ONEgeneration to Hold December Food Pantry Days

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From Toys to Tunes, It's the Season for Holiday Events

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ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 133 | A Compendious Source of Information | December 4, 2025

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber to Hold Holiday Toy, Food and Toiletry Drive

Help spread some holiday joy and give back to those in need this season. From now until December 16, the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be holding a toy, food and toiletry drive. Toys will be distributed by Child Care Resource Center to benefit families in need while non-perishable food and toiletries will be distributed through ONEgeneration to benefit seniors in need. Drop-off at any of their upcoming networking events this month concluding with their annual Holiday Mix & Mingle on Tuesday, December 16. You can also contact them at 818-906-1951 to schedule a drop-off.

Encino Tarzana Libray to Hold End-of-Year Book Sale

The Encino Tarzana Library will hold a used book sale on Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6. On Friday, the sale will begin at 9:30 am with the first hour solely for Friends of the Library members and run until 4 pm. On Saturday, the sale runs from 10 am to 2 pm. If you wish to become a Friends member, you can join at the door for a cost of $15 per individual or $25 per couple. Most books are $2 unless otherwise marked. Children with parents present who purchase any item will receive two books free!

Liberace's Former Sherman Oaks Home Up for Sale Again

Fancy a dip in a piano pool? For approximately three million dollars, Liberace's former Sherman Oaks home could be yours! The mid-century modern home with Hollywood regency flair is set on a 17,800-square-foot corner of 15405 Valley Vista Blvd. Spanning approximately 3,900-square-feet, this two-level residence features four bedrooms and four bathrooms. But perhaps the backyard is the most noteworthy portion of the home as it boasts a piano-shaped pool with black and white keys embossed on the concrete, commissioned by Liberace himself. Branden Olmes and Dana Olmes of Compass hold the listing.

Encino/Tarzana Area Hit by Three Burglaries in a Span of Three Hours

After what seemed like a period of relief from the string of burglaries in the area, Encino has been hit again by three different break-ins within a span of three hours earlier this week. The LAPD believe that all of the break-ins may be connected given the tight timeline.

The first incident occurred on Topeka Drive in Tarzana around 7:40 pm when someone infiltrated the home while the owner was inside. Less than an hour later, around 8:20 pm, the suspects broke into a home on Ostrom Ave. in Encino, followed by a break-in at a home on Alonzo Ave. in Encino around 11 pm. No one was home for the Encino attacks and property seems to have only been taken from the Alonzo home.

Photo: Fox

There are currently no suspect details, only that there were multiple masked intruders. Police are investigating these crimes, as well as their potential tie to a commercial break-in in Woodland Hills and the break-in of music producer Benny Blanco's mother's home in Studio City last week.

Neighbors continue to express their concern about local leadership and frustration that security measures implented aren't working.

The Gift of Reading this Holiday Season

Thanks to Martin Cooper, right center, and his Cooper Reading Challenge, 260 children from the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley received $25 each to buy books this holiday season.

The club selects the youngsters who will receive books, based on reading books at the club and writing a book review. This week the elementary and high-school students visited Barnes & Noble in Calabasas and were able to purchase books of their choice. Many of them bought gifts for their siblings or parents, and one little boy bought a bible for his grandmother.

Cooper initiated and funded the initial challenge 18 years ago. Individual donors are asked each year to donate at least $25 to support the effort.

Major sponsors include Martin & Barbara Cooper, SoCal Gas, *Valley News Group,* Councilmember Bob Blummenfield, Councilmember John Lee, Joint Matters and Barnes & Noble.

"This program isn't about fundraising; it's about teaching children to love and to value books and reading. Providing opportunities to read for fun and personal interest can illuminate the world for them," said Cooper.

Shown with Cooper above is Boys & Girls Club CEO Geovanny Ragsdale.

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Community Calendar

* Encino Neighborhood Council will hold their Public Safety Committee meeting on Monday, December 8, at 7 pm. The meeting will take place at the Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd). To view the committee page, visit encinonc.org.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will hold their "Lunch Break Live" on Thursday, December 11, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Chamber members cost $30 and non-members cost $50. For the location and to RSVP, visit shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* Young adults, are you curious about how you might start your own business? Join the Encino Tarzana Library on Tuesday, December 9, at 4:45 pm for a teen-led workshop where you will make a business plan, learn about different types of businesses and learn how to incorporate your business. This program will be led by college business majors, Alec Eshraghi and Hagop Papisyan. For ages 11-19.

