

# The Downey Patriot



**D. Mark Morris  
leading DUSD**  
See Page 8



**Warren girls  
make a splash**  
See Page 11



**Kids harvest  
giant tomatoes**  
See Page 2

Friday, December 19, 2008

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

## The Gift of a Baby

■ House of Ruth in Downey has been fulfilling dreams for 30 years.

By MARY FORNEY,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – It is a tradition mothers across the world are passing on to their children this month – baking Christmas cookies.

Stephanie Peters, 32, of Laverne, is giving thanks this year to the House of Ruth in Downey for fulfilling her dream of having a child to bake cookies for.

Stephanie and her 37-year-old husband Michael tried seven years to conceive before turning to the House of Ruth to adopt a baby in need.

The House of Ruth in Downey is a Calvary Chapel outreach ministry for women with unplanned pregnancies. It is not an adoption agency, but the program does offer open or closed adoption choices for birthmothers.

According to counselor Billie Jo Huish, the House of Ruth in Downey has assisted an average of 50 local women per year since its services began 30 years ago.

Offering assistance with prenatal care, education and employment resources, childbirth preparation, parenting skills and spiritual guidance, the House of Ruth also provides counseling to aid unsupported women with their decision making.

"The House of Ruth is committed to helping the woman experiencing an unplanned pregnancy with positive choices regarding her child and her future," Huish said. "While much of our work relates to adoption, we affirm that adoption is not right for everyone. We



Michael and Stephanie Peters tried to conceive a child for seven years before turning to the House of Ruth, where they adopted their daughter, Ashley. Photo courtesy House of Ruth

encourage those who come to us for help to consider their resources for parenting – trusting God has a plan for each woman and child."

If a birthmother decides it is not her time to parent, she has the option of choosing a Christian family to adopt her baby.

"Contrary to what many believe, a birthmother will never forget her baby," Huish said. "She has made a loving choice to choose a family and we hold birthmothers in very high esteem for making such a difficult and loving decision."

Last year, after interviewing several couples as prospective parents, a young pregnant woman

made this difficult decision and chose the Peters to raise her child upon birth.

"After the interview it was like waiting for the results of a pregnancy test with our being chosen as the positive sign," Stephanie said.

This year, the Peters are celebrating their first Christmas as a family which now includes 10-month-old Ashley.

"Even though she's little, we are going to make sugar cookies together," Stephanie said. "I just want her there with me in the kitchen. We're finally able to do all those family traditions we've dreamed about, only now we don't have to dream anymore – it's real."

Stephanie laughed when asked what Santa might bring Ashley on her first Christmas Eve.

"I thought it would be really great to wrap up what she really wants – the TV remote control, the cell phone, our keys – all the things we keep having to take from her," she said.

"Actually, Santa will be bringing her some toys. This Christmas is everything we've dreamed about – including baking cookies together. The baby's Christmas stocking is hanging up and we have our family – it's almost surreal."

For more information about the House of Ruth, call (562) 803-1477.

## New council approves employee raises

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – Several employee groups have been granted salary increases by the newly-elected City Council, which approved the raises after they were initially denied by the previous council.

The Downey City Employees Association – Maintenance Unit – was granted a 4 percent pay raise for its 54 current employees this week. The association, representing employees in the maintenance, transit, water utility and housing divisions, will also receive increases in their amount of sick-leave payoff at retirement to 100 percent, an increase in their annual boot

allowance to \$40 per year, increases in the mechanics tools allowance to \$500 per year, increases to their life insurance programs, and other benefit adjustments.

The 1-year deal will cost the city \$158,355 this current fiscal year and \$79,444 next year.

"The intention of this new agreement is to provide competitive compensation and to avoid a multi-year commitment of future salary adjustments because of the uncertainty related to the economy," Assistant City Manager Lee Powell wrote in a staff report.

The raises were approved

Tuesday with Mayor Mario Guerra the lone dissenter. Guerra warned of the current economic crisis and its potential impact on city finances.

"I do not think you're greedy," Guerra told city employees at Tuesday's meeting. "I'm really trying to save jobs."

But Councilman Roger Brossmer said the city should honor labor negotiations conducted in good faith.

"This was really an easy decision," Brossmer said.

Last week, Brossmer called the council into closed session to discuss similar salary increases to the

Downey Public Safety Auxiliary Association that were also previously denied. The council voted 4-1 (with Guerra dissenting) to approve 4 to 7 percent raises.

The Auxiliary Association represents code enforcement officers, forensics specialists, 911 dispatchers and records specialists.

But the council did reject a 4 percent salary raise to 36 management positions, including the city manager and several department heads.

An amended resolution granting raises to five secretary positions passed, however, with Mayor Pro Tem Anne Bayer dissenting.

## Downey Ford closing next month

■ Sixty-three employees will lose their jobs.

By MARY FORNEY,  
STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – This holiday season is anything but cheery and bright for the Downey Ford employees on Lakewood Boulevard.

Pink slips were handed out just days before Thanksgiving, as employees were told the business will close its doors permanently on Jan. 18, 2009.

Blaming "an extreme downturn in the general economy, the automotive retail industry" and lack of local business, the Downey Ford closure will result in loss of employment for 63 workers.

"The industry is just the way it is," said Downey Ford Controller Pat Mahon. "There's not enough support to make it happen."

The company has passed this

lack of support on to its employees.

According to a letter from Mahon to former Downey Mayor David Gafin, company policies made no provisions for "transfer, bumping, reassignment, or severance pay" because Downey Ford is a non-union employer.

The employees losing their jobs include five in management positions, three finance office workers, 13 sales personnel, five advisors, 17 technicians, 12 clerks, and eight lot attendants.

"We are encouraging them to find new jobs," Mahon said. "As they are finding them, we are letting them go."

Bob Remy, president of Downey Ford, declined to comment about the business closing or the loss of jobs.

Despite experiencing several owner changes since Downey Ford first opened in 1951, the car dealership has operated for 58 years.

## Kohl's moving into Stonewood Center

By ERIC PIERCE, CITY EDITOR

**DOWNEY** – A Kohl's department store will move into Stonewood Center and take over bankrupt Mervyn's, mall representatives have confirmed.

Kohl's was successful last week in a joint \$6.25 million bid with Forever 21 to take over 46 Mervyn's locations. Kohl's will assume 31 of the locations and Forever 21 will take over 15 (including the Mervyn's at Lakewood Center).

The deal is pending approval by the court overseeing Mervyn's bankruptcy proceedings.

"Kohl's will add another dimension to the shopping experience at Stonewood Center and is a great win for the local community as well," said Whitney Wigle, marketing manager at Stonewood Center. "Kohl's is a solid retailer experiencing positive business in

this challenging climate. We know they will reinforce our commitment to quality at Stonewood Center."

Kohl's representatives expressed optimism at taking over the Mervyn's locations.

"With over 1,000 stores from coast to coast, these locations provide increased presence in under-penetrated markets," Kevin Mansell, president and CEO of Kohl's, said in a written statement. "We will continue to be opportunistic and prudent in our discussions with the owners of select Mervyn's real estate as we continue to position Kohl's to grow market share."

Kohl's currently operates 1,004 stores in 48 states. In fiscal 2009, the company expects to open an additional 50 stores inclusive of the 31 Mervyn's locations, which are expected to open next fall.

## Opportunity for arts exists in the downtown

Contributed by LAWRENCE CHRISTON, DOWNEY RESIDENT

What's the most talked-about movie of the past few weeks, with its stars and director making the chat-show circuit, as well as press coverage calling it a shoo-in for Golden Globe Awards and Oscars? "Frost/Nixon," the Peter Morgan play, adapted for the screen, which deals with a famous series of interviews that took place between British TV host David Frost and disgraced former president Richard Nixon.

It's been playing nationwide, but if you live in Downey and want to see it in Downey, you're out of luck. This has been true of a lot of excellent movies featuring major national and even international talents (like Penelope Cruz) and Oscar-winners (like Ben Kingsley). The Krikorian, our only movie theater, is an attractive, clean, well-maintained, state-of-

the-art facility. But it's a popcorn theater that plays mainly to a teen demographic. There's nothing wrong with that; but what about moviegoers who like more mature fare, with more complex, considered, varied and interesting views of human experience and less special effects and gunplay?

There's been no place for them to go in Downey for years. But now there may be a change in the air. The city of Downey has taken over the property that includes the former Downey Avenue Theater, and through a series of Redevelopment Agency hearings this past year, is deliberating what to do with it – as well as the Verizon building in back of Firestone Boulevard.

This is potentially good news, for the city, for cinephiles, for people who like good movies without getting bomb-blasted out of their seats by

See THEATRE, page 5



The Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis Club and J.C. Penney's at Stonewood Center recently hosted the 30th annual Holiday Shopping Spree for 90 special needs students at Downey Unified School District. Students received gift certificates from the Kiwanis Club and store discounts from J.C. Penney's, allowing students to buy gifts for family members. Pictured left to right: J.C. Penney's manager David Oaks, Santa Claus, Kiwanis president Roy Beard, and Carpenter Elementary student Maggie Delvillar.





The Special Day Class at Price Elementary School planted tomato seeds last spring and has begun harvesting tomatoes that weigh up to four pounds each. The class attributes the giant tomatoes to banana skins the children placed in the garden. The class is led by teacher Patricia Holmes. The boy is Juan Rius, 4, and Eileen Cruz, 6. Photo courtesy Price Elementary.

## Historical society hosting open house

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Historical Society will host an open house tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours of the famous Dismukes House at Apollo Park will be given, and visitors can enjoy historic Christmas exhibits. Refreshments will be served. The Downey Historical Society is at 12540 Rives Ave. at Apollo Park.

## Holiday fun at Downey parks

**DOWNEY** – Children ages 6-11 can enjoy holiday activities at local parks through the city's outdoor drop-in program, "Holiday Haven," Dec. 22 – Jan. 2. The program will operate 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with several outdoor activities per day, the first beginning at 11:30. The program is closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. The program will be offered at Apollo, Brookshire, Dennis the Menace, Rio San Gabriel, Furman, Crawford and Golden parks. At Brookshire and Crawford parks, the program will operate from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. "Holiday Haven" is free, but registration is required. Registration can be completed at the parks starting Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. The program will not operate in inclement weather. For more information, call (562) 904-7238.

## Temple to light Hanukkah candle

**DOWNEY** – Temple Ner Tamid of Downey will light the first Hanukkah candle on the Chanukah at Stonewood Center on Dec. 21. The celebration will take place in the J.C. Penney quad at 3 p.m. Rabbi Len Muroff and Cantor Ellen Jaffe-Gill will explain the significance of Hanukkah, and describe some of its rituals. Holiday blessings and songs will also be heard. The community is invited to the celebration. For more information, call the temple's office at (562) 861-9276.

## Downey grad in leadership training

**FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY** – Jorge I. Medina, a 2005 graduate of Downey High School, has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. The four-week course is a leadership internship for cadets that can lead to the ultimate goal of becoming an Army officer. College students experience and examine the Army without incurring an obligation to serve in the Army or ROTC, and are eligible to receive two-year college scholarship offers and attend the Advanced ROTC Course at their college. Cadets are observed and evaluated during classroom and field training exercises to determine their officer potential in leadership abilities and skills. The cadets are trained to have a sound understanding of traditional leadership values during hands-on training. Cadets receive training in fundamental military skills, Army values, ethics, warrior ethos, rifle marksmanship, small arms tactics, weapons training, drill and ceremony, communications, combat water survival training, rappelling, land navigation, and squad-level operations field training. Medina is a student at Cal State Long Beach. He is the son of Carlos and Patricia Medina of Downey.

## College holiday concert free

**NORWALK** – The Cerritos College jazz ensemble, band and orchestra will present an evening of holiday music tonight at the school's Burnight Center Theatre. The concert is free and begins at 7 p.m. One-day parking passes are \$1. For more information on the concert, call (562) 860-2451, ext. 2629.

## Rose Parade tickets still available

**DOWNEY** – Grandstand tickets to the 120th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena are still available through the community center. Tickets are \$67 and include transportation and seats. Guests must be at least 8 years old. Tickets are available at the community center, 7810 Quill Dr.

