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Lumsdaine writes book on family history

■ “Indomitable: A Legacy of Love, Courage and Perseverance” was years in the making.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - A Downey resident's new book tells a true story of love and perseverance on a backdrop of war, revolution, racism and separation.

“Indomitable: A Legacy of Love, Courage, and Perseverance” depicts the romance and journey of author Joseph Lumsdaine's parents.

Lumsdaine spent over two years interviewing his siblings and compiling other research before putting pen to paper. Originally, he had not intended to make it a published work.



“Through the years, when I would tell people the story of my family, people would say, ‘You should write that down, that’s interesting,’” said Lumsdaine.

“I really wasn’t planning at first on writing it for the general public. It was for my family, and I come from a pretty large family. My parents had 11 kids; I was the youngest. There’s only seven of us left of that generation, but there’s 23 grandkids, 38 great grandkids.”

“I thought that’s a good audience anyways.”

However, Lumsdaine's niece - a professional editor - encouraged him to publish.

“She and the copy editor, after the drafts and reading and all that, said ‘You really should put this out there because there are things that are relatable to people in current times.’”

At its core, Indomitable is a tale of love. His father an American and his mother Chinese, Lumsdaine's parents' relationship endured two wars, social unrest, and the challenges that come with immigration and raising a biracial family at that time.

“It deals with poverty, the impact of war on families, PTSD, it deals with racism,” said Lumsdaine.

Lumsdaine says that his aim for the book is not to make a profit. On the contrary, he has committed any royalties it collects to the Downey Los Amigos Kiwanis.

More importantly, he hopes that the book will promote the message found in its byline.

“The front of the book has some Chinese writing on it....The Chinese words say ‘love conquers all,’” said Lumsdaine.

“I believe in that. I think people reading [the book] should believe that they can overcome anything, that they can overcome racism, poverty, injustice, separation, war... everything can be overcome if you persevere.”

“What fuels perseverance? What fuels the courage to put up with stuff, to me really is love.”

“Indomitable” can be found on Amazon.

ANXIOUS STUDENTS RETURN TO CAMPUS

■ More than a year after campuses closed, Downey students returned Monday to optional in-person teaching.

By Alex Dominguez
Staff Writer

DOWNEY - There was a palpable mix of excitement and nerves across Downey Unified School District on Monday, as the district's 20 schools reopened to students after more than a year of closure.

Teachers and staff stood anxiously posted at several entry ways to campus as students and their parents began to line the gates at Gauldin Elementary School.

“We are so excited, I felt like it was Christmas,” said Principal Sylvia Estrella. “All the staff, we’ve been really excited.”

It was a moment that many have been waiting for since DUSD initially closed its campuses on March 13 last year.

It’s been months of hard conversations and painstakingly combing through every imaginable detail for the district to be able to get to this point. With the moment now arrived, Estrella says that she is “100%” confident in the school’s and the district’s ability to keep students and staff safe.

“The minute it occurred, they were always proactive; Downey Unified has been preparing us for this opening,” said Estrella. “With our ventilation, the purifying the students’ desks, they’ve taken the guidelines and gone above and beyond.”

Estrella added that the staff at Gauldin has stayed vigilant to remain visible, transparent and answer questions when they could.

“We had our first parent meeting, and after our first parent meeting we had quite a few parents decide to come back to hybrid,” said Estrella. “They want answers, parents would like their children safe, and children just want to be back on campus.”

According to statistics released by DUSD, approximately 50% of students have opted to remain in full distance learning. That holds mostly true at Gauldin, with Estrella estimating about a 51% student return rate to the campus.

Parent Iliana Miranda, who has a fifth grader and a third grader at Gauldin, said that her family was very excited to send her sons back to school.

“It’s been pretty difficult; it was hard for them in the beginning,” said Miranda. “Throughout the whole process it became even harder so they’re very excited to come back to school.”

When asked if she or her children were nervous, Miranda said that “it’s just excitement.”

“I’m not nervous or anything like that, they’re not nervous either,” said Miranda. “I think it’s everything: seeing their teachers, seeing their friends, getting out of the house, being with the other kids.”

Miranda said that it was an “easy decision” for her family.

“Me and my children, my husband and I, we just couldn’t wait to go back to school, for them to start interacting, to go to class,” said Miranda. “Distance learning is kind of difficult, because I believe they’re not learning as much as when they come here to school.”

Over at Warren, the energy was just as optimistic as it was jittery.

“I was excited, but then when the kids first actually showed up - that first group of kids - it was emotional,” said Principal Carrie White. “It’s been a ghost town with just a handful of adults on campus; to just see students walking back in with their backpacks and their computers, it was energizing, really just energizing to see them back on campus.”

According to White, Warren only saw around 35% of its students opt to return, though that number is expected to fluctuate.

“The last number I saw - which was right around last week - was right around 1200,” said White. “There are students that if they choose to come back, then we can look and we can make sure to follow the safety protocol, the number of students in a classroom, if it works in their schedule, hopefully they’ll come back.”

“We might also have students that decide ‘this doesn’t work for me; I’m going to stay on distance learning.’ After talking to all the districts that have opened, mostly in Orange County, they said you do see some movement. We also think this week will be a chance for students and families to gauge if this works or not, but more than anything I think this gives us the opportunity to work through things so hopefully we will come back for summer school.”

White added that the school was hoping for a “robust summer school” to help students make up credits and classes and repair grades that may have suffered from the time away.

There are a few nerves amongst the high school’s staff, especially as teachers have witnessed some of their students lose loved ones throughout the course of the pandemic, with several losing family themselves.

White did confirm, however, that every teacher and staff member has had the opportunity to get vaccinated, if they chose to.

“Coming off of that and then being really excited for some about the vaccination, it was just wanting that second vaccination,” said White. “It took a lot of conversations, a lot of processing. A lot of [staff] have that second vaccination, and if not they’ll have it within this next week or so.”

“I think helping them understand all the safety protocol, I think the District did a really good job of going to the highest level of safety protocol, because there’s things we have to do and then there’s recommendations, and they went with a lot of the recommendations.”

There are just under 40 days remaining in the semester, leaving a little more than a sprint for students and teachers to settle into the transition and



Gauldin Elementary kindergarten teacher Nicolle Carter greets students returns to campus Monday. (Photo by Alex Dominguez)

finish out the school year.

“This week is only four days. This is where we get our protocol in place, teachers figure out the technology because they’re doing simultaneous zoom,” said White. “I feel like this week is our trial and error and getting out all the kinks.”

“Then when we get back [from Spring Break], we have 35 school days and it’s really making sure we do all we can to support students so that they can finish strong and - really more than anything - hopefully we can do something for our students and get that in person graduation that we’re really hoping for.”

It is still early for any concrete discussions about end of the year activities for seniors. However, should numbers continue to trend downward as they have been in recent weeks and restrictions lessen, White is hopeful that some sort of event can be held for this year’s and last year’s senior classes.

“I think when we return from Spring Break, we have got to make decisions. I know the District is really committed - from the top, the board, Dr. Garcia, all the way down - I believe everyone is committed to giving the students the best possible option for graduation, and we really want in person even if that means multiple graduation ceremonies spread out over days kind of like the colleges do. I do not want

drive-thru; I want them to be in person with as many peers as possible, but most importantly for their family to see them cross that stage is so important...and whatever we do for the class of 2021, we do for 2020.”

“I’m committed, and I gave them my word that we will have an in-person for them. I’m hopeful that the class of 2020 will get that, and we can do it for both back-to-back. That’s my hope, but we’ll have a much better idea probably mid-April, towards the end of April, and then we’ll have to make a decision.”

Superintendent Dr. John Garcia likened students return to the “first day of school.”

“It has been a long 12 months without our students, and we are overjoyed to have them back on our campuses,” said Garcia. “While we are so happy to welcome back our hybrid students, we will continue to support a robust Distance Learning program. Students will have options to be able to move from Hybrid back into Distance Learning based on what will work best for them. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to make ongoing adjustments to both our Hybrid and Distance Learning models as needed to make sure we provide the best instruction for our students regardless of the delivery method.”



A Gauldin Elementary student sits at his desk.

Photo courtesy Downey Unified School District.

Weekend at a Glance

Friday 75°

Saturday 73°

Sunday 77°

ON THIS DAY APRIL 1

1853: Cincinnati, Ohio, became the first U.S. city to pay its firefighters a regular salary.

1884: Florence Blanchfield, an American nurse who was the first woman to become a fully ranked officer of the U.S. Army, was born.

1933: Nazi Germany began persecuting Jews with a boycott of Jewish-owned businesses.

1960: The first weather satellite, TIROS-1, was launched from Cape Canaveral.

1970: President Richard Nixon signed a measure banning cigarette advertising on radio and TV.

1976: Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne.

1987: In his first major speech on the epidemic, President Ronald Reagan told doctors in Philadelphia, “We’ve declared AIDS public health enemy No. 1.”

1999: A New Jersey man was arrested and charged with originating the “Melissa” e-mail virus, which infected more than 1 million computers worldwide.

2003: American troops rescued Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch from a hospital in Nasiriyah, Iraq, where she had been held prisoner since her unit was ambushed nine days earlier.

Birthdays
Scottish singer **Susan Boyle** (60), bestselling author **Brad Meltzer** (51), television host **Rachel Maddow** (48), MMA fighter **Vitor Belfort** (44), wrestler **Randy Orton** (41) and social media star **Logan Paul** (26).

Deaths
In 1984, Motown singer **Marvin Gaye** was shot and killed by his father. Gaye was shot three times after intervening in an argument between his parents. He was 44.

Misao Okawa, the world’s oldest living person, died in 2015 at age 117.

Book Recommendation
“The Hemingway Stories: As featured in the film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick on PBS” by Ernest Hemingway

The Hemingway Stories features Hemingway’s most significant short stories in chronological order, so viewers of the film as well as fans old and new can follow the trajectory of his impressive life and career.

Hemingway’s beloved classics, such as “The Short and Happy Life of Francis Macomber,” “Up in Michigan,” “Indian Camp,” and “The Snows of Kilimanjaro,” are accompanied by fresh insights from renowned writers around the world—Mario Vargas Llosa, Edna O’Brien, Abraham Verghese, Tim O’Brien, and Mary Karr.

Tobias Wolff’s introduction adds a new perspective to Hemingway’s work, and Wolff has selected additional stories that demonstrate Hemingway’s talent and range.

Former Downey mayor tours FEMA vaccination site

■ The vaccination center at Cal State L.A. may close next month, causing concern.

DOWNEY – Former Downey mayor and current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Mario A. Guerra toured FEMA’s mass vaccination center at Cal State L.A. on Tuesday as federal officials urged the vaccine site to stay open amid the rising threat of a fourth wave of Covid-19.

Unlike other local vaccination sites in L.A. County, the center at Cal State L.A. is operated by the state and federal governments. It operates seven days a week and is capable of administering up to 6,000 vaccines daily, although on some days it has administered up to 7,500 inoculations.

The site is slated to close next

month.

“Despite the swift pace with which the Biden administration has vaccinated 100 million Americans, our nation is still at grave risk of another wave of this deadly virus,” Congressman Jimmy Gomez said in a statement. “The vaccination center at Cal State L.A. is nothing short of essential in maintaining an equitable vaccine distribution for underserved Angelenos.”

FEMA has indicated it will continue to provide support in the form of funding and personnel to the Cal State L.A. site. However, the direct federal supply of vaccines to the facility will cease on April 11.

On March 25, Gomez sent a letter to acting FEMA administrator Robert Fenton, urging the agency to either extend its mission at Cal State L.A. or support the local operation by



Mario A. Guerra presents commemorative coins to soldiers at the mass vaccination site at Cal State L.A.

maintaining the site’s federal allotment of COVID-19 vaccines along with infrastructure and personnel.

On Tuesday, Guerra, a former two-time mayor of Downey, toured the vaccination

center, where soldiers from the California National Guard and from Fort Carson are operating the vaccine distribution together with FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services.

“It was inspiring to see the work of so many, working together, to help in the effort to vaccinate as many Californians as possible. As quickly as possible,” Guerra said. “I was proud to see what they have been able to do with the efficiency, passion, and commitment to fulfill their mission. Seeing our soldiers in uniform vaccinating our seniors and special communities, representing our Army in various capacities, made me proud of how they represent our country.”

