

Mission Village

VOICE

A remarkable life

Dr. Betty Lou Leaver's linguistic skills take her around the world

See page 12





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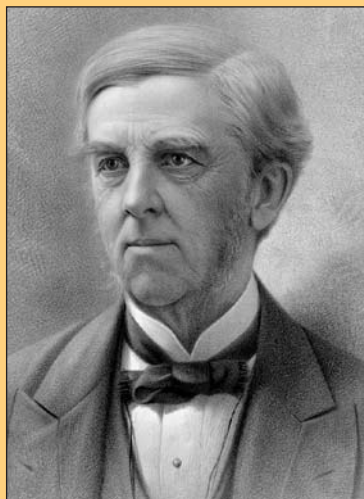
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A quote for our readers

“Language
is the blood
of the soul
into which
thoughts
run and
out of which
they grow.”

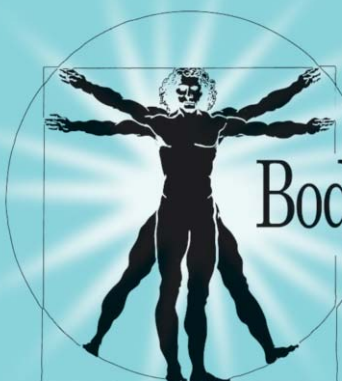
– Oliver
Wendell
Holmes, Sr.

On the cover

“Queen of Hearts” by artist Chris Leib.
To learn more about the artist, see page 8.



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#BOOKWORM

Literary romance

By Leanne Oliveira

"Love is just a word until someone comes along and gives it meaning."— Paulo Coelho

February celebrates some of my favorite things: oysters, dark chocolate, roses, bubble baths, happy endings, and - most importantly - my dog Piper's birthday. We travel and take advantage of every sale and wellness opportunity available - particularly those ignored by holiday haters everywhere. More for us.



Leanne Oliveira

This month, there are some great romances being released by Elle Kennedy, Katee Robert, Tessa Bailey, Jojo Moyes, and many more at tinyurl.com/Feb23Bookworm. Fans of love stories should also check out: The Silver Petticoat Review (www.SilverPetticoatReview.com), Never Enough (NeverEnoughNovels.com), and Passion Flix for romance novel adaptations that are steamy rather than Hallmarky (www.PassionFlix.com).

For free and discounted eBooks, try Red Roses Romance (www.redrosesromance.com), and Novels80 (www.novels80.com). Reminder to download free Library apps Libby and Hoopla for movies, music, TV, comics, magazines, and audiobooks. I also love to play around with the "themes & topics" search engine at Romance (www.Romance.io). Free downloadable holiday bookmarks (abeautifulmess.com/library-card-bookmark-free-printables).

For sexy male narrators, check out Jacob Morgan (aka Zachary Webber/Sam Crowley), Jason Clarke, or Shane East. Joe Jameson's range of UK dialects made *Boyfriend Material* my favorite audiobook of 2021. Still, since they (and most male narrators) tend to be hopeless with female voices, you should also consider my favorite female narrators who also convincingly perform male characters: Mary Jane Wells, Lorelei King, Gabra Zackman, Cris Dukehart, Cat Gould, Emily Lawrence, and Justine Eyre. Happy February!

ANNE RICE'S JOURNALS

After Anne Rice's 2021 death, personal items (journals, drafts, fan letters, etc.) were archived at Tulane University and are now available for viewing by appointment only. Visitors can also view Tulane's free exhibit

"Absolutely Unpredictable: Anne Rice in the City of Transgression" through 2/17. Visit tinyurl.com/RiceAtTulane.

BANNED AUTHOR ESSAYS

Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe is part of a series of interviews with — and essays by — authors who are increasingly finding their books being banned in the U.S. at [NPR's tinyurl.com/QueerBookBans](http://NPR's.tinyurl.com/QueerBookBans).

BIPOC LIVES MATTER

Amazon's new adaptation "Three Pines" depicts the mistreatment of First Nations people in Canada and has drawn praise for its unflinching realism. Fans of Louise Penny's *Chief Inspector Armand Gamache* series will love this retelling, particularly as Penney also stands in as Executive Producer.

BOOK AID INTERNATIONAL

Book Aid understands that "books transform how people see themselves and the world." In late-December, the NPO shipped 41,767 books to Kenya for a total of 1,140,435 books shipped globally in 2022. To see how you can help this charity, visit bookaid.org (NOT "book-aid.org").

BOOK FREEZING?

Have you ever heard of freezing used books upon purchase? Me either, but folks are apparently doing it! (Thanks to my cousin Chante Brasil for the tip.)

CLUB #BOOKWORM

January's book *A Dreadful Splendor* by B. Myers was chosen by fantasy author Vanessa Silva of Gilroy (another cousin of mine!) and was adored due to its brilliantly-written gothic charm. This month, I'm hosting and chose Alicia Thompson's book *Love in the Time of Serial Killers* and we'll also have our annual "Blind Date with a Book" activity.

CONTAMINATED IN COLORADO

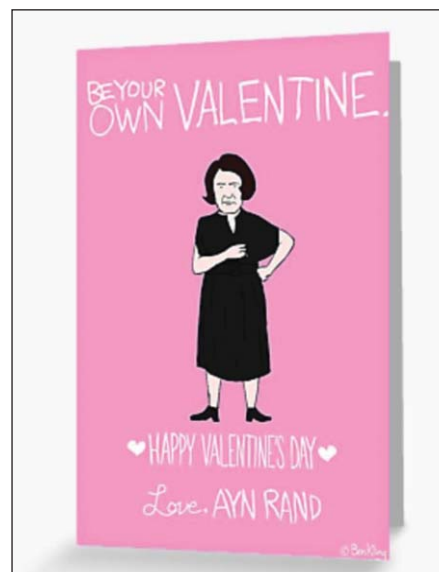
Boulder officials report that it will take several weeks to decontaminate the City's main library after methamphetamine was detected in the restrooms and on tables. Eeep!

COUNTY LIBRARY

Tea & Treasures is planned for 3/19/23 (tickets: 831-205-1373) and our next pet-friendly book sale is 2/11 9AM-12PM behind the Library with free tea and treats, weather permitting! Our Instagram is under new management by yours truly (Leanne), so please add [sbcfl_friends](https://www.instagram.com/sbcfl_friends). For Library updates, visit SBCFL.org.

GILROY LIBRARY

Offering "Breath Exercises and Health Screenings" (2/18 @ 12PM-2PM) and "Tales of Local 19th Century Gunfighter Sheriff



Browse Ben Kling's literary Valentines from Karl Marx, Charles Darwin, and more at www.redbubble.com/people/benklingshop.

John Hicks Adams" by author William Briggs (2/11 @ 10:30AM). Lots more goodies including board game loans at SCCLD.org.

LUCK LIBRARY

No updates at this time, but Staff reminds everyone to call 831-623-4687 or visit their website as goodies become available: [**GOING POSTAL
Love \(2023\)**](http://san-</p>
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Celebrate 50 years since the first Love stamp was issued with two new Love stamps, one featuring a kitten and the other a puppy with their front paws resting atop a big heart.

The stamp art was painted with oils on wood panel, then scanned and edited digitally to create the final images.

Cats and dogs are two of America's favorite pets, and it is no surprise that connecting with pets has benefits. They provide companionship and love; interacting with a cuddly kitten or a playful puppy can reduce loneliness and elevate mood. Some studies have even shown that pets might also be responsible for lower blood pressure, improved heart health, and a decrease in stress.

Whatever the benefits, there is no denying that puppies and kittens are lovable.

Evoking feelings of warmth and playfulness, each cute and cuddly animal rests its front paws on a big red heart. Sure to add a bit of whimsy to your valentines, these adorable stamps are also suitable for use on

juan-bautista.ca.us/community/library.php.

NEW RELEASES

Hope you're enjoying Prince Harry's *Spare* and Leigh Bardugo's *Hell Bent!* Fans of quirky Victorian mysteries will also appreciate Anastasia Hastings' new series "Dear Miss Hermione" beginning with this month's *Of Manners and Murder*. More new releases at tinyurl.com/Feb23Bookworm.

SALINAS BOOK SALES

Visit the Book Depot in the Salinas Train Station (2/4@9AM-2PM) and the Friends' Bookshop at the John Steinbeck Library (Tuesdays - Thursdays 2PM-5PM) for ongoing book sales! More info at FriendsOfSalinasPL.org.

SF POETRY MAGIC

A mysterious nightstand appeared in various parks around SF asking folks to "Take a poem, leave a poem" (tinyurl.com/NightstandPoetry).

SILVERA NETFLIX ADAPTATION

Bad Bunny and *Bridgerton's* creator are bringing Adam Silvera's beloved queer YA bestseller *They Both Die at the End* to Netflix. Catch the prequel *The First to Die at the End*, out now.

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a dual EU/US citizen, Social Worker, and Reference Librarian (History). Contact or "Comicfairy" on [Goodreads/IG](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/Leanne_Oliveira). ■



letters and cards throughout the year.

Art director Ethel Kessler designed these stamps with original art by Chris Buzelli.

The Love stamps are being issued as Forever® stamps in panes of 20. These Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail® one-ounce price.

Customers may purchase stamps and other philatelic products through the Postal Store at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through USA Philatelic or at Post Office locations nationwide. ■



Consider hosting a beach cleanup party for Earth Day 2023.



Green Business Tips

Give our planet some TLC

By Timaree Nelson

As we mop up from all this flooding and assess the damage, our hearts go out to all individuals impacted by the recent storms. Across the nation, we are seeing impacts of climate change that pull on our heartstrings – from raging forest fires displacing animals and humans alike to exuberant amounts of pollution harming our marine life. However, hope is not lost! There are various measures our business community can take to minimize our environmental footprint and warm our hearts.

We encourage you to take this February to give some TLC to our planet!

● **Break up with plastic water bottles.** Time to say Goodbye to plastic and Hello to alternatives! Use reusable water bottles whenever possible, and if necessary offer non-plastic options for your patrons.

● **Minimize the use of single-use plastics.** Now that we approach the second year mark of the pandemic, we are still seeing the increased use of single-use items. Whenever

possible, use reusable foodware for your business, and offer take-out utensils only when requested.

● **Revamp your energy game!** Save money and make a difference by switching your business's old lighting out for LEDs. They use approximately 75% less energy and last nearly 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

● **Save the Date.** Earth Day 2023 is coming up quickly! Consider starting to plan a special event for you and your employees to do together. Some ideas include beach cleanups or tree planting!

● **Giving back.** Consider donating to an environmental organization that makes your heart feel warm and fuzzy! Organizations such as 1% for the Planet have great resource lists to peruse.

You can help do your part to mitigate climate change in many ways, including becoming a Certified Green Business (and save money while you are at it). For more information please contact Saburi Sai at ssai@environmentalin.com. ■

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CITY BEAT

Strategic planning a resolution

By Don Reynolds, City Manager

Heading into 2023 in the midst of my fourth year with the City and a two-year extension on my contract, I am very excited about San Juan Bautista's future. Prior to receiving the two-year extension, the City Council completed a constructive, interactive evaluation of the City Manager's performance. The recommendations have become "Resolutions" for me personally, and center around stronger, equitable communications and strategic planning.

New City Councilmembers Jackie Morris-Lopez and E.J. Sabathia are on board, and Leslie Q. Jordan has been reappointed as the Mayor for a third term, with John Freeman serving as Mayor Pro Tempore. Hopefully on January 24, the City will have filled at least some if not all of the 4 vacancies on the Planning Commission. We welcomed our new Deputy City Clerk Elizabeth Soto January 9th, and soon we will be "hitting on all cylinders."

The City plans to facilitate extensive community outreach and strategic planning



work in February and March. The goal is to fully align the new City Council and Planning Commission with current contemporary action plans. These actions will then inform the budget, which based upon our recent audit, will be strong enough to support limited growth. Building a recreation program and a robust local senior program are priorities.

Please respond to the City's invitations to participate in this community-wide strategic planning effort. Respond to surveys, at-

tend and be heard at the strategic planning workshops.

Finally, I want to recognize the incredible dedication of the City's maintenance staff, MNS Engineering, CSG Engineering, Cypress Water who did not rest as the storms continued from December 27 through January 16. Many 12-hour days, late nights, (including holidays) were spent helping protect lives and property. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team. "Hats off" to our crew! ■

ASK RECOLOGY

My dream wedding guide

By Gabriella Ulloa-Rodrigues

Dear Gabbie,

Last Valentine's Day I was asked to marry the love of my life. Fast forward a year later and now we're counting down the days until we say, "I do"! I am in full wedding-planning mode, and I am hoping to find ways to save money and make my wedding eco-friendly. Do you have any ideas on how to achieve my dream green wedding?

Madly in Love on Muckelemei

Dear Madly,

I recently got married in October and had my very own dream green wedding! I'd be happy to share some ideas to help you to achieve a beautiful, affordable, and eco-conscious wedding!

1. Shop for a second-hand or rental dress! This may sound unconventional, but you'll be pleasantly surprised with how many dresses exist in the resale market. I bought my dress secondhand from an app called Still White, whose mission is to reduce carbon emissions, water, and textile waste in the wedding in-



dustry. The dress I got from here had never been worn and needed minimal alterations since I was able to filter dress options to my exact size on the app! To learn more visit www.stillwhite.com.

2. Forget buying new decor! Use items you may already have and shop your local thrift store for items you may need. I turned empty wine bottles into centerpieces and thrifted mason jars as glasses for drinks while also

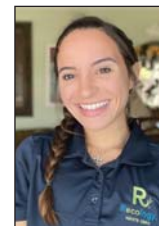
crafting them with name labels to use them as favors! I also opted for a more sustainable wedding bouquet option by supporting an artisan who hand crafts bouquets and boutonnieres from wood carvings. Not only did this save us a lot of money, but I get to keep my beautiful flowers on display!