* The Encino Farmer's Market will be holding a Holiday Boutique on Sunday, December 7, from 8 am to 1 pm at ONEgeneration (17400 Victory Blvd). There will be crafts, one-of-a-kind gifts, specialty foods and more! Support local farmers and businesses while crossing off names on your list this season.

* Has your garden soil been needing a boost? Or could your houseplants use a little soil superfood? Join LA Compost and community partners for their new quarterly event series: Community Compost Day LA on Saturday, December 6, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center (16633 Magnolia Blvd). This all-ages event connects community members with valuable resources, including compost, trees, native plants, seeds, and mulch, while promoting environmental education, soil stewardship and deeper community connection.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be holding their "Lunch Break Live" on Thursday, December 11, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Current members cost $30 and non-members cost $50. To RSVP and get the location details, visit shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center will hold their annual Snowflake Festival on Sunday, December 14, from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be a snow slide, a bounce house, live music, food and drink, games, cookie decorating and a visit from Santa. This event is free and perfect for the whole family!

* Westfield Fashion Square, in partnership with the American Red Cross, will be holding a blood drive on Tuesday, December 9, from 10 am to 4 pm. The drive will take place in the Community Room near Macy's. Book your appointment at redcrossblood.org.

COMMUNITY

People in the News

Photo: LAPL

A group of librarians joined members of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society to unveil the society's donation of "Birding Backpacks" to local libraries in the area. The backpacks are fully equipped so that library patrons can go birding in the local area.

"Our Audubon Chapter and the LA Public Library are committed to making birdwatching simple and fun," stated Katheryn Barton, President of SFV Audubon Society.

"Birding is good for mental health, physical health, and getting back to nature. We just want to make sure it's easy for our community to do it."

Pictured (from left) are library staff, **Joyce Cooper,** Director, Branch Services, LAPL, library staff, **John Szabo,** Director, Los Angeles Public Library, **Marianne Davis**, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS), **Kathy Barton**, President SFVAS, **Pat Bates, Richard Davis, David Barton** and **Pat Turner,** SFVAS members.

Encino chamber member, attorney and community leader **Mark Levinson** will receive the Calabasas Chamber's "Spirit of Calabasas" award, given to a Chamber member to reflect their pioneering spirit, initiative, and outstanding contributions to the community.

Levinson is currently chairman of the chamber board. He will be honored at the chamber installation January 31.

Levinson is a family law attorney and active in numerous chambers and non-profit organizations across. He was given the prestigious Fernando Award for volunteerism in 2015.

Levinson is a board member for the Valley Family Center in San Fernando, which provides individual, couple and family therapy, coordinated services for victims, children and perpetrators of domestic violence and parenting education. He is also a board member of the Child Development Institute, which provides relationship-based early intervention and therapeutic services to children and their families.

Levinson has also served as president of Yes ICAN, the International Child Abuse Network that aims to break the silence and cycle of abuse, while chairing its largest annual fundraiser, "Strike Against Child Abuse." He has also volunteered for a number of other organizations, including Grandparents as Parents, the American Red Cross, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the West Valley YMCA.

Know an individual, organization or local leader doing good in the community? Email us at EncinoEnterprise@gmail.com to have them featured in People in the News!

English Channel

By Rodger Sterling

English Channel offers the best of the late editor Rodger Sterling's columns that ran continuously in the local papers since 1968.

• You know who the lost reindeer never mentioned in the songs was on Santa's sleigh? It was "Olive," of course. "Olive, the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names..."

