Ode to the Welfare State

(At the end of the U.S. Congress session in 1949, an Ohio Republican representative introduced the following, describing its author only as a prominent Democrat from the State of Georgia, and entitled “Democratic Dialogue.”)

Father, must I go to work?
No, my lucky son,
We’re going on an Eek Street,
On dough from Washington.

We’ve left it up to Uncle Sam,
So don’t get exercised.
Nobody has to give a damn –
We’ve all been subsidized.
But if Sam treats us all so well,
And feeds us milk and honey,
Please, daddy, tell me what the hell
He’s going to use for money.

Don’t worry, bub, there’s not a hitch
In this here noble plan –
He simply soaks the rich,
And helps the common man.

But, father, won’t there come a time
When they run out of cash,
And we have left them not a dime
When things will go to smash?

My faith in you is shrinking, son.
You nosy little brat:
You do too damn much thinking, son,
To be a DEMOCRAT!
(November, 1949)
Valley Voice (November 2015)

Children Asked to Write Paper About Grandma and Grandpa – This is Gold!

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people’s.
A grandfather is a man, and a grandmother is a lady! Grandparents don’t have to do anything except be there when we come to see them…They are so old they don’t play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like
Is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

They are so old they don’t play hard or run. It
It’s funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

Losing Our Police

By Dennis R. Zine

Shootings and killings don’t just occur in South Los Angeles, but in the entire San Fernando Valley and other neighborhoods of this sprawling City. Many LA communities are experiencing a rise in violent and property crime rates. Pundits talk about measure 109, Proposition 47 or any number of reasons. The cause of this can be debated for hours.

But the problem is that crime is happening and the number of victims is growing. And what is the LAPD doing about this deadly crime trend in the San Fernando Valley and other regions of our city? They are deploying more and more officers, command staff personnel and other resources from the San Fernando Valley to South Los Angeles.

The San Fernando Valley and other portions of Los Angeles pay heavy taxes but are not receiving the city services they pay for.

When you hear that the LAPD is increasing the Elite Metropolitan Division by hundreds of officers, you need to know that those officers are coming from your local police stations. All the San Fernando Valley LAPD Divisions have been hit hard by the redeployment of personnel to Metro and ultimately to South Los Angeles. I have learned that this re-deployment trend is occurring at an alarming rate.

But here’s a simple question: Should the residents and business owners of the San Fernando Valley and other regions of Los Angeles continue to have their police resources re-deployed out of their communities for extended periods of time? It is getting more and more difficult to recruit qualified people to join the LAPD given all the anti-police activity and killing of officers taking place in our country. Recruitment here in LA is at an all-time low.

President Obama and other elected officials are failing to address the hostility of the many groups that are protesting against the police in America. There is a growing lack of respect and admiration for the men and women who make the commitment to “Protect and Serve” their communities as police officers.

I urge you to visit your local LAPD Police Station and meet with your Senior Lead Officer. Ask him or her about your community and the level of policing. Better yet, get involved in one of the programs in your neighborhood…your Neighborhood Council, the local Chamber of Commerce or any other good cause. It will be time well spent.

(Dennis R. Zine is a 33 year member of the Los Angeles Police Department and a 12 year member of the Los Angeles City Council and current LAPD Reserve Officer - CityWatch)

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Tampa RUs Going On...

By Wendy L. Moore for the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

RVs have been parked on Tampa north of Rinaldi in Porter Ranch for many years, with six or more often found on one side of the street or another. It seems this stretch of road has been a good location for RV owners to store their vehicles, or possibly even to live in them.

With the repaving of Tampa at the beginning of the year and parking eliminated from the east side of the street, the RVs have been concentrated on the west side of Tampa. If a vehicle is not moved within 72 hours, it may be ticketed. Attempts to report the vehicles to LAPD parking enforcement have been ineffective, as owners may move their vehicle just a few inches before the 72 hour deadline, and avoid ticketing.

This effort has been further complicated by the fact that each side of the road is under the jurisdiction of a different Senior Lead Officer at the LAPD.