While at the site, Guerra presented coins to 10 exceptional soldiers — five from the National Guard and five from Fort Carson. He also met with leadership from FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services.

Approximately 1,500 soldiers and personnel are operating the site on an eight-week mission. The vaccination site costs \$10 million per week to operate.

“As a CASA it is one of my great joys to be able to say thank you to our soldiers and commend them for a job well done,” Guerra said. “We are grateful as a nation every time we call upon them and they always come through.”

The site will begin administering the Johnson & Johnson vaccine on April 1. The one-dose regimen will ensure that every patient who has visited the site is fully inoculated by the time they leave.

Crime Report

•Detectives are investigating a shooting that occurred on 3/9/2021 at about 1 am in the 7100 block of Rio Flora. An unknown suspect(s) fired three shots. Nothing was hit and surveillance video suggests the shots were fired into the air. Officers on scene were not able to determine the type of suspect vehicle, which left eastbound Rio Flora. Forensics responded to the location for evidence collection.

•Detectives are investigating a commercial burglary that occurred on 3/10/2021 at about 4:45 am in the 9900 block of Lakewood Blvd (Trading Post). Two suspects removed the glass from the front door of the liquor store and gained entry. They stole \$900 worth of cigarettes and fled in a vehicle. The incident was captured on security cameras.

•Detectives are investigating an assault with a vehicle that occurred on 3/11/2021 at about 12 pm in the 9900 block of Brookshire Ave. The adult female victim was in an altercation with an adult female suspect. The victim saw the suspect in traffic. The suspect stopped next to the victim, got out, and began assaulting the victim as she remained in her vehicle. The suspect returned to her vehicle and intentionally rammed the victim’s vehicle. The victim was not injured. The victim believes the suspect is currently dating the victim’s former boyfriend.

•Detectives are investigating a strong-arm robbery that occurred on 3/13/2021 at about 10:20 pm in the 8200 block of Puritan. The adult male victim met with the suspect to give him a small amount of marijuana. The suspect entered the victim’s car to speak with the victim, when two other suspects approached the vehicle and began punching the victim. The suspects took approximately \$2000 worth of marijuana from the victim and fled on foot.

•On 3/14/2021 at approximately 6 am, an anonymous witness observed a dark colored truck park along the curb in the 12400 block of Paramount Blvd. The front passenger exited the truck and began cutting a catalytic converter of another truck and the witness called police. Both suspects were detained and arrested by officers.

•Detectives are investigating a burglary that occurred on 3/16/2021 at about 3:10 am in the 7900 block of Florence Ave. The 4 male suspects climbed the perimeter fence of the Royal Tobacco store with large duffel bags on their person. They used a shopping cart to smash the front window and make entry. They ransacked the cigarette shelves and fled the scene with approximately \$30,000 in loss. They were last seen fleeing in a black sedan.

•On 3/17/2021 at approximately 9:30 pm, officers responded to the north parking lot of Sears (500 Stonewood) regarding a car club (approximately 30 cars) meeting in the lot. A member of the club was contacted and claimed everyone was leaving. A few of the vehicles began speeding out of the lot towards Firestone Blvd. Responding officers conducted traffic stops and issued four citations for various violations.

•Detectives are investigating a shooting that occurred on 3/18/2021 in the early morning hours at 11111 Florence Ave. (Giant RV). In the evening hours, officers responded to reports of shots heard in the area but were unable to locate any evidence of a crime. The following morning employees of Giant RV discovered six trailers with bullet holes. The RVs were all parked on the west parking lot of the facility adjacent to the 605 Freeway interchange with the I-5 Freeway.

•On 3/19/2021 at approximately 11 am, officers responded to the 8400 block of Firestone Blvd on a possible overdose at Embassy Suites. Upon arrival, officers found an unconscious adult female. Two doses of Narcan were administered along with rescue breaths. The female awoke and was later transported to the hospital by Downey Paramedics.

•Detectives are investigating a grand theft that occurred on 3/21/2021 at about 3:15 pm in the 9200 block of Lakewood Blvd. Five males, all wearing hoodies and face masks, entered T-Mobile and grabbed 5-10 cell phones and ran out of the location. The subjects were seen entering a black Mercedes. Forensics responded to process the scene.

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CDBG & HOME Community Meetings

The City of Downey has scheduled three (3) community meetings for review of the City’s Fiscal Year 2021-22 federal CDBG and HOME Programs. These meetings provide information on both the CDBG & HOME programs, and discuss the community’s needs. The meetings also allow an opportunity for community members and service providers to offer input regarding the annual development process of the Action Plan, by commenting on the City’s housing and non-housing needs, program priorities, and allows for the proposal of uses for both of these funding sources.

The City estimates that in Fiscal Year 2021-22 it will receive up to \$1,061,762 in CDBG and \$444,086 in HOME funds. You are invited to join staff at any of the scheduled virtual community meetings below:

Thursday, March 11th at 11 am
ZOOM Meeting ID: 990 5479 1676, Passcode: 792956

Wednesday, March 24th at 6 pm
ZOOM Meeting ID: 997 9739 2647, Passcode: 864995

Saturday, April 3rd at 10 am
ZOOM Meeting ID: 995 7593 9140, Passcode: 641926

Call-in Number for All Meetings (Audio Only): (888) 788-0099
Use Zoom Meeting ID and Passcode as Provided Above for Each Meeting Date

For additional information, or to arrange special accommodations for this meeting, please contact Jessica Flores at (562) 904-7161 or via e-mail at jflores@downeyca.org

CDBG & HOME Community Meeting

La Ciudad De Downey a programado tres (3) juntas comunitarias acerca de los programas creados con recursos federales llamados CDBG y HOME para el proximo año fiscal 2021-22. Estas juntas proporcionan informacion acerca de CDBG y HOME, y se dialoga sobre las necesidades en la comunidad relevante a estos programas. Durante la junta se dara una oportunidad para que miembros de la comunidad y los proveedores de servicios, den su punto de vista sobre el proceso anual del Plan de Accion asociado con estos dos programas, y sobre las necesidades comunitarias en temas de: vivienda, desarrollo de las prioridades de los programas y el uso propuesto para utilizar los fondos de estos programas. La Ciudad estima que recibira \$1,061,762 en recursos CDBG y \$444,086 en recursos de HOME el año fiscal 2021-22. Está invitado a unirse al personal de la ciudad, en cualquiera de las reuniones virtuales programadas a continuación:

Jueves, Marzo 11 a las 11 am
Numero de ID de Reunion ZOOM: 990 5479 1676, Contraseña: 792956

Miercoles, Marzo 24 a las 6 pm
Numero de ID de Reunion ZOOM : 997 9739 2647, Contraseña : 864995

Sabado, Abril 3 a las 10 am
Numero de ID de Reunion ZOOM : 995 7593 9140, Contraseña: 641926

Número de Llamada para Todas las Reuniones (Solo Audio): (888) 788-0099
Utilice el Numero de ID y la Contraseña Como se Indica Arriba para Cada Fecha

Para informacion adicional, o para hacer arreglos especiales para esta reunión, por favor contacte a Jessica Flores al (562) 904-7161 o por e-mail a jflores@downeyca.org

CalMet adds truck to handle increase in illegally dumped furniture

DOWNEY - Downey will pay CalMet nearly \$35,000 to expand its collection of couches, mattresses and other trash illegally dumped across the city.

During the last 12 months, Downey has seen a spike in furniture dumped on curbs and in alleys, usually outside apartment complexes, city officials said.

CalMet is responsible for picking up the trash but has been backlogged due to a growing number of residents disposing of bulky trash. CalMet receives an average of 125 requests each day to pick up oversized items from Downey homes, officials said.

CalMet began an expanded service in December, deploying a garbage truck dedicated to illegally dumped items. The truck operated three days per week, four hours per day, and collected 72.4 tons of trash from December through February.

Under the new agreement approved by the City Council last week, Downey will pay CalMet an additional \$34,580 to continue this service through June.

The service is in addition to two full-time Public Works maintenance staff that drive around Downey "hot spots" to pick up smaller bulky items Monday through Saturday.

Downey police officers return to high school campuses

DOWNEY -The City of Downey has renewed its agreement with the Downey Unified School District to provide uniformed police officers on Downey's public high schools for the remainder of the current academic year.

According to the agreement, Downey will provide three police officers to serve as campus resource officers at Downey, Warren and Columbus high schools.

All three campuses reopened Monday after more than a year of closure due to the pandemic.

The armed officers will be paid an overtime rate, with Downey Unified footing the bill.

Downey extends contract of jail operator

DOWNEY - Downey has extended its contract with an independent security firm to manage the city jail.

G4S Secure Solutions took over operations of the Downey City Jail in March 2020; the current contract expired Feb. 28.

The City Council last week renewed the deal for an additional year.

Downey will pay G4S a fee of \$327,761 to manage the jail, a 1% increase from last year.

Former Downey mayor Thomas Morton to celebrate 99th birthday

DOWNEY - Thomas H. Morton, a former three-time mayor of Downey now living in Zebulon, Georgia, will celebrate his 99th birthday on May 29.

Elected to serve Downey's Fourth District in 1962, Morton was instrumental in obtainin a charter for the city. He also helped Downey obtain state land for what would become Wilderness Park, assisted in getting the 105 Freeway through Downey, oversaw completion of a veterans memorial, helped launch Downey's beautification program, activated a fifth fire station in southwest Downey, and authorized the extension of Stewart & Gray Road from Woodruff to Firestone Boulevard.

Morton also helped establish the new 152-bed Downey Community Hospital.

Morton is a WWII Navy veteran, serving three years on the destroyer USS Bache DD470. His ship was struck by a kamikaze plane in the Battle of Okinawa; 25 sailors were killed in the attack and another 16 went missing in action. Miraculously, Morton survived, and he was awarded the Navy Ribbon of Commendation for Valor.

Morton's stepson is Lonnie Croom, Downey's retired fire chief.

After his time in Downey, Morton moved to Meansville, Georgia, where he worked as the city attorney. He was instrumental in the creation of the Pike Firefighter's Museum and helped to establish the Good Citizenship Recognition and Award Program in the city of Zebulon.

He also belonged to several service clubs, including Kiwanis, the Lions and the Pike County Historical Society.

For his efforts, he has been named Citizen of the Year by the cities of Zebulon and Meansville, Georgia, and presented with a recognition proclamation by the County Board of Commissioners.

"There are great people in this county, state and nation but Tom's life is a testament to what you want to do with your life," Pike County John Hanson said



Thomas Morton will turn 99 on May 29. (Courtesy photo)

at the time. "He is a great individual, a great asset to this county and today it is our honor to recognize Tom Morton for his influence on so many."

Morton was born May 29, 1922 in Fall River, Mass. He was raised in New York City and attended Mercer University and Walter F. George School of Law, where he graduated in 1949 with a law degree.

Kobe Bryant, Nipsey Hussle mural can stay

DOWNEY - A mural depicting late basketball player Kobe Bryant and rapper Nipsey Hussle will be allowed to stay, city officials said this week, after initial accusations that the city would force the art's removal.

The mural is located on the exterior wall of Dirt Dog, a new restaurant at Firestone Boulevard and Woodruff Avenue.

One side of the mural depicts Kobe Bryant wearing a blue Lakers jersey. The LA County seal is to his back.

The other side of the mural features Nipsey Hussle, a hip-hop artist who was shot and killed in Los Angeles two years ago.

According to @kobemurals, a Twitter account that tracks Kobe Bryant murals around the world, mural artist Louie Palsino was told by the city to remove the artwork after it was completed a few weeks ago.

City officials denied that, however, and said they only reached out to the restaurant after receiving complaints from other businesses.

"While Downey embraces art in public places, the City asks businesses to partner and communicate with the City on any mural plans," Mayor Claudia M. Frometa said. "Historically, Downey has partnered with the business community in the creation of artistic expression through murals. It is important for businesses to notify



the City of their plans for public art displays."

"There are no plans to have the mural removed," the mayor added.

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Reinventing the Wheel

■ **ANALYSIS:** Downey shows its incompetency (again) when it comes to the arts.

By Lawrence Christon
Contributor

DOWNEY – It's customary for city council candidates, in running for office, to proclaim how they've spent most if not all of their lives in Downey and have raised families here as well as devoting a large part of their occupational careers in service to the community—as if that qualified any of them for the complexities and nuances of civic leadership. Looking at this current bunch, you have to wonder if, before they were elected, any of them ever spent much time considering the city's history, and what's gone on here.

