

# Curtis

## REAL ESTATE

← **ENTRANCE**



### Curtis closes its doors after **75** years

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Real estate broker Carol Curtis recently announced her retirement and intention to close the family business, Curtis Real Estate, a mainstay in the Claremont Village for 75 years. Curtis' grandmother Florence founded the business in 1947 followed by her son Gordon who joined the firm in 1955. Carol Curtis began her career in real estate shortly after her graduation from Pitzer College in 1981. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

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# TODAY'S PARENT

FEBRUARY 2022



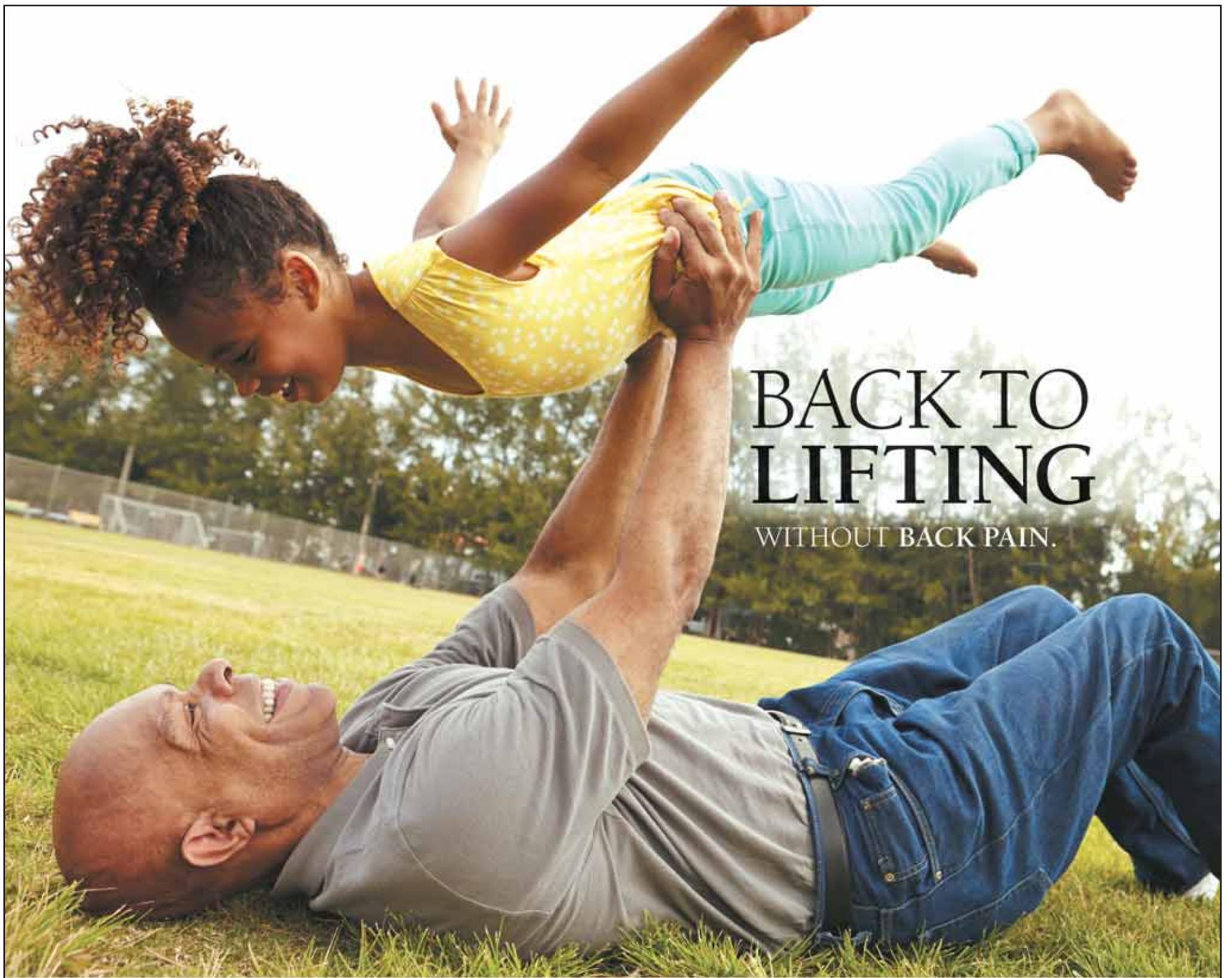
Creative Mindfulness

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Parents Anonymous Inc. helps families in crisis

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**Bottom Right:** A Parents Anonymous weekly meeting (Photo courtesy of Emma Pion-Berlin).

