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# ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 5, Issue 95 | A Compendious Source of Information | May 3, 2024


## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Nominations Now Open For Fernando Awards

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Fernando Awards. This is the 66th year for Fernando, which is the highest award for volunteerism and philanthropy in the San Fernando Valley. It is supported by the Valley Chambers of Commerce, civic and philanthropic organizations, entrepreneurs and corporations located in the San Fernando Valley. Nominations are open from now until August 2 at 12 noon. Applications are available at fernandoawards.org. For more information contact Pegi Matsuda at pegi@onboard.biz or Tim Vints at fernandoawards@gmail.com. The 2024 winner will be announced at the gala dinner Friday, October 18 at Skirball Cultural Center.

### Security Guard Shot at Music Producer's $12M Encino Home

A security guard patrolling a home in the Amestoy Estates area of Encino was shot at approximately 2:25 am this past weekend. The 37-year-old man was stationed in his guard booth when he was shot multiple times. An investigation is underway as the suspects fled the scene quickly after. The only information released is that suspects are three males. The home, which is currently on the market for $12 million, belongs to music executive and producer Amir Esmailian who co-founded XO Records.

### California Will Soon Sell Generic Version of Narcan

Governor Newsom recently announced that California will soon be selling its own generic version of Narcan that will be approximately 40% cheaper than the market rate. Amneal Pharmaceuticals will sell naloxone to the state for $24 per pack and the state plans to give away many of the packs for free to first responders, universities and community organizations. They also intend to sell the packs at a discounted rate to California businesses such as entertainment centers, ride-share services and restaurants to expand the distribution beyond public health departments. The naloxone nasal spray is the best attempt at reversing opioid overdoses caused by heroin, fentanyl and oxycodone. Opioid overdose deaths in California have doubled since 2019, with increasing numbers affecting the Valley as fentanyl presence in other drugs has increased.

## Valley Asian and Pacific Islander Festival Dances Into Warner Center Saturday

The third annual Valley Asian Cultural Festival will be held this Saturday, May 4, from 10 am to 4 pm at Pierce College.

May is National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and this festival sponsored by the West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce Community Benefit Foundation aims to educate the community on Asian culture and practices.

Cultures represented include Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Pacific Islanders, Taiwanese and Vietnamese.

There will be a variety of cultural food experiences, pop-up cultural retail markets, dance and musical performances throughout the day, a fashion show, lion dance and beautiful cultural displays, arts and crafts, plus fun for the whole family.

The program includes performances from Aloha Hula, Camarillo Kung Fu & Lion Dance Association, Carnation Arts and Cultural Group, Coach Li Jing, Dance Bollywood Dance, ECRCH Color Guard, Excel Taekwondo Center, Feng Dance Studio, Fil Am Arts House of Champions-SoCal Filipinos-Starlink Promotions, Hiza Yoo Korean Dance Institute, Katori Shinto Ryu, KNL, Pierce College Vietnamese Lion Dance, Saeko Kujiroaka, Taiwanese Association of Northwest Los Angeles and Urasenke Tankokai Seiwakai.

Exhibitors include Bitty Bao, City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Citywide Law Group, Congressman Brad Sherman, COSTCO Woodland Hills, Entre-Mindset, Esoteric Beings, eXp Realty, Filipino American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Los Angeles, Forest Lawn Memorial Parks & Mortuaries, Gifts by Bing, Hai Le, Helen's Eyelash Extensions, Inermis Mehndi (Organic Henna Tattoos), Kitchen's Best, Saladmaster, Museum of the San Fernando Valley, North Los Angeles County Regional Center, Philippine Consulate-Departments of Tourism and Trade & Investment, Southern California Medical Center, State Bank of India (California), SurrealArts LLC/Diwata Komiks, Taiwanese Association of Northwest Los Angeles, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, West Valley Chinese Academy and the West Valley-Warner Center Chamber of Commerce.

**There will be a variety of cultural food experiences, pop-up cultural retail markets, dance and musical performances throughout the day, a fashion show, lion dance and beautiful cultural displays, arts and crafts, plus fun for the whole family.**

Food and drink options will be available from Canaan Foods, Empanadas Di ba, Hashtag Vietnam, Ho'oilina Foundation Saved Ice, Kai Kai, Kazuyo Sushi Food Truck, KRP Lato Arosep Seamoss, Maria's Sugarcane Juice, MYC, LLC, Stuffed Crepe Inc, Taste of Soul on Wheels, Urban Masala, Vitasoy amd Zero Gravitea Inc.

