volunteers are also available through the "Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)" program. To find out if you qualify or for the Los Angeles locations nearest you, please visit www.eitc-la.com or the 211 hotline in Los Angeles County. Seniors can also locate free AARP tax-aide counseling sites in their area by calling 1-888 227-7669.  
 Here are the highlights of the 2007 EITC eligibility requirements:

- A taxpayer must provide valid Social Security numbers for everyone listed on the tax return. Social Security numbers issued to non-citizens who have permission to work legally in the United States are also accepted.
- Workers who were raising one child in their home and who earned less than \$33,241 in 2007 (or less than \$35,241 for married workers) are eligible for a federal EITC of up to \$2,853.

- Workers who were raising two or more children in their home and who earned less than \$37,783 in 2007 (or less than \$39,783 for married workers) are eligible for a federal EITC of up to \$4,716.
- Workers who were not raising children in their home, were between 25 and 64 on December 31, 2007, and who earned less than \$12,590 in 2007 (or less than \$14,590 for married workers) are eligible for a federal EITC of up to \$428.
- Eligible EITC taxpayers who failed to file previously can file amended tax returns for the past three years to collect overdue refunds. The 2007 Child Tax Credit eligibility requirements are as follows:
- The taxpayer must have either a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number issued by the IRS.
- The taxpayer must have a qualifying child under the age of 17 who lived with the tax filer for more than half the year in the United States. The child (whether a citizen or non-citizen) must have either a valid Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN).
- The taxpayer must have earned more than \$11,750 in 2007 to receive a CTC "refund."
- The CTC is available to married couples filing jointly with incomes up to \$110,000, \$75,000 for those filing as single, head of household or as a qualifying widow(er) and \$55,000 for married couples filing separately. At incomes above these amounts, the benefit of the CTC is reduced.
- Eligible CTC taxpayers who failed to file previously can file amended returns for the past three years to collect overdue refunds.

I hope you find this information beneficial.

## Underage drinking to be discussed at school

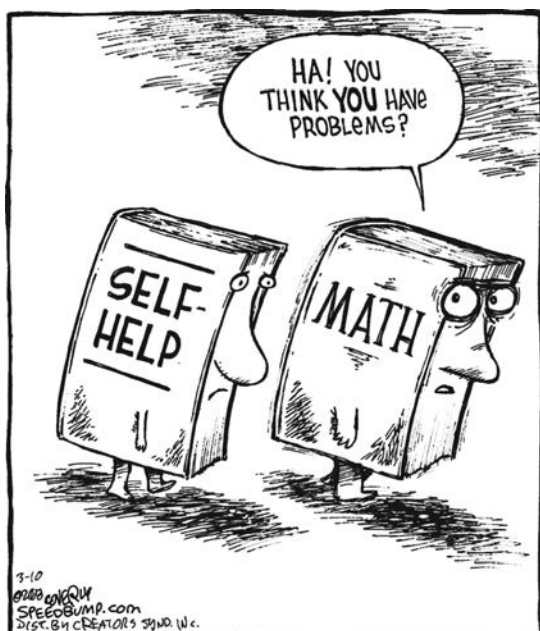
**DOWNEY** – Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, along with The Century Council spokesmen Brandon and Tony Silveria, will discuss the effects of alcohol on teens this Tuesday at Downey High School's library at 6:30 p.m.  
 Shortly before Brandon's high school prom, he was involved in a near-fatal car accident after drinking a couple of beers at a high school party. The crash left him permanently, and visibly, disabled in speech and movement.  
 The Century Council is a national non-profit organization dedicated to fighting drunk driving and underage drinking. According to the organization, there were 1,779 alcohol-related fatalities in California in 2006. Of those deaths, 272 were among youth under 21.  
 The community is invited to attend.  
 Downey High School is located at 11040 Brookshire Ave.

### The Downey Patriot

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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## Downey Community Calendar

### Events For March

- Sat. March 15: **Songfest 2008**, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 6:45 p.m.
- Sun. March 16 - Sat. March 22: **Tap Project**, various Downey restaurants
- Sun. March 16: **Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser**, Station 1, 10 a.m.
- Mon. March 17: **Judy Kertes performs at OASIS**, Downey Adult School, 2:45 p.m.
- Tues. March 18: **Underage drinking discussed** at Downey High School library, 6:30 p.m.

### City Meetings

- 1st Tuesdays, 6:15 p.m.: **Redevelopment Project Area Committee**, Cormack Meeting Room at Downey Library.
- 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.: **Planning Commission**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 1st Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.: **Recreation and Community Services Commission**, Council Chamber, City Hall.
- 1st Thursday, 9 a.m.: **Traffic Committee**, Training Room, Second Floor of City Hall.
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.: **City Council/Community Development Commission**, Council Chamber.
- 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 6 p.m.: **Design Review Board**, Council Chamber at City Hall.
- 3rd Thursday, 3:30 p.m.: **Parking Place Commission**, Second Floor Training Room at City Hall

### Regularly Scheduled Meetings

#### Mondays

- 6:30 p.m.: **Metropolitan Masonic Lodge #352 dinner, mtg.**, for information call 426-6786.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Overeaters Anonymous**, at Downey Regional Med. Center Conf. Room A, for info. call 426-6786.
- 1st Mon., 4 p.m.: **2nd Century Foundation**, at City Hall, 1st floor, call 927-9790.
- 2nd Mon., 11 a.m.: **American Legion Auxiliary #270**, at United Methodist Church, for info. call 923-2481.
- 2nd Mon., 3 p.m.: **Keep Downey Beautiful**, at City Hall, for more information call 904-7159.
- 3rd Mon., 7 p.m.: **American Legion Post 270**, Los Amigos Country Club, call 869-1053.
- 4th Mon., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Numismatists**, at Downey Retirement Center, call 862-6666.

#### Tuesdays

- 9 a.m.: **Downey Bocce Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Vince Zoida at (714) 761-4439.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Downey Seniors Club**, at Apollo Park, for information call Nadine Morris at 923-9422.
- 9:30 a.m.: **Adventure with the Bible**, at the First Baptist Church call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Rotary Club**, at Rio Hondo, for information call Darren Dunaway at 806-5400.
- 12 p.m.: **Exchange Club of Downey**, at Sizzler, for information call Don Hollister at 927-5871.
- 6:00 p.m.: **Toastmasters Club 587**, at First Baptist Church, for info call 869-6478.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 2**, at Downey United Methodist Church, for information call 869-6478.
- 7 p.m.: **Boy Scout Troop 441**, at Apollo Park Activities Room, for information call 923-3659.
- 7:30 p.m.: **Southland Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines**, at Downey's Woman's Club, for information call 947-6802.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, at Nordic Fox, for info. call (562) 923-2191.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 6 p.m.: **Sertoma Club**, at Bakers Square, for information call (562) 927-6438.
- 2nd Tues., 7 p.m.: **Downey Fly Fishers**, at Apollo Park, for information call 943-3904.
- 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m.: **Writer's Workshop West**, at at Downey High School library, for info call 862-3106.
- Last Tues., 11:00 a.m.: **Los Companeros Service Club**, at Los Amigos Country Club, for info call 863-1549.

#### Wednesdays

- 7 a.m.: **Kiwanis Club**, at Rio Hondo Events Center. Call Steve Roberson at 927-2626.
- 1 p.m.: **Women's Bocce Club**, for information call 869-8782.
- 1st Weds., 10 a.m.: **Woman's Club of Downey**, for information call Barbara Briley-Beard 869-7618.
- 1st Weds., 11:30 a.m.: **Downey Coordinating Council**, at Community Center, for information call 923-4357.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Stamp Club**, at Maude Price School cafeteria, for information call 928-3028.
- 1st Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Emblem Club #309**, at Downey's Elks Lodge, for information call 868-4386.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Model A Club**, at Gallatin School Cafeteria, for information call 928-4132.
- 2nd Weds., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Sister Cities Ass'n**, at Maude Price School, Call 862-7197.
- 2nd Weds., 11:45 a.m. - **Downey Christian Women's Club**, at Los Amigos CC, Call 927-8488.
- 2nd & 4th Weds., 11:00 a.m. - **AARP**, at Barbara J. Riley CC, Call Lorene Frazier 861-6075.
- 3rd Weds., - **Downey Dog Obedience Club** Apollo Park.
- 3rd Weds., 6 p.m. - **American Business Women's Association**, Rio Hondo Country Club, Call Barbara Carlson 863-2192.
- 4th Weds., 12:00 noon: **Retired Federal Employees**, at **Furman Park West Bldg.**, call 943-5513.
- Wed. & Fri., 10:15 a.m.: **Senior Bingo**, at Apollo Park, for information call 904-7223.