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# Curtis closes door on 75-year real estate business

by Steven Felschundneff  
 steven@claremont-courier.com

Curtis Real Estate founder Florence Curtis commissioned the construction of the mid-century modern office building at 107 Harvard Avenue in the Claremont Village in 1955. The real estate firm spent 70 of its 75 years housed in that building until Carol Curtis decided to retire last month. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

Seventy-five years ago Jackie Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. In Long Beach, Howard Hughes took the Spruce Goose on its only flight. Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel was murdered in Beverly Hills. And the movie business fully entered the blacklist era when Congress cited the Hollywood 10 for contempt.

That same year, 1947, Curtis Real Estate officially opened its doors in a tiny shack in the Claremont Village near the corner of First Street and Harvard Avenue.

Like the Folk Music Center, Some Crust Bakery and Walters Restaurant, Curtis became a Claremont institution with three generations keeping the flame alive. Anyone who has been in the City of Trees for a few orbits around the sun might assume that it would always be part of the Village’s fabric. So, it came as a shock to many when current owner, Carol Curtis, announced last month that she intended to retire and would permanently close the real estate office.

Her longterm plan had been to work a few more years, but COVID and its complications changed the calculus.

“I had several salespeople decide to leave the business altogether and one of my salespeople passed away about a year ago. So when you have a small office and four people are suddenly not there ... it seemed like maybe it was a

good time to speed up the retirement instead.”

Seventy-five years ago, Florence and Maurice Curtis bought an insurance business located at 211 W. First St. Soon after, they added real estate sales to balance the business model and Curtis Real Estate was born. However, a short time later their marriage dissolved, and by 1950 Florence became the sole proprietor.

**“It’s a double-edged sword,” Curtis said about the decision to retire. “It’s exciting to think about things being new and different and a more relaxing lifestyle, but of course it’s hard to close the doors on the family business. But it’s been a great run.”**

By the mid 1950s, she outgrew the little building on First and hired renowned modernist architect John Galbraith, a family friend, to design a spiffy new office at 107 Har-

vard — the exact location where Curtis Real Estate operated until just a few weeks ago.

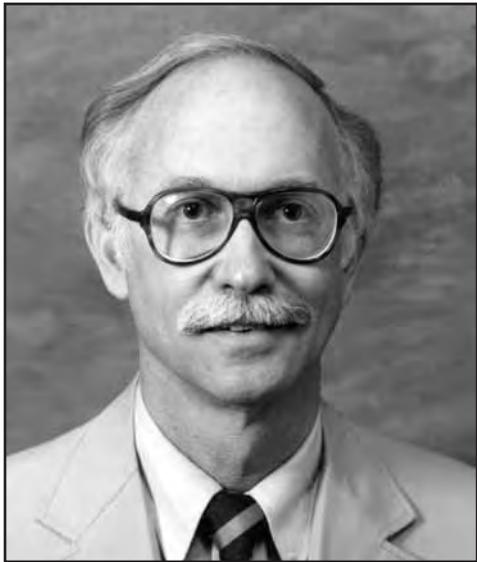
Following college and serving in the Korean War, Carol’s father, Gordon Curtis, taught elementary school for a

year or two in Azusa, but decided teaching fourth grade wasn’t for him. So in 1955 when Gordon was still in his 20s, Florence said “Why don’t you come join me in the real estate business?”

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Gordon Curtis poses for a photo in 1963 with his children Carol, on his lap, and Cathy in Laguna Beach. Carol would grow to become the third generation in the family to run Curtis Real Estate, which officially closed down when she retired last month.



**Left: Real estate broker Gordon Curtis took over running the family business, Curtis Real Estate, in 1979 when his mother retired. Gordon also served four years on city council, 25 serving on various Claremont commissions and was on numerous boards of directors, including the chamber of commerce, Pilgrim Place and Mt. San Antonio Gardens. Right: Florence Curtis, who launched Curtis Real estate, in a portrait taken circa 1965.**

Apparently it was a good fit. “Gordon Curtis enjoyed real estate so much that family beach trips often ended in tours of the area’s homes,” the COURIER reported in 1993, one week before Gordon was grand marshal of the Claremont Fourth of July parade. In that same article then-councilmember Judy Wright said: “He used to consider it a matter of pride matching a house with a family. He considered it contributing to the quality of life for that family.”

Like most of Southern California, and the entire country, Claremont housing in the 1950s and 1960s was segregated. Gordon Curtis played a role in integrating the town when, in the mid-sixties, he sold a home on Northwestern Drive to Myrlie Evers-Williams shortly after her husband Medgar was murdered in Jackson Mississippi. “My children and I were the second family of color to move here,” Evers-Williams recalled during a panel discussion at Pomona College in 2018.