3. Go digital! Who says you have to go through snail mail? Send save-the-dates, invites, day-of-wedding timeline, and thank you messages all digitally! This will prevent a lot of paper waste, greenhouse gas emissions and other resources. We saved around \$400 by going the digital route!

Happy wedding planning and have a beautiful green day!

Zero Wastingly,
Mrs. Gabriella Ulloa-Rodrigues
Gabbie ■

Gabriella Ulloa is a Waste Zero Specialist with Recology San Benito. Do you have a question for Gabbie? Send it to gulloa@recology.com.



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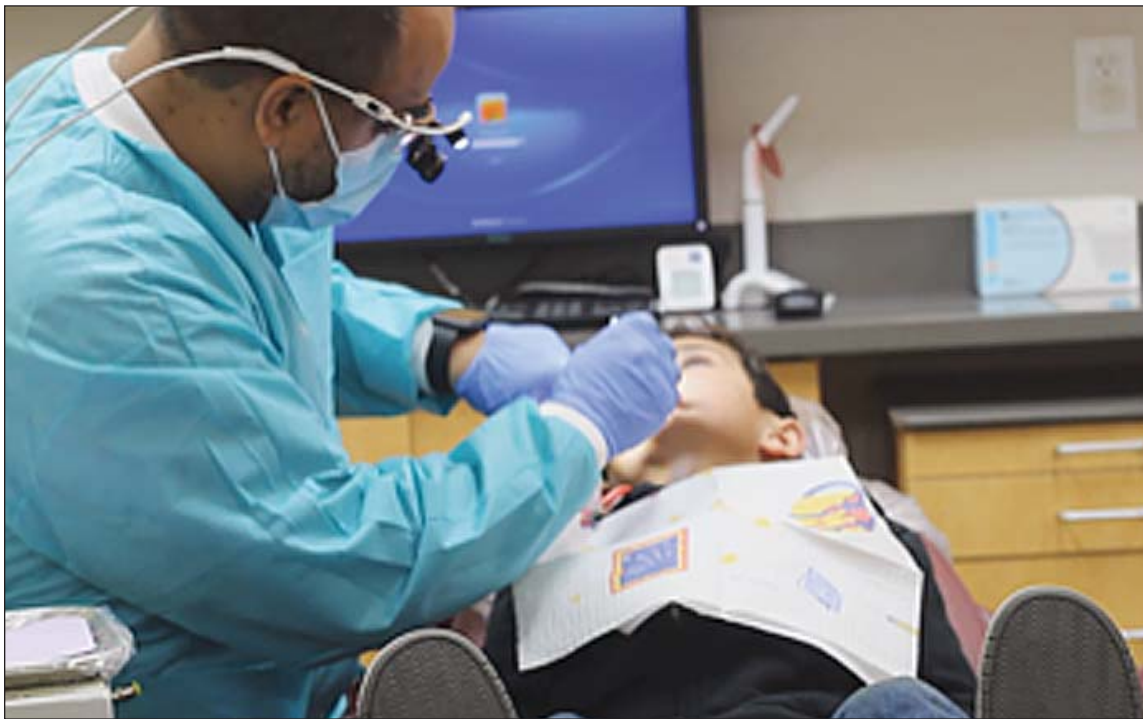
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Dr. Edwin Acosta, MMS, DDS, is the Dental Director and Primary Care Service Director at San Benito Health Foundation.

SBHF NEWS

Something to smile about

Dr. Edwin Acosta was all smiles when he was awarded the National Health Service Scholarship. It allowed him to pursue his passion for dentistry and community health by serving in rural, underserved areas, and it's how he came to the San Benito Health Foundation (SBHF).

When he first arrived in 2008, the clinic had a 4-chair dental office. It was a small space to work in, so when a pipe broke underneath the floors, SBHF used this "blessing" to flip the floorplan around and create a bigger area for dental care. It now houses 8 dental chairs and state-of-the-art equipment including a digital panoramic machine.

Dr. Acosta says it is the patients who keep him smiling. He knows good oral health plays an important role in their wellbeing and self-esteem. That is why SBHF practices evidence-based dentistry, which combines current scientific research and patient-centered care with the dentist's expertise. SBHF's dental services include comprehensive exams, modern digital radiography,



**SAN BENITO
HEALTH FOUNDATION**

simple and deep cleanings, fillings, extractions, sealants, and pediatric dental care.

Dr. Acosta and the clinic are dedicated to promoting preventative care by participating in outreach activities in the community, providing school-based medical and dental screenings, and doing comprehensive dental exams on every patient served. They also offer late hours so that working patients have the opportunity to be seen.

When he's not working at the clinic or serving the homeless population, Dr. Acosta is with his family. His 11-year-old son has autism and needed brain surgery at age 5. He does not speak and has high anxiety. While some might see this as something to frown about, Dr. Acosta is grateful for its gifts of patience, understanding and compassion. He believes being a parent to his son has made him a much better dentist for his patients.

SBHF offers annual dental check-ups for the uninsured. Call (831) 637-5306 for an appointment. ■

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COVER ARTIST

Chris Leib

Chris Leib is an American fine-artist and graduate of anthropology, renowned for his iconography of Bonobo chimps and astronauts and cosmonauts, often juxtaposed, with exquisite technique and scrupulous attention to detail.

Transcending whimsy, his paintings are laden with meaning and intellectual contemplation. Chris' work explores themes of heroism, human endeavour and the sensitivity of human hopes and ambitions to possible realities of science-fact.

Chris's work challenges us to

contemplate a collision of science-fiction, reality and religion, this three-car pile-up viewed from the vantage point of our evolutionary ancestors who have quietly continued to evolve themselves.

—Luke Barrett

"Our own position in the evolutionary scheme is potentially precarious, especially if our actions are petulant and impulsive. The Bonobo in these scenes feels like she is reigning in the little space child, trying perhaps to preserve the path started long ago by their common ancestor."

—Chris Leib ■

Pictured below: "Grey Skies" by Chris Leib. For more information, visit ChrisLeib.com





R.E.A.C.H.

Fourth annual Moonlight Walk on Anza Trail scheduled for March 5

The March 5 full moon is known as “The Full Worm Moon,” honoring the stirring of earthworms and insect larvae in the slowing late winter and early spring soil.

It is a Waxing Gibbous moon, rising at 4:30pm with 98.5% illumination on Sunday, March 5; sun setting at 6:04 p.m., creating the “Golden Hour,” followed by “Twilight Time.” This is the most family-friendly time frame for an evening walk on Anza Trail at the cusp of Spring.

- Parking attendants will be stationed at Old Stage Road entry point to guide cars.

- To reach the 2nd bench at a relaxed pace for best viewing, start at 3:30pm.

- All hikers are expected to return to the trailhead by 7:00 - 7:30pm.

- Arrivals need to register at the trailhead to account for stragglers and safety.

- Prizes will be given for kids completing the walk; largest family group; youngest/oldest participant, and persons bringing a Moonlight Walk button from past events!

- In the event of rain or heavy mud conditions, we will cancel, but if there is just a threat of rain, we will not cancel. The moonrise and sunset have proven to be totally wonderful between clouds!

Upon registering, folks may begin their one to two-mile journey to various viewing points along the Trail. We have reached out to the night sky folks David Baumgartner and Ron Ober, who will tell their stories and give you a look through their telescopes at their viewing spots. Other astronomers are



welcome!

Please bring your water bottle; put infants in backpacks; wear warm jackets; have your pets on leash, and

if you need light, use red filters, which will not interfere with the night sky.

First time participants may want to know that the first mile is a bit of a challenge but few have ever turned back. It's important to wear sensible shoes on the Trail and take it slow. The limit of this walk is just to the 2.5-mile bench; all participants must be accounted for before we leave the Trailhead entry.

Volunteers will be posted along the way to give assistance and information. The event is free; however, donations and gratuities left in the jar are used

for much appreciated Anza Trail improvements, benches and trees. Ask Kim about that!

For questions, call or text 831-673-0665, or email info@reachsanbenito.org.

— **Kim Johnson, Anza Trail Committee, R.E.A.C.H. San Benito Parks Foundation**

BenitoLink
San Benito County's News

Facebook page for updates: REACH San Benito Parks Foundation.

Post your Moonlight pictures on Fb Group, R.E.A.C.H. for Parks and Trails.

R.E.A.C.H. San Benito Parks Foundation and BenitoLink have partnered to bring this unique adventure to you since 2018, save the Covid years. ■



Pictured above: Shirley Murphy and Al Gonzalez in “Til Beth Do Us Part.” Photo credit: Chaz Guerrero

ARTS

San Benito Stage Company offers Valentine's entertainment

Are you looking for something to chase away the February doldrums? The San Benito Stage Company has just the thing to help. Perfect for a Valentine's date night or a girl's night out, SBSC presents “Til Beth Do Us Part at the Hollister Veterans Memorial Hall from Feb 3-18. Beth is a comedy by the writer trio Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten. Featuring local actors, this comic romp about marriage is sure to make you laugh. Career-driven Suzannah Hayden needs a lot more help on the home front than she's getting from her husband, Gibby. Nurturing his marriage has-

n't been the highest priority for Gibby lately, but soon he'll wish it had been. Enter Beth Bailey, Suzannah's newly hired assistant, a gregarious, highly motivated daughter of the South. To Suzannah's delight, Beth explodes into the Hayden household and whips it into an organized, well-run machine. Suzannah gives Beth carte blanche to change anything in the household that “will make it run more efficiently.” And the change Beth makes is convincing Suzannah that

Gibby must go!

The Stage Company is excited to be able to do their first adult comedy since 2020. You may be surprised to see your neighbor or an acquaintance on stage – this is the joy of community theater! The show will run for three weekends, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00 pm, with matinees on the opening and closing weekends at 2:00 pm. The show will also have a bar and light snacks available. Tickets are \$20 and are available online at sanbenitostage.org, with assigned seating. Make plans to liven up your February! ■



Marlene Hartman and Diego Segovia. Photo credit: Chaz Guerrero

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Community Foundation for San Benito County opens Disaster Recovery Fund

In light of the current flooding disaster in the County, the Community Foundation for San Benito County has opened a Disaster Recovery Fund to aid community members experiencing hardships related to the storm conditions and flooding.

Gifts to the San Benito Disaster Recovery Fund can be made through the Foundation's website, <https://givesanbenito.org/>, or mailed to the Foundation at 440 San Benito Street, Hollister, CA 95023.

The direct link to the fund is
<https://bit.ly/3D08WyP>

For more information, call the
Foundation at 831-630-1924.



This space provided as a community service by Graniterock to highlight nonprofit agencies or individuals who serve our community. To be considered for this spot please contact Anne Caetano at annecaetano@aol.com.



ARTS

Luna Gallery to present Lunar New Year performance

February marks the beginning of the Lunar New Year, and many streets in Chinatowns across the U.S. have Lion Dances to celebrate. Leonard Han, the founder of the Monterey Bay Lion Dance Team, is bringing Lion Dance and Tai Chi (Taiji) to San Juan Bautista for a performance at Luna Gallery on February 4th at 5 pm. This world-class performance will take place during the free and open-to-the-public reception for his exhibition of paintings and monotypes, "Tales, Traditions and Hidden Secrets."

Driven by world culture, myth, and history, Leonard Han's paintings shift between depictive imagery and abstraction with mythic images from everyday experience. Chinese art emphasizes mood and the mood of various art forms, painting, as in Taiji, can emphasize holism, and synergy, requiring nuanced subtlety and layering. Han brings layering to his

paintings and monotype prints, and to life. Known for his classes at CSUMB and various community organizations, he is a master at Taiji and Quin Gong.

He formed the Monterey Bay Lion Dance Team twenty-five years ago. The team has performed for people throughout Monterey County, reaching across and beyond ethnic and cultural lines. In the context of his paintings at Luna Gallery, Leonard Han's performance will be unique, layering Taiji and Lion Dance and collaborating with Jayson Fann on percussion. Fann is well known for his sculptures, nest installations and creating experimental percussion sounds. This innovation in cultural performance arts and visual art in the gallery will be complemented by "Love of Nature: A Valentine for the Planet" an exhibit of Eco Art in the studio. Luna Gallery 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. ■



Above: Leonard Han
Below: Jayson Fann



We welcome articles from the community, so send us your submissions. Go to missionvillagevoice.com or email acaetano@missionvillagevoice.com.

Mission Village
VOICE

FINANCIAL FOCUS**Watch out for tax season scams**

It's that time of year when we do our taxes — but it's also the same time that tax scammers go to work. What scams should you watch for — and how can you avoid being victimized?

Sadly, the list of scams is pretty long, including demands for payment or requests for “additional information” pertaining to your tax refund, in which the sender asks for your Social Security number and other personal information. These scam emails can look quite official, often incorporating the IRS logo. You might also receive scam text messages containing bogus links claiming to be the IRS website or an online “tool” that can help process your refund faster.

But keep these points in mind:

- The IRS generally won't contact you by phone and won't contact you by email, text messages or social media channels to ask for personal or financial information. The IRS begins most correspondence to taxpayers through regular mail delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

- The IRS won't call to demand you make an immediate payment through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. If you owe taxes, the IRS generally will mail you a bill. And the IRS won't threaten to bring in the police or another law enforcement group to arrest you for not paying your taxes.

