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VOICE

Final regards

Hannah Marquez
on being a funeral
service director
See page 18





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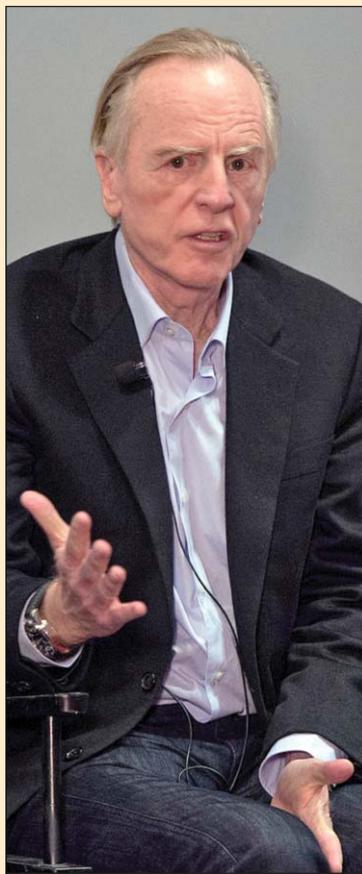
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A quote for our readers

The future
belongs to those
who see possibil-
ities before they
become obvious.

John Sculley

Photo credit: Judae1 (CC, Wikipedia)

On the cover

"Happy Sunday" by artist Ashley Dreyfus. For more information, see page 15 or visit www.dreyfusart.com.

Happy 2022



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#BOOKWORM

Any reading resolutions?

By Leanne Oliveira

"You are the main character of your own story and the architect of your own happiness. Everyone else is simply a visitor."

— Pavana Reddy

Want another resolution? December shouldn't be the only month for supporting literary endeavors! Make 2022 the year to buy or borrow from small local bookshops, library auxiliaries, and literacy charities. For a list to start, see my

Lit-tle Black Book and Libraries lists. Some other fun annual events include the Paper & Printing Industry Trade Fair (free) 1/4-1/5 (vintagepaperfair.com) and the SF Antiquarian Book & Paper Fair (\$12) 1/31-2/1 (abaa.org)!

The "Hung Liu: Golden Gate" installation at the de Young is now exhibiting FREE through August. As a supplement, the late artist's life and influence will be explored at an online event (unrecorded and registration required) on 1/29 hosted by the Santa Clara County Library as part of their Silicon Valley Reads program. Visit SCCLD.org for more info.

ATLAS SIX MOVIE

Amazon just announced that it will be adapting Olivie Blake's viral fantasy novel *The Atlas Six*. Fans rejoice!

B&N VIRTUAL EVENTS

Check out the B&N blog at barnesandnoble.com for the "Most Buzzed About Debuts of 2022."

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Finally releasing! *You Don't Know Us Negroes and Other Essays* by Zora Neale Hurston & Henry Louis Gates (Amistad, \$29.99; ISBN 9780063043855).

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ

Spend a few hours with Julia Cameron, Leonard Mlodinow, and more TBA; visit bookshopsantacruz.com for details.

COPPER

Oxford alum and author Allison Trowbridge (*Twenty Two*) is the founder of a new social media platform for authors and readers. Frankly, I think Goodreads already does the same job (fabulously!), but I'm always open to supporting literary endeavors. Visit copperbooks.com to request early access.

DEATH ON THE NILE MOVIE

This month, Agatha Christie's classic *Death on the Nile* is getting a movie tie-in treatment and reprinting prior to the film's February release. Directed by Kenneth Branagh, so it should be pretty good! Note that a reprinting



Leanne Oliveira

of Christie's *A Deadly Affair* is also reprinting this month.

GILROY LIBRARY

This month enjoy virtual yoga for adults (1/11), CalFresh nutrition classes (1/12), DIY Pouches (1/22), teen goodies include Hip-Hop Dance Class and Create a Sign (1/15) and a SED Talk on mind mending (1/22), and many more at SCCLD.org. Most importantly, the 2022 Silicon Valley Reads reading list is up at siliconvalleyreads.org!

LITERARY HOLIDAYS

Happy National Braille Literacy Month, International Creativity Month, National Science Fiction Day (1/2), "Common Sense" Day (Paine's classic was published 1/10/1776), "I'm Afraid I Can't Do That" Day (HAL first goes online on 1/12/97 in 2001, *A Space Odyssey*), Appreciate a Dragon Day (1/16), Winnie the Pooh Day (1/18), and Burns Supper/Burns Night (1/25). Birthday Babies are Louis Braille (1/4/1809), Isaac Asimov (1/2/1920), AA Milne (1/18/1882), Edgar Allan Poe (1/19/1809), and Robert Burns (1/25/1759).

LITERARY HUB

Ever check out Literary Hub (LitHub.com)? You should!

LITERARY LADIES BOOKCLUB (Est 2016)

This month, we're reading *The Wild Girl* by Kate Forsyth chosen by my cousin and author Vanessa Silva of Gilroy!

LOCAL COMIC SHOP

Woohoo! So happy to learn of a new comic shop in SJB: Trouble Maker Toys and Comics.

**Kicking off 2022 with some library cheer!**

Wonder if they'll buy some of my collection? Visit 203 Third St Suite F or call (408) 694-2735 for info.

LUCK LIBRARY

Winter Hours: Mon-Fri 11am-5pm, Sat 11am-2pm. Visit san-juan-bautista.ca.us/community/library.php for updates.

NEW RELEASES

Visit the Publisher's Weekly On-Sale calendar at tinyurl.com/JanBookworm for #AllTheBooks.

REAL SIMPLE BOOK LIST

Curl up with some of Real Simple's picks for the top reads of 2021 at realsimple.com/bestbooks.

SBC LIBRARY

Save the dates for the next Book Sale (April 2022) and Tea & Treasures (3/20/22)! Updated programming at SBCFL.org.

LIT-TLE BLACK BOOK**CITY LIBRARIES:**

SJB (bautista.bywatersolutions), PG (pacifigrovelibrary.org), Monterey (monterey.org/library), Carmel (ci.carmel.ca.us/library)

COUNTY LIBRARIES:

Santa Clara (<https://sccl.org/locations/GI>), Monterey (mcfl.polarislibrary.com), Santa Cruz (santacruzpl.org), SBC (sbcl.org), Merced (co.merced.ca.us), Stanislaus (stanislauslibrary.org)

BOOKSTORES:

BARNES & NOBLE (GILROY): 6825 Camino Arroyo

BOOKBUYERS (GILROY): 7541 Monterey St
BOOKBUYERS (MONTEREY): 600 Lighthouses Ave

BOOKSHOP SANTA CRUZ: 1520 Pacific Ave
BOOKSMART (MORGAN HILL): 421 Vineyard Town Center

DOWNTOWN BOOK & SOUND (SALINAS): 213 Main St

FRIENDS BOOKSTORE (MARINA): 330 Reservation Rd Suite F

KELLY'S BOOKS (WATSONVILLE): 1935 Main St

Leanne Oliveira (MLIS, MA History) is a dual EU/US citizen who works at the Hartnell Library and SBC's new ADRC. Contact OldFashionedOlive@gmail.com or "Comicfairy" on Goodreads. ■

VOICING SOME THOUGHTS

Where is it all leading?

By Halina Kleinsmith

During the process of infant to child development, we began making decisions for ourselves, on things like favorite foods, favorite toys, and best loved people.

In maturing, our overseers were leading us on to embrace the rules and mores of their specific communities and affiliations. This became the framework from which we could then realize the truths and differences we encountered.

Though many did not set out to lead us astray, others deftly crafted that outcome for their own purposes. Who would think that you could be led down the Garden Path along with all your friends, only to find at the end whomever was leading the way may not have had the purest of intentions.

Leading with our chins, we actively engaged in the negotiation process for the outcome of our own lives. Soon, it became evident that others were making decisions on our world population's behalf, directly affecting the ways in which we could singularly and collectively realize accomplishments.

Years have already been spent getting through the tough work and tribulations of lobbying, voting, and advocating. It is imper-



ative that we continue to lead the charge to assuring an unending intense scrutiny for the truth.

Immense strides have been made in aiding research and experimentation, resulting in a dynamic that consistently changes our daily pace and approach; better and quicker, better and quicker, better and quicker. For all the freneticism, the outcomes appear to be leading to a new conclusion.

We are looking now to those who will lead the way to the universal improvement of life on earth, from core issues to yet-to-be-realized discoveries. A new methodology, leading us in this new year through current existence challenges, to unknown opportunities. ■

HEADSTONE OF THE MONTH



We asked Hannah Marquez, who is featured in this month's Q&A, to select a headstone for us to highlight this month, and she sent us this incredible example from San Jose, where Hannah works. ■

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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ASJUSD NEWS

School district looks forward to 2022

By Michele Huntoon, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Aromas-San Juan USD

We welcome 2022 and say goodbye to 2021. We are still in a single school year at Aromas-San Juan Unified School District. We began the year in person at all three of our schools in the District with one-to-one Chromebooks for all students, hot spots for those students in need of internet connection, and independent study for those students meeting eligibility with immunity conditions. We would be remiss not to mention our partners who supported us during the Pandemic over these past two years. Thank you to the San Juan Bautista Rotary Club, Granite Rock, Strada Verde, and the Community Schools Foundation for all your support during this challenging time. We were able to move forward with continued academic learning through your support.

After a year and a half of delivering academics through distance learning and a hybrid

model of instruction, our staff, students, and administrators transitioned back to in-person learning in August. Our protocols for students and staff include the requirement of masks indoors and masks optional outside. Our campuses are open to students and staff only at this time. We continue to monitor the increase in COVID and the Omicron cases in the county and neighboring counties. See the table below with the most updated statistics as of December 16, 2021. The District's diligent efforts have paid off thus far, as our schools have experienced positive cases of less than 2 percent.

Our teachers have diligently worked with our students to mitigate learning loss that may have occurred during the Pandemic through in-class instruction, tutoring, and intervention. In addition, all staff at all schools have supported our students and staff with our programs and student success.

Schools will return Monday, January 10, 2022, when schools will be back in session.

Happy Holidays from the Aromas-San Juan USD! ■

The District's diligent efforts have paid off thus far, as our schools have experienced positive cases of COVID of less than 2 percent.

County	Cases	Population	Rate *
San Benito	7,949	64,022	25.9
Santa Clara	154,448	1,967,585	9.4
Monterey	50,558	448,732	10.3
Merced	46,325	287,420	12.2

*County rate is a rolling 7-day average and per 100K population.



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CITY BEAT

Sending a message of gratitude

By Don Reynolds
City Manager

This month, I am sending a message of gratitude. On December 14, 2021, the community overwhelmingly supported an \$18 million, complete transformation of its wastewater system: the force-main to Hollister's wastewater treatment plant. The City Council approved the project, the required environmental studies, and an increase in sewer rates to pay for it. The City will offset the cost with an estimated \$5.4 million in state and federal grants. This transformation will remove the odors from the industrial domestic wastewater entering the City and decommission the current plant. This was a very hard decision, and it is recognized that not everyone agrees with it. Thank you so much for trusting the City Manager to build it on time and under budget.

The new sewer rates go into effect February 1, 2022. The wastewater project will now prepare the final construction plans and prepare it for bidding. Construction should begin in early summer and last 12-14 months.

This is only half of the water work the City has been focusing on. In order to comply with the EPA's mandate to have the water systems in repair by December 2023, both the source of water and the way the City disposes of its wastewater have to be fixed. The two projects, combined with the

discontinuance of brine-producing water softeners, will cut the amount of salt in the ground water and wastewater by more than 60%. The projects will also free our staff to focus on water distribution and collection system upgrades. Both big projects will greatly improve the quality of life for those who live in San Juan Bautista.

Importing water will provide a source other than groundwater to be part of its "water portfolio" and will greatly reduce the hardness of the groundwater we currently rely on. The import of fresh drinking water from the West Hills Water Treatment Plant continues to move forward but at a slower pace. It is being managed in a partnership with the San Benito Water District. Its design is 30% complete, and some preliminary cost estimates were received in December. These estimates are being refined to determine the impact this project will have on the water rates. Early next year, a second round of rate increases will need to be considered to complete the whole effort.

In other news, the Public Safety Ad-Hoc Committee is, among other things, working on a City dedicated Sheriff deputy and installing a camera system. The City is stepping up its enforcement of dog-leash and dog defecation laws, with new signs at City parks. The Verutti Park restrooms are being ordered in December and should arrive in March. The new park in Franklin Circle will break ground the first week of the New Year. The City Council is appointing a newly formed Economic Development Citizen Advisory Committee. Special events are back in 2022. TAFN...please stay in touch.