#### Thursdays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Soroptimist Int'l of Downey**, for information, call Pat Heineke, 904-3534.
- 7:30 a.m.: **Connections Networking**, at Nordic Fox 10924 Paramount, for information call 869-1414.
- 12 p.m.: **Kiwanis Club of Downey**, at Rio Hondo Events Center, call Roy Jimenez 923-0971.
- 12 p.m.: **Downey Christian Businessmen's Committee**, for information call 928-4153.
- 12 p.m.: **Optimist Club of Downey**, at Sambis', for information call Steve Allen at 622-7655.
- 12:30 p.m.: **Take off Pounds Sensibly**, at First Christian Church, call (800) 932-8677.
- 6:30 p.m.: **Downey United Masonic Lodge # 220**, 8244 3rd St., Call 862-4176.
- 7 p.m.: **Troop 351, Boy Scouts of America**, at First Baptist Church, for information call 776-3388.
- 4th Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Downey Historical Society programs**, at Community Center. Call 862-2777.
- 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m.: **Beaming Rebel Foxes Collectors Club**, for more information call Carl D. Jones at 923-2400.

#### Fridays

- 7:30 a.m.: **Pro Networkers**, at Mimi's Cafe, for information call Barbara Briley Beard at 869-7618
- 3rd Fri., 8:30 a.m.: **Women's "In His Glory" Ministry** at Los Amigos C. C. (562) 622-3785.

#### Sundays

- 3rd Sun. Odd # Months 1:30 p.m.: **Aerospace Legacy Foundation**, at First Baptist Church Room 120.

## On This Day...

- March 14, 1879:** Albert Einstein is born in Ulm, Germany. Perhaps best known for his theory of relativity, Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.
- 1883:** German philosopher and economist Karl Marx dies in London at age 64.
- 1964:** Jack Ruby is found guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy. He died of a pulmonary embolism three years later.
- 1967:** The body of President John F. Kennedy is moved to a permanent memorial site at Arlington National Cemetery.
- 2005:** A San Francisco judge rules California's ban on gay marriages to be unconstitutional.

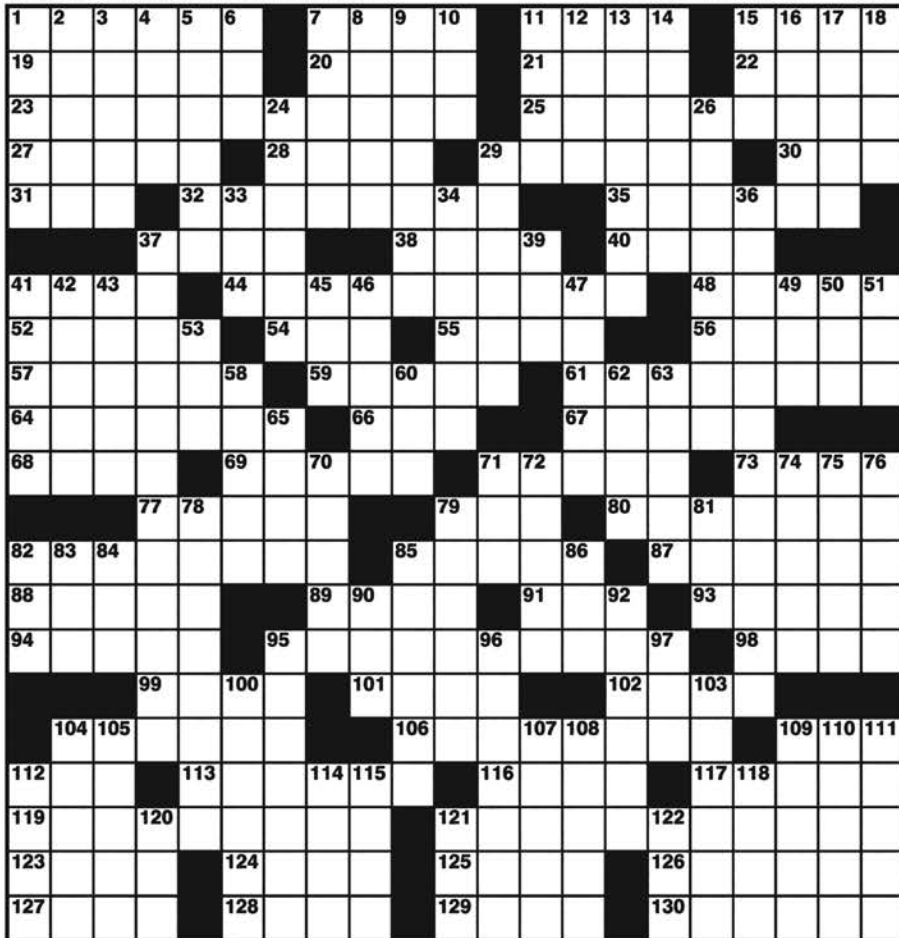
## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

**WHAT AND WEAR: Try it on for size**

by Gail Grabowski

CREATORS SYNDICATE © 2008 STANLEY NEWMAN WWW.STANXWORDS.COM 3/9/08



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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: [StanXwords@aol.com](mailto:StanXwords@aol.com). Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

With about 1,000, IAGO (116 Across) has the most lines of any Shakespearean villain. As Britain's Home Secretary, future prime minister Robert Peel (128 Across) established the London police force in 1829. SOY ink (6 Down) is currently used to print most of America's daily newspapers, in part because the ink makes it easier for paper to be recycled.



## Paging Dr. Alan Frischer...

BY DR. ALAN FRISCHER

**H**ave you observed pauses in the nighttime breathing of a loved one? This could be a result of sleep apnea. This disease is nearly as common as adult diabetes, but is severely under-diagnosed due to lack of awareness and understanding. Untreated sleep apnea can lead to high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, memory problems, weight gain, impotence, severe daytime fatigue, and headaches. Poor job performance and car accidents often result. With proper diagnosis and treatment, these complications can be prevented.



sometimes used. Surgery, as a last option, can remove and tighten tissue and widen the airway.

Central sleep apnea is caused by an imbalance in the brain's respiratory control center. In this type of the disorder, the airway is not blocked but the brain fails to signal the muscles to breathe. The person afflicted stops breathing and then starts up again.

What can you do about sleep apnea?

- Pay attention to the people in your household, and watch for the telltale signs: daytime sleepiness, car accidents, poor work performance

- Remember the risk factors for this disease: being male, over 40, overweight

- If the pattern fits you or a loved one, see your doctor and be evaluated with a polysomnogram.

I wish you good health...and a good night's sleep!

*Dr. Alan Frischer is former chief of staff at Downey Regional Medical Center. Write to him in care of this newspaper at 8301 E. Florence Ave., Suite 100, Downey, CA 90240*

Sleep apnea is a sleep disorder characterized by pauses in breathing. One or more breaths are actually skipped. It's diagnosed with an overnight sleep study known as a polysomnogram. Test results would reveal pauses (of at least ten seconds) in breathing that are followed by drops in blood oxygen and increases in blood carbon dioxide. This pattern occurs repeatedly during the night, and is worrisome when there are more than five episodes per hour.

Snoring is almost always present, but many people snore who do not have sleep apnea. Snoring is the sound of air moving through the back of the mouth, nose, and throat. The volume of the snoring does not correlate with the severity of the disease! The important issue is when the snoring stops. When there is a break in the snoring, the chest and body attempt to take a breath without success. This next breath is then preceded by a gasp. This condition is usually recognized as a problem by a witness, rather than by the person with the condition, or is suspected because of daytime sleepiness and fatigue.

There are three types of sleep apnea: central, obstructive, and complex (a combination of the first two). Obstructive sleep apnea is the most common, and is caused by soft tissue in the rear of the throat collapsing and closing the airway. People with decreased muscle tone or increased soft tissue, or those with structural features that cause a narrowed airway, are at a higher risk for obstructive sleep apnea. For treatment, patients should avoid alcohol and muscle relaxants, lose weight, quit smoking, and elevate their bed by 30 degrees. When indicated, a breathing machine or dental appliance (which shifts the lower jaw forward to open up the airway) are

## LRMC seminar discusses diabetic eye disease

CONTRIBUTED BY LAKEWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**LAKEWOOD** – Have you ever played the “game of questions,” where a scenario is created and you have to choose what you would do in that particular situation? For example, “If you had to choose, would you rather be blind or deaf?”

Well, being a diabetic can feel like that game at times. There are so many additional diseases and complications that can arise from diabetes that taking care of the diabetic body becomes extremely important.

One of the possible complications is diabetic eye disease. There are three types and all can cause severe vision loss or blindness. The three types of eye problems for the diabetic patient are:

- Diabetic retinopathy – causes damage to the blood vessels in the retina and is the most common of the three diseases.
- Cataracts – causes clouding of the lens of the eye.
- Glaucoma – causes an increase in fluid pressure in the eye that can damage the optic nerve and cause vision loss.

“In the early stages of these eye problems there aren't many, if any, symptoms or pains involved,” said Nancy Sand, M.D., a board-certified Ophthalmologist at Lakewood Regional Medical Center (LRMC). “Vision may only become affected once the disease has progressed and has already caused damage to the eye. This is why it is so important for the diabetic

patient to get regular eye care and have their eyes dilated and examined at least once every year.”