Case in point: the arts. In its last meeting, as Alex Dominguez reported in these pages, the council adopted a semi-coherent proposal calling for the creation of an arts and culture subcommittee that would tap into the community for citizen ideas on improving Downey's cultural life.

The message is barely coherent for two reasons. One because it's too vague, and the other because it doesn't make sense. There's a third: the city has tried it before, and it didn't work. There are others, like, who are these mythic creatures that will miraculously step forth with brilliant ideas on how to jazz up Downey's moribund arts scene?

The idea has been talked up by Catherine Alvarez, and proposed as a kind of generalized wish list so unpopular with the rest of the council that it took colleague Sean Ashton to translate it for them (she wanted each councilmember to recommend some kind of all-purpose arts advocate from his or her district). Unfortunately, he didn't help matters by saying,

“It's us the city versus getting input from the community as to what it might want.” Unfortunately, the community has shown no powerful inclination to make the arts critically important, not only to Downey's everyday life, but its identity, unlike, say, places like Adelaide, Nice, Florence, and Edinburgh, small cities enamored of big ideas.

If it weren't clear over these past few months that nobody on the Downey city council is remotely informed on the world of the arts—or the many worlds that make up the arts, it became evident in that last session, in which everyone who spoke only made things worse.

“The arts and culture have played a role in our city—a very important role at that—for a very long time,” said Mayor Claudia Frometa. “In fact, there has (c) been numerous organizations the city has engaged with, such as the Downey Arts Coalition. We have the Stay Gallery that over the years we have worked with them. In fact, the city subsidizes the Stay Gallery area in downtown Downey.

Added Frometa: “The opportunity to bring to our community culture and arts has not been something that we have not provided. In fact, we hold numerous events throughout the year...There is a wide variety of arts that the city has engaged in.”

These claims are as flimsy as her grammar. The Stay Gallery has never been able to make a go of it; the Downey Arts Coalition has grown so ineffectual that there are those out there who wonder if it still exists (it does; at least their website is still up); and as far as Downey's biggest dog in the culture hunt is concerned, namely the Downey Civic Theater, for ten years now the city has rolled over and allowed the management firm Venutech to pick its pocket.

Mayor Pro Tem Blanca

Pacheco's assertion that the Downey Theater subcommittee would make a similar community group redundant is completely irrelevant, as well as untrue. But you'll be reading more in these pages about the theater in weeks to come.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of what's been happening, or not happening, in the Downey arts scene over the past decade or so, with the proviso that, as everyone on Earth knows, a normal day in the life of the world came to a dramatic halt a year ago with the World Health Organization's elevation of Covid-19 to the status of pandemic.

The city of Downey, mainly an agricultural community up until the outbreak of WWII, came alive when the aviation industry mobilized throughout Southern California to satisfy the raging demand for military aircraft. Various companies, like Douglas, employed enough people (some as many as thirty thousand) to become small cities whose work force alternated on the job full time, twenty-four hours a day. Downey was one of them. There are pictures of nose-to-tail fighter planes blanketing Vultee airfield, now the site of two semi-desolate shopping malls, ready for battle over Europe and the Pacific theater.

Jobs, housing construction, schools, hospitals, retail outlets, clubs, restaurants and other institutions were developed to serve the growth of new families and communities as Downey in particular transitioned from military to commercial aircraft manufacturing, and then aerospace. Downey became prosperous, economically and socially stable, and culturally cohesive. John Hume parlayed his successful children's theater into the creation of the Downey Civic Theater. The Downey Art Museum, the first of its kind in Los Angeles County, was deeded into a small building in Furman Park. The Downey Symphony

was good enough to perform at the Ahmanson Theater in L.A.'s Music Center. Women's auxiliary groups formed, and fundraising lunches, garden parties and banquets took place in support of the arts and Downey Hospital. The Meralta and Avenue Theaters drew large audiences, mostly young people, with first-run movies. To borrow from Fats Waller, the place was jumpin', at least as much as could be expected of a white, suburban, reasonably affluent enclave a short twelve miles from L.A.'s city hall.

Sometime in the late '80s through the dawn of the new millennium, the air began to leak out of the balloon. Downey's best restaurants, like the Regency Room and The Brass Dolphin, began shutting down, as did the hot spot for the young, Mississippi Moonshine. The Meralta closed and the Avenue theater fell into disrepair. Granata's Italian Villa, founded by Ralph and Jeanette Granata, who later were chosen grand marshalls of one of Downey's traditional holiday parades, moved their cozy and hospitable spot to downtown Downey and a colder, less comfortable venue.

The changes were too subtle, broad and deep to chronicle here, but clearly Downey was losing its mojo, and people like Harold Tseklenis, Frank and Carol Kearns, Val Flores and poet Lorine Parks stood up at city meetings to argue for more vigorous cultural engagement from city leaders. Andrew Wahlquist and a few others formed the Downey Arts Coalition to introduce local artists to the city. In 2005, the city council created the Arts in Public Places, in which they could finance local artists by nicking a small percent of real estate developers' projected revenues. The council even came up with the identical scheme the current council has adopted: a commission made up of community reps from each District empowered to advise



Marsha Moodle greets guests at a Downey Civic Light Opera performance in 2011. (Photo by Joan Anderson)

the city on matters cultural and artistic.

Some time later the city raided the Community Services Department to appoint a lazy, incompetent, uninterested and uninformed figure to act as liaison to the community. He refused to hold meetings, and one night showed up at a council session to announce that art was too subjective for anyone to reach conclusive agreement on. It's conceivable that Caltech seismologists registered the shock of jaws dropping on the Downey City Council dais that night.

That was the beginning of the end. The respected Downey Art Museum is no more. Stay Gallery, despite the Herculean effort of co-founder Gabriel Enamorado, is hanging by a slender thread. The Downey Civic Light Opera, under Marsha Moodle, was shut down by the city at the height of its resurgent musical glory in 2013. Virtually no city official will show up at a Downey symphony performance unless assured of some kind of award. Even before Covid,

Downey had no night life, no jazz or supper clubs, no vibrant cultural center where kids can hang out all day to observe and take classes in music, dance, acting, writing, designing, composing, stagecraft, and performance art. Downey doesn't even have a bookstore.

To observe the dreary, dutiful bunch that currently occupies the city council dais is to doubt that any of them has read a book in ten years. What the city needs is a cadre of hungry, ambitious young Turks who will joyfully tolerate and even welcome miserable, discouraging conditions to make their art. The South Coast Repertory currently runs on a \$10 million annual budget and \$50 million rolling endowment. They started with seventeen bucks and threw their costumes into the back of a 1947 Studebaker to get to their next show. Bur co-founder Don Took said, “I didn't care if we worked in a toilet. We were making theater!”

Does Downey have any tigers like that pawing at its gate?



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Streaming did the job. Now we need live theater.

By Froma Harrop

When will we be able to attend a live performance? That question is being asked angrily in France, where theater is more central to the national culture. (America has no national theater.) But we should ask that here as well. Broadway remains shuttered, as are indoor theaters and concert halls across the country. Can't they at least start their engines, if in a limited fashion?

In France, protesters are occupying at least seven theaters, including the landmark Odeon in Paris. The occupiers — largely actors, workers and students — are demanding that France's theaters be at least partly reopened. They've been shut since October following a spike in coronavirus cases.

Australia halted the spread of the virus through disciplined mask-wearing and social distancing. Thus, if you want to see a stage production of Disney's "Frozen," you have to go to Sydney. You're now able to see a live performance of "Hamilton" there, too. Audience members, needless to say, must wear masks.

Some sponsors of live theater fear that their former audiences, glued to streaming services during the pandemic, won't want to detach themselves. They also worry that once their patrons have seen "Hamilton" on Disney+, they won't want to spring for a \$100-plus theater ticket.

As it happened, many American playhouses bowed to reality and necessity and streamed their productions. Are they planting the seeds of live theater's destruction? Perhaps not. A 2016 study in Britain found that theatergoers who watched streamed performances patronized live theater more than those who didn't.

The National Theater in London has been broadcasting plays for free on YouTube. It's also started its own paid streaming service that anyone in the world can watch, which is providing a tidy source of income.

Meanwhile, fabulous TV from the streaming services got us through COVID-19. "The Crown" or "The Mandalorian" — there was something for everybody.

So, why crowd into a playhouse?

There are reasons. The players in a theater interact with the audience, which makes every performance unique. And the audience is part of the show, its members responding to one another. A good example is the group laugh. As they say in the business, the experience belongs to the collective.

In a videoed production, you see what the camera shows you. Often, that's a close-up of a single character. In a theater, you can also follow the reactions of other characters on the stage. As Alex Webb wrote for Bloomberg News, "The show was developed with a theatrical

audience in mind, so watching it on a 32-inch screen compromises the experience."

A theater feeds local businesses. People go out to eat or drink before or after. An actual theater district provides customers for hotels and other travel-related activities.

Performing arts companies across the country are starting their revival with outdoor productions. Austen Opera will soon stage the opera "Tosca" at a Formula 1 racetrack. The Fountain Theatre in Los Angeles is about to present the play "An Octoroon" in its East Hollywood parking lot.

The Broadway theaters aren't expected to open until autumn. New York is trying to keep the heart beating through pop-up events, where artists perform on subway platforms and at similar public areas.

An advantage of outdoor performances is that social distancing is easier in these bigger spaces. But soon, we pray, we won't have to do social distancing.

None of this can replace the electric moment when the theater lights start to dim and a stage comes alive with real people. The pandemic showed us the fierce human need for communal life. Live theater should again be part of it.

Froma Harrop is a syndicated columnist who writes about politics, economics and culture.

Banning assault weapons won't stop mass shootings

By Steve Chapman

Many national problems have simple, effective solutions. To curb global warming, reduce fossil fuel use. To combat child poverty, give money to families with kids. To end a pandemic, get people vaccinated. But some problems are impervious to any plausible remedy. Mass shootings are one of those.

In the days after the bloody carnage in Georgia and Boulder, Colorado, politicians and activists offered familiar proposals: Ban assault weapons. Outlaw high-capacity magazines. Expand federal background checks. Close the "Charleston loophole" that allows gun sales to go through if the FBI can't complete the background check within three days.

Not all of these ideas are without value. But none holds any serious prospect of averting future horrors. The proposals stem from the idea that the perpetrators of this kind of slaughter are weakly motivated and easily foiled. They rest on mistaken beliefs about the guns that are often used.

The term "assault weapon" is a triumph of marketing over function. These guns have no capabilities that ordinary ones lack. They are no more lethal than any number of semiautomatic firearms, and they don't fire more rapidly. They can accommodate magazines holding 30 or more cartridges, but so can traditional rifles.

Banning them would be a fool's errand. First, because some 16 million have already been sold, and no one is going to confiscate those. Second, because any attempt to define them allows manufacturers to produce modified versions that are no less deadly. The shooter who

murdered 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 had an AR-15-style rifle designed to comply with Connecticut's ban on assault weapons.

Third, because anyone bent on taking many lives can find innumerable alternatives. The shooter who killed eight people at spas in Georgia used a 9 mm pistol. The statistics portal Statista notes that "handguns are involved in about 78 percent of mass shootings." Most mass shooters don't use assault weapons.

Advocates who want to prohibit them make much of the supposed success of the 1994 federal ban, citing data that mass shooting deaths declined while it was in effect and rose when it expired. But a good deal of scholarly research found no overall benefit. A 2017 analysis in JAMA Internal Medicine, for example, found that laws forbidding these guns "were not associated with changes in firearm homicide rates."

If the number of mass shooting deaths rose after 2004, the expiration of the ban is not necessarily to blame: Correlation is not causation. Often, it's coincidence.

The advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety says mass shootings are "far deadlier when they involve assault weapons and high-capacity magazines." But that doesn't mean guns and magazines are the reason.

Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck told me by email, "The strength of motivation of shooters (how badly they want to hurt a lot of people) affects both 1) how many people they shoot, and 2) their choices of weapons and magazines to use in their attacks."

Take away assault weapons and these criminals would use other, equally deadly firearms. Take away 30-round magazines and they

would use several 10-round magazines or multiple guns. Most mass shooters bring more than one gun.