Porter Ranch residents have complained for years about the blighted look this creates for the community and their concerns reached a crescendo this summer at the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meetings. The issue was brought to Council Member Mitchell Englander’s office who took it on. John Lee, Chief of Staff for Englander, reported at the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council meeting on October 14 that they have collaborated with the neighboring home owner’s association and the Department of Transportation in search of an agreeable solution. Englander will be introducing a motion at City Council in the coming weeks to eliminate oversized vehicle parking from 10pm to 6am. Look for a new RV-free Tampa in the near future.

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council invites you to their next meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 6pm at the Porter Ranch Community School, where City Attorney Mike Feuer will be the guest speaker. Find out more at PRNC.org.
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10/20 - 9:30 - 11 a.m.

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10/21 - 3:30 - 5 p.m.
10/22 - 9:30 - 11 a.m.
10/28 - 3:30 - 5 p.m.

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Dugouts in 2016? Many Reasons for Hope

By Phil Wallace

While Dodger fans are understandably depressed now, there is reason for hope. All four teams advancing to the playoffs – Mets, Cubs, Royals, and Blue Jays – were the product of a plan that took years to develop. The first three teams slowly and painstakingly built up their farm base to create young, athletic, and well-balanced rosters that are just starting to thrive. The Blue Jays went in a slightly different direction, using their great farm system to trade for stars like David Price, Josh Donaldson, and Troy Tulowitzki, but there’s some homegrown talent too.

Fortunately, the Dodgers farm system is just starting to produce the major leaguers it’s supposed to. And under Andrew Friedman’s guidance, they are finding good young players in creative and unique ways. Up-and-coming Corey Seager, Joe Pederson, Kike Hernandez, Yasmani Grandal, Alex Wood, Luis Avilan, and Chris Hatcher are already making valuable contributions at the major league level. The Dodgers have more money to spend on international players than any other team. And the farm system has now improved to the point where it’s No. 31 in baseball America.

In the meantime, there are a few thoughts about the Dodgers as they prepare for next season:

1) The first part of the playoffs was Wallach

For the most part, I have faith in the way Mattingly managed the Dodgers in the playoffs. His one major mistake came with putting Pedro Baez in relief against Clayton Kershaw in the 7th inning of Game 1. While Kershaw seemed gassed, Baez was about the worst guy to bring in with the bases loaded and two outs.

Even Ron Darling on the broadcast pointed out that first batters hit .320 against Baez. Mattingly should have put in the former Indians and Nationals manager Manny Acta, and Wakamatsu, Giants bench coach Ron Wotus, former Padres manager Bud Black, former Cubs manager Rick Renteria, former Indians and Nationals manager Manny Acta, and Raul Ibanez.

2) Re-sign Zach Greinke

Greinke is a strong candidate to win the Cy Young Award this year, and he’ll opt out of his contract in order to receive another enormous payday. Normally, I’d be strongly opposed to the Dodgers signing another year old pitcher who’s lost a bit on his fastball to a nine-figure contract.

But the Dodgers have more money than any other club. They don’t have much depth in their rotation, which was painfully obvious in Game 3 of the NLDS. Greinke is one of the most intelligent and cerebral pitchers in the game, and I’m convinced that he’ll find a way to remain an elite player for at least three more seasons. I think he can probably be decent for at least three more seasons. I think he can probably be decent for at least three more seasons. I think he can probably be decent for at least three more seasons. I think he can probably be decent for at least three more seasons.

3) Trade Ethier, not Puig

Another reason the Dodgers had a terrific bounce back season in 2015. His attitude has dramatically improved, and he proved that he can still play every day. That’s exactly why Ethier should be traded. He’ll be 34 next season, and this is probably the last window that he’ll have trade value.

In the meantime, Yasiel Puig’s value has never been lower. Amidst criticism that he’s a bad clubhouse presence, an injury-stymied Puig slumped to his worst season ever. But Puig is too talented to give away. His contract is fairly reasonable by today’s current market. The Dodgers are best off putting Puig on an intense offseason training program, and hoping he comes back in 2016 to realize his other-worldly potential.

By dealing them, they might be able to free up salary to pay Greinke. Or they might get a useful piece in return. Or at least they might be able to free up salary to pay Greinke. Or they might get a useful piece in return.