The good news is that these eye problems can be treated, especially when discovered early. In diabetic retinopathy, a physician may recommend laser surgery to shrink blood vessels. According to the National Eye Institute, for patients with diabetic retinopathy, timely treatment can reduce the risk of severe vision loss by 90 percent.

Sand stresses that patients with diabetes are twice as likely to get cataracts or suffer from glaucoma than other adults. Like diabetic retinopathy, there are treatments available. Cataracts may be removed with surgery. Treatment for glaucoma includes medications, laser surgery or other types of surgery.

Taking care of your diabetes and getting regular eye examinations is a good way to ensure that the only time you choose blindness is in answering to a “game of questions.”

Sand will discuss how diabetes affects the eye, types of diabetic retinopathy, and how to diagnose and treat diabetes in the eye, on March 20 at 12:30 p.m. in the LRMC Conference Room. To RSVP, call (800) 813-4345. A light lunch will be served.

For more information on diabetic eye disease, visit the National Eye Institute at [www.nei.nih.gov](http://www.nei.nih.gov).

## Speaker shares how to reduce stress

**DOWNEY** – The El Dorado Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will have their next meeting on March 19 at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Janis Becker, who provides massage services in Long Beach, will share her expertise on breathing for health, techniques for reducing stress, and other benefits of massage.

Social hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. For information, or to make reservations, call Susan Torrance at (562) 695-7361.

## Nursing program begins in May

**DOWNEY** – Downey Adult School is still accepting students who are interested in the Licensed Vocational Nurse Program to reserve a seat for an orientation and entrance exam date.

Dates are available every Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to noon, until March 20. Seat reservations may be made online for \$10 at [www.das.edu](http://www.das.edu), or onsite for \$20.

The program begins in May and will end in May of 2009. For information, call (562) 940-6200, or visit [www.das.edu](http://www.das.edu).

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<p><b>Monday, March 17 &amp; 31</b>  <b>3:00 pm</b>                  Mimi's Café                  8455 E Firestone Blvd                  Downey</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, March 18 &amp; 25</b>  <b>8:30 am</b>                  Hometown Buffet                  875 N Wilcox                  Montebello</p>	<p><b>Tuesday, March 18</b>  <b>2:30 pm</b>                  Sizzler                  10153 Artesia Blvd                  Bellflower</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 19 &amp; 26</b>  <b>11:30 am</b>                  Sizzler                  10315 Lakewood Blvd                  Downey</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 19</b>  <b>3:00 pm</b>                  Sizzler                  11835 Imperial Hwy                  Norwalk</p>
<p><b>Friday, March 21</b>  <b>11:30 am</b>                  Szechwan                  11010 Paramount Blvd                  Downey</p>	<p><b>Friday, March 21 &amp; 28</b>  <b>11:30 am</b>                  Wild Coyote Steakhouse                  116 E Beverly Blvd                  Montebello</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, March 26</b>  <b>10:00 am</b>                  Carrow's                  10640 Rosecrans Ave                  Norwalk</p>	<p><b>Thursday, March 27</b>  <b>10:00 am</b>                  Baker's Square                  1322 W Beverly Blvd                  Montebello</p>	<p><b>Thursday, March 27</b>  <b>2:30 pm</b>                  Sizzler                  10153 Artesia Blvd                  Bellflower</p>

CareMore Reliance is a Chronic Special Needs Plan HMO with a Medicare Advantage contract. Medicare Beneficiaries with Diabetes, Hypertension, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Asthma, Emphysema, End Stage Renal Disease and Chronic Kidney Disease can apply. A sales representative will be present with information and individual election forms. Accommodations of persons with special needs can be arranged. All benefits are based on the 2008 Calendar Year; please refer to the plan's Evidence of Coverage for specific details. <sup>1</sup>Covered for one consultation per calendar year. <sup>2</sup>Covered for up to 12 weeks of plan approved Exercise & Strength Training per calendar year. <sup>3</sup>\$20 monthly fee will apply after the first 12 covered weeks. <sup>4</sup>\$50 co-pay on hospital emergency room visit (waived if admitted). \$75 co-pay per day for the first 4 days of a benefit period for a stay in a non-preferred hospital. \*Unlimited non-emergency transportation to and from plan approved locations within our service area. BrainSavers® book is free with no obligation. H0544\_020811A CHP (02/08)

by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

There is much more to oral health than simply having a nice smile. Left untreated, oral diseases and conditions can adversely impact the overall quality of one's health. In fact, periodontal (gum) disease has been linked with stroke, heart disease, and pre-term and low-birth-weight infants. There is also research to show that infections inside the mouth can affect major organs of the body. In addition, poor oral health can alter the digestive process, leading to intestinal problems. Moreover, because more than 90 percent of systemic diseases show signs in the mouth, the dentist may be the first health professional to alert patients of their presence. Thus, patients should look at a dental examination as more than a “tooth checkup.”

Dentistry today is constantly changing, and new technologies and treatment methods abound. Here at our office we are committed to keeping up with the new practices and providing our patients with the best dental-care experience one can find. Our goal is to help preserve your natural teeth for a lifetime. We're located at 10800 Paramount Blvd., Suite 307, where we take the time to be gentle and provide the best possible dental care in a friendly and comfortable environment. PH: (562) 923-3714.

P.S. An important part of any dental examination involves looking for possible signs of oral cancer, which usually begins in the tongue and floor of the mouth.

Paid Advertising

# MAUTINO

Continued from page 1

ity of 500-600 youths at any given time, doesn't seem like a forbidding place at all. In March of 2002, the place was spruced up to inject some gaiety and brightness into the halls and courts. There are even a couple of cheerful—and hopeful—messages to greet incoming offenders and subsequent visiting kin at the main entrance and in the spacious waiting room. Los Padrinos, which serves 22 cities, is one of three large facilities administered by the county probation department. The two others are at East Lake and Sylmar. Smaller single-court facilities are to be found in such places as Long Beach, Compton, Inglewood, Pomona, Pasadena and Lancaster.

After a youthful offender is arrested for any of a variety of offenses, such as suspicion of petty theft, drug possession/use, probation violation, prostitution, domestic violence, etc., he/she ends up in a "lock-up" room (some sort of a holding cell that can accommodate about eight youngsters—there are eight such rooms at the facility) for medical, mental health, educational, recidivism, gang affiliation, etc., assessment.

A detention hearing is held within 72 hours. If the judge deems the infraction to be minor, and that the arrestee stands to benefit more in the care of an understanding teacher, he/she is sent back to school. If not, he/she is detained until a trial is held. If arrestee is found guilty of some hard-to-overlook offense, especially if weapons possession is involved (and therefore a threat to public safety), sentences vary from six months home probation (with community service, all sorts of restrictions, and reporting requirements) to alternative work service at the facility, to placement at a foster home such as the Phoenix House, to community-run treatment clinics (for anger management, drug rehab program, behavioral change programs, parenting classes, etc.). There are 19 camps located in the mountains (Malibu, above Glendora, Lancaster) where more serious offenders are sent, for three, six, nine months. There is a pending decision to increase length of stay to 12 months.

"Unless I see a hardened offender, an obvious recidivist, say, I don't want any of them booked if possible," says the judge.

Judge Mautino says 70 percent of the facility's juvenile population is Spanish-speaking. This means paying for interpreters, since their Latino parent(s)/legal guardian usually attend the hearings with them.

Gesturing towards the minors as they lined up for the usual after-class "call the roll" on their way to their quarters (maximum stay at the facility is thirty days), a ranking probation officer pointed to the school buildings (schooling, based on their educational levels and at a six-hour per day clip, continues at the facility; psychiatric care is also available), athletic grounds (basketball, soccer, football, etc.), chapel (Catholic and Protestant services are held), etc., and informed me that the main administrative tactic they employ is control, delivered in "firm, but fair" ways..

"We have the largest criminal justice system in the world," notes Judge Mautino. "Eight percent of our population is criminal. Some 28,500 juvenile cases are filed every year. Estimates of the number of gang members range anywhere from 80000 to 150,000 members, belonging to some 400 "fighting" gangs. They are very poisonous, very hostile, vicious, perverse...they murder. They are getting more violent. We've got a very severe problem."

There is also the so-called Dependency Court, which handles 16,000-20,000 cases of abused, abandoned, and neglected children a year."

Judge Mautino has his theories about all this sordid mess. For one thing, echoing a lot of citizens' concerns and stance on the problem, he says schools are not allowed to teach values, that allowing gambling was a mistake, that some radio announcers have gotten coarser and coarser with their language, that the hip-hop culture has spilled overmuch to unmanageable and undesirable practices especially in certain entertainment enclaves, and so on.

"We have to go back to standards, to more civilized and civil behavior. We have to go back to doing things the right way," he says. This means the primacy of home in child development, augmented by church and school, good role models, etc.