In general, be extremely skeptical about any type of communication purporting to be from the IRS that sounds bullying or over-inquisitive — and certainly don't give out any personal or financial information. But these fake messages aren't the only tax-season scams out there. You might even receive a direct deposit from what appears to be the U.S. Treasury Department — but if you weren't expecting it, something's likely not right. This payment could be a sign that a fraudulent tax return was filed in your name, and it might be followed by a communication from a supposed IRS agent requesting this overpayment be sent to them. If this happens to you, you'll want to contact the IRS right away, and you could also ask your bank to return the deposit to the government.

Other scams don't claim to originate directly from the IRS, as scammers pretend to be from real or imaginary tax organizations. For example, you could get a message from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization within the IRS, but this agency won't contact you without a legitimate reason. Or you could receive a message from the nonexistent “Bureau of Tax Enforcement.” Your best bet is to delete these messages immediately or send them to your spam folder.

Not all tax season scams originate from fraudulent IRS representatives or fake agencies. You also need to be careful about whom you hire to prepare your taxes. If possible, get a recommendation

from a trusted friend or family member. And keep in mind that a legitimate tax preparer must have a valid Preparer Tax Identification Number and must sign your tax return. If someone doesn't have this number or is reluctant to sign your return, it may well be a sign that this individual is a “ghost preparer” who only wants to pocket your fee.

Tax scammers are, unfortunately, here to stay — but remaining vigilant can help you keep them from causing problems for you in this tax season and all the ones in the future.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Alexis Winder.

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MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Dr. Betty Lou Leaver

By Anne Caetano

Mission Village Voice learned more about the remarkable life of local Dr. Betty Lou Leaver, retired Provost at Defense Language Institute. With a PhD in Applied Linguistics, she has studied 20 languages and speaks 8 of them. As a wife, mother and accomplished professional, her “trampings” led her to Siberia, the Middle East, NASA, the DLI, and founding MSI Press with her late husband Carl. She claims that her “experience tells the story of the times” and attributes her many successes to being “in the right place at the right time with the right people.” However, being a first-generation college student of humble means with “a pioneer spirit as an American woman” surely drove her. She has indeed fulfilled this goal: “The Institute leadership told me to go forth and make a difference in the world as its graduate and that would be payment enough.”

MVV: What came first, advanced degrees or children?

BLL: I had my four kids first: Echo, Fawn, Shawn, and CB. I was not a traditionalist. What's important is I was a first-generation college student.

That alone is an accomplishment.

I grew up on a farm in Maine where we didn't have a high school, so I went to high school in New Hampshire. I couldn't have gone to college if it weren't for other people. My father was a farmer and a shoe cutter. He couldn't send a child to college, so I earned a lot of scholarships. My experience tells the story of the times.

Such as?

I had the highest grade in physics in my high school class of 40 students, and my male physics teacher said to me, “It's a shame you're a girl because you'd make a great physicist.”

What a schmuck!

Times have changed. And my sister, who is 20 years younger, earned a B. S. degree in nuclear physics.

And college?

Because of my College Board scores I was offered free tuition at the University of New Hampshire (UNH), where I had not applied. I had been accepted to Harvard (Radcliffe, at the time, for girls), but I couldn't afford that. I had also been accepted at Penn State. My guidance counselor suggested sending a copy of the UNH letter to Penn State and asking them to match the offer. Penn State did. Living expenses were covered by a series of scholarships that flowed in, thanks to the recommendations of teachers and peers. Again, other people!

I got married at the beginning of my sophomore year, and when the tuition support office got notice of my name change, a senior administrator called me in and said my scholarship for junior and senior year was canceled. “We can't waste money on married women because you're not going to be doing anything with your degree. Let your



Betty Lou Leaver talking with Col. Alameida, commander, at Vicenza Army base in Vicenza, Italy.

in-laws pay your tuition.”

Meathead.

I had two trimesters of scholarship left for my sophomore year. I completed my junior year in one trimester and my senior year in the other.

How did you pull that off?

They never caught it because in those days, everything was recorded by hand, not in a computer database. I would sign up for

four classes. Then, I would drop them all and sign up for four more. After my advisor signed the course change slip, I erased all the drops and just did the adds, I did that twice.

Genius!

I completed four years of education in two and a half years not because of genius but because of penury.

By working your tail off.

Balancing all those classes was demanding, but I didn't find the courses all that hard. I was also working at a couple of jobs to help cover housing costs since I no longer was in the dorms. But it was always people who helped. My friend was the secretary in my advisor's office, so when my 3-page grade sheets came in, she just put them in my file and said everything was okay. In some cases, I had two classes at the same time. For the large classes, I listened to the taped lectures, turned in homework through friends, and showed up for the exams. Ironically, I ended up staying another year, with a graduate fellowship, and completed all of my M.A. sans thesis before my husband Carl graduated and we headed for Montana where he had a job waiting with the US Forest Service.

Then the Army?

Carl goes for the Army physical, and while I was waiting for him, the recruiter says, “You know, you could both go in and be stationed together.” I passed and enlisted.

You do everything fast.

And backwards. Carl comes out, crestfallen. He says, “Well, I'm not in the Army,” and I say, “Well, I am.” While in the Army, I received a direct commission as an officer. I stayed four years on active duty, starting as a student at the Defense Language Institute



Visiting with Natalia Baranova, Director of the Open Society NGO, in Akademgorodok pri Novosibirsk, Siberia, Russia.



In front of the NASA ISS module, from left to right: Cosmonaut Yuri Usachev, commander, crew #2, ISS; Susan Anderson, NASA USA-RU Training Agreements Manager; Linda Bilstein, English teacher; Astronaut LCDR Michael Lopez-Alegria, USN, Director of Operations Russia & (later) commander of ISS; Betty Lou Leaver; Dr. Pavel Belyanin, professor of linguistics, Moscow Linguistics University; Dr. Elena Belyanina, Eisenhower Scholar.

(DLI), and four years in the reserves. While still in the reserves, I had a chance to be the first American to do research at the Siberian Branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences in Akademgorodok (Novosibirsk).

Did you go to Siberia?

The Army told me that to be 4000 kilometers from the nearest US facility during the Cold War I would have to resign my commission. So, I resigned my commission. It was a fateful decision. Siberia has become an important part of my life, including taking a Siberian spina bifida teenage boy into our home a decade later, writing the eulogy for the head of the philology institute, and helping with educational projects.

I started out in Moscow, attending graduate courses in dialectology at the University of Moscow while Echo, whom I took with me, attended School #77 (the one that child actors attend) and accompanied me to Siberia. Although I have been back many times, she has only the unforgettable memories from 1984, including our last day in Siberia when we walked from one friend's house to another to say goodbye, leaving two sets of footprints in the deep, pristine, February snow. A friend who ran across us in our trappings commented on the pioneer spirit of American women.

Ha!

There was no easy path to enroll an American child in a Soviet school. The Embassy was stalled for two weeks with no sign of breakthrough, but I got Echo enrolled in two days. The Ministry of Education was used to working with diplomats but had never met a mad American mother.

State Department.

When I went to Siberia, I had just started a job at the US Department of State's Foreign Service Institute, the training arm for diplomats, as Russian & Ukrainian Language Training Director. I got the job by being in the right place at the right time with the right people—when military attaches were assigned there (not the case later); the administration thought my military background would be helpful.

After FSI, I got a dean's position at DLI and came back out here. Oddly, I worked at DLI three times, and between each time there was a 13-year gap.

And how did you end up at NASA?

Like the way I did a lot of things, by chance. After my stint as Dean, I founded the American Global Studies Institute, which was struggling by 1997 because a significant source of revenue from programs supported by George Soros dried up when the Duma (Russian Congress) attempted to countermand Soros's activities. At the same time, NASA approached me to develop a language-training program for the crews assigned to the pending International Space Station. I turned down the request several times but ultimately said yes.

What did you do for NASA?

One of the American astronauts, Jerry Linenger, was on Russian space station Mir when a fire started. Can you imagine a worse place to have a fire? The Russian cosmonauts yelled, "Pozhar! Pozhar!" [Fire!] but Jerry did not know the word!

Oh, my god.

The cosmonauts pushed him into the es-

cape capsule, so that they could put out the fire. He became a strong proponent for a language program.

So, I came to establish the language program, advised by a group that included such eminent astronauts as Shannon Lucid and splitting my time between the NASA campus in Houston and the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center in Star City, Russia.

Then what did you do?

I finished my doctorate. Again, I was fortunate to have good people in my life. I was doing extensive consulting in Russia for the American Councils for International Education, where a PhD was needed. American Councils made arrangements to enroll me as a doctoral candidate in applied linguistics at the highly respected Pushkin Institute in Moscow. This was the first time an American had ever done this. In fact, there was no process for "billing" an American for tuition. The institute leadership told me to go forth and make a difference in the world as its graduate and that would be payment enough. I have tried to do that, and the president of the institute, who later became a friend, visited us when we lived on the Arroyo Seco River in the early 2000s—and I made sure I had a calendar from Pushkin Institute on my wall!

And the Middle East?

I worked with ministries of education in 24 countries, including the Middle East. I was shuttling so often between Qatar and Bahrain, I considered using Bahrain as home base. Along came the New York Institute of Technology, wanting to open a campus in Bahrain. I applied to teach English, and the New York-based Dean of Global Studies asked if I would consider an open dean's position in Jordan. Sure!

You spoke Arabic?

I went to Jordan without a word of Arabic but learned an operational level quickly. I loved Jordan and the Jordanians.

Then DLI again?

The Provost called and asked if I'd be willing to return as an Associate Provost, working with him. So, I came back, and when he left, I was selected by the command group to take his place. I retired in 2017.

How did you get into publishing?

Prior to Jordan, I was the Executive Director for the Coalition of Distinguished Language Centers, a support organization for universities teaching foreign languages to near-native levels. The CDLC needed a company to publish its Journal for Distinguished Language Studies, so Carl and I founded MSI Press.

When we were in Jordan, a prominent Syrian family asked us to publish their books. After that, we branched into other areas of nonfiction.

We started in 2003 and grew. In 2012, we started getting Book of the Year awards annually. In 2021, our books won 37 awards in various book competitions.

You've led quite a remarkable life!

Well, it just happened... I've had some good mentors along the way. I urge people to mentor others because it's important. ■



Above: Talking with a Shaman from the Evenk tribe in Yakutsk (coldest city in the world), Siberia, Russia. Below: School children BLL (purple coat, center) taught in Birobidzjan, Jewish Autonomous Republic, Russia.





THEN: Chamber of Commerce Manager Rebecca McGovern 1970s/1980s. NOW: San Juan Committee member Sarah Griss 2023

Then... and Now: 201 Third Street - 160 square feet full of history

By Wanda Guibert, San Juan Bautista Historical Society

This month, we digress from our usual format and focus instead on 2 local businesswomen, working in the same small corner of the Plaza Market, almost 4 decades apart. In addition to serving up delicious meals at their respective eateries, both Rebecca McGovern and Sarah Griss also represent/ed civic organizations and serve/d the community to promote local businesses, tourism, and San Juan Bautista, the town they both love/d.

When the 2-story Monterey Colonial style adobe at 203 Third Street was first built in 1840, it was called Tuccoletta Hall and served as a tavern. According to the 1981 Historical Resources Inventory, the building became Adolph Vaché's bakery circa 1860. In his 18 April 2021 Benitolink article, Robert Eliason states, "Adolphe was an experienced baker as well, and family lore holds that the Vaché brothers introduced French bread to California. That distinction actually belongs to Isidore Boudin and Boudin Bakery in San Francisco. However, it's possible that the Vaché brothers worked for Boudin. They arrived in San Francisco the same year Boudin founded his bakery. Boudin was about the same age as Théophile Vaché and also a native of Bordeaux."

From the 1880s to the 1930s, the first floor served as the Lavagnino family Plaza Market general store; the family lived upstairs until the 1906 earthquake when they moved to the 1-story Queen Anne at 37 Washington Street. During the 1910s, the south end of the first floor was enclosed to house the 1st telephone exchange in San Juan - a hub of



Mariposa House sketch by Wilda Leiner, watercolor by Christine Bowes

communication.

After the telephone exchange moved to 110 Third Street in 1957, the little corner unit has served a variety of purposes such as a barber shop, the now-defunct Chamber of Commerce office, hair salon, eateries. Rebecca McGovern presided as Chamber of Commerce manager (a paid position) for 12 years from 1976-1988. When her position was terminated, there was not a paid successor for that position, and the Chamber office at that location may have closed then. During its heyday, the Chamber sponsored such events as the Fine Art & Craft Show/Flea Market/Peddlers' Faire/Antique Fair, a Naturalization Ceremony, Christmas Holiday, Easter Parade, Auto Shows, and more (per Chamber records). 2009 was the last year that the Chamber filed Form 990s with the IRS.

In 1974, Rebecca McGovern (1934-2007) settled in San Juan Bautista with her life partner, Wanda Styron (1931-2007), and they successfully ran the Mariposa House Restaurant for 8 years. McGovern was active with the Chamber of Commerce, El Teatro Campesino, the Historic Resources Board, and more. Among her memorabilia donated to the SJB Historical Society is a sampler of recipes from Sharon Cadwallader, author of the popular 1972 "Whole Earth Cookbook." Sharon helped found the Whole Earth Restaurant at the relatively new U.C. Santa Cruz and pioneered the natural food movement in the '70s. One can speculate that perhaps McGovern and Styron were inspired by Cadwallader's innovative eatery, which promoted natural



Tucoletta Hall/Plaza Market by Les Anderson ca 1980s

foods prepared in a living-kitchen environment.

