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Holiday Magazine ²⁰²²



A snowglobe ornament hangs from a decorated Christmas tree display in the Covey Gardens shop in the Village. COURIER photo/Peter Weinberger

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Carolers with The Voices of Christmas, Don Lucas, left, Lindsay Kazan, Juliette Angeli and Rusty Hamrick, entertain the crowd in front of the Claremont Depot during the 2021 Holiday Promenade and Tree Lighting ceremony. COURIER photo/Andrew Alonzo

Cover photo:

Thanksgiving may have ended, but it certainly feels like Christmas inside Covey Gardens on Yale Avenue in Claremont. COURIER photo/Peter Weinberger

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Soldier's journey brings him 'home' to Claremont

by Steven Felschundneff
 steven@claremont-courier.com

This time of year, many people reflect on the meaning of Thanksgiving. For one man the answer encompasses the gift of narrowly escaping death, the opportunity to see his family grow and finally moving to Claremont.

Sergeant first class Rudy Recinos told his story as the keynote address during this year's Veterans Day observance in Claremont. That speech received a standing ovation and formed the backbone of this story.

Recinos was born in Guatemala, but in the early 1990s his family sought asylum in the United States. They settled in Pomona and Recinos assumed his role in America, much as it was in Guatemala, would be to toil alongside his grandfather. But his family insisted that the 13-year-old's job here was to attend school and get good grades.

He was grateful to be able to focus on his education but harbored a dream to one day serve in the military.

"Growing up I saw how proudly family members served in the Guatemalan army and now I wanted to have that same feeling," Recinos said during his speech. Shortly after graduation in 1996 he decided to enlist.

"I went to a recruiting station to join the army but my family's political asylum status at the time made it impossible to pursue that dream," he said.

In spite of the disappointment, he



Sergeant first class Rudy Recinos salutes the American flag during Veterans Day observances in Memorial Park. During his keynote address Recinos shared his story of immigrating to the U.S. and realizing his dream to serve in the military before being severely injured in Afghanistan. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

redirected his energies toward studying math at Mount San Antonio College with the goal of transferring to Cal Poly Pomona and becoming a teacher. However, his asylum status derailed that plan as well, making it financially impossible to attend a four-year school. Instead, he accepted a job at Walmart.

"My time at Walmart will always be

special to me because that is where I met my wife and we began this journey together," Recinos said.

In October 2002 the couple visited an Army National Guard recruiting office and Recinos learned the rules about asylum seekers had changed. Days later he was sworn in and within

two months was off to Ft. Benning, Georgia for basic training.

He served 12 years in the National Guard, eight on active duty, during which he was part of a funeral detail at Riverside National Cemetery and worked at a recruiting station in Moreno Valley. During a one-year assignment at Ft. Irwin in the Mojave

continued on next page

Wrapped-up in Holiday Cheer



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Soldier's journey brings him 'home' to Claremont

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Desert, his immediate family relocated to Hesperia.

Recinos' first deployment to Afghanistan was in 2006 where he earned the title of combat veteran and, due to successes in the field, was chosen to become an instructor for deploying units within the Army National Guard command. However, those missions span only 18 months, so he had to maintain a job outside the Army. In 2008 he began a career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

"For the next three years I managed to proudly serve in both the armed forces and law enforcement, looking forward to a retirement filled with extraordinary accomplishments," he said.

In 2011 his unit was activated again to the same part of Afghanistan where he was deployed in 2006 — only this time the mission led to tragedy. The convoy Recinos commanded was hit by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device that claimed 13 lives, including that of his "battle buddy," Carlo Eugenio. The blast left Recinos gravely wounded with a traumatic brain injury and dislocation of discs in his neck and back. Recovery took three years and seven months, during which time he was separated from family.

"The subsequent years were very difficult as I struggled with the damage that was done morally, mentally, and physically," he said. "I realized that earning the title of veteran is both an honor and a privilege that comes at a heavy cost. It is important for our community to know that reintegration for veterans may take a long time and mentally they may never leave the chaos of war behind."