## Library accepting food for fines

**DOWNEY** – Through the month of December, patrons of the Downey City Library can clear their overdue fines while helping needy families. The library is accepting new canned and packaged foods as payment for overdue fines on returned materials. Food collected will be donated to local families. "Even if you don't owe library fines, we invite you to bring in food items to help local families," said Josephine de la Dingco, supervisor of the library's circulation desk. "Volunteers from the Downey Council PTA HELPS distribute the food collected during December. We are so pleased by the generosity of those who donate each year." Donations will be accepted until Dec. 31. The donated value of each item will be worth 50 cents toward the fine. For more information, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 5.

## Gabrielle Lopez & Michael Jagers Are Getting Married

Long time Downey resident Alice Lopez happily announces the engagement of her daughter Gabrielle Lopez to Mr. Michael Jagers of Louisville, Kentucky. Gabrielle and Mike met through mutual friend Jennie Lattanzio Payne when Gabrielle moved to Louisville to pursue her training as a registered nurse. She previously obtained a B.S. degree in Communications at Cal State University Fullerton in 2003. Mike is a shipping supervisor at UPS, which has its main headquarters in Louisville. Gabrielle and Mike plan a Fall 2009 wedding in Louisville, Kentucky.

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LONG BEACH



## City will collect Christmas trees

**DOWNEY** – Downey residents can discard their Christmas trees by placing them curbside on their regular trash collection day.

Trees will be picked up beginning Dec. 26 through Jan. 16. Trees should be free of stands and decorations and not placed in a bag. Trees over four feet tall should be cut in half. Flocked trees are OK. The trees will be collected by CalMet Services, the city's franchised refuse hauler, and taken to the Puente Hills Landfill, where they will be composted or ground up and used for the county sanitation districts' Landfill Cover Project.

Trees can also be dropped off at the city's public works yard, 12324 Bellflower Blvd., behind Independence Park, beginning Dec. 29.

Commercial accounts (businesses and apartments) can call CalMet at (562) 259-1239 to schedule free pick-up service.

## Hospital hosting blood drive

**DOWNEY** – Downey Regional Medical Center will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross on Dec. 30 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Conference Room B, located in the hospital's basement.

Blood donors will receive a gift certificate for a free ice cream from Cold Stone Creamery, a voucher for two tickets to a Los Angeles Clippers game (good only on pre-determined dates) and a T-shirt.

To register, go to [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org), search for location (Downey Regional Medical Center), or enter the following code: DOWREG. You can also call (562) 904-5321 to schedule an appointment.

## Woman's Club going to Pechanga

**DOWNEY** – The Woman's Club of Downey is sponsoring a bus trip to the Pechanga Resort and Casino on Jan. 5.

Funds raised by the trip will go to the club's scholarship fund. The bus will leave the Woman's Club at 8 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m. Cost is \$6 for Woman's Club members and \$11 for non-members, and includes a \$5 voucher for casino play.

Bingo is played on the bus and guests must be at least 21 years old. For reservations, call Jeanine Keys at (562) 923-6620 or Doris Patterson at (562) 869-0377.

## Fashion show at Christian meeting

**DOWNEY** – A fashion show by L&M Fashions will highlight the Jan. 14 meeting of the Downey Christian Women's Club.

The meeting is themed "New Beginnings." Hermina Vink will provide music and Bonnie Smith will be the guest speaker. She will speak on "Why the Past is not the Future."

The lunch meeting begins at 11:45 a.m. at the Los Amigos Country Club. Cost is \$12. Both men and women are invited to attend.

Reservations are requested by calling Sonja at (562) 862-4347 or Jean at (562) 861-1114.



Santa Claus shared Christmas wishes with more than 100 children during three visits to the Downey City Library this week. After listening to holiday stories, children visited with Santa and enjoyed cookies and milk donated by Rockview Farms of Downey. For more information on free library events, call (562) 904-7360, ext. 4. Photo courtesy Downey City Library

## Bus trip heads to Huntington Library

**DOWNEY** – The Downey Symphony Guild will host an excursion to the Huntington Library in San Marino on Jan. 8. The community is invited.

The jaunt could be called "An embarrassment of riches" for the Huntington Library is not only a library but an art gallery, botanical gardens, and in addition to other new attractions, has a spectacular "Garden of Flowing Fragrance."

This Chinese scholar's garden is California's first Chinese garden open to the public. Fifty Chinese artisans were brought to the site to make sure it honored Chinese traditions. Six pavilions of hand-carved wood and five bridges were built and a pond was created that frames the distant San Gabriel Mountains.

The art collection of British portraits is considered one of the great-

est outside of London. Two famous favorites there are Gainsborough's "Blue Boy" and Lawrence's "Pinkie."

There will be time to explore independently the many treasures on the grounds. The café there serves light meals, pastries, drinks and sandwiches. Reservations are required for the Rose Garden tea room.

Space on the bus is limited so early reservations are suggested. The bus will be at the flagpole near the Downey library at 8 a.m. on Jan. 8. It will leave promptly at 9:30 a.m. A light snack will be served to passengers. The outing will end at 1:30 p.m. for the return ride to Downey.

Reservations are \$15 per person. Make checks payable to Downey Symphony Guild and mail to 9700 Garnish Dr., Downey, CA 90240-3003.

For more information, call (562) 869-2120.  
—Rosalie Sciortino, Downey Symphony Guild

## The Memorial Trust Foundation at Downey Regional Medical Center would like to thank the following donors who have given generously this year\*

### Gifts over \$100,000

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The Foundation's annual golf tournament, held on June 20 at Rio Hondo Country Club, attracted more than 144 golfers and raised more than \$40,000 to benefit the hospital's infection control program.

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Charter Ball honorees Joan and Sam Smock with a sample of the baby warmers to be purchased with event proceeds, which exceeded \$150,000.

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\*As of December 5, 2008.  
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list.  
Please call us at 562-904-5055 with any questions.



The Foundation was pleased to underwrite this year's Special Care Nursery Reunion, held on October 26. More than 100 Special Care nursery alumni—children who were born prematurely or who had special health needs at birth—and their families attended this very special reunion.

### Employee Donors

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## Despite our ills, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BY HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

Another year is ending, and on a sour note, too. The root of all our problems? Th'economy's black and blue. But, on the other hand, there's much we're thankful for— Life, liberty, and the pursuit...and what the future has in store.

To Depression era-born, philanthropist **Dr. Mary Stauffer**, These ills we bear she's borne before, plus many a care; So has unflappable **John Vincent**, who bravely soldiered on Well onto WWII, now part-time poet, and local historian.

**Art Morris**, known for his long ties to DRMC, A 64-slice CT scanner among his lasting legacy; **Dr. Bob Flynn**, who's spent his life in the service of others, And has had to deal with thorns amidst the sweetest flowers;

**Angelo Cardono**, who through the years hasn't lost his flair For doing worthwhile deeds, nor lost his hair. **George Cade**, who wears through thick and thin a smile, (You get the feeling to get something done he'd walk a mile)—

Are a few more who've made their mark Despite I'm sure significant odds and clouds exceeding dark. I can think of more—**Harold Tsklenis** is one Of those who've shown it can be done.

**Bill Kirkwood** is another who knows about such things, And **John Lacey**, **Wayne Wilcox**, **Chuck Hutchinson**, etc., whose imaginings Have won them measurable fame and fortune. They also can be funny and even carry at times a tune.

Molding minds and educating hearts—this DUSD understands, **Wendy Doty** knows it's the work of many hands. She and the exec team she leads—**Kevin Condon**, **Stan Hanstad**, **Jeri King-Brown**— Have won for district and themselves renown.

Praiseworthy as well is a vigilant Board of Education That's noted for their cool and calm deliberation. There's **Willie Gutierrez**, **Martha Sodetani**, **Don La Plante**, **Mark Morris**, **Tod Corrin**, **Nancy Swenson**, and **Barb Samperi**—who'd free us from our school-related worries.

The other administrators, teachers, staff, the rest Make for a lean, mean, and solid team. They represent the best That schools anywhere have to offer. They've got that extra something other districts go-fer.

With regards the theatre, you should see **Marsha Moode** in action, Her musical productions are viewed by many with satisfaction. And though **Sharon Lavery** hasn't yet had many years under her

belt, Her impact on the symphonic scene is absolutely being felt.

The Downey Museum of Art has a similar role to play With 'sustainable'-conscious **Kate Davies** leading the way. In the realm of poetry, **Lorine Parks**, creative, prolific— Her works can only be described as 'terrific'.

Thus Downey's cultural scene is alive and well Filling people's deepest needs, as far as we can tell. In social service and other spheres, **Darrell Jackson's** and **Doris Patterson's** names are cause for cheers.

Other formidable names are of course out there Whose talents, worth, and contributions are just as rare. For not being mentioned here they shouldn't take offense, Their exercise of virtue should be sufficient recompense.

Former pro tem **Mario Guerra** is now the mayor. So he'll be well-guided we offer a prayer. **Luis Marquez** and **Roger Brossmer** are the new Councilmen May they act with wisdom and understanding as well. Amen.

Termed out **Rick Trejo** and **Kirk Cartozian** aren't going away, And they shouldn't, 'cause important roles are still there for them to play. Consider **Meredith Perkins's** contributions, and **Keith McCarthy's**, Long after they turned in, as it were, the car keys.

**Dave Gafin's** term as mayor will always be remembered For the boil water order episode, but also for the things he dared To tackle, and largely accomplished. His no-frills, simple, honest-to-goodness style With his re-election will be a welcome foil to all potential bombast for a while.

The keenest eye discerns the wheels of City Hall get traction From fine-tuned staff and departmental energies led by **Gerry Caton**, And one more valuable, it's widely agreed, than **Lee Powell** Whose input to the municipal process has been without equal.

Let others sing the praises of police chief **Roy Campos** Who's never been accused, bless his soul, of being pompous— I'm biased enough. The same goes true for fire chief **Mark Sauter** and Other crack personnel: they, warts and all, could be 'mong the best in the land.

So there you've seen whence come those luminous local points of light That point the way to a future unlimited and bright. We wish you merry, happy holidays And hope your lives expand in a thousand wondrous ways.

### POET'S CORNER

#### Christmas

Let us reflect upon the reason  
For this lovely Christmas season  
Of glittering lights and pretty trees  
Decorated homes and chocolate candy.

Let's not forget but thankfully recall  
The most miraculous birth of all --  
That of Jesus, God's begotten son  
Born of the Virgin Mary, God's chosen one.

Christmas songs of praise let's sing  
Joyfully to the newborn King --  
Cradled in straw next to stable stalls  
Born this day to save us all!

-Martha J. Morrissy,  
Downey

#### A Christmas Poem for Children

On Christmas Day, dear children,  
Are all you girls and boys,  
Only thinking of old Santa Claus  
And if he'll bring you toys?

Or will you all remember  
That there is a better reason,  
For each of us to be really gay  
Throughout this Holy Season?

It was many, many years ago  
A tiny baby was born,  
And we've celebrated Christmas  
Ever since that Holy Morn.

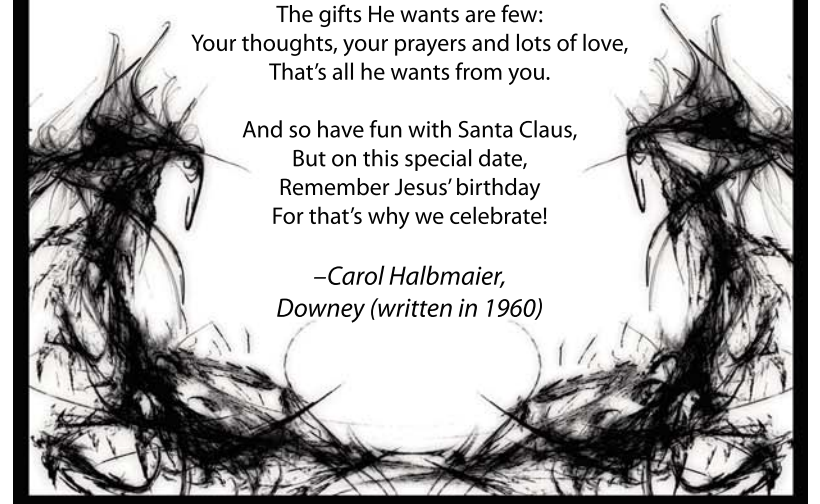
God blessed the Mother Mary  
And said she should be the one --  
To give birth to Baby Jesus and  
To raise Him as her Son!