Political activist, ardent preservationist and slow growth advocate, McGovern successfully launched a grassroots petition to set a 1% growth cap in 2002. Becky dedicated her life in San Juan Bautista to preserving our town's unique history, focusing on historic preservation and controlling growth. Becky and Wanda spent their final years in the old brewery building at 104 The Alameda, where they hosted annual patriotic 4th of July celebrations promising "old-fashioned fun, food, music and madness."

The little corner unit at Third and Washington is now home to Lolla, a small café featuring local seasonal, organic produce. A native of San Juan Bautista, owner Sarah Griss is the fifth generation of her Filipina grandmother's side of the family to reside in San Juan Bautista; Sarah is an alumna of both San Juan School and Anzar High School. Almost 5 years ago in March 2018, she opened Lolla, a petite (160 sf) lunch-



Lolla gift card

eonette offering savory sandwiches, seasonal salads and primarily vegetarian soups, to go. She had an eye on that particular location, which perfectly suited her needs. Her husband, Olivier Griss, is "Purveyor of fine organic vegetables at Coke Farm" (sales manager), and Sarah had also worked at Coke Farm, preparing shelf-stable items for their markets. Her business model at Lolla is to source locally from Coke Farm, Pinnacle Organic/Phil Foster Ranch and Windmill Market so that customers can eat healthy and seasonally. The Lolla website states, "We strive to make eating healthy quick and convenient without compromising the quality. Everything from scratch the way it should be!" With her background in art history and studio art (emphasis in painting, sculpture and mixed media), her creative artistry is evident throughout the Lolla environment from the stylized lettering on the menu to the innovative menu items and the appetizing plating for social media promotions.

Sarah is an active and valued Board member of the San Juan Committee dba San Juan Bautista Business Association. Their mission is "to promote economic vitality while maintaining the charm and history of San Juan Bautista." Since its registration with the IRS as a non-profit organization in 2015, the San Juan Committee hosts SJB Community Bulletin page on Facebook; the Welcome Center in the Bakery; the Calendar of Events; seasonal décor at the Community Corner downtown; Holiday Celebration of Lights; San Juan Day (the evolved Fine Arts & Craft Show/Peddler's Faire/Flea Market/Antiques Show), Sip & Celebrate, and more.

Sarah's strength is in collaborations and relationships. During Covid, Lolla partnered with Jardines, Inaka, Calavera Coffee to help promote and sustain fellow hospitality busi-



Above: Lolla signboard; Inset below: Mariposa House sign & menu letterhead



nesses. An upcoming collaboration is providing healthy snack kits to "Guitars not Guns," a local non-profit organization providing guitars and lessons to at-risk youth in an effort to provide them with an alternative to violence. When asked if she has a favorite saying or mantra, without hesita-

tion she quoted author Michelle McNamara, "It's Chaos, Be kind." This attitude is reflected in her current posting for new employees: "We're hiring! Seeking positive, ambitious, kind humans." Sarah plays a vital role with the San Juan Committee, collaborating with other businesses, helping with ribbon cuttings, serving on the Certified Green Business committee, managing the Kids Zone on San Juan Day. She recently spearheaded the Jim Ostdick Memorial walk to St. Francis Retreat; Jim was her faithful and enthusiastic customer & friend.

Much has changed at 201 Third Street over the years, yet much has remained the same. Polished marble veneers from the 1920's still frame the front windows on the first floor. Another constant is local, community-minded businesswomen serving up the bounty of our County and promoting the small town they both love/d.

Please join the SJB Historical Society and support our work. Send your \$15.00 check and contact info to P.O. Box 1, SJB, CA 95045. Follow us on Facebook and contact us at sjbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. ■



San Juan Committee dba San Juan Bautista Business Association logo

Mary Velasco Sellen
SAN JUAN BAUTISTA SENIOR CENTER

2023 Upcoming Events

January 26: Valentine Card Making
February 11: Valentines Dance
March 2: Help with tax preparation for all seniors over 55 and for the disabled.
April: Spring Concert TBD
May 11: Computer Lab @ Luck Library
June: Movie Afternoon TBD
July 6: Summer Theme Potluck
August 17: Potluck in the Park
September 14: Beach Walk
October 26: Halloween Theme
November 9: Pumpkin/Succulent Workshop
December 14: Annual Potluck & Boutique

*Events & Dates may change

For more information: maryedge@sbcglobal.net

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Mia Villegas, recipient of a William Burton Nichols Memorial Scholarship, is now attending UC Davis for Nursing.

COMMUNITY

Community Foundation Scholarships now available

The Community Foundation for San Benito County is now accepting scholarship applications for students pursuing or continuing higher education. The Community Foundation manages multiple scholarships with a wide range of educational interests. Students can apply online at the Community Foundation website: www.GiveSanBenito.org/scholarships. Criteria for each scholarship vary, so be sure to read all information before applying. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 13, 2023.

Other available scholarships administered by the Foundation can be applied for through San Benito High School by visiting the scholarship section found on their website or contacting San Benito High School



College and Career Specialist Mary Andrade at mandrade@sbhisd.k12.ca.us.

Our hope is that with the financial assistance that these scholarships provide, our students can focus more on the opportunities before them to achieve their dreams and worry less about covering the cost of tuition, books, supplies, and other essentials. If you are interested in starting your own scholarship fund, please contact the Foundation at 831-630-1924. ■

*Happy Valentine's Day, Gal-entine's Day,
Affection-Awareness Day or every
other way you celebrate the act
of loving one another.*

*—The staff of
Mission Village Voice*



IDAGIO

IDAGIO taps into an overlooked market — high-quality classical music streaming. IDAGIO subscriptions cost \$9.99 per month, allowing users to stream lossless FLAC audio of new, exclusive and rare recordings of concerts and opera performances, all searchable by composer, soloist, ensemble or orchestra so that you can easily track down and compare recordings and performances. Users can check out curated playlists or create their own, and they can stream music through Chromecast or Sonos, as well as download music for offline play.



DailyArt

Even if you can pick a Picasso painting out of a lineup, how deep does your art knowledge really go? DailyArt educates art aficionados and rookies alike by serving them one artwork each day from a collection of more than 2000 pieces, complete with all of its basic information and history, plus some interesting behind-the-scenes details about the artwork and/or artist, too. You can swipe through past days' entries, explore more than 700 artist biographies and information about more than 500 museums, and even bookmark artworks to your own list of favorites. It's a low-investment way to foster a passion for art, whether or not you have one to begin with.



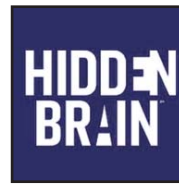
What's App?

Apps are small software programs available for your mobile device, smartphone, and tablet. You can usually find them in a dedicated "store" on your device.



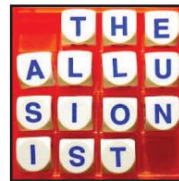
Hidden Brain

Have you ever wondered why you make the decisions you do? If so, then you'll want to check out Hidden Brain, a podcast that explores the psychology behind our everyday choices. Each episode delves into a specific topic, such as memory or procrastination, and uses real-life examples to illustrate the psychological concepts at play. Whether you're a student of human behavior or simply looking for some interesting food for thought, Hidden Brain is sure to provide plenty of insights.



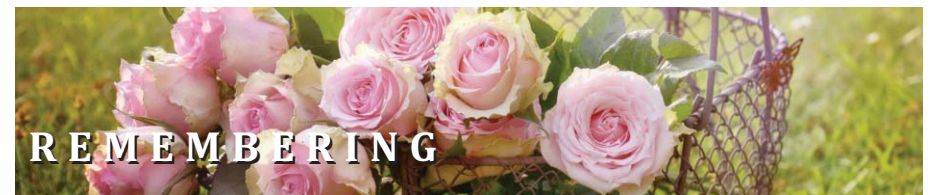
The Allusionist

In each episode, host Helen Zaltzman explores the fascinating origins and history of common phrases and words. For anyone who loves language, The Allusionist is a must-listen. Helen has a knack for uncovering stories that are both entertaining and educational. You always come away from an episode feeling like you've learned something new. And even if you're not a diehard language geek, you'll enjoy The Allusionist. It's the perfect podcast for anyone who enjoys a good story.



New to podcasts?

A podcast is a series of spoken word, audio episodes, all focused on a particular topic or theme. You can subscribe to the show with an app on your phone and listen to episodes whenever you like on your headphones, in the car or through speakers. Subscribe by visiting any podcast app or website such as iTunes, Apple Podcasts, Stitcher Radio, or Google Play and search by title. It's free to listen and subscribe.



REMEMBERING IN MEMORY

Timothy Tucker

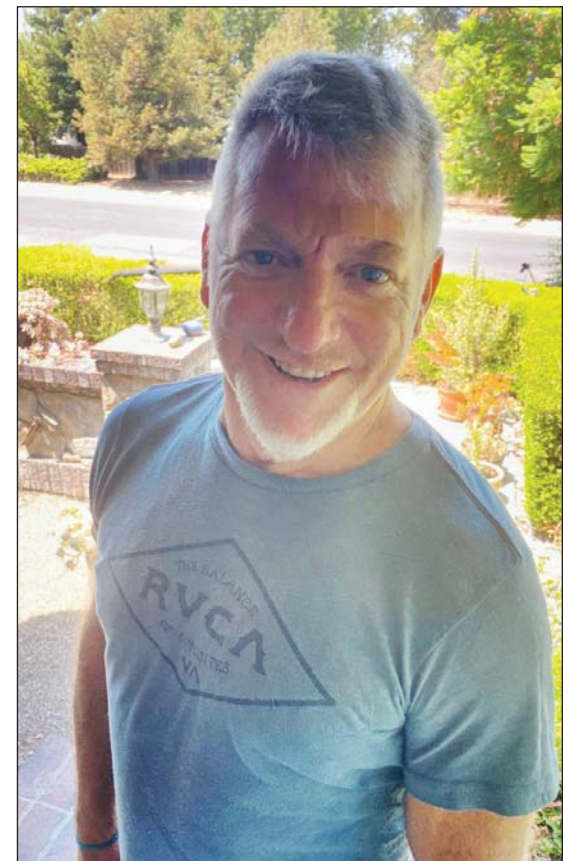
December 4, 1964 - January 18, 2023

Timothy "Timmy" Tucker passed away on January 18, 2023 with his wife by his side, after a long battle with AML. Tim was born in Salinas, California on December 4, 1964. Tim's family lived in the Salinas/Monterey area before settling in Hollister in 1977.

Tim attended then-Hollister High School where he excelled in baseball and football for the Balers. In 1984 Tim received a telegram from George Steinbrenner drafting him to the New York Yankees; he declined at the advice of his parents to focus on school. Tim attended Sonoma State University where he walked on the baseball team and majored in psychology. He joined UPS out of college where he worked the Santa Rosa route. Tim retired with UPS at the age of 43.

He moved back to Hollister in 2010 where he reconnected with so many of his childhood friends including Anna Ordonez, his soulmate and modern day wife. He took a job with a local contractor, AC Sanchez who became his great friend and first sponsor with AA, as Tim bravely and successfully navigated the 12 steps leading to his sobriety. Tim overcame alcoholism in his early 50s and because of his focus on Family and Sobriety he developed a strong faith in God.

Tim was a comic book collector and thoroughly enjoyed philosophy, music, nature, the beach and any adventure with Anna. He was an absolute sports fanatic and a lifelong 49ers fan. When his team wasn't playing, he always rooted for the underdog. Tim was regarded as "the funniest person ever" by his friends and family, and the best road dog always ready for an adventure. Tim made everyone laugh including his team at Stanford who worked so hard to treat his Leukemia. He was a lover of life through and through, and had the biggest heart and the



best spirit. In the last year of his life, Tim described himself as "the happiest I've ever been in my whole life." He lived happily with Anna and two of her sons he called "Nicky" and "Al," whom he lovingly regarded as his stepchildren. He is survived by his Mother Diana McDermott, his father Don Tucker, his brother Thomas Tucker, his modern day wife Anna Ordonez and his five stepchildren who adored him-Aurelio Hernandez(Cecilia), Athena Hernandez, Nicolas Hernandez, Alexander Hernandez and Maximilian Hernandez.

The loss of a beautiful soul as Tim is simply ineffable. Rest in peace Bubbs. Tim's service will be held on Saturday January 28, 2023 at 11am. at Black Cooper Sanders Funeral Home in Hollister, a reception following. ■



VUE A LA LOO

The Potsdam Toilet Wars

One upstate man sees art, where others just see "crappers." Hank Robar's planted toilet gardens in Potsdam, New York on a lot vacated by an apartment building which he owned that was destroyed by arson. ■
Credit: Gary Walts | syracuse.com

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE

Community Bulletin Board

Disaster Recovery Fund launched by CFFSBC

In light of the current flooding disaster in the County, the Community Foundation for San Benito County has opened a Disaster Recovery Fund to aid community members experiencing hardships related to the storm conditions and flooding.

Gifts to the San Benito Disaster Recovery Fund can be made through the Foundation's website, <https://givesanbenito.org/>, or mailed to the Foundation at 440 San Benito Street, Hollister, CA 95023.

The direct link to the fund is: San Benito Disaster Recovery Fund.

For more information, call the Foundation at 831-630-1924.

Central Coast Broadband Consortium awarded \$1 million CPUC Grant

Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) has secured a \$1 million California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) broadband development grant to support the Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC)'s efforts to expand broadband in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. The grant is funded by the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Account, which announced \$10.3 million in grants to consortia projects in California.

The grant will be disbursed over five years and is the largest funded proposal among the 15 projects selected statewide.

MBEP serves as executive director for the broadband development organization and was the lead author on the grant acquisition.

"Access to adequate and affordable broad-

band service continues to be an issue of equity and economic development for our region," said MBEP President & CEO Tahra Goraya. "Broadband must be recognized as an essential utility. We are proud to partner with CCBC to advance the broadband goals of our region."