There is a common belief that forcing a shooter to stop to switch out magazines would save lives by allowing someone to subdue him. But in a real-life situation, he would not be surrounded by potential victims who would leap to grab his gun during the few precious seconds they would have. It's a scenario more likely in movies.

Expanding background checks to private sales and eliminating the Charleston loophole would be justifiable measures to make it harder for people who are not allowed to own guns, such as felons and fugitives, to get guns. There is no good reason to maintain holes in a dike.

But it's not likely that tighter rules would avert mass shootings anytime soon, if ever. Most of the mass shooters, including the most recent ones, were not barred from buying firearms.

The conservative notion that more armed citizens are the answer is equally flawed. Colorado allows adults to openly carry rifles and pistols without a permit. Only three states have more people with concealed-carry permits than Georgia. Neither fact was any help to those who were attacked.

It's painful to consider that even in America, mass shootings are such freakish, random events that they are impossible to prevent. But the writer Flannery O'Connor once noted, "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."

Steve Chapman blogs for the Chicago Tribune.

Biden's ill-fated plan for students

By Terence P. Jeffrey

Is it better for a 3-year-old child to spend more time with a government employee or a mother?

President Joe Biden is pushing for a federal program to put preschool children in the hands of the former — theoretically, as a benefit to the latter.

What about summer vacations? Should children have them? Or is it better to keep them in school 12 months a year?

Cynthia Marten, superintendent of the San Diego Unified School District, took the latter position at a Senate confirmation hearing last week.

She is Biden's nominee to be deputy secretary of Education.

Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia — seeing the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to permanently expand government control over the lives of American children — asked Marten about the prospect of keeping them in school for the summer.

"I would hope that both summer of 2021 and summer of 2022 might be powerful opportunities for us to A. help kids catch up, but we might also learn some things about what the optimal length of the school year should be," said Kaine.

"I mean, we could use it as an experiment, and we might come

out of the experiment and decide that, you know, the September-to-May (school year), there's nothing magic about it," Kaine said, "and possibly the best way to help our kids is to have a longer school year, or to readjust the school calendar to minimize learning loss."

Marten agreed with Kaine.

"I think that you've cast a vision not just for this summer but the following summer, and that's the kind of forward thinking that I think would be important if I should be confirmed, that we're able to not just have an immediate reaction to what needs to be addressed, but long-term planning," she said.

"So, what we build this summer, I can say from very real experience as a principal of an inner-city school, we were a year-round school, and we had summer programs as well, and I always saw the difference that it made when students had uninterrupted learning," she said.

"And what you can do when you create these kinds of robust summer experiences makes a huge difference," she said.

The post-COVID-19 vision of this Biden administration bureaucrat: Children will go to school this summer, this fall, next winter, next spring and next summer — and that will set the model for the future of America's government schools.

They will be a cage from which no child may escape.

Then there is the question of the age at which a child should be put in this cage.

In his campaign pronouncements, Biden repeatedly vowed to take 3-year-old children out of their homes and put them in school.

One Biden manifesto — "The Biden Plan for Educators, Students, and Our Future" — declared: "President Biden will start investing in our children at birth." (Prior to birth, his administration will invest in what Biden calls "a woman's constitutional right under Roe v. Wade.")

This "investing" in born children will include providing "high-quality, universal pre-kindergarten for all three- and four-year-olds." It will also "expand home visiting."

Home visiting? That is a program, Biden's campaign explained, in "which health and child development specialists make consistent, scheduled visits to help parents through the critical early stage of parenting."

"President Biden will double funding for home visiting so more families benefit from this program every year," says his plan.

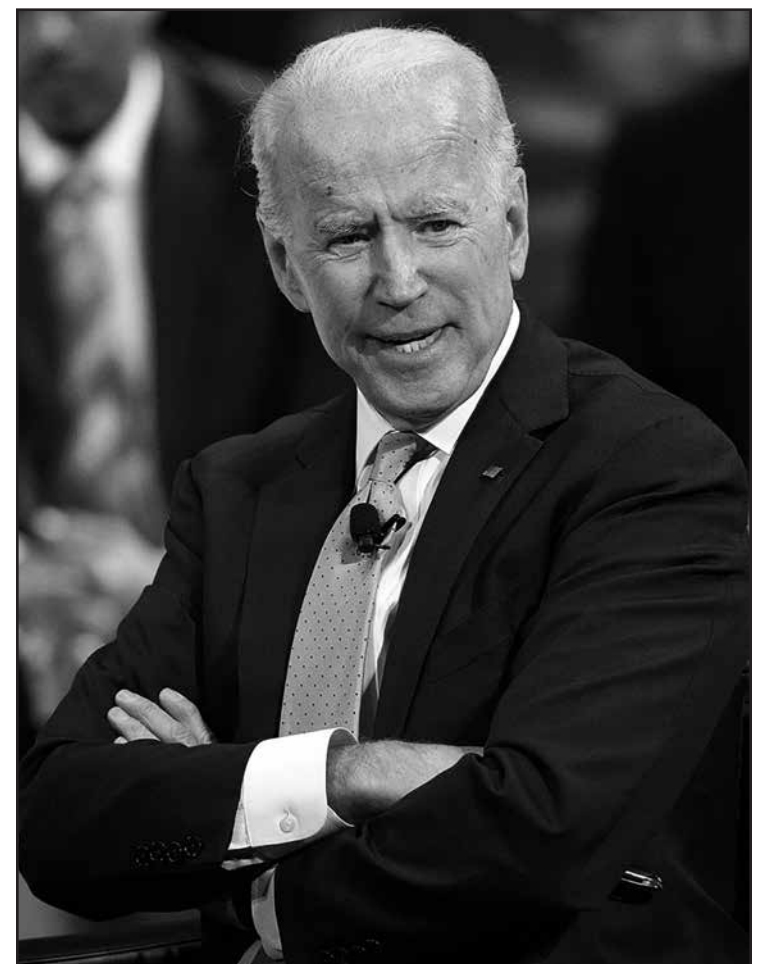
Biden also promised to hire more teachers — and pay them more money — to deal with these very young children.

He "will maintain and grow a diverse, talented care and education workforce by providing increased pay and benefits, and access to collective bargaining, training and education, and career ladders," it said.

Would it be good for children to increase government control of their lives?

According to the government itself, children do better academically in Catholic schools than they do in government schools.

In 2019, eighth grade students in Catholic schools had an average score of 278 in the National Assessment of Educational Progress



reading test. Eighth grade students in public schools had an average score of only 262. That same year, eighth grade students in Catholic schools had an average score of 293 in math, while eighth grade students in public schools had an average score of only 281.

Did the Catholic-school students do better because their mothers were more likely to put them in a government pre-K when they were 3? Did they do better because they were denied summer vacations?

Or did they do better because Catholic schools do a better job than government schools at teaching children?

Perhaps the problem is not that students spend too little time in government schools but that they spend any time in them at all.

If the Biden administration truly wanted to give children a better chance to learn, it would encourage school districts to give all parents a voucher equal to the cost of educating a child in the local public schools and let them redeem that voucher at any school they want.

Terence P. Jeffrey is a political commentator and former editorial writer for the Washington Times.

The Downey Patriot STAFF

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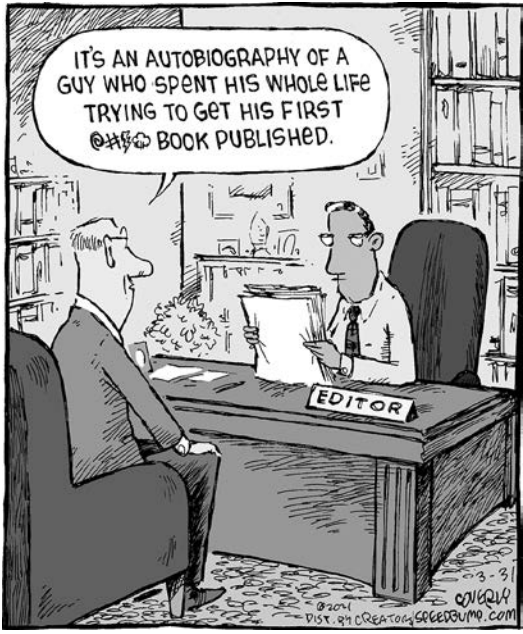
LORINE PARKS
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TEL (562) 904-3668 | FAX (562) 904-3124 | MONDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 3PM
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THE DOWNEY PATRIOT.COM | ADJUDICATION #BS124251

The Downey Patriot is published weekly by The Downey Patriot, Inc.
Controlled Distribution, 25,000 copies are printed.
Distributed by CIPS Marketing Group, Inc., Los Angeles, CA.

SPEED BUMP



DAVE COVERLY



Downey Community Calendar

CITY MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 6:00pm Planning Commission, Council Chamber at City Hall.
 2nd Tue., 4:00pm: Recreation and Community Services Commission, Council Chamber, City Hall.
 2nd & 4th Tue., 6:30pm: City Council, Council Chamber.
 3rd Tue., 6:30pm: Library Advisory Board, at Downey City Library.
 2nd Thurs., 6:30pm: CEAT, at Downey City Council Chamber at City Hall, for more info call 294-5462.
 4th Mon., 8 pm: Green Task Force, at City Hall.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

MONDAYS

7 pm: Boy Scout Troop 5, at Downey United Methodist Church, call 868-6478.
 4:00 pm: Courage Forward Meeting, at 10829 Kew St, 2nd Floor, call 213-245-0310.
 2nd Mon., 11 am: American Legion Auxiliary #276, at United Methodist Church, call 310-596-8112.
 2nd Mon., 11:30 am: Downey Newcomers Club, call Marilyn 923-2624.
 4th Mon., 7:00 pm: Downey Numismatists, at Downey Retirement Center, call 562-5556.

TUESDAYS

9 am: Quilters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 562-4409.
 9:30 am: Downey Seniors Club, at Apollo Park, call Irene Wald at 709-7038.
 10 am: Downey Book Club, at 7830 Quail Drive, call John Fiorenza at 552-4305.
 12 pm: Rotary Club, at Rio Honda Events Center, call William Medina 413-9447.
 6 pm: Toastmasters Club 587, at First Baptist Church, contact Salvador Cervantes: bromalquede@gmail.com.
 7 pm: Downey Knights of Columbus Bingo, at 11222 River Ave., call 422-1882.
 7 pm: Healing Room and Prayer, at Oyster High Church 11610 Lakeside Blvd., call 861-6031.
 7:30 pm: Downey Master Chorale, at Cornerstone Church, contact info@downeymasterchorale.org.
 1st Tues., 7:30 am: Gangs Out of Downey, at City Hall training room.
 2nd Tues., 6 pm: Downey Fly Fishers, at Apollo Park, call 425-7936.
 3rd Tues., 6:30 pm: Community Emergency Response Team meeting, Firestation 2, 11222 Paramount.
 3rd Tues., 6 pm: American Legion #276, at Sizzler Restaurant, call 544-6572.
 Tues., Thurs. & Sat., 10 am: Downey Becca Club, at 7830 Quail Drive, call John Fiorenza 552-4305

WEDNESDAYS

7 am: Kiwanis Club, at Rio Honda Events Center, call Steve Robinson at 627-2670.
 8 am: Women's Becca Club, at 7830 Quail Drive, call Marie Puch at 565-4305.
 7 pm: Out Post 122 Royal Rangers, at Desert Reign Church, call 928-8000.
 1st Wed., 11 am: Women's Club of Downey, call Cheryl Simon 833-8854.
 1st Wed., 11:30 am: Downey Coordinating Council, Community Center, call Bobbi Bruce 440-6416.
 1st Wed., 7:30 pm: Downey Stamp Club, at Heald Price School Cafeteria, call 928-3028.
 2nd Wed., 11:20 am: Christian Women's Club, call Madlyn 328-2624.
 2nd Wed., 2:30 pm: Keep Downey Beautiful, at City Hall, call 904-7362.
 2nd Wed., 7:00 pm: Downey Model A Club, at Galileo School Cafeteria, call 923-8130.
 3rd Wed., Downey Dog Obedience Club, for information please call Gina 621-0213 or Valerie 620-2973.
 3rd Wed., 12 am: Los Angeles County Quilters Guild, at Women's Club, call 860-8821 or 977-3035.
 3rd Wed., 10 am: OPH Women's Guild, at OPH School Auditorium, contact Michele Santona, (562) 600-3132.
 3rd Wed., 6:00 pm: Sister Class of Downey, at Barbara Wiley Senior Center, call Gloria Hernandez 662-718-8126.
 4th Wed., 7:30 pm: US Coast Guard Aux. Flotilla 5-19, First Presbyterian Church, call Brian 413-5420.
 Wed. & Fri., 11:15 am: Senior Bingo, at Apollo Park, call 904-7373