Now I'm sure that on your birthdays,  
(And this I do believe),  
That many, many birthday gifts  
You're happy to receive

Well, on Baby Jesus' birthday,  
The gifts He wants are few:  
Your thoughts, your prayers and lots of love,  
That's all he wants from you.

And so have fun with Santa Claus,  
But on this special date,  
Remember Jesus' birthday  
For that's why we celebrate!

-Carol Halbmaier,  
Downey (written in 1960)



# Winter Worship Directory

## Temple Ner Tamid

10629 Lakewood Blvd. Downey

Join us for Services every Friday Night at 7:30 p.m.  
We will have Tea and Torah classes at 10 a.m. on  
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2009.  
Adult Education classes will be held at 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3 and 10, 2009.  
For details, please call the office at  
**562-861-9276**

## Downey Memorial Christian Church

We invite you to join us



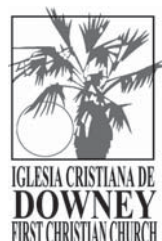
**Dec. 21, 10:30 am**  
Christmas Sunday  
**Dec. 24, 7:00 pm**  
Christmas Eve Festival  
of Carols and Lights

8441 Florence Avenue, Downey \* 562-869-7291  
Find us at [www.downeymemorial.org](http://www.downeymemorial.org)

10711 Paramount Blvd. Downey (562) 923-1215 **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Candle Light Christmas Eve Service**  
**Wednesday, December 24 at 5:30pm**  
Invite your friends and neighbors to rejoice in the birth of our Savior.

**Christmas Eve Worship Service**  
**Wednesday, December 24th**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Downey First Christian Church**  
**Iglesia Cristiana de Downey**



You are invited to come join family and friends in the community as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ and celebrate together the real reason for the Christmas Season. This year our Christmas Eve will be filled with candlelight, communion, music and a message - followed by a time of drinks and dessert. This worship service is a great opportunity for the family to spend time together at church during the holiday season. Childcare will not be provided; however, a separate family room will be available for families with active little ones.

10909 S. New Street Downey, CA 90241  
(one block north of the Krikorian Theater)  
562-862-2438 (english)  
562-862-7418 (español)



**First Presbyterian Church of Downey**  
*A Multicultural Congregation*



*To Know Christ and Make Christ Known*

Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>

*Children's Service*

Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>

*Candlelight service*

10544 Downey Avenue at Seventh Street

**Downey Seventh-day Adventist Church**  
Celebrate Christmas with us  
**Saturday, Dec. 20 at 11:00AM**  
**Seasonal Music, a Drama, & a Word from Pastor Mitch**  
9820 Lakewood Blvd. - 562.869.6013  
[www.downeychurch.org](http://www.downeychurch.org)

**Advent & Christmas at Christ Lutheran**  
**Wednesday Advent Services: December 10—7:00 PM**  
**December 17—7:00 PM**  
**Christmas Campout for Kids**  
December 13—5:00 to 11:00 PM  
(Call Campout Hotline 323 610-5682 for information.)  
**3rd Sunday Coffee House Festival of Carols**  
**December 21—6:00 PM**  
**Christmas Eve 7:00 PM**  
**Christmas Day 10:00 AM**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
7707 Florence Avenue, Downey 90240



# Theatre: Put a movie house downtown.

Continued from page 1

onscreen violence. There are very few marquee theaters left in Southern California, and the potential here is great. A refurbished Downey Avenue theater could not only play intelligent movies, but visionary management could host international film festivals – including the best of Latin American cinema – indie competitions like Sundance, and other events that would bring people to Downey from near and wide. Imagine what that would mean to local businesses and restaurants.

What the city finally decides to do with the space is still unclear. Like the Verizon site, part of it will be connected with new mixed-income apartment buildings. The city wants to put in a restaurant, which doesn't make a lot of sense, considering that the Mambo Grill is right next door, and Granata's two doors away in the opposite direction. But that's another matter. The important thing is that Downey has a chance to begin re-making itself in a way it hasn't been doing.

I've suggested using the movie house for what it was designed to be – a movie house. And to use the Verizon building as a multi-purpose arts facility, including making art and music available to children. Generally speaking, the arts have been so trivialized, by programs and well-meaning people who try to convince you that it's something good for you, like eating your veggies, that their profound and essential place in life has been largely lost. I'm not going to try and proselytize here, except to say that a life without art is a little like a life without love. You can get by, but it's a drearier existence.

The city's record of land use over the past decade hasn't been good. That windfall parcel of land left by Boeing could have been used for an NFL or pro tennis stadium or some other major commercial venue with regional and even national implications – think of the tax revenue the city could have hauled in. Instead, our local leaders have carved it up and delivered a totally misconceived Downey Landing, which is essentially a parking lot surrounded by restaurants and retail outlets (see The Grove in L.A. for a pleasant, leisurely, human-scale place that's still commercially successful).

But there's new blood in the City Council and a mayor who seems sincere in his effort to improve our quality of life, as he's termed it. Now they have their chance. Let's see what they do with it.

# Think safety when shopping for toys

It's that time of year when kids start making their holiday wish list, which of course, includes toys and games. As parents, we need to carefully monitor the toys that our children receive to ensure that they are safe and age-appropriate. But, during the holiday season, we see too many children in the Emergency Department who are suffering from serious injuries caused by poorly made or inappropriate toys. Whether you're buying or receiving toys, please make sure you follow the guidelines to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

**Age Labels:** All labels should be read carefully. Parents should use age and safety recommendations on the label as a guide to select toys and games that suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of their child. Parents must also make certain that all gifts received from relatives and friends are age-appropriate before opening the package. Don't worry about hurting a relative or friend's feeling by returning or exchanging a toy that's not appropriate. Your child's safety is always your first priority.

**Small Parts:** For children younger than 3, do not buy toys or games with small, removable parts, which can cause choking. For children under 6, avoid toys with magnets or small batteries, which, if swallowed, can cause serious injuries. Always look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts on stuffed animals and dolls, and look for well-sewn seams.

**Toys With Wheels:** Bicycles, in-line skates, scooters and skateboards are always a popular holiday gift item. If you're buying toys with wheels, always buy the proper protective gear. Before riding on toys with wheels, kids should use the right helmet and other safety gear such as wrist guards, elbow and kneepads, to protect them from falls or from being hit by other wheeled devices or cars. Also, make sure that all safety gear is specifically designed for the particular wheeled toy.

**Strings and Slings:** Parents should avoid toys with strings, straps or cords longer than five inches for children under the age of 8. Long strings and cords could wrap around a child's neck or other body part and cause serious injury. Kids under age 8 should not be allowed to use projectile toys such as air rockets, darts and slingshots.

**Packaging and Chargers:** Most kids love to rip open their presents and leave all wrapping papers and packing material scattered on the floor. Parents, make sure that once kids open their gifts, you immediately throw away all plastic wrappings, tissue paper, ribbons and packing peanuts before they become dangerous play things.

**Bats, Clubs and Sticks:** Some favorite holiday gifts are baseball bats, golf clubs, jump ropes and piñata sticks. If purchasing these items, parents must make sure that when kids are swinging any type of bat or club or jump rope, all other kids or adults are at least eight feet away to prevent serious injury from being accidentally hit.

*Dr. Alan Nager is head of the division of Emergency and Transport Medicine at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. He is also an assistant professor of pediatrics at USC's Keck School of Medicine.*

## Letters to the Editor:

### Community band is a hit

Dear Editor:

The Downey Community Band has had two successful rehearsals. The first night was Dec. 3 and approximately 30 musicians came out to play. Participants ranged in age from 18 to senior citizen. Everyone had a great time. For the second rehearsal, almost everyone from the first rehearsal returned and even a couple new faces attended on Dec. 10.

The community band is a huge success. Members are excited about the opportunity to play and have fun making music once again. Among the membership are alumni of both Warren and Downey band programs. The ability level of participants ranges from beginning to advanced. We are playing music that ranges from easy to medium/difficult. We are providing a place where anyone can play yet is still a challenge to those players who may be more advanced than others.

If you are interested in joining the Downey Community Band, we encourage you to show up and join us for some fun. More information can be found by calling Lesly at (562) 419-5253 or Ana at (562) 413-0033.

The Downey Community Band is taking the holidays off and will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Jan. 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and continue on a weekly basis as long as there are enough people interested in playing. There is no cost to join this band at this time. Rehearsals are at the Warren High School Band Room.

— Dave Niemeier,  
Band Director, Warren High School

### Thanks for the memories

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to all of you for your "Downey, A Year to Remember." When all the activities and achievements of our citizens are put in writing, it's pretty impressive.

As a 45-year resident, I have seen many changes – many good, some questionable. While I could probably have lived the rest of my life without Johnnie's Broiler being reincarnated as Bob's Broiler, it does bring back happy thoughts of Bob's Big Boy on Florence Avenue and it's a wonderful bit of nostalgia to pass on to future generations.

And who wouldn't be proud of the Columbia Memorial Space Center – the people who built the space capsules to the brave astronauts who gave their lives for the future space program? Accolades to the committee that persevered for this.

May you continue to keep us informed of how great our Downey community really is. Now, if we could just have an equivalent to "The Hearth" restaurant...

— Lois M. Diess,  
Downey

Dear Editor:

I read your articles in "Downey, A Year to Remember" and am amazed at what happened in Downey the past year. I didn't realize our small city had accomplished so much (or maybe our city is not as small as I thought).

Kudos on a job well done. I look forward to next year's edition.

— Terry Vance,  
Downey

# In health care, competition works

CONTRIBUTED BY GRACE-MARIE TURNER

Seniors have only a short time left to take advantage of the opportunity to switch plans with their Medicare prescription drug benefit. The enrollment period ends December 31, and it is wise for everyone enrolled in the program to check their options and make sure they're in the best and most affordable plan for them. So if you're over the age of 65 and haven't done so already, head to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) to check your options.

There, using Medicare's Plan Finder, you can compare plans based on price, drug coverage, and out-of-pocket expenses. You can also use the Plan Finder to compare the cost of filling a prescription at your local pharmacy versus a mail-order drug store.

You may want to check out one of the Medicare Advantage plans. These plans offer a full range of health services — and many of them include prescription drug coverage at no extra cost.

If you don't have web access, you can always call 1-800-Medicare and speak with a customer service representative. Over the phone, a Medicare representative can talk you through your choices.

The Medicare drug benefit offers such a wide range of choices because of its design. Instead of the one-size-fits-all model typical of government



## CORRECTIONS

**Poet's Corner:** A poem in last week's edition carried an incorrect attribution. "Fashionably Late" was actually written by James Hernandez of Downey. We apologize for the error.

## More of the same

Dear Editor:

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the U.S. military will pour thousands of troops into Afghanistan by next summer, and would not have to cut troop levels in Iraq to achieve this goal. When this goal is met, there will be about 50,000 troops in Afghanistan.

President-elect Barack Obama said to vote for him if you want a "change" in government. It sure looks and sounds like more of the same, but worse. A real change would be to bring home 50,000 troops.

— Mike Sandoval,  
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](mailto:downeypatriot@yahoo.com). Letters may be edited for style and/or content. Letters must include a full name and address for verification.*

# Ours is the age of the bailout

CONTRIBUTED BY SHELDON RICHMAN

Bailing out failing companies is not new, but today the scale is unprecedented and the opposition is scant. The government today is committed to more than \$7 trillion in various forms of stock purchases, loans, and guarantees. The Treasury secretary has been given awesome discretionary power to buy bad securities or shares in banks. The Federal Reserve now lends money to investment banks, not just commercial banks. It is also now buying securities that have no market value.

The idea that in a market-oriented society there are profits and losses seems passé, at least if you run a large enough company. And most people seem to accept this.

Maybe we ought to think about what we are getting ourselves into. Do we really want to live in a country where people assume that business failures will be imposed on the taxpayers? Such an assumption would influence behavior in the worst possible way, leading to recklessness, waste, and falling living standards. Then, to minimize abuses, the government will be called on to regulate our economic activity even more than it already does. By logic the Bailout State leads to the comprehensive regulatory state. If we are going to catch you when you fall, politicians will say, we are going to restrict what you do in order to reduce the chance of your falling. Once the discipline of profit-and-loss disappears, the discipline of government will take its place. It won't be pretty.