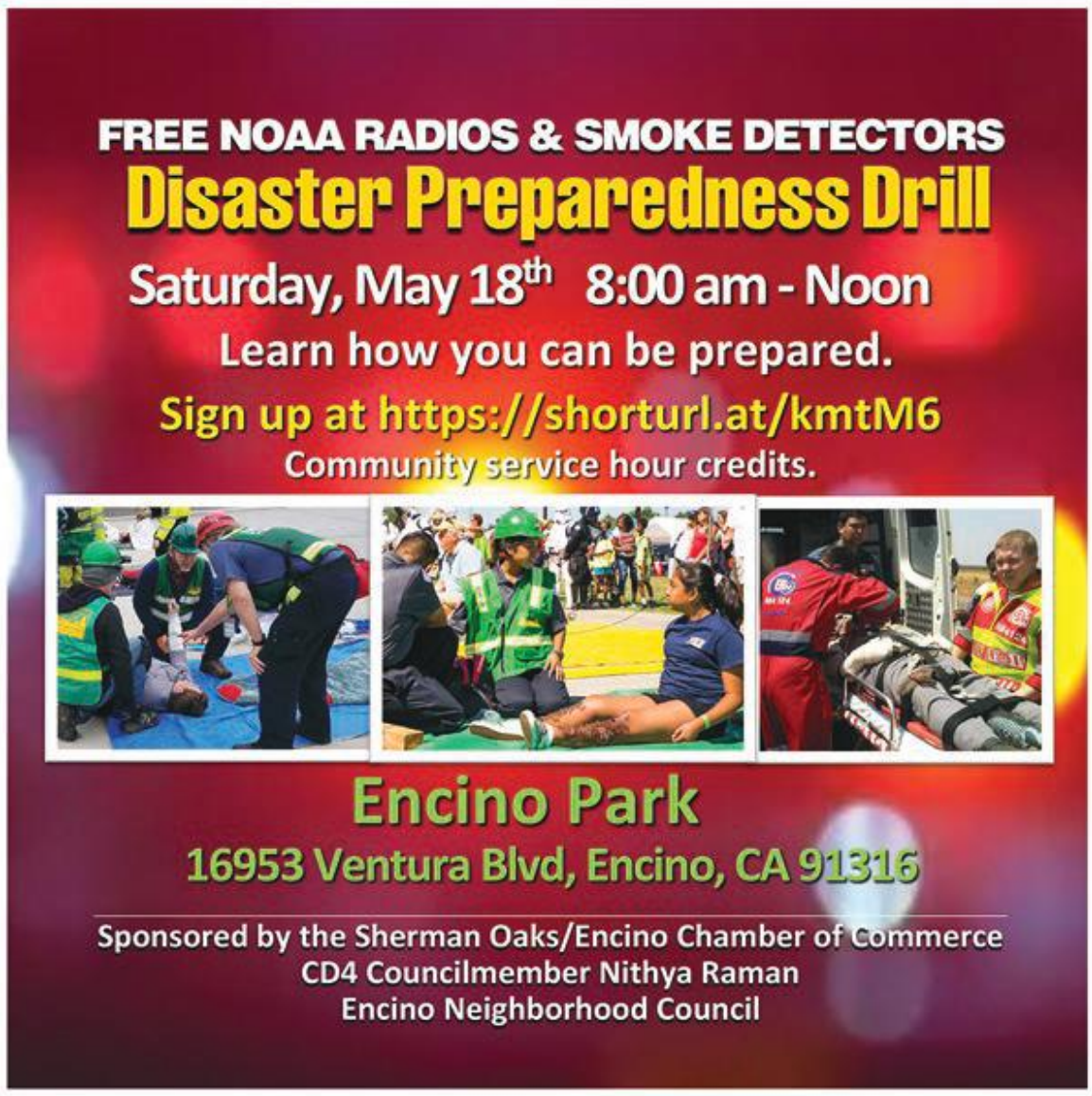
Masters of Ceremony will be Melissa Soon and Joe Arciaga, and Cultural Ambassadors are Maggie Nguyen and Roselyn Arciaga.

The event is sponsored by Councilman Bob Blumenfield, Motion Picture & Television Fund, Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center, Westfield Topanga and *Valley News Group*.

There will be appearances by Los Angeles Councilman Blumenfield and Miss San Fernando Valley. Event Chairs are Joe Arciaga, Chris Ahuja and Chamber CEO Diana Williams.

The festival is free and there is free parking on the Pierce College campus. For more information, visit woodlandhillscc.net or call the West Valley Warner Center Chamber at (818) 347-4737.

# CALENDAR



# Community Calendar

* The Tarzana Community & Cultural Center will host a musical tribute to James Taylor, Carole King and Elton John on Thursday, May 16, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. James Taylor will be performed by Chris Blakey, Carole King performed by JK Jones and Elton John performed by Jay Asher. Lauren Lundeen stars on vocals and percussion, with Michael Baber on bass and Lynn Coulter on drums. The center is located at 19130 Ventura Blvd. Tickets are $20 and can be purchased at mytarzana.org.

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their Outreach Committee meeting on Monday, May 6, at 6:30 pm. For info, and agenda, visit encinonc.org.

* Mental Health Workshops, in collaboration with Los Angeles County Psychological Association (LACPA) will present Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Yvonne Burgos, board-certified LACPA member at the West Valley Regional Library on Saturday, May 4, at 11 am. Dr. Burgos will discuss depression and its treatment during the workshop "Is Depression Treatable?"

* The San Fernando Valley Master Chorale will present "Dreamscapes," a musical voyage to the stars, on Saturday, May 18, at 3 pm. Escape reality for an hour with a sound bath of vocal harmonies in a reverberant acoustic as they take a musical journey to the most outer reaches of the imagination. Come an hour early for a talk-back with the conductors. The concert will be held at Vida Church, 9550 Haskell Ave. For tickets vist sfvmc.com.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be holding their Disaster Preparedness Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 15, from 2 to 3 pm via Zoom. Focus will be on the SFV Community Preparedness Drill scheduled on Saturday, May 18. Attendance is free, but registration for the meeting is required at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The Encino Tarzana Library is holding a special fabric stamping craft for teens on Saturday, May 4, at 4 pm. Participants will get free tea towels to design, stamp and give as gifts! A perfect gift idea for Mother's Day! Email ecalla@lapl.org to reserve a space.