“There were certainly people who disagreed with our being in this city, in this town, there were a few threats.” “He got death threats for selling her that house, absolutely, and he went door to door and said who he was and that he was selling the house to her and that she was a wonderful person and he hoped that they would welcome her,” Carol Curtis said.

Florence retired in 1979, at age 79, and moved to Mt. San Antonio Gardens and two years later, Carol joined the family business after graduating from Pitzer College with a fine arts degree. “It was a bad economy, and a tough time to find a first job and I didn’t really know what I wanted to do, and my dad just needed some office help. So I figured I will just do this temporarily until I figure out what I want to do,” Curtis said.

But Gordon developed some health problems and had to retire early, so by the time he died in 1994, Carol Curtis was ready to take over the real estate

business. “I did work with him for quite a few years, which was good because I had the opportunity to learn so much. At times I wasn’t sure I wanted to be a salesperson but that is why I always kept a good staff of salespeople so I could focus more on managing the office. Which also was easier because I had three kids,” Curtis said.

Curtis Real Estate had a long relationship with the COURIER, including each of the three generations running regular advertising. In the 1960s then-Publisher Martin Weinberger approached Florence Curtis to say he was going to start running pictures with real estate ads.

Her reaction came as a bit of a surprise to Weinberger. “Don’t do that. That is a terrible idea, then people will know where the house is.”

That perfectly illustrates how much the real estate business has changed, because now selling a home practically

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Curtis Real Estate was originally located in the tiny storefront at 211 First Street until the mid 1950s when Florence Curtis built the modern office building on Harvard Avenue.

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requires the best photography. Even during Carol Curtis' tenure the business has changed, and not necessarily for the better.

"Back in the '80s and '90s, Realtors spent a lot of time with people showing houses. It was a more fun process, buyers were happy, it was exciting. Now I think people are kind of stressed out because of the competitiveness. A listing might get 20 or 30 offers. People look and look and have to pay tens of thousands over the asking price. They're not having fun. And so the Realtor isn't having fun either," Curtis said.



Prices, of course, are another big change as Curtis recalled that at one time \$100,000 seemed like a lot of money for a home.

Another big change is the amount of paper work required to sell a home. Curtis said that in the 80s, a purchase contract was two pages, now it's 16 pages and the entire sale file would be a half inch if printed out. All of which means everyone has to sign their name a lot.

"At first [Curtis] was insurance and real estate. It was so simple you could do both," Curtis said.

Curtis has no immediate plans for her retirement except to spend more time with friends and family, including her husband, Pat Burson, and 89-year-old mother Sallie. She is looking for-



Real estate broker Carol Curtis sits outside the building where her family ran Curtis Real Estate for 75 years. Curtis recently made the difficult decision to close the business so she could retire. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

ward to a much shorter to-do list, not setting an alarm in the morning and might rediscover her love of water color painting.

"That's actually something that would be fun to get into. I haven't had much time in the 40 years between now and my senior art show," she said.

As for the iconic mid-century building where Curtis Real Estate operated for all those years? It's going to be an art studio and gallery.

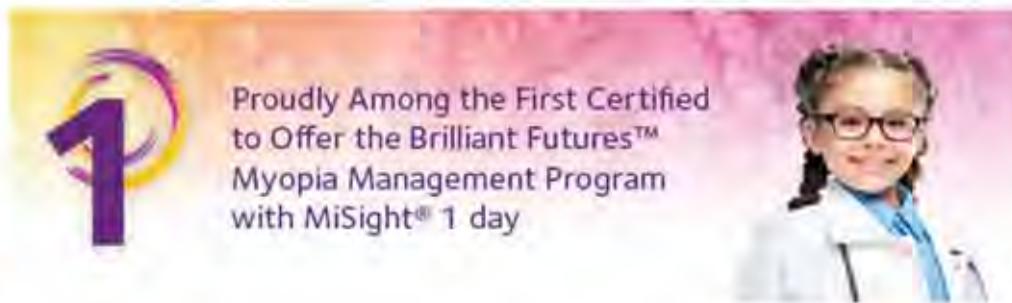
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# Parents Anonymous Inc. helps families in crisis

by Andrew Alonzo  
aalonzo@claremont-courier.com

In 1969, Jolly K. was the struggling mother of an emotionally unstable teenage daughter with whom she was frequently at odds. Seeking parental services from the state and Los Angeles County and getting nowhere, she decided to create the resource distraught mothers could turn to when all else failed.

That same year, with the help of social worker Leonard Lieber, she launched Parents Anonymous through a clinic in Los Angeles. K.'s vision was a weekly support group where mothers in similar situations could meet and address underlying emotional issues that arose from parenting challenges.

Over the years, the group helped her to transform her own life and mend the relationship with her daughter. Along the way, K. also transformed the lives of countless other parents who joined her weekly meetings.