Which brings us to the failed attempt to bailout the Big Three automakers. Did we really want a Car Czar in the United States? The idea should be revolting. From the television and newspaper reporting, you'd think General Motors, Chrysler, and Ford together equal "the U.S. auto industry." Every day we heard debate over whether the government should save this industry. You had to remind yourself that there are thriving car makers in the United States today. They have foreign names — Honda, Toyota, Nissan, Hyundai, Volkswagen, and more — but they build cars in America and are profitable. They aren't asking for handouts. As a matter

of fact, the subsidies to the Big Three could have been regarded as aggressive protectionism detrimental to the foreign-owned competitors. Whenever governments in other countries do such things, American competitors scream bloody murder. Would someone have brought a complaint against the U.S. government to the World Trade Organization?

No one expects a high level of economic thinking from the general public, and unfortunately its ignorance is encouraged by commentators in the mass media. In the public discussion of the proposed auto bailout, it was rarely asked what economic activity we'd have to do without had the Big Three gotten the billions they sought. If you ask the average person about this, he is likely to ask in return, "What do you mean?"

Like it or not, we live in a world of scarcity. A quantity of steel used to make a car cannot be used to make a washing machine. The same is true of labor and all industrial inputs. A firm is an arrangement of scarce inputs directed toward making a particular product. There are always many other ways we might use those resources. How do we decide how they are used? In a market economy, consumers register their preferences through the price system by what and how much they buy — and what they don't buy. Profit-seeking entrepreneurs rearrange the resources, to the extent possible, in order to satisfy consumers' most intense preferences first.

When a company is failing, it's a signal that consumers want its resources used by someone more competent or in some other way. But when government steps in and "saves" the company, it is telling us to shut up and be happy with how things are. Bailouts are the government's way of violating consumer sovereignty and wasting scarce resources.

That's why bailouts have no place in a free society. We are fortunate that, at least in the auto case, enough congressmen said no.

*Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation ([www.fff.org](http://www.fff.org)) and editor of The Freeman magazine.*

## The Downey Patriot

**STAFF**

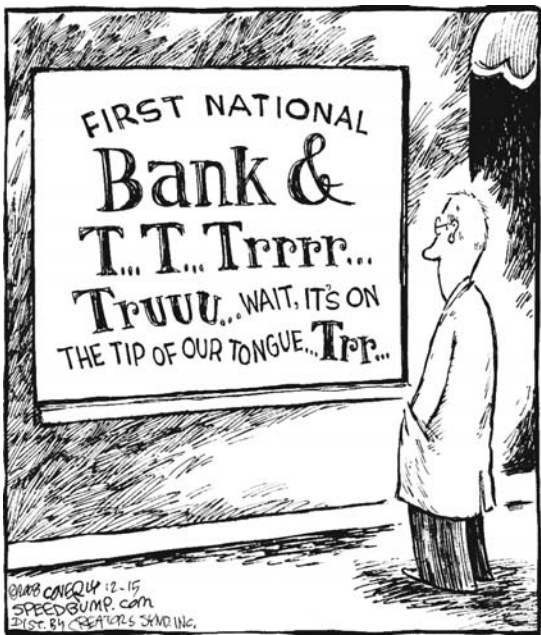
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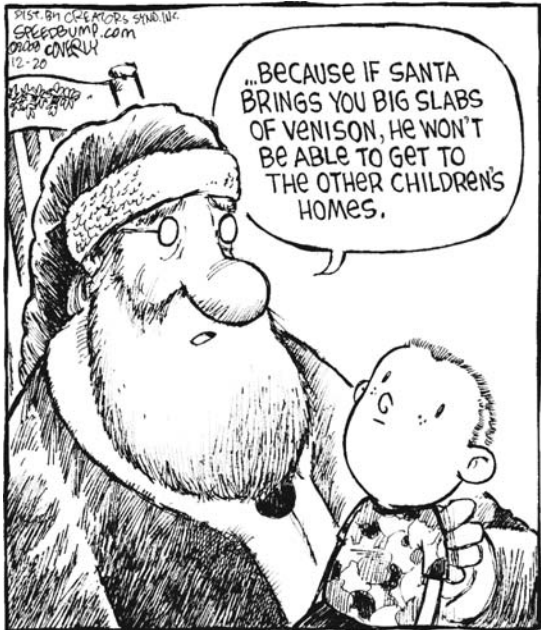
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## SPEED BUMP



## DAVE COVERLY



## Downey Community Calendar

### Events For December

- Sat. Dec. 20: **Open house**, Downey Historical Society, 10 a.m.
- Sat. Dec. 20: **Lacrosse sign-ups**, Downey High School football stadium, 10 a.m.
- Sun. Dec. 21: **Lighting of the Hanukkah candle**, Stonewood Center (J.C. Penney court), 3 p.m.
- Mon. Dec. 22: **"Holiday Haven" for kids**, Downey city parks, 11 a.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 928-2658.
- 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.
- 2nd and 4th Tues., 7:30 a.m.: **Chamber "Rise&Shine" Networkers**, 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.
- 1st & 3rd Weds., 7:00 p.m.: **After-Care Post Cancer Therapy Group**, for information call 923-4800.
- 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, for info. call Gina 869-5213 or Valerie 420-2972.
- 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**, 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 Sambi's, 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.

#### Saturdays

- 9 a.m.: **Farmers Market**, Second Street at New Avenue, for information call (562) 904-7246.

#### Sundays

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

## On This Day...

- Dec. 19, 1732: Benjamin Franklin begins publishing "Poor Richard's Almanac," a popular and hot-selling almanac in American colonies.
- 1777: Gen. George Washington leads his army to Valley Forge, Pa. to camp for the winter.
- 1843: Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" is published in England.
- 1996: Oakland's school board votes to recognize "Black English," also known as ebonics. People be protesting the decision.
- 1997: "Titanic" opens in theatres nationwide.
- 1998: President Bill Clinton is impeached for perjury and obstruction of justice.

## THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

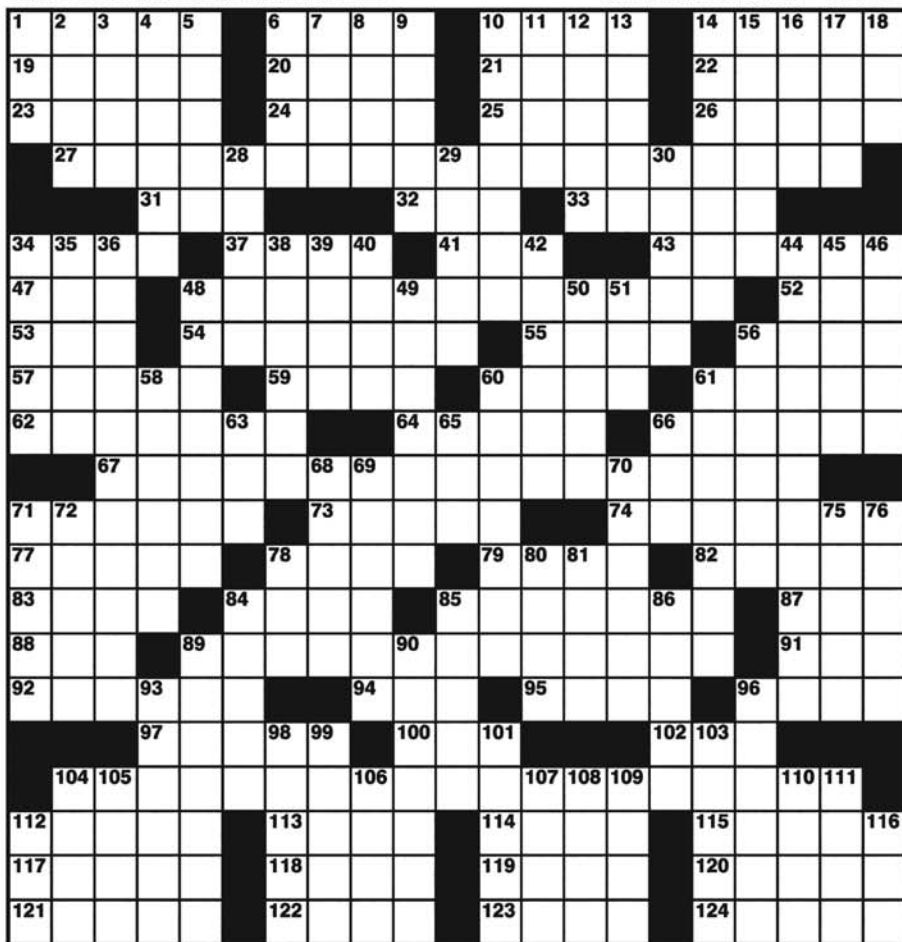
Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

ENCORES: We're back!

by Shirley Soloway

- ACROSS**
- 1 Madrid munchies
  - 6 Parts of 18-wheelers
  - 10 Non-payment risk
  - 14 Tiny creature
  - 19 Shaw heroine
  - 20 Juno's Greek counterpart
  - 21 Pizazz
  - 22 Of an armed service
  - 23 Simple little song
  - 24 Where Farsi is spoken
  - 25 Try out
  - 26 Tree knot
  - 27 Sinatra tune of '61
  - 31 Army off.
  - 32 Itch
  - 33 Rossini genre
  - 34 Warner
  - 37 Furniture wood
  - 41 Rotating machine part
  - 43 *The Jazz Singer*, notably
  - 47 Cariou of *Sweeney Todd*
  - 48 Baseball events
  - 52 Investment option
  - 53 French "one"
  - 54 Removes from a spool
  - 55 Angel feature
  - 56 HS exam
  - 57 Joel Chandler Harris uncle
  - 59 Designer Cassini
  - 60 Dobbin's dinner
  - 61 Personal preference
  - 62 Ballroom dance
  - 64 Ransack and rob
  - 66 Dreyfuss/DeVito film
  - 67 More of the same
  - 71 Sports venues
  - 73 Lake of *Hairspray*
  - 74 Provo people
  - 77 Approach nighttime
  - 78 Go it alone
  - 79 Train components
  - 82 Keep at the airport, perhaps
  - 83 Not too much
  - 84 James Brown's music
  - 85 Sort of seafood salad
  - 87 Santa \_\_, CA
  - 88 Hit head-on
  - 89 Sportscast capability
  - 91 Comparative suffix
  - 92 Sicilian volcano
  - 94 \_\_ Grande
  - 95 Bamboo, for instance
  - 96 Pertaining to
  - 97 Large quantities
  - 100 RN's specialty
  - 102 TV news host Curry
  - 104 Maxim of caution
  - 112 General Powell
  - 113 Jai \_\_
  - 114 One not to be trusted
  - 115 Mediterranean island
  - 117 Conductor Georg
  - 118 Vivacious
  - 119 Another name for Ireland
  - 120 Den
  - 121 Clarification term
  - 122 Former source of sonic booms
  - 123 Wetlands
  - 124 Formation filers
- DOWN**
- 1 Poet Hughes
  - 2 Stepped down
  - 3 Essence
  - 4 Ancient Mexicans
  - 5 Final word
  - 6 Sophisticated
  - 7 Aviation prefix
  - 8 Fiber source
  - 9 *Annie* canine
  - 10 Parts of the eye
  - 11 K-6
  - 12 Leisurely stroll
  - 13 Ready to pour
  - 14 Some goats
  - 15 User's guide
  - 16 Senator Bayh
  - 17 Poet
  - 18 One's partner
  - 28 Sir \_\_ John
  - 29 Computer experts
  - 30 In again
  - 34 Let slip
  - 35 Extend, as a subscription
  - 36 Again
  - 38 Moon of Jupiter
  - 39 Second son
  - 40 Kandinsky contemporary
  - 42 Oahu "thank you" nation
  - 44 Victor Herbert love song
  - 45 Raising the roof
  - 46 Consumed
  - 48 Broom partner
  - 49 Spanish painter
  - 50 Office stamp
  - 51 Pro golfer Ernie
  - 56 Cisco Kid's sidekick
  - 58 Newsgroups system
  - 60 Service-academy graduate
  - 61 *30 Rock* star
  - 63 Some MIT grads
  - 65 Annoy
  - 66 Body art, for short
  - 68 Angler's catch
  - 69 Column
  - 70 Power, so to speak
  - 71 Morning noise
  - 72 Moroccan capital
  - 75 West Coast NFLer
  - 76 Net
  - 78 Sea plea
  - 80 Assert
  - 81 No longer green
  - 84 Bureaucratic mess
  - 85 Absolut competitor
  - 86 Attacked
  - 89 Visibly peeved
  - 90 Ninnies
  - 93 Characteristics
  - 96 Not learned
  - 98 Uses a 76 Down
  - 99 Tennis pro from Serbia
  - 101 Music-staff symbol
  - 103 Chinese menu phrase
  - 104 Frame of mind
  - 105 *Vogue* competitor
  - 106 Sharp-tasting
  - 107 Another name for Ireland
  - 108 First son
  - 109 Footed vases
  - 110 Hint
  - 111 Airt. postings
  - 112 CBS crime drama
  - 116 Deck hand's acknowledgment

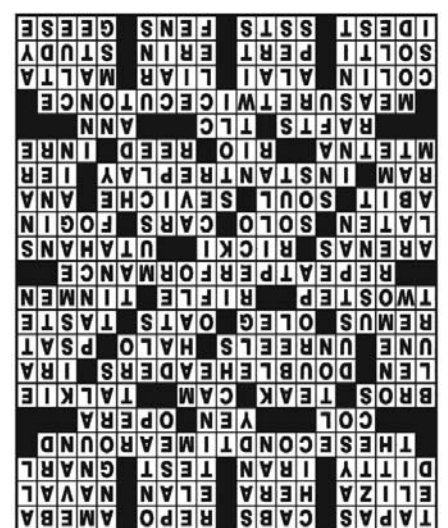
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- 68 Angler's catch
- 69 Column
- 70 Power, so to speak
- 71 Morning noise
- 72 Moroccan capital
- 75 West Coast NFLer
- 76 Net
- 78 Sea plea
- 80 Assert
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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman 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.