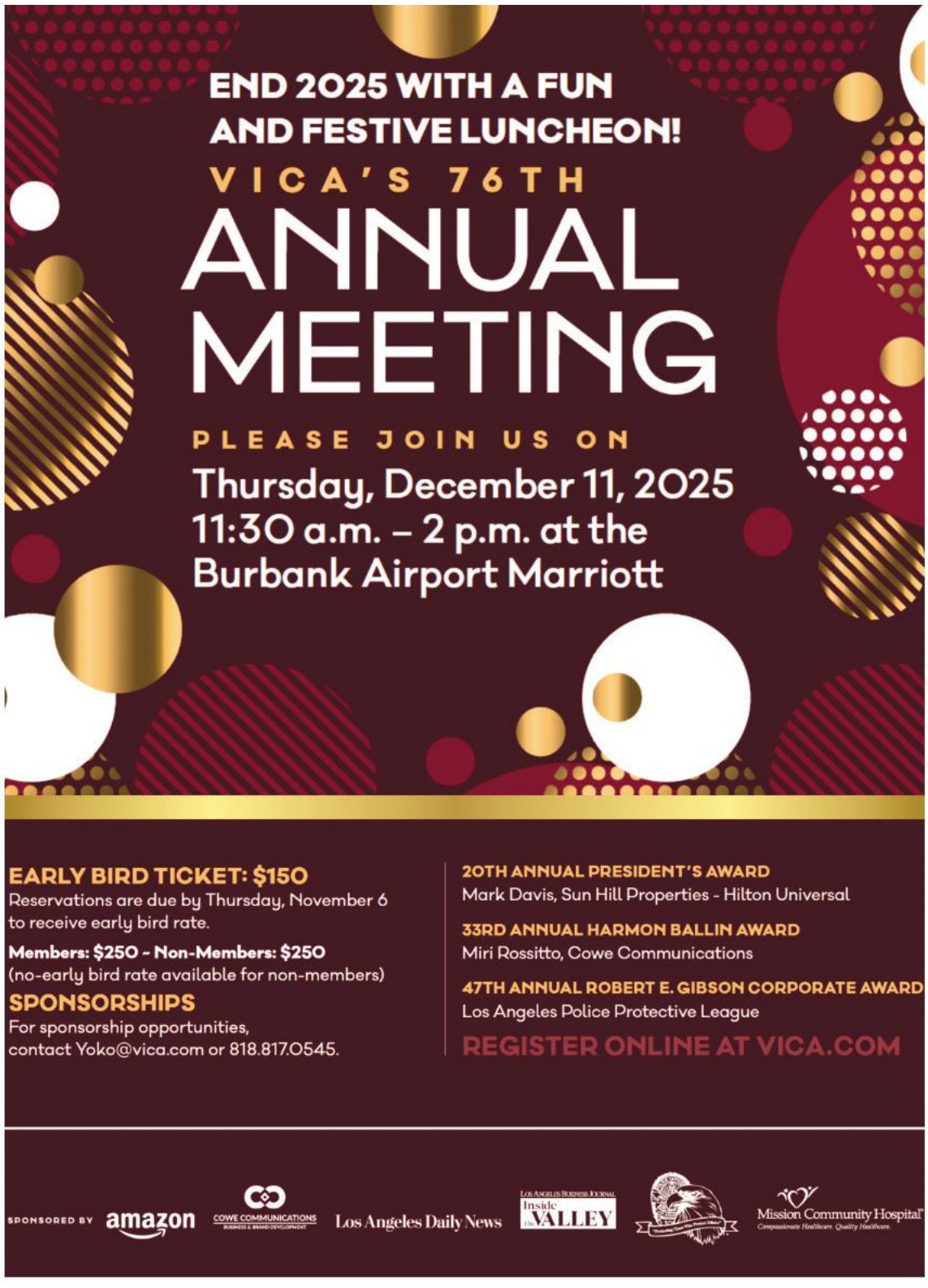
• Some more bad Christmas jokes? What was good about the neurotic doll the little girl got? Ans: It was wound up already. What's the difference between a snowman and a snowwoman? Ans:Snowballs.

• Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

•Who said this? Love doesn't make the world go 'round. Love is what makes the ride worthwhile.

•So, here's an idea from our friend Jean Strauber. Why not just put pictures of wanted men on postage stamps so the mailmen could look for them while they're delivering the mail?

• Curiosity is an instinct of infinite scope: On one hand it leads to listening behind closed doors, on the other, it led to the discovery of America.



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Holiday Music Sings at The Soraya

Gregory Porter, top left, Christian Sands, above right, and the Klezmatics, above, all entertain this holiday at Soraya.

The Soraya at CSUN is offering a full complement of holiday entertainment this December.

On December 6, Gregory Porter takes the stage at 8 pm. The voice like "liquid gold," returns to The Soraya for the holiday season, following his 2022 sold-out debut.

The soul, gospel, and jazz artist brings cool yule selections from his "Christmas Wish" album and more, encompassing the saintly and the secular, the funky and the fun, the Great American Songbook and the best of Motown.