In 1973 after her candid testimony before the U.S. Senate and House about her work with Parents Anonymous, she "ensured the passage of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CPATA)," according to the group online. In 1992, the emotional support gatherings that K. began grew into the Claremont-based nonprofit, Parents Anonymous Inc., which has since been led by Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, the organization's CEO and president.

"We believe that the future depends on parents," Dr. Pion-Berlin said.

The organization has dedicated itself to helping parents to parent to the best of their abilities. Since its first group sessions, the organization has served about 4.5 million people and counting.

Parents Anonymous Inc. offers a range of evidence-based services to parents and children around Los Angeles County that include its weekly, two-hour online groups, the COVID-19 friendly version of its iconic group sessions, and peer support lines.

Parents Anonymous Inc. also offers national leadership certification courses for parents and youth, Shared Leadership in Action opportunities, and free online resources including Strengthening Families Pomona, Pomona Rising, Transforming Los Angeles and more.

In 2008, Antonia Rios signed up for the weekly adult group sessions. A year sober after drug addiction, she came to the organization because the mother of seven said she wasn't getting the resources she needed from other agencies.

"I wasn't getting the things I needed [and] I wasn't dealing with my past trauma ... ACEs, adverse childhood experiences. I had every single one of them and some that should be included in there which are not," Rios explained. "I needed something more. I never thought I could be or do anything because I felt that I was so shattered and broke. I experienced domestic violence and stuff like that and I knew there had to be something out there that could help me be better or at least, to move past the things I had experienced. And so I heard about Parents Anonymous."



When Rios first joined the weekly group, she kept distance between herself and other participants, staying close to the door at all times and asking facilitators if they would leave it open. After about three weeks of attending group sessions, she started to feel more comfortable and began opening up.

Two years later, she fully realized it was a safe place not only for her, but also her children, who also began attending the weekly group sessions. Today, Rios has been a part of Parents Anonymous for fourteen years, and is a senior parent partner for the organization, easing newcomers in and facilitating con-

versations like the ones she used to be afraid of. Rios is also chair of the California and National Parent leadership team.

"When I think of what I got from group, I think of being in the ocean and nobody there to save me," she said. "And then all of a sudden, the land from underneath me rises up, and now I have a safe place. I have support."

Seeing herself transform from someone who was essentially a helicopter mother due to her own past traumas, to someone who could allow her children to have their own experiences without worrying is something she will forever be thankful to Parents Anonymous for.

"I'm living proof that it works, and it works in so many different ways," she said. "I believe in advocating not only for myself [and] for my children but for those parents, children and youth around me. And now my children do the same thing, they're very strong advocates [for Parents Anonymous]."

In 2020 when COVID-19 suspended essential services and kept parents confined at home with their children, the nonprofit established the California Parent Helpline, which offers parents, children, teenagers and caregivers parental information and emotional support seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. The helpline can be reached by calling or texting (855) 427-2736. Services can be provided in any language.



The organization is pushing for funding not only to accommodate the intake of calls from the state helpline, but to also establish a nationwide helpline.

"I think Parents Anonymous and the California Parent Helpline should be at every single school ... every listing when you go searching. I think it should be at every bus stop, train station, airport," Rios said. "Because no matter where you are or where you're going, somebody needs to see it."

The organization's new brand, "Raising the Future," was created by several of its leaders as they sought to carry the nonprofit into the next five

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Before COVID-19 forced groups to meet via Zoom, adult mediations and emotional support groups facilitated by Parents Anonymous met in person weekly in Pomona. The organization's CEO and president Lisa Pion-Berlin leads one of those meetings, seen above in 2019. Photo by Emma Pion-Berlin.

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decades, according to Pion-Berlin.

“Raising the Future is our overarching message about how we all need to come together to support parents, children and youth. Not tell them what to do, but ask people what kind of help do you need? We’re here to support your personal empowerment journey,” Dr. Pion-Berlin said.

“There’s community transformation and then that becomes intergenerational. So whether I’m here as the president or the next president or whatever happens next, [Parents Anonymous] will live on, because it lives on in the people,” Pion-Berlin said. “It doesn’t live on in the organization, it lives in the people who come to the program.”

The nonprofit is headquartered in Claremont at 250 W. First Street, Suite 250 and can be reached at (909) 621-6184. For more information, visit <https://www.raisingfuture.org> or <https://www.raisingfuture.org/program/parents-anonymous>. Programs offered through the organization are free and residents can sign up at <https://www.raisingfuture.org/programs>.



For the last 22 years, February has also been known National Parent Leadership Month. For information on how to become part of the national or California parent leadership teams, visit <https://www.raisingfuture.org/program/parent-leadership>.