* The West Valley Warner Center Chamber of Commerce will be holding their monthly networking breakfast on Wednesday, May 8, at 7 am at Pinstripes (21851 Victory Blvd). This month's meeting is sponsored by Inside Moves. The cost is $32 for pre-paid members and $47 for walk-ins. RSVP by May 7 at woodlandhillscc.net.

* Maria V. Primushko of MVP Law Group is hosting a free event on Saturday, May 4, 10:30 am, at the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center on trust administration, living trusts, power of attorney documents and probate. If you've ever wondered how to start, let her guide you with the right strategies to protect what you care about most. Call or text (818) 788-7881 for more information. Please RSVP, seating is counted as class materials and packets will be provided.

* Save the date! ONEgeneration's 15th annual Senior Symposiun will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 9 am to 12 pm. This free event will consist of health screenings, vaccine clinics, presentations, raffles and information from various neighborhood councils. The event will be held in the Intergenerational Daycare Center (17400 Victory Blvd).

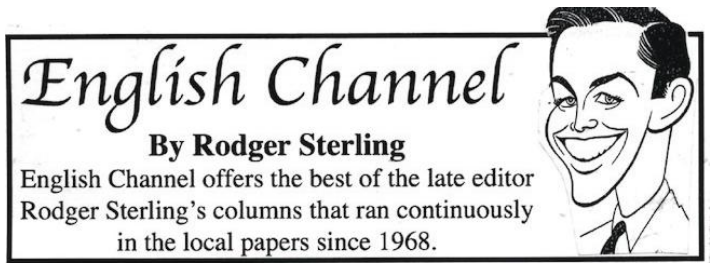
* The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will lead a bird walk at the Sepulveda Basin on Sunday, May 5, from 8 to 11 am. Over 300 avian species have been reported to be along the route of this approximately two-mile tour, from the huge American white pelican to the tiniest of hummingbirds there year round. It is common to see over 60 species of birds on a three-hour outing beginning at 8 am. Meet in the ampitheatre area of Woodley Park, 6350 Woodley Avenue. For more information visit sfvaudobon.org.

# People in the News

Two Encino attorneys from the law firm Lagerlof, LLF were recently recognized as Los Angeles Business Journal's Top 100 Attorneys. **Joshua Driskell**, above left, and **Jamie Gonzalez**, above right, were both recognized for their achievements. Gonzalez is a Partner at Lagerlof, LLP working out of the Encino office and focuses on litigation concerning probate estates, trusts, guardianships and conservatorships. Driskell is Managing Partner of Lagerlof, LLP and brings a background representing businesses and individuals and a keen attention to detail to leading the firm. His practice focuses on business, tax, estate, fiduciary, and related matters. In addition to being named a Top Attorney, Driskell also received a specialty award for being the "Attorney to Watch." Only six recipients out of all nominees in the LA region were awarded specialty awards.

"Joshua being named the "Attorney to Watch" is very well deserving," Lagerlof, LLP's Chief Operating Officer, Corey Castillo, stated. "He is an expert in his field and a leader in what he does. He is an avid speaker, mentor, community partner, legal counsel to his clients, and leader to our firm and he's just getting started."

The lawyers recognized at the 100 Top Attorney ceremony are top law professionals in the LA region and are honored for their ongoing efforts as outstanding legal stewards in their respective areas. Driskell was honored as a Top Attorney in trust and estates while Gonzalez was recognized in the area of litigation.




* Mike Contino told this one years ago. A little boy was approached by an elderly man saying if the boy continued eating candy he wouldn't live to be 80 like the old man. To which the boy replied, "My grandfather is 91 and he got that way eating candy and minding his own business."

* Definition of atheism: A non-prophet organization.

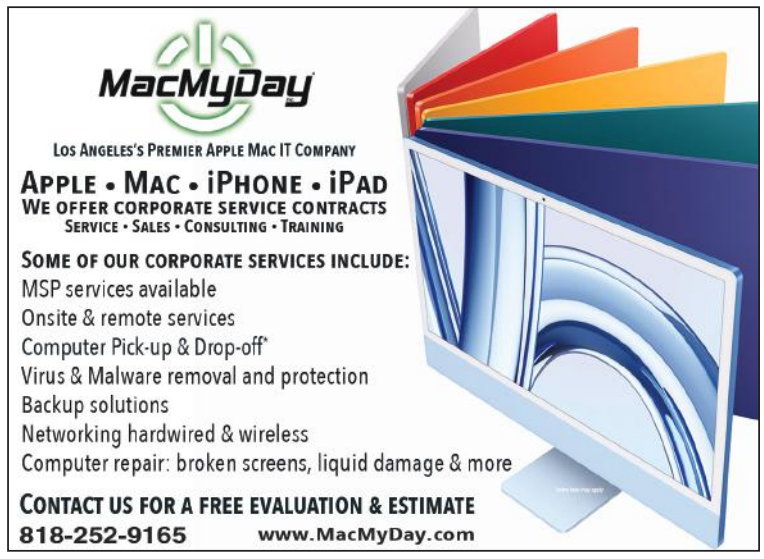
* From a friend who is wise beyond his years: "There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works!"

* One of my girlfriends - probably Patty Humes - has this advice: Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.

* Warren Goss said it: "Man plans, God laughs."

* And this thought from a Protestant minister: "Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am."

*More religion? A student was asked to name the 10 commandments, in any order. His answer: 3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5,9, 2,10 and 7.

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# Sherman Oaks / Encino Chamber Marks Northridge Earthquake 30th Anniversary with New Disaster Preparedness Drill

Calling on Valley residents to get prepared, a coalition of more than 20 local emergency response and healthcare organizations will be conducting a disaster response drill in Encino Park on Saturday, May 18, from 8 am to noon.