The City of Watsonville will serve as the fiscal agent for the CASF grant.

"The Central Coast believes, and is proving, that the solutions we seek for our communities are best addressed regionally," said Monterey County Supervisor Chris Lopez. "Working together we will improve access to broadband and with that the lives and outcomes for our friends and neighbors. We are grateful for the award which will accelerate our joint efforts."

About Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP):

Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) is a regional member-supported nonprofit organization consisting of public, private, and civic entities located throughout the counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz. Founded in 2015, our mission is to improve the economic health and quality of life in the region.

About Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC):

Central Coast Broadband Consortium is a broadband development organization with over a 20-year history in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito counties. Its representation is composed of local city and county agencies, educational institutions, industry, and economic development interests, and community-based organizations.

Chorale invites vocalists to join

Oriana Chorale Sings is calling all singers to our 2023 Spring Season. All voices are welcome. DON'T BE SHY. NO AUDITIONS REQUIRED. Christ Fellowship Church. 2066 San Benito Street, Hollister. Mondays 7 - 9pm Be-



ginning January 30th. For more information email rxorg48@gmail.com.

Arts Council invites the community to view their newest art show, Elemental

The San Benito County Arts Council invites the community to see their latest art exhibition, Elemental, featuring artworks created by local artists who also teach in the San Benito County Arts Council's Arts in Education Programs.

Art in the show includes original paintings, mixed media, sculptural pieces, and more and examines the connections between the teaching artists' personal work and the creative ideas they share with local students. Artists participating in Elemental include Venecia Prudencio, Clay Peer, Allison Barnes, Syllas Jumper, Danae Parra, Nicole Maican, Stephanie Skow, Louise Roy, Rebecca Pearson, and Heidi Jumper.

The art show can be viewed during open gallery hours on Saturdays, Jan. 28th- Feb. 18th, 12-4 pm at The Art Depot located at 35 5th Street, Ste. D in the historic train depot in downtown Hollister.

This is a free event and there is no charge to

see the exhibition. All ages are welcome. Please contact heidi@sanbenitoarts.org to make other arrangements for viewing.

To learn more about Elemental or to learn more about the Arts Council's Arts in Education Program, visit www.sanbenitoarts.org or call 831.636.2787

Arts Council announces its 10th Annual Poetry Out Loud Competition

The San Benito County Arts Council invites the community to Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation contest. This competition, presented in partnership with San Benito High School, Aromas San Juan Unified School District, and the San Benito County Office of Education, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry—both classic and contemporary—through memorization, performance, and competition.

Since 2005, Poetry Out Loud has reached more than 3.8 million students and 60,000 teachers from 16,000 schools nationwide. This January, Poetry Out Loud will take place in San Benito County for the fifth time with support from the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation.

Attend this year's competition on Thursday, February 16th at 6 PM at Aznar High School and watch local high school students compete in the San Benito County Finals. The winner of this competition will advance to the California State Poetry Out Loud contest in Sacramento in March. The California State champion will advance to the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington, DC, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed.

Attendance is free and open to the public, although seating is limited. For further information or to find out how to get involved, please contact the San Benito County Arts Council at 831.636.2787 or amandchido@gmail.com

Anzar High School Honor Roll

GPA 3.5 and above for Fall 2022

Seniors

Christopher Aleman 4.0
Alexandra Alvarado 3.75
Maximus Castro 4.2
Leslie Cruz 4.0
Shane Freeman 3.62
Daniella Furtado 3.8

Jeremy Greatorex 4.5
Robert Greene 4.0
Giselle Grio 3.76
Sarah LeBaron 4.4
Janus McMillan 4.0
Erik Mejia 3.67
Alan Pacheco 3.75
Vivian Rios 4.16
Madysun Roderick 3.81
Zoraya Sexton 3.81
Cameron Sloma 4.0
Jacob Thomas 4.4
Ashlee Toledo 4.48
Grecia Yuriar 3.52
Juniors

Jonadad Bautista 3.8
Faith Busby 4.0
Erika Carrillo 3.8
Jackson Caster 4.33
Aiden Douppnik 4.25
Bella Fernandez 3.6
Jaydon Greer 4.0
Eleanor Guaracha 4.33
Henry Hothouse 3.67
William Malven 4.0
Anahi Martinez 4.0
Owen McDougall 3.8
Yisel Orozco 4.0
Amie Rodriguez 3.5
Natalie Sanchez-Romero 3.6

Eleanor Smith-Bishop 4.0
Alejandro Tinoco 4.2
Vivian Voss 3.6
Nevan Yarrow 4.4
Sophomores
Barbella Barron 4.0
Scarlett Capuano 3.83
Santiago Castaneda 3.84
Anthony Concepcion 3.68
Niko Contreras 3.83
Carmen Domniguez 4.0
Victoria Flores 4.0
Kayla Gonzalez 3.67
Brayden Hamlin 3.69
Sophia Jordan 4.0

Isaac Kapadia 3.84
Claris Lona 3.53
Cesar Lopez 3.83
Bryan Lopez 3.53
Naya Medina 3.68
Gianna Melendez 4.0
Ian Miller 3.53
Tryphenia Pierson 4.0
Miranda Plascencia 3.67
Alex Rodriguez 3.97
Jasmin Salinas 3.67
Yoseline Severino 3.78
Piper Shankle 3.84
Sophia Spitzer 4.0
Angelina Tran 3.84

Angel Zavala 3.83
Freshman
Arlo Burke 3.67
Oliver Douppnik 4.0
Shelbie Freeman 4.0
Jason Gamble 3.67
Ricardo Guitierrez 3.5
Felix Io 4.0
Ava Kapadia 4.0
Vinh Lieu 4.0
Miranda Lopez 3.67
Mason McDonald 3.78
Zoe Martinez 4.0
William Mejia 3.84
Justin Vermilyer 4.0

THOMMELIER

Insights into the top wines of the world

By Thomas Brenner,
Sommelier & Beverage Manager
Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club

Happy February, dear MVV readership, and welcome back to our monthly wine feature. This month we will take a look at the various wine grapes, styles and regions that shape the wines we enjoy today.

Albariño – aromatic white grape from Spain. Originally thought to be related to Riesling, Albariño was so named, as “alba” means “white, and “riño” for the Rhine river of Germany, from where the most renowned examples of Riesling hail.

Amarone – an Italian dried, raisinated red wine that can boast up to 17% ABV and should be decanted for an hour or two prior to enjoying.



Barbera – light, red grape hailing from the northwestern region of Italy, Piedmont.

Bordeaux – Famous wine growing region in SW France, famous for expensive and collectible wines in fashion since the 18th century. This region holds home to Cabernet and Merlot.

Burgundy – wine growing region in the eastern part of France not far from the Swiss border. Burgundy is the home of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Examples of these grapes are lighter than their New World counterparts and therefore make for great food-pairing choices.



Cabernet Sauvignon – the most popular red grape on the planet can be found growing from the world over. Its complex cherry, cassis and floral notes delight legions of oenophiles around the globe.

Cabernet Franc – the parent grape to Cab Sauv boasts more bell pepper nuances than C.S., but is also smoother and lighter than its famous offspring.

Chardonnay – the most coveted white grape, grown most successfully in Burgundy and California, makes for a rich and full-bodied wine that can range from lean-and-mean to big-buttery-and-oaky.

Chenin Blanc – this versatile white grape from the Loire Valley is aromatic and can be enjoyed in many styles.

Gamay – makes for lighter reds with a boast of spice and fruit notes. Every 3rd Thursday in November the region releases their first wine of the vintage: the Beaujolais Nouveau, which can exude flavors of bananas due to the carbonic maceration technique.

Gewürztraminer – highly perfumed white grape from Germany/France. “Gewürz” is German for “spice.”

Grenache – light-skinned red grape that plays the prominent role in the famed Chateaufeuf-du-Papes wines of the Rhône. It is often blended with Syrah and Mourvedre.

Grüner Veltliner – best examples of this white grape can be found in Austria, where it exudes bright, citrusy and sometimes vegetal aromas. Great with salads, vegetables and seafood.

Malbec – originally a red grape from Bordeaux, it found a new home in Argentina, where it makes for medium-plus, fruit-forward and great, good-value wines

Merlot – A red Bordeaux grape that is very adaptive among various wine-growing regions and makes for a sultry, medium-

plus-bodied wine with ample berry notes to hold up to an array of foods and stand-alone wine enjoyment.

Muscat – an ancient, highly aromatic white wine grape that is often found in sweet wines and enjoyed by the likes of Cleopatra since the ancient days of Egypt.

Napa – California’s premier wine region accounts for just 4% of the state’s wine production but offers some of the most renowned, expensive and opulent Cabernet Sauvignons in the world.

Neббиоло – Italian for “little fog,” this red grape found in the famous Piedmontese Barolos and Barbarescos. These long-lived reds count among the most highly-regarded wines in the world.

Nero D’Avola – A light red grape from Sicily, featuring a very food friendly and slightly spicy disposition.

Riesling – The most complex of all white grapes: never blended or co-fermented and never sees oak aging. This grape runs the gamut from dry to sweet, sparkling to still.

Sangiovese – Revered in Brunello di Montalcino and Chianti, this Tuscan red is at once tomatoey and herbal, yet lush and brooding.

Sauvignon Blanc – Cab Sauv’s parent grape; fresh, zippy, citrus-forward and easily one of the most aromatic grapes.

Semillon – commonly blended with Sauvignon to make dry or sweet Bordeaux wines

Sweet Wine – Many styles of sweet wines are either late harvest or fortified and also pair formidably with savory foods!

Syrah – A serious and stellar Rhône red. Meaty, rich and peppery!

Viognier – among the most aromatic of whites, exuding a bouquet of apricots and perfume.

Zinfandel – a jammy, peppery red wine, deep, full and berriful. A spicy slapper! ■

VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Eagles fly with two wings

By Halina Kleinsmith

The majestic eagle has been depicted on flags, shields and heraldic pennants throughout history. Over 60 varieties of this magnificent bird exist across the earth, and have proven to be inspiring mascots to numerous countries.

Many nation’s symbols were designed to show eagles which are two-headed, facing left and right at the same time, representing the dual sovereignty of the likes of Roman emperors or Byzantine kings over both sec-

ular and religious matters. Those with crowns are imperial eagles, showing empirical dominance over both their east and west territories.

According to vexillology, this double eagle works in tandem with natural and spiritual forces, representing God on earth. It goes to and from heaven, where it lives in the tree of life. As a messenger of the creator, it carries the belief that all of nature has a dualistic core and origin. This winged representative relays that only God is not dualistic, but a perfect “one.”

In reference to the American eagle, it was chosen in 1782 to be the symbol on the great Seal of the United States, representing our strength, freedom and courage.

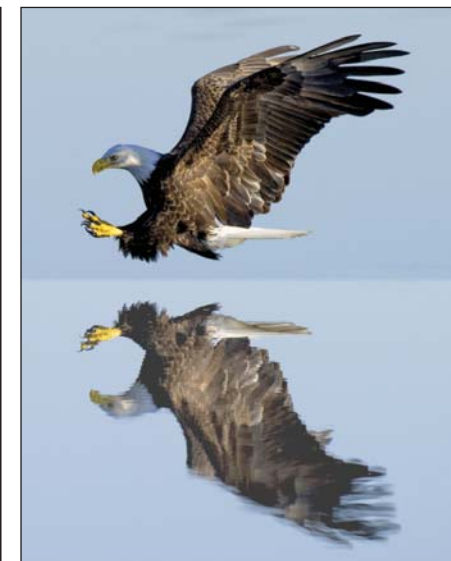
This eagle’s talons are shown holding a symbolic olive branch in the right claw, named dexter, for peace. Then, there are 13

arrows clutched in its left claw, named sinister, for war.

On its chest, our national symbol also features a shield with 13 stripes representing the original 13 colonies, who were always ready to defend, and were literally fighting for, peace.

These depictions are showing our country’s commitment to liberty and peace, flexing our power of freedom and solidifying our strength in unity. As these elements serve to be evidentiary, America’s eagle is shown to be facing towards peace.

It takes two wings for an eagle to fly: a left and a right. Individually, they represent strength and courage. Together, their coordination achieves the successful attainment of their goals. Although it’s 241 years old, it’s still an interesting and pertinent role model for our indigenous success. ■



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | FEBRUARY 2023

Calendar

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3 -
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18**

SAN BENITO STAGE CO. PRESENTS - TIL BETH DO US PART 7pm & 2pm. @ Veteran's Memorial Hall in Hollister. More info. Visit sanbenitostage.org

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING (PUBLIC WELCOME) 11:30 Order from Hapa Bros Asian-Fusion Mobile Kitchen (on site). 12:30 Speakers, books, vintage photos focusing on local Kapanes American Community. JACL Hall at 708 First Street, San Juan Bautista. Contact sjbhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or 831.524.1605

MONTEREY LION DANCE PERFORMANCE WITH LEONARD HAN & JAYSON FANN AT LUNA ART GALLERY 4 -7pm. Luna Art Gallery 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Info jcolby@csumb.edu

LIVING HISTORY DAYS 11am-4pm. SJB State Historic Park. Step back into the early days. 1st Saturday of the month.