FARSI (24 Across) is the modern Persian language spoken by natives of IRAN. SEVICHE (85 Across) is a citrus-martinated seafood salad that originated in Latin America. TED Hughes (1 Down) was British poet laureate from 1984 to 1998.





# STUDENT LIFE



## AVID Palooza

By Michelle Müller & Bridget Sagrero, Interns

Blaring upbeat music and fun performances by surprise guests saturated Warren High's gymnasium to help fundraise for the school district's AVID program last Friday night.

With months of planning, and a week's worth of advertising, this event sold over 100 tickets in two days at West Middle School. The fundraiser turned out to be a huge success with more than 300 tickets sold overall.

"I hope to see it again next year," said Jesse Peña a student at Warren High School. "It has been a huge success and a lot of fun."

There were special performances by Falco Does It Dirty, Auditory Aphasia, The Break Up, and the closing band, A Thorn for Every Heart, as well as a guest appearance by 24-year-old professional skater Joshua Stoops.

This social event brought satisfaction to many people, because they were able to enjoy interacting with the band members and have great food, such as pizza, nachos, smoothies, and corn which was being sold by a local business.

Not only did this event attract teenagers, but encouraged parents to get involved. Many believed this event brought all types of people together.

"Looks can be deceiving," said Jorge Cordova, a volunteer parent working a food stand as he explained how nice it was to see a diversity of people coming together to support a positive program such as AVID.

Besides the performances, there were a variety of items being raffled and handed out; such as skateboards, shirts, coupons to local skateboard shops and CDs of the performing bands.

"I was excited to see A Thorn For Every Heart perform at my High School," said Vanessa Del Muro a student at Warren High School.

"Shake your bones and rattle your soul," said Casey Hill, guitarist for A Thorn For Every Heart as he



explained what he thought the music played should provoke people to do.

Some of the performing band members were fresh faces to the City of Downey, but The Break Up's bass player, was no foreigner, as he is a former Downey High School graduate.

With the arrival of Stoops and his crew, many young aspiring skateboarders and fans, circled as they brought up items such as

phones, iPods and skateboards for him to autograph.

The cause of this event for Stoops was much more than just fundraising.

"I like to encourage people to follow their dreams," he said.

Since the beginning of his skateboarding career which began at the age of nine, he has been able to inspire many young adolescents such as Josh Brown, a student at West Middle School.

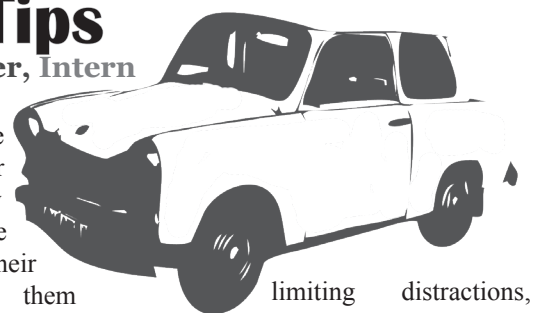
"He is the reason why I'm skating," Brown said.

Stoops also expressed to his fans, how important it is to follow ones dreams and passions.

The night occurrence was a successful one and a great way for teens to have fun in a safe environment. Many are optimistic and hope to have another event like this one take place once again in the future. *Photos by Paul Heidecker.*

## Driving Tips

By Michelle Müller, Intern



Today, teenagers see driving as a right rather than a privilege. Mentally that causes teens to be overly confident about their driving, which leaves them susceptible to having an accident.

Studies made by the California Department of Motor Vehicles, show that teenagers are 2.5 times more at risk of having a fatal accident than that of the average driver. This is why it is important for teens to take extra precaution on the road.

Bad habits that are frequently done by teenagers are either unsafe lane changing or speeding. Lane changing requires the driver to physically turn their head back to check for oncoming traffic. Teenagers neglect to do that, assuming that it is OK to change lanes when they do not check their blind spots. Unsafe lane changing conjoined with speeding are two horrible acts that are frequently made and can lead to a fatal accident.

Speeding is the No. 1 cause of accidents among teens. Some feel the need to race with friends in an area they think it is safe. But there is no such thing as a safe place for speeding on city streets.

Safe driving is something that should be practiced, which means

limiting distractions, whether it is changing the radio station or texting. Despite the law that was enacted in July restricting the overall use of cell phones while driving for teens, it is still occurring and teens are losing their lives over something that is preventable.

Other consequences that result from teens having an accident is an increase in the rate they pay for insurance. So not only does an accident give teens a bad record, but causes parents to pay an immense amount for insurance, and it could cause the price to go even higher.

It is important for parents to guide their teens in the right direction. Teens should be taught to always abide by the law and handle any given situation maturely.

If a teenager has multiple traffic violations, they could risk getting their license suspended. The best thing for teens to do in order to keep their provisional license and avoid any accidents is to always follow the law.

## DVD RELEASES FOR DECEMBER 23



Death Race  
Hamlet 2

## DVD RELEASES FOR DECEMBER 30

Eagle Eye  
The Duchess  
Ghost Town  
Resident Evil: Degeneration  
Greek: The Complete Second Season  
Kyle XY: The Complete Second Season  
Nip/Tuck: The Complete Fifth Season  
The Tudors: The Complete Second Season

## Play Review 'Arsenic and Old Lace'

By Bridget Sagrero, Intern

Having their opening night on Dec. 9 and their last show on Dec. 13, the Warren High Drama Department presented Joseph Kesselring's "Arsenic and Old Lace" last week at the Emerson Theatre.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" originally premiered in New York City on Sept. 25, 1943 at the Hudson Theatre. The original production was directed by Bretaigne Windust. Later the play was made into a film starring Cary Grant and Raymond Massey.

As the play started, the room darkened and we were taken back to the living room of the Brewster's home in Brooklyn, N.Y, September of 1939.

The stage brightened and we were now able to see Christopher Hoodye as Teddy Brewster, Stephanie Cortez as Martha Brewster and Wendy Guerieri

as Abby Brewster appear on the stage. Teddy was an interesting character as Teddy thought himself to be President Roosevelt and was dressed in his general's suit, and his two aunts Martha and Abby followed his craziness.

The cryptic black comedy revolved around Teddy's brother Mortimer. Through the play he debates whether to marry the girl he loves, Elaine Harper as Elena Alonso, after discovering that his aunts have been killing old lonely men, by poisoning them with a glass of home-made elderberry wine, and using Teddy as the source to dispose of the bodies.

Problems become hectic once Jonathan played by Jeremy Ferguson, Teddy's and Mortimer's brother come back after years of disappearing with Dr. Einstein played by Calvin Park, who has operated and completely

transformed Jonathans face.

Mortimer soon finds out that Jonathan and his friend Dr. Einstein have been up to no good and are as well responsible for a homicide and were planning on using their aunt's house as their new headquarters. Soon Mortimer finds out a way to give in to his evil brother along with his sidekick without giving away his aunt's own dirty secret.

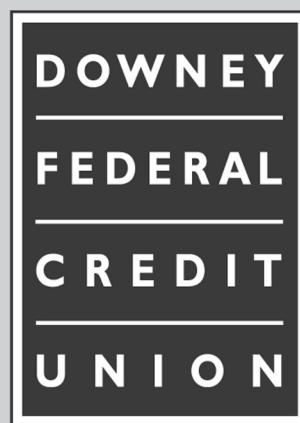
The play was truly captivating and full of entertainment. It was funny yet intense. Very minor mistakes were noticeable but as skilled actors do, they showed no sign of worries and continued their performance like professionals. I was very pleased with Ryan Somohano, Wendy Guerieri, and Stephanie Garibay's acting skills.

The next play that will be hitting the Emerson Theatre at Warren High is "The Diviners" by Jim Leonard Jr. on Feb. 24, 2009.

*Psst...Mom is "Superwoman"*

Psst...mom is "superwoman"  
Haven't you noticed?  
Her ability of knowing,  
Her ability of speed.  
Psst...mom is "superwoman"  
She stands with such poise, a man  
couldn't even pull it off  
With a lady-like figure.  
A walk with such elegance  
Dealt with hard times,  
Hey mom is tough  
Be still a smile with such joy  
A cape placed in her draw  
Psst...mom is "superwoman"

-Casana Caliz



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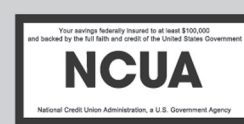
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Kindergarten teacher Kim Brooks of Alameda Elementary was presented with the Superintendent's Vision Award this week.

# Mark Morris named new DUSD board president

By HENRY VENERACION, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – The Board of Education of the Downey Unified School District has voted D. Mark Morris president for the 2008-09 term, succeeding Tod Corrin.

Assuming the role of vice president is Barbara Samperi, while Martha Sotetani will serve as clerk.

After the installation, Morris presented Corrin with a plaque lauding the latter for his exemplary service in the past year.

At meeting's start, the Warren High School Vocal Ensemble performed, under the direction of Robert Peterson.

Meanwhile, the board members were assigned various responsibilities: Willie Gutierrez, Barbara Samperi, and Martha Sotetani will work on the audit committee and Don LaPlante, Mark Morris, and Nancy Swenson on the budget committee, while Don LaPlante was chosen sole representative for electing members to the County Committee on School District Organization as well as to LACSTA; Tod Corrin and Martha Sotetani have been assigned to the school/city coordinating committee.

The Board next heard a presentation honoring Alameda Elementary School's Kim Brooks with the Superintendent's Vision Award in the area of instruction. Alameda principal Lisa Rawlings introduced Brooks as "one of Alameda's exemplary kindergarten teachers," and especially noted her "consistent focus on quality instruction."

Rawlings also said Kim "is always seeking new opportunities to improve instruction and never hesitates to provide staff development for others," and is known for her excellent classroom management and promoting positive relationships with students and parents, among other things.

The Board also approved the certification of signatures for the period December 2008-December 2009, or until subsequent action is taken by it.

Inasmuch as this was the last regular Board meeting of the year, wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year were plentiful.