The Klezmatics celebrate a happy, joyous Hanukkah on Sunday, December 7, at 7 pm.

Bringing Yiddish music to audiences worldwide, The Klezmatics kick off their 40th anniversary journey with a holiday concert celebrating the Festival of Lights. Their music is genuinely universal, expanding beyond klezmer to include Latin stomps, jazz riffs, and Arabic, African, American and Balkan rhythms, as well as the timeless lyrics of Woody Guthrie. Happy Joyous Hanukkah is filled with pulse-quickening rhythms and heart-warming melodies.

The Christian Sands Quartet is on stage Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13, at 8 pm.

Pianist Christian Sands returns to The Soraya following his memorable last-minute stand-in debut for the 2022 Jazz at Naz festival. The two-time-GRAMMY nominee will enchant audiences with his commanding presence and sensitive touch.

This intimate onstage performance weaves together fresh arrangements of holiday classics and Sands' original compositions inspired by the season.

Tickets are available at thesoraya.org. The theatre is located at 18111 Nordhoff Street on the campus of Cal State Northridge.

For more information call (818) 677-3000.

Motor4Toys Car Show and Toy Drive December 7

The 22nd Annual Motor4Toys Charity Car Show and Toy Drive, started by Dustin Troyan and presented by Porsche Woodland Hills, returns on Sunday, December 7, from 6:30 am to noon at Pierce College.

Car enthusiasts, families, and community members from across the region are invited to attend this extraordinary holiday event benefiting children in need.

Since its inception, Motor4Toys has brought together thousands of passionate automotive fans with one shared mission: to collect toys for underprivileged children during the holiday season.

What began as a grassroots car community effort has grown into one of the largest charitable automotive gatherings in the country, with an impressive lineup of exotic vehicles, rare classics, cutting-edge supercars, and unique specialty builds.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy valued at $20.

Gates open at 6:30 am and the show ends at noon. Use the Victory Blvd. or Mason St. entrances as these will be the only ones that are open. The event is in the main lot off Victory Blvd.

Year-End Compliance: Strengthening Your Foundation for 2026 and Beyond

By Janice L. Miller, Esq.

Businesses have the opportunity to end the year with a sense of legal preparedness. A compliance review prevents avoidable liabilities and protects the company's credibility. Year-end compliance is a strategic infrastructure.

Corporate Governance Review

End of the year is the ideal time to ensure that bylaws, operating agreements, and internal policies accurately reflect current operations. Any ownership changes, capital contributions, or structural adjustments should be documented and formally adopted. Accurate governance records safeguard control, reduce internal disputes, and demonstrate corporate integrity. (California Secretary of State. "Statement of Information Filing Requirements." California Secretary of State.)

Companies should confirm that annual board and shareholder meetings were conducted in accordance with state and organizational requirements. Minutes and resolutions for all major decisions must be finalized, signed, and securely stored in accordance with established procedures.

Regulatory Compliance

Every operating license has its own renewal timeline and regulatory criteria. Missing a renewal deadline leads to fines and operational and financial delays. Monitor new regulatory changes that affect your business, particularly in highly regulated sectors (Occupational Safety and Health Administration. "Employer Responsibilities." OSHA, U.S. Department of Labor).

Confirm that all required filings have been submitted to the Secretary of State. Organizations should assess obligations tied to agencies such as OSHA, the Department of Labor, and the IRS. Proactive compliance helps avoid penalties and ensures uninterrupted operations (Internal Revenue Service. Publication 15: Employer's Tax Guide. IRS, 2025)

Financial Readiness

Reconcile financial accounts, payroll, and deferred compensation plans. Addressing discrepancies early reduces risk and allows professional advisors to maximize tax planning strategies. Businesses should evaluate potential tax credits, deductions, and available incentives before closing the books. Identifying outstanding liabilities now enables resolution without interest escalation or enforcement action.

Contract & Intellectual Property Audit

Contracts are living instruments, and outdated terms can expose the business to unnecessary risk. Review all contracts and agreements for renewal deadlines, termination provisions, and renegotiation opportunities. Standardizing templates and eliminating legacy agreements enhances consistency and reduces exposure.