"It's a privilege being a judge," Judge Mautino says. "And I'm very impressed by the staff who are involved here. They really seem to care." The judge, an alumnus of both UCLA (BS and MBA) and USC (Juris Doctor), says he cheers for "whoever wins."

When he is finally able to retire, he says, he plans to engage in working on, and writing about, juvenile crime prevention. "I want to address the most critical stage juveniles go through, when they are malleable, most impressionable, before they're swept along by the currents of aberrant behavior. This, and jury reform. But, most important, I say the community has to focus on the kids."



## Easter Bunny visiting 'Eggstravaganza'

**DOWNEY** - The city of Downey will have its annual "Eggstravaganza" on March 22 at Apollo, Dennis the Menace, Furman, and Golden Parks.

Free activities will take place from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and include a craft and face painting. Egg hunts will begin at 11:30 a.m. and will be divided into three age groups for children ages 12 and younger. The Easter Bunny will also be on-site to visit and take pictures with. Pictures cost \$2.

Members of the Miss Downey and Miss Teen Downey Courts, as well as the Volunteers and Downey Police Explorers, will also be on-site.

The event's co-sponsor, the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis, have donated \$500 to purchase candy treats for the event.

For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

# Easter Worship Directory

These Downey area churches welcome you to Holy Week and Easter Sunday services...

If you do not have a church home, we invite you to worship the risen Christ at a church of your choice!

**"Come Celebrate Easter"**  
With Desert Reign Assembly  
One Service only!  
Saturday, March 22, 2008  
6:30 P.M.  
We will meet at  
Crossroads Multinational Nazarene Church  
12229 Del Amo Blvd., Cerritos, CA  
(Located at the NE corner of Norwalk  
& Del Amo 1.5 miles east of the 605 Fwy.)  
[www.desertreign.org](http://www.desertreign.org)

**Action Faith Ministries**  
Pastor: **David Sarinana**  
10839 La Reina Ave. Downey, CA 90241  
562-862-7720  
Thursday Mid-Week Service 7:00pm  
Sunday Worship Service 8:30am  
Please come and listen to a powerful message that will challenge you to make personal changes in your mind, body, and spirit. Your life, your family, your finances, and your future will never be the same after you experience these awesome teachings from the Word of God. Join us at Action Faith Ministries where the development and the forming of leaders is taking place.

**ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
10354 DOWNEY AVE. 862-3268  
**Join Us For  
Easter Service and  
Celebration  
Sunday March 23**  
10am: Festive Choral Eucharist  
Childcare  
Egg Hunt  
Brunch

**You Are Invited  
To Celebrate  
Easter With Us!**  
We provide outstanding ministries for younger family members!  
**Extreme Kids** (for children from birth through 5th grade)  
**The Burn** (for students from 6th through 12th grade)  
encouraging message ~ uplifting music ~ outstanding childcare  
casual atmosphere ~ friendly people ~ free refreshments

**Easter Services**  
**Sunday, March 23rd**  
9:30am & 10:45am  
English language  
12:15pm  
Spanish language  
[www.newstreetchurch.com](http://www.newstreetchurch.com) ~ [www.iglesia-cristiana.com](http://www.iglesia-cristiana.com)

**Easter Sunday • March 23**  
Three Churches - Four Services  
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
7:00 am - Sunrise Service (combined worship)  
8:00 am - Breakfast: Community invited  
10:30 am - Downey Memorial Christian Church  
10:30 am - Familia de Fe Christiana (Spanish)  
5:30 pm - Iglesia Unida En Cristo (Spanish)

**Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Celebrate Easter with us  
**Saturday, Mar. 22 at 11:00AM**  
**Celebration Sabbath  
with Pastor Mitch**  
9820 Lakewood Blvd. - 562.869.6013  
[www.downeychurch.org](http://www.downeychurch.org)

**3rd Sunday Coffee House  
March 16  
6:00—7:30 PM  
Featuring  
The Six-Foot Sopranos + Jay  
Performing  
Folk & Pop 1940's  
George & Ira Gershwin  
Novelty  
Broadway**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
7707 Florence Ave. Downey 90240

**Holy Week  
March 16-23, 2007**  
**Palm Sunday - March 16**  
Worship and Holy Communion  
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
**Maundy Thursday - March 20**  
Soup Dinner - 6:00 p.m.  
Communion Service - 7:00 p.m.  
**Good Friday - March 21**  
Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.  
Special Kids  
Good Friday Service  
**Easter Celebration - March 23**  
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Breakfast Served in  
Between Services  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
11507 Studebaker Road, Norwalk, 562.864.3713

**Holy Week  
At Christ Lutheran**  
7707 Florence Ave. Downey 90240  
**Palm Sunday, March 16** Worship at 10 am  
3rd Sunday Coffee House at 6:00 pm  
**Holy Thursday, March 20** Worship at 6:30 pm  
**Good Friday, March 21** Worship at 6:30 pm  
**Easter Celebration, March 23 at 10 am**  
**Celebration of our Risen Lord!**  
Embracing the community with Christ's inclusive love!

**Easter  
2008**  
*Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. Acts 2:23-24*

**Good Friday - Communion**  
Friday, March 21st at 12:00pm (Noon)  
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary  
Special Message and Communion by Pastor Jeff Johnson  
"Christ in the Passover" by Jews for Jesus and music by innocence  
Habrá traducción en Español

**Spanish Good Friday**  
Friday, March 21st at 7:00pm  
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary  
Message by Pastor Fausto Pflücker, Jr. and music by Alejandra

**He's Alive Jubilation for kids**  
Saturday, March 22nd at 10:00am  
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary  
A Celebration Just For Kids! (2yrs - 6th grade)

**Sunday Morning  
Easter Services**  
**He Is Risen**  
Easter "Sunrise" Service  
Sunday, March 23rd at 5:45am  
at Cerritos College Stadium  
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson and music by CCD Worship Band  
(If it rains, meet at the church)  
Habrá traducción en Español. Solo traiga radio portátil 88.9 F.M.

**Sunday Services**  
Sunday, March 23rd  
at 8:30am & 10:30am  
at Calvary Chapel Downey, Main Sanctuary  
Message by Pastor Jeff Johnson and music by CCD Worship Band  
Sunday School for Nursery through High School  
Habrá traducción en Español

**For More Information Call:**  
**(562) 803-5638**  
[www.calvarydowney.org](http://www.calvarydowney.org)



## Sue Ann Keller tutored at Downey Adult School

**DOWNEY** – Sue Ann Keller, Downey resident for more than 35 years, passed away on March 7. She was 66.



Keller was born on April 4, 1941 in Los Angeles to Gailord and Mamie Nadine Washburn. She graduated from Huntington Park High School in 1959 and obtained her associate's degree from East Los Angeles College in 1961. She later received her bachelor's degree at California State University, Los Angeles in 1963. She also married Franz (Frank) Keller in 1963.

After obtaining her credential, she began her teaching career at Woodlawn Avenue Elementary School in Bell, and remained there for 38 years, teaching grades preschool through fourth. Retiring from the Los Angeles Unified School District in 2001, she went on to work in the Community Based English Tutoring Program (CBET) with Downey Adult School until 2003. She was also membership chairman of the American Association of University Women.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gailord Washburn.

She is survived by her mother, Mamie Nadine Washburn; brother, Steve Washburn; ex-husband, Franz (Frank) Keller; son, Mark W. Keller; daughter, Wendy Keller McHenry; and grandchildren, Jonathan and Matthew McHenry.

A memorial service will be held tonight at Downey First Christian Church at 6 p.m.

## William Edward Harlos was a WWII Navy vet

**DOWNEY** – William Edward Harlos, Downey resident for 34 years, passed away on Feb. 10. He was 88.

Harlos was born on April 27, 1919 in Elmira, NY. He met his wife in Long Beach and they wed in 1946 in Endicott, NY. After moving to California, he joined the Steamfitters Local 250 in Gardena and became a member of the Golden Trowel Norwalk Lodge No. 273 F&AM of California and of The Royal Neighbors of America Camp 2848. He was also a WWII U.S. Navy veteran.

He is survived by his daughter, Sharon Kay (Merlin) Constable, and grandsons, Shane Anthony and Chad Williams Ness.

Visitation was held on Feb. 18, followed by services on Feb. 19, at Rose Hills Memorial Park.

## VETERANS

*Continued from page 1*

takes along the way – they let racism go on too long. They were too slow to respond to the place of women in our society. But taken collectively they came out of a very difficult time – the Depression, when economically there was so little hope in this country – they succeeded on every front.”

Every front indeed – from Europe to the Pacific, these veterans made sure to cover their ground.

At sea, John Mais, who served aboard the USS Princeton as a radio man in the Navy, was nearly killed after his small aircraft carrier was bombed. Upon reaching the deck of the ship and experiencing numerous explosions, Mais was thrown overboard. He explained that without his life preserver, which had been stolen, he was able to duck under water when the enemy shot at men in the water.