In other action, the Board:

- Accepted with gratitude cash donations and in-kind from various individuals and parties, including a donation of \$1,177.78 from Alameda Elementary School PTA to be used for paper and other school supplies at the school; a donation of 35 teacher incentive grants, valued at \$7,000, from the Downey Federal Credit Union; a donation of two sofas, nine tables and 36 chairs, valued at \$5,000, for the staff lounge at Unsworth Elementary School, from Embassy Suites Hotel; and a donation of office furniture and various office supplies, valued at \$4,575, to be used district-wide, from Accurate Escrow, Inc.;
- Authorized the payment of expenses for convention and conference attendance;
- Ratified the general agreements with Behavior Frontiers, Cinnamon Hills Youth Crisis Center, Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes, and Loovas Institute for Early Intervention, for the 2008-09 fiscal year;
- Ratified the payments for special education placements;
- Approved the revisions to AR 1221.1, Use of School Facilities;
- Approved the revisions to MAR 4121.1, Administrators' Substitute Coverage;
- Approved the revisions to AR 5260, Senior Management positions;
- Ratified purchase orders by the Purchasing Department;
- Ratified the issuance of payroll orders for hourly, overtime, Civic Center work performed by classified personnel, Adult School, and Food Services, through November, 2008;
- Ratified B warrants;
- Ratified the agreements between the Downey Adult School Career and Education Center and Clinica Medica Familiar De Pico Rivera and Shubhangi S. Godbole, MD, to furnish practical experience to students enrolled in the Medical Assistant program;



D. Mark Morris, left, takes over as president of DUSD from Tod Corrin.

- Approved the contract for consultant and coaching services, with Los Angeles County Office of Education, effective Jan. 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009;

- Approved Amendment No.1 to the LACOE contract for participation in the School Court Liaison Program, effective Dec. 16, 2008 through June 30, 2009;

- Authorized the advertisements for bids for: the Downey High School modernization (Buildings J, K, N, and the cafeteria), to be charged to the Bond and Food Services fund; the purchase of stock paper, to be charged to the General Fund; and for a contract to purchase computers and related items, to be charged to the General Fund and other funding sources as needed;

- Authorized the final year renewal of the bid for Contract Labor – Electricians, with Spike Electric of Anaheim, in the annual estimated amount of \$500,000, with costs to be charged to the General Fund, Maintenance Fund and/or Bond Funds as appropriate;

- Approved the change orders involving various work performed by several vendors doing construction/modernization at Warren (new library, classroom building and modernization) and Downey High Schools (new classroom building), as well as for the web management and updating of the Student Messaging System at the Downey Adult School;
- Accepted as complete electrical, roofing, fencing, paving, and concrete work performed by various contractors;

- Approved the adjustments to the General Fund unrestricted and restricted budgets;
- Approved the declaration and sale and/or recycling of district surplus property and abatement of the income to the General Fund;
- Ratified the establishment of one new position, as well as one new limited-term position pegged at the appropriate indicated specifications and salary structure;

- Adopted the 2009-10 Course of Study (as reviewed by the Board on Nov. 18, 2008) for the middle schools and the high schools, with the inclusion of a culinary arts course that the Los Angeles County Regional Occupation Program (ROP) proposes to offer at DUSD;
- Received the AR 2008-09 First Period Interim Financial Report, as of Oct. 31, 2008, and approved the positive certification that DUSD can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the 2008-09 fiscal year; and
- Endorsed the actions taken by the superintendent on all student cases.

The next regular meeting of the Board will be held at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at the Gallegos Administration Center, 11627 Brookshire Ave.

## New Titles at the Downey City Library

### Fiction

- **"The Christmas Sweater"** by Glenn Beck. A young boy is given a sweater by his mother before she dies—a final gesture that teaches him the true meaning of love.
- **"Grace"** by Richard Paul Evans. An old man reminisces about his first love, a young runaway who taught him more about life than anyone else.
- **"Silver Bells"** by Fern Michaels. This collection of seasonal stories also includes "Dear Santa" by JoAnn Ross, "Christmas Past" by Mary Burton and "A Mulberry Park Christmas" by Judy Duarte.
- **"Under the Mistletoe"** by Linda Howard and Stephanie Bond. The joy of Christmas and the wonder of love are celebrated in this collection, including "Bluebird Winter" by Howard and "Naughty or Nice?" by Bond.
- **"A Very Marley Christmas"** by John Grogan. In this children's picture book sequel to "Bad Dog Marley," the rambunctious pup eagerly awaits his first snowfall and the arrival of Santa.

### Non-Fiction

- **"Amazing Peace: a Christmas Poem"** by Maya Angelou. First read at the 2005 White House tree-lighting ceremony, this poem inspires us to find the peace and promise of the holiday season.
- **"Christmas with Southern Living 2008"** by the editors of Southern Living Magazine. The holiday experts offer a collection of recipes, entertaining tips, decorations and gift ideas.
- **"The Man Who Invented Christmas"** by Les Standiford. In 1843, a debt-ridden and dispirited Charles Dickens wrote a book that he hoped would keep his creditors at bay. This is the story of how "A Christmas Carol" rescued his career and revived our holiday spirits.
- **"The Purpose of Christmas"** by Rick Warren. Pastor Warren shows readers how to identify the things that drain peace from their lives and not be discouraged when life does not go as planned.
- **"Reindeer Crunch and Other Christmas Recipes"** by Kristi Johnson. With fun food for cool kids, this book has plenty of great holiday treats for young cooks to make this Christmas.

Visit [www.downeylibrary.org](http://www.downeylibrary.org) and click on "New and Notable Books" to browse more titles.

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## 'Stomp' headlining at the O.C. Performing Arts Center

Center releases event calendar for next month.

**COSTA MESA** – The Orange County Performing Arts Center has released its January 2009 calendar of events. The schedule appears below:

**Jan. 3, 8 p.m., Segerstrom Hall: Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons**

Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons return to the Center for one night only. Frankie Valli's incredible career as a solo artist and with The Four Seasons has produced 19 Top Ten hits and sold more than 100 million records worldwide. Possessing one of the most distinctive voices in all of rock 'n roll, Valli was named longevity champ of the rock era by "Billboard" magazine.

**Jan. 3, 8 p.m., Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall: Salute to Vienna**

The evening features a cast of more than 70 musicians, international singers and dancers. This year's performance is conducted by Maestro Florian Krumpock with a program of Viennese waltzes (such as the "Blue Danube Waltz"), polkas and operetta excerpts from "The Merry Widow" and "Die Fledermaus" with the musical classics of Johann Strauss Jr. The performance includes dancers from the Vienna City Ballet performing the "Viennese Waltz."

**Jan. 6-11, Segerstrom Hall: "Stomp"**

"Stomp" is explosive, provocative, sophisticated, sexy, and appeals to audiences of all ages. The international percussion sensation has garnered numerous awards and rave reviews, and has appeared on many national television shows.

The eight-member troupe uses everything but conventional percussion instruments – matchboxes, brooms, garbage cans, Zippo lighters, hubcaps – to fill the stage with fantastic rhythms. You must see what all the noise is about.

**Jan. 8-10, Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall: "Brilliant and Dazzling"**

The Pacific Symphony opens the New Year with guest conductor Carlos Kalmar at the podium and pianist Freddy Kempf's brilliant interpretation of Piano Concerto No. 1 by Liszt. The program also includes Symphony No. 38, "Prage" by Mozart; Janacek's "Taras Bulba" and the Rumanian Rhapsody No. 2 by Enesco.



"Stomp," a traveling theatrical dance troupe, will perform at the Orange County Performing Arts Center's Segerstrom Hall beginning Jan. 6. Photo courtesy Flickr user SteveMcN

**Jan. 15-17, Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall: Debby Boone Sings Rosemary Clooney**

The evening with Debby Boone is actually a fond tribute to her mother-in-law, Rosemary Clooney. The program features the great American standards made famous by Clooney. Boone's successful career dates back to 1977 when she recorded the hit song, "You Light Up My Life."

**Jan. 15-18, Samuelli Theater: John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey**

John Pizzarelli is known for his late-night ballads and the cool flavor of his guitar. His stunning wife, Jessica, sings like a morning lark and possesses an equally intrinsic feel for jazz phrasing. Both bring a rare sense of discovery and keen sense of humor to every song they sing. According to "Variety," "John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey know how to work a room, charm an audience and draw the listener into a musical narrative with both a sense of fun and emotional fervor."

**Jan. 23, 8 p.m., Renee and**

**Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall: Los Angeles Philharmonic**

The music of Eastern Europe is performed by the world famous Los Angeles Philharmonic, featuring violin superstar Gil Shaham and the up-and-coming French conductor Stephane Deneve. The program includes Rachmanioff's Symphony Dances, Op. 45; Khachaturian's Violin Concerto and Stravinsky's Concerto in E-flat.

**Jan. 23-24, Samuelli Theater: Blue Note Records 70th Anniversary – On Tour**

To mark the 70th anniversary of Blue Note Records, the premier label in jazz, an all-star band featuring some of today's finest musicians will travel the world celebrating the company's rich catalog of music. When they stop in at Samuelli Theater they will be led by Blue Note Records artist and pianist Bill Charlap, along with Ravi Coltrane, Peter Bernstein, Lewis Nash, Nicholas Payton, Peter Washington and Steve Wilson.

**Jan. 24, 2 and 8 p.m., Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall: National Acrobats of China**

Direct from China, this dazzling company of 35 performers will mesmerize and mystify with its stunning displays of the best in Chinese martial arts, illusion and acrobatics, all set to traditional music. Founded more than 50 years ago, the troupe has been one of the most influential acrobatic ensembles in the world, having won every important award in international competitions. From plate-spinning to cycling stunts to bench-juggling with their feet, the National Acrobats of China never cease to amaze audiences.

**Jan. 28, 8 p.m., Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall**

San Francisco's finest, under the baton of conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, offers an exciting evening of music including Tilson Thomas' "Street Song" for Symphony Brass, "Our Town" by Copland and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, Op. 64.

## Make your New Year's resolutions stick

When 2008 turns to 2009, champagne corks will pop, bubbly will flow and resolutions will be made. As usual, many New Year's resolutions will involve goals for improved diet, exercise, and weight loss. Unfortunately, by the end of January, a multitude of the resolutions will lose their fizz as determination becomes flat.

TOPS Club, Inc. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) shares the following tips to help make New Year's resolutions stick:

- 1. Make it nonnegotiable.** Committing to the effort – no matter what – is the first step. Vary when, where, and how if needed, but the effort itself must remain constant.
- 2. Set a plan.** Know what to accomplish and when. Some examples: walk 30 minutes a day by noon, or go to the gym on set days.
- 3. Combat standard excuses and rationalizations.** Proactively silence the good intention vs. discipline debate. Each of us knows the individual excuses that come too easily.

**4. Use procrastination as an advantage.** People who procrastinate as a habit are forced into action by some external deadline.

**5. Schedule exercise.** Make an appointment on the calendar to exercise – and keep it. Aim for exercising 30 minutes a day.

**6. Monitor your behavior.** Monitoring can take the form of writing a food diary, counting the glasses of water sipped daily, calculating the number of calories burned while exercising, and so on.

**7. Focus on the horizon.** Measure the progress made, which scientists call the "horizon effect."

**8. Take it one choice and one day at a time.** Don't worry about forever. Any change is more manageable in smaller doses.

**9. Find someone who's accomplishing weight loss and imitate them.**

**10. React kindly to mistakes.** Everyone makes mistakes. When that happens, avoid falling into the traps of shame and guilt.



Downey Federal Credit Union donated 313 new books to Lewis and Ward Elementary Schools, the credit union's Adopt-a-Schools for 2008-09, by collecting new books and financial donations from credit union members and employees.

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SEVEN POUNDS PG-13	(10:45 1:40 4:35) 7:30 10:25
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX G	(10:00 12:30 3:00) 5:30 8:00 10:30
YES MAN PG-13	(11:25 2:05 4:45) 7:25 10:05
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL PG-13	(11:20 2:00 4:40) 7:20 10:00
NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS PG-13	(11:30 2:05 4:40) 7:15 9:50
THE PUNISHER: WAR ZONE R	(12:40) 5:50 10:50
CADILLAC RECORDS R	(11:30 2:15) 5:05 7:45 10:30
TRANSPORTER 3 PG-13	(10:00 3:15) 8:25
FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG-13	(11:20 1:35 3:50) 6:05 8:20 10:35
BOLT 3D PG	(10:00 12:25 2:50) 5:15 7:40 10:05
TWILIGHT PG-13	(10:15 1:10) 4:05 7:00 9:55
MADAGASCAR 2 PG	(10:20 12:45 3:10) 5:35 8:00 10:25

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**THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX G** Fri to Tue: (11:30, 1:55, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30; Wed: (11:30, 1:55, 4:30, 7:00)

**YES MAN PG-13** Fri to Tue: (10:55, 11:45, 1:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:50, 7:40, 9:40, 10:20; Wed: (10:55, 11:45, 1:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 6:50, 7:40)

**\* THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL PG-13** Fri to Tue: (11:15, 12:05, 2:00, 4:40, 4:55, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:50, 10:35; Wed: (11:15, 12:05, 2:00, 4:40, 4:55, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00)

**NOTHING LIKE THE HOLIDAYS PG-13** Fri to Tue: (11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:35, 10:05; Wed: (11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7:35)

**FOUR CHRISTMASSES PG-13** Fri to Tue: (12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45; Wed: (12:10, 2:35, 5:05, 7:25)

**\* BOLT IN DISNEY DIGITAL 3D PG** Fri to Tue: (12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:20, 10:00; Wed: (12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:20)

**TWILIGHT PG-13** Fri to Tue: (10:45, 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40; Wed: (10:45, 1:50, 4:50, 7:45)

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# Una Cardono, 84, mourned

**DOWNEY** – Una Larie Cardono, a world traveler who, with her husband, owned and operated a family jewelry store since 1947, died last week, just one week short of her 85th birthday.