Lisa Pion-Berlin has served as the chief executive officer and president of Parents Anonymous since its inception 30 years ago. During a recent visit she described the life changing work the parenting resources and emotional support organization has provided for families. COURIER photo/Andrew Alonzo

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# PARENTHOOD: the job that never ends

by Mick Rhodes

*mickrhodes@claremont-courier.com*

The phrase “fake it ‘til you make it” has served me well throughout my so-called adult life, but it never really seemed applicable to my favorite and most long-lasting job — fatherhood.

The fake it part works: when my kids started being born and I stepped into my new role as stay-at-home dad, I faked a whole lot of it.

In the two decades since then, I’ve learned my way around a baby, toddler, and child, though teens are still an enigma. But does it ever end, this parenthood deal? There’s no finish line that I can see. Perhaps when they’re grown, settled, and living purposeful, productive lives? I guess so. But is that possible with four kids, in Southern California, with its insane housing costs and overburdened freeways? The law of averages would seem to indicate that one or more of my four kids will always require assistance, or at least a rent-free living space.

A mid-rant disclaimer: fatherhood has hands down been my favorite and most challenging job. The lucky years I spent as the primary caregiver for my kids were the best of my life, so far.

Still, even with one married with two kids of her own, another off at college, the third about to test out of high school, and a sixth-grader, every day I’m reminded of how little I know. Just when I’m feeling smug about resolving some complex issue with my hard-won ninja negotiating skills, I’m blindsided by a



new break in the parent-child continuum that mocks my hubris.

There is no “make it” with parenthood. It just goes on until we don’t, and we keep saddling up for the same job, Groundhog Day style.

It’s hard, but it’s given me purpose, which is really all I want for my kids: for them to live with purpose.

This job can’t be studied, then mastered. It’s not an academic pursuit. It’s mud and tears and joy and broken hearts. It goes on forever and you never stop learning, if you’re lucky.

So, here’s a useful list of reminders and hard won insight for new parents, or the reproductively curious. These are my observations only, and results may vary. Scratch that: they will vary.

## 1. Kids can break your heart.

Perhaps the most underreported fact about parenthood is that children are perfectly capable of breaking

your heart. Yes, they’ll love you, hopefully, but they’ll also tell you they hate you at some point, or worse, they’ll show you. Don’t take it personally. It’s part of the deal.

## 2. It’s not about you.

This one is likely the most obvious to the uninitiated, but it may be the most useful. Your kids will demand your attention, and they’ll get it however they can. If you deviate from this maxim, they’ll let you know. I’ve certainly made awful mistakes. I’ve had a few proud moments as well. But when they need you, sometimes their call to arms is outlandish. It’s up to you to decide how you react.

## 3. You are who you came from.

If you came from a supportive, loving family, congratulations. It’s on you to maximize this lucky predisposition. Conversely, if your childhood was a dumpster fire, you need to transcend it. This isn’t to say good parents will always create good parents, or that bad parents are destined to plague us in perpetuity with an ever-expanding bloom of mal-equipped role models. I’m saying it’s up to you, the new parent, to blaze your path. Hopefully, you’ll make good choices, scrap the bad stuff you learned from your forebears, and launch your offspring into adulthood with more of a solid emotional footing than you had. Call it progress, evolution, or whatever you want, our kids need to be better than us, full stop.

## 4. Things will not go as planned.

This one’s universal. Say your son broke his wrist — like mine did last week — and suddenly your

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plans for the next four to six weeks need to be reconfigured or canceled. Or maybe one of your cherubs will throw up in a restaurant. It happens (sorry In-N-Out, Red Lobster, and that diner in Oxnard). Get used to it. This is your life now. Your plans are not your own. I'm not going to even get started on how disruptive teenagers can be to everything you thought was supposed to or going to happen. See No. 5.

**5. Teens can be jerks.**

Look, your best-case-scenario is you'll have the eye-rolling, door-slaming, overflowing with righteous indignation at your lack of understanding of virtually everything version of a teen. That's as good as it gets. The flip-side is too harrowing for a family newspaper. Suffice to say if your hair has not already gone gray, it will soon. It may just fall out altogether. Or both. Enjoy!

**6. Kindness is key.**

I've really fought for this one. My kids have a certain style of emotional combat with which this only child is ill-equipped to deal: nothing's sacred and everything's in play. The great comedian John Mulaney has a bit where he describes the particular focused savagery of the American teen, in that they have zero hesitation in attacking the most secret thing you hate about yourself. And I've found this to be true. They say the worst possible things to one another.