We wish everyone a productive, warm, and healthy New Year! ■

The Aromas Grange Presents....

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IN MEMORY**Joan ('Joanie')
Lessing Sattler
Millson**

On November 26, 2021, Joanie celebrated her 77th birthday and sadly passed away November 30, 2021. Born in Los Angeles on November 26, 1944, she lived in Hemet, Riverside, Los Angeles, and moved to Hollister in 1969 to her new home

where she lived until her untimely demise.

Joanie is survived by her husband, Dr. Murray R. Millson; her son, Gregory Lessing Garrett; her son, Robert Lessing Garrett; her daughter, Laura Joan Garrett, and her stepson, Murray Edwin Millson.

She was born to Dr. Lessing Robert Sattler, an orthodontist to the Hollywood stars and part time entrepreneur and farmer, and his wife Ruth Isabel (Chamberlain) Sattler of Los Angeles, CA. Joanie earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences at



San Jose State University, 1970; she completed all graduate coursework in a Health Administration Master of Arts program at San Jose State University in 1973. Major graduate subjects were Health Science, Gerontology, and Enology. She also attended University of California (Santa Cruz and Berkley) where she took 45 quarter units while studying in certificate programs in Human Services, Mental Retardation, Fundraising, Public Relations, and Substance Abuse. She was a member of Phi Alpha Theta (History), Psi Chi (Psychol-

ogy) and Alpha Kapp Delta (Sociology) academic honor societies.

Joanie's life's work encompassed several impressive titles that include Executive Director, Executive Board Member, Manager, Marketing Strategist, Consultant, Sales person, among others. The organizations that she supported in these roles include Jovenes de Antaño, Immaculate Conception Church, Hazel Hawkins Hospital, Lion(ess)'s Club, San Benito County Red Cross, San Benito Foundation, San Benito Interfaith, San Benito United Way, Barrios Unidos, Casa de Fruta, Civilian Personnel Office at Fort Ord, CA, Gilroy Healthcare (Marketing Director), That's Entertainment (Video Sales Management), Willow Glen Villa (Retirement Complex, Assistant Activity Director), as well as the "driving" Partner in our Partnership, Millson, Sattler and Associates. Joanie was also listed as a noteworthy Consultant in Marquis Who's Who for several years.

Joanie and I, (Murray R. Millson) married on October 13, 2007 in a quiet, loving ceremony in the rose garden in Dunne Park, Hollister with God, Ruth and Ron Erickson, and Lupe Maldonado, who presided, in attendance. Our second wedding ceremony was performed by Father Rudy on the evening of December 14, 2007 in the Sacred Heart Pastoral Office's second-floor Chapel on Cottage Street in Hollister. Joan is a devout Roman Catholic, and we really did not want to move forward together without a Roman Catholic church wedding.

Joanie was very attentive and insightful, and loved to study almost any subject as long as it involved people and how she might assist them. We had an opportunity to travel together a few times when I taught or attended conferences overseas. We had three very special and wonderful opportunities to travel together to Helsinki, Finland where I taught; Surfers' Paradise in Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia where I taught, and to an academic conference in Pisa, Italy. During our Italy trip, we very fortunate to visit Rome and the Vatican. We took many photographs while on these trips. Upon her return to Hollister, Joanie used her artistic talents in conjunction with the Country Rose Gallery, then in Hollister, to enlarge to living room display size, photographs that were then situated in the front windows of the gallery so that all who passed by could view what she had the opportunity to view and visit in person. Joanie was always trying to share whatever she had with others.

Memorial services/visitation were held at Grunnagle-Ament-Nelson Funeral Home on December 12; there was also a Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Tres Pinos on December 13.

For those of you who would like to make donations in Joanie's name, please make such donations to Jovenes de Antaño, 300 West Street, Hollister, CA 95023. ■

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IN MEMORY**Nancy Ann Aimola**

Nancy Ann Aimola of San Juan Bautista, CA passed away suddenly at home on December 4, 2021, at the age of 72. Nancy was the daughter of the late Armando and Helen (Montes) Aimola. She was the beloved sister of Richard Griffith and his wife Margaret Perham of Santa Cruz, CA and Michael Aimola and his wife Mary of Tustin, CA. Nancy is also survived by many nieces and nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews.

Nancy was salutatorian of her graduating class at George Washington High School in San Francisco. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California Berkeley, graduating with honors as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received her law degree from UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco.

As a member of the California State Bar, Nancy practiced law in a consulting solo practice for many years in San Francisco, Pacifica, and San Juan Bautista. She was active in local Democratic Party politics and volunteered in the office of U. S. Representative Sam Farr. Proud of her civic duty, she served as a poll worker in San Juan Bautista for many years. She was a volunteer for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children) of San Benito County where

she was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for her efforts in mentoring and advocating for a foster child.

Nancy grew up in San Francisco. She had fond memories of many family vacations in Santa Cruz and Boyes Hot Springs. She was extremely proud of her

Italian and Spanish heritage. She was a lifelong fan of the San Francisco Giants and relished their World Series victories. An accomplished horsewoman of the western style, she rode her two horses along the trails of the Coastal Range in San Mateo County. A cowgirl at heart, she attended both the Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace and the California Rodeo Salinas for many years. She pursued athletic activities including golf, skiing, and camping. She loved attending rock concerts featuring artists such as Bruce Springsteen, the Beatles, and Willie Nelson. She was an attendee at the Beatles' final concert that was held at Candlestick Park. She was also a member of the committee led by rock impresario Bill Graham that attempted to establish the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in San Francisco.

Nancy will be interred in a private ceremony at San Juan Bautista District Cemetery. A Celebration of Life for Nancy will be held in San Juan Bautista at a future date.

Donations in Nancy's memory may be made to CASA of San Benito County, 829 San Benito Street Suite 200, Hollister, CA 95023 or at www.casasanbenito.org. ■

**COMMUNITY**
Guarding the remembered

L-R: Felipe Galvan, Margaret Galvan, Phillip Galvan Sr., and Cuco Chavez from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 63659 were responsible for placing this cross at the San Juan Cemetery.

These individuals placed this ten foot plus wooden cross in the cemetery, and its sole purpose is to overlook and guard over the veterans tombstones and graves that are located in the cemetery. This simple wooden cross which is adorned with a simple wreath will look over the fallen warriors for the holiday season. ■

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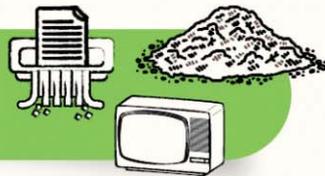
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Bring up to 2 bulky items for free recycling/disposal at these events:

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Dispose of your paint, motor oil, household cleaners, and other HHW at these events:

- Every 3rd Saturday of the month
- 9am - 12pm
- John Smith Rd. Landfill
- Proof of residency is required
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Safely dispose of your sharps and unused or expired medication:

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Don't fall victim to tax scams

It's that time of year, when we gather our W-2s, 1099s and all the other forms and documents we need to file our taxes. However, it's also busy season for tax scammers. How can you avoid being scammed?

Your chief defense, of course, is to recognize a scam. Here are some of the most common ones:

- **Tax-related identity theft** – Some thieves might try to steal your personal information and file a tax return in your name, hoping to claim your refund. Always guard your personal data, especially your Social Security number (SSN). You can also apply to the IRS for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN). To succeed in their efforts, identity thieves would have to know your unique IP PIN in addition to your SSN and other information. And watch for signs that your identity has been compromised, such as the IRS rejecting your online return, saying that a tax return associated with your SSN has already been filed. If this happens, you can file IRS Form 14039 – Identity Theft Affidavit.

- **"Ghost" tax preparers** – These individuals aren't supernatural, but their actions can be pretty scary. A ghost preparer may finish your tax return but won't sign it or provide a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). This is a huge red flag, possibly indicating any number of bad actions, such as using fake information to generate a larger refund, and then charging you a fee based on that refund, or even worse, outright stealing the fee you've paid and then disappearing. Don't sign your return until your preparer has also signed it and included their PTIN. And check your own return to make sure everything seems correct. To find a reputable tax preparer, ask your friends and relatives for referrals.

- **"Phishing" emails claiming to be from IRS** – You might receive emails that claim to be from the IRS but that come from scammers. These "phishing" emails might contain messages saying, "Your account or tax return is locked or restricted," or, "You're eligible to receive a tax refund." Or the subject line of the email might contain a phrase such as "Automatic Income Tax Reminder" or "Electronic Tax

Return Reminder." These emails may contain links to a website that appears to be that of the IRS, but if you follow these links, you will be asked to open files that contain malware, which could give the scammer remote access to your computer and your personal information. But the IRS does not send unsolicited emails to taxpayers, it won't discuss tax account information with you via email, and it won't use emails to solicit sensitive financial and personal information.

- **Threatening phone calls** – Tax scammers may call you, posing as IRS employees and demanding payment for back taxes, penalties or fees that you don't owe.

In reality, the IRS won't call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail. Furthermore, the IRS will neither require that you pay your taxes a certain way, such as with a prepaid debit card, nor ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

It's unfortunate that tax scammers are hard at work, but by staying vigilant and getting professional help if you need it, you can help protect yourself from being scammed – this year and every year.

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

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Happy New Year

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Alexis Winder, CFP®, AAMS®
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Environmental Day

Three Free Services for San Benito County Residents!



2022 EVENTS FROM 9AM - 1PM

WHEN: **JANUARY 8**

WHERE: Veteran's Memorial Park
1223 Memorial Dr., Hollister

WHEN: **JANUARY 15**

WHERE: San Juan School
100 Nyland Dr., San Juan Bautista

WHAT:



Electronic Waste Recycling (E-waste)

Drop off unwanted e-waste including televisions, computers and accessories, cell phones, laptops, game consoles, radios, stereos, and small electronics with cords. *No large household appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) will be accepted.*



Secure Document Shredding

Bring up to five full banker boxes (legal size; 24 x 12 x 10) of documents to be confidentially and securely shredded on-site. Paperclips and staples do not need to be removed.



Compost Giveaway

Residents may take up to 32 gallons of compost to use as a soil amendment for gardens and landscaping projects. This compost is from local participation in Recology's Organics program. Please bring your own shovel and container. Limited supply available.

Due to COVID-19, participants will be required to wear a mask and maintain a 6-foot social distance. No assistance will be provided. Bring your own shovel and gloves for loading compost.

RecologySanBenito.com | 831.636.7500



Horizon: Forbidden West

ARCADE TODAY

2022 releases

By Jesse Teixeira

With Christmas now in the rear-view mirror and the New Year on the horizon, it's perhaps time to explore what 2022 holds in terms of releases. Last December's Game Awards brought a plethora of shiny things to look forward to; so many indeed that it would be futile to list them all here. As such, a brief highlight reel of the most eye-catching titles will have to suffice.

February is shaping up to be one of the biggest months of this year, with *Horizon: Forbidden West* and *Elden Ring* slated for launch at different points in the shortest month. The former continues the story of Guerilla Games' award-winning narrative of a future after civilization, where a revived humanity previously wiped out by technological disaster now coexists under the shadow of beast-like machines that sustain their environment. In *Forbidden West*, protagonist Aloi will have to journey to (you guessed it) the forbidden lands west of her home to confront the source of a deadly and unnatural plague, facing new and more monstrous machines in her quest to save her people. Meanwhile, *Elden Ring* is the next variation on the *Dark Souls* formula that has brought From Software so much acclaim, combining the talents of Hidetaka Miyazaki and George R. R. Martin to produce a new and bizarre fantasy setting in an enormous open world where the gods are dead, and the only hope lies in the restoration of the titular Elden Ring. The game will feature mounted combat as well as a more robust magic system than previ-



ous From Software titles and promises to be a grand and eloquent tale of gallantry that hasn't been seen for a good while.

March looks to be a quiet month by comparison after the release of such giants but will feature the next game from developer Platinum, *Babylon's Fall*, an operatic action-fest of knights and anime madness. April meanwhile will take a turn for more somber tones, starring the release of the long, long, LONG-awaited *S.T.A.L.K.E.R. 2*, sequel to the cult-classic Ukrainian-outback survival simulator *Shadow of Chernobyl* (though granted, Ukraine's countryside isn't infested with

killer mutants...yet). Next to nothing is known about the story, but it will feature the same hardcore and unforgiving experience that brought the franchise its fanbase, and that in itself is something to look forward to (if you're into that sort of thing). Last but not least, there's also *Forspoken* in May, a new IP that promises a weird and wonderful magical adventure as an average city girl is thrust into a strange land driven by conflict and disaster. Equipped with a sentient magic armband that doubles as a fountain of snark, it looks, at the very least, exceedingly beautiful, though whether it will be fun to play has yet to be determined.