With the help of his wife Maxine, he began to find balance in life and in 2018 realized it was time to leave the high desert and come home.

"It was always our dream to build our lives in Claremont. Coming of age in Pomona, Claremont has been a beacon of hope, that has always meant that our kids will have access to a better education in a safer community than the one we grew up in."

- Rudy Recinos

The couple has seven children, among whom two have graduated from Claremont High School and now attend the University of California, Irvine. The others attend CHS, El Roble Intermediate and three different elementary



Claremont resident sergeant first class Rudy Recinos delivers the keynote address during the Veterans day ceremony in Claremont. COURIER photo/Steven Felschundneff

schools.

For Recinos, living in Claremont has improved his quality of life, including cycling the trails among the trees and mountains.

"I want to thank my family for all their love and support. Thank you to my fellow veterans for your selfless service, it is a privilege to stand beside you. And a special thanks to the City of

Claremont for this opportunity and for giving me this push to be out here with our community and for reaching veterans who feel trapped in their thoughts and fears. To let them know that there are people within their community who are willing and eager to help. The same community I hope to serve in the future," Recinos said, closing his Veterans Day remarks.

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David and Goliath: how Boon Companion coexists with retail giants

by Andrew Alonzo
aalonzo@claremont-courier.com

While running Boon Companion Toys year-round, owner John Peltekci faces numerous issues. His current dilemma ahead of the 2022 holiday shopping season has been finding shelf space for products still resting in boxes near the Claremont Village shop's main entrance.

But that's a surface issue Peltekci tackles over time. Behind the scenes, the challenge of running a small toy store in the modern era is more complex than making space for weekly shipments. It's more so about competing in a market space dominated by the likes of online shopping giant Amazon, as well as other big box stores.

It's a constant fight Peltekci knows he can't win — at least on the national scale — yet still he tries.

Boon's biggest challenge is of course competing with Amazon, WalMart and Target.

"Their buy-in is a lot stronger obviously," Peltekci said. "Even if it's at a loss, they'll still sell it. But that's always been, it's nothing new."

To put the local toy store owner's competition into perspective, e-commerceDB.com analyst Lukas Peters re-

continued on page 9



Boon Companion Toys owner John Peltekci. COURIER photo/Andrew Alonzo

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cently wrote that “In 2021, market leader amazon.com generated 6.6 billion U.S. dollars via the sale of toy and baby products worldwide. The [Chinese] online store jd.com was ranked second [in the category] with a revenue of 5.9 billion U.S. dollars.”

Peltekci humbly declined to share his 2021 revenue numbers, but did say last year’s profit margins were higher than 2022’s thus far. He’s optimistic the upcoming holiday rush can fill in some gaps.

“Last year was a different beast because you know everyone just came out of Covid and everyone was excited to be outside and spending money” he said. “Overall, this year, the numbers are down, but I think we will end up doing okay for Christmas.”

“I would say [we’re] probably about 10 to 15 percent less than last year, but we should be okay though.”

So, how does Boon, a David-like small business, compete with the Goliaths of the industry?

The business plan has remained quite the same since 2014, when Peltekci took over Boon. Since computer screens don’t give service with a smile, putting customers first and foremost has been the key to Boon’s success.

“You got to give great service,” Peltekci said. “You got to treat your customers right. And to be honest with you, like I said before, I’m blessed that the community is just amazing. If I keep serving the community and doing the right thing, I think we should be okay.”

Another challenge is online marketing.



Claremonter Helen Glaze shops for board games for her nephews during a recent trip to Boon Companion Toys. COURIER photo/Andrew Alonzo

Amazon and big-name stores have millions set aside for marketing and advertising, which in today’s online-centric world means more phone notifications and targeted advertising direct to consumers.

“They just keep pushing the little guys further down,” he said when it comes to advertising. “We don’t have the budget that they do.”

Nor does Boon have advertising outlined in its budget. Peltekci laughed when we suggested his yearly advertising comes in the form of a COURIER article.

“Exactly,” he said.