I've reacted variously over the years, from the unrealistic ("hug it out!") to the dangerously neglectful ("I'm going to Target. Don't kill each other."). I've arrived at something close to adequate: talking all the way through the thing, from its prehistoric origins — say from last Tuesday when Kid A took Kid B's iPhone charger — on up to the current day's battle, likely over a Hot Pocket. Semi-soothed, I ask them to imagine how it might have felt to be on the receiving end of their own rage. By this point they're usually feeling kind of sorry, the fight has (mostly) left them, and compromise is possible.

**7. Love is unconditional, but you don't have to like it.**

Your kids are yours as long as you're here. That intense parental love never leaves, no matter what. I mean, no matter what. Our family has been through more than our share of chaos and heartache, even heartbreak, and that love, man, it does stick around. Even so, you may love them, but you don't have to like them or their choices. There is a very fine line between keeping them safe and preventing them from acquiring the tools to deal with conflict, disappointment or even change. You're not their friend, you're their parent. It's their journey, and sometimes the best way to love them is to let them be their own guides.

**8. This too shall pass.**

No matter what they're going through, aside from some physical or mental health issues, it will end. It's a very difficult concept to get kids to buy into. And with social media, where a child's self-worth can be weakened or even shattered by a cruel comment or post, it takes a lot of courage on their part to apply this thinking. Teens can't imagine a world where they don't give a damn about someone's opinion of them. I sure couldn't at that age. But by teaching them that most problems are ephemeral, and peoples' opinions of them are just background noise, we help them learn to dig themselves out of their sadness.

Overall I've discovered parenting is a very long series of unremarkable days, interspersed with the occasional unbearable fiasco, balanced by moments of exhilarating parental love and admiration. The gold lies in all those routine days with random laughs over dumb movies and inside jokes, hugs for no reason and daily school drop-offs. Bank those days in your mind and heart. You'll need them later so you don't go nuts or drink all the wine at Trader Joe's. If you're lucky, those days will get you through the bad ones.

If not, wine is delicious and I'm not judging you.

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# Anna M. Torres, O.D.

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"This could mean that thousands of school-aged children simply can't see correctly," said Dr. Anna M. Torres from Claremont. "Parents and teachers need to know that with a complete eye examination, we can diagnose and begin treatment of many of these debilitating vision and eye health issues."

Students with poor vision can be misdiagnosed as learning impaired, as having attention deficient disorder, or are just plain left behind from their peer groups. And these kids don't know that they can't see what their friend sees, because they don't know what normal vision is like.

It also means that many children, by the time they have that first examination, may have a condition, such as amblyopia or lazy eye, which now cannot be treated and is the leading cause of blindness. If they had had a complete eye examination earlier in their lives, the condition could have been easily corrected.

"We encourage parents to have children examined three times prior to starting school: at 6 months, 3 years and before starting kindergarten," said Dr. Torres. "This monitors eye development and can prevent conditions that may be irreversible in later years."

Teachers can help too by letting parents know the importance of eye examinations and the link between good vision and successful learning. Children need to have a complete eye examination where vision acuity, eye health and vision skills are measured. And they need to have these examinations at an early age.

Comprehensive vision examinations can only be conducted by an eye care professional with the specialized training needed to make a definitive diagnosis and prescribe treatment. Keep in mind that a vision screening, while a useful tool, is a limited process and cannot be used to diagnose an eye or vision problem, but rather to indicate a potential need for further evaluation.

Dr. Anna M. Torres has been serving the eye care needs of patients in Claremont for almost 8 years. She serves on the Board of The Claremont Chamber of Commerce and is a new Member of the Claremont Rotary. She is also the immediate past president of the Inland Empire Optometric Association.

Children 17 years and under will receive free lenses with purchase of a frame.

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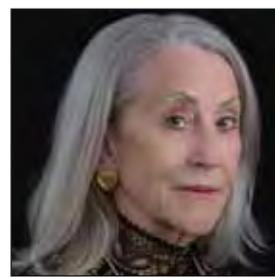
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# Creative Mindfulness: Dad's Funeral

**C**reative Mindfulness is a useful tool to help you look calmly at situations that might otherwise be painful. This is not how I experienced my Dad's funeral when it really happened, over a decade ago, but this is how I can remember it with gratitude for having a Ted Lasso kind of a guy for a Dad.

"Everything I know about farming, I learned from Quinter" was my son Gabe's opening line eulogizing my father, and with that he drew audible smiles and nods, acknowledgements that he had won the hearts of the crowd, the likes of which could have been from a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, had "Oklahoma" had a funeral in a small Midwestern town church and people had gathered to honor the life of the man who was the first in Oakley Township to plant beans in 30-inch rows and use a chisel plow. Dad was also known for his strong baritone voice and sang in an all-male quartet, not barber-shop buffoonery, but mellow, syrupy, sounds like the Ames Brothers, serious songs like "Beyond the Sunset" and "How Great Thou Art" that made even non-believers get lumps in their throats when the melodies, more interesting than the words, swooped from down to up, soft to loud, rollercoasting phrases, building a little higher and a little louder (how great Thou art) til the music hung suspended and paused, (how great) in mid-air, before final return to the tonic and diminuendo (Thou art), "ssshhh, listen," you can hear a pin drop, no musical amen, secularization being part of the allure, leaving you to think amen but actually saying it out loud would be showing too much emotion so it's just as well to leave it be, after all, this is the belly button of Illinois.