THURSDAYS

7:30 am: Connections Networking, at Bob's Big Boy, for info, call Nick Smith, 861-5722.
 7:30 am: Scrapbook Club of Downey, for information, call Mia Vasquez, 506-3327.
 9 am: Crafters group, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, call 562-4409.
 9:30 am: Take off Fountains Scavvy, at Barbara Wiley Senior Center, call (800) 332-8677.
 12 pm: Kiwanis Club of Downey, at Rio Honda Events Center, call Ray Jiramer 823-5972.
 12 pm: Optimize Club of Downey, at Rio Honda Events Center.
 6:30 pm: Downey United Mexican Lodge #228, 8244 3rd St., call 562-4376.
 7 pm: Troop 161, Boy Scouts of America, will resume meeting online in January, call 562-800-5033.
 7:30 pm: Downey Elks Lodge #2226, call 862-3557.
 1st Thurs., 12 noon: People of Faith Ministries, call John Vaiga 562-412-7151.
 1st Thurs., 7:00 pm: The Downey Amateur Radio Club, at First Baptist Church room 120.
 2nd Thurs., 7:30 pm: Beaming Rebel From Collectors Club, call Carl D. Jones at 323-2420.
 2nd & 4th Thurs., 8:30 pm: Downey Lions Club, at Miral, call Lenora (310) 293-9825.
 3rd Thurs., 4 pm: Public Works Committee, at City Hall Training Room.
 3rd Thurs., 6 pm: Downey CPAC, at Sizzler's Restaurant, call Rich Tuttle 423-6045.
 4th Thurs., 10 am: Assistance League, at Casa De Parley Johnson, call 865-8752.
 4th Thurs., 7:30 pm: Downey Historical Society programs, at Community Center, call 862-7777.

FRIDAYS

7:30 am: Pro Networkers, at Mimi's Cafe, call Barbara Bailey Beard at 666-7618.
 3rd Fri., 8:30 am: Women's "In His Story" Ministry at Cal Artisan C. C. 622-8765.

SATURDAYS

8 am: Farmers Market, Downey Avenue at 2nd Street, call 904-7246.

The DOWNEY GRAFFITI HOTLINE NUMBER

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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
MAGIC ACT: Some prestidigitatory patter
 by Greg Johnson

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Course to dress</p> <p>6 Cheddar specification</p> <p>11 Spanish marinade</p> <p>16 Triangular sail</p> <p>19 Well-suited for acrobatics</p> <p>20 Learner</p> <p>21 Not very nice</p> <p>22 Braggart's overabundance</p> <p>23 "My magic will astound you"</p> <p>26 Court, as a crush</p> <p>27 Wherefrom little metal tabs</p> <p>28 Woke up</p> <p>29 Document processor</p> <p>31 Firewood measure</p> <p>32 Break in the desert</p> <p>33 World Cup announcer exclamation</p> <p>34 Oral exam subject</p> <p>37 Early investor</p> <p>38 Disappear</p> <p>40 Archaeology site</p> <p>41 "Would someone come on stage?"</p> <p>45 Ship of myth</p> <p>46 Early PC screen</p> <p>47 Ear ailment</p> <p>48 Wall St. news</p> <p>49 Informal refusal</p> <p>50 Unprocessed linen</p> <p>53 Nights before</p> <p>54 Patience, while waiting</p> <p>56 Banderillero's opponent</p> <p>58 NFL 5th qtrs.</p> <p>60 Precedes</p> <p>62 "Pay attention or you'll miss it!"</p> <p>66 Succeed in oppo research</p>	<p>69 Brick carrier</p> <p>70 Put in a new place</p> <p>74 Stir up</p> <p>75 Lackluster</p> <p>77 Planes' medium</p> <p>80 Star pitcher</p> <p>81 Female on a farm</p> <p>82 Poseidon, e.g.</p> <p>84 Adoration in verse</p> <p>85 Cultural doings</p> <p>86 "Ace of diamonds?"</p> <p>91 Bar wall hanging</p> <p>92 Spaces for elevators</p> <p>93 African antelope</p> <p>94 Pies and pralines</p> <p>95 In ___ (kiddingly)</p> <p>96 British painter's pigment</p> <p>97 Telemeeting app</p> <p>98 Uncool one</p> <p>100 Stylish director</p> <p>102 Cash from cocktails</p> <p>106 Pro vote</p> <p>107 "Thank you! Here's another!"</p> <p>110 Directional suffix</p> <p>111 Certain stablehand on stage"</p> <p>112 Certain Arabian</p> <p>113 "___ a stinker?": Bugs Bunny</p> <p>114 Avenue</p> <p>44 Champs-Élysées</p> <p>115 Smart-alecky</p> <p>116 Tears apart</p> <p>117 Give up to the police</p>	<p>8 Address for GI mail</p> <p>9 Chest protector</p> <p>10 "Be my guest"</p> <p>11 Pinnacles (literal or not)</p> <p>12 Dickensian expletive</p> <p>13 Bottle at a Greek feast</p> <p>14 Quilting convention</p> <p>15 Metal detector find</p> <p>16 <i>Reservoir Dogs</i> crime</p> <p>17 Stravinsky's first</p> <p>18 Place for pages</p> <p>24 Very seldom seen</p> <p>25 A question of promptness</p> <p>30 Wear well</p> <p>32 Word on pennies</p> <p>33 Bearded beasts</p> <p>34 Machine named for a bird</p> <p>35 Of hearing</p> <p>36 Bedtime story time</p> <p>37 Contra- kin</p> <p>38 Lawn sign phrase</p> <p>39 Elite groups</p> <p>41 Hot feeling</p> <p>42 Priest/violinist/ Baroque composer</p> <p>43 Sword sport</p> <p>44 Goes bad</p> <p>46 Ballgame attendees</p> <p>50 Search in the dark</p> <p>51 "I'm outta here!"</p> <p>52 Enumeration shortcut</p> <p>54 Freud colleague</p> <p>55 Mentions</p> <p>57 Heavy weight</p> <p>59 "Button it!"</p> <p>61 Spooky</p> <p>63 Most ranging</p> <p>64 Solar panel setups</p> <p>65 Ender for emailing</p> <p>66 Depicted on a pad</p>
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DOWN

1 Drains of energy

2 Prefix meaning "soil"

3 Wasn't sincere

4 Brand's *Godfather* son

5 Priests' subordinates

6 Disburse

7 Simple dwellings

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You can contact puzzle editor Stanley Newman at his e-mail address: StanXwords@aol.com. Or write him at P.O. Box 69, Massapequa Park, NY 11762. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like a reply.

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Reach Stan Newman at www.StanXwords.com

I Remember Rosalie

By Yolanda Adele

I first met Rosalie Sciortino in 1993 at a creative writing group at Apollo Park in Downey. I was the youngest in the group and Rosalie may have been a little older than her contemporaries there.

As I heard and watched her read her stories I was not only entertained but inspired. Her creativity was not stagnant with melancholy. She put a smile on everyone's face including her own, as she looked around the room like a child with a story to tell. I knew then I wanted to get to know her better.

She invited me to her Writer's West Workshop Group where she was president, then secretary. Rosalie married later in life and had no children. After her husband Nick died, I invited her to my Memoir Writing Group in Norwalk. She eventually joined and we got to know each other better through stories we shared.

Rosalie was truly younger at heart than I. I had to grow up fast having been married and a mother while in my teen years and the Vietnam war was a personal concern to our family, as Vic my teenage husband and father of our child was a Marine soldier deployed in Cambodia, in harm's way.

After Vic's time in the military he went to work at Owen Glass factory, where he worked double shifts for four decades. With now two daughters grown and Rosalie living alone we began to have a gal's day out once or twice a week. We went to breakfast, lunches, movies, tea parlors, plays, shopping or just visited in the backyard. Where, we laughed, sipped, chatted and chewed.

I recently came across a copy of a letter I sent to Rosalie:

"Dear Rosalie, I aspire to be like you. You were so charming to the intern at the E.R. when you sprained your wrist. You asked if he was Palermo, Sicily and he said, "Yes!" You

You invited him to write about his love for the "old country" and to come to our W.W.W. He must have been impressed by you also. No one was more surprised than

me when he showed up!!! I will never forget the incident at the Olive Garden. You asked to personally compliment the chef on the eggplant dish you enjoyed so much. He came to our table to meet you. When we went to pay the bill the cashier told us it was already taken care of with the chef's compliments!

I loved when you told me you had made contact in cyberspace with an old flame you were once engaged to who (safely) lives hundreds of miles away. I laughed till my stomach ached! You seemed to relish my reaction.

How hysterical was the time we went to the theatre to see the musical "Chicago." I found your sense of fun and child-like abandonment influencing me because I was not even remotely embarrassed when we were told to hush by audience members after we began to sing along with Catherine Zeta Jones, Renee Zellweger and Queen Latifah. If that were not bad enough, we got the giggles and had to leave the theatre before the lights came on. We continued laughing all the way home. Who knew so much fun could be so exhausting? I slept very well! How about you?"

Of course, there were also times we cried together and comforted each other. Rosalie came to both of my parents' funerals then to my beloved Uncle Brown's. In the days, weeks and months to follow she helped me through the grieving process, of which she said, she was all too familiar with.

I hope I played it forward on that ominous morning when I came over to have coffee with Rosalie. The gate to the backyard was open. I could see the little table set out in front of the garage. It had a lace tablecloth and a small vase with two pink roses from her garden.

Rosalie came out and told me she had been calling my house wondering if I was late and that she had been sitting at the table waiting for me and motioning passing cars to drive in, each time thinking it was me. She laughed (though a little annoyed, I could tell). Then I laughed harder when she mused, "Luckily they all ignored me, or we would have



some strange people sitting at our table."

She went up the backstairs and said "I'll get the coffee!" As I watched her I thought she tripped on the carpet. She had a hand on the washing machine holding her up. I ran to help her. It was too late. She fell to the floor; her eyes were wide open as was her mouth.

I remember thinking this couldn't be really happening. Time seemed to go by at warp speed and subsequently slow motion. I gave her CPR, knowing she was already gone. I picked up the phone, called paramedics; Carol and Frank Kearns who live nearby, Matthew also a close friend and my husband Vic. When everyone arrived the nightmare felt real. It was a horrendous experience. I felt almost numb.

In time, I came to view it as a blessing. If I had not been there I forever would have wondered how long she had lain on the floor, perhaps crying for help. Knowing she did not suffer and died instantly brought me peace.

When I came home I found a message from Rosalie on my answer machine asking me if I had left my house yet and that she had been waiting for me. Thank you, Rosalie.



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Obituaries

G. Gordon Liddy

G. Gordon Liddy, a former FBI agent best known for his pivotal role in the Watergate scandal that led to the end of Richard Nixon's presidency, died March 30 at age 90.

Liddy joined Nixon's 1972 reelection campaign as part of the "Plumbers" unit, tasked to contain leaks of potentially damaging information to the press.

It was in that capacity that he was told to break into the Democratic National Committee's office in the Watergate complex, where he led the team and supervised from a nearby room. Caught and

convicted of conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping, Liddy was sentenced to 20 years in prison, a sentence that was commuted to eight years by President Jimmy Carter.

After serving seven years in prison, Liddy rebounded from the scandal that once looked like it would break him. He published his autobiography and began traveling on the lecture circuit, including a series of debates in tandem with psychologist and writer Timothy Leary.

Liddy took guest spots on TV shows including "Miami Vice," "MacGyver," and "Airwolf," and he hosted a radio talk show on Radio America and Sirius and XM satellite radio from 1992 to 2012.

Sarah Obama

Sarah Obama, an educator and philanthropist who was President Barack Obama's step-grandmother and the matriarch of his African family, died March 29 at a hospital in Kisumu, Kenya after a short illness at the age of roughly 99.