4) Keep playing the kids

Corey Seager and Joe Pederson got a lot of attention this season, but the Dodgers have more talented young players than one might realize. While some thought the Dee Gordon trade was about Howie Kendrick, it was also about Kike Hernandez, Chris Hatcher, and to a lesser degree, Austin Barnes. And while some thought this year’s trade deadline deal was about Matt Lottos and Jim Johnson, it was also about Alex Wood and Laila Alvarez.

Hernandez should be a regular in the lineup next year, whether it’s in the outfield or at second base. While Pederson struggled in the second half, he should improve next year with experience and a strong offseason training program.
The football team at Sierra Canyon has a high powered offense that is averaging over 51 points per game and, through October, the Trailblazers are undefeated with a record of 8-0, after defeating Brentwood 49-24.

Sierra Canyon's success in athletics is not limited to the 2015 football team. In 2011, after only 3 years holding an eleven man team, the Trailblazers were CIF state champions in their division. Earlier this year, both the boys and girls basketball teams won CIF state championship titles. For the girls' team it was their third consecutive state title. The school offers a full slate of sports teams, including co-ed cross country, swimming, and track. The Chatsworth school also competes in boys and girls tennis, as well as soccer, baseball, softball, lacrosse, and golf.

There is an interesting back story that accompanies Sierra Canyon's athletic success. The school's history shows that it opened its doors in 1978, with about 150 students in grades K through 6. The school was founded as a co-ed, non-sectarian private center of learning. In 1990, a mere twelve years after accepting its first students, the school was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education with the Blue Ribbon Award of Excellence in Education.

To put this in perspective, it was the only school in Los Angeles, and private school in California, to receive this prestigious honor. Recognizing a need, an Upper School was opened in 2006. The Lower School campus includes children in grades K-6, with the adjacent Upper School campus serving students in grades 7 through 12. The first senior class graduated in 2009.

Concurrent with developing a strong academic program is the development of extra-curricular activities such as the arts, music, and athletics. The focus here will be on athletics. What can sports participation contribute to the growth and development of a young person?

Sierra Canyon School Trailblazers Football is Blazing Hot

By David Powell

November, 2015

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Bishop Alemany High School has been notified by the College Board that they have been accepted into the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma Program beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. The AP Capstone Diploma Program was developed at the request of College Board Higher Education membership. The AP Capstone program is built on the foundation of two new AP courses – AP Seminar and AP Research – and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through other AP courses. Students who earn scores of a 3 or higher in both AP Capstone courses and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma. The AP Capstone diploma is highly sought after by top colleges and universities.

The AP Capstone Diploma program will enhance the current successful AP program at Bishop Alemany High School. Bishop Alemany High School programs continue to inspire students to build the “4C” skills that are essential in this era in which we live: critical thinking, communication, creativity and collaboration. Bishop Alemany High School students are inspired by Excellence and Empowered to Succeed.

Join us for Open House on Sunday, November 22, from noon to 4:30 p.m. to learn more about our AP Capstone program.

If you would like to receive more information on Bishop Alemany High School please contact the Community Outreach office at 818-837-5222 or e-mail outreach@alemany.org. For more information on the AP Capstone program visit collegeboard.org/apcapstone.

Bishop Alemany High School Unveils Engineering Program

Bishop Alemany High School is proud to announce that they have partnered with Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the nation’s leading provider of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Bishop Alemany together with PLTW will offer an exclusive four year engineering program for our incoming students. Bishop Alemany faculty member Mr. Martin Eick attended the PLTW Training Institute this summer. The Institute provides a collaborative setting where teachers are immersed in content-specific, project-based instruction. The Institute utilizes a three-phase process to provide comprehensive high school STEM education training, program resources, and teaching strategies for activity, project, and problem-based learning within the classroom.

Bishop Alemany High School will introduce the first course in the Engineering program to freshman and sophomore students this fall. Students will have the opportunity to enroll in Introduction to Engineering Design taught by Mr. Eick. This course is designed to teach problem solving skills using a design development process. Models of product solutions will be created and noted using cutting edge computer design modeling software and 3-D printing. Mr. Eick will help students develop the skills needed to succeed in college engineering programs.

Join the revolution for more information on Bishop Alemany High School please contact the Community Outreach office at 818-837-5222 / 818-837-5224 or e-mail outreach@alemany.org.