Cardono was born in Frisco, Mo. on Dec. 22, 1923 to Carl and Edna Tweedy. The early years of her life were spent in Stratford, Tex. where she attended grade school. The family then moved to Modesto, Calif., where she attended junior high and high school and later Modesto Junior College, where she graduated.

In 1946, Una and her family moved to Los Angeles and she was employed by Citizens National Bank as an instructor at their bookkeeping and teller training center. It was there, in October 1946, that she met her husband, Angelo Cardono. Angelo had just been discharged from the Navy following World War II and answered an ad in a Los Angeles newspaper.

Six months later, on May 17, 1947, Una and Angelo were married at the Manchester Baptist Church in Los Angeles.

They started their jewelry company on Jan. 3, 1947 and Una joined the company in June of that year. She worked full-time at the company until 2002.

Una traveled extensively, both by commercial airline or with Angelo, in their personal aircraft. In addition to family vacations to Hawaii, she made trips to Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila, Brazil and Europe, including England, France, Italy and the Holy Land.

In 1978, a business friend in Japan asked if the Cardono family would help find a place to live for a young man who was coming to the United States to study. Una took the young man, Yasuhira Mori, into her house. After graduating at the top of his class, he stayed an additional nine months to learn the jewelry industry. When he returned to Japan, he started a diamond division of the Tokyo Pearl Company and in less than five years grew the company to \$280 million in sales.

The president of the company invited Una and her sister, Roena Tweedy, to a two-week trip to Japan where they toured the country with the company president as their guide.

Four years later, the son of the president, Tota Koyama, came to the U.S. to study the jewelry industry as well. After his departure, Una and her sister were invited to another trip.

When Yasuhira was married and had their first daughter, they named her after Una.

Una is survived by her husband, Angelo Cardono; daughter, Tanya Youngman; sister, Roena Tweedy Eason; godson, Michele Angelo Ferrulli; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Monday at Trinity Baptist Church in Downey. Among those attending were Norman and Pat Cardono of Cumberland, R.I.; Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Traeger of Central California; and Yasuhira Mori, of Tokyo, Japan.

# Edward O. Foster was in Air Force

**DOWNEY** – Edward O. Foster, a retired Air Force sergeant, died on Dec. 11. He was 85.

He is survived by his sister, Edith Frances Collins, of Downey.

Graveside services were held Monday at Austin Memorial Park in Austin, Tex. Arrangements were by Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home in Texas.

BY MARY FORNEY, STAFF WRITER

It was cold, wet, and windy last weekend – not the kind of weather most people enjoy venturing out into.

I did it anyways because it was the Sertoma Club of Downey's day to collect donations for the Salvation Army. As a member of the club, I wanted to do my part by standing outside Stater Bros. for an hour ringing the bell.

For years, I have watched people doing this. I have even written stories about the Salvation Army Bell Ringers throughout my years as a newspaper journalist. And yet, I shamefully admit that I have lowered my eyes and side stepped bell ringers when in a hurry or not wanting to be bothered.

Thinking that donating an hour of my time would absolve my past behavior, I began to ring the bell heartily. Much to my surprise, two men immediately walked up to the red kettle and put money inside it.

"You're good luck," said Cynthia Choate, who is one of my fellow Sertomans.

I knew it wasn't so. "It's all in the eye contact," I said. "If you look people straight in the eye, they know you see them and it's harder for them to ignore you."

Resuming my exuberant bell ringing, the bell flew behind me and almost hit the storefront window. Picking up the bell, I dropped it again, only this time I hit the red kettle in front of me.

# What's in your wallet?



Sertoma Club of Downey members Mary Forney and Pat McCool watch a shopper place money in the Salvation Army's red kettle outside Stater Bros. on Firestone Boulevard. Photo by Cynthia Choate

Cynthia stepped up and offered to ring the bell since I seemed to be a danger not only to myself, but to her and to the Stater Bros. building as well.

Standing by her near the kettle, we watched countless people walk by, side stepping us and pretending we weren't there. Just a few people dropped in small bills and change.

I was starting to give up hope of collecting a large donation on our shift when a mother and her two sons came out of the store and stopped. The older of the two boys came over and dropped a handful

of change into the kettle. Just as the family started to walk away, the youngest of the boys (who looked about 7 years old), turned around and ran towards the kettle.

Removing a folded up Spiderman wallet from his pants pocket, the boy carefully emptied its contents to put in the kettle. It was a nickel.

The little boy reminded me of the biblical story of when a woman gave Jesus the least, yet He said she gave Him the most because she gave Him all she had.

I only collected less than \$10

during my shift as a bell ringer, but I went home happy thinking about the little boy and his donation.

I can't promise I won't want to side step another bell ringer in the future, but it's my hope that if I do, I'll remember the little boy and reach inside my purse.

Some days, especially the day before payday, I may only have a nickel in my purse. But who's to say that by stopping and sharing even a small nickel won't lighten the day of someone else.

# Tips to safeguard your holiday health

CONTRIBUTED BY LAKEWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

**LAKWOOD** – The holiday season – those sometimes intense weeks that begin around Thanksgiving and stretch to New Year's Day and beyond – can be a time of good cheer, brightly lit parties brimming with food and drink, the pleasure of family reunions, and feelings of generosity and peace.

It can also be a lonely time or a stressful one, a season of eating, drinking or spending too much. These downsides, along with other factors, contribute to the spike in heart disease deaths during the holidays.

idays.

Striking a balance between celebration and health can be a challenge for anyone. Heart disease complicates matters a bit. With some advance planning and common sense, you and your heart can come out the other side of the holidays no worse for wear and maybe even better.

### What Is It About Winter?

A handful of small studies have hinted that death has its season, and that the season is winter. Researchers in San Diego and Boston took this work a giant step further, thanks to a national database with detailed information on the 53 million deaths that occurred in the United States

between 1973 and 2001. The researchers tallied up how many people died on each day of these years, from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, and graphed the results.

Deaths from heart disease gradually climbed from July to January, with a sharp spike between Christmas and New Year's Day, then fell again. What is it about the holiday season that isn't conducive to good health, or at least to continued life? Researchers have floated a number of possibilities:

**Temperature:** Cold temperatures can increase blood pressure and make blood more likely to form artery-blocking clots. Yet the winter increase in heart attacks and heart-related deaths has been seen

even in Southern California.

**Short days, long nights:** Dwindling daylight alters levels of hormones such as cortisol, melatonin, and vasopressin, each of which can affect the heart and mood.

**Cholesterol cycles:** In the Northern Hemisphere, levels of total and LDL (bad) cholesterol and triglycerides peak in December and January and are at their lowest around July.

**Respiratory disease:** Coughs, colds and the flu are more common during winter than summer. These can cause extra trouble for people

See HEALTH, page 13

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**Judith "Judy" Ann Halstead**  
February 28, 1942 - December 13, 2008

Judy Halstead, 65, was born in Kansas City. She was raised in Bell Gardens, where she met and married her husband of 49 years, Gene Halstead. They made their home in Downey in 1965 where they raised four children. She was a loving and devoted mother. She supported her children's many activities; Girl Scouts, YMCA Indian Guides, DJAA, Pop Warner football and cheerleading, Warren High Boosters, and coached Downey Ponytail softball and basketball teams. She served as President of the PTA at Spencer Williams and volunteered for the defunct PTA Thrift Shop.

Her employment history included All American Home Center, a part owner of The Stonewood Restaurant (in the open mall) and finally 20 years at Pacific Bell. She took early retirement in 2002 to care for her terminally ill daughter.

She is survived by her sisters Linda Stevens of Santa Barbara, and Dixie Romero of Downey, her children, David (Celine Groff), Ann (Peter Burkhardt), Travis, and son-in-law Howard Phillips, grandchildren Brittany and Skylar Halstead, Greg, Tom and Laurel Burkhardt, Tyler and Tricia Halstead, Malia and Heather Phillips, and step-grandchildren Cory and Mandy Groff. Her husband Gene predeceased her in 2007, her oldest daughter Susan Phillips in 2002, and most recently, her daughter-in-law Cindy Halstead in Oct. 2008. She will be greatly and lovingly missed by her family and friends. A viewing will be held at Chapel of Memories, Norwalk on Fri. Dec. 19 from 5-9pm. Services will be held at Downey First Christian Church on Sat. Dec. 20 at 1:00 pm, followed by interment at Rose Hills, Whittier. A reception will follow at Downey First Christian Church.



## Sims honored with CIF award

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – Downey volleyball coach Andrea Sims was recognized by California's CIF as one of 13 coaches statewide to receive the 2007-2008 CIF Model Coach Award.

The award is given to those coaches who CIF believe to serve as positive role models in their schools and communities, and someone who has exhibited the traits apparent in the 16 principles of Pursuing Victory With Honor as said in a recent press release.

Winners were nominated through their local CIF offices and will be honored at their sport's state championship or at an event of the recipient's choosing.

"This is the highest and most prestigious award the CIF bestows upon its coaches," said CIF executive director Marie Ishida.

"We are honored to be able to recognize coaches throughout our state who are dedicated to impacting the lives of high school student-athletes by not only teaching them the values of Pursuing Victory With Honor and the Six Pillars of Character, but also there is more to participating in sports than just winning and losing."

Sims has served as Downey's volleyball coach for 12 years and has had much success during her tenure with the high school. Her teams have qualified for the postseason 11 times, including seven San Gabriel Valley League championships.

She has also been named Coach of the Year seven times and has sent many players on to play for NCAA volleyball teams.



Warren High School's girls water polo team beat No. 5-ranked Western High School 18-11 this week to improve their record to 8-1. The leading scorers were Amber Smith with 8 points and Ivana Castro with 7 points. Warren is ranked No. 4 by the CIF. Photo courtesy Josie Cordero/Warren High School

## Schools breezing thru pre-season

By SCOTT COBOS, STAFF WRITER

**DOWNEY** – In their final games before Christmas break, Warren and Downey High basketball continue to roll through opponents in their respective preseason tournaments.

Warren had their strongest performance yet on Wednesday, beating Santa Fe in the Alhambra Invitational tournament 66-30.

The Bears showed a dominating defense, allowing double digit scoring in only the first quarter. In each of the last three quarters, the stingy Bears defense did not allow any more than eight points, pushing Warren to their eighth win in 10 games.

Downey wasn't so lucky in their game on Wednesday, losing to Glendora 52-44 in the Sonora basketball tournament.

The Vikings were up after one quarter of play by two points, but were unable to keep Glendora's offense at bay, being outscored in the last three quarters.

Downey will play one more game Monday before they take off Christmas night to Orlando, Fla. to play in the KSA Holiday basketball tournament. The Vikings are now 5-2 on the early season.

**Downey High School's wrestling team took first place in the DHS 18 Way Dual Tournament held at Downey High School last weekend. Pictured in top row, left to right: Adam Nassman, Aaron Esquer, Ivan Garibay, Chris Saldana, Erik Leon, Rudy Calderon, Ryan Arias and Alex Pacheco. Bottom row: Jacob Barbarena, Bryan Aguinada, Edward Carbajal and Vincente Velasco. Not pictured: wrestler Brandon McDonald and coaches Miguel Soto, Roger Rios, Ibsen Flores and Andy Beam.**



## Lacrosse league hosting sign-ups

**DOWNEY** – Sign-ups for a youth lacrosse league will be held at Downey High School – near the football field – tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The 14-and-under team will be Downey's first middle school level lacrosse team.