In 2022, Boon raised its prices to cov-

er costs associated with rising inflation and increased shipping costs. Shoppers like Claremont local Helen Glaze, who has been shopping at Boon for years, understand the reason behind the price hikes and don’t mind paying the extra few dollars, especially if it helps to keep the store’s lights on.

“You want to support a small business,” she said. “I don’t know how the prices compare [in-store to online], but I don’t mind paying a little bit more if I had to.”

“They’re really nice. I can always get good advice. I like how it’s laid out. It’s just a well-run place and you sort of want to give them your business.”

The last two years have been a roller coaster ride for Peltekci.

In 2021, the COURIER talked to Pel-

tekci as he was lounging behind the cash register because, really, there was nothing else to do. He had time to converse about the store’s Covid era struggles, including backed up shipments and declining Claremont Village consumers. (That story, “Toy store owner ready for 2021 shopping rush,” is at claremont-courier.com.)

“Well, 2020 doesn’t exist,” Peltekci said last year. “We pretty much didn’t have any business. I lost employees. I lost inventory. I couldn’t get inventory back again. And then there was no business. Nobody wanted to come in the physical store.”

But how things can change in a year. Throughout 2022, Boon’s business has been close to pre-pandemic levels. Peltekci has even hired new staff. But he did note one carry over problem.

“It was a struggle getting product in at first, but now everything’s coming back in,” he said. “My shipments, I’m full to the brim as you can see.”

In the future, Peltekci hopes to revamp the store’s website in an effort to modernize the business and get more online traffic.

The store will continue to offer its hallmark quality customer service since Peltekci estimates about 90% of his business comes in through the front door. Most customers are from Claremont and surrounding cities.

“Like I said before, being in touch with the community and doing the right thing, that’s it,” he said.

Boon Companion Toys is at 145 N. Harvard Ave., Claremont and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call (909) 625-1993 or visit booncompaniontoys.com.



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What's happening Claremont?

BY ANDREW ALONZO

calendar@claremont-courier.com

FRIDAY 11/25

• The free and open to the public 30th annual **festival of lights** at The Mission Inn Hotel and Spa, 3649 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, begins today and will run through January 6, 2023. The public is invited to walk the grounds and witness the massive lights display. For event details visit mission-inn.com.



SUNDAY 11/27

• Today marks the beginning of the 2022 Advent calendar. In recognition, the Claremont Presbyterian Church is hosting its annual **Advent workshop** where parishioners are invited to make wreaths from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the church, 1111 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont. No cost or registration is required. Call (909) 624-9693 with questions.

TUESDAY 11/29

• Local charities including Crossroads, Inc., AgingNext and more invite the public to contribute monetarily for their respective **Giving Tuesday** campaigns. Giving Tuesday began in 2012 and has garnered worldwide support to become known as an international day

of service and giving. To learn more visit givingtuesday.org.

WEDNESDAY 11/30

• Donate today to Children's Foundation of America's **holiday heroes gift drive** which provides local children in need with essentials and presents this holiday season. The last day to donate a present to one of 10 collection sites will be December 23. To shop CFA's gift list or to view the location of collection sites, visit childrensfoundationofamerica.org.

THURSDAY 12/1

• At 4 p.m., two of Santa's little helpers will give a one-hour, free family-friendly **performance** on the first floor of Montclair Place, 5060 N. Montclair Ln., between Barnes and Noble and Kids Empire. For a list of kid friendly happenings at Montclair Place visit montclairplace.com.



• The Children's Foundation of America will host a special screening of CFA's **2022 Holiday Heroes virtual gala and online auction** at the

Laemmle Claremont 5 Theatre, 450 W. Second St., Claremont, from 7 to 8 p.m. The public is invited to view the livestream at the theatre for \$20 or for free online at YouTube. For a link to the livestream and auction, which goes live on November 29, visit childrensfoundationofamerica.org.

FRIDAY 12/2



• The City of Claremont's holiday **promenade and tree lighting ceremony** will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Village Depot. The annual tree lighting happens at 6 p.m. During the evening, Village business will double as cheer stops, providing free holiday treats and deals to attendees. For more event details visit ci.claremont.ca.us.