Born around 1920 or 1921 - records were not kept at the time and she was unsure of the date - Obama lived her whole life in Kenya. She was the third wife of President Obama's grandfather, and though they weren't blood relations, she and the former president formed a bond after they met in the 1980s.

He came to call her "Granny Sarah," and when he became president, she attended his first inauguration and received widespread attention. She spoke out in defense of her step-grandson in the face of accusations from his detractors about his place of birth and religion.

Later, she formed the Mama Sarah Education Foundation to support a school in her village and the education of local girls.

Beverly Cleary

Beverly Cleary, the author who penned award-winning books for children and young adults including the popular "Ramona" series, died March 25 in Carmel, California at the age of 104.

Born Beverly Atlee Bunn April 12, 1916, in McMinnville, Oregon, in the heart of the Willamette Valley, Cleary initially didn't seem destined for a career of writing beloved classics for young readers. Indeed, she was a reluctant reader herself, one who was in the bottom reading group in her first-grade class and didn't find reading at all interesting.

Eventually she found inspiration in the 1911 children's book "The Dutch Twins" by Lucy Fitch Perkins - delighted to find a book that told a story with a plot she wanted to follow - and a life of reading and writing began.

Cleary earned a degree in library science at the University of Washington in Seattle, later taking a job as a librarian. It was at the library that the seed

of a writing career was planted in Cleary's mind, as she talked to young readers who were disappointed that there weren't many books about children like them.

It wasn't long before she wrote her first book, "Henry Huggins," about a boy who makes fast friends with a stray dog. Henry's adventures with Ribsy served as the jumping-off point for a series of books, which introduced more of Cleary's enduring characters: Beezus Quimby and her little sister, Ramona.

As Cleary's books struck chords with young readers, she began receiving recognition for her work. In 1975, the American Library Association presented her with the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, an honor for lifetime achievement.

Her 1983 book "Dear Mr. Henshaw" received the Newbery Medal the following year, and Newbery Honors were conferred on "Ramona and Her Father" and "Ramona Quimby, Age 8." She won a National Book Award for "Ramona and Her Mother," and she received the National Medal of Arts in 2003. The city of Portland, Oregon, has commemorated Cleary's contributions with a grade school named after her as well as statues of Henry Huggins, Ribsy, and Ramona Quimby displayed in the city's Grant Park.

Jessica Walter

Jessica Walter, an Emmy-winning actress who was best known for playing Lucille Bluth in "Arrested Development" and voicing Malory Archer in "Archer," died March 24 at her home in New York City at the age of 80.

Among Walter's most memorable early roles was Evelyn Draper in the 1971 Clint Eastwood film "Play Misty for Me." Her performance as an obsessed fan of a disc jockey earned her a Golden Globe nomination.

On TV, Walter had a memorable recurring role on "Trapper John, M.D.," and she won a Primetime Emmy Award for her performance in the limited series "Amy Prentiss."

She took one of her most

recognizable roles in 2003, playing the acidic matriarch Lucille Bluth on Fox's "Arrested Development," and she continued with the show when it was picked up by Netflix in later years. Her voice role on "Archer" offered a similar character in the form of the leader of an intelligence agency.

Walter's other movies include "Grand Prix" (1966), "The Flamingo Kid" (1984), "PCU" (1994), and her final film, "The Mimic" (2020). She had a starring voice role on TV's "Dinosaurs" (1991) as well as recurring roles on "Saving Grace" (2007) and "90210" (2008). In 2011, she starred with George Segal in the short-lived sitcom "Retired at 35."

Walter made dozens of TV guest appearances over six decades, on shows including "Flipper," "Mission: Impossible," "Knots Landing," "Murder, She Wrote," "Law & Order," "The Big Bang Theory," and "Good Girls."

Jose Baselga

José Baselga, a Spanish oncologist who developed highly effective new drugs for treating breast cancer, died March 21 at his home in Spain of sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease at the age of 61.

Working as both an oncologist and a researcher, Baselga was involved in the development of cancer drugs including Herceptin and Perjeta. Both drugs effectively target an aggressive form of breast cancer and have been credited with extending and saving lives.

They have also been useful in targeting other cancers, including stomach and kidney cancers.

Baselga was chief medical officer and physician in chief at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York before resigning in 2018 amid controversy over his lack of disclosure of his connections to drug and health care companies. He was later hired by AstraZeneca as chief of research and development in oncology.

Craig Grant

Craig Grant, better known as

"muMs da Schemer" or simply "muMs," a poet and actor who starred as Arnold "Poet" Jackson on the HBO series "Oz," died March 24 of natural causes at age 52.

Grant was performing slam poetry in New York when he was featured in the 1998 documentary "SlamNation." Around the same time, he was cast as Poet in "Oz," where he was also able to perform his poetry over the course of the show's six seasons.

Grant later had recurring roles on the TV adaptation of "She's Gotta Have It" as well as "Boston Legal" and "Hightown." He was featured in several episodes of "Def Poetry Jam."

His movie credits include "Birdman," "Side Effects," and "Good Time."

Grant was also a member of the Off-Broadway troupe the LAByrnth Theater Company.

Robina Asti

Robina Asti, a World War II veteran who later became an inspiration to the transgender community as she fought for her husband's Social Security benefits, died March 12 in San Diego at age 99.

Asti served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, installing radios in aircraft in the Pacific Theater. After the war, she operated a supper club with friends and later worked for mutual fund company E.W. Axe.

It was in the 1970s that Asti began her transition, and she later married Norwood Patton. After his death in 2012, she filed to receive his Social Security benefits. She was denied her claim because, according to her birth certificate, she was legally a man at the time of her marriage.

Asti enlisted the help of Lambda Legal and fought to receive the benefits. She not only won, receiving two years of back checks, the Social Security Administration and IRS changed their guidelines so the situation can't happen again.

A lifelong pilot, Asti continued to fly and work as a flight instructor into 2020, and she was in the process of being certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest flight instructor.

POETRY MATTERS

Small Kindnesses

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead—you first," "I like your hat."

Danusha Laméris, *Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection.*

Green Writers Press, 2019

Resolution of conflict and promotion of peace begin with minor acts of graciousness that recognize the spark of the divine that is within each person. Laméris is currently the Poet Laureate of Santa Cruz County. Poetry Matters is curated by Lorine Parks



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Pandemic causes spike in sleep-deprived people

It's a worrisome statistic. Although sleep experts recommend adults get at least seven to eight hours of sleep, many American adults prior to the Coronavirus pandemic were already averaging as little as six hours per night.

Today, more people across Southern California are sleeping even less, not getting enough ZZZs as many have become heavily impacted by losing loved ones, facing unemployment, experiencing financial hardship and other COVID-19-related challenges.

"More people are feeling depressed and anxious," said Dr. Kendra Becker, a sleep medicine physician with Kaiser Permanente Southern California. "During this pandemic, we've seen an increase in people suffering from insomnia, problems falling asleep and staying asleep. Fear and stress are the main reasons why, and it makes it harder for you to sleep because of all that worrying. People are more concerned about their jobs, their families, and it keeps them up at night. Depression and insomnia are related - they go hand-in-hand."

Many people think sleep is just for resting at the end of their busy day. They justify less sleep by saying: "I feel fine." However, getting enough shut eye is as important as any other activities a person does during the day. When we sleep, our immune system is activated to hunt and kill viruses, bacteria and even cancer cells.

With sufficient sleep hours, a person wakes up refreshed, with the mental and physical energy needed for a new day.

Dr. Becker offers the following answers to frequently asked questions about the importance of sleep, especially during the pandemic that is affecting many people's sleep cycle:

Can I make up for lost weeknight sleep on weekends? No. While it may help some, sleeping long hours on weekends can actually contribute to insomnia. Your best bet is to keep the same schedule all week long when it comes to going to bed and waking up.

Do older people need less sleep? Not always. Studies show all adults, with few exceptions, need to ideally sleep between seven and eight hours per night. Older adults are less active in the day, and nap often, which can make night sleep more difficult. Staying active during the day is the key. Going outside in sunlight is energizing, and makes it easier to sleep at night.

Will consuming caffeine make it harder for me to fall asleep? It's not advisable to consume caffeine late in the day, so avoid that late-night cup of joe, as it's likely to stimulate your nervous system and may stop your body from naturally relaxing at night. In fact, according to one study published in the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine, consuming caffeine up to six hours before bed significantly worsened

sleep quality.

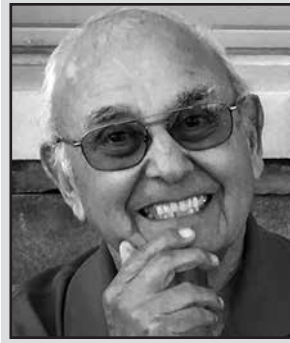
What about alcohol? Avoid drinking alcohol before bedtime. It's easy to say NO, but we are very attached to our devices and constant flow of information. Research has found that exposure to "blue" light suppresses your body's production of melatonin. Without sufficient melatonin, it is difficult to fall and stay asleep.

What about using my smart phone or iPad before I go to bed? It's easy to say NO, but we are very attached to our devices and constant flow of information. Research has found that exposure to "blue" light suppresses your body's production of melatonin. Without sufficient melatonin, it is difficult to fall and stay asleep.

Can I watch TV in bed to relax to sleep? No. Bed should be reserved for sleep. Wait until you are sleepy to go to bed. The bedroom should be dark, cool and quiet to optimize the quality of sleep. Avoid checking the time during the night, as it causes anxiety. Use an alarm to wake. Morning sunlight is important to be wakeful and energetic in the day.

"The facts are clear: getting a good night's sleep is critically important to everyone's good health," Dr. Becker said, noting if your sleep problems last for more than three months, it's time to seek medical attention. "It's in everyone's best interest for good health to sleep well, sleep enough, be well and thrive!"

In Memory of



Edmond F. Espriu

November 1923 - March 2021

Edmond F. Espriu was born in November 1923 in Nogales, Arizona, where he lived until the age of 14, when he moved to California with his family. When he was 18, he signed up to serve in the Air Force during WWII. He spent most of his time in the service repairing damaged B-17s as a ground mechanic stationed in England. When he returned to California, he met his wife Betty, who he adored and was married to for more than 60 years. They bought a home in Downey in 1949, where they raised their five children: Ron, Dennis, Renee, Denise, and Chris.

In 1978, Edmond retired from the Ford Motor Company, where he had worked for 30 years. He continued to stay active, lifting weights each day, as he had done for decades. Edmond and Betty got matching Schwinn bicycles and would spend many lovely afternoons biking all over Downey together. However, their focus was now on their new role as Papa and Nana to a growing number of grandchildren. A day with Papa might mean blowing bubbles in the backyard, going for a drive down to the Seal Beach pier, or eating a couple of burgers at In N Out together.

Edmond had a sweet tooth. He loved chocolate, especially See's Candies Peanut Butter Patties, and would eat several each day, if they were at hand. If you offered him one chocolate, he would always request another one "for the road."

After the passing of his wife Betty in 2008, Edmond remained at their home in Downey, where he spent many mornings filling in word search books or solving a jumble puzzle in the LA Times, many afternoons sitting in the backyard enjoying the sunshine, and many evenings watching a good mystery program on television. He stopped lifting weights but would go walking nearly everyday.

He was a family man who had a great sense of humor and loved to make his loved ones smile. He passed away in March 2021 in Downey, California at the age of 97. He will be profoundly missed by all of his family and friends.

Edmond is predeceased by his wife Betty (Lain) Espriu, his son Dennis Espriu, and his brothers Ben Dickens, Gus Espriu, and Hector Dickens. He is survived by four children, nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, seven great-great grandchildren, two sisters, many nephews and nieces, and friends.

A private service will be held for Edmond at All Souls Cemetery in Long Beach, California.

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Things You Didn't Know About Downey: Homes in the 1860s

■ Homes prioritized space and functionality, and luxuries were few and far between.

By Bobbi Bruce Contributor

DOWNEY – Let us take a peek at this time into the homes as assessor J.W. Venable found them during the 1860s in Downey.

Homes were built entirely of unsurfaced knotty wood. Pieces of tin nailed over the knotholes and bats to cover the gaps between boards made the homes more livable. Most of them were white-washed inside and out, and in various stages of disintegration. These California “box houses,” so called for their type of construction, had an average of three small rooms consisting of two main rooms and a lean-to kitchen.