CHILDREN'S NUTRITION & CHARCUTERIE CLASS 11am - 4pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 5

FULL MOON IN LEO

RANCH DAYS / HIKES ON NYLAND & RANCHO

LARIOS PROTECTED LANDS IN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 9am-12pm. Families welcome! www.sanbenitolandtrust.org 1st Sunday of @ month.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 6

MONDAY CRAFTS: WOODEN MUSHROOM PAINTING 6 - 8pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8

VERTIGO OPEN MIC NIGHT Vertigo Coffee Roasters, San Juan Bautista, Vertigocoffee.com 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9

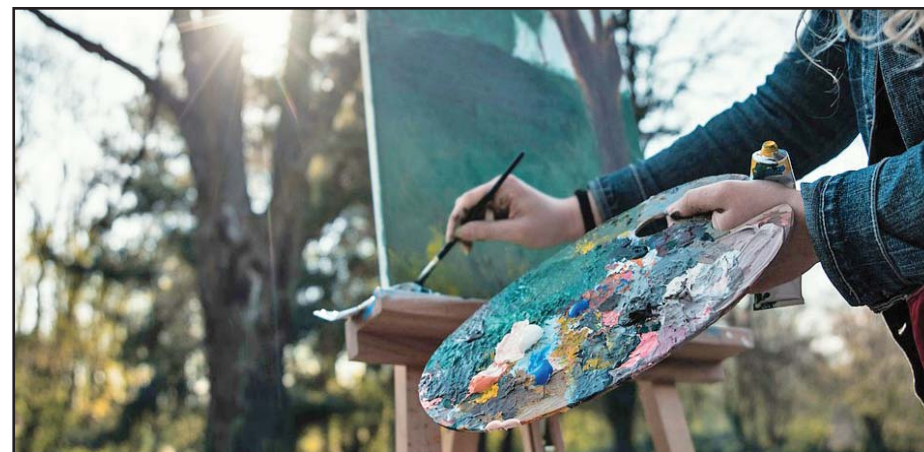
INTERGENERATIONAL CREATIVITY CLASS AT LUNA ART GALLERY 4 -6pm. Thursdays. Luna Art Gallery 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Info jcolby@csumb.edu

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 10

FREE DENTAL SCREENINGS AND FLOURIDE TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN! 1 - 6pm. San Benito Health Visit www.sanbenitohealth.org

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 11

AROMAS HILLS ARTISANS PAINT PARTY 2 - 5pm. Joyce Oroz, local muralist extraordinaire, provides instruction on painting landscape. Info & Registration


Saturday, February 11

AROMAS HILLS ARTISANS PAINT PARTY 2 - 5pm. Joyce Oroz, local muralist extraordinaire, provides instruction on painting landscape. Info & Registration call Linda 831.291.6719

call Linda 831.291.6719

FRIENDS OF THE SBC FREE LIBRARY BOOK SALE 9am-12pm. Behind Library. 2nd Sat @ month. SBCFL.ORG

HOLLISTER EXCHANGE CLUB'S ANNUAL CRAB FEED Bolado Park, Tres Pinos

CUPID'S KISSING BOOTH & PET ADOPTION 12 - 3pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

BEER TASTING + FOOD & MUSIC 7 - 10pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

VALENTINES "SAY YOU'LL BE WINE" PICNIC & HIKE FOR 2 Eden Rift Vineyards, 831.636.1991 or tastingroom@edenrift.com

SJB SENIOR CENTER - VALENTINE DANCE Contact maryedge@sbcglobal.net

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

LOCAL AUTHOR ROBERTA ROSNIK BOOK SIGNING - THE SPIRITS CALLED MY NAME 11am - 2pm. She will also share items from the Colville Tribe. Barnes & Noble, Gilroy. Email bobierosnik@gmail.com

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13

SAN BENITO COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTHCARE & SERVICE OFFICE EVENT 10am-1pm. Enroll in VA Healthcare? Fill RX? check-up? Housing Assistance? Justice Outreach? Mental Health Assistance? Veterans Memorial Building, Hollister. 2nd Monday @ month.

MONDAY CRAFTS: TERRARIUMS & TILLANDSIAS 6 - 8pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15

CFFSBC FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP 11:30am - 1pm or 5:30 - 7pm. Community Foundation For San Benito County, 440 San Benito Street, Hollister. RSVP by February 7th @Bweatherly@GiveSanBenito.org

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH BELOVED GOSPEL LEGEND MAVIS STAPLES Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16

10TH ANNUAL POETRY OUT LOUD 6pm. Anzar High School. Email amandachiado@gmail.com or call 831.636.2787

INTERGENERATIONAL CREATIVITY CLASS AT LUNA ART GALLERY 4 -6pm. Thursdays. Luna Art Gallery 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Info jcolby@csumb.edu

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17

STEPHEN MARLERY - OLD SOUL UNPLUGGED 2023 Golden State Theatre. Goldenstatetheatre.com

MEET, GREET & EAT 7 - 10pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18

ACE FREHLEY Golden State Theatre. Goldenstatetheatre.com

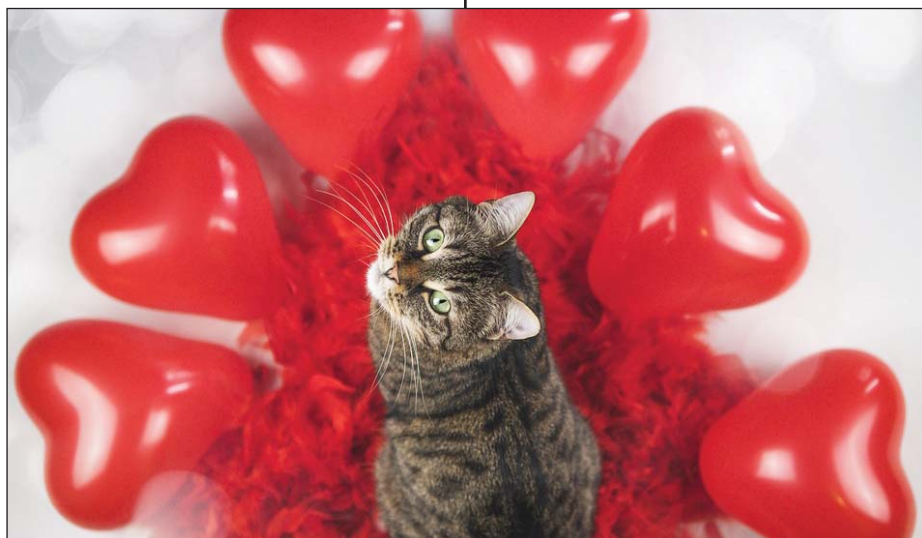
HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS 9am - 12pm. 3rd Sat @ month. John Smith Rd. Hollister

SAN BENITO ARTS - ELEMENTAL ART SHOW 12 - 4pm. The Art Depot, 35 5th Street Ste D. Historic Train Depot, Downtown Hollister. Visit www.sanbenitoarts.com or 831.636.2787

OTTER OPREY - KATHY KALLICK BAND 7pm. Monterey United Methodist Church, 1 Soledad Drive, Monterey. Visit www.otteroprey.org

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY: 1920'S MURDER ON THE BOARDWALK 5 - 8pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

ARTISTS' TALK "LOVE OF NATURE: A VALENTINE FOR THE PLANET" 5 -7pm. Luna Art Gallery 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Info jcolby@csumb.edu


Saturday, February 11

CUPID'S KISSING BOOTH & PET ADOPTION 12 -3pm. The Gardenshoppe n' bar. Visit gardenshoppeandbar.com/events

Continued on next page



Wednesday, February 15

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH BELOVED GOSPEL LEGEND MAVIS STAPLES Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org. Photo credit: Myriam Santos.

SATURDAY FEB. 18 - SUNDAY FEB. 19

ENLIGHTEN - MONTGOMERY BEETHOVEN, MOZART Carmel Sunset Center. Sunsetcenter.org

MONDAY FEBRUARY 20

NEW MOON IN AQUARIUS

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21

BEAR'S HIDEAWAY MARDIS GRAS PARTY 5 - 7:30pm. Bears-hideaway.com

J BOOG WITH LIKKLE JORDEE Golden State Theatre. Goldenstatetheatre.com

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22



Sunday, February 12

LOCAL AUTHOR ROBERTA ROSNIK BOOK SIGNING - THE SPIRITS CALLED MY NAME 11am - 2pm. She will also share items from the Colville Tribe. Barnes & Noble, Gilroy. Email bobierosnik@gmail.com

VERTIGO OPEN MIC NIGHT Vertigo Coffee Roasters, San Juan Bautista, Vertigocoffee.com 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23

INTERGENERATIONAL CREATIVITY CLASS AT LUNA ART GALLERY 4 -6pm. Thursdays. Luna Art Gallery 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Info jcolby@csumb.edu

TIM DILLON Golden State Theatre. Goldenstatetheatre.com

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25

ART SHOW ALL FOR ARTISTS! SJB VFW Info michealelaforge@gmail.com

Every Week

TUESDAYS

EVENING BICYCLE RIDE 6pm @ Off The Chain Bikes, 22 mi. bike ride. Santa Ana Rd thru backroads, moderate - fast. www.offthechainbikes.com

WEDNESDAYS

GEEKS WHO DRINK - RUNNING ROOSTER TRIVIA NIGHT 6:30pm. Every Wednesday @ Running Rooster, HollisterRunningrooster.com

THURSDAYS

TRIVIA NIGHT WITH MIGUEL SILVA 6:30-8:30pm. Prizes! Every Thursday. Vertigo Coffee Roasters, SJB. Vertigocoffee.com

EVENING BICYCLE RIDE 6pm @ Off The Chain Bikes, 22 mi. bike ride. Santa Ana Rd thru backroads, moderate - fast. www.offthechainbikes.com

FRIDAYS

LIVE MUSIC AT DAISY'S SALOON 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, SJB. 831.623.4484

SATURDAYS

SATURDAY MORNING BICYCLE RIDE 8am @ Off the Chain Bikes. A 22 mi. bike ride. Santa Ana Rd thru backroads, moderate -fast. www.offthechainbikes.com

LIVE MUSIC AT DAISY'S SALOON 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, SJB. 831.623.4484

SUNDAYS

LIVE MUSIC AT DAISY'S SALOON 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon. SJB 831.623.4484

WATCH FOOTBALL @ SAN JUAN VFW CANTEEN 12pm. 58 Monterey St., SJB.

Save the Date

FRIDAY MARCH 3

ROTARY OF SJB DANCE & AUCTION Rotaryofsanjuanbautista.com or 831.320.1764

SATURDAY MARCH 4

HOLLISTER DOWNTOWN ASSOC. YOUTH EXPO 2023 Hollisterdowntownassociation.org or 831.636.8406

SUNDAY MARCH 5

4TH ANNUAL MOONLIGHT WALK ON DE ANZA TRAIL 3pm. Visit Info@reachsanbenito.org or call or text 831.673.0665

SUNDAY MARCH 5

READING AND PUPPETS FOR CHILDREN WITH PARENTS BY KIRA CARRILLO CORSER, AUTHOR OF WELLNESS FOR CHILDREN BOOKS 2 -4pm. Luna Art Gallery, 107 B The Alameda, San Juan Bautista. Info jcolby@csumb.edu

THURSDAY MARCH 23

OTTER OPRY - LAURIE LEWIS AND THE RIGHT HANDS 7pm. Monterey United Methodist Church, 1 Soledad Drive, Monterey. Visit www.otteropry.org

SATURDAY MARCH 25

SJB VFW FLEA MARKET 7am. Food, music, bar will be open. Fun family fun! 58 Monterey St., SJB Spaces available contact Augie Garcia 408.603.9065

SATURDAY MARCH 25 - SUNDAY MARCH 26

SJB ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL Williamsltd.com



Saturday, Feb. 18 and Sunday, Feb. 19

ENLIGHTEN - MONTGOMERY BEETHOVEN, MOZART at Carmel Sunset Center. Award-winning Israeli pianist Ran Dank (pictured) will perform Piano Concerto No. 2 [28'] as part of a performance with the Monterey Symphony under the direction of Jayce Ogren, Music Director. For more information, visit Sunsetcenter.org.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Larry Foster, John Lavagnino & Silver Fox at Bear's Hideaway.



Sarah Griss, Nancy Lauritsen, Lori Wilson & Jim Leibold at Bear's Hideaway.



Birthday celebration at Crave Wine Co., Hollister. L-R Jim Rossi, Crave Owner Mike Kohne, Teresa Lavagnino, Mari Rossi, Vera Clark, Cathy Andrade Gamboa, Richard Gamboa and Roger Clark.



Lisa Casarez voted in as President of The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 69. L-R Angie Matas, Lisa Casarez, Esther Lepore & Desiree Osorio.



Sworn in & Congratulations to Captain Jimmy Holguin, Engineer Josh Bird and Inspector Sabrina Bracken! Hollister Fire Department.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



In the Yosemite snow. L-R Maria Robles, Adrian Garcia, Faith Ruiz, Alondra Rodriguez & Evalia Garcia.



Joseph Christopher Alvarez, Jardines bartender and Then & Now SUPER FAN!



Fernando Ramirez, Carlos Barrientes Anderson & Tanya Anderson at Johnny's Bar.



Orestes and Anna Montero at Johnny's Bar.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Hollister artist Clay Peer in front of the new community mural inside the Esperanza Center in downtown Hollister.



Hikers at the Lower Nyland Reservoir at full capacity on New Year's Day. Left to right: Alan Robertson, Rochelle Eagen, Annie Bradford, Mary Watson, and Kris Hernandez.



Carmelita Wright, A green smoothie lover!



Jennifer Coile poses with her role model Wonder Woman at Troublemaker Toys & Comics in SJB.



London calling

Mission Village Voice Art Director Jeff Baham and his wife Julia Locus-Baham travelled across the pond to celebrate Christmas in London, and visited a few familiar locations along the way. Above, Jeff wandered through the sets of Diagon Alley from the *Harry Potter* movies on a Warner Bros. backstage tour, and Julia sits on a bench in Richmond, the neighborhood in which the Apple+ series *Ted Lasso* is filmed.