Although he took shrapnel to the leg, Mais survived and received 30 days of “R & R” after being treated at a hospital in Pearl Harbor. Mais received 10 decorations, including the Purple Heart Medal, Honorable Service Lapel Button, and Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Silver Star and three Bronze Stars.

In the air was Morton Wakefield, who was enlisted in the Air Force's 28th Photo Recon from 1943 to 1945. Wakefield was responsible for photographing islands across the Pacific before and after they were taken, maintaining cameras and removing film at the end of reconnaissance missions. Although he loaded the cameras, he didn't fly the missions. In fact, the closest he ever came to battle was three miles. Because most people didn't have cameras or the ability to print photos, Wakefield said, they traded the photos for ice cream, flags, swords, food, and more.

Richard Heiberg of the Marine Corps' 5th Amphibious Corps (1943-46) was in charge of manipulating the elevation of guns, making sure rifle crews positioned their weapons correctly.

Heiberg shared that when General MacArthur first left the Philippines, he left saying, “I shall return.” In October of 1943, MacArthur's 6th and 8th Armies of the 5th Amphibious Corps landed in the Philippines. When MacArthur secured the island and arrived on shore, he told the Philippine people, “I have returned.” But when he got to shore, there was a sign that read, “By the grace of God and a few Marines, MacArthur returns to the Philippines.” Ironically, MacArthur was unhappy about the sign, instead wanting it to be remembered as an Army return and refused to admit that any Marines were there.

Also on the ground was the Army's Gus Callas (1942-45), who recalls watching a ship that was alongside his strike a mine and sink after he landed on Utah Beach on D-Day.

Callas also recalls a time in Germany when he and other soldiers looked for shelter in abandoned homes. One day, after finding shelter in a deserted house, the soldiers decided to play poker by candlelight on the floor. After some time, they heard an explosion and knew an ammunition truck had blown up. They immediately retreated to the home's cellar for protection. When shooting ceased, they came out only to find one of the walls destroyed and dust and debris everywhere.

He went on to explain how many of the vehicles had waterproof engines and would be towed to shore by a ship. While sitting on one of those vehicles, he began receiving enemy fire. The man in front of him, Kenneth Adcock, was hit and instead of finding cover, Callas grabbed the first aid kit, bandaged Adcock up and took him to a medical tent. It wasn't long, however, before the enemy opened fire on the tent and Adcock was killed.

Agnes Arnold, a secretary and yeoman in the Coast Guard from 1944 to 1946, kept track of guns and rifles, and monitored all supplies for the 9th Naval District, which tended to the Lake Erie area. As a Yeoman First Class, Arnold outranked her husband, William, who was a Tech Sergeant. Arnold also played softball and basketball in the Industrial League.

These are the stories of only five individuals, all of which contributed to the United States' victory during WWII. Any of them would tell you they couldn't have gone on without the other. They may have been in different branches or in two completely different parts of the world, but they fought for each other and for their country. They fought for freedom, they fought for security and, well, they fought for bragging rights.

And that makes them the greatest generation.

*The Greatest Generation display will be featured until the end of March at the Downey City Library.*

## ARTHRITIS

*Continued from page 2*

Americans who suffer from some form of arthritis, two-thirds of which are diagnosed under the age of 65. In addition, arthritis costs our country \$128 billion annually and \$81 billion in direct medical costs.

Thus far, the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act has 205 bipartisan co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 46 bipartisan co-sponsors in the Senate.

Mikayla went to the nation's capital not only to raise awareness, but also to speak as one of the 294,000 children who suffer from JRA, Lupus and Scleroderma.

According to Mikayla, many of those children have to take medications that are intended for adults only.

“The bill should be passed because kids right now are taking really, really strong drugs,” said nine-year-old Mikayla. “We need money to do more research and provide more doctors and medicines.”

Mikayla went on to say that she knows of kids that have to travel great distances just to see a pediatric rheumatologist.

“There are 10 states that don't have pediatric rheumatologists,” she said. “When I last saw my doc-

tor in Hollywood, she told me to tell Congress that she wanted to retire, but that she can't because there's no one to replace her.”

Currently, there are only 200 pediatric rheumatologists in the United States, Janet said.

While in Washington, D.C., Mikayla went on five congressional visits and got to speak with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) about the bill and her personal bout with JRA.

“I was really nervous in the beginning,” she said, “but I just went in there and told them what I knew and what needed to be done.”

Roybal-Allard was so impressed with Mikayla that she invited her down to the congressional floor, where Roybal-Allard had to cast a vote, and Mikayla met Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.).

“Not many people can say they've met a Kennedy,” Mikayla boasted.

In addition to meeting some of Congress' most notable figures, Mikayla also got to explore the capitol with her family, visiting the Washington Monument, the Capitol Building, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the



Mikayla Minnig, second from left, as well as her parents, Janet and Michael, visited with Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard (CA-34) while in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Arthritis Foundation.

Reflection Pond, the Smithsonian, the National Indian Museum, and the White House.

“She had a great time and learned a lot and taught them a lot as well,” Janet said. “We are so proud of her for going there and giving the bill a voice.”

Mikayla and her team, “These Boots Are Made for Walking,” will be participating in the Orange County Arthritis Walk on May 18. She will also be going to Camp Esperanza in Big Bear (hosted by Camp Whittle), a camp specifically

tailored to the needs of kids with arthritis, in August.

“Mikayla has been an ambassador for the Arthritis Foundation since she was four years old,” Janet said. “She has a wonderful outlook on life and wants nothing more than to bring awareness and help others.”

For more information on the Arthritis Foundation, or to join Mikayla's team, visit [www.arthritis.com](http://www.arthritis.com), or [www.ocarthritiswalk.kintera.org](http://www.ocarthritiswalk.kintera.org).

### Association of Realtors offers scholarships

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Association of Realtors will be awarding several \$500 scholarships to students from Columbus, Downey, Downey Adult and Warren High Schools in May.

Application deadline is April 1.

For more information, call (562) 861-0915, or visit [www.daor.com](http://www.daor.com).

### Volunteers to be recognized April 19

**DOWNEY** – The Downey City Library will be hosting its 24th Annual Volunteer and Major Donor Recognition Breakfast on April 19 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The event will take place at the Rio Hondo Event Center located at 10627 Old River School Rd.

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Downey, 90241

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2 p.m.  
HomeTown Buffet  
8432 Firestone Blvd.  
Downey, 90241

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# Downey lacrosse rallies to win season opener

■ Vikings score game-tying goal with 32 seconds remaining in regulation.

CONTRIBUTED BY  
MARTHA MICHAEL

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School's boys' lacrosse team opened their season on Feb. 26 with a 9-8 overtime victory over Los Alamitos.

The Vikings scored the first goal of the game when sophomore Jacob Michael put a feed from senior David Sileazar in the net. Los Alamitos responded, and took a 5-3 lead into halftime.

Los Alamitos led 8-6 going into the fourth quarter before Downey rallied to score the game's final three goals.

Michael scored the game-tying goal with just 32 seconds remaining in regulation.

Junior Joe Wheeler scored three goals for the Vikings, while



Downey High School's lacrosse team celebrates after winning their season opener, 9-8. Photo courtesy Martha Michael

senior George Aldapa scored two and senior attackman Alex Jaime scored his only goal 10 seconds into overtime for the win.

"We never really thought it was

over," Downey Coach Scott Witkin said. "We just kind of got to work and got after it. Some untimely penalties for them certainly helped."

Downey's home games are at Allen Layne Stadium. For schedule and roster information, visit [www.downeylacrosse.com](http://www.downeylacrosse.com).

# Rollin' with 50 years of the Downey Symphony

BY JOYCE SHERWIN, DOWNEY SYMPHONY

**DOWNEY** – You'd think, at age 50, you might start slowing down just a tad, be willing to lose some of the old gung-ho zeal, let someone else step up to create ideas and momentum.

But we're talking about Downey Symphony's Orchestra here, and "slow" is in its vocabulary only in relation to musical tempo. At the golden age of 50, the Downey Symphony is up and running every day, healthy, brimming with ideas, out there doing good stuff.

For example, the quintet of musicians who perform at each elementary school in the city began their annual visits last Monday, as part of the Music in the Schools program.

Lucky fifth-graders will enjoy a field trip to the Downey Theatre later this month to hear a concert, tailor-made just for them, presented by the entire orchestra.

Under our newly-appointed music director, Sharon Lavery, the orchestra then presents its third evening concert of this auspicious season. Hang on to the date: April 5.

The Symphony Guild, that high-spirited, hard-working arm of the Symphony Board, has just mailed out invitations to its Italian Festa, featuring a delicious feast with entertainment and auctions, coming up April 20.

And an afternoon Ice Cream Social with Ragtime piano on May 10 continues the year's celebration of our orchestra. This is another one you don't want to miss.