"Thirty years ago, a 6.7 Richter scale earthquake devastated parts of the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles, killing more than 70 victims and injuring over 9,000 people," said Susan DuBrin, Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce Disaster Preparedness Committee co-chair. "Buildings were damaged from Santa Clarita to Anaheim, leveling entire blocks in Northridge, Santa Monica and Hollywood. A part of the Interstate 10 freeway collapsed and so did some of the Interstate 5 and 14 at Newhall Pass. With damage estimated at more than $20 billion dollars, it was the costliest natural disaster in the nation's history. In short, we need to be prepared and that starts with citizen training."

*Volunteers in a mock-disaster training drill from a past event.*

According to Encino Neighbor Council board member Pat Bates, the drill is sponsored by the Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber of Commerce, City Councilmember Nithya Raman's office and the Encino Neighborhood Council.

Participating agencies include the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center, LAFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Sherman Oaks Hospital, Encino Hospital & Medical Center, Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center and LA Recreation & Parks Department.

"Disaster preparedness is a top priority for my office as many parts of Council District 4 are uniquely vulnerable to the increasing dangers created by climate change," said Council District 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman, whose district spans from the flats to the hillsides and the valleys. "While we can't predict when the next natural disaster might occur, we can be prepared by taking action now to safeguard our homes and families. We are proud to help fund this emergency preparedness drill and urge residents to join and gain critical tools to help protect you and your neighbors if and when a disaster takes place."

DuBrin said organizers are seeking volunteers from the community to serve as mock victims and responders.

Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) Captain and Disaster Preparedness Officer Rico Gross said NOAA emergency radios, a $40 value, and shake and strobe light smoke detectors will be available for free to registrants. The radios feature NOAA channels for quake, flood, tornado, thunderstorm warnings as well as a 90-decibel siren, voice alert, flashing LED warning system, built-in clock and cell charger port.

"Those interested in volunteering can register at https://shorturl.at/kmtM6," said DuBrin. "Click on the 'Tickets' button," she explained. "It will ask you to indicate on the online registration form whether you want to participate as a mock victim which means you will be dressed or made-up as an injured victim or as a "first responder" in which case you will receive disaster preparedness training. We will be providing certification for community service hours. "

**"Disaster preparedness is a top priority for my office as many parts of Council District 4 are uniquely vulnerable to the increasing dangers created by climate change," said Council District 4 Councilmember Nithya Raman, whose district spans from the flats to the hillsides and the valleys. "While we can't predict when the next natural disaster might occur, we can be prepared by taking action now to safeguard our homes and families.**

"There will also be agencies and services on hand to provide information and free materials. It's a great opportunity to observe, learn and collect useful items," said Sherman Oaks/Encino Chamber CEO Vickie Bourdas Martinez. "The Chamber has been a longtime sponsor of disaster preparedness drills as this kind of training benefits our entire community."

"Educating the community on disaster preparedness and conducting training drills is crucial so that hospitals are not saturated during a crisis event," said Andrew Ward, Emergency Preparedness manager for Providence Saint Joseph, Holy Cross, and Cedars Sinai Tarzana. "As part of the LA County Disaster Resource Center Program, we drill with neighboring hospitals, public safety agencies and participate in community events such as this."

"The drill provides an excellent opportunity to practice together how to protect ourselves, our families and loved ones, potentially save lives and prevent disasters from becoming catastrophic," LAFD Captain and Disaster Preparedness Officer Gross.

Gross serves in the LAFD's Homeland Security Division as a liaison to partner agencies and oversees LAFD's CERT program.

"This is a practice drill, but we will be striving for realistic conditions," said DuBrin. "We are telling nearby residents not to be alarmed if they see pretend victims or life-like training for emergency services taking place."

Residents neighboring Encino Park, bordered by Ventura Boulevard and Genesta, Addison and Paso Robles Avenues, will be alerted via flyers to drill activities so as not to be startled. Planners advise that there will be no public parking on Paso Robles Avenues from 8 am until 1 pm, but otherwise streets bordering the park will be open to traffic.

"Since coordinating emergency services and communications is critical to responders during a disaster, the exercise will help test our abilities and train our volunteers," said Los Angeles Fire Department/CERT Valley Bureau Coordinator Christy Adair. "The event is open to the public and there will be free handouts, supplies, valuable information and resources."

# Tourism in the Valley for Visitors and Businesses

**by Miri Rossitto**

With summer just a couple of months away, everyone's already planning trips and vacations with their families. When it comes to tourism, the San Fernando Valley houses its fair share of destination spots. From theme parks to museums to one of the oldest tiki bars in Los Angeles, tourists can find something that slakes their thirst for adventure and wanderlust. There is no shortage of things to do in "The Valley" despite its reputation of being a Los Angeles adjacent suburb.

You can find one of California's major theme parks, Universal Studios Hollywood and Universal CityWalk, in the San Fernando Valley— Universal City to be precise. A 15-minute drive to Burbank from Universal Studios—depending on traffic—takes you to the Warner Brothers Studios where you can take a tour and explore popular sets, props, and costumes from *Friends*, the DC Universe, *Harry Potter*, and more. You can even visit the WB Water Tower—home of the famous Animaniacs.

If theme parks are not your thing, don't worry! The Valley offers unique museums like The Valley Relics Museum in Lake Balboa, the Galpin Auto Sports Museum in Van Nuys, The Mystic Museum in Burbank, Campo de Cahuenga in Studio City, and The Nethercutt Museum in Sylmar.