Theseus and the Minotaur in the Labyrinth, by Edward Burne-Jones, 1861.

Or-i-gin Clue

The word "clue" is derived from the archaic English word "clew," meaning a ball of yarn, because in Greek mythology, Ariadne gives Theseus a ball of yarn to help him find his way out of the Minotaur's labyrinth. ■

ARTIST Q&A

Sandra Arretche



By Heidi Jumper

For this month's column, I asked Arts Council teaching staff member and San Juan Bautista artist, Sandra Arretche, about her personal artistic practice and sources of inspiration. Sandra currently teaches in the Arts Council's in-school Visual Arts Program and taught a TK Art Program at San Juan School last spring. Sandra began her path into arts education while working with youth in an afterschool program in the late 80s. She's also a graduate of The Clown School in Fresno with a major in balloon making and a minor in face painting! In addition to teaching art, Sandra also works in partnership with El Teatro Campesino to decorate the Día de los Muertos ofrendas annually at the San Juan Bautista Cemetery.

What is your creative process like?

First, I have to visualize an idea. Sometimes an idea takes a couple of days to process, sometimes it's over the course of a night. An idea might not always come out just how I'd like, but I keep at a project until

it's just like I imagined it.

What are your favorite materials to work with?

I like working with all different types of materials, but especially with items that are being thrown out. I love repurposing! Statues and pots are some of my favorite things to work with. I also make

ofrendas out of jewelry boxes.

What is your favorite thing about being a teaching artist?

My favorite thing is the children, they give me so much light! Their energy and spirit are so intoxicating. As adults, we don't always see what they see. It's important that we take the time to hear and see through their ears and eyes.

To find out more about the Arts Council's Teaching Artists and Arts in Education Programs, visit www.sanbenitoarts.org. ■

Sandra Arretche



Advertise with us!

**CONTACT ANNE CAETANO
AT 917-513-7137**

or email acaetano@missionvillagevoice.com



San Benito

Oriana
CHORALE SINGS

**Calling
All Singers**

**To Our 2023
Spring Season**

All voices are welcome

DON'T BE SHY!

NO AUDITIONS REQUIRED

**Christ Fellowship Church
2066 San Benito Street
Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm**

**BEGINNING
JANUARY 30TH**

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
rxorg48@gmail.com

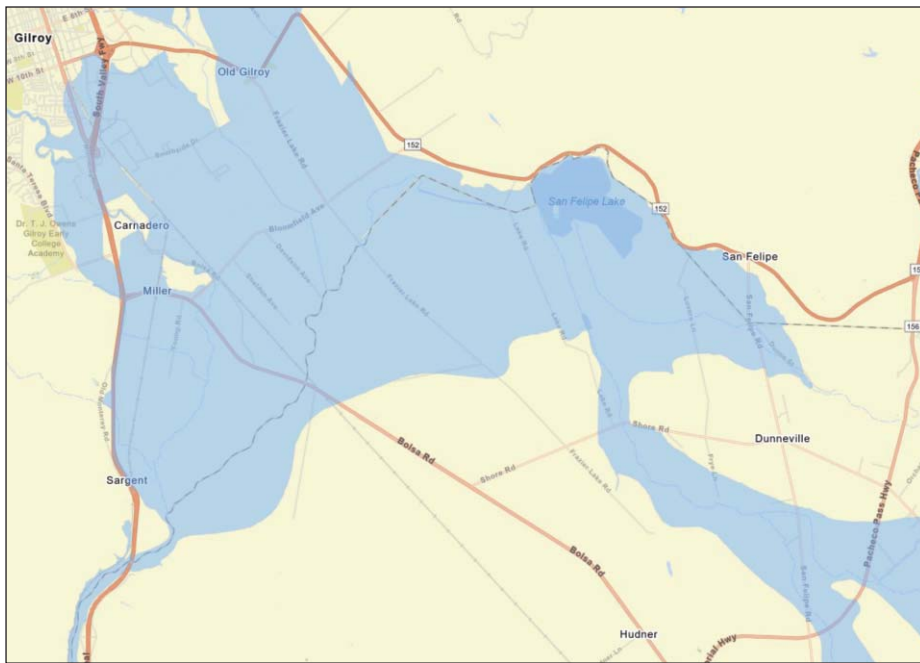


**2023
Poster Contest**

Enter for a chance
to have your art on a
real recycling truck!

Deadline is
March 17, 2023

Questions and to
download a form
email
postercontest@recology.com



Pictured: A map of the Soap Lake Floodplain. Above right and inset below: January 2023 flooding at SBALT's Soap Lake Ranch Conservation Easement and surrounding lands. Photo by Bob Connolly.

SBALT NEWS

Soap Lake Ranch provides flood resilience

By Lynn Overtree
SBALT Executive Director

The Carmel River came through my home in the early hours of February 3, 1998. At the same time, the town of Pajaro, near Watsonville, was entirely evacuated. The 1995 floods were worse; they flooded all the residences and businesses in Pajaro, and two people lost their lives.

For decades, efforts have been made to reduce the risk of flooding in the communities of Watsonville and Pajaro, near the mouth of the Pajaro River. A key element in managing the volume of water deposited in these towns is the capacity of the Soap Lake Floodplain, in northern San Benito and southern Santa Clara counties, to capture and slow the water before it funnels through the Hwy 129 corridor to Pajaro Valley.

“Natural floodplains provide flood risk reduction benefits by slowing runoff and storing flood water,” states Shawn Novack, Water Conservation Program Manager for the Water Resources Association San Benito County. “Floodplains allow floodwaters to spread out and temporarily store excess water. One acre of floodplain one foot deep holds approximately 330,000 gallons of water.”

SBALT supports agriculture as the optimal land use in the Soap Lake Floodplain area. We offer financial incentives to willing landowners who extinguish their development rights. The Soap Lake Ranch conser-



vation easement is one such project. Rain that falls in Pacheco Pass drains to the ranch at the convergence of Pacheco Creek, Tequisquita Slough, and Ortega Creek.

Dave Brigantino, one of the Soap Lake Ranch landowners, says, “I think that with the recent storms, we all have seen and can appreciate the value of preserving our flood plains. San Felipe Lake (Soap Lake) and surrounding north San Benito County lands provide a place to store and meter out water from excessive rainfall while providing habitat for wildlife.”

By preserving our agricultural lands, we recharge our groundwater and reduce the flood risk to our downstream neighbors. When land is converted to homes, we lose these benefits and increase the number of structures at risk of flooding.

Soap Lake Ranch is a privately owned cattle operation and is not open to the public. However, the entire watershed benefits from its conservation. Learn more or donate to SBALT here: www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■



By preserving our agricultural lands, we recharge our groundwater and reduce the flood risk to our downstream neighbors. Photo by Bob Connolly.



MVV ēvz drāp

Grandmother overhearing 9-year-old grandson playing Xbox online:

Are you white? Oh, because I'm Mexican. I'm not racist; I love everybody. ■

CELESTIAL EVENTS



February 5 - Full Moon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 18:30 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Snow Moon because the heaviest snows usually fell during this time of the year. Since hunting is difficult, this moon has also been known by some tribes as the Hunger Moon.



Full Moon

February 20 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 07:08 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere. ■



New Moon



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Paint Party



Celebrate Valentine's Day a new way!
Joyce Oroz, local muralist extraordinaire,
will provide step-by-step instructions on
how to paint this lovely landscape.

Saturday, February 11, 2-5 pm, at the Aromas Grill

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BUSINESS**Going green**

In September of 2022, BenitoLink became established as a San Benito County Green Business. Being located inside The Epicenter in Hollister, an already Green Business, it only made sense for BenitoLink to join in.

At BenitoLink we are big on staying local. Our reporters, staff, and interns are local, many raised right here in the county. Throughout the pandemic, the team was able to work flexible schedules, reducing our transportation footprint. Some reporters work from home and just come into the office for weekly reporter meetings.

Being inside a new building built to be environmentally sustainable our team became familiar with how we can do our part for a green environment. We began the process in July and after several training sessions and meetings, we were established as a Green Business in September.

We would like to thank our freelancer and staff member Carmel de Bertaut and Alex Esquivel who took on the meetings and made it a point to share what they learned



Alex Esquivel and Carmel de Bertaut

with the rest of the team. We would also like to thank Saburi Sai, Sustainability Specialist for the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program for reaching out and guiding us in the right direction.

On January 25, BenitoLink was recognized at the San Benito County Chamber of Commerce Green Business Mixer held at Jardines in San Juan Bautista. We are grateful for the recognition and we will continue to follow what we've learned to maintain our Green Business status here at BenitoLink, your homegrown local news source. ■

BenitoLink
San Benito County's News

**HEADSTONE OF THE MONTH****Prince**

In the entry of Prince's home-turned-museum, visitors walk past a 3D-printed ceramic replica of the building they just entered. What some may not realize is that the scale replica is in fact an urn containing Prince's cremains. ■

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2023

is a year of the Water Rabbit, starting from January 22nd, 2023 (Chinese New Year), and ending on February 9th, 2024 (Chinese New Year's Eve). The sign of Rabbit is a symbol of longevity, peace, and prosperity in Chinese culture. 2023 is predicted to be a year of hope. The luckiest Chinese zodiac signs in 2023 are Oxes, Tigers, and Snakes. People born in a year of the Rabbit are called "Rabbits" and are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded, and ingenious.

Rat (Year of birth: 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984)



The year of the Water Rabbit is bringing luck and happiness to most of your life aspects. Love life will bloom, and the single Rats might find the love of their life this year. Career will be on the boom as well and it will be a favorable time to explore your passion. Financially, you will prosper if you learn to manage your money. Health will be good for the Rats in 2023.

Ox (Year of birth: 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021)



Ox natives will enjoy a good love life in the year of the Rabbit. Their bond with their beloved will be stronger than ever. Single Ox natives might have to wait some more. Professional life will go through some turbulence but by year end, things will

Tiger (Year of birth: 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010, 2022)

2023 promises a year of prosperity, luck, and abundance. In love related matters, you will enjoy a fulfilling time with your partner, and the single Tiger natives will have a great year too. In professional life, the more people you meet, the more opportunities will come your way, so work on growing your social circle. You are advised to look for more sources of income if you want financial stability

Rabbit (Year of birth: 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011, 2023)

2023 promises favorable outcomes in most aspects. Your love life will be good, especially the first quarter of the year. Career-wise, the year will be fulfilling as the stars are aligned in your favor. But if you are thinking of changing your career, then you must wait for another year. Financially, the year will be both good and bad. You will earn money but might lose it due to your carelessness. So be mindful while spending money.

Dragon (Year of birth: 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012)

Dragon natives will incur twofold outcomes in the year of the Rabbit. The married natives will enjoy a good time with their spouses. Single Dragons might finally find their soulmate this year. Professionally, your hard work and dedication will help you in enhancing your career. Financial life might go through ups and downs, so you must be

2023: The Year of the Water Rabbit

start to fall back in place. You are advised to be cautious regarding your money this year as spending on unnecessary things will lead to financial troubles in the future.



prepared. You are advised to include exercise and yoga in your daily regime.

Snake (Year of birth: 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013)



This year will be full of positive changes for the Snake natives. The things you have worked hard for will finally start to pay off. In terms of love, this year is full of romance and happiness. You might struggle in sparing time for your beloved, but you can overcome this challenge if you try to maintain a good work-life balance. Financially, it can be a fruitful year if you learn to differentiate between spending on important and less important things.

Horse (Year of birth: 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014)



The Horse natives can enjoy a rigorous life if they remain positive this year. Promising a romantic time with your spouse which will strengthen your bond. The single natives might also find true love. Career-wise, you might face difficulties initially, but eventually, things will start to fall back into place, and you will see progress in your career. As for the financial life, some months will bring abundance, while others might bring loss.

Sheep (Year of birth: 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015)



Natives might have to face some difficulties. But these challenges will make you stronger than ever. When it comes to love life, you must refrain from suffocating your partner by being around all the time. You must give and take some space, as it is essential in any relationship. Career-wise, be ready for great things to happen. Your hard work will be rewarded, and your skills will add value to your career. Financial challenges may bother you if you do not learn to spend money wisely.

Monkey (Year of birth: 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016)



This year you will enjoy a peaceful, blessed, and happy period. You are willing to make life altering changes which will yield great re-

sults. In your love life, your bond with your beloved will improve and you will get to know more about each other. The single Monkey natives who are not ready to fall in love must not push themselves. The right person will walk in at the right time. After a challenging period of downfalls in career, your career will finally start to take flight this year.

Rooster (Year of birth: 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017)



2023 is bringing a year of ups and downs for the Rooster natives. The married natives will have to learn to balance their personal and professional lives, or it might anger your spouse. The single natives who are willing to open their heart for love might end up finding the right partner this year. However, the Rooster natives thinking of switching their jobs or career must hold that thought for now. When it comes to financial stability, it will only be achieved if you spend according to your budget.

Dog (Year of birth: 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018)



The stars are aligned in the favor of the Dog natives. Be ready for luck, success, and abundance. In love-related matters, you are advised to move out of your comfort zone and try new things. Go on romantic outings with your partner and show them how much they mean to you. The Dog business person will earn good profits this year. Dog natives might face some challenges at the workplace but they are advised to be patient.