Looking ahead confidently to its next 50 years, members of the Symphony Board under Nick Frankart's guidance are meeting regularly to explore new ideas, new ways to enhance audience enjoyment of the good things offered by the Downey Symphony.

At the start of the Golden Jubilee Celebration last fall, the Symphony received commendations, proclamations and letters of congratulation from civic leaders across the state, acknowledging the importance of our orchestra in this community and encouraging its robust life in the future.

We are on a roll! You are invited to roll along!

For more information, call (562) 928-4122.

# Teams look to rebound from shaky '07

■ Baseball season opens today for local high schools. From pitching to discipline issues, all have areas for improvement.

BY SCOTT COBOS, CONTRIBUTOR

**DOWNEY** – San Gabriel Valley League play opens today for Warren and Downey High Schools as they look to better their season from a year ago.

Last year, the Vikings finished third in league, one loss behind an always tough Gahr squad and four games behind surprising Paramount who took the regular season title.

This year, Downey looks to possibly finish better but have some tall tasks to achieve to do so. So far, they have shown that they can score runs, averaging almost five runs a game.

The question is if their pitching and defense can keep other teams at bay. In the games they've played this year, Downey has allowed just over four runs a game, making each contest a close one.

Downey opens up against defending SGVL champions Paramount High School today at 3:15 p.m. at home on Yanez Field.

Warren High School, after a shaky fourth place finish last year, hopes to rebound from what had been a frustrating and confusing year. Speculation from campus and the stands sounded of an undisciplined program from now former manager Ariel Guitron.

New manager Paul Alvarez looks to turn that around and put the program back on track. The task has been tough as the Bears have yet to scratch in the win column this year.

## 'Mister Baseball' offering youth camp

**NORWALK** – Former professional baseball coach and scout Joe Magno will present a two-day training program March 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and March 30 from noon to 5 p.m. at Lakeside Park in Norwalk through a program sponsored by the Bernabé Community Center.

Magno, also known as "Mister Baseball," has worked for the Dodgers, Red Sox, Angeles, Mariners and others. He now offers youth camps where children practice exercises in hitting, pitching, throwing, fielding and catching.

The cost of the camp is \$50. To sign-up, call (562) 879-8665.

The Bears struggled to score runs in the Newport Elks tournament and have averaged only three runs a game while their opposition has averaged seven runs a game.

Many things need to be polished but none more important for the Bears than the fundamentals of the game.

Alvarez, a former coach at Gahr whose program thrived on the little things, most certainly will be pounding in the idea that fundamentals are just as important as a timely homerun or good pitching.

The Bears open their league season against Lynwood at Taylor Field today at 3 p.m. Lynwood finished in the basement of the league last year.

The preseason tournaments did not play nicely with Warren and Downey as the two teams combined for only one win out of 10 games played in these past two weeks.

Downey was the only team to win a game in their tournament beating University High School in the Loara Tournament 8-5. The Vikings went on to lose the other four games played.

They did keep each contest close, never losing by more than four runs. Going into league play this week, the Vikings are a combined 3-4.

Warren didn't win a game in the Newport Elks tournament, being shut out twice and never really threatening in any of their games. The Bears continue to struggle scoring runs being outscored 17 runs to 34 runs.

The Bears are 0-5 going into league play today.

## Nominations open for Hall of Fame

**DOWNEY** – Downey High School is searching for distinguished alumni who wish to be considered for induction into the school's Hall of Fame.

Alumni will be considered in the following categories: Arts, Athletics, Business, Civic/Community/Government, Education and Professional.

Past inductees include Dr. Robert Ballard, the discoverer of the Titanic; entertainers Richard and Karen Carpenter; and international skating figures JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley.

To nominate a person, call Assistant Principal John Baker at (562) 869-7301, ext 5524, for an application.



Rebecca Flores, a sixth grader at Sussman Middle School, won first place in the Los Angeles County Student Art Exhibit for her watercolor composition depicting the protection of the rainforest. Photo by Paul J. Modschiedler

## Sussman student wins in art exhibit


**DOWNEY** – Rebecca Flores, a sixth grader at Sussman Middle School, received first place honors at an awards ceremony on March 4 at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) for her watercolor art composition.

Her piece, which depicts the protection of the rainforest, was chosen as the winner out of all sixth grade entries received countywide in the Los Angeles County Student Art Exhibit.

Flores received an award, check, and an assortment of art supplies. Her exploratory teacher, Leslie Chavez, also received a selection of art supplies as well.

Flores' composition will be framed and placed on permanent display at LACOE.

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For more information, call Cecilia Butler, Camp Program Director for the YMCA, or visit [www.eastercaravan.com](http://www.eastercaravan.com)

For information on advertising in The Downey Patriot, call Dorothy or Mary at (562) 904-3668

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# Top 10 myths about historic preservation

CONTRIBUTED BY THE DOWNEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY

**D**espite unprecedented awareness of historic preservation in Los Angeles, a surprising number of misconceptions still abound. Some people close their minds to preservation based on inaccurate information, while others cling to unrealistic expectations about the impacts or benefits of preservation tools. Below is a "top ten" list of the most prevalent myths about historic preservation.

**Myth #1:** "If a property is designated as a historic landmark, it's protected forever and can never be demolished."

**Fact:** Landmark designation ensures a more thorough review of demolition proposals, but it does not prohibit demolition outright. In the City of Los Angeles, designation as a local historic landmark (Historic-Cultural Monument) allows the city's Cultural Heritage Commission to prevent the issuance of a demolition permit, but only for 180 days. The City Council may then extend this demolition delay for an additional 180 days.

Many East Coast cities, including New York, do prohibit demolition of their landmarks, with an exception for cases of demonstrated economic hardship. Even listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which sounds more elevated than "mere" local listing, does not provide for more iron-clad protection.

In California, demolition of a designated landmark additionally requires preparation of an Environmental Impact Report to assess the feasibility of alternatives to demolition. Yet a truly determined property owner may be able to obtain approval to destroy even our most cherished landmarks.

**Myth #2:** "Historic designation will lower my property values."



The Rives Mansion on Paramount Boulevard is one of many Downey landmarks historical preservationists for years have been trying to save from the wrecking ball. Photo by Art Montoya

**Fact:** Study after study across the nation has conclusively demonstrated that historic designation and the creation of historic districts actually increase property values.

Why? In part because historic designation gives a neighborhood or an individual historic site a cache that sets it apart from ordinary properties.

Many buyers also seek out the unique qualities and ambiance of a historic property. Historic district designation gives potential homebuyers two rare and economically valuable assurances: that the very qualities that attracted them to their neighborhood will endure over time, and that they can safely reinvest in sensitive improvements to their home without fear that their neighbor will undermine this investment with a new "monster home" or inappropriate new development.

**Myth #3:** "If my property is designated as historic, I won't be able to change it in any way, and I

don't want my property to become like a museum."

**Fact:** Owners of designated historic structures can make significant changes to their property. Historic preservation laws, at their essence, are not meant to prevent change, but, rather, to manage change. The tool to manage change is the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the nationally accepted benchmark for evaluating changes to historic structures.

The standards don't require that every element of a historic site remain intact: you need not keep every doorknob! However, the most significant, or "character-defining," historic elements of a property should be retained. New additions to the historic property are allowed, but should be compatible with the site's historic architecture. The standards urge the repair of deteriorated historic features, but do allow for replacement where the severity of deterioration

leaves no other option.

**Myth #4:** "Preservation is only for the rich and elite, and for high-style buildings."

**Fact:** Historic preservation isn't just about house museums anymore. Today's preservation movement is increasingly diverse: here in Los Angeles, many of our newest historic districts (Historic Preservation Overlay Zones, or HPOZs) home to economically and ethnically varied populations.

Preservation today also addresses not just grand architectural landmarks, but more modest sites of social and cultural significance. Just look at the small Ralph J. Bunche House in South Los Angeles, boyhood home of the pioneering African-American diplomat, and Little Tokyo's Far East Café, a beloved gathering place for the city's Japanese-American community – both restored in recent years.

Or, consider a current preservation effort to save the modest Vladeck Center, a Boyle Heights building that was the center of the Jewish labor and immigrant resettlement movements of the 1930s. Such sites underscore that preservation can be about the "power of place" found at sites containing rich social and cultural meaning.

**Myth #5:** "Historic preservation is bad for business."

**Fact:** Historic preservation is at the very heart of our nation's most vibrant economic development and business attraction programs.

From Southern California examples such as Old Pasadena or San Diego's Gaslamp Quarter, to

traditional, historic southern cities such as Charleston or Savannah, to the recent boom in heritage tourism, today's economic development strategies no longer see preservation and business development as competing values.

The National Main Street Center, a program that uses historic preservation to revitalize town centers and neighborhood commercial districts, has tracked economic results in 1,700 Main Street communities. These preservation-based programs have created over 231,000 new jobs and resulted in over \$17 billion in reinvestment to date, with every dollar spent on a Main Street program yielding \$40 in economic reinvestment.