There were no screens. Due to the risk in transporting glass, window panes were expensive and difficult to get. Many windows were closed only by wooden shutters to keep out the wind and rain.

Each house had a fireplace for heating and cooking. Kettles were hung on cranes or iron rods by a pot-hook. Sometimes a grate or grill rested on a small shelf built into each side of the chimney. Sheet iron stoves, inadequate for the large families of that day, were being replaced by larger and better cast-iron stoves.

The crude but durable furniture included only bare necessities, such as cupboards, tables, beds and chairs. Some chairs were made of rawhide, often with the hair on; other hides for the seats and backs.

Ticks filled with shredded cornshucks or straw served as mattresses and were placed upon wooden slats. There were no springs in beds or mattresses to ease the bodies of these hardworking early pioneers.

To economize in space, one or more trundle beds were used. Wooden cradles for the babies' daytime beds were a part of every home. Only one family in 10 had a sewing machine. Some were operated by hand but the newer models were run by foot pedals.

Luxuries were scarce. One privately owned library was listed to R.L. Latimer. Mrs. W.P. McDonald was the proud possessor of a piano, a gift from her father, M.D. Crawford. This instrument was a curiosity and people came from miles to see the melodious contraption.

On the night prior to the election of Nov. 5, 1872, a great meeting was held at the old courthouse in Los Angeles, with a bonfire and other demonstration which heralded political meetings of that time. There was a large assembly and although it was a presidential election, the question of the railroad was of prime importance.

Early Settlement

The first distinctive settlement by Americans in Los Angeles County was made at El Monte (first called Lexington) at the end of the Santa Fe Trails in July 1851. The pioneers were Ira W. Thompson; the first postmaster, Dr. Obed Macy, and son, Oscar Macy; Samuel Heath; G.W. Gibson; Nicholas Smith; J. Colburn; J. Sheldon; J. Chisholm; and Mrs. Roland.

About 50 American families came into this settlement during the next two years. In 1852, Kern County was formed, which took a considerable slice off the

northern end of Los Angeles.

Gallatin, believed to be the second town settled by people from the United States, was located in a farming community in the middle-western part of Rancho Santa Gertrudes. Like many other American villages, Gallatin was built around a public school. When the school was organized, the residents were few and widely scattered. There were no appropriations by county or state, and the need of erecting the first school house was met by the people.

It was of primitive structure, the walls of which consisted of a framework of sticks or branches, into and around which were woven tules and mustard stalks and such materials as were at hand. The roof was made of the same similar substance. This offered protection against the elements and wild animals and allowed plenty of ventilation, but was far from comfortable.

Here began the first religious services of the community. Later the little red school house was built and in it on Sept. 19, 1868 the Baptist church was organized. This was the only church within a radius of 10 miles. The first wedding celebration in this building was that of Miss Mattie Morrow and James Birchett of Gallatin, officiated by John Fuquay, the first pastor of the church.

In about 1875, Pastor Fuquay married Miss Sarah Neighbours, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Neighbours. The ceremony was performed under an arbor, erected expressly for this event in front of the bride's home. She wore a lovely white Swiss gown trimmed with narrow ruffles edged with lace. After the services, relatives and friends participated at a banquet given for the couple.

It cannot be ascertained with any degree of accuracy

when the town of Gallatin began settlement, for surveys and deeds were delayed months and sometimes years after occupancy began. A number of early settlers agree with “Wilson's History,” published in 1880, which says: “Gallatin settlement was started early in 1867.” The town was located on the corner of Jaboneria Road and on Lexington-Gallatin Road, now designated as Florence Avenue.

A survey of county records brings to light a deed, executed by Allen Neighbours on Jan. 4, 1869, to a 40 ft. by 100 ft. lot, adjoining the school house lot on the north, to Rose, Hopkins & Company, where they had been operating a general store for some time.

On Jan. 17, 1870, Mr. Neighbours also deeded the lot just north of the Hopkins store to Leopold Harris, who also had been running a store, where he continued business until 1874.

More on 1865

In 1865, whole acres were sold for a few groceries and people lived on one meal a day. A barrel of flour went for \$15 and frijoles (red beans) brought 15 cents a pound.

The same drought that caused a terrific loss of stock and forced Juan Temple to sell Rancho Los Cerritos proved fatal to Don Abel Stearns, owner of Rancho Los Alamitos. Pio Pico, whose ranch adjoined Rancho Santa Gertrudes on the north, lost heavily. While Santa Gertrudes was hard hit by the drought, Pio Pico was fortunate in having the San Gabriel River along its western boundary where settlement had begun.

In 1866, James Shugg made the first effort to divert the river water for irrigation purposes. On reaching the upland, his ditch continued south from the Santa Fe railroad track to his



Pio Pico State Historic Park in Whittier is the site of El Ranchito, the final home of Pio Pico, the last governor of Alta California.

home on Shugg's Lane (now Slauson Avenue in Pico Rivera). The problems of development were great and moles, gophers, squirrels, etc. constantly caused the loss of water and in 1867 the ditch was abandoned.

When efforts toward a ditch and water company were retried, James Shugg, Eli Taylor, William Caruthers, J.P. Fleming, R.H. Mayes and a few other farmers (13 in all) built a diverting dam in the river in the neighborhood of what is now Whittier Boulevard. The ditch extended south to the head of the Arroyo on the H.L. Montgomery place then followed the arroyo to the farming district below, where a dam was built across the arroyo, high enough to raise the water to a level with the adjacent farmland.

This was the beginning of the Arroyo Ditch and Water Company, now serving the

Downey community from the Santa Fe Railroad, south to the County Farm (Rancho Los Amigos).

With the shortage of rain over a period of years, river water was supplemented by convenient wells.

Here are the totals of yearly rainfall in Los Angeles and the local vicinity in inches:

- 1880: 20.34
- 1881: 13.13
- 1882: 10.40
- 1883: 12.11
- 1884: 38.18
- 1885: 9.21
- 1886: 22.31
- 1887: 14.05
- 1888: 13.87
- 1889: 19.28

Bobbi Bruce is a docent with the Downey Historical Society.

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The Downey Patriot
Thursday, May 25, 2017
Vol. 16 No. 7

HEALTH: Taking tetanus serious
FEATURES: Perfect attendance
NEWS: Commencement speaker
NEWS: Gang member sentenced

City Council agrees to continue Stay Gallery financial support

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THINGS TO DO
Memorial Day Ceremony

FROM OUR FACEBOOK
City continues financial support of Stay Gallery

Downey Patriot wins 5 journalism awards

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21PSCP00095
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner RORY SEBASTIANO AMADEO
ALESSANDRO CRISTOBEL DE SEVILLA
filed a petition with this court for a decree
changing names as follows:
Present name (1) RORY SEBASTIANO
AMADEO ALESSANDRO CRISTOBEL
DE SEVILLA to Proposed name (1) RORY
SEBASTIANO SILOA LOPEZ ESCOCE

SEVILLA
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons
interested in this matter appear before this
court at the hearing indicated below to show
cause, if any, why the petition for change of
name should not be granted. Any person
objecting to the name changes described
above must file a written objection that
includes the reasons for the objection at
least two court days before the matter is
scheduled to be heard and must appear at
the hearing to show cause why the petition
should not be granted. If no written objection
is timely filed, the court may grant the petition
without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MAY 6, 2021, Time: 8:30 a.m.,
Department: A, Room 904
The address of the court is 200 W
COMPTON BOULEVARD, COMPTON
CA 90220.

the hearing to show cause why the petition
should not be granted. If no written objection
is timely filed, the court may grant the petition
without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MAY 5, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m.,
Department: C, Room N/A
The address of the court is 12720
NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall
be published at least once a week for four
successive weeks prior to the date set
for hearing on the petition in the following
newspaper of general circulation, printed in
the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT
MARCH 23, 2021
JUDGE MARGARET M. BERNAL
Judge of the Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
KARLA MARISOL DONIS
16141 EUCALYPTUS AVE #17
BELLFLOWER, CA 90706
(562) 507-0006
KDBRIMACA72@GMAIL.COM

for hearing on the petition in the following
newspaper of general circulation, printed in
the county, THE DOWNEY PATRIOT
MARCH 12, 2021
JUDGE MARGARET M. BERNAL
Judge of the Superior Court
Petitioner or Attorney for Petitioner
MARY KENDAL TEETER
6124 1/2 GOTHAM STREET
BELL GARDENS, CA 90201
562-658-5400
The Downey Patriot
4/1/21, 4/8/21, 4/15/21, 4/22/21

ANGELES, CA 90012, STANLEY MOSK
COURTHOUSE
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the
petition, you should appear at the hearing
and state your objections or file written
objections with the court before the hearing.
Your appearance may be in person or by
your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent
creditor of the decedent, you must file your
claim with the court and mail a copy to the
personal representative appointed by the
court within the later of either (1) four months
from the date of first issuance of letters to a
general personal representative, as defined
in section 58(b) of the California Probate
Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing
or personal delivery to you of a notice under
section 9052 of the California Probate Code.
Other California Statutes and legal authority
may affect your rights as a creditor. You
may want to consult with an attorney
knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the
court. If you are a person interested in the
estate, you may file with the court a Request
for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing
of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets
or of any petition or account as provided in
Probate Code section 1250. A Request for
Special Notice form is available from the
court clerk.
Attorney for Petitioner:
ANH PASCHAL, SBN 294906
ATN LAW OFFICE, P.C.
7451 WARNER AVENUE #E-227
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92647
(949) 336-2240
ANH@ATNLAWOFFICE.COM

probate. The will and any codicils are
available for examination in the file kept by
the court.
THE PETITION requests authority to
administer the estate under the Independent
Administration of Estates Act. (This authority
will allow the personal representative to
take many actions without obtaining
court approval. Before taking certain very
important actions, however, the personal
representative will be required to give notice
to interested persons unless they have
waived notice or consented to the proposed
action.) The independent administration
authority will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the petition and
shows good cause why the court should not
grant the authority.
A HEARING on the petition will be held
on April 12, 2021 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No.
2D located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles,
CA 90012.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the
petition, you should appear at the hearing
and state your objections or file written
objections with the court before the hearing.
Your appearance may be in person or by
your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent
creditor of the decedent, you must file your
claim with the court and mail a copy to the
personal representative appointed by the
court within the later of either (1) four months
from the date of first issuance of letters to a
general personal representative, as defined
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estate, you may file with the court a Request
for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing
of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets
or of any petition or account as provided in
Probate Code section 1250. A Request for
Special Notice form is available from the
court clerk.
Petitioner: Laurie Holmes
LAURIE HOLMES
12024 PAPPOT AVE
DOWNEY CA 90242
CN976258 FORD Mar 18,25, Apr 1, 2021
CN976258
The Downey Patriot
3/18/21, 3/25/21, 4/1/21

The Downey Patriot
3/18/21, 3/25/21, 4/1/21, 4/8/21
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER: 21CMCP00023
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner
ARACELI FLORES filed a petition with this
court for a decree changing names as
follows:
Present name (1) ARACELI CASTRO
SEVILLA to Proposed name (1) ARACELI

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons
interested in this matter appear before this
court at the hearing indicated below to show
cause, if any, why the petition for change of
name should not be granted. Any person
objecting to the name changes described
above must file a written objection that
includes the reasons for the objection at
least two court days before the matter is
scheduled to be heard and must appear at
the hearing to show cause why the petition
should not be granted. If no written objection
is timely filed, the court may grant the petition
without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MAY 19, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m.,
Department: C, Room 312
The address of the court is 12720
NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall
be published at least once a week for four
successive weeks prior to the date set

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons
interested in this matter appear before this
court at the hearing indicated below to show
cause, if any, why the petition for change of
name should not be granted. Any person
objecting to the name changes described
above must file a written objection that
includes the reasons for the objection at
least two court days before the matter is
scheduled to be heard and must appear at
the hearing to show cause why the petition
should not be granted. If no written objection
is timely filed, the court may grant the petition
without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: MAY 19, 2021, Time: 10:30 a.m.,
Department: C, Room 312
The address of the court is 12720
NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK CA 90650
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall
be published at least once a week for four
successive weeks prior to the date set

The Downey Patriot
3/18/21, 3/25/21, 4/1/21
NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
NAOMI MAE FORD
Case No. 21STPB02306
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors,
contingent creditors, and persons who may
otherwise be interested in the will or estate,
or both, of NAOMI MAE FORD
A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been
filed by Laurie Holmes in the Superior Court
of California, County of LOS ANGELES.
THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests
that Laurie Holmes be appointed as personal
representative to administer the estate of
the decedent.
THE PETITION requests the decedent's
will and codicils, if any, be admitted to

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THE PETITION requests the decedent's
will and codicils, if any, be admitted to

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What to consider before buying a second home



Owning a second home can provide retirees – or even younger families – a mountain retreat or a house at the beach for those family vacations or quick weekend getaways.