Bear in mind these are just the titles with confirmed release dates. There's still a plethora of other content out there that you should definitely try to take a peek at. *Steel Rising* and its wacky Napoleonic-era porcelain automatons; *Destiny 2's* next expansion, *The Witch Queen*; *Total War: Warhammer III's* vast and cataclysmic army-clashes; all this and more is coming soon! ■



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and *Mission Village Voice* (2014 to-date). www.sanjuanbautistaca.com/art-galleries.



Then: Les Anderson watercolor; Now: 217 Third, Mission Clocks & Watches

Then... and Now: Going back in time at Mission Clocks & Watches

By Wanda Guibert

San Juan Bautista Historical Society

Stepping into Mission Clocks & Watches at 217 Third Street is like stepping into the past with its array of grandfather, mantle, cuckoo clocks and more -- some unique or vintage, others more mundane. In today's digital world, the tick-tock of the timepieces is a sensory experience, especially on the hour when the clocks chime in unison. Adding to the nostalgia, owner and proprietor Ron Paulk furnished the shop with cabinets from an old drug store in his Oklahoma hometown. If these walls could talk, imagine the stories they could tell -- going back to the late 1800s.

The "Then" photo is actually a watercolor painted by Les (Leslie Luverne) Anderson (1928-2009) who owned and operated the Bear Flag Gallery in San Juan Bautista for many years and was known for his plain air watercolor paintings and abstracts. Notice that the Bear Flag Gallery was at 215 Third Street, directly adjacent to 217 Third. It later moved a few doors down to 207 Third, where Utopia Bohemian Collective is now.

The historic name of the building is Protolongo Store, and it is #17 on the San Juan Bautista Historic Walking Trail (<https://historicwalking-trail.com/>). According to the 2006 Historic Resources Inventory, the construction date is estimated to be circa 1900 although the 1981 Inventory suggests 1860 while the National Register of Historic Places states, "These buildings [215-217] were constructed in 1897 after a fire two years earlier destroyed the adobe that existed on this property." The Western False Front structure, which constitutes the "look" of the Third Street Historic District, is a one-story,

wood-framed structure with an exterior clad with horizontal wood siding at the front and vertical wood siding at the northwest sides. The building is covered by a moderately pitched, front-gabled roof clad with composition shingles (previously a tin roof). There is a rectangular parapet at the façade with coping and a cornice with decorative brackets at the roofline. There is a recessed storefront entryway consisting of wood and glass French style double doors with transom windows above. At the façade, there are two sets of symmetrically spaced wood display windows with transoms. The exteriors of 215-217 Third are mirror images.

We learn more about Protolongo in 2 historic resources archived in the Luck Museum. In "Notes and Memories of Individuals in the San Juan Bautista 1860

Census," written by Estolano F. Larios at the home of Ralph L. Milliken in 1936, Larios recalls, "Protolongo, and his wife. Italian and French respectively, were grocery store keepers. When youngsters were sent with money to buy anything in the grocery line, they would always go to this store, for these people always gave us a cookie or a stick of candy after our purchase. They did well in business. Never heard what became of them."

Then a few years later, Frenchman Jules Kahn shares his intriguing recollections of Protolongo in "Histories Californienne" (1866-1875), as translated by Glenn J. Farris, Ph.D. in 2004. Dr. Farris vouches for Kahn's credibility by writing, "...I became more and more intrigued with the degree of accuracy as well as the charming way the stories were told and by utilizing other sources, particularly the federal census records for 1870 and 1880, was able to identify many of the people involved." Here we learn more about Protolongo. "An Italian named Protolongo, married to a French woman, lovely and twenty years younger than he, had taken as a clerk in his store a young Frenchman. The Italian came to perceive an excessive intimacy between his wife and the clerk. This led to violent scenes, the wife leaving the conjugal home, seeking a divorce and stating the her husband was crazy...And so, the divorce was pronounced against him and all his property was liquidated and apportioned. All the costs were laid on him. A little later, his wife remarried with the clerk in San Francisco...The Italian had left the country." Protolongo's general merchandise store was subsequently operated by "a Frenchman named Dolleguy" according to early San Juan pioneer Isaac Mylar although Kahn refers



Ribbon is cut opening the new Sheriff's Department field office. From left: Deputy Rich Brown, Sheriff Curtis Hill and Chamber Executive Director Terry Marburger.

Sheriff's office sub-station: 215 Third

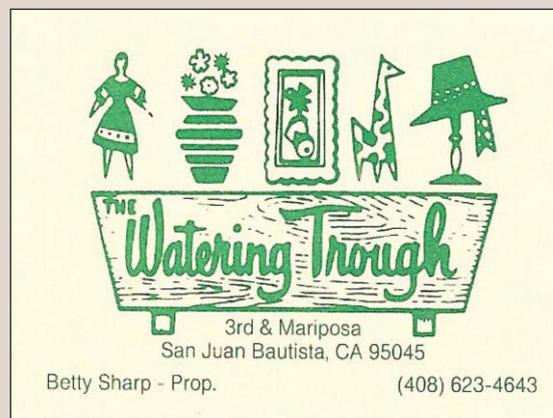
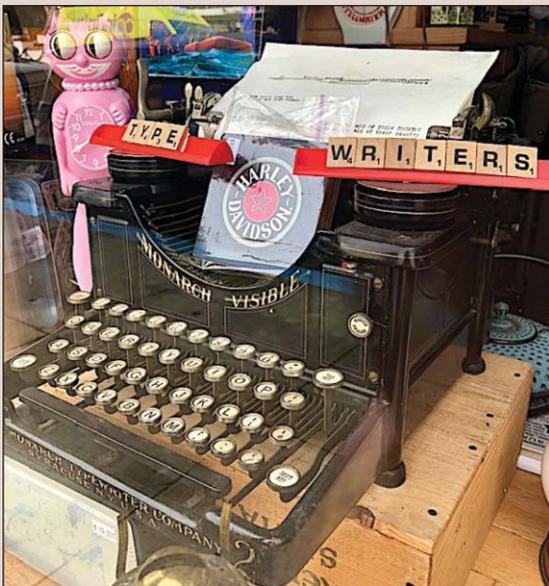
to Dolhéguy as Basque. Dr. Farris adds in a footnote, in the 1880 census appears a Gregorio Dolhéguy, age 62, a “retired merchant” from France.

Continuing along the timeline (there are many gaps), we learn more details in the 2008 National Register of Historic Places Registration form nominating the Third Street Commercial District to the National Register. The 1908 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map identifies 215 as being vacant and 217 as a dwelling and saloon. By 1926, 215 had an office and 217 was a drugstore.

Fast forward now to the middle of the 20th century. The well-known The Watering Trough women’s clothing store occupied 217 Third from the late 1960s into the 1990s. Elizabeth (“Betty”) Rae Sharp (1920 – 2012) was the proprietor of The Watering Trough clothing boutique for 35 years. Ads in the 1969-’70 San Juan Mission News used terms such as “Mixables and Matchables,” “For the back to college crowd,” and “The Unusual in Gifts and Clothing.” Sharp featured the Les Anderson watercolor on a T-shirt promoting her shop.

Later, Priscilla’s Bookkeeping and Special Stuff was housed there in the 1990s. Priscilla Hill (1937-2020), a bookkeeper and tax preparer, was a member of the San Juan Bautista City Council for 20 years and also served as Mayor. She later relocated her business into the ground floor of the 100F and then the Texas Lodge.

A July 1,1999, headline in The Pinnacle newspaper announces “Sheriff’s Department opens office in SJB.” The article is filed in the 215-217 Third St. folder in the Luck Museum, and several locals affirm that the “Community Field Office” was located in 215 Third. The article states that for the 1st time since its police department had been disbanded earlier that decade (to mitigate the City’s financial crisis), San Juan would have an office in town housing law enforcement, open to the public. Then Deputy Rich Brown was quoted, “It is going to be



The Watering Trough business card

very good for the Sheriff’s Department to be located in this part of town. It is going to give us a lot of accessibility to the downtown merchants and will also help us to be closer to homes (to the southwest).” In a recent phone interview, Rich Brown adds that Priscilla Hill had provided space in 215 Third for the field office, which was located there for about 3 years until Hill relocated her business.

These buildings underwent significant renovations in the early 2000s when Ron and Alma Paulk bought 215-217 Third, operating Natural Wonders Health Food Store (Alma) and Mission Clocks & Watches (Ron). At its May 2013 meeting (since May is National Preservation Month), the SJB Planning Commission recognized the couple for their investment of time, talent and treasure in preserving, rehabilitating and restoring the historic property at 215-217 Third Street, thereby improving that section of the block. A Certificate of Recognition was subsequently awarded at the May City Council meeting for modeling effective stewardship of an historic property and enhancing the Third Street Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The natural food business at 215 Third is currently for sale, and the clock shop is open Friday-Sunday.

If you enjoy these Then & Now articles, please help support our work and become a member. Send a \$15.00 check to SJB Historical Society, POB 1, SJB 95045. Include your e-mail address to receive our 3 newsletters a year announcing our meetings, which will resume once Covid settles down.



The Watering Trough t-shirt



COVER ARTIST

Ashley Dreyfus

Ashley Dreyfus is a mixed media artist based in Boise, Idaho. For Dreyfus, art is really about building relationships. Between artist and viewer, artist and collaborator. She hopes that her art and subjects will resonate with people in their day-to-day lives.

Dreyfus has created an entire world that exists in her mind depicting humans as alter egos of themselves, coming out to play and experience joy in an everyday life without judgment.

Her work has been commissioned by Specialized Bicycles, Pabst Blue Ribbon, Urban Outfitters, Pandora, Bloomberg Opinion, Verizon, a few sock companies, the band Phish, and the middle school down the street from where she lives.

Dreyfus continues to broaden her art practice by working in different mediums, collaborating with artists of all sorts, and challenging herself to go on new art adventures. "

View Ashley Dreyfus’ work at www.dreyfusart.com. ■



Pictured: An 18 ft Interactive mural that is located on the side of The Atlas Bar on 11th Street in Downtown Boise, created in partnership with Pandora Music. You can open the app and hold your phone up to the QR Code, that is located at the bottom of the mural. It will then take you to a playlist that Dreyfus curated in the Pandora Music app. Photo by Daniel Olson

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT



Olivia Tavinkl in her "Bad Santa" Sweatshirt at the Community Foundation, Emmaus House, United Way, CASA , & BenitoLink gift exchange.



Picking up 13 new bikes donated to CASA by John Smith Landfill! MaryAnne Aubin, Legal Admin Asst., Health & Human Services.



Esther Curtice of CASA SBC accepting the Congressional Record presented by Susie Brusa of Jimmy Panetta's office.



Mick + Nicki & Harold Grundy, PJ Party hosts



Happy 60th Birthday Sandi!!! L-R Patsy Ponce, Linda Teshima, Sandi Juarez & Margaret Zuniga



Hollister Downtown 31st Annual Lights On Celebration. Photo by Rene Rodriguez Photography



Rosemarie "Mim" Caetano celebrating her 90th



Friends of the San Benito Library toast the New Year! Marianne Gennis, Ellen Bell Campos, Laura Mooror, M. Hartman, Rebecca Salinas, Row Cindy Snow, Susan Logue, Sharon Hiser, Mary Schneider, Kathy Larabell & Nancy Girton



Ugly Holiday Sweater Murder Mystery Party hosted at The GardenShoppe.



Garvin Stone and Michael Reid putting the finishing touches on the new Mission grapevine trellis at the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park.



Rotary Holiday of Lights Parade, SJB.



B and R Farms Annual Holiday on the Farm.



San Juan walkers gathered at the home of Mary Morales for Friday coffee: Wanda Guibert, Mary Edge, Mary Morales, Donna Holmes, & Jackie Ferreira.



Jerry Sierra and Joe Martinez enjoying a warm treat at Bliss Blendz.

MISSIONVILLAGEVOICE

Community Bulletin Board

Red Cross: Donate blood now to help patients avoid delays in care

Long-sleeved holiday T-shirts, chance at Super Bowl LVI trip for donors

As holiday celebrations continue, concern is rising for the nation's blood supply, which has now dipped to concerning levels and could force hospitals to hold off on essential blood transfusions for patients.