• Join the City of Upland at the Upland Civic Center courtyard, 460 N. Euclid Ave., as the city rings in the holiday season with its **seventh annual tree lighting celebration**. Festivities will begin at dusk, about 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY 12/3

• Have **breakfast with Santa Claus** at the Gibson Senior Center, 250 N.

Third Ave., Upland, beginning at 8 a.m. Admission is \$6 per person and a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, juice, and coffee will be served. For more info visit uplandca.gov.

• Join the City of La Verne for a **holiday stroll throughout old town** from 4 to 8 p.m. between D and 3rd streets. Businesses and restaurants will be open for an evening of merriment featuring the annual telling of a holiday classic story, the lighting of the Christmas tree, caroling, live music, free photo ops with Santa and more. For more details visit cityoflaverne.org.

SUNDAY 12/4

• Ring in the season with **Messiah**, a holiday concert by the Claremont Chorale and the Claremont Colleges Joint Music Program at Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 Harrison Ave., from 4 to 6 p.m. today. Tickets begin at \$20. Information and tickets can be found at claremontchorale.org/concerts.



MONDAY 12/5

• For those who can't get enough tree lightings, the City of La Verne's **annual**

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tree lighting ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. outside city hall, 3660 D St., La Verne. The evening will feature the lighting, carols sung by Bonita High School's Chamber Singers and chances to take pictures with Santa Claus. For more details go to cityoflaverne.org.

TUESDAY 12/6

• All can enjoy a special **winter wonderland edition of story time** at the Glendora Public Library, 140 S. Glendora Ave., which begins at 6:30 p.m. in the library's friends room. Call (626) 852-4891 for information.



THURSDAY 12/8

• Party with the Claremont Senior Program at the Joslyn Center, 660 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont, during its **winter social event**. Celebrate with a fun afternoon of seasonal refreshments, activities, dancing and more. Attendance is \$10. To register or to learn more visit anc.apm.activecommunities.com.

FRIDAY 12/9

• The American Museum of Ceramic Art, 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, opens its **treasure sale** and holiday market starting at 11 a.m. Shop from more than

20 AMOCA studio and resident artists and procure one-of-a-kind ceramic finds. To register, visit amoca.org/events.

SATURDAY 12/10

• The **Glendora Christmas parade** starts at 9 a.m. at Bennett and Glendora avenues. The parade will then proceed south on Glendora Avenue to Foothill Boulevard, turn west, and continue to Grand Avenue and head north until it terminates at Bennett Avenue. The parade's motto this year is "all about kids" and the theme is "an old-fashioned Christmas." For details, visit business.glendora-chamber.org.

• The Pomona Fairplex's annual **holiday half marathon** returns to the fairgrounds, 1101 W. McKinley Ave, Pomona, with bib pick up beginning at 6 a.m. Races begin with the kids penguin waddle at 9:45 a.m. Race and registration details can be found at runholidayhalf.com.



SUNDAY 12/11

• Celebrate the holiday season and 60 years of the **Pomona Valley Corvette Club** with a party at the Sycamore Inn, 8318 Foothill Blvd., Rancho Cucamonga, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets begin at \$25 per PVCC member and \$30 for non-members. Information about the event can be found at pvca.org.

MONDAY 12/12



• Locals wanting to take **pet pictures with Santa Claus** can do so at Montclair Place, 5060 N Montclair Ln., today from 4 to 8 p.m. Pet pictures with Santa take place every Monday at the mall. To make a reservation, visit montclairplace.com.

TUESDAY 12/13

• The Claremont Chamber of Commerce's monthly **business over breakfast** event will have a holiday twist in December. Breakfast will still commence at 7:30 a.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 555 W. Foothill Blvd., Claremont. Admission is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members. Register at business.claremontchamber.org/events.

WEDNESDAY 12/14

• It's never too late to give. Donate today to the **Foothill Family Shelter's** ongoing initiatives and projects for the holiday season, located at 1501 W. Ninth St., suite D, Upland. For ways to help, log on to foothillfamilyshelter.org.