Intellectual property requires active protection. Confirm that trademark filings and renewals are current, and ensure ownership of domain names and digital assets. Review licensing agreements for compliance and ensure that third-party usage aligns with authorization. (National Institute of Standards and Technology. Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity, Version 1.1, NIST, Apr. 2018)

Employment & HR Compliance

Update handbooks to reflect legislative updates effective January 1, including wage and hour changes, leave laws, and other statutory requirements. Confirm completion of harassment prevention training and any mandated workforce programs applicable to your jurisdiction. Review employee versus independent contractor status. Ensure employee files contain current offer letters, I-9 forms, and performance documentation.

Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Obligations

With privacy laws like the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA/CPRA), companies must ensure policies align with current standards. Review data-retention schedules, consent language, and incident response procedures. Privacy compliance is now a core component of operational risk management. Cybersecurity protections should be assessed at least annually. Confirm encryption, access controls, and system updates are current, and evaluate third-party vendor risks and verify cybersecurity insurance coverage. A single vulnerability can result in potential exposure.

A thorough compliance review highlights opportunities. Businesses should assess operational gaps, align legal and financial infrastructure with next-year goals, and prepare for strategic initiatives. Compliance enhances readiness for partnerships and long-term valuation. By addressing these areas before year-end, companies protect their future and position themselves for strong performance. Disclaimer: This article is not meant as legal advice. It is solely for education

Miller Esq. is the managing partner of Miller Haga Law Group.

HEALTH

Lowering Your Long-Term Cancer Risk One Food Choice At A Time

By Julie Huynh, MD, MSHS

As a hematologist-oncologist, every day I witness cancer's powerful impact on the lives of my patients and their families. While many risk factors are beyond our control, food choices are among those that can meaningfully shape our long-term cancer risk. Among the most concerning contributors are processed foods, red and processed meats.

Processed foods, especially ultra-processed items high in refined sugars, preservatives and artificial additives, may contribute to chronic inflammation and metabolic disruption throughout the body. This inflammatory environment disrupts natural repair mechanisms, weakens the immune system and alters the gut microbiome. Many of these foods contain nitrates, emulsifiers and chemicals that can damage DNA or promote cancer development.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classifies red meat (i.e. beef, pork and lamb) as a Group 2A carcinogen, meaning it is probably linked to cancer. When cooked at high temperatures, red meat forms compounds like heterocyclic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that can directly damage DNA.

In particular processed meat deserves attention. The term refers to any meat that has been preserved through salting, curing, fermenting, smoking or adding chemical preservatives (i.e. bacon, sausage, hot dogs, deli meats, ham, pepperoni and many packaged meat products). Processed meat is a Group 1 carcinogen — the same category as tobacco smoke, meaning there is sufficient evidence linking it to cancer, especially colorectal cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer rates in the U.S. have been climbing by about 2.2% per year among those under age 50. What's more, younger patients often present with more advanced disease. A study of National Cancer Data Base (NCDB) records from 2004–2015 found that the proportion of colorectal cancer diagnosed in patients under age 50 rose from 10% to 12.2%.

My goal as a physician is never to restrict joy from eating, but rather to empower patients with information. By reducing intake of red and processed meats, minimizing ultra-processed foods and centering meals around whole, unprocessed ingredients, we can take meaningful steps toward lowering cancer risk.

Julie Huynh, MD, MSHS is a board certified hematologist oncologist at UCLA Health Cancer Care in Westlake Village and Encino. Her areas of focus include benign and malignant blood disorders, as well as solid cancers. Additionally, she is trained in integrative medicine to apply evidence-based integrative medicine (i.e. nutrition, exercise, acupuncture) to conventional therapies (i.e. chemotherapy, immunotherapy) to best support patients through their treatment. To learn more, visit uclahealth.org/providers/julie-huynh.

ONEgeneration to Hold December Food Pantry Days

As new eligibility requirements may impact CalFresh (SNAP) benefits, ONEgeneration is committed to keeping the community fed. They will be holding two walk-up food pantry days in December.

The first will be Friday, December 12 and the second will be Friday, December 19. Each pantry day will run from 9 am to 11 am (while supplies last) at 17400 Victory Blvd. in Van Nuys. Those attending should park in the Encino Farmer's Market parking lot.

Attendees will receive bags of meat, produce, dairy and shelf stable foods.

For any questions, call 818-708-4759 (Spanish) or 818-738-9927 (English).