Unfinished Business at DWP: Trusts Can’t be Trusted

By Paul Hatfield

Bryan D’Arcy lost his appeal to block the Los Angeles City Controller from auditing two non-profit trusts of the Joint Institutes for Training and Safety – who have received $48-million in ratemakers’ cash over 10 years and have nothing of value to show for it.

Now, they have not actually spent all of it. The trusts have squirreled away a cash surplus of $11 million, enough to cover the inflated operating costs for almost three years.

A rainy day fund? That’s what D’Arcy and his minions want you to believe, DWP GM Marcie Edwards appeared to be satisfied with that and other underwhelming responses noted in the progress report she issued about reforms at the trusts. She offered no rebuttals, not even a hint of impatience, but then, what else would you expect from the person who referred to the half- audit Controller Galperin was allowed to conduct as “littered with accusatory inuendo and peppered with contrived category errors.”

So how are the reforms progressing?

Let’s start by saying none of what has been proposed is rocket science.

About the only definitive accomplishment was the trusts amending employees’ W-2s for gasoline reimbursements. It goes to show, even D’Arcy thinks twice about tangling with the IRS over unreported income.

How about eliminating no-bid contracts?

The Daily News reported: “The trusts ‘strengthened’ their internal policies and went to two bidders, to ‘complement and enhance’ the in-depth, discipline-specific study provided through other AP courses. Students who earn scores of a 3 or higher in both AP Capstone courses and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone Diploma. The AP Capstone diploma is highly sought after by top colleges and universities.

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Greetings from the City of Los Angeles, where no one knows your name. At last estimate, Los Angeles' population topped 3.9 million. In 1958, when the city was first incorporated, approximately 1,600 people lived here. In the last 65 years LA's size and population have changed in almost every conceivable way.

But this growth hasn't been accompanied by any growth in our aspirations for being represented by public officials who know us and our concerns firsthand. Indeed, our aspirations in this political arena -- to be fairly represented and to prevent the concentration of power -- may have atrophied.

Since the city's first charter was put into effect in 1899, Angelenos have set up a system of government based on the desire to contain and diffuse power, and to protect ourselves from officeholders. The result is that it has long been hard to tell who is in charge. Power is purposefully spread out between the mayor, the city attorney and the city controller, and the 15-member city council.

Today, each councilmember represents 260,000 Angelenos -- about 6½ times the number a councilmember represented in 1925.

The city has attempted to make bold changes to the charter in the early 1970s, but all they succeeded in doing was adding power for one group of officials and taking it away for others.

In 1999, at the end of a decade in which city government seemed powerless in response to riots and the San Fernando Valley sought to secede from the city, LA city voters approved a charter that strengthened the power of the mayor and created a system of neighborhood councils in an effort to increase civic participation across the city. It was largely an acknowledgment of LA's size and diversity. It was also a concession that 15 city councilmembers could not be appropriately responsive to the needs of such a large city.

Los Angeles currently has the highest councilmember-to-resident ratio in the country and one of the lowest percentages of voter turnout in local elections.

In our most recent city elections, approximately nine percent of those registered to vote did so. In the election prior to that, in 2013, just over 20 percent of registered voters showed up to the polls despite a competitive mayoral election.

And less than half of eligible voters bother to register. That means a city councilmember can be elected with about 13,000 votes -- just five percent of their district.

Many Angelenos may say they want elected officials to represent us fairly and be responsive to our needs. But how can they do this well when each member represents over a quarter million residents?

(Jessica Levinson is a professor at Loyola Law School where she teaches election law and political reform issues. She also serves as the president of the Los Angeles Ethics Commission.)

CityWatch
Local Politics Is a Waste of Time

By Joe Mathews

The LA Times a couple of weeks ago wrote a hand-wringing story about a new poll showing that fewer Californians care about local politics as worthwhile. The poll noted that local politics used to have a bit of a halo -- people famously hated what they saw in Washington or Sacramento, but liked their own local officials and thought local political involvement was worthwhile.