**Myth #6:** "Preservation is more expensive than new construction."

**Fact:** Though this is certainly true at times, historic preservation is typically more cost effective than new construction. Why? Because the upgrades that historic buildings might need are usually less expensive than the costs of building all-new foundations, structural systems, roofs, and building finishes.

The State of California learned the potential savings from historic preservation in comparing the construction of two state office buildings in Los Angeles: the Ronald Reagan State Office Building on Spring Street at Third Street, and the Junipero Serra State Office Building just two blocks away on Broadway at Fourth Street, in the renovated former flagship location of the Broadway Department Store.

The historic renovation not only reused and reinvigorated an important landmark from 1914, but it saved taxpayers money by delivering office space at about half the cost per square foot of the all-new Reagan building just a few years before.

**Myth #7:** "If I buy a historic property, there's lots of government money available to help me fix it up."

**Fact:** Unfortunately, there are few large government or foundation grants available to owners of historic properties, and even those few typically limit eligibility to government agencies or nonprofits. What is available tends to be tax incentives for private owners of historic buildings. Owners of sites listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places can take advantage of a Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit that provides a 20% tax offset for the cost of rehabilitation. National Register properties are also eligible to benefit from conservation easements – binding legal agreements with preservation organizations such as the Los Angeles Conservancy that can allow owners to claim a chari-

table deduction on their Federal income taxes. Finally, the state's Mills Act program, implemented by local governments, including Los Angeles, allows historic property owners to take often significant property tax reductions.

**Myth #8:** "Old buildings are less safe than new ones."

**Fact:** Although historic structures sometimes require structural retrofits or the addition of fire sprinklers to enhance safety, historic buildings often perform better than newer construction in earthquakes and other natural disasters. What determines the safety of buildings is the quality of construction, not age, and, in many ways, "they just don't build 'em like they used to."

Los Angeles' signature historic structures have survived every major temblor of the past eight decades. In the 1994 Northridge earthquake, the most catastrophic damage occurred not to historic buildings but to newer construction such as parking garages, concrete tiltup buildings, and apartments with "tuck-under" parking.

**Myth #9:** "Preservation is an un-American violation of property rights."

**Fact:** Historic preservation laws no more infringe on property rights than do many other laws and rules that Americans have long accepted. Though everyone likes to believe "my home is my castle and I can do whatever I want," this statement simply doesn't reflect reality. Zoning laws prevent you from replacing your single-family home with an apartment building or a five-story vertical mansion.

If you live in a condominium (or a gated community), your property rights are limited by Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs). CC&Rs are far more onerous than historic preservation laws, yet are commonly accepted even by vocal property rights advocates.

**Myth #10:** "Preservationists are always fighting new development and only care about the past."

**Fact:** Historic preservationists do care deeply about the past – generally not just to wallow sentimentally in a bygone era, but as a way of anchoring ourselves as we move forward into the future. Historic preservation is not about stopping change and is certainly not about squeezing out creative and exciting new architecture and development.

Preservation allows us to retain the best of our shared heritage to preserve sites of unique quality and beauty, revitalize neighborhoods, spur economic revitalization, and, quite simply, create better communities.

## Classes teach Chinese way of business

**NORWALK** – Starting this month, Cerritos College Community Education will be offering new classes in U.S.-China business and Chinese language and culture.

The "Doing Business with China" class explores how local businesses can benefit from the U.S.-China business boom. The one-night only class will cover business climate, business etiquette, opportunities and resources for both sourcing from and selling to China and customs and information for conducting effective and profitable business with China.

The class costs \$39. The class will meet this Monday from 6 to 9 p.m.

The "Chinese Language & Culture Introduction Class" series spans six weeks and covers topics such as words and phrases in Chinese along with etiquette and cultural nuances. Cost for all six classes is \$99. The class will meet on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on April 14, 21, 28 and May 5, 12 and 19.

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# The ins-and-outs of living trusts

CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE LOPEZ,  
THE LAW OFFICES OF STEVE LOPEZ

So what exactly is a living trust? It is a written legal document that partially substitutes for a will. With a living trust, your assets – your home, bank accounts and stocks, for example – are put into the trust, administered for your benefit during your lifetime, and then transferred to persons you designate when you die.



Living trusts are effective ways to transfer property, at your death, to relatives, friends, or charities that you have chosen. Essentially, a living trust performs the same function as a will, with the important difference that property left by a will must go through the probate court process. In probate, a deceased person's will is proven valid in court, the person's debts are paid and usually after about a year, the remaining property is finally distributed to the beneficiaries. In the vast majority of instances, these probate court proceedings are an utter waste of time and money.

By contrast, property left by a living trust can go promptly and directly to the persons you designated. They do not have to bother with going

through probate court or hiring a probate attorney, thus saving money and in some instances, frustration of the slow probate process.

While you live, you effectively keep ownership of all property you have transferred to your living trust. You can do whatever you want to with any trust property, including selling it, spending it, or giving it away.

Most people name themselves as the trustee in charge of managing their trust's assets. This way, even though your assets have been put into the trust, you can remain in control of your assets during your lifetime. You can also name a successor trustee (a person or an institution) who will manage the trust's assets if you ever become unable or unwilling to do so yourself.

The living trust described in this article is a revocable living trust, sometimes referred to as a revocable inter vivos trust or a grantor trust. Such a trust may be amended or revoked at any time by the person or persons who created it, commonly known as the trustor(s), grantor(s), or settler(s), as long as he, she, or they are still competent.

### How do you create the living trust?

When you create a living trust document, you must identify the following in the Declaration of Trust (the actual name of the document).

- 1.) Yourself as the grantor, the person who creates the trust;

2.) Name a trustee, which will be the person who manages the trust. This is normally the person who creates the trust, i.e. the grantor;

3.) Identify the persons you will leave the trust property to. These are the beneficiaries;

4.) Identify the trust property.

### How are my assets put into the living trust?

Once your trust has been created, an important task remains. To avoid court-supervised conservatorship proceedings if you should become incapacitated, or the probate process at your death, your assets must be transferred to the trustee of your living trust. This is known as funding the trust.

Deeds to your real estate must be prepared and recorded. Bank accounts and stock and bond accounts, or certificates, must be transferred as well. These tasks are sometimes expensive, but they are important and do require some paperwork.

A living trust can hold both separate and community property. This makes it convenient for spouses and registered domestic partners to plan for the management and ultimate distribution of their assets in one document. (Note: While registered domestic partners have many of the same rights as spouses, be aware that federal tax law does not provide the same tax benefits for domestic partners as it does for spouses.)

If you own real estate in another state, you might (depending on the state's law) transfer that asset to your trust as well as avoid probate in that

See TRUSTS, page 15

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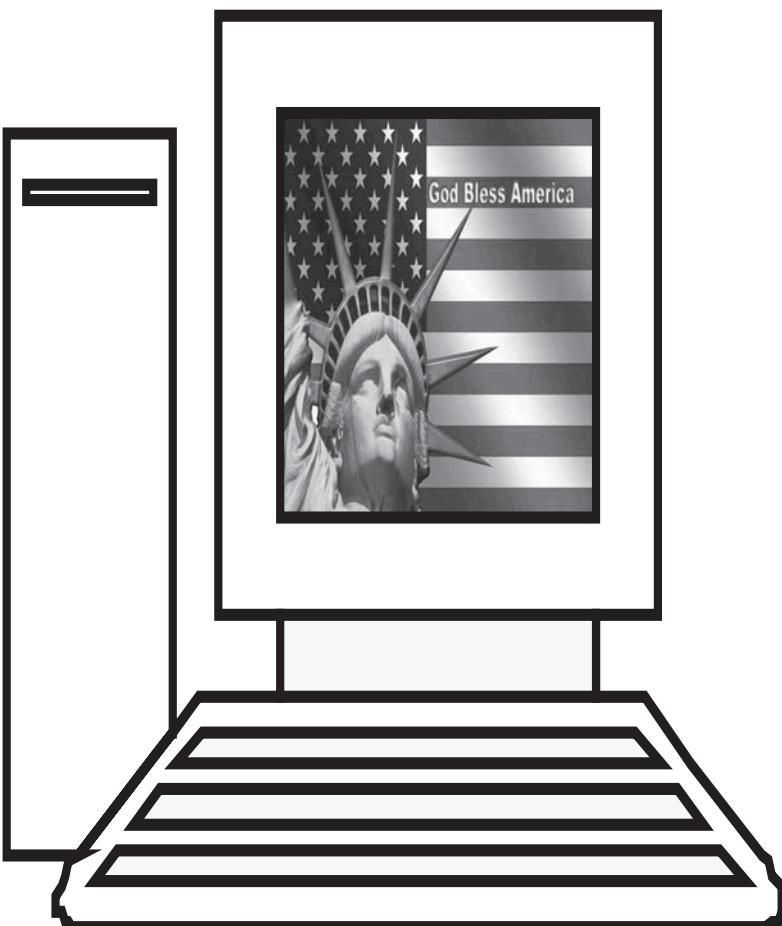
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Please call The Downey Patriot with any questions regarding your announcement. Phone (562)904-3668



Judy Kertes will perform "A Musical Bouquet" at this Monday's OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School.