THURSDAY 12/15

• Granite Creek Community Church, 1580 N. Claremont Blvd., Claremont, opens its **21st annual living nativity** today. Four free displays of biblical scenes come to life will be open to the public until Sunday, December 18. To register, visit granitecreek.org/living-nativity.

FRIDAY 12/16

• Looking for a unique, meaningful gift for someone? The Claremont Forum's **quarterly book sale** begins today and will end on Sunday, December 18. All books (except specialty price ones) are just one dollar each from noon to 9 p.m. all three days. Purchases support the Forum's Prison Library project. For more details visit claremontforum.org.

SATURDAY 12/17

• Celebrate Stargazer Productions 29th Christmas season with **Tibbies' Holiday Follies**. The 2 p.m. celebration will be held in the Lewis Family Playhouse, 12505 Cultural Center Dr., Rancho Cucamonga. Tickets range from \$40 to \$45. For details visit cityofrc.us.

SUNDAY 12/18

• Today marks the first day of **Hanukkah 2022**.

• Free and open to the public performances of "**The Light of Hope Returning**", an American folk oratorio by

continued on next page

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What's happening Claremont?

BY ANDREW ALONZO

calendar@claremont-courier.com

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composer Shawn Kirchner, will be held today at 4 p.m. and on Wednesday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the La Verne Church of the Brethren, 2425 E St., La Verne. Following the concert, join friends around a courtyard bonfire to meet the singers while enjoying Christmas cookies. For more info, visit shawnkirchner.com.

p.m. concert, "On with the Snow," at Claremont United Church of Christ, 233 W. Harrison Ave., Claremont. The show, an encore of Monday's performance, celebrates the holiday season with music from Broadway, television and movies. General admission begins at \$10. For more info visit chschoir.org/16-17-choral-season.

Ave., Pomona, takes **donations** of nonperishable food and hygiene products from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (909) 622-3806 beforehand to ensure someone can receive your donation.

SUNDAY 12/25

MONDAY 12/19

- Leave the **gift wrapping** to Children's Foundation of America volunteers this year. At Montclair Place, 5060 N. Montclair Ln., CFA will provide gift wrapping services for donations throughout December from 2 to 8 p.m. at its first-floor store near the main entrance hall between Verizon and Santa Claus. For more information, visit childrensfoundationofamerica.org.



WEDNESDAY 12/21

- Bundle up well as today marks the **first day of winter**.

FRIDAY 12/23

- Today's the **last day to donate** to the Children's Foundation of America's holiday heroes gift drive. To shop CFA's gift list or to view the location of the collection sites, visit childrensfoundationofamerica.org.



- **Merry Christmas** to all from the Courier. Be sure to wake up early to see Santa Claus riding through parts of Claremont. For information on Santa's arrival on Christmas, call the city at (909) 399-5460.

TUESDAY 12/20

- The Claremont High School choir and El Roble Panther chorus hold a 7

THURSDAY 12/22

- Monday through Thursday, the Inland Valley Hope Partner's administrative office, located at 1753 N. Park

SATURDAY 12/24

- It's **Christmas Eve**. Be sure to leave out milk and cookies for ol' St. Nick.



- In observance of the holiday, the **Claremont Farmers and Artisans Market** will be closed. Regular market hours will return next Sunday, New Year's Day.



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Wash fruits & veggies in a bowl of water rather than rinsing, then use the leftover water for house plants.



If you have a dishwasher, wait until it is full before you run a load.

Choose the proper pot size to boil food in as little water as possible.



Soak pots & pans. For other dishes, fill one basin with wash water & another with rinse water, to avoid running the faucet.



Thaw frozen foods overnight in the fridge rather than running water over them.

Holiday grouch realization: maybe it's me?



Going There

by Mick Rhodes

I sat down to write a (hopefully) humorous column about how I have come to loathe the manufactured pomp and grueling parental labor of the holiday season.

But as I worked my way through my crabby diatribe, I began to realize my adult perception of the sheer drudgery of Christmas may not be labor-related at all: maybe I'm just lonely.