But the findings of the LA Times/USC Dornsife poll showed disenchantment. More than a quarter of California voters say elected officials aren’t responsive to their needs. Forty-nine percent said their community didn’t benefit when they donated money to a candidate. Fewer than seven in ten voters thought that volunteering for a candidate would help their community. The Times noted that there were still big consensuses on the community benefit of volunteering for civic groups (90 percent), discussing events (83 percent), and giving money to charity (84 percent).

Much of the story then sought to rationalize why people had turned against such a supposedly good local political involvement. The big theory was that disgust at national politics was bleeding into local.

The story didn’t entertain another theory -- that the skeptics about local political involvement are right to stay away.

The case against local political involvement is strong in California. Local governments have little power and discretion in our highly centralized and regulated state.

CityWatch
An Inside View: Current City Hall Shenanigans

By Dennis P. Zine

While you have been struggling to make ends meet for you and your family, battling the ever increasing seven-day a week congestion and gridlock on our local freeways, your Los Angeles City Council has been at work coming up with ways to spend more of your money, reduce your protection as an American Citizen and continue to expose you to a substandard quality of life.

Let's begin with all the talk about increasing taxes in Los Angeles, especially the move to raise the sales tax to address our slow and cumbersome public transportation system. These elected officials want to improve public transportation by taking more of your money to increase the number of buses, trains and bicycle lanes. But these systems don’t serve most of the working people of Los Angeles. In all honesty, they mostly serve the transit dependent population.

Let me remind you of my own experiences with Metro's Orange, Red and Blue Lines about taking public transit from the West Valley to a Dodger game. It began with the Orange Line and then to the Red Line that took me to Union Station where I took the Dodger Express Bus to the ballpark. Two and a half hours from the West Valley to Dodger Stadium. Not a very efficient means of transportation.

We all know that we are always on earthquake watch in Los Angeles. While we frequently have small quakes all around Southern California, there is the constant concern that the “BIG ONE” will hit someday. The LA City Council recently passed a motion to require thousands of apartment owners to spend thousands of dollars to retrofit their buildings. Since the Governor scratched any form of tax credit for this safety measure, the cost will most likely be the responsibility of those renting units throughout Los Angeles. There goes another rent increase!

Then there’s guns and ammo. The wisdom of the two Paul Ks (Koretz and Krekorian) has the council moving forward with an extra fee for when you purchase a gun in Los Angeles. You will be forced to pay an extra $25 when purchasing a gun and between 2 to 5 cents extra for every round of ammo. Koretz, “anti” most things that are good for you, believes that the money can then be used for violence prevention programs. The problem is, the money will go into the deep dark hole at City Hall.

The council has voted to permit cat owners the opportunity to enjoy the love and attention you can receive from five rather than three cats in your home. While we are on the subject of creatures, how about the council approving bee hives in your backyard? You can now raise bees along with your five cats.

While the LA City Council deals with these kinds of measures that have little impact on your life and happiness, the city continues to see significant increases in crime. Recent reports show Hollywood Division with a 21 percent increase in violent crime in the past year. In addition, aggravated assaults are up 36.8 percent.

While the council deals with federal good motions and ordinances, our streets remain riddled with an abundance of potholes and the homeless population continues to grow throughout the city.

Dennis P. Zine is a 33 year member of the Los Angeles Police Department and former Vice-Chairman of the Elected Los Angeles City Charter Reform Commission, 12 year member of the Los Angeles City Council and current LAPD Reserve Officers.)
Following Jesus...More Than Just Reading a Tweet

By Pastor Dudley C. Rutherford - Shepherd of the Hills

In today’s technologically driven world, we feel connected to people we hardly know through social media. Old friends from high school, acquaintances, or even politicians, athletes, and celebrities. All you have to do is “like” or “follow” their page on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, and you’re instantly updated with everything they post.

The digital age is amazing! However, it can also lead to a false sense of relationship. You can begin to feel as though you have a friendship with your favorite television star, simply because you follow his or her 140-character Tweets. As believers in Jesus Christ, it is increasingly important that we never confuse superficial “observing” with true following and discipleship.

To be a true follower of Christ is more than just reading a Tweet or a Scripture verse. It goes way beyond the realm of simply being baptized and professing one’s faith in Him. It is more than just going to church every week, giving to the poor, or volunteering. It is much deeper.