For the most updated information about their Food Bank and Mobile Food Pantry services or to donate, please visit their website at www.onegeneration.org.

KEEP ON WRITING COMEBACK STORIES

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HEALTH

Major Cheese Recall Issued by FDA Over Metal Concern

'Tis the season for holiday cooking, but you might want to check your refrigerator before you get started on those family recipes. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently announced a major recall of shredded cheese found on shelves at major retailers including Target, Walmart and Aldi.

Great Lakes Cheese Co. Inc. has had many of their shredded cheeses recalled for containing metal fragments. The FDA classified the recall as risk level Class II, meaning "the chances of serious health consequences are 'remote,' but there is a possibility of temporary or reversible effects."

The recall impacts the following:

-Low-Moisture Part-Skim Mozzarella Shredded Cheese from Always Save, Borden, Brookshire's, Cache Valley Creamery, Chestnut Hill, Coburn Farms, Econo, Food Club, Food Lion, Gold Rush Creamery, Good & Gather, Great Lakes Cheese Great Value, Happy Farms by Aldi, H-E-B, Hill Country Fare Know & Love, Laura Lynn, Lucerne Dairy Farms, Nu Farm, Publix, Schnuck's, Simply Go, Sprouts Farmers Market, Stater Bros. Markets and Sunnyside Farms.

-Italian Style Shredded Cheese Blend from Happy Farms by Aldi, Brookshire's, Cache Valley Creamery, Coburn Farms, Great Value, Know & Love, Laura Lynn, Publix and Simply Go.

-Pizza Style Shredded Cheese Blend from Food Club, Econo, Gold Rush Creamery, Great Value, Laura Lynn and Simply Go.

-Mozzarella and Provolone Shredded Cheese Blend from Freedom's Choice, Good & Gather, Great Lakes Cheese and Great Value.

-Mozzarella and Parmesan Shredded Cheese Blend from Good & Gather.

While the FDA did not give specific instructions for the recall, when it is a Class II recall, experts advise that the safest option is to either throw away the affected cheese immediately or take it back to the retailer where it was purchased for a full refund or alternative.

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LEISURE CARE

Surviving the Holidays: A Healthy Eating Guide That Still Lets You Enjoy the Season

By Conni Ponturo

The holiday season is a time of celebration — full of family gatherings, rich meals, sweet treats, and festive drinks. While all of this can be wonderful, it can also make it challenging to maintain healthy habits. The good news? You can enjoy holiday food without feeling deprived or overwhelmed. It simply takes awareness, intention, and a bit of planning. Below is a practical guide to help you stay healthy, energized, and guilt-free throughout the season.

1. Start With Realistic Expectations

The holidays aren't the time for perfection. Instead of focusing on weight loss or strict rules, aim for balance. Before you go out, decide on what part of the meal is important to you. Do you really need the dessert?

Give yourself permission to enjoy favorite foods while still prioritizing nourishing options most of the time. A flexible mindset helps prevent the "all-or-nothing" cycle that often leads to overeating.

2. Don't Skip Meals Before Big Events

Many people try to "save up calories" before a holiday dinner, but this almost always backfires. Arriving at a party starving makes it harder to make thoughtful choices.

Instead: Eat a protein-rich breakfast, include vegetables and whole grains at lunch and have a light snack (like yogurt or fruit) before heading out.

This helps regulate hunger and prevents impulse eating.

If I'm not sure of where I'm going, I will have a protein rich pre-dinner. Then I don't have to worry about the foods I don't want.

3. Build a Smarter Holiday Plate

When faced with buffets or family-style spreads, try following the half-plate rule: ½ plate: vegetables (roasted, steamed, or fresh), ¼ plate: lean protein (turkey, fish, chicken, beans) and ¼ plate: starches or richer dishes (stuffing, mashed potatoes, casseroles). This structure keeps you satisfied while still leaving room for seasonal favorites.

4. Prioritize the Foods You Truly Love

Not every holiday dish deserves space on your plate. Before serving yourself, scan the table and pick the items you really enjoy. Ask yourself: Do I actually want this or am I eating it because it's just "there?" Give yourself permission to enjoy a dessert or specialty dish — but choose the ones that bring the most joy.

5. Stay Hydrated

Holiday cocktails, wine, and coffee can dehydrate you and increase cravings. Aim to drink water throughout the day and alternate alcoholic drinks with water when possible.