Apart from museums, you'll find other interesting destinations like the Wat Thai Temple in North Hollywood, The Japanese Garden in Lake Balboa, and the Log Cabin Mercantile in Chatsworth. You might even be inclined to stop by and grab a delicious (and potent) drink at one of Los Angeles' oldest tiki bars, Tonga Hut (established in 1958) in North Hollywood.

The combination of these attractions and summer as a peak travel season presents local businesses with the opportunity to attract and benefit from the influx of tourists and visitors to The Valley. More visitors equate to a much-needed boost to the local economy. As a business owner, the smart move is to plan and prepare ahead. Here are some marketing strategies you can deploy for maximum results:

Create tourist-friendly packages. Partner with local hotels, local attractions, or hospitality services to offer discounts to tourists. Collaborate with other local businesses to create packages useful to tourists like buy a cup of coffee from your coffee shop and get a discount on a lunch special at a neighboring restaurant.

Participate in local tourist boards or chambers of commerce. Get to know your audience. Partner with your local chamber of commerce for an opportunity to know about events and activities beforehand and to participate in them.

Focus social media campaigns on regional attractions. Identify key attractions in your area and utilize your proximity and the appeal of the attraction to create social media posts. Share captivating images and videos capturing the beauty of the destination as well as the local culture. Tie it all in with the significance of your business to the overall experience.

The key to leveraging these strategies is exceptional customer service and creating memorable experiences. As a business owner, your goal is to encourage repeat visits and word-of-mouth recommendations from visitors who spent time and resources to enjoy their vacation or time off in the San Fernando Valley.

*Rossitto is CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow them on all social @CoweOfficial.*

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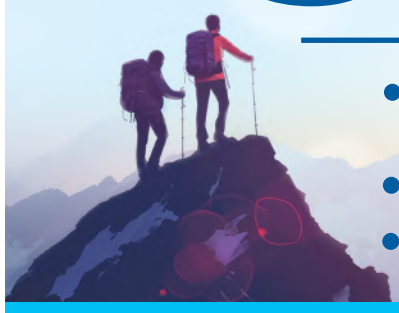

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HEALTH

# The New Old Age: A Blessing or a Curse? How Finances Play a Major Role in Care

**By Sandy Rosenholz**

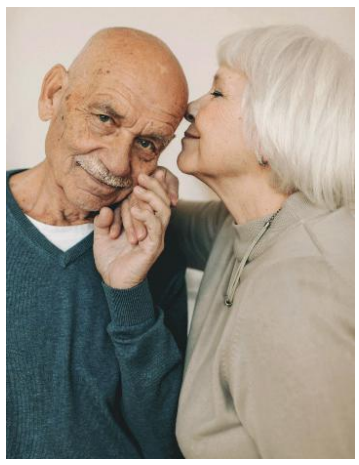
Today's senior is living decades longer than their parents did, benefiting from a higher level of medical care and healthier living practices.

However, depending on your finances and overall health, living well into your golden years can either be a blessing or a curse. When aging is only about deciding which active senior facility to move into or where to go on your next trip, it is just another life transition.

However, for those with a physical illness, disability or dementia, which includes one out of every six women and one out of every ten men who live past the age of 55, living longer can be a curse.

It's a bigger burden when finances are an issue, lowering the level of care. And, may be further impacted if the federal government doesn't find a viable solution for Social Security and Medicare.

My mother was one of the lucky ones. She lived a long and wonderful life and collected Social Security for 30 years. My guess is that in 1933 when the program was initiated by



Congress, our legislators did not anticipate that the life span would increase to such a degree.

So, how much does it cost to age in Los Angeles?

**Senior care is a bigger burden when finances are an issue, lowering the level of care.**

What you spend on your care depends on your abilities, your finances and the type of care you need or desire. Here is how it all breaks down:

Hourly non-medical companion care (in-home care) costs $25.00/hour and will increase to $33.60/hour by 2029, $45.15/hour by 2039, and $60.68/hour by 2049.

On an annual basis those numbers are $57,200, $76,608, $103,303.20, and $138.350.40, respectively. For the senior living on Social Security, that's a fortune!

Assisted living (one bedroom/ one person) is less but includes no assistance, costing $48,000 now, $64,512 (2029), $86,688 (2038), and $116,578 (2049).

Adult day care has an annual cost of $18,720 (2019) and will rise to $25,188 (2029), $33,816 (2039) and $45,444 (2049).

For those who require skilled nursing, rehabilitation or a nursing home, the costs will skyrocket. Currently the bill for these services is $88,292 annually. It will rise to $120,000 (2029), $161,268 (2039), and $216,732 (2049).

*To find out more about our senior care choices, call Sandy Rosenholz, owner of Senior Resources, Inc. at 818-359-2125, email SR@SeniorResourcesCA.com or visit his website, SeniorResourcesCA.com.*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**Michael Reisner, CPA.**
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**Tom Rekowski, Executive Director**
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Speaking on:
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ENTERTAINMENT

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# Come From Away Back at Pantages Theatre

The touring company of *Come From Away*.

Broadway in Hollywood is thrilled to announce the Los Angeles return and Hollywood Pantages Theatre premiere of *Come From Away*, a Broadway musical about the true story of the small town that welcomed the world. *Come from Away* will make its Hollywood Pantages Theatre debut for a limited one-week engagement from May 7 to 12.

*Come from Away* tells the remarkable true story of 7,000 stranded passengers and the small town in Newfoundland that welcomed them. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness turned into trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into enduring friendships. On September 11, 2001, the world stopped. On September 12, their stories moved us all.