The split-lid casket was stationed at the front of the sanctuary, open from the waist up, highlighting Dad's embalmed smile and Ronald Regan hair resting atop a beige



## CREATIVE Mindfulness

by JANICE HOFFMANN

velvet pillow, in starched white shirt and crisp tie, his best suit, always meticulous, a sharp dresser once he left his overalls behind. Who knew if he was even wearing shoes, the dozens of red roses with gold-lettered ribbons declaring "beloved," "husband" and "father" completely covering the lower half of the casket, presumably where he was from the waist down, but for all we knew he could have been the victim of a Houdini mishap and perhaps his nether parts were somewhere else, maybe left behind in a vaudeville show trailer.

Having pre-purchased the burial plot even before Mom died 24 years earlier, Quinter had carefully orchestrated and rehearsed this day, the specific pieces of music, who would sing and who would play which instruments, the scripture, the premium casket adorned with bas-relief sheaves of wheat in copper contrasted against a rose-gold background, as if metal would keep the worms away longer than wood, and of course the pallbearers, all locals, everyone understanding that my husband, Jewish, from New York, would be lost, thank goodness they didn't know he was agnostic, too. Per tradition, one of the pallbearers closed the lid, and Dad and his escorts com-



menced rolling through the aisles, on to the next eulogism, his final resting place, pausing at the church door before the six men hoisted the coffin atop their shoulders and began the precarious 20-step descent to the street and the hearse that would lead the procession to Cerro Gordo Cemetery.

Am I the only one to consider that had you not been able to afford the metal casket, or had chosen a wooden casket, or asked to be wrapped in linen, or, god forbid, be cremated, that you might be able to come back each year with the peony bush I planted, and on the odd occasion I come in person, we could talk?

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# Fourth of July festivities return

The Claremont Fourth of July celebration is coming back this year with all the familiar events and celebrations, but with a revised events lineup.

The annual event was canceled for the last two years because of the pandemic, however, city staff, with support from the Independence Day Committee, made changes to ensure adequate staffing during the holiday.

The biggest change in the traditional lineup comes Saturday, July 2, when the Claremont Village Freedom 5000 Run, Walk will be held. Co-hosted by the City of Claremont and the Claremont High School cross country boosters, the kids 1K will begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by the 5K run at 8 a.m. and the 5K walk plus competitive race walk five minutes later.

On July 4 the fun kicks off with the Kiwanis Club's pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m., followed by the flag raising ceremony at 9 a.m. when the grand marshal, honored citizen and honored community group will be recognized.

Nominations for this year's grand marshal, honored citizen and honored community group are currently open with a deadline of April 15. Nominees must live, work, attend school, or have graduated from a school in Claremont and must have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Claremont. "Activities should be above and beyond the nominee's profession, paid work or normal call of duty," according to a news release from the city.

The parade will begin at a new time, 10 a.m., at Memorial Park and will travel south on Indian Hill Boulevard, then west on Harrison Avenue, ending at Larkin Park.

Also beginning at 10 a.m. will be the Fourth of July festival featuring information booths, children's activities, live music, and food vendors. The T. Willard Hunter Speakers Corner, where residents can sign up for a few minutes of constitutionally-protected free speech, will begin at 10:45 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. when the festival closes.

The celebration concludes with the fireworks show at Strehle Track on the Pomona College campus. Gates open at 6:30 p.m., with music from the Ravelers beginning at 6:45. The grand finale begins at 9 p.m. with a fireworks display by Exposhow.

Claremont students in kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to enter their ideas for the theme of this year's Fourth of July celebration. Each theme submission must be five words or less and contain no more than 36 characters. The student who submits the winning entry will receive fireworks tickets, a certificate, a special place in the parade and will lead the flag salute at the flag raising ceremony.

The Independence Day Committee will hold auditions on April 28 at 7 p.m. for this year's National Anthem contest. Entrants must be in grades 7



Michael Ahman as Uncle Sam on stilts, waves to the crowd and clicks his heels during Claremont's Fourth of July parade. After two years hiatus the Fourth of July celebration will return this year with the parade scheduled for 10 a.m.