For the record, between my wife and I we have nine children, so when I say I'm lonely, it's not for lack of kids to keep things hopping. No, I mean I'm perhaps still in some sort of unconscious mourning for my own frozen in amber version of Christmas past, when my family was intact before time, illness, or bad luck permanently altered the landscape.

Digging into the feelings, as one does during the holidays, I suspect like most obstacles in my life there's some trauma holding me back from becoming an adult. Yes, I just turned 59, but pining for the carefree Christmases of my long gone youth is pretty much the definition of childish.

Could this be why I despise the yearly churn of shopping, decorating, shopping, wrapping, shopping, cleaning, shopping, cooking, setting, serving, cleaning, undecorating, and cleaning?

What is undeniable is Christmas (with apologies to those who celebrate in other ways) occupies a mystical place in my memory. What was not to love? Family gathered, and presents piled up under the tree magically. After the early morning frenzy of gifts and food, the adults played pinocle, and us kids played with our new toys and ran around outside. It was heaven. All joy.

But like all theatrical productions, the show from the seats varied from what was happening backstage. And as I aged out of the sheer magic years I began to notice aunts and uncles bickering in the kitchen, the tired faces most of the adults, and the rolling eyes when one aunt got a little too far into the Chablis.

As the years went by some of us "kids" paired up with mates and drifted off to other family's celebrations. Later we had kids of our own and naturally wanted our own traditions.

Then of course the older generation began dying, first the grandparents, then the parents. Now it's just us "kids," and we're the old folks in charge of bringing the magic on Christmas morning. And after 30-some years of parenting it has become increasingly difficult to recreate the illusion.

Don't misunderstand: I still want to make my kids happy on Christmas morning. It's just that pretty much everything connected to that moment of joy is a drag for adults.

We spend our holidays buying, wrapping, buying more, wrapping more, figuring out what to cook, shopping, cooking, cleaning, and transporting said food and presents, setting up the big show, and then watching it all be torn to pieces. Then, round two: cleaning it all

up, washing all the dishes, and cramming leftovers into the fridge. At about 10 p.m., we might finally sit down.

It's a slog. It's not fun. It's not magic. It's drudgery.

I want to be like most people, the ones whose eyes light up when Costco puts out its holiday decorations in August (only a slight exaggeration). Honestly though, the life-sized Nutcrackers and 100-foot strands of color-changing LED lights only cue my anxiety over the approaching season.

Writing all this down has given me insight into my resentment. For example, it's probable there's also a dash of laziness in there with the grief preventing me from enjoying the holidays. I've never relished decorating the house. I prefer minimalism. My wife Lisa says she's a "maximalist," and her warming influence on my previously stark style has been profound and well-received by everyone (including me) who's been by since we were married in June. It remains to be seen whether her good taste and style will materialize in more holiday spirit around our pet- and kid-filled house.

If it does, perhaps that will help ease my worried holiday mind. I suspect it will.

My grief, though admittedly childish, is legit. My once



One-year-old Claremont resident Leia Valiente cries while having her picture taken with Santa Claus outside Claremont City Hall on Friday during last year's Holiday Promenade and Tree Lighting ceremony Claremont. COURIER photo/Andrew Alonzo

modestly-sized family is scattered to the wind, either through death or from drifting apart. And though we all must endure this living and dying business, just because it's part of the human condition doesn't make it any less powerful. We're all experiencing it to differing degrees every single day as kids are born and people die.

The holidays, and the indelibly linked memories each of us carry, can be a source of joy or serve as reminders of all we've lost and miss. Sometimes — and perhaps this is the ideal — they serve both functions.

If we can get past the sadness, we wrap our arms around the family we have now and be grateful. That's where the bar is for me; I want to stop thinking about my own grief and remember that magic I felt seeing my mom light up when I opened the gift she worked hard to afford. I want to be like her and be there in that moment for my kids, instead of holding on to the sadness over who's missing.

I'm going to do my best to live in gratitude — and not in the past — this holiday season.

I do reserve the right to grouse about the drudgery though. One can't expect Christmas miracles.