Charles McNulty of the *Los Angeles Times* called the show "An affecting, stirring and unpretentious new musical. Christopher Ashley's production lets the simple goodness of ordinary people outshine sensational evil."

A "Best Musical" winner all across North America, the smash hit musical has won the Tony Award for "Best Direction of a Musical" (Christopher Ashley), four Olivier Awards (London) including "Best New Musical," five Outer Critics Circle Awards (NYC) including "Outstanding New Broadway Musical," three Drama Desk Awards (NYC) including "Outstanding Musical," four Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards (North American Tour) including "Best Production," four Helen Hayes Awards (D.C.) including "Outstanding Production of a Musical," four Gypsy Rose Lee Awards (Seattle) including "Excellence in Production of a Musical," six San Diego Critics Circle Awards including "Outstanding New Musical," three Toronto Theatre Critics Awards including "Best New Musical," three Dora Awards (Toronto) including "Outstanding New Musical/Opera" and "Outstanding Production," and the 2017 Jon Kaplan Audience Choice Award (Toronto).

Tickets for *Come fom Away* start at $49 and are available for purchase at BroadwayInHollywood.com or in-person at the Hollywood Pantages Box Office, 6233 Hollywood Blvd. Prices subject to change.

# Pacific Jazz Orchestra with Aaron Tveit at Soraya May 11

The Pacific Jazz Orchestra will perform at The Soraya with Aaron Tveit on Saturday, May 11, at 8 pm.

Tveit is making his Soraya debut, bringing his powerhouse vocals and matinee idol charisma. He is an American actor and tenor singer. Tveit originated the lead role of Christian in the stage adaptation of *Moulin Rouge!* on Broadway, a performance for which he won the 2020 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical and received a 2020 Grammy Award nomination.

Tveit is also a regular in film and television (*Grease Live!*, *Schmigadoon! Les Misérables*).

The Pacific Jazz Orchestra, led by Hollywood veteran Chris Walden, is a 40-member ensemble whose mission is to entertain and enrich the local community of Los Angeles as well as a global community through performance and education. The Pacific Jazz Orchestra™ is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which produces an annual concert season and a summer education program.

The Soraya, on the campus of CSUN, is a state-of-the-art building which boasts a 1600-seater performance hall equipped with the latest in acoustical system and impressive design features perfect to host theatre, orchestra and dance performances.

*Aaron Tveit*

For tickets, visit thesoraya.org or call (818) 677-3000. The Soraya is located at 18111 Nordhoff St. in Northridge.

# VCF Announces Spring Concert and Festival at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park

Valley Cultural Foundation, in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Council District 4, is excited to present a one-day Spring Concert and Festival at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park. This exceptional event is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, from 4 to 7:30 pm and promises a memorable experience for all attendees.

The Spring Concert and Festival will feature a dedicated children's area, complete with an array of engaging activities. They will have Icky Sticky fun, along with a talented balloon artist, bubbles to play with, and cotton candy to enjoy for all! While the little ones are entertained, you will enjoy the live music of Katie Murdock as Britney Spears, and the fantastic tribute band The Beatles VS Stones. There will also be youth vendors and other small business vendors. Food trucks onsite will have a wide variety of assorted foods and flavors that will entice almost everyone's taste buds.

At the heart of their mission, the Valley Cultural Foundation is committed to celebrating the rich tapestry of talent, community, business, and education. Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park is located at 14201 Huston Street in Sherman Oaks. The concerts will be held between the pool and Houston Street; please look for the tents and the stage. Parking is located around the park and within the two park parking lots.

*Ashley Storrie and Kat Ronney.*

# Dinosaur is a Show that Deserves to Be Unearthed and Celebrated

By Katie Sterling

When is the last time you truly loved a television series? Something that you happened to stumble upon that surprised you? In the midst of endlessly scrolling the myriad of streaming services, one show stood out amongst the rest: *Dinosaur.* Turns out, a television show named for an extinct creature is bringing new life, and a breath of fresh air, into the comedy realm.

Nina (Ashley Storrie) and Evie (Kat Ronney) are sisters, and built-in best friends, living together in Glasgow. While Evie is the bubbly and outgoing one, paleontologist Nina lives life with a much more structured and realistic outlook due to her autism. The two thirty-year-olds are perfect foils for each other; Evie pushing Nina outside of her comfort zone and Nina bringing Evie back down to Earth when necessary.

However, this dynamic is pushed to the ultimate test when Evie returns from a trip with her boyfriend Ranesh (Danny Ashok) and announces their engagement…after only six weeks of dating. Needless to say, newly-minted maid of honor Nina doesn't sugarcoat her opinions on the matter and the journey to the aisle proves to be anything but easy.

Unloading her frustration out on the new barista Lee (Lorn Macdonald), Nina finds a kindred spirit who delights in her quicks and may just have a few of them himself. Lee becomes not only her sounding board, but someone who encourages her to start finding small ways of creating her own experiences outside of those she's become accustomed to with her sister. Lee himself is the exact opposite of Ranesh, a bundle of positivity oblivious to the eye rolls that frequently accompany his friendly outbursts. Each character is so well-defined and brings something unique to the screen, from the leads of the show to the side characters such as Evie's best friend and Nina's boss.

At only six 30-minute episodes, the show is short but strong, and frankly, America can take a note from European television that seems to stress quality over quantity. Created by Matilda Curtis and Ashely Storrie, what makes Dinosaur shine is the dynamic between the two sisters whose interactions are the heart of what makes this show so special.