Historically low blood supply levels not seen in more than a decade persist for the American Red Cross, which supplies about 40% of the nation's blood. The ongoing decline comes at a time of year when donations typically fall. Holiday get-togethers, school breaks and winter weather often lead to lower donor turnout, potentially further compounding the situation.

Potential donors are urged to schedule an appointment now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). If there is not an immediate opportunity available to donate, donors are asked to make an appointment in the days and weeks ahead to ensure the Red Cross can replenish and then maintain a sufficient blood supply.

In thanks, all who come to give through Jan. 2 will receive an exclusive Red Cross long-sleeved T-shirt, while supplies last.

Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a getaway to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. As an extra thank-you from the Red Cross, those who come to donate in January will also be automatically entered to win a home theater package and a \$500 e-gift card. Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl for more information.

To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

Health insights for donors

At a time when health information has never been more important, the Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening will provide Black donors with an additional health insight and help the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly to help patients with sickle cell disease who require trait-negative blood. Blood transfusion is an essential treatment for those with sickle cell disease, and blood donations from individuals of the same race, ethnicity and blood type have a unique ability to help patients fighting sickle cell disease.

Donors can expect to receive sickle cell trait screening results, if applicable, within one to two weeks through the Red Cross Blood Donor App and the online donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

Caregiver resources offered

Check out the California Caregiver Resource Center January Calendar. These are free webinars open to all caregivers on various topics such as grief and loss, self-

care and wellness, and caregiving support and resources.

These resources serve families of persons living with neurological conditions such as Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury and other conditions that cause memory loss and confusion.

Find out more at www.caregivercalifornia.org/event/

42nd EcoFarm Conference to be held Jan. 19-22, 2022

The annual EcoFarm Conference returns, in-person, to the Monterey, CA coast. EcoFarm is the oldest and largest ecological farming conference in the West. Journalists are invited to connect directly with experts at this major convergence of farmers, ranchers, distributors, retailers, activists, researchers, and educators focused on food and farming's future. Press passes for full conference entrance are available here. COVID safety protocols will be strictly enforced for all attendees.

One of the most influential events in the sustainable agriculture world, EcoFarm Conference is a hub for building climate resilient and equitable agriculture in California and beyond. The conference features visionary speakers, skill-building workshops, a farming business expo, seed swaps, networking events including Women in Ag, farm tours, and more.

Pre-conference events run from January 14-19, including a Bay Area Urban Farm Bus Tour, an Indigenous Land Rematriation and Regenerative Food Production at Pie Ranch in Pescadero, a No-Till Systems workshop, and a Central Coast Farms & Ranches Bus Tour. The main conference begins Wednesday, January 19.

Keynote speakers include Elizabeth Hoover; associate professor at UC Berkeley whose work centers on food sovereignty and environmental justice for Native American communities, Mark Arax; bestselling author and journalist on California agriculture and history, Mario Sifuentez; professor of history at the University of California, Merced focusing on water wars and equity in the California's Central Valley, and Ricardo Salvador; director and senior scientist of the Food & Environment Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists working to transition our current food system into one that grows healthy foods while employing sustainable and socially equitable practices.

The conference runs Wednesday, January 19 - Saturday, January 22, 2022 at Asilomar State Beach & Conference Center, 800 Asilomar Ave, Pacific Grove, CA (near Monterey, CA).

All conference attendees must show advance proof of Covid vaccination and be registered by January 17 via EcoFarm's registration site: <https://ecofarm.org/conference/2022/register>

Financial Advisor Alexis Winder of Edward Jones receives CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Certification

Financial Advisor Alexis Winder of the financial services firm Edward Jones in Hollister has been authorized by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards (CFP Board) to use the certification mark CFP®.

Alexis Winder (pictured) successfully completed the CFP Board's initial certification requirements, which include completion of financial planning coursework and passing a comprehensive examination.

This advanced training offers investment professionals the hands-on information needed to provide comprehensive financial services. Study topics include the financial planning process, risk management, investments, tax planning and management, retirement and employee benefits and estate planning. CFP professionals must also meet ongoing continuing education requirements and uphold the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility and Financial Planning Practice Standards.

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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Mission 10, the 'Central Coast's Premier Road Race,' returns Jan 29

Register online (www.mission10.com) now for 38th Annual Mission 10 Race, sponsored by Hollister Rotary Club. All proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities.

The Rotary Club of Hollister and Mission 10 Race Committee invite you to kick off 2022 by joining our 38th Annual event. We are so excited to be bringing back the popular TAC DISTANCE CERTIFIED Half Marathon which takes you through the scenic and beautiful Anzar hills and past Anzar lake. The 10 Miler, 5k and 1 Mile Kids Fun Run will also be taking place, making this another fun-filled, all-ages event.

The Rotary Club of Hollister (<http://www.hollisterrotary.org>) was one of the first Rotary Clubs established in California. The club has prided itself by providing vast support to the community since 1925 in the form of monetary contributions for student scholarships, local charitable programs, and providing a large base of volunteers that help support many programs around the community and worldwide. In 2020 alone, the Rotary Club of Hollister gifted \$36,000 in college scholarships to local students.

The Rotary Club of Hollister is growing this event while still maintaining the qualities appreciated by the runners who have made the Mission 10 a destination for years. This year, we are very excited to once again be awarding prizes for the top theme teams in the 5k race. (Please keep costumes family friendly) With 4 different races, there is something for everyone, so grab your friends and family and join us on January 29, 2022.

LOCATION: Mission Plaza, Second Street, San Juan Bautista, CA. TIMES: 1Mile Fun Run 8:15 am | 1/2 Marathon 8:45 am | 10 Mile Race - 9:00 am | 5 Kilo-



meter Race - 9:15 am

Race Day Registration begins at 7:15 am. ENTRY FEES: Please visit www.mission10.com for current rates. COURSE: TAC Certified 1/2 Marathon Race: Extension of 10 mile course, generally flat with small hills, passes Anzar Lake. TAC Certified 10 Mile Distance: Loop course, generally flat with one hill; Elevation gain 210 feet from 3.2 miles to 4.8 miles; Run back down same hill. 5 Kilometer Race: out and back; paved, flat.

Fees include Long Sleeve-shirt. Good training for marathon base. All races timed w/awards.

Register online: at www.mission10.com
Like and follow the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Mission10Race/>

Like and follow the Instagram page: <https://instagram.com/mission10race>

Visit Rotary Club of Hollister at www.hollisterrotary.org for mail-in registration, sponsorship and volunteer opportunities.

Please make checks payable to: Rotary Club of Hollister.

Benito Resource Conservation District seeks board director

The San Benito Resource Conservation District (SBRCD) makes conservation happen on-the-ground by partnering with local agencies on a voluntary basis to care for California's land, water, soil, and other natural resources. The SBRCD works to be a relevant, excellent, and visible district for natural resource conservation and agriculture on public and private lands. We are designed to evolve with the changing needs of people and the land, to ensure that San Benito County is home to thriving and resilient communities, landscapes, and economies. We serve rural, urban, and suburban communities in San Benito County, and consist of conservation professionals and local experts committed to seeing our County thrive.

RCDs are deeply rooted in California's communities, founded after the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. The goal was to bring federal and state funding and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers so that they could voluntarily conserve water, soil, and wildlife habitat on their land with the help of a local and neutral partner. Spanning many generations, RCDs have maintained deep connections to farmers and ranchers, but most have also evolved with the changing needs of California's diverse communities. Today RCD projects and programs are different, and our services often include habitat restoration, forest health, healthy soils, public education, landscape-scale conservation planning, climate resilience, and assisting municipalities and the state in managing water use and preparing for drought and fire. SBRCD always collaborates with constituents on a voluntary basis — a key reason we are considered a trusted resource in our community. Non-regulatory, trusted, and publicly accountable the SBRCD combines the accountability and transparency of a public agency with the flexibility and non-regulatory approach of a non-profit organization. This allows us to adjust to the ever-changing needs of our community, build trusted relationships, and act as the crucial bridge that connects individuals with state and federal partners and programs.

The SBRCD currently has an opening for a board director. If you have a passion for conservation and want to help drive the direction of the RCD, contact Camille Abreu-Woida, District Manager at camille@rcdsanbenito.org, (831) 637-4360 ext. 2339. Contact Camille Abreu-Woida, District Manager for all your conservation needs.

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Hannah Marquez, Funeral Service Director

By Anne Caetano

Mission Village Voice recently had the unique and fascinating opportunity to speak with Hannah Marquez, Funeral Service Director in San Jose. The topic is rarely discussed but ultimately faces each one of us. Our goal was to discuss the process discreetly and respectfully, traits which Hannah embodies. "The song is ended, but the melody lingers on..." – Irving Berlin, songwriter

MVV: What was your first day like?

HM: I thought I was hired as a set-up type of person, but as I was walking through the hallways, my boss introduces me as a new director to Bill, who I am shadowing. Bill takes me around the grounds. Eventually you see people coming in and out with carts with bodies covered in sheets. It was shocking at first, going into the embalming room and the refrigerator.

And an average day?

If we arrive and the chapel isn't already set up, then we go to the room where we do the embalming, dressing, and casketing and find the decedent. That was one of the more shocking things. When I applied, I thought I would be setting up and making sure the family was happy. Instead on my 1st day, I was walking through the halls and there were all these caskets in the hallways. The person that was training me was like, "Oh, let's find our person," and he just starts opening caskets, and there are people in all the caskets!

How do you know which decedent is the correct one?

Everyone wears an ankle tag with their name, case ID, date of birth & date of death. That's one of my responsibilities. When I find a person, I've got to do an ID check, and everyone has a chain of custody from the time that they pass away to their burial.

What other responsibilities?

I need to make sure they look nice in the casket, bring flowers in. You unfold all the parts inside the casket and open it up. You set up the guest book and the slide show. You see the person; you see their body in the casket, which is kind of shocking, but when you see the slide show and how they were in their life, you feel more connected to them. A lot of my job is introducing myself and I step back and just listen, and I am there if anyone needs anything.

What's the hardest part of your day?

Closing of the casket. Every family reacts

differently. Some families are stoic, and others are emotional during the closing. We don't close until the family is ready. They trained me how to close. It's extremely slow, and you want to give the family as much time as they need. Once you close it, there is no opening it.

What about the family?

I introduce myself and let them know that I will be taking care of them the entire day. I go over the schedule with them. That is the hardest part -- keeping people who are grieving on a time schedule. A lot of them want to spend as much time as they possibly can with their loved one. And I let them know that I will be driving the coach.

I had a funeral where the man who died was in his 30's. He had not been in contact with his family since he was 18, yet they were responsible for his arrangements. Since he had moved out of state so young, he had a separate life and a male fiancé, and his family was deeply religious. And it was an intense dynamic between his fiancé who really knew him and his family who hadn't known him for over 10 years. Each side had a different slide show they played. Thankfully, one of my co-workers took the fiancé under his wing because it was intense! A lot of his family was saying they never knew who he really was, and they were mourning that. It was also a witness cremation.

What is a witness cremation?

The family accompanies the decedent to cremation, and they start the torch.

What's it like driving a hearse?

It's so awesome, but there is a lot of responsibility. They had me do a driving test, and the person giving me the test said, "Don't think you can drive in the carpool lane because there's two of you." The coolest part is when we get police escorts, and they give you a radio and they are talking to you while you're driving on the highway.

How's the visibility? Are there blind



spots?

Oh yeah! There are a lot of blind spots. I drive like a grandma in the hearse.

Do you find that when most other drivers see a hearse, they kind of back off?

No! You would be surprised how many people cut us off, even with police escorts.

When you are driving the hearse do you get weird looks?

Yes, they are trying to see if there is a casket in there.

What attracted you to the funeral business?

I have always been interested in the macabre, and this was something I always wanted to try. And I just applied for the job. I feel it's given me a whole different perspective on life and on all my relationships, especially with my fiancé Robert, especially when you have someone who has lost their spouse and they have been together a long time. It's like they lose half of themselves.

There are so many personalities that I work with because it takes a certain type of person to work in this field. A person that I work with really has a touch and takes really good care of his families. One of the things that he was most excited about when I first started was showing me the room where they do the embalming, make-up, and the casketing.

And you've bonded with your co-workers.

Yes, everyone that works there is like family. A lot of the people are related, and generations have worked there.

What kind of questions do they ask during the interview? "Are you ok seeing dead bodies?"