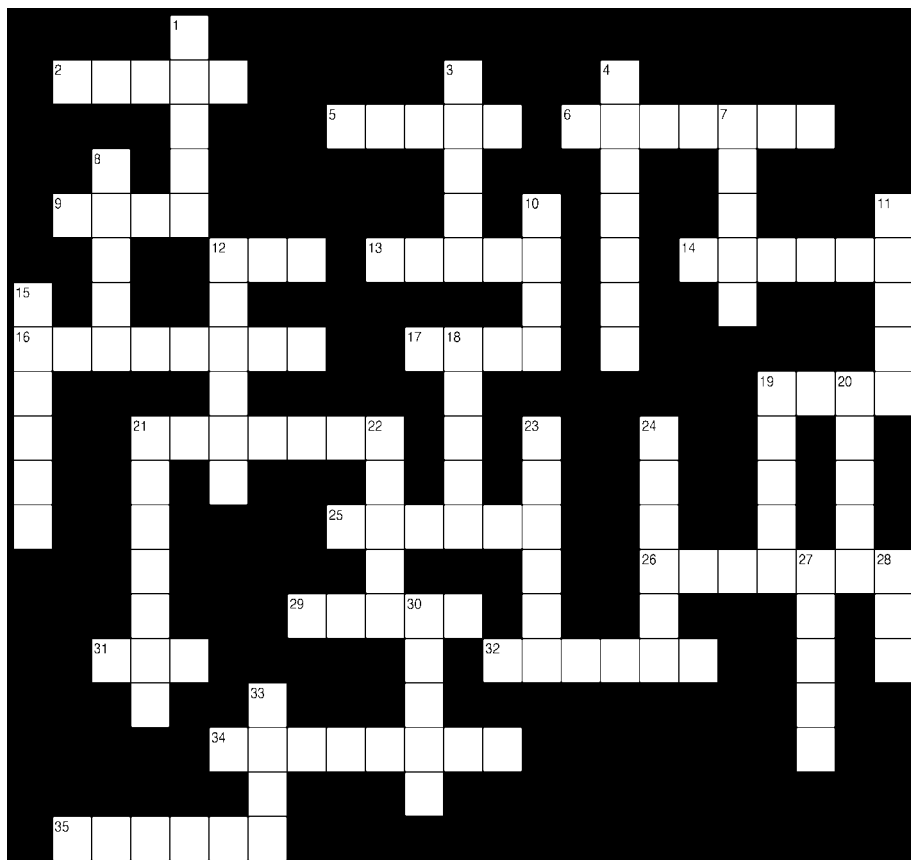
Pig (Year of birth: 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019)



What the Pig natives have been waiting for will be theirs. In love relationships, you must do things that will make your partner happy as it will strengthen your relationship. Make them feel special and loved. The single Pig natives will also find the 'one' and this will mark the beginning of their romantic fairytale. Professionally, it will be a rewarding year as your hard work will finally start to pay off. However, the business person of this zodiac must avoid expanding their business this year as you might incur loss.

Mission Village VOICE PASTIMES

CROSSWORD AKA by Carlinka



ACROSS

- 2 Bale bond
- 5 Tempted with bait
- 6 Opposites of allies
- 9 Kismet
- 12 Sandwich aka
- 13 Krill seeker
- 14 Mysterious puzzle
- 16 Mini lobster aka
- 17 Naranja menos amarillo
- 19 Garnish for a Corona
- 21 Shirt that exposes the waist
- 25 Hypnotized state
- 26 Sandwich aka
- 29 Take the wheel
- 31 Spout for water aka
- 32 Spout for water

aka

- 34 Mini lobster aka
- 35 Minimum age for a U.S. senator

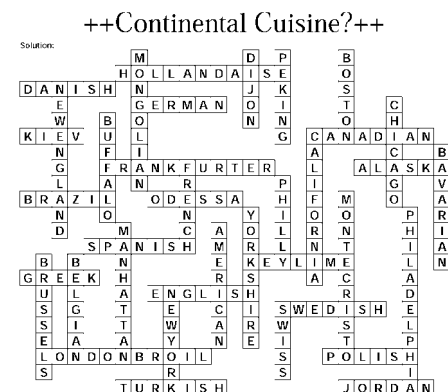
DOWN

- 1 It might be acute or obtuse
- 3 Word before toast or after peach
- 4 Really ticks off
- 7 How paper contracts are often signed
- 8 Rock, before it was cool
- 10 Sandwich aka
- 11 Wishy-washy, as an answer
- 12 Spout for water aka
- 15 Heading for half of crossword clues

- 18 Cause of crying in the kitchen
- 19 Garnish for an iced tea
- 20 Pluck
- 21 Mini lobster aka
- 22 Pucker, as one's lips
- 23 Port city in Ukraine

- 24 Sandwich aka
- 27 What cubes have that squares lack
- 28 Like the fish in ce- viche
- 30 Vowels in a children's song refrain
- 33 "Earl" of beverage- dom

Last month's puzzle solution



HOROSCOPE

FEBRUARY 2023 by Hilda De Anza



ARIES March 21-April 20

By end March you'll have resolved confusion and will move in to a more stable situation, especially at home. The good thing about the period to mid-May is that the planet of wisdom and good fortune, Jupiter, is in Aries, which brings enthusiasm and a strong urge to widen your horizons through study, cultural activities and travel. It's also a really good time for engagement in groups, particularly if education is a priority, and especially around the full moon on February 6th.



TAURUS April 21-May 21

Your focus is on your friendships and group allegiances, and you will be highly motivated by idealistic causes. Relationships tend to be undermined by continued insecurity or lack of commitment from partners, who have failed to signal what their intentions are. There is a strong focus on your professional aspirations this month, particularly around the full moon on the 6th. The end of February brings a deeper immersion in your spiritual autonomy.



GEMINI May 22-June 21

This is a happy transition time for you and your mood lightens whilst everything seems more optimistic and fuller of promise. Mid-February is a fantastic time for exploring new horizons through studies, cultural exchange and through travel. The last part of February is a time when things go smoothly. Friendships flourish, and your connection with a special friend who has been in and out of your life in recent months goes especially well.



CANCER June 22-July 22

The greater part of this month is characterized by a sense that you are being looked after by your good angel, and it's a wonderful time for spiritual devotion. On a more practical note February offers the possibility of constructive developments, particularly connected with partnership. The last week of February is the beginning of a highly dynamic period professionally, with the possibility of some good fortune right at the end of the month.



LEO July 23-August 22

For much of February

the focus is on relationships to others. It is not about personal recognition right now, but more connected with promoting a group cause. Mid-February is the perfect time for commitment and consolidation in relationships, and it is also the time when the greatest demands are made on you by others. During the final week of the month there is a transition and new trends begin connecting with a need for greater emotional depth and intimacy.

VIRGO August 23-September 22

February it is more about how to channel your creative skills practically in your working life.

From the 11th onwards, there are excellent trends for both working and personal partnerships that will thrive. On February 20th there is a new moon in your opposite sign Pisces, which brings a major emphasis on relationships. This is a period which is positive for your love life, and also positive for partnership finances due to daring initiatives and plain good fortune.

LIBRA September 23 - October 22

Early February you are motivated to help others unselfishly and your caring nature is highlighted. End February is an excellent period for relationships and a general expansion of your horizons. It is also a time when you meet exciting individuals who want to show you the world and enlighten you about all the possibilities life brings. You are willing to take risks and leap into the unknown, and you have great faith that you will land in a good place.

SCORPIO October 23-November 21

February is a month when you begin to gather steam. Consolidating your home and family life is a major theme for most of February. An excellent period begins for new independent initiatives at work both for you and potential partners, and there is a general period of growing harmony both at home, amongst friends, and in your community.

SAGITTARIUS November 22-December 21

As February begins, there is a focus on relationships. At work this can be exciting

and a bit disruptive too, as radical new ideas are implemented, and new connections are made locally and abroad. Around February 20th a new moon brings change at home and in your personal life. This is the beginning of a very upbeat period for you when relationships function well. It's great for love and romance, but it is also an excellent time for communication and education.

CAPRICORN December 22-January 20

You are approaching the end of a phase when Saturn will move out of Aquarius and enter Pisces for a 2-3 year period. This gives you a couple of months to complete projects that you have worked on for a few years now. During the course of this month the Sun conjoints Saturn, and this marks the perfect period for economic partnership. The last week brings several changes. At home and at work. A new trend starts now connected with learning and communication, and this foreshadows a change of trajectory which takes place at the end of next month.

AQUARIUS January 21-February 19

Mid-February is a great time for relationships, when friends and potential partners join forces with you, and when you get things done on your own terms. There has been a tendency for you to needlessly worry in the past, as if some sort of catastrophe could happen, and these irrational thoughts are strong in early February but recede later in the month because there is so much good fortune in your life. These excellent trends for communication get an extra boost towards the end of the month, when you find yourself in the company of gifted people

PISCES February 20-March 20

You are very idealistic now, and your welcome mat is out for dreamers and visionaries. In early February you are happy to keep yourself to yourself and your major focus is on initiatives to improve your financial situation. The last part of February heralds a period of good fortune both as regards money and family matters. Things are really improving for a family member who has been in trouble in recent months. It's an excellent period for love and partnership, and at the end of the month material and emotional blessings come your way.

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

#TheGoldenAge

Golden opportunities

By Leanne Oliveira

Happy February! Use this month to pamper yourself with all those fabulous food, travel, and wellness deals. If you don't want to spend it solo, there has never been a better time for 60+ dating! For a list of their 2023 dating website recommendations, visit tinyurl.com/GoldenDating.

A recent article at NPR's "On Aging" site ([NPR.org/sections/aging](https://www.npr.org/sections/aging)) cited that social isolation is increasingly linked to a greater risk of dementia. Interestingly, one Dutch supermarket chain is offering slower "Chat Check-outs" and "Coffee Corners" to help seniors mitigate isolation (tinyurl.com/LessLonely). For a fun list of wellness-boosting V-Day activities for seniors, visit tinyurl.com/VDayWellness.



Want to meet more folks while exercising your mind and body? Bay Area Older Adults is offering February hikes through La Honda Creek and Arastradero Preserves (www.bayareaolderadults.org). Our National Parks offer Annual Passes (\$20) and Lifetime Passes (\$80) for seniors at store.usgs.gov/senior-annual-yay, Pinnacles! The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at CSUMB offers 100+ inexpensive online and in-person courses for ages 50+ including a nature boat tour of Elkhorn Slough on 2/2; view catalog at olli.csumb.edu or visit my office for a hard copy. If

you prefer indoor alternatives, check out Cyber-Seniors' FREE virtual programming at www.cyberseniors.org for everything from yoga to tech assistance and city tours.

Project SCOUT is ready for tax season and is now also handling CalFresh enrollments. To volunteer (greatly needed!) or receive free bilingual assistance, call 831-724-2606 or email projectscoutoffice@gmail.com.

GOLDEN EVENTS

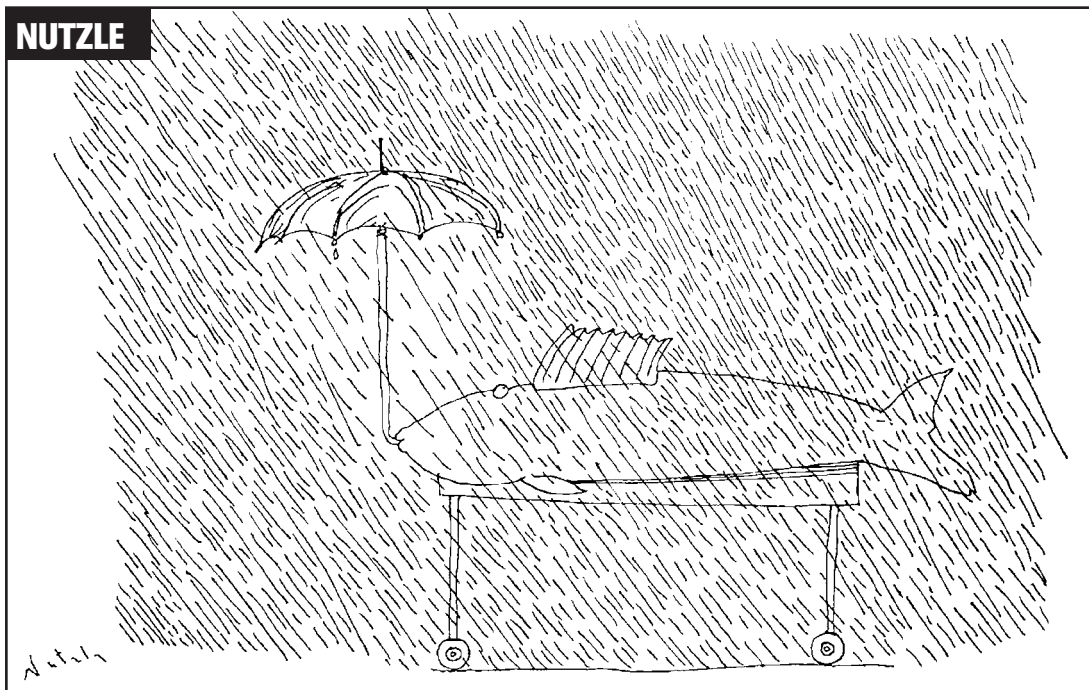
2/11@9AM-12PM: Lots of large print materials and audiobooks at the monthly used book sale behind the Hollister Library. Pet friendly! Tea and treats provided.

3/15@5:30PM: SAVE THE DATE - ALTCC Mixer at the Epicenter. Goodies for seniors from local public service and non-profit agencies.

Questions? Email LeanneO@SeniorsCouncil.org, call 888-637-6757, browse www.SanBenitoADRC.org, or visit my office in the Senior Center at 300 West Street in Hollister.

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a Social Worker for the Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC), and Reference Librarian (History). Contact LeanneO@seniorscouncil.org. ■

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