6. Treat Desserts Mindfully, Not Fearfully

You don't have to avoid sweets to stay healthy. Instead: take one portion, eat slowly and enjoy each bite without guilt. Mindful eating prevents both overeating and the feeling of being restricted.

7. Keep Moving — But Don't Punish Yourself with Exercise

Physical activity during the holidays reduces stress, improves mood, and supports digestion. Choose joyful movement: Before I start Christmas, I will go out for a long walk to make sure I get my steps in. A walk after meals can allow you to slow down, or a quick morning stretch. Put on music and get everyone dancing! Movement should feel like support — not "making up for eating."

8. Watch the Liquid Calories

Eggnog, hot chocolate, and festive cocktails add up quickly. Try alternating heavier drinks with lighter options like sparkling water with citrus, herbal tea or wine spritzers. Enjoy indulgent beverages, but don't let them sneak unnoticed into your daily intake.

9. Set Boundaries with Food Pushers

Some relatives love encouraging second helpings (or third!). It's okay to politely decline. Try phrases like "Everything was delicious — I'm satisfied," "I'm taking a break for now, thank you" or "I'd love to save some for later." Boundaries protect both your well-being and your comfort.

10. Focus on the Experience, Not Just the Food

The holidays are about connection, traditions, laughter, and rest. Shift your attention toward conversations, games, creating memories, acts of kindness and relaxation. When food isn't the center of attention, healthy choices feel more natural.

Eating healthy during the holidays isn't about restriction, it's about intention. By practicing mindfulness, honoring hunger cues and choosing foods you enjoy, you can finish the season feeling nourished rather than overwhelmed. Most important in all of these health habits is to move your body with joy.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Jemma Pays Homage to Hollywood with Delectable Themed Dishes

With iconic landmarks a stone's throw away and stars adorning the sidewalk outside, it seems only fitting that Jemma pays homage to their location in the heart of Hollywood through their food. This old-school Italian-American restaurant opened in 2023 under the direction of chef Jackson Kalb and is the fourth eatery where his impressive talent continues to shine. Fresh pasta is made daily, their pizza dough took four years to perfect and their kale salad is so delicious, a Hollywood star orders it almost daily. With an impressive menu and a glamorous ambience, it's not hard to see how Jemma has become a popular eatery in Tinseltown.

While their traditional fare of red-sauce favorites is not to be missed, tucked amongst the regular menus is a specialty list curated to reflect the current production playing at the Pantages Theater. Consisting of a specialty cocktail and a unique food item, the choices are not only delicious, but a whimsical way to spotlight whatever show is playing just around the corner from them. Seeing as how the suffrage movement musical *Suffs* was just in production, the last themed items consisted of a Silent Sentinel cocktail (Hendricks, basil syrup and lime) and The Nineteenth Dessert (bread pudding with homemade butterscotch). Both are equally delicious and a clever tie-in for theatre goers who often choose to dine within walking distance of the Pantages.

Pictured: the Suff specialities

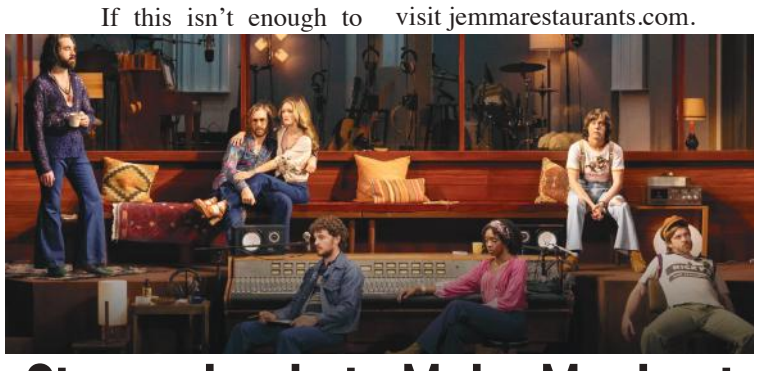
While often not items found on the regular menu and limited to the time of the production's schedule, it's an innovative way to keep dishes fresh for regulars, as well as entice newcomers. Their theatre themed menu always includes a cocktail, but the food item can consist of an appetizer, entrée or dessert option.