So then, what does it take to be a true follower of Jesus? In Luke 9:23, Jesus told us what we need to do to follow Him: “If anyone desires to come after me let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23).

The first requirement in following Jesus is denying oneself. To deny oneself means saying no to our own needs, desires, wishes, and sinful habits. It means disengaging ourselves from earthly ties or distractions, thinking, and anything that keeps us from growing as Christians. This could be unhealthy relationships, habits, or possessions. Jesus said, “So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:33).

As you deny yourself, you allow God to change you into the person He desires you to be. You set your heart on what is eternal. “And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2). When we follow Jesus, we give up our will and, instead, seek His will in everything we do.

The second requirement in following Jesus is taking up your cross daily. Luke 14:27 says, “Whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” The cross is the symbol of suffering. As followers of Jesus, we are not immune from life’s pain and suffering. For some, it may be an illness, poverty, or the loss of a loved; for others, it may be a delayed promotion, a painful betrayal, or unjust treatment. As followers of Jesus, we need to remember that these trials and suffering are meant to strengthen our faith and rely on God’s grace. “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

The hardest cross that followers of Jesus may have to bear is the persecution by the world for being His follower. Jesus warned in John 15:18, “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first.” Paul echoes the sentiment in 2 Timothy 3:12, “In fact, everyone who desires to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” When Jesus said “Follow Me,” He was telling us to follow Him to the cross, to His ultimate mission. When believers follow Jesus, we release control of our lives to God. Like Peter, we drop everything when He calls. We drop all our idols and worldly desires and follow Him to the cross knowing that the road is painful and difficult. Like Jesus, we spread the Gospel of love and redemption. We emulate Him by investing our time, talent, and resources doing good for others as He did. We follow Him by walking in obedience, loving unconditionally, and setting our minds on things eternal.

Following Jesus will cost one everything, but in the end, there is everything to gain. Jesus gave us a powerful assurance that everyone who has left it all behind for Him will “receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life” (Matthew 19:29).

Edited by Carmencita F. Davino, Ph.D

(Dudley Rutherford is the senior pastor of the 10,000-member Shepherd Church in Porter Ranch. You can connect with Dudley online at www.WallsFallDownBook.com or on Twitter @pastordudley)

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November, 2015
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Palestinian leaders and six Arab members of a United Nations board, UNESCO, moved to recognize the Wall as part of the al-Aqsa Mosque?

14. Almost 80% of Israelis were against the recent Iran Bomb Deal?
- True or False?

15. Why do non-Muslim nations always support the Arab-Muslims?
   a. They need their oil
   b. They want to sell them goods and weapons
   c. The world has an estimated 1 billion anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic
   d. The fear of reprisals
   e. All of the above

16. Dalal Mughrabi is famous among Palestinians.
   a. She hijacked and blew up an Israel bus, killing 38 civilians.
   b. Palestinian schools have been named after her.
   c. Palestinian summer camps are named for her.
   d. A Palestinian town square bears her name.
   e. All of the above

17. How large is Israel compared to the size of the Arab world?
   a. 1/800th
   b. 2%
   c. 6%
   d. 8%
   e. 10%

18. How much larger is California than Israel?
   a. 5x
   b. 10x
   c. 15x
   d. 20x
   e. 25x

19. Jews have maintained a continuous presence in Israel for how many years?
   a. 500
   b. 1000
   c. 1500
   d. 2000
   e. 3000

20. Zion, Zionism? Curzed by most countries, but what does it mean?
   a. A dream of Jews returning and remaining in Jerusalem
   b. A dream of returning to all of Israel
   c. A dream of living in peace with all its neighbors
   d. A dream of Jews continuing as a minority in Jerusalem
   e. All of the above

21. It is estimated that the number of Muslims in the world numbers 1.6 billion, while the number of Jews globally is 14 million.
- True or False?

22. Shortly after the 1948 Middle East War, how many Jews were expelled from Arab States?
   a. 100,000
   b. 300,000
   c. 550,000
   d. 850,000
   e. 1,000,000

23. This was a larger number than all the Arabs that fled Israel by their own choice?
- True or False?

24. How many Arabs accepted Israel’s terms to remain?
   a. 25,000
   b. 50,000
   c. 130,000
   d. 160,000
   e. Very few

25. Historically, there has never been a Palestinian-Arab State in the West Bank, Israel, or Gaza?
- True or False?

26. In 1947 the Palestinians were offered their own state, beside a new state for Israel. Which one declined the partition plan?
- True or False?