**Though some on the show might see her neurodivergence as limiting, it is these perceived "weaknesses" that are her biggest strengths.**

Their chemistry, only highlighted by their interlocking speech patterns and eye communication, makes it hard to believe that they truly aren't sisters. While both of them put on a perfect performance, it is Storrie's own experience living on the spectrum that sets the tone for Dinosaur and allows it to shine as brightly as it does. Though some on the show might see her neurodivergence as limiting, it is these perceived "weaknesses" that are her biggest strengths. To see her character adapt to challenges thrown her way because she doesn't want to disappoint her sister, the most important person in her life, allow for some of the most heartfelt and humorous moments of the show. It's a refreshing take in that while autism plays a central role in the narrative, it doesn't define the show as a whole.

*Dinosaur* is a show that has seemingly flown under the radar but deserves to be unearthed and celebrated. Those with siblings, and anyone who has had to adjust to appease those they love, will no doubt connect to the dynamics of the show. The quirky comedy showcases, and as Nina could no doubt tell you, you might have to dig a bit to find something worthwhile to watch, but lucky ones will eventually strike gold.

*Dinosaur* is streaming on Hulu.

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## Your Home is Your Retirement Free Seminar Offered

A panel of experts will address seniors' concerns at a free seminar on Thursday, May 9, at 10 am.

Scott M. Friedman with Coldwell Banker Realty in Sherman Oaks is hosting the event and will talk about "taking the scary out of senior real estate." Friedman is a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource and Certified Negotiations Specialist.

**"taking the scary out of senior real estate."**

Michael Reisner, CPA will speak on tax savings when selling your home.

Tom Rekowski, Executive Director of The Village at Northridge, will discuss the benefits of senior living and exceptional services offered at The Village, which has independent, assisted living and assisted living for those with mild memory loss.

The community offers fitness, spa, and personal beauty services you would find at a five-star luxury resort. There is live music, an onsite cinema, an arts and crafts studio, plus learning and entertainment options for every style and curiosity - all curated and programmed by a dedicated onsite concierge.

The seminar will be held at The Village at Northridge, located at 9222 Corbin Avenue. There will be light refreshments and tours of the community. To RSVP for the free seminar call (818) 812-4600.

## New Bill Could Limit Landlords from Denying Pet Owners

While still in the early stages, bill AB 2216, might soon give pet owners looking for housing a bit more relief. Authored by Assemblymember Matt Haney (D-San Francisco), the bill aims to "bar property owners from asking about pets on applications, prohibit additional monthly fees for pet owners, also known as 'pet rent,' and limit pet deposits."

As the housing market currently stands, there are more tenants with pets than there are landlords who accept them in their buildings. Haney's staff evaluated Zillow listings and came to the conclusion that only approximately 26% of apartment listings in Los Angeles accept pets of any size and 72% of renters say that finding pet-friendly housing is difficult.

"A two-tiered system that punishes people for having pets, or treats them differently, or has a greater burden on them just for that fact should not be allowed in the law," Haney said.

The bill aims to prohibit landlords from not only inquiring about pets on applications, but also ban them from charging an additional "pet rent" or fee per animal. The Humane Society of the United States is a major sponsor of the bill, arguing that current tenant laws are one of the biggest factors of why so many pets are abandoned at shelters.

Opponents of the bill argue that there needs to be a middle ground and that tenants should still be able to have some control to protect their properties from potential damage. Since animals may inflict damage, opponents argue that if the tenant doesn't have any monetary responsibility owed to the landlords, the landlords are stuck dealing with the issue. There has to be some determination of potential risk and the tenant's responsibility to correct their pet's actions.

**Only approximately 26% of apartment listings in Los Angeles accept pets of any size and 72% of renters say that finding pet-friendly housing is difficult.**

"What we see too often is just these blanket prohibitions of pets with no good reason for it, with no required justification for it and no protection of pet owners, who represent the majority of California's renters, to be able to access housing just like anyone else," Haney said.

While there are current laws already in place in regards to emotional support or service animals, AB 2216 would be the first pet bill of its kind. The bill will continue to be ratified and amended in the coming months.

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# Nighttrek: What to See in the May Sky

**By Neill Simmons**

The highlight of this month is the Eta Aquarlid Meteor Shower on Sunday and Monday night, May 4 and 5. The meteor shower goes on all night until dawn the next day. Stay warm and try to get out of the city lights. The earliest record of a meteor shower was found on a stone tablet in Persia in 36 BC.

The full "Flower Moon" on May 23 is an usually a beautiful sight. This month it is even better thanks to the famous red star, Antares, which will be near the full Moon all night long. This is called a conjunction when two celestial objects appear to be next to each other. Within the movement of the night sky, conjunctions happens regularly.

The constellation, Ursa Major, better known as the Big Dipper, is still high in the north. The two brightest stars in the bowl point to the North Star, Polaris. Polaris is not the brightest star in the sky, but it is the only star that doesn't move and stays at true north, which is why is it used for directional assistance.

The Great Total Solar Eclipse of April 2024 was one for the books. Most of the country had cloud covering which cleared right before the start of the eclipse. If you didn't see this one, mark your calendars for the next one on August 12, 2026. This total solar eclipse begins in Greenland, travels across Iceland, moves towards Ireland and ends in Spain. Most people have seen a partial eclipse but it doesn't compare to the total eclipse experience. Put it on your "bucket list!"