Yes, pretty much, and they are looking for someone that can be sensitive to different people that mourn differently. They asked me point blank, "Why are you applying to a fu-

neral home?" I got a chance to see an exhumed body. It was a woman who died in the 70's.

What did she look like?

She was a skeleton with hair and wearing a dress. The lights are dimly lit in the cooler room; it was very respectful.

Does seeing death every day affect your psyche at all?

I think so. I try to compartmentalize. I think all the people I work with are bonded in that. But a cool part of my job is seeing all the different cultures and religions and how they deal with death. The 1st few funerals that I went to were very emotional. It's hard being a fly on the wall. You really begin to feel for these people even though you don't know them. You've got to be lighthearted; if you are too serious, it will eat you up.

Do you see a lot of families bury their loved ones with valuable jewelry?

Sometimes. Oh, my God! I had this amazing family. Oh, this woman -- I would have loved to know her! And that is what I feel so often is like, "I wish I would have known this person; they seem like such a treasure." She was a witness cremation in a full mink coat, with gorgeous jewelry. She had her nails done, and the family was amazing. They sang a song from Coco, and they had a procession outside the building.

What's the most unique request?

I don't remember what culture they were, but they had a live rooster at the burial. I remember my yard crew coming up to me and he whispers, "They can't sacrifice the rooster at the burial," and I walked over to the lady and told her that she couldn't sacrifice the rooster. And she said, "Oh, it's fine. It's got a leash on it, and we are just going to let it run around for a little bit." They did a ritual with

Continued, next page

COMMUNITY

The new Hope Harvest Cancer Fund supports local cancer warriors

There are many events and lives that have intersected in order for Hope Harvest Cancer Fund to become a reality. What started as a Relay-for-Life team is now a happy fall festival full of beautiful scenery, unique vendors, yummy food and drinks, and of course, pumpkins!

For many years, Cathy Alameda participated in Relay for Life with the Casillas-Garner Family and Friends team in Hollister. This team is passionate and strong which is why after receiving cancer treatment Cathy, and her husband Tony, decided to open a pumpkin patch with proceeds going towards their team and the American Cancer Society.

As the pumpkin patch grew in popularity and more donations were going to the American Cancer Society, Cathy and teammate Tami Erickson asked if a portion of their Relay for Life donations could be used locally. With Hollister's population under 100,000 people, The American Cancer Society could not guarantee the money would stay local. After three years of requesting that donations be kept available for local cancer support, they decided to change the beneficiary of pumpkin patch proceeds to benefit local residents. "We thought it was fair because all of the donations from the patch were coming directly from our local community," says Tami Erickson, who is an advisor on the Hope Harvest Cancer Fund.

While the donations from the Hope Harvest Festival stay local, Cathy, Tami, and Mari Rossi (the third advisor on the fund), still fully support the American Cancer Society and the hard-working Relay for Life team. In fact, the Casillas-Gardner Fam-



ily and Friends Relay for Life team are imperative to Hope Harvest's success. Tami recognizes that "we could not do it (Hope Harvest Festival) without them!"

The fund advisors all understand the hardships that face cancer patients after the initial diagnosis. Cathy believes "the disease is two-fold: you have the stress of trying to get well again, and you have the stress of the financial impact that the treatment has on the household." In 2021, they came to the Community Foundation to open a fund with the intent of helping other local cancer warriors with any financial burden they may be facing. The fund was established to provide financial assistance of up to \$10,000 per household, for mortgage/rent, utilities, child care, food, and gas assistance. Setting up a fund at the Community Foundation allows grants to be awarded on an as-needed basis. It also ensures the donations stay within San Benito County and help those living in the community. Those interested in being considered for a grant can fill out an application on the Community Foundations website.

Next year's Hope Harvest Festival is scheduled for September 24-25, 2022. It will be held at the San Benito County Historical Park, which is the perfect backdrop to this wonderful event. Mark your calendars to attend this festival full of pumpkins, food, local vendors, and a farmer's market, all for a great cause! ■



Hannah Marquez, continued

a string over the casket, and they passed the kids over the casket. Then the family had a white shroud that they put over their heads and walked in a train to their cars.

Everyone is different.

Yes, that's what I learn every day. Everyone is different.

Would you like to own your own fu-

neral home someday?

Yes, that would be the dream. I was called to this. These people are so selfless that I work with. They are amazing people and make it so personal for the family. It's more than a job. We are showing up for the families. They are all amazing people and take so much pride in the job they do for their families. ■



While the donations from the Hope Harvest Festival stay local, Cathy, Tami, and Mari Rossi still fully support the American Cancer Society and the hard-working Relay for Life team.

San Benito County Elections Department



Notice of Public Review Period

The Amended Draft Election Administration Plan (EAP) is available for public review and comment at <http://sbcvote.us/registrar-of-voters/voters-choice-act/>.

Comments are accepted until December 31, 2021, via email at sbcvote@cosb.us.

Public Hearing will be held January 6, 2022, 6:00 p.m. in English.

San Benito County Elections Department



Aviso de período de revisión pública

El Borrador del Plan de Administración de Elecciones (EAP) está disponible para revisión y comentarios públicos en <http://sbcvote.us/registrar-of-voters/voters-choice-act/>

Se aceptan comentarios hasta el 31 de diciembre de 2021, por correo electrónico a sbcvote@cosb.us.

La audiencia pública se llevará a cabo el 6 de enero de 2022 a las 7:30 p.m. en Español

MISSION VILLAGE VOICE | JANUARY 2022

Calendar

SUNDAY JANUARY 2

NEW MOON IN CAPRICORN

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - GARY BLACKBURN 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

BOY SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP & FOOD DRIVE Just leave it on the curbside by 9am. Serving Hollister & San Juan Bautista. For more info email 436troop436@gmail.com or san.juan.troop0428@gmail.com or call 831.636.6415

FRIDAY JANUARY 7

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - DJ JUNIOR D 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY JANUARY 8

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - SWEET DADDY 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

ENVIRONMENTAL DAY-THREE FREE SERVICES FOR SBC RESIDENTS! 9am-1pm. Veteran's Memorial Park, 1223 Memorial Dr., Hollister. E-Waste Recycling. Secure Document Shredding & Compost Giveaway. RecologySanBenito.com or 831.636.7500. See our ad in this month's Mission Village Voice for details.

BOY SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP & FOOD DRIVE Just leave it on the curbside by 9am. Serving Hollister & San Juan Bautista. For more info email 436troop436@gmail.com or san.juan.troop0428@gmail.com or call 831.636.6415

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE! 9am-12pm. Behind the SBC Free Library off West Street, Hollister. Info. 831.205.1373 sbcfriends.org@gmail.com

GILROY LIBRARY BOOK SALE 10am-12pm. 350 W. 6th St., Gilroy

SATURDAY JANUARY 8 - SUNDAY JANUARY 9

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players. Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY JANUARY 9

CARMEL MUSIC SOCIETY PRESENTS - THE DOVER QUARTET 3pm. Sunset Center, Carmel. Visit sunsetcenter.org

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - RHYTHM TRIBE 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

BOY SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE PICKUP & FOOD DRIVE Just leave it on the curbside by 9am. Serving Hollister & San Juan Bautista. For more info email

436troop436@gmail.com or san.juan.troop0428@gmail.com or call 831.636.6415

MONDAY JANUARY 10

AROMAS GRANGE PERFORMERS CIRCLE 7-9pm. Aromas Grange, corner of Rose & Bardue, Aromas. Info visit www.aromasgrange.org

FRIDAY JANUARY 14

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

NATIVE DAUGHTERS PEDRO CARD PARTY 1pm. Native Daughters Adobe, 203 Fourth Street, San Juan Bautista. Second Friday Monthly.

FRIDAY JANUARY 14 - SUNDAY JANUARY 16

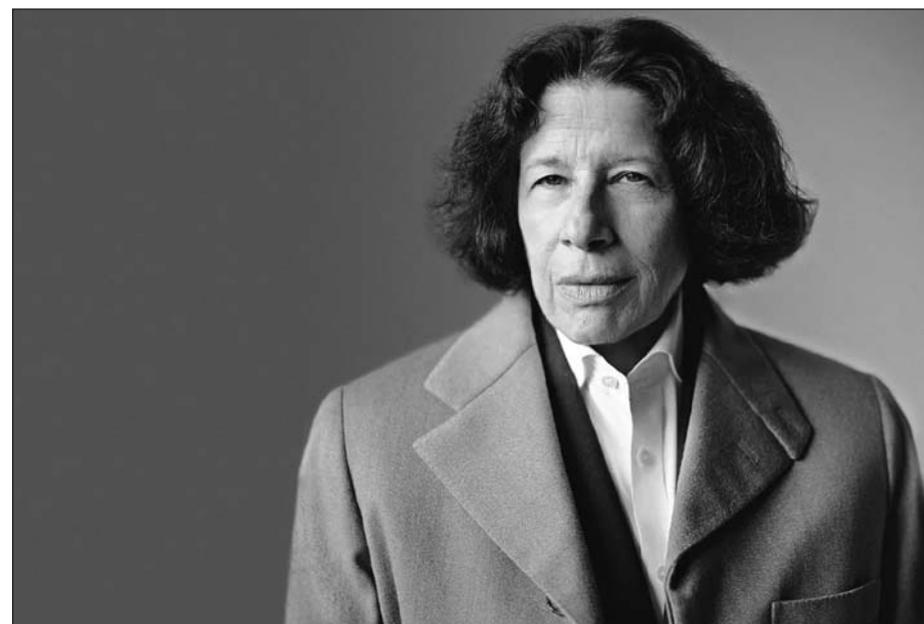
ST. FRANCIS RETREAT 42ND MEN'S RETREAT Topic- Wrestling with God: Finding Hope & Meaning. Led by Fr. Ken Laverone O.F.M. Register online at www.stfrancisretreat.com/events or call 831.623.4234

SATURDAY JANUARY 15

ENVIRONMENTAL DAY-THREE FREE SERVICES FOR SBC RESIDENTS! 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr., San Juan Bautista. E-Waste Recycling. Secure Document Shredding & Compost Giveaway. RecologySanBenito.com or 831.636.7500. See our ad in this month's Mission Village Voice for details.

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - JOHN GRIFFIN & THE LIGHTFIGHTERS 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS 9am -



Wednesday, January 19

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH SOCIAL COMMENTATOR FRAN LEBOWITZ. 7:30pm. Sunset Center Carmel. Visit sunsetcenter.org

12pm. Dispose of your paint, motor oil, household cleaners, and other HHW. Every 3rd Saturday of the month. John Smith Rd. Landfill. Proof of residency is required. Limit of 15 gallons or 125 gallons.

SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 3RD SATURDAY ON 3RD STREET Come celebrate our unique merchants, restaurants & drinking establishments with live music & specials. Extended hours for select businesses. 3rd Saturday of each month on 3rd Street.

SATURDAY JANUARY 15 - SUNDAY JANUARY 16

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players.

Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY JANUARY 16

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - NEXT BLUES BAND 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

MONDAY JANUARY 17

FULL MOON IN CANCER

PUNCH BROTHERS WITH SPECIAL GUEST HALEY HEYNDERICKX 7pm. Sunset Center Carmel. Visit sunsetcenter.org

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19

AN EVENING WITH FRAN LEBOWITZ 7:30pm. Sunset Center Carmel. Visit sunsetcenter.org

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 19 - SATURDAY JANUARY 22

ANNUAL ECOFARM CONFERENCE Join the oldest and largest organic farming event in Asilomar Conference Grounds. This conference is an essential networking and educational hub for farmers, ranchers, distributors, retailers, activists, researchers, and educators. Enjoy 50+ workshops, inspiring keynote speakers, an engaging expo, wine tastings, seed swaps, and farm tours. To learn more and to register visit www.ecofarm.org/conference. Email Abby@eco-farm.org

FRIDAY JANUARY 21

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - DJ JUNIOR D 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY JANUARY 22

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - JJ HAWG 9pm-1am.

Continued on next page



Weekends at Daisy's

We're not sure if you noticed, but there is regularly scheduled **LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S Saloon**, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484. Check the calendar for details.