27. Secretary of State Kerry blames the recent violence on a “massive increase of settlements.” Israel claims there has been virtually no increase of settlements and a dramatic decrease of settlement population over recent years. Israel's statement is:
   a. True or False?

28. A majority of Israelis wish for a two-state solution and living in peace with their neighbors. But a large percentage believe it is difficult because:
   a. The Palestinian culture of incitement and violence
   b. Hatred of Israel
   c. Refusal to recognize a Jewish state
   d. 93% of Palestinians believed to be anti-semantic
   e. All of the above

29. One-state or two-states? Who refuses to hold peace talks since recent polls show the majority of their people believe their mission is to conquer the other?
   a. Palestinians
   b. Israel
   c. Both

30. Hitler’s anti-semitic manifesto, Mein Kampf, first printed in 1923, will be reprinted in early 2016, first by Germany, with France expected to follow.
- True or False?

31. The al-Aksa site sits atop Jerusalem’s Temple Mount. The Supreme Moslem Council is 1924, published the following statement. “The site is one of the oldest in the world. The earliest (perhaps from prehistoric) site of Solomon’s Temple is beyond dispute, according to the universal belief.”
- True or False?

32. At the end of October, the association of all the Christian churches voted to have which of the following be responsible for the security at sites, now open to ALL faiths in the Holy Land?
   a. Palestinians
   b. USA
   c. United Nations
   d. Israel
   e. All of the above

33. The additional fears of an Israeli mother sending her children off to school are?
   a. A deadly knife attack
   b. Ramming by a car or truck
   c. Kidnapping
   d. Vocal death threats
   e. All of the above

34. Why is Israel known as the only Democracy in all of the Middle East?
- True or False?

35. The families of Arab terrorists are paid monthly pensions for murder and mayhem of innocents, the greater the crime, the more they receive, reported to total over $10,000,000 monthly. Much of this money is paid by other Arab nations and from Europe.
- True or False?

36. A recent Harvard Study shows that almost 80% of the Arabs living under Israeli protection would prefer to live there than anywhere else, including living under Palestinian Rule.
- True or False?
HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

St. Stephens Lutheran Church is hosting a holiday boutique on Friday, November 6, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Saturday, November 7, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The event will include unique hand-crafted gifts, holiday decorations, a bakery, coffee, music, and great food. The church is located at 19505 Chatsworth St. in Granada Hills. For more information, go to http://www.ststephenschurch.org.

PORTER RANCH LIBRARY

Join the Porter Ranch Library Advisory board as they celebrate the many improvements that have been made to their Equine Sport Complex in the last year and enjoy a day out on the Farm on Saturday, November 7, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Porter College Equine Center is located at 6201 Winnetka Ave. in Woodland Hills. For more information, go to www.equinecenterportercollege.org.

RIBBON CUTTING DRIVE

A great alliance between Council District 12, Rotary Clubs, area hospitals, two regions of the youth soccer league, and north Valley residents will again conduct the Valley's largest single-day blood drive of the season on Saturday, November 7, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at Granada Hills Recreation Center, 16730 Chatsworth St. and at North Valley Youth Sports Complex, 13100 Balboa Blvd. For more information, go to www.ribboncuttingvalleymd.org.

CHATSWORTH LIBRARY MOVIE NIGHT

Chatsworth Branch Library and the San Fernando Valley Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority invite you to a special screening of the movie, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. It will be performed on Thursday November 5th at 7 p.m., Friday November 6th at 7 p.m. and Saturday November 7th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The show will be in the campus multi-purpose room at 9825 Woodley Ave., Northridge. Presale Tickets are Students $10 and Adults $12. All tickets at the door are $15. Contact the performing Arts at Inchoen@Herschel-schools.org for more information or 818-894-5767 ext. 342.