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Community Connections

ANIMAL SHELTERS:

INLAND VALLEY HUMANE SOCIETY SPCA

500 Humane Way, Pomona • 909-623-9777 • ivhsspc.org
 Shelter Hours: Monday through Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Adoption Appointments: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon; Kennel walk-throughs: Monday through Saturday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Since 1949, IVHS has promoted awareness and educated the public about its responsibility for all living creatures. Dedicated to giving shelter and medical care to unwanted, abandoned and injured animals and

preventing animal cruelty. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and are always needed.

ANIMAL RESCUE:

PRICELESS PET RESCUE, THE ORPHANAGE

665 E. Foothill Blvd., unit E, Claremont • pricelesspetrescue.org • info@pricelesspetrescue.org
 Open: Tuesday through Friday noon to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday noon to 5 p.m.
 "Saving one-by-one until there are none. Priceless Pet Rescue is a nonprofit, no-kill pet rescue operating out of

multiple adoption centers known as "The Orphanage." All animals are rescued from surrounding high-kill, high-access shelters, owner surrenders on a case-by-case basis, and other various circumstances.

CEMETERIES:

OAK PARK CEMETERY

410 S. Sycamore Ave., Claremont • 909-399-5487
 Office hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; cemetery open from dawn to dusk. Located on 10 acres of shaded tree groves and manicured grounds in southeast Claremont, Oak Park Cemetery has been providing a resting place for residents of the Pomona Valley for more than 100 years. Oak Park is a publicly-owned cemetery, honoring interments for members of all faiths, and offers special benefits for American veterans. Fresh-cut flowers, potted plants and permanent plantings are permitted. The cemetery is always open to visitors, although vehicle traffic is excluded after sundown.

FRIENDS OF OAK PARK CEMETERY

410 S. Sycamore Ave., Claremont • 909-399-5487
 As an independent nonprofit organization, the Friends of Oak Park Ceme-

tery raises funds through membership donations and special events in order to finance amenities and improvements at Oak Park. The board of directors meets the first Monday of each month at the cemetery office.

POMONA VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK

502 E. Franklin Ave., Pomona • 909-622-2029
 Cemetery grounds, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Mausoleum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Private, nonprofit association serving all faiths since 1876. Ground burial or interment, crypt entombment, columbariums for urn placement and pre-need arrangements.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

ANTHESIS (Pomona Valley Workshop)

1063 W. 6th, Ontario • 909-624-3555 • anthesis.us
 Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Anthesis provides services to residents of eastern LA County and western San Bernardino County. Anthesis provides traditional and innovative rehabilitation services and works cooperatively with the Department of Rehabilitation and the Regional Centers for the Developmentally Disabled, the Los

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Community Connections

continued from page 14

Angeles and San Bernardino County schools, and private rehabilitation agencies. Volunteers needed.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF POMONA VALLEY

693 N. Palomares St., Pomona • 909-629-6142 • alp.org

The League operates a center providing services for children whose families cannot afford dental care. The league also sponsors the Operation School Bell program, providing school clothing for children in need and a Christmas program that reaches many families each year. The Assistance League produces Assault Survivor Kits, as well as the Cubs for Kids distribution that gives teddy bears to children experiencing trauma. Volunteers and clothing needed.

CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

PO Box 1210, Claremont • 909-426-0773 • childrensfoundationofamerica.org

Claremont-based nonprofit providing an opportunity for every person to help children heal, learn and thrive. Over 400,000 children each year are unable to live with their families due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment. These children in foster care, shelters, and

continued on next page



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Community Connections

continued from page 15

underserved communities are often not afforded the same opportunities as their peers. With the support of donors and volunteers like you, the Children's Foundation of America provides children in need with new backpacks, school supplies, graduation and prom attire, holiday and birthday gifts, scholarships, handmade blankets and cards, music lessons, tutoring, new clothes and shoes, and so much more.

Get involved with volunteer and fundraising activities throughout the year. Be the difference: Bring hope and joy to the lives of children in need.