Saturday, January 29

MISSION 10 HALF MARATHON - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Registration 7:15am. Four races: one-half marathon, 10 miles, 5k and 1 Mile kids fun run, all start and finish in front of the historic and beautiful San Juan Mission. The area is rural and the course takes runners through farm land and up the Anzar hills. Theme teams encouraged. Visit Runsignup.com/Race/CA/SanJuanBautista/RotaryMissionTenHalf

Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY JANUARY 22 - SUNDAY JANUARY 23

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players. Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY JANUARY 23

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - JOHNNY TSUNAMI 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

FRIDAY JANUARY 28

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S 9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY JANUARY 29

MISSION 10 HALF MARATHON - SAN JUAN BAUTISTA Registration 7:15am. Four races: one-half marathon, 10 miles, 5k and 1 Mile kids fun run, all start and finish in front of the historic and beautiful San Juan Mission. The area is rural and the course takes runners through farm land and up the Anzar hills. Theme teams encouraged. Visit Runsignup.com/Race/CA/SanJuanBautista/RotaryMissionTenHalf

CHAMBER MUSIC MONTEREY BAY PRESENTS - SIMONE DINNERSTEIN, SOLO PIANO 7:30pm. Sunset Center Carmel. Visit sunsetcenter.org

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - JILLIAN SHAW BAND

9pm-1am. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SATURDAY JANUARY 29 - SUNDAY JANUARY 30

SJB PICKLEBALL PLAYDAYS 9am-1pm. San Juan School, 100 Nyland Dr. Beginners-Advanced players. Everyone is welcome! \$2 suggested donation. Courts open from dawn to dusk daily.

SUNDAY JANUARY 30

AROMAS GRANGE BREAKFAST 7:30-11am \$6/adults \$3/kids. Aromas Grange, corner of Rose & Bardue. Info visit www.aromasgrange.org

SUNDAY JANUARY 30

LIVE MUSIC @ DAISY'S - SAM'S BAND 2-6pm. Daisy's Saloon, 213 Third St., San Juan Bautista. 831.623.4484

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5

WOMEN'S CLUB OF HOLLISTER FASHION SHOW 4pm. The Elk's Lodge in Hollister. Purchase tickets at Postal Graphics \$50.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 20

AROMAS GRANGE PRESENTS - BACKYARD BIRDS Doors 3:45 Start 4:30pm. \$15/advance \$20/door. Snack foods & premium beers & wines for sale. Tickets @ Marshall's Market in Aromas or www.eventbrite.com/228422266147 or aromasgrange.org

ARTS

San Benito County Arts Council to receive \$150,000 grant from NEA

The San Benito County Arts Council is pleased to announce that we have been selected to receive an American Rescue Plan grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to help the arts and cultural sector recover from the pandemic. We have been awarded \$150,000 and will use this funding to distribute grants to eligible recipients in our arts community to save jobs and to fund operations and facilities, health and safety supplies, and marketing and promotional efforts to encourage attendance and participation. In total, the NEA will award grants totaling \$20,200,000 to 66 local arts agencies nationwide for subgranting.

"The NEA's significant investment in local arts agencies, including the San Benito County Arts Council is a key element in helping the arts and culture sector recover and re-



open, while ensuring that that American Rescue Plan funding is distributed equitably," said Ann Eilers, NEA's acting chair. "These grants recognize the vital role of local arts agencies and will allow them to help rebuild local economies and contribute to the well-being of our communities."

The San Benito County Arts Council is currently working on developing guidelines and processes for granting NEA funds to local artists and arts organizations and hopes to release the first round of grant applications in early 2022, followed by a second round of funding in early 2023.

"This is wonderful news for our local arts community," said County Supervisor Kollin Kosmicki. "Just like other types of groups and businesses, arts organizations and artists in San Benito County have faced serious financial challenges during the pandemic. There is tremendous need for this funding, as arts play an integral role in our local culture and economy. I'm very thankful for the San Benito County Arts Council's efforts on this grant, and appreciate the organization's continued leadership when it comes to supporting local artists and arts programs." ■

ASK RECOLOGY

Making a difference through art at any age

By Lisa Jensema

Dear Lisa,

I am 16 years old and a pretty good artist. I heard about your company's poster contest last year and was thinking of entering this time. But it looked like the contest was only for young kids. Is that true or could I enter?

J.M.

Hollister, CA

Dear J.M.,

I am inspired by your question! It's young people like you and your friends who can fight climate change and motivate others through your actions.

The annual Art Poster Contest, sponsored by Recology and the County of San Benito Integrated Waste Management Regional Agency, is a great way for you to get your artwork—and your message—out there in your own unique way. As you may have noticed, the winner's artwork gets blown up to an 8-ft.-long billboard on the side of one of the Recology trucks that travels each week through your neighborhood and around the County!

The following guidelines will help you come up with a concept that qualifies for the contest:

- Artwork should reflect solutions to Climate Change such as bicycling instead of driving, planting trees, growing your own

food, composting food scraps, generating less garbage through reuse, etc.

- For more ideas you can visit RecologySanBenito.com to see the poster contest winners from 2021 and the environmental themes captured in their incredible artwork!

- Students must create original artwork, no existing clip art, computer-generated graphics/characters, or other graphics allowed.

- No more than six words to appear on poster. Use bright colors and bold text. Crayons, markers, colored pencils, and other art materials recommended. Computer-generated artwork will not be accepted.

- Only one entry per student.

Artwork and entry form may be emailed to PosterContest@Recology.com by March 18, 2022 as a PDF file.

Happy New Year and can't wait to see your artwork!

Zero Wastingly,
Lisa

Do you have a question for Recology? Email Lisa at ljensema@recology.com or send a letter to: Ask Recology San Benito, 1351 Pacheco Pass Highway, Gilroy, CA 95020 ■



MISSION VILLAGE VOICE Q&A

Zsofi Bruckner, Coach, Nature Code Healing, Mastering the Power of Self-Healing

By Anne Caetano

A new year symbolizes a new beginning. Several motivational adages come to mind: “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” (Chinese proverb) and “Whether you think you can, or you think you can't — you're right” (Henry Ford). How successful you are with a New Year's resolution is really a mindset. *Mission Village Voice* recently met with Nature Code Healing, Mastering the Power of Self-Healing coach Zsofi Bruckner, who lives in Aromas. If you are ready for a change, contact Zsofi at info@naturecodehealing.com or www.naturecodehealing.com/powerofselfhealing

MVV: My sister lost 18 lbs. on your program.

ZB: That's amazing! Actually everybody who kept continuity with the program lost weight.

What's your secret?

I help people to activate their full potential through lifestyle medicine, toxin-free living, and (a lot of) mindset work, rewiring our belief system and creating energetic alignments, tapping into our nervous system and changing brain patterns; it is wonderful, and it's life changing.

How do you find the mindset limitation?

Limiting beliefs are the biggest issue and there are great techniques to help eliminate them, and one of them is called the Dickens technique.

What is the Dickens Technique?

Questioning your limiting beliefs and what are the areas that don't seem to be working in your life. We work first on the conscious level, then the unconscious level and going deeper and deeper because that's how you can peel off those layers.

How?

The conscious level is the easiest because you see it every day, like, what is your self-talk? What are the thoughts that come up when you look in the mirror or when buying your food or when you end up binge eating in the kitchen? Then we dive a little bit deeper to find the limiting beliefs, and then

you can find the fears behind which created the limiting beliefs because those are there to protect you even if it doesn't seem to be.

How do you rewire?

One of the easiest is asking if it's true, separating the fact from the story. If so, then everybody who has the issue would not be able to heal. You may have a relationship block or you have excess weight, and you have that limiting belief that you're not attractive enough anymore because of that. So you wouldn't be able to find your partner, and if that's your belief, then you must ask first that is really true or is it a story I'm creating because of the fears behind it?



How do you tap into your unconscious?

Making the two sides of the brain -- two hemispheres -- work together. That's one of the ways that you can tap into your unconscious and bring in new beliefs. We work with that as well and people find it very powerful. And EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique).

Explain EFT.

Nowadays, it is called tapping. You set a statement and you tap on the Karate Chop Point in the center of your hand. If I have excess weight and believe I'm not attractive enough to find my partner, I still fully accept and love myself.

How long do you tap?

You do those five times. You say the statement, and you just keep tapping, and then you start tapping through the points: the top of the head, the eyebrow, side of the eye, under the eye, under the nose, under the mouth, chin, the collarbone and under the arm, and you do this five times every day.

If someone is very disciplined in this, how soon do they see changes?

It can be instant.

How does your program work?

It's an ongoing "evergreen program." We started our 1st lab with 12 people. Everything we did was recorded and uploaded into the system. So, everybody can go at their own pace. And we still have the live sessions.

How did you start practicing?

I started with my own health challenges, and that's what first got me into alternative medicine. I was 12 when my first signs started showing in my body. I started losing my hair at 12. It took me 20 years to figure it out. I started developing really bad digestive problems. I had diarrhea for six years, and I couldn't get one single answer. I felt so devastated and hopeless, and I knew how much it affected every area of my life. I realized that it was even holding me back from even be able to live my purpose. I had this call back then even like in my early 20s that I want to do something good. I want to serve. I want to help people. I want to give something back to the world, and that's when I started my journey with the alternative medicine and energy medicine as well. I realized I had to let go so much and heal trauma like relationships with my parents and from childhood things and find my limiting beliefs and what the roots for those. That's when I created the change and was trained in Yoga, Reiki, EFT & kinesiology. The nutritional part came as the last puzzle



piece, and then it really shifted everything. I tried like 15 different diets before that, and it changed my life, and my daughter's development to start skyrocketing.

How does kinesiology work?

It's technically based that everything is stored in our system in our body, and especially the muscle cells. And there are ways that you can tap into that and ask your body questions and you get different answers through your muscles because the muscles start getting weaker or stronger depending on the answer. There is a whole science behind it, and that's the first thing that I was trained, and it blew my mind how deeply effective it is and how many answers it gave me and helped me.

For example?

People can test certain foods, supplements and just also test if they can metabolize it or if it's a supplement, how much your body can tolerate or would need. The easiest way is to stand and hold, let's say a lemon, right in front of your belly button, and ask the question, “Is this lemon good for me? Is it beneficial for my body?” And if your body starts leaning towards it, it's a Yes because the body wants to go towards it. When it's moving away, then you can't necessarily metabolize it, but then you just retest that with a different question. Okay. And so, the question became, “Can my body metabolize this property?” You can do that with supplements too. You'd never do that with medication, of course.

Thank you, Zsofi. This is perfect for starting the year off right.

It requires commitment and the mindset. You must put in the work, and you must commit to yourself and your health and your own transformation. ■

VOWS

Mia Vodanovich and Donald Halsey

Mia Vodanovich and Donald Halsey were married September 4, 2021 at the Mission San Juan Bautista with Father Rudy Ruiz officiating. They celebrated their reception with family and friends at the Hacienda de Leal in San Juan Bautista.

The bride is the daughter of John Mark Vodanovich and Georgina Del Rosario, from Sunnyvale, California. She was escorted by her mother and her brother, Alex Vodanovich. The bridegroom is the son of Donald Halsey of Montclair, New Jersey and Joanne Brodala of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was escorted by his parents. Toni Boyle was the maid of honor, and Robert Hall-Barnes was the best man. The flower girl and ring bearer were Lilly-Belle Johnson and Leonardo Santana.

The bride is a graduate of Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, CA. She is employed as an English instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose and Gavilan College in Gilroy. The bridegroom is a graduate of the University of San Francisco and is currently employed as a sales and service



manager with Prudential Overall Supply in Milpitas.

Mia and Donnie were introduced at the party of a mutual friend in 2015 and enjoyed a first date at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk shortly after. Four years later, Donnie proposed at Disney California Adventure on Thanksgiving Day, the rainiest day the two had seen all year. It was perfect.

Mia and Donnie currently reside in Sunnyvale, California. They plan to honeymoon in Ireland in summer 2022. ■

GREEN CALIFORNIA GREEN BUSINESS NETWORK Green Business Tips

Start 2022 off with a Sustainability Challenge

By Timaree Nelson

Looking for a New Year's resolution to help you be more green? Join us for our upcoming Sustainability Challenge starting January 15th. Get rewards if you finish in time for Earth Day Marketing — up to \$750 for eligible businesses!

No matter what sector your business is in, now is a great time to make a positive impact for your business and community by making your operations more efficient and environmentally friendly. Over a three-month period, your business will receive dedicated assistance from our team to reach Certification with the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program — just in time for Earth Day!

Why Join?