But if buying a second home is on your list of New Year's resolutions for 2021, be sure to consider all the upsides and downsides before committing, says Patrick Rush (www.patrickrush.com), CEO of Triad Financial Advisors and the ForbesBooks author of Gain Big and Give Back: Financial Planning with Intention.

"Many retirees end up regretting it," Rush says. "They feel they are forced to go to that second home every weekend just because they spent so much on it. A vacation property or second home can certainly provide a lot of joy, but it rarely works out financially."

That doesn't stop people from buying them, though.

The National Association of Home Builders estimates that Americans own about 7.4 million second homes, which is about 5.6 percent of the total housing stock.

"People tend to purchase a

second home either as a rental property or a vacation home, which they might also rent for part of the year," Rush says. "But unless you're in a hot real estate market, the return on investment usually isn't worth the hassle. There are better ways of growing your money."

Rush says a few things to know about investing in a second home include:

Real estate doesn't automatically mean easy money. People mistakenly believe real estate provides a guaranteed return, but that's not always true. Rush recalls one client who, over Rush's vehement objections, withdrew all of his retirement money to build an expensive second home. The client was certain the house would pay off, but he eventually was

forced to sell it for half his investment.

Consider the overall impact on your life. Most people don't have endless streams of money, even if they have done well for themselves financially. So, a splurge in one area often requires a sacrifice in another. "If you want the second home, then perhaps an Alaskan cruise won't be in the budget," Rush says. "It comes down to what your priorities are."

Upkeep can become overwhelming. People tend to overlook the ancillary costs that make owning a second home expensive, Rush says. Take those into consideration as you make your decision. "Property taxes, homeowners association dues, insurance, and maintenance start to add up," he says. "Renting the house out when you aren't using it does provide an income stream, but managing the property and dealing with tenants is a hassle. You can hire a property

manager, but that has its own disadvantages."

Renting can work just as well. While it might feel exhilarating to own a mountain home in North Carolina or a Pacific Ocean beach house, Rush says another option is simply to rent a place for a week or a weekend whenever you're in need of a getaway.

None of this means a second home is always a mistake, Rush says.

One client whose parents died and left her a generous inheritance wanted to invest the money in a beach home. Rush warned her of the potential pitfalls.

She teared up. She agreed it

might not be the best financial decision, but when she and her sister were growing up, their parents took them every summer to Sunset Beach on the North Carolina coast. She wanted to continue that tradition for her children, her sister, and her sister's children.

"It was a reminder that it's not always about the numbers," Rush says. "You have to weigh the return on investment against the emotional benefit. Financially, it wasn't the best choice, but to her, it meant so much more. It was about keeping her parents' memories alive. Some things truly matter more than money."

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Overall, homeowner equity grew \$1 Trillion.¹

SOURCES:
1. CoreLogic, "Homeowner Equity Growth Data Through Q1" December 2020
2. CoreLogic, "2020 House Sales Report and Outlook" 12/16/2020
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"Lilian Lopez provides excellent service and is a great realtor!!" - **Juan Mendez**

"I have closed 3 transactions with **Frank Cordova** and all have been great! Great service!!" - **Samuel Quezada**

"**Maria Franco** provided excellent service!!" - **Ignacio Plascencia**

FEATURED PROPERTY

Move In Ready!!
Beautiful 3-bedroom 2 bath home with family room. Large kitchen features plenty of counter space and storage. Master bedroom features a walk-in closet. 2nd bedroom also has a walk-in closet. Gated property with "U" shaped driveway and automatic gates for easy entrance & exit. Driveway can easily fit 8+ cars plus 3 car garage. Large backyard is ideal for entertaining. CALL TODAY!!!

TOP PRODUCERS

TOP LISTING Steve Roberson
TOP PRODUCTION Cecilia Mota
TOP SALES Lilian Lopez

PRICE REDUCTION

Location, Location, Location!!!
4 units located just minutes from USC and just south of Exposition Park and the Colosseum. All units are 1 bed & 1 bath. Back unit has 1 car garage with plenty of space on the side for parking. CALL TODAY!!!

COMING SOON

Coming soon!!
Charming 4 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths. Separate outside laundry room with custom cabinets and storage. The kitchen has stone counters and plenty of storage with custom oak cabinetry. A sep-down enclosed patio features brick flooring and wood trim, providing a great bonus room to the existing family room. Two bedrooms share their own bathroom. The detached 2-car garage has an attached workshop and there is RV Access to the backyard. CALL TODAY!!!

Retail Shopping Center!
Nice retail shopping center just north of the 91 Freeway. 6 units. Some units have central air and heat. Appraised at \$2,850,000. CALL TODAY!!!

Duplex!!
Duplex. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath each unit. Located on a cul-de-sac. One unit remodeled. 3 car garage. CALL TODAY!!!

21 CENTURY 21 Peak

Property Management Provides help with
Statewide Rent Control | Rent Collection
Working with Vendors | Tenant Relations
2 Free Months of Management
Call Edwin 562.927.2626

A Must See!!!
Beautiful 3 bed 2 bath home situated on a quiet cul-de-sac on "The Island" in Downey. Spacious master bed and bath with walk in closet. Large family room with fireplace. Beautiful backyard with patio. Move in ready. CALL TODAY

This is The One!!!
Charming 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, 1,389 square foot home with Central A/C, Living Room with Fireplace and beautifully finished original wood floors. Updated kitchen has beautiful quartz countertops and complimentary backsplash, all appliances are included. Enjoy family gatherings and BBQ's in the covered patio and large concrete area in this well-maintained rare find complete with fruit trees. Two-car attached garage with spacious driveway for extra parking space. CALL TODAY!!!

21 CENTURY 21 Peak

My Real Estate School
DRE APPROVED
LIVE REAL ESTATE SCHOOL
\$150 Reimbursed
Call Bertha - 562.927.2626



Mel & Rita Berdelis
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Carmela "Carrie" Uva
BROKER ASSOCIATE
562-382-1252
www.CarrieUva.com
DRE #01152047



Angelo & Marie
REALTOR®
562-618-0033
www.MariePicarelli.com
DRE #01933141 | DRE #00610605



Jimmy Spathos
REALTOR®
562-400-2148
JimSpathos@aol.com
DRE #01296368



Vicki Spearman
REALTOR®
562-367-9520
lcare4dow@aol.com
DRE #00542721



Mario Persico
REALTOR®
562-533-7433
Mario@MarioPersico.com
DRE #01341121

THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?

THERE IS NO BETTER TIME THAN NOW!

I Can Sell Your Home In Record Time For Top \$\$\$

Are you 55 & older & thinking of selling?

You can benefit from Prop19 New Tax Breaks

- You can now buy a more expensive home & transfer your tax base
- You can move anywhere in California & transfer your tax base
- You can transfer your tax base up to 3 times

Effective April 1, 2021

Call Carrie for more info!
562-382-1252 | 562-761-0597



CARMELA "CARRIE" UVA

Downey Born, Raised & Educated!
Selling Downey Homes for 27 Years!

EXPERIENCE YOU CAN TRUST!

JUST LISTED!



Investment Opportunity!

- Lakewood triplex
- Front house 3 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Spacious 1 bedroom unit
- 1 bedroom and den unit
- All units have their own laundry

PRICED AT: **\$1,300,000**

JUST SOLD!



Sweet and Low!

- Manufactured home located in great park in Dominguez Hills
- 3 bedrooms | 2 bathrooms
- Huge living room

PRICED AT: **\$130,000**

IN ESCROW!



Downey Investment!

- 2 homes on a lot
- Front 2 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Back 2 bedrooms | 1 bath
- Light fixer

PRICED AT: **\$675,000**




HAPPY EASTER

100 REVIEWS

www.Zillow.com

ANGELO & MARIE PICARELLI



Located in North Downey

- 3 bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms
- Approximately 1,200 sq. ft.
- Pool

CALL ME FOR MORE INFORMATION!

IT'S AN EGG-CELLENT TIME TO SELL

Everyone is buying!



CALL VICKI TODAY! 562-367-9520



IN ESCROW!




7504 Muller Street, Downey

- 4 bedrooms | 4 bathrooms
- 2 bedrooms upstairs & 2 downstairs
- 3,288 sq. ft.
- 2 air conditioners
- Sparkling pool

MUST SEE! CALL MARIO FOR MORE INFO!

MARIO DID IT AGAIN!



Christina Davilas
REALTOR®
562-761-6080
ChristinaDavilas24@gmail.com
DRE #01062471

HUNTING FOR A NEW HOME!

I Can Help!



Happy Easter

Call today for a free market evaluation! 562-761-6080



Pam Lee
REALTOR®
562-537-1134
PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com
DRE #01750256

JUST LISTED!



Charming Home with an Extra Large Lot!!!

- 3 bedrooms
- 2 bathrooms
- 1,588 sq. ft. living space
- 13,000+ sq. f. lot
- Guest house
- RV parking

PRICED AT: **\$825,000**

PamLeeRealtor@gmail.com

SOLD! SOLD! SOLD!



8110-12 Comollette Street, Downey

2 HOMES ON ONE LOT

- Front: 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- Back: 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- 2 car garage has been converted to living space (not permitted)

SOLD IN THREE DAYS FOR \$25,000 OVER LIST PRICE!

MARIO DID IT AGAIN!

MARIO PERSICO

BORN | EDUCATED | LIVES | WORSHIPS IN DOWNEY

562-533-7433

- REALTOR® SINCE 2002 -

@MARIO_PERSICO



Real People. Real Results.

"Michael guided us through every step. Together we closed a very short escrow that allowed us to purchase our dream home. We could not be happier with our decision to trust Michael Berdelis with our sale."

-Chris G.
SOLD Single Family home in 2021 in Downey, CA

MICHAEL BERDELIS

& THE 24 HOUR TEAM
REALTOR®

FOR SALE BY DOWNEY'S #1 TEAM

POOL






Entertainers Backyard!

- 6 Bedrooms | 6 Bathrooms
- 5,266 sq. ft. | 13,885 sq. ft. lot
- 2 spacious master bedrooms
- Swimming pool, covered patio & gazebo
- 3 car garage

LIST PRICE: **\$1,749,950**

2 HOUSES






Live In One, Rent The Other!

- FRONT HOME: 5 BD, 2 BA, 3,112 sq. ft.
- BACK HOME: 2 BD, 2 BA, 1,152 sq. ft.
- 12,012 sq. ft. lot
- Property built in 1988
- Each unit has a 2 car garage

LIST PRICE: **\$1,249,000**

MOVE IN READY






Look No Further!

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Bathrooms
- 1,158 sq. ft. | 5,447 sq. ft. lot
- Remodeled kitchen & baths
- Central A/C • Newer roof

LIST PRICE: **\$665,000**

TRIPLEX









Triplex with Great Income Opportunity

- Unit mix: Two 2BD, 1 BA & one 1 BD, 1 BA
- 2,637 sq. ft. combined | 7,397 sq. ft. lot
- Detached 3 car garage
- Separate metered units
- Great booming location

LIST PRICE: **\$825,000**

3 UNITS



3 Units in Los Angeles

- Each 2 BD and 1 bath
- 1,927 sq ft total living space
- Guest parking in rear
- Separate gas
- Separate electric meters

LIST PRICE: **\$675,000**

MUST SEE






Great Starter Home

- 2 bedrooms
- 1 bathroom
- 893 sq ft living space
- Freshly painted interior
- 1 car garage

LIST PRICE: **\$419,950**



DRE #01234589

Call Today for a FREE Virtual Market Analysis or FREE Virtual Tour of these listings!

Call 562-818-6111 or visit www.MichaelBerdelis.com