ATTEND A CHURCH EVENT!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Andrew and St. Charles Episcopal Church. Films during the month of November include: Four book Volumes of C.S. Lewis’ classic tale depict the love and sacrifice needed to overcome darkness. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe will be performed on Thursday November 5th at 7 p.m., Friday November 6th at 7 p.m. and Saturday November 7th at 2 p.m and 7 p.m. The show will be in the campus multi-purpose room at 9825 Woodley Ave., Northridge. Presale Tickets are Students $10 and Adults $12. All tickets at the door are $15. Contact the performing Arts at Inchoen@Herschel-schools.org for more information or 818-894-5767 ext. 342.

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The Abronson Center for Judaic Arts at Temple Aliyah provides ways to connect to Judaism through art.

The weekend of November 13-15, 2015 is the official kick-off to what will eventually become a comprehensive Judaic Arts Program for Jewish adults in the San Fernando, Conejo and Santa Clarita Valleys, and all of Los Angeles. The inaugural weekend will provide a sampling of the programs that will be offered throughout the year.

What is the Abronson Center for Judaic Arts?
The Abronson Center for Judaic Arts' tag line is “Bringing Hiddur Mitzvah to Life.” Hiddur Mitzvah is “the enhancement or beautification of the mitzvah.” In other words, Jews are commanded not just to observe but to create, to beautify the mitzvah and to use a ritual object to perform a mitzvah, how much more meaningful will that object have if we made it ourselves? Or if we hang a mezuzah on our doorpost that we crafted?

Or if we recite the Shabbat blessings over our children or say the prayers over our Shabbat or holiday candles using candlesticks we created with our own hands?

Art brings, on a visceral level, beauty and meaning to our surroundings and improves our lives. It is through the creation of beautiful Judaic art, whether as a ritual object or a beautiful display piece with a Judaic theme that the Abronson Center for Judaic Arts seeks to enhance the lives of its students and the community at large.

How did the Abronson Center for Judaic Arts get started?
The Abronson Center for Judaic Arts came about through a generous grant by Charles Abronson who understood how important Temple Aliyah was to his family: son Richard Abronson, niece Marlene Abronson Widawer, and niece Judy Abronson, all three of whom are members of the synagogue. He wanted to create a lasting legacy not only to beautify the synagogue, but to honor the memory of his late brother, Walter, and his parents, Sadie and George.

The three cousins wanted to also find a way to use Charles’ grant to help people connect to their Judaism. All three have a passion for their faith, and they wanted to help others find ways to connect to their Judaism as well.

Marlene and Judy had been dabbling in art and always seemed to infuse Judaic themes in their work. For the two sisters, art was a way that they connected to their Judaism. So the cousins decided, partially because of their own personal interest in creating Judaic art and also as homage to Walter’s career as an architect and Sadie and George’s strong support of Israel and the Jewish faith that the community would benefit from a place where people could learn to express their Judaism through art they created themselves. With this generous grant, they wanted to help others do the same. And that’s how the Abronson Center for Judaic Arts was born.

How will the Abronson Center for Judaic Arts enhance Jewish life in Los Angeles?
The Abronson Center for Judaic Arts will be a prototype for community involvement through the arts. It will create opportunities for artists to teach their craft, share their passion, and show their work. More importantly, it will provide an opportunity for individuals of varying degrees of Jewish observance to connect to synagogue and Jewish life.

There is a sense of timelessness and something meaningful about creating Judaic art. It is a way not only for an individual to connect to his or her faith, but also a way to pass traditions from one generation to the next. The Abronson Center for Judaic Arts seeks to make art accessible to everyone, regardless of experience. All you need is a desire to create.

The Abronson Center for Judaic Arts will be a comprehensive Judaic Arts program for Jewish adults in the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Conejo Valleys as well as throughout Los Angeles. The Inaugural Weekend, which will take place at Temple Aliyah from November 13 – 15, 2015, will provide a sampling of the programs the Center will offer throughout the year. The second artist weekend will be in the Spring 2016, and the Center will offer classes throughout the year, frequently timed to upcoming holidays.

For more information about Inaugural Weekend events, including artist bios, pricing and to register, please visit: www.TempleAliyah.org/JudaicArts.
FREE $50 ASHLEY GIFT CARD!
TO THE FIRST 25 CUSTOMERS
Fri., Sat., Sun., & Mon. - Nov. 27, 28, 29, 30