WEST END AUXILIARY OF CHILDREN'S FUND

P.O. Box 134, Claremont • Contact: Sherry Hughes 909-973-6668 • westendauxiliary.org

Its mission is giving vulnerable children support, opportunity, and hope by breaking destructive cycles through community partnerships. The purpose of this

organization is to raise community awareness, raise funds and carry out projects in support of children at risk. Support is given through an emergency needs program, care campaigns, and a holiday celebration of giving. Opportunity is given to foster youth by providing college scholarships, mentoring programs, computer camps and sports camps. Hope is given to children suffering child physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect by being evaluated and cared for at the children's assessment center. More than 66,215 children and vulnerable youth benefited from the funds donated this past year.

CLAREMONT EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
112 Harvard Ave., Ste. 191, Claremont • 909-399-1709 • supportcef.com

CEF is an independent, community-based nonprofit organization, founded in 1991 as Ed Net, to benefit the Claremont Unified School District. Its mission is

to promote quality public education in Claremont through community involvement. CEF sponsors fundraising events, solicits corporate donations and receives donations from parents, businesses and community members. Volunteers needed.

ECONOMY SHOP

325 W. First St., Claremont • 909-626-7334 • econclaremont.com

Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed mid-June until August 31. This all-volunteer nonprofit thrift store raises funds through the sale of donated clothing, small household items, books and toys. Profits are granted to local charities.

INLAND VALLEY HOPE PARTNERS

660 N. Mountain Ave., Claremont • 909-621-2400 • inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The mission of the Inland Valley Hope Partners, a collaboration of churches, individuals, businesses and community groups, is to ensure the empowerment of people in need by providing food, shelter and supportive services. Volunteers are needed to provide help with the emergency shelter, with food security program, in the office and as drivers/companions.

KEEPING THE GOOD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

2058 N. Mills Ave. suite. 530, Claremont • info@kgnh.net • facebook.com/kgnhgood

KGNH is a neighborhood watch group founded in 2008 that is "committed to vigilant kindness." Its mission is to strengthen the community through a partnership with the Claremont Police Department, LA County Sheriff's Department, and city leaders.

SHOES THAT FIT

1420 N. Claremont Blvd., suite 204a, Claremont • 482-0050 • shoesthatfit.org • info@shoesthatfit.org

Open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Shoes That Fit provides new shoes and clothing to schoolchildren in an effort to build their self-esteem, so they can attend school in comfort and with dignity. Schools are matched with local sponsoring groups. School staff identifies and measures the children most in need. Whatever is bought for the child goes directly to the child. All donations are tax deductible. Volunteers needed.

TRINITY YOUTH SERVICES

PO Box 1210, Claremont • Claremont Mission Office 909-825-5588 • trinityys.org

Since 1966, Trinity Youth Services has provided quality foster care, adoption, mental health and residential therapeutic programs with the mission to create a better future for children and families. More than 400,000 children each year are in need of a safe, loving home. Foster care provides an opportunity for children to find safety and normalcy until permanency can be achieved through reunification or adoption. Resource parents certified through Trinity Youth Services receive 24/7 support and are certified to foster and adopt. Foster care offices are located in Rancho Cucamonga and Monterey Park. Partner with Trinity Youth Services to provide the love, care and nurturing every child needs. To begin your foster care journey, call 888-346-9645 or email info@trinityys.org to learn about becoming a foster or adoptive parent.

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The Benjamin family home on Richmond Drive is all decked out for Christmas in December 2019. COURIER photo/Steven Felschndneff

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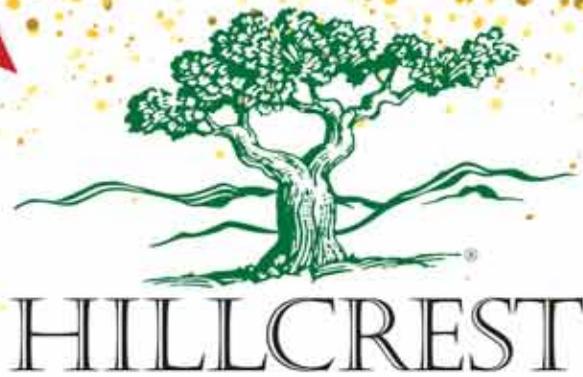


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