Runners of all ages start the Freedom 5000 5k race through Claremont on a recent Fourth of July. COURIER photo/Chloe Ortiz

through 12 and either reside in Claremont or attend a Claremont school. The winner will receive fireworks tickets, a special place in the parade and will perform the National Anthem at the fireworks show and flag raising ceremony.

Runners-up will be selected to perform at the Freedom 5000 or concerts in the park. The deadline to submit an entry is April 15 and auditions will be in the Padua Room of the Alexander Hughes Community Center, 1700 Danbury Rd.



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170 W. San Jose Ave., Claremont  
398-0609 • [cusd.claremont.edu](http://cusd.claremont.edu)  
Currently, CUSD has more than 6,860 students in its K-12 program and runs an extensive adult school program. There are seven unique elementary schools, a school for the orthopedically handicapped, an intermediate school, a high school, a community day school and a continuation school. The community may attend school board meetings, which are held on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Richard S. Kirkendall Education Center. Agendas are posted online, or call (909) 398-0609 ext. 70102 for specific dates and times. Claremont's public schools are listed below:

**CHAPARRAL ELEMENTARY**  
451 Chaparral Dr. • 398-0305

**CONDIT ELEMENTARY**  
1750 N. Mountain Ave. • 398-0320

**DANBURY ELEMENTARY**  
1745 Lynoak Dr. • 398-0335

**MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY**  
851 Santa Clara Ave. • 398-0308

**OAKMONT ELEMENTARY**  
Oakmont Outdoor School  
120 W. Green St. • 398-0313  
**SUMNER ELEMENTARY**  
1770 Sumner Ave. • 398-0320

**SYCAMORE ELEMENTARY**  
225 W. Eighth St. • 398-0324

**VISTA DEL VALLE ELEMENTARY**  
550 Vista Dr. • 398-0331

**EL ROBLE INTERMEDIATE**  
665 N. Mountain Ave. • 398-0343

**CLAREMONT HIGH SCHOOL**  
1601 N. Indian Hill Blvd. • 624-9053

**SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL**  
125 W. San Jose Ave. • 398-0316

**CUSD CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
398-0373 • [cusd.claremont.edu](http://cusd.claremont.edu)  
Infant/toddler child care program; state/universal pre-school; school-age child care program, grades K-6. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. A balanced selection of activities that integrate the cognitive, linguistic, social/emotional, physical and developmental areas. These include supervised outdoor play and games, art, music, cooking, science, dramatic arts, computer time, field trips, quiet time and nutritional snacks. Full-day programs are offered during winter recess, spring break and summer. Limited funding is available to income-eligible families who meet state funding requirements.

**CLAREMONT ADULT SCHOOL**  
170 W. San Jose Ave., Ste. 100, Claremont  
398-0327 • [cusd.claremont.edu](http://cusd.claremont.edu)  
Each year Claremont Adult School serves more than 5,000 adults, providing quality, low-cost educational oppor-

tunities to adults from Claremont and surrounding communities. Classes offered include parenting, English as a second language, high school diploma/GED, computer skills, fine arts and foreign languages. Both daytime and evening classes are offered. Classes for older adults include painting, writing, lectures, foreign language, genealogy and needle arts. ESL and literacy classes are free.

**PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS:**

**CARDEN ARBOR VIEW SCHOOL**  
1530 N. San Antonio Ave., Upland  
982-9919 • [cardenarborview.org](http://cardenarborview.org)  
Ages 5 to 14 years, K-8. Hours: school year, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; summer school/camp, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; before and after care, 6:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. CAVS is an independent, nonprofit, non-sectarian school. Accredited by the California Association of Independent Schools, the school has served children in kindergarten through eighth grade since 1981.

**FOOTHILL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**  
1035 W. Harrison Ave., Claremont  
626-5681 • [foothillcds.org](http://foothillcds.org)  
Grades K-8. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Foothill Country Day School is an independent school that has been providing kindergarten through 8th grade education since 1954. FCDS is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California Association of Independent Schools. Since 1999,

The Seedling School has provided an educational program for children ages 3 to 5. Summer program available.

**OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION SCHOOL**  
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626-7135 • Fax 398-1395 • [ola-ca.org](http://ola-ca.org)

Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. School hours: Kindergarten, Monday through Thursday, 7:50 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday 7:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; grades 1-8, Monday through Thursday, 7:50 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday 7:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**THE WEBB SCHOOLS**  
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**WESTERN CHRISTIAN**  
3105 Padua Ave., Claremont  
624-8291 • [westernchristian.org/claremont](http://westernchristian.org/claremont)  
Preschool, K-5, Jr. High 6-8; High school in Upland. Established in 1920, Western Christian Schools is a non-denominational, non-sectarian, private school system with non-profit status. The school's mission is to provide students with a quality education in a Christian-centered community.

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