- Save money on utilities by making small changes around your business
- Get free resources and information to

make sustainability and efficiency upgrades

- Know you are reducing the carbon footprint of your business even more than you already are
- Let your community and customers know that you are preserving our precious resources
- Join our growing green business community at awards events and more!
- For Restaurants: You will receive a \$250 cash incentive for completing our Entry Level requirements while also meeting foodware ordinance requirements in time

We have limited space in our 2022 challenge! Sign up by January 10th to get priority reservation and guaranteed funds up to \$750. E-mail Saburi Sai at ssai@environmentalin.com for more information or sign up for an info session at tinyurl.com/2p9frms. ■

CELESTIAL EVENTS



January 2 - New Moon Capricorn. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 18:35 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower. The Quadrantids is an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1, which was discovered in 2003. The shower runs annually from January 1-5. It peaks this year on the night of the 3rd and morning of the 4th. The thin, crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

January 7 - Mercury at Greatest Eastern Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest eastern elongation of 19.2 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the evening sky. Look for the planet low in the western sky just after sunset.

January 17 - Full Moon in Cancer. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 23:51 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been known as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule.



Quadrantids Meteor shower in 2019 by Tom Lee (CC, www.flickr.com/photos/68942208@N02)

MVV ēvz drāp



Woman: How long have you had him?

Other Woman: Since he was a kitten.

Woman: Oh, I thought he came as a stray.

Man chiming in: We all come as strays. ■

HEALTH

Understanding Medicare enrollment periods

By Michele Campbell

Well now that another Annual Enrollment Period is over, it's good to know when else you can change your Medicare plan, if applicable to you. Enrollment Periods are times a person can enroll into Medicare or change existing Medicare plans. There can be separate enrollment periods for Medicare Parts A and B (Original Medicare) and Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage).

Enrollment periods include:

Initial Enrollment Period (IEP) – After becoming eligible for Medicare and enrolling into Medicare Parts A and B, you have your Initial Enrollment Period, where you can enroll for the first time an additional Medicare health plan and/or drug plan. This timeline is 7 months long and begins three months before the month of a person's 65th birthday, the birthday month and continues through the three months after a person's 65th birthday month. This could also be for someone under 65, who is disabled for 24 months and is newly qualified for Medicare.

Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP) – the first time a newly eligible person can enroll in a Medicare Advantage plan or if someone is new to Part B and had previous creditable coverage.

General Enrollment Period (GEP) – runs January 1 – March 31 each year and provides an enrollment opportunity for individuals who didn't sign up for Medicare Part B when they were first eligible. Individuals may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for not enrolling when first eligible and coverage will not start until July 1 of that year.

Annual Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans (AEP) – current Medicare recipients can change or en-



roll in these plans during this period that runs from October 15 through December 7.

Special Enrollment Period (SEP) – certain life events can lead to an individual being eligible for enrolling in Original Medicare or enrolling in or changing Medicare health plans and/or drug coverage. This election period goes on all year. Some examples of a Special Enrollment Period include:

- Moving to a new location where new plan options are available
- Losing employer coverage (Retiring, being laid off, etc)
- Being diagnosed with a qualifying chronic condition, such as diabetes or chronic heart failure
- Moving in or out of a skilled nursing facility or long-term care hospital
- Gaining or losing MediCal

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA-OEP) runs from January 1st through March 31st. Beneficiaries who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan can make a one-time change during this 3 month period. They can either switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan or go back to Original Medicare and get a Prescription Drug plan. If they want to add a Medicare Supplement plan, there is no guarantee that you will be approved; you'll have to go through medical underwriting so be sure you give yourself time for approval before you leave your Advantage plan.

Remember that Independent Agents represent most of the carriers and don't cost you any money to use them. If you have any questions or need any help during this time, please feel free to reach out for help. We can be reached at 408-848-2271 or email jen@mcinsuranceservices.com. There is no cost for our services. ■

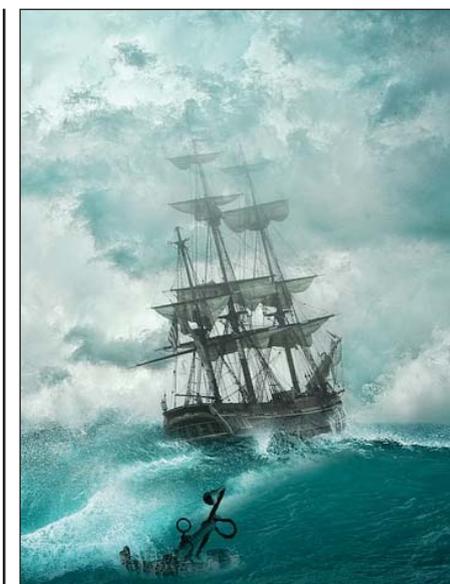
or-i-gin

Set sail

'Square meal' is filtered down from the age of sailing. In the age of fighting sail, sailors required up to 5000 calories a day with all the manual labor. They were given stodgy, large meals served on square wooden plates/boards for easy storage and harder to break, so the term became synonymous with a good meal.

Similarly the phrase, '**the bitter end**' referred to an anchor line that was secured to bits or cleats mounted in the bow. Once all of the line was let out, the line was said to be at its bitter end, meaning no more line could be let out. So to fight to the bitter end, means until there is nothing left to give.

The phrase "**by and large**" as well came from sailing ships. You could either be sailing "by the wind," or just "by" (with the wind afore the beam, or midpoint of the



ship's length), or sailing "large" (with the wind abaft the beam). So "by and large" means "in all situations." ■

ENTERTAINMENT

Backyard Birds return to the Aromas Grange Hall

Backyard Birds are returning to the Aromas Grange Hall (the last visit was February 2020, before the you-know-what), Sunday February 20 at 4:30 PM to bless us with their sassy musical interludes and toe-tappin melodies!!

The Backyard Birds are: Linda Baker (vocals, acoustic electric guitar), Jean Catino (vocals, tenor ukulele), June Coaha (vocals, soprano ukulele), Larry Prather (bass) and Linc Russin (mandolin) - performs a fresh blend of vocal harmonies in a wide variety of music, uncovering great, overlooked songs in genres ranging from Americana, rock and roll, alt-country, pop and R&B to jazz standards and originals.

The three women's close-knit harmonies and the band's acoustic stylings, highlighted by Russin's mandolin playing and Prather's expressive bass, have drawn comparisons to the music of the T Sisters and Rosanne Cash, but the Birds' discerning selection of eclectic material is unique.

Backyard Birds' 2020 album, *Wildlife*, showcases their approach to lesser-known but cover-worthy songs, with music from folk duo First Aid Kit, songwriter and singer Carlene Carter, Buddy and Julie Miller, rockabilly/soul songwriter Imelda May, classic country songwriters Ray Edenton and Don Winters, and Neil Young. Backyard



Birds' intimate live performances also often include songs by Anna McGarrigle, Rosanne Cash, Sam Phillips, Dan Penn and Chips Moman, the Beatles, Leonard Cohen, Dave Frishberg and others.

The five musicians met and began to develop their sound through the vibrant, supportive Santa Cruz ukulele scene. Baker and Catino first sang and performed together and with Russin at Santa Cruz play-alongs and open mics. When Coaha was invited to play at a local gig, she asked Baker and Catino to join her as Backyard Birds. Russin, who learned mandolin as a boy in Italy, and Prather, a devoted student of music who had been in other local bands, joined shortly afterwards, and completed the Backyard Birds quintet in 2017.

Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Concert starts at 4:30 PM -- doors open at 3:45 PM. LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE FOR SAFETY -- only 125 Tickets will be sold. Snack foods will be available for purchase to eat outside of the Hall (no eating indoors). Premium beers and wines will also be available for purchase.



Our sister Loo and her view: The toilet for the Serengeti Sunrise Balloon Safari, in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. ■



Houses on bluff above row crops and orchards in Hollister.

SBALT NEWS

Cultivating our future: Searching for the balance between housing and agriculture

By Lynn Overtree

Food and Shelter. These are basics we need to survive. The challenge is optimizing our land use

so that achieving one does not compromise the other. At SBALT we work for the protection of irreplaceable soils that support productive agricultural crops and businesses. Our two population centers, Hollister and San Juan Bautista, are expanding onto the very lands that attracted historical settlements because of their optimal farming conditions.

The State of California is requiring San Benito County to plan for 5,000 additional housing units over the next eight years. New housing developments are appearing at multiple locations. We commend those who encourage growth to occur within the cities' developed areas ("in-fill") because farmland is not lost. For projects that do pave over rich agricultural soils, the County and cities request that the developer pay to permanently preserve an equal acreage of productive farmland. This is called "mitigation," and the recommended ratio in San Benito County's General Plan is 1:1.

One-to-one mitigation still results in the



net loss of half of our farmland. For example, if ten acres are converted to housing and another ten acres are permanently pre-

served, then only ten of the original twenty acres remains farmland. Alternatively, 2:1 mitigation accepts a loss of a third of the farmland. At least four other jurisdictions in California (two counties, two cities) have or are considering policies that require 2:1 mitigation for farmland converted to other uses.

I recently met some wonderful people who moved to a new housing development in Hollister from Sunnyvale because of the rural beauty we still enjoy. They questioned the policies for new developments because it compromises the values that attracted them here in the first place. I encouraged them to become civically engaged. We all have a role in determining how we grow.

This New Year we hope you will make a resolution to engage in your community. Watch for BenitoLink's weekly notice of public meetings. Attend and share YOUR vision for cultivating San Benito County's future. Learn more about your local land trust at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org. ■

THOMELLIER

A good wine is not hard to find

By Thomas Brenner, Somellier
Palo Alto Hills Golf & Country Club

Q: "What makes a good wine?"

—Harald F.

A: People ask me this question in one form or another quite frequently. A great many attributes come together to make a good wine. At the end of the day, you get what you pay for, and hopefully you're shelling out your hard-earned pay simply for a bottle that you enjoy. After all, wine enjoyment is what a good wine should be about.

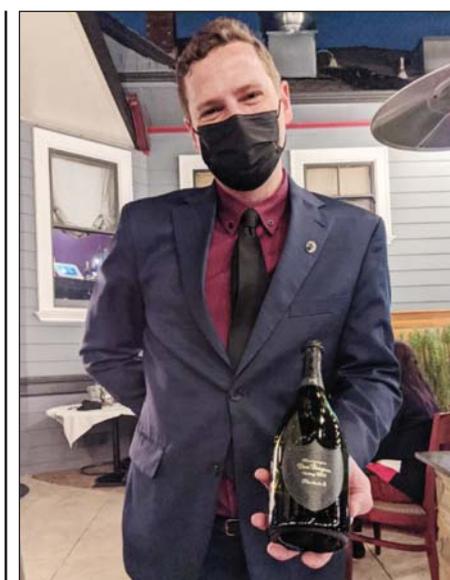
First and foremost, a good wine is made from quality grapes and not subjected to enhancement methods like wood chips in lieu of proper oak aging, adding mega purple concentrates, or too much augmentation of acid or sugar to round out what the wine was originally lacking.

When a grape (or blend of grapes) hails from wine growing regions that boast a suitable climate and then undergoes a perfect vinification regimen by an accomplished winemaker, then a good wine can be produced. For me, a good wine is one that fits the occasion and rounds out the experience. I like the wine even more when it is priced appropriately as well. A good Quality-to-Price Ratio (QPR) assures a great value for a bottle of wine and allows for it to ultimately be deemed a "good wine."

If you factor in the myriad of other components from which a good wine (or even a great one) is comprised of, and the bottle of wine meets most of these attributes, then wine magic can be attained.

These determining factors for a great wine include the following:

Great Vintage: Each region has better vintages than others, which translates to the



quality of the wine.

Reputable Producer: An established winemaker and brand is more likely to showcase consistent quality.

Price Point: Usually a wine starting at around \$25 is a good launching point for finding a high-quality wine. The cheaper the bottle, the more likely it will be akin to tasting like "the fast food of wine."

Origin: Certain wine growing regions are more conducive to boasting better wines for certain grapes. Also, the smaller the geographical point of origin from where a wine has been sourced, the higher the quality. Famous wine growing regions are coveted for a reason and will only produce select wines won from grapes that perform best in their respective region.

Long story short, if you find a wine from a solid producer, from a small region that is known for producing a great wine won from a certain grape or blend, stemming from a good vintage and all of this at a fair price, then a good wine can be attained. Happy hunting!