Some past creations have been the One French 75 More libation in homage to *Les Misérables* and Eurydice's Last Meal (a ricotta gnudi) in honor of *Hadestown*. Highlights of the regular menu include the crispy provolone appetizer, spicy rigatoni alla vodka, the aforementioned Jame's kale salad, chicken parm and frankly, any of their cocktails.

If this isn't enough to entice theatregoers (and truly, the food speaks for itself), on Fridays and Saturdays Jemma will hold your leftovers for you until the show has ended as food is not allowed to be brought inside the Pantages. With a validation from the restaurant for their "Dinner & A Show" deal, you can also park at the adjoining Aster Hotel for the whole duration of your evening for $30.

It may be cliché to say that Jemma is in fact…a gem, but given its location, it seems more apropos to say that thanks to its legendary dishes, it's deserving of its site on the Walk of Fame.

Jemma is located at 1717 Vine St. For reservations, visit jemmarestaurants.com.



Stereophonic to Make Music at Pantages Starting December 9

Stereophonic mines the agony and the ecstasy of creation as it zooms in on a music studio in 1976. Here, an up-and-coming rock band recording a new album finds itself suddenly on the cusp of superstardom. The ensuing pressures could spark their breakup — or their breakthrough.

Written by David Adjmi, directed by Daniel Aukin, and featuring original music by Arcade Fire's Will Butler, *Stereophonic* invites the audience to immerse themselves — with fly-on-the-wall intimacy — in the powder keg process of a band on the brink of blowing up.

In April 2024, *Stereophonic* became the most Tony-nominated play in history receiving 13 Award nominations. It then became the most Tony Award-winning show of the 2024 season, winning 5 Tony Awards including Best Play, Direction (Daniel Aukin), Scenic Design (David Zinn) and Sound Design (Ryan Rumery).

Stereophonic kicks off at the Pantages on December 9. For tickets, visit broadwayinhollywood.com.

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Nighttrek: What to See in the December Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of December is the "Geminids" Meteor shower on Saturday, the 13th, and continues into the early hours of Sunday.

The Geminids are famous for producing fireballs that can be green, red or blue in color. A fireball is an exceptionally bright meteor that results from space rock burning up in the Earth's atmosphere. They are also known as a "shooting star." This event will be visible in the city but many more meteors can be seen away from the city lights. The local mountains or beaches are good places.

The December full moon will first appear on Thursday, the 4th. This full moon is known as "The Cold Moon" and will be a super moon. A super moon happens when a full moon coincides with the moon's closest point to Earth in its elliptical orbit, known as perigee.

On the 7th and 8th of this month, there will be a conjunction of Jupiter and the Moon. A conjunction is an astronomical event where two or more celestial objects appear close to each other in the sky from our vantage point on Earth. They are actually millions of miles apart from each other. Jupiter will appear as a bright, glowing star. The best time to see this is about five hours after sunset in the eastern sky.

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system, and over 1300 Earths can fit inside of it. Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun and is made mostly of hydrogen and helium gas. It has the shortest day of any planet, at just under 10 hours, while its year is nearly 12 Earth years long and it has over 90 moons!

The winter sky is a great time to see the constellation of Orion, the famous hunter from Greek mythology. Orion is currently visible in the eastern sky in the early evening and is rising higher as the night progresses. Find three bright stars in a nearly straight line to locate Orion's Belt, which is the easiest way to spot the constellation. A clear, dark night is ideal for seeing the constellation and even fainter features like the Orion Nebula, which is located in the "sword" handing from the belt.

After 9 pm, look straight up to see The Pleiades. This asterism is known in Greek mythology as the "Seven Sisters." To honor their father, Atlas, who was tasked with the difficult job of holding up the Earth on his shoulders, the sisters were rewarded with a place in the heavens. An asterism is an observed pattern or group of stars in the sky sometimes within a constellation.

For example, the Pleiades is located within the constellation of Taurus, the Bull. The Big Dipper is a well-known asterism in the northern sky that is part of the constellation Ursa Major.

China discovered a new mineral from their fifth lunar exploration mission and named it Changesite. The mineral is named after Cheng'e, the Moon goddess in Chinese mythology. The discovery also makes China the third country to discover a new lunar mineral after the United States and former Soviet Union.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 20. Griffith Park Observatory will hold a free public Star Party from 2 to 9:45 pm. There will be lots of telescopes for viewing the sky and astronomers to answer your questions.

When not stargazing, Neill Simmons, is an Investment Executive 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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