## Choir director presents 'musical bouquet'

**DOWNEY** – Judy Kertes, director of the New Century Singers Whittier Women's Chorus, will perform "A Musical Bouquet" at this Monday's OASIS meeting at Downey Adult School.

With her classically trained soprano voice, Kertes will perform pieced ranging from blues to classical.

All older adults are welcome to the meeting. Enrollment is free and begins at 2:45 p.m., at which time visitors can purchase an optional dinner ticket for \$3.50. The program will start at 3:45, followed by dinner at 5.

Downey Dial-a-Ride can provide transportation to those who qualify. For more information, call (562) 940-6200.



Staff members at Prudential 24 Hour Real Estate recently attended an open house for the new construction development at "The Preserve," a 1,025-acre master-planned community with 7,300 homes, in Chino. Amenities include a 15,000 square foot recreation center with movie theater, fitness center, game rooms, business center, catering kitchen, and more. Outdoor amenities include lighted tennis courts, barbecue area, pool, spa and many parks. Pictured are James Polidore, Carrie Uva, Carmen Cabada, Maria Rivas, Penny Watson, Russell Skersick, Maria Razo, Julio Garcia, Katonja Neal, Carmen Chavez, Christina Davillas and Frank Canseco.

## Soroptimist hosting casino fundraiser

**DOWNEY** – Soroptimist International of Downey will host a Monte Carlo Casino Night Fundraiser on April 18 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Rio Hondo Event Center.

Admission is \$40 per person pre-sale, and \$45 per person at the door, which includes hors d'oeuvres, \$100 in gaming script, silent auction, 50/50 drawing, prizes and music.

For tickets and information, call Karina Madariaga at (562) 940-6236.

## TRUSTS

Continued from page 13

other state. A lawyer from that state can help you prepare the deed and complete the transfer. If the real estate is located in California, a California lawyer should prepare the deed and advise you on transferring such property.

A lawyer can help you transfer other assets as well. For example, you should consider changing the beneficiary designations on life insurance to the trust. As for the beneficiary designations on a qualified plan, such as a 401(k) or an IRA, you should seek a qualified professional's advice because there are serious income tax issues.

### How much is it going to cost me?

It all depends on your individual circumstances and the complexity of documentation and planning required in achieving your goals and objectives. The costs vary from lawyer to lawyer. Generally, the costs will include the lawyer's charges for discussing a plan with you; preparing a living trust agreement and other necessary legal documents; supervision over their execution; and services or instructions for funding your living trust.

It is crucial to keep in mind that a living trust is a very important part of your estate plan. Avoid being lured by promotions for extremely low-cost living trusts without checking out those who are making the offer.

If you retain a lawyer, you should understand what services are to be provided and how much they will charge. California law generally requires that a lawyer explain, in writing, the nature of the services to be rendered, the cost of those services and the payment terms. Some lawyers charge a flat fee for these types of services. Others charge on an hourly basis or use a combination of the two.

You can also contact the State Bar of California at (866) 442-2529 for a referral to an attorney.

*The purpose of this column is to provide general information on the law, which is subject to change. It is not legal advice. Consult a lawyer if you have a specific legal problem.*

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**FEATURED PROPERTY**

**REDUCED**

Now... Try To Match This One!  
Back On The Market North Downey, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, approx. 10440 sq. ft. lot, pool, cu-de-sac street, fireplace, park like back yard, close to freeways. Virtual tour – www.towncenter.com/9167

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**It's A Good One**  
4 bedroom, 3 bathroom, force air heating & A/C, main floor master bedroom, corner lot, price right. \$450,000

**PENDING**

**Waiting for A Great Price?**  
Spacious 4 bedroom, 2 bath, copper plumbing, bonus room, utility room, formal dining room, approx. 1704 sq. ft.

**REDUCED**

**First Time Buyer Opportunity**  
This property needs a little TLC but has a fantastic price. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Probate-subject to court approval. \$260,000

**REDUCED**

**SHORT SALE Bargain**  
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors and tile. Close to schools, shopping, & freeways. Quiet area, must see to appreciate! \$449,000

**PENDING**

**Neat & Clean**  
Priced to sell - 2 bedrooms, 1 bathrooms, 2 car garage, workshop, Very Nice area, move in condition

**SHORT SALE**

**Yes...\$429,000**  
Great curb appeal, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bonus room, guest house, great neighborhood, very close to amusement park, shopping. Lowest priced property in the area.

**SHORT SALE**

**North Downey**  
A fantastic opportunity to purchase a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, wood floor and granite countertops, great neighborhood. First time buyer opportunity.

**REDUCED**

**New Townhouses - Downey**  
3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, great location, fireplace, 2 car attached garage, balcony, stainless appliances, granite counter tops. Virtual tour – www.towncenter.com/9759

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DOWNEY ORANGE ESTATE'S  
3 BD, 2 BA, 2,000 Sq. Ft.  
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3 BD, 2 BA, 4,996 Sq. Ft. Lot.  
Priced at \$419,900

**JUST LISTED!**  
Turnkey Townhouse  
2 BD, 1.5 BA, 900 Sq. Ft.  
Very Desirable Complex.  
Offered at \$349,000

**DECORATOR PERFECT!**  
Gorgeous 3 BD, 1.75 BA  
home in North Downey  
Priced at: \$599,900

**JUST LISTED!**  
WOW! WHAT A VALUE!  
3 BD, 1.5 BA, 5,500 Sq. Ft. Lot!  
Priced at: \$449,900

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9631 DOWNEY AVE.  
3 BD, 2,000 Sq. Ft. Of  
Living Space Built in 1974  
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**OPEN HOUSE SAT 1-4PM**  
10608 Shellyfield, Downey  
3 BD, 1 BA, remodeled  
throughout, MUST SEE!  
Priced at: \$509,900

**MUST SEE!**  
Home Sweet Home!  
3BD, 1 3/4 BA, close to everything  
Priced at \$589,000

**REDUCED!**  
1759 Avenida Selva ~ Fullerton  
Mario Sells Fullerton Too!!!  
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**SOLD!**  
*How Soon Can You Move?*  
3 BD, 2 BA cul-de-sac home with new kitchen w/ granite counters, beautiful remodeled bathrooms, and much more.  
Price: \$489,900  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**SOLD!**  
*Gorgeously Renovated!*  
Amazing 4 bed, 2.5 bath, 2682 sq ft house on a 8200 sq ft lot, remodeled through out.  
Price \$849,950  
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

**OPEN HOUSE**  
*"Welcome to the Island"*  
3 BR, 2 BA Downey home with 600 sq ft guest room, remodeled kitchen, spa, and circular driveway.  
Price: \$599,950  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**REDUCED**  
*This One's Hot!*  
5 BD, 3 BA newly-constructed home with 3205 sq ft living space.  
A great find @ \$824,950  
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

**REDUCED**  
*Too Many Upgrades to List*  
New Construction 2007- 5 bed, 4 bath, 3250 sq ft living space, many fine upgrades and touches.  
Price \$1,099,950  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**OPEN HOUSE**  
*Home Sweet Home!*  
3 BD, 2 BA home in Orange Estates (N Downey) with living rm, family rm, det garage, and pool.  
Price: \$724,900  
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

**REDUCED**  
*This You've Got to See!*  
5 BD, 4 BA, approx 4,700 sq. ft. all on an impressive 19,888 sq. ft. lot. Home features: pool/spa, sports court, 3BD guest house & RV parking.  
Price: \$1,999,999  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**REDUCED**  
*The Price is Right!*  
3 BD, spacious living room and formal dining room. If you're looking for a lot of square footage for your dollar, this is the place for you!  
Price: \$425,000  
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**REDUCED**  
*Splish Splash!*  
3BD, 2BA, pool home with extra large 2 car detached garage on quiet street in Downey. Home is 2,189 sq ft on a 7,380 sq ft lot.  
Reduced to \$589,900  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**REDUCED**  
*Look No Further!*  
3BD, 2BA, 1622 sq ft house in Downey, 7940 sq ft lot, remodeled kitchen, 2 car detached garage, plenty of storage space.  
Price: \$565,000  
Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111

**REDUCED**  
*Location! Location! Location!*  
Upgraded 3BD, 3BA, NE Downey home on a 11,520 sq.ft. lot. With remodeled kitchen & extra large backyard w/pool. Don't miss this one priced at \$889,950  
Virtual tour at [www.MichaelBerdelis.com](http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com)

**REDUCED**  
*Corner Lot!*  
6BD+office, 6.5BA, 5500 sq ft, 7588 sq ft lot, brand new home w/large master suite, high ceilings, fabulous kitchen & so much more!  
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