Email your questions for Thommellier to missionvillagevoice@gmail.com. ■

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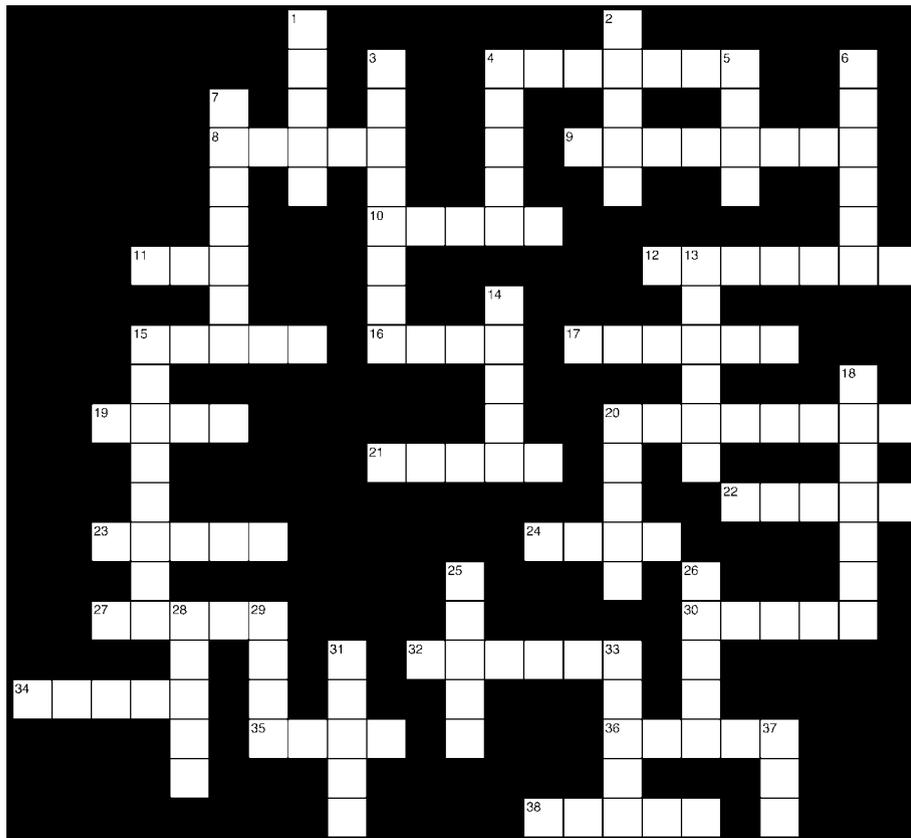
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ACROSS

- 4 Expand
- 8 1/16 of a pound
- 9 +Groucho's game show "You bet ___"
- 10 Uneasy feeling
- 11 Cards at a bar, say
- 12 Noodle dish with peanuts and bean sprouts
- 15 Tih's cule has a few of tehm
- 16 Give the cold shoulder
- 17 Bottled spirits
- 19 Collect what you sow
- 20 + "Horse ___" Marx Bros. film
- 21 Upper atmosphere layer
- 22 Abate
- 23 + Non-comedic Marx brother
- 24 + "___ Soup" Marx

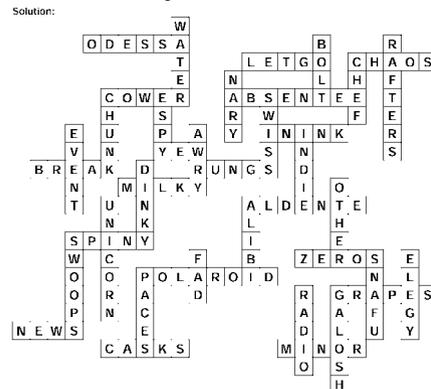
DOWN

- 1 Bros. film
- 27 Playground retort
- 30 +Horn-tooting Marx brother
- 32 + "___Business" Marx Bros. film
- 34 Purchase on a kindle
- 35 Speaking platform
- 36 Sauce made with mayo
- 38 Rude thing to leave at a restaurant

- 13 + "___ Crackers" Marx Bros. film
- 14 Negotiator of collective wages
- 15 + "A Night at ___" Marx Bros. film
- 18 + Cigar and eye-brows Marx brother
- 20 Hoity-toity
- 25 Shade of white

- 26 +Piano playing Marx brother
- 28 Au naturel, so to speak
- 29 Column with a view-point
- 31 Southern breakfast dish
- 33 Dough raiser
- 37 Squid's defense

Last month's puzzle solution Just Puzz



HOROSCOPE JANUARY 2022 by Hilda De Anza



ARIES
March 21-April 20
January starts out on a constructive note,

and a good time to be part of a group that widens your horizons intellectually. You are searching for truths philosophically, but also you can get lost regarding what beliefs you can get attached to. A complex month for partnerships, where crisis and transformation seem to characterize developments. End of January, a period begins when you exercise power which nobody will be able to resist.



TAURUS
April 21-May 21
In January, you review your ambitions and goals and modify

them. Socially, there are new and important trends expanding your circle of friends and your engagement with organizations that serve high ideals. You have extremely strong convictions right now, and it is good to be part of a group which shares them. With relationships, end of January is a good time to join forces with a strong partner, especially if you are engaged in a difficult journey.



GEMINI
May 22-June 21
In January, you will try your hand at

starting something new, and on the other trying to finish off something that has been the source of painful emotions. January brings a new focus on study or travel, and a widening of your horizons. Things become complicated which may force you to deal with unfinished business. On a positive note, there is an expansion of your career in some way facilitated by new leadership with ideals that you believe in.



CANCER
June 22-July 22
January starts with a focus on a variety of

important relationships in your life. There may for example be a family matter which reached a crisis point in December, and that you will be working hard to resolve this month. Around January 8th you are confronted by someone you are dealing with, which requires that you renegotiate terms based on new circumstances. The end of the month brings an important turning point and exciting new opportunities, which may be related to international groups.



LEO
July 23-August 22
As January begins, there is a focus on the

structure and rhythm of your daily life, particularly work, with a strong emphasis on change affecting colleagues, customers and clients. Around January 20th your focus on what is going on at work lessens, as interest in personal relationships increases. An excellent period begins for outgoing activities with groups, and the end of January is an excellent time for forging a strong bond with a partner.



VIRGO
August 23-September 22
2022 is characterized

by involvement with individuals who have a big dream with a strong focus on developments at work. You are going through a period of restructuring, which affects the daily rhythm of people you work with. You want to show solidarity and engagement, but unforeseen developments force you to put plans on hold. You may be thinking you are back where you started, because there is unfinished business that is going to absorb time and energy.



LIBRA
September 23-October 22
In January, you will

be drawn deep into an issue requiring a deep investigation of hidden issues. If something at home is exhausting your resources, you may have to disentangle yourself from it. End of January, you find a liberating solution. For single Libras, there are indications that a prior relationship gets a second chance, and soon union is achieved. If in a relationship, you merge your interest around a shared goal.



SCORPIO
October 23-November 21
January begins with a

sense that your finances have a solid basis. Some care has to be taken mid month when matters of the heart can lead you astray. You can safely rely on the advice of family and friends. Relationships matters are more complex, both in connection with partners, siblings, or people who live close by. End of January, there is a change in emphasis, and you will be motivated to achieve great things intellectually with creative communication, both professionally and romantically.



SAGITTARIUS
November 22-December 21
Beginning of January,

there is an extremely strong emphasis on financial developments connected with your working or social life. One outcome could be innovative changes in your daily working life, which give you the freedom to decide how you want to work. End of January, strong new initiatives in connection with income start to bring some great benefits. This could be to do with a creative venture, where you provide the inspiration, and others provide the funds and organization.



CAPRICORN
December 22-January 20
As January begins,

focus is on working with a team on socially enlightened projects. There is an intense focus on relationships. This could be in your love life, with a child, or with a professional associate or boss. Dealing with the complexity of relationships is a difficult process, and you will probably be involved with a number of people who rely on you. End of January, you can get to grips with any unfinished issues as a powerful ally lends a helping hand.



AQUARIUS
January 21-February 19
As January begins,

you are in a strong position, but you are struggling to create a lifestyle which corresponds to your authentic needs. Finance is an area where expansion takes place in January, and things look optimistic. This may be great, but it is crucial that you don't start spending or investing on a hope and prayer. January is a wonderful month for creative ideas and communication.



PISCES
February 20-March 20
January brings a dynamic

period of expansion, a time when you can tune in to your true nature and express your creative, spiritual and idealistic side. Be guided by friends who will always provide a dose of realism. This is an intense period for friends, and social scenes general. Things get resolved in surprising ways and to your advantage in mid-January. End of January, new and powerful friends enter the scene, and if you make a strong alliance with competent people, then you will have considerable success.



A STUDIO LIFE

'A second family'

By Amber Matteson, dance mom

Growing up, I always wanted to be a dancer, but there were no dance studios where we lived. I couldn't have been more thrilled when six years ago, my daughters, Katelyn (13) and Ava (10) wanted to take a ballet class. I expected the tutus and ballet shoes; however, what we received in return has been so much more.

In joining San Benito Dance Academy (SBDA), we gained a second family. My children have made lifelong friendships, and I get to call some of their parents my best friends. You not only form a bond while watching your children grow as dancers, but you also join a huge support system that comes together to lift each other up.

A wonderful, supportive team is what's needed to help SBDA put on its annual Nutcracker and Recital performances. We just wrapped up the 14th annual Nutcracker at Vets' Hall, and the dancers could not have been happier to be back on stage. Countless hours of preparation go into these shows. It begins with auditioning and measuring for costumes, all the way down to making sure each dancer has the right shoes on, their



hairpiece on their right side, and taking their place in line-up before stepping out to shine on stage.

This year, some of our families' preparations included designing and making over 500 masks for various dances, baking concessions for show days, and making sure dancers were ready to go before performing each dance on stage. Of course, not all families volunteer for as many jobs, but you'll notice that most families at SBDA feel a sense of pride in volunteering to make sure everything comes together to put on some amazing shows!

My daughters started out taking one ballet class a week. These days, they take ballet, jazz, lyrical, tumbling/acro, and the newly added hip-hop class. If you've ever thought your child (or you) might enjoy taking a dance class, we encourage you to try one out! You won't just get a fun class; you'll gain a sense of community. Hope to see you backstage, soon! The new session at SBDA begins January 10. Check out the Classes page of the website for details! ■



NOW
HEAR
THIS

Wake Up

This podcast explores the mystical side of human intuition, consciousness and awareness known as the Noetic Sciences. Can you perceive the future? Yes you can... Have you ever had a dream come true? Did you "just know" something was going to happen and then it did? Have you ever "had a feeling" something was going to happen and then it did? If so then my friend you are able to perceive the future and you're in the WAKE UP. Our podcast explains the way to the higher human consciousness to manifest spiritual abilities or intuition naturally. Intuitive researcher and author Douglas James Cottrell, PhD is your host, joined by co-host, Les Hubert.



Slow Chat with Topher Field

No one can predict where a Slow Chat will go! Topher Field seeks out the most interesting people he can find and then invites you to settle in, grab a glass (or bottle) of something nice, and enjoy listening in on an unhurried conversation about things that really matter, with people who are making a difference.



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Most of us are busy, and when we find an article that we want to read later, it becomes one more tab on our mobile phones or laptops, never to be read again. Even worse, it gets deleted when you clear your cache. Enter Pocket.

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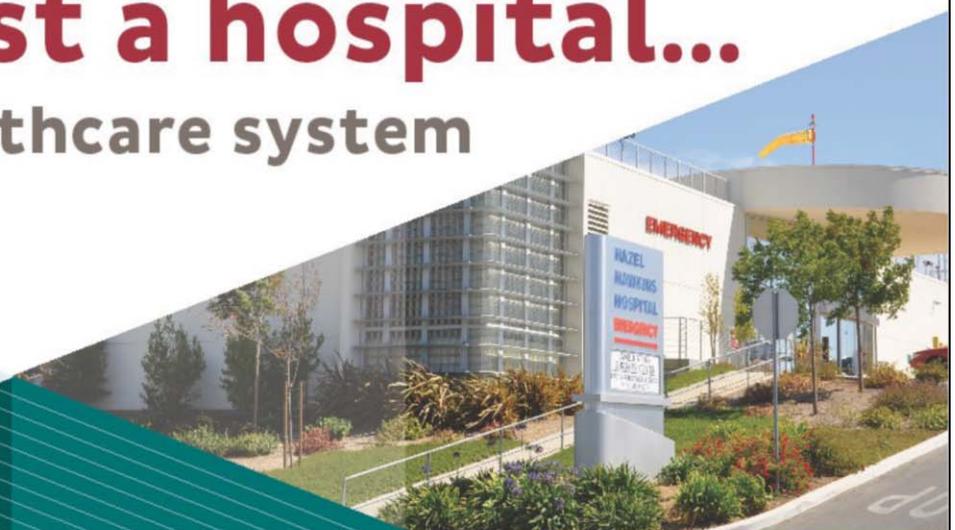
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