Comets are like cats – they have tails and do precisely what they want! There is a comet coming around the Sun which might be visible later in the month. Look low on the western horizon on the 30 and 31 of May. Binoculars will help you spot it just after sunset.

If you are up around 5 am on May 9, look east to see the planet Mercury. It is bright but very small. Mercury is the first planet from the Sun and the smallest in the Solar System. It is named after the Roman god Mercurius, god of commerce and communication, and the messenger of the gods. Mercury travels around the Sun in 88 days.

In NASA news, the Voyager I probe is sending back messages. Impressively, it has been in space since 1977 and is a staggering 15 billion miles from Earth. Voyager's communications take about 22 hours to be picked up by NASA.

On Saturday, May 18, the Griffith Park Observatory will be holding a FREE Star Party on the front lawn. This event begins at dusk and ends at 10 pm. There will be many telescopes to see the night sky. The National Park system is also holding a FREE stargazing party. Check NPS.gov for further information. The night sky at the Grand Canyon star party would be a great place for seeing stars clearly.

## Comets are like cats – they have tails and do precisely what they want!

Vandenberg Space Force Base plans to launch over 10 rockets in May! Keep in mind that very frequently launches are changed or canceled at the last minute so check their website for exact days and times often.

*When not stargazing, Neill Simmons is a Wealth Advisor with LPL Financial in Woodland Hills. If you have any astronomy or financial questions, he may be reached at (818) 936-2626 or emailed at neill.simmons@lpl.com.*

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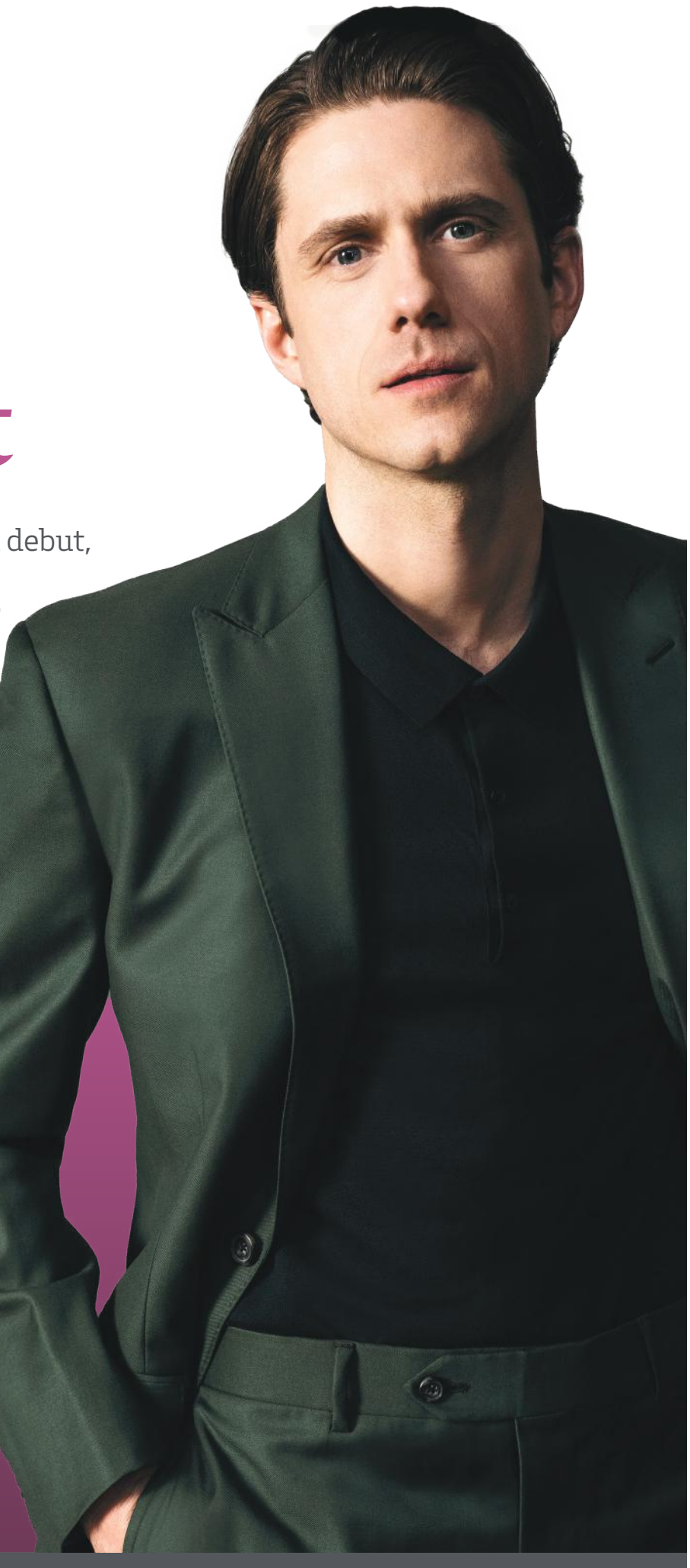
# Pacific Jazz Orchestra with Aaron Tveit

**Tony award-winning Aaron Tveit** makes a Soraya debut, bringing his **powerhouse vocals and matinee idol charisma**. In addition to a searing performance in the original Broadway cast of *Moulin Rouge*, Tveit is a regular in film and television (*Grease Live!*, *Schmigadoon!*, *Les Miserables*). **Tveit joins Pacific Jazz Orchestra, 40 of the finest musicians led by Hollywood veteran Chris Walden**, whose new ensemble is the latest addition to the Los Angeles musical landscape.



Aaron Tveit

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS

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