Sign-ups will also be held Dec. 27 and Jan. 3. For more information, call Gabe Carrillo at (562) 922-2377 or visit [www.downeylacrosse.com](http://www.downeylacrosse.com).

## Last call for Little League sign-ups

**DOWNEY** – Northwest Downey Little League will host its final two sign-ups for the 2009 baseball season on Jan. 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Jan. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Sign-ups will be at Furman Park. Children ages 5 to 18 that live in Downey, north of Firestone Boulevard, are eligible to play.

For more information, call Mel Quan at (213) 923-0684 or James Velloff at (562) 861-2696. Information is also online at [www.nwdll.org](http://www.nwdll.org).

## DYF elects executive board

**DOWNEY** – Downey Youth Football has elected Louis Morales to an unprecedented 11th consecutive year as president.

The organization also elected the following to two-year terms: Sergio Leon, second vice president; Laura Enslin, secretary; Lisa Morales, cheer coordinator; and Robert Olide, treasurer.

The elected members will join Mike Baumann, first vice president; Laurie Vazquez, fundraiser coordinator; and Mirny Encinas, auxiliary chairperson, who are in the middle of their two-year terms.

The executive board of Downey Youth Football meets the second Wednesday of every month at Furman Park at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

Registration for the 2009 season will begin April 8 at Downey High School. For more information, call Louis Morales at (562) 928-6081.

## Cheer squad to compete in Vegas for championship

**CARSON** – Downey Youth Football's Midget cheerleading team (ages 11-14) took second place at the JAMZ Regional Cheer Championships held at Cal State Dominguez Hills on Sunday.

The second place finish qualifies the squad for the JAMZ National Championships in Las Vegas next February where they will represent Downey Youth Football in their age category with a chance to win a national title.

The cheerleaders include: Xochitl Chaul, Cheryl Cruz, Daniela Dalka, Briana Mangandi, Victoria Martinez, Stephanie Quinones, Stephanie Saenz, Nicole Saenz, and Sara Saenz.

Coaches include head coach Lisa Macias, assistant coach Julie Mingarez, and trainers Gabby Dalka and Jacklyn Saenz.

Registration for the 2009 season will begin April 8 at Downey High School. For more information, call Lisa Morales, cheer coordinator, at (562) 928-6081.



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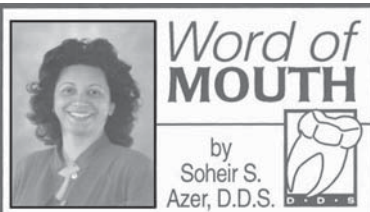
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**Word of MOUTH**  
by Soheir S. Azer, D.D.S.

To some extent, the porcelain veneers that dentists often use to cover chipped, broken, misshapen, stained, or discolored front teeth are similar to the artificial nails that manicurists use to cover problem fingernails. The primary difference is, of course, that the veneers used on teeth consist of thin shells of porcelain that are carefully placed over damaged or misshapen teeth. The procedure involves removal of a thin layer of the affected tooth's outer surface, after which impressions are taken that are used to create veneers that will fit precisely. During the next appointment, the veneers are fitted, permanently bonded in place, and shaped. The result is a newly surfaced tooth with an extremely durable material that closely mimics enamel.

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Here is a sample of some of the REO and bank owned properties available in Downey and surrounding areas.

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## Health: Why do deaths rise during holiday season?

Continued from page 10

with heart failure and other forms of heart disease.

**Holiday stress:** Traveling to family get-togethers, buying gifts and preparing to host a holiday party can be as stressful for some people as they are enjoyable for others. Stress can fire up chest pain (angina) and trigger heart attacks.

**Changes in diet and alcohol intake:** Food and drink are the centerpieces of many holiday gatherings, one reason why so many people gain weight between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. Alcohol, salty snacks and foods are a common reason for heart failure flare-ups during the holidays.

**Medication lapses:** The hustle and bustle of the holiday season can throw medication schedules of of whack. Missing a dose or two of most medications isn't a big deal; taking an extended medication holiday can be trouble, especially for people with diabetes, heart rhythm problems or heart failure.

**Delay in seeking medical care:** No one wants to "ruin" Christmas or New Year's Day with a trip to an urgent care center or emergency room. Yet if you procrastinate in seeking care for chest pain or other warning signs of a heart attack, stroke or worsening heart failure, you could get to the hospital after your heart or brain has suffered damage that could have been prevented with earlier attention.

**Travel:** In the study looking at deaths between 1973 and 2001, there were only two years without a Christmas/New Year's increase in heart disease deaths: 1973, the year of the OPEC oil embargo, and 1981, a recession year.

Travel during these two holiday seasons was dramatically curtailed, which may have reduced stress, improved medication taking, or prevented some delays in seeking medical attention.



The Downey Association of Realtors recently made donations to local organizations. Gangs Out of Downey, TLC Center, PTA Helps Pantry Services, Downey City Library, Downey Rose Float Association, and the Music in the Schools program each received \$600. From left: Thad Phillips, Downey City Library; staff and Luz Perez, TLC; Carol Rowland, Gangs Out of Downey; Larry Lewis, Music in the Schools; Nubia Aguirre, Downey Association of Realtors; and Stacy Brabant, PTA Helps. Representatives from the Rose Float were not present.



Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-34) presented a Certificate of Congressional Recognition to the Downey Association of Realtors' outgoing president Nubia Aguirre at the association's 62nd annual Installation and Awards Ceremony, held earlier this month at the Amada Plaza in Buena Park. Roybal-Allard congratulated Aguirre on her accomplishments and thanked her for her leadership during the past year. More than 100 association members and guests attended, which also marked the swearing-in of incoming president Anthony Mendez.

### Realty office expands website

**DOWNEY** – Century 21 My Real Estate has announced that its website, [www.century21myrealestate.com](http://www.century21myrealestate.com), is now Internet Data Exchange enabled, offering potential homebuyers with all property listings included in the area's Multiple Listing Service (MLS) database.

"Providing consumers with a single destination for searching and researching all of the available real estate in the area is a convenience that they expect and deserve and Century 21 My Real Estate is proud to offer this through its website," said Steve Roberson, broker and owner of Century 21 My Real Estate.

Rather than having to frequent the websites of each real estate brokerage in the area, visitors to [www.century21myrealestate.com](http://www.century21myrealestate.com) can view all listings of every real estate brokerage participating in and posting properties to the local MLS.

According to a recent study by the National Association of Realtors, nearly 80 percent of homebuyers utilized the Internet to search for a home. Of that group, more than 70 percent found the information on the Internet "very useful."

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<p><b>OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!</b> Charming Duplex in Downey with 2 BD, 2 BA and other unit 1 BD and 1 BA. Price: <b>\$420,000</b> Call Carrie @ <b>562-382-1252</b></p>	<p><b>QUALITY &amp; ELEGANCE!</b> 5 BD, 4 BA, 9,625 sq. ft. lot. Call Jason Lockwood <b>562-619-2979</b></p>	<p><b>LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION!</b> Stunning 4 BD, 3 BA, Entertainers Dream AMAZING Floor plan 3000 + sq.ft. on 1/4 acre! Call Mario for price @ <b>562 533 7433</b></p>	<p><b>MOVE RIGHT IN!</b> 3 BD, 1BA, 986 sq ft, 5304 sq ft lot., good size back yard, and newer kitchen. Price: <b>\$335,000</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
<p><b>SWEET &amp; LOW</b> Lovely 3 BD, 2 BA home in Downey with large family room and fireplace. Price: <b>\$429,900</b> Call Carrie @ <b>562-382-1252</b></p>	<p><b>2 UNITS</b> <b>LIVE IN ONE, RENT OTHER!</b> 3 Bed house plus 1 Bed unit! Bank Repo! Call Marie Picarelli <b>562-618-0033</b></p>	<p><b>FIT FOR A KING!</b> Huge Master Suite, Glorious kitchen &amp; Family room 4 BD, 3BA, 3000 + Sq ft. Remodeled!! Virtual tour at <a href="http://www.MARIOPERSICO.COM">www.MARIOPERSICO.COM</a></p>	<p><b>Warm and Friendly!</b> 3BD, 1BA, Orange Estates home, on a large lot. The home has copper plumbing and the property has a newer sprinkler system. Price: <b>\$439,900</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
<p><b>NICE AREA! NICE PRICE!</b> Spacious bedrooms, 2 BA in Downey with living room, dining room AND family room. Large Lot with workshop in backyard. Price <b>\$460,000</b> Call Carrie @ <b>562-382-1252</b></p>	<p><b>Happy Holidays from Ben &amp; Stephanie</b> We Thank You for your support this year.</p> <p>Call for a list of Bank Owned Homes or a Short Sale Consultation. Call Ben &amp; Stephanie <b>(562) 217-8384</b></p>	<p><b>MARIO DID IT AGAIN!</b> <b>SOLD!</b> <b>11322 GWYNNE ~ NORWALK</b> 2 BD, 1 BA, large living room, HUGE back yard! Call Mario <b>(562) 533-7433</b> <b>SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!</b></p>	<p><b>Cherokee Estates Charmer!</b> 4BD, 2.75 BA, N. Downey Home w/ spacious family rm, updated kitchen w. newer appliances &amp; granite counters, pool size yard, 9900 sq ft. lot, and a master bedroom. Starting at <b>\$699,000!</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
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<p><b>GREAT CURB APPEAL</b> 2 BD, Large Family Room w/ Fireplace PRICE: <b>\$399,000</b> Call Mary Jane Lee <b>562-618-0390</b></p>	<p><b>LONG BEACH</b> <b>Let's Make a Deal!</b> 5BD, 4BA, 3800sq ft., pool and spa, 3 car garage. Price: <b>\$975,000</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>MOVE RIGHT IN!</b> NE Downey pool home w/ 5 BD, 4 BA, 4700 sq ft living space, 7500 sq ft lot, gorgeous master suite w/ fireplace &amp; balcony. Price: <b>\$1,199,950</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>Northeast Downey Estate!</b> Northeast Downey Estate! 5 bed, 4 bath, 3966 sq ft house + 1000 sq ft guest house on a 20,040 sq ft lot. Remodeled like new 6 years ago and priced to sell @ <b>\$1,899,900.</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>



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<p><b>MOVE RIGHT IN!</b> 3 BD, 1BA, 986 sq ft, 5304 sq ft lot., good size back yard, and newer kitchen. Price: <b>\$335,000</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>Warm and Friendly!</b> 3BD, 1BA, Orange Estates home, on a large lot. The home has copper plumbing and the property has a newer sprinkler system. Price: <b>\$439,900</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>Downtown Downey Development!</b> 2BR+den, 1BA house w/ 2 car garage &amp; large parking in backyard, on a 8799 sq ft lot, can be built into a 7000 sq ft office/retail bldg. Price: <b>\$499,900</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
<p><b>A Sizzling Buy!</b> 4 BD, 3 BA remodeled North Downey pool home, large master bedroom, travertine floors, granite counters, and much more. Price: <b>\$599,900</b> Virtual tour at <a href="http://www.MichaelBerdelis.com">www.MichaelBerdelis.com</a></p>	<p><b>Cherokee Estates Charmer!</b> 4BD, 2.75 BA, N. Downey Home w/ spacious family rm, updated kitchen w. newer appliances &amp; granite counters, pool size yard, 9900 sq ft. lot, and a master bedroom. Starting at <b>\$699,000!</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>New 2007 Construction!</b> 4BR + office, 4BA, approx 3100 sq. ft., marble floors, granite countertops, large master bedroom. Price: <b>\$825,000</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>
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<p><b>Let's Make a Deal!</b> 5BD, 4BA, 3800sq ft., pool and spa, 3 car garage. Price: <b>\$975,000</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>MOVE RIGHT IN!</b> NE Downey pool home w/ 5 BD, 4 BA, 4700 sq ft living space, 7500 sq ft lot, gorgeous master suite w/ fireplace &amp; balcony. Price: <b>\$1,199,950</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>	<p><b>Northeast Downey Estate!</b> Northeast Downey Estate! 5 bed, 4 bath, 3966 sq ft house + 1000 sq ft guest house on a 20,040 sq ft lot. Remodeled like new 6 years ago and priced to sell @ <b>\$1,899,900.</b> Call Michael Berdelis at (562) 818-6111</p>

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