Nighttrek: What to See in the January Sky

See Page 11

What Your Brand Needs in 2026

See Page 5

Cross the Pond for Christmas, A London Adventure

See Page 9

ENCINO ENTERPRISE

Volume 6, Issue 135 | A Compendious Source of Information | January 8, 2026

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Seeking Volunteers for Jan. 20 Count

The Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count occurs annually to help collect the data to develop strategies to end homelessness and determine where funding and resources will do the most good. Volunteers are needed for the 2026 count taking place on Tuesday, January 20. The Sherman Oaks count will start at the Church of the Chimes at 7 pm, while the Encino count will start at the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber office at 8 pm. Those interested in learning more, and signing up to participate in this year's count, can visit count.lahsa.org.

Teen Leads Police on Chase from Sherman Oaks to Upland After Threatening Father

A 17-year-old suspect from Sherman Oaks was arrested earlier this week after leading police on a car chase that spanned two counties. Reports state that the young teen held his father at knife point before stealing the keys to his BMW. Despite officers' attempts to get the suspect to yield, the teen failed to comply and led them on a pursuit through the 101, 134 and 210 freeways. The chase only came to an end after the teen lost control of the vehicle and crashed. No other vehicles were involved, except for a police cruiser that the teen rammed into earlier in the chase. The suspect was taken into custody and taken to a hospital for a foot injury.

Nominations for the Inspirational Women of the Valley Now Open

The United Chambers of Commerce announced their 12th annual Inspirational Women of the San Fernando Valley Awards will be held on May 7. The event will recognize women who have inspired, achieved, and made the Valley a better place. Honorees will be selected from a wide array of industries, including, but not limited to, business, social services, health care and medicine, education, community advocacy, arts, government and non-profit, among others. Nominations and self-nominations are welcome and must be submitted no later than March 5 at 5 pm. The nomination form is available at form.jotform.com/260010138648147.

Headlines that Made 2025

Fire Special: How to Prepare, Recover, Give Back, File Insurance Claims and More

Encino Crime is Escalating; Community Leaders and Government Officials Share their Plans of Action

Barger Bails on State of the County

After the Fires: Steve Soboroff - Rebuilding L.A.

Encino Community Zoom Let Locals Vent About Crime, Homelessness, and the Controversial SB79

Community Donors Give Thanks to Encino Station #83 With the Gift of Rest

Inspiring Women of the Valley Named

Celebrate Community at Encino Fest

Two Home Invasions Target Encino and Studio City

Fernando Award Finalists Named

Latest Home Invasion Leads to Murder

Meet the Encino Neighborhood Council Candidates

Studio City Joins Nationwide "No Kings Day" Protest

Double Homicide Shocks Encino

Local Leaders Announce Runs for Office

City Reports Homeless Count Went Down

Home Invasions Continue to Hit Encino; A Community Meeting Expressed Concern, But When Will It Stop?

Newsom Signs SB 79: Allows Denser Development in Residential Neighborhoods

Prop 50 Passes in California

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

End-of-Year Messages from Encino Neighborhood Council, Encino Property Owners Association and Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce

CALENDAR

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United Chambers of Commerce Of the San Fernando Valley

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Community Calendar

* The Encino Neighborhood Council will be holding their Public Safety Committee meeting on Monday, January 12, at 7 pm at the Encino Community Center (4935 Balboa Blvd).

* The Southern California Garden Club invites you to their next garden club meeting featuring a program, "Rock Gardens," on Tuesday, January 20, at 9:30 am. There will be a plant store, workshop, specimen display and book review before the presentation at 11 am with Cindy Kovacs. This free event will take place at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino.

* The Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their "Lunch Break Live" on Thursday, January 15, at 11:30 am at Ping Pong Chinese Cuisine (17267 Ventura Blvd). The cost is $30 for current members and $50 for guests. Register at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* BINGO, hosted by the Cherry Blossoms Garden Center Club, will be held on Thursday, January 22, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Sepulveda Garden Center (16633 Magnolia Blvd). The cost is $20 and includes 10 games, lunch and beverages. Mail checks to Irene Strauss (19200 Wells Drive, Tarzana CA 91356) and please note on check sandwich preference: turkey, tuna or ham. For any questions, call Irene Strauss at 818-344-3333.

* Young adults, are you curious about how you might start your own business? Join the Encino Tarzana Library on Tuesday, January 13, 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.

* Councilmember Nithya Raman invites you to participate in a CD4 conversation on the state of homelessness in the City of Los Angeles and Council District 4. This virtual event will cover the current state of affairs and how we got here, their office's successful approach to bringing people indoors, priorities for 2026 and future challenges. This Zoom event will take place on Thursday, January 15, from 6 to 7 pm. Register at us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6d5dJH8qQEWlnj1PnMrIZw#/registration.

* Join the Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber of Commerce for a special "Monthly Mix: Connections in the Valley" in conjunction with chamber members, CrowdBoost Marketing and Alignable. This gathering will bring together local professionals, entrepreneurs and community leaders for an evening focused on building meaningful connections and sparking new opportunities for 2026. This free event will take place on Wednesday, January 21, at 6 pm at The Barrel Tavern. Register at shermanoaksencinochamber.org.

* Looking to pick up a new hobby this year? Why not try birdwatching with the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society? Join them on Saturday, January 10, from 9 to 11 am for their beginner bird walk at the Sepulveda Basin. It's perfect for first-time birdwatchers and families with small children. For more info, visit sfvaudubon.org/event/free-beginner-walks-at-sepulveda-basin-4/2026-01-10.

* Join the West Valley Regional Library for their Mystery Book Club on Wednesday January 14, from 10:30 am to noon. The book selection being discussed in this meeting will be *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murder* by Jesse Q. Sutanto.

* Save the date! The Tarzana Community and Cultural Center will be hosting their first music night of 2026 on Friday, January 30, from 7 to 10 pm. This show will be indoors; seating is limited so purchase tickets in advance. Snacks and beverages available for purchase; admission is just $5. Buy tickets at mytarzana.org.

People in the News

Giving Back to the Community This Holiday Season

This past holiday season, **Dignity Health,** a member of CommonSpirit Health, proudly continued its enduring tradition of community service and healing by extending support to thousands of families across California with essential provisions and heartfelt gifts for the holidays.

Through the tireless and collective efforts of dedicated employees, physicians, volunteers, and invaluable community partners, Dignity Health successfully provided tens of thousands of meals and gifts to individuals and families most in need.

"The holiday season reminds us all of the profound importance of community and compassion, core values at Dignity Health," said Julie Sprengel, California President, CommonSpirit Health. "Our incredible teams across California, alongside our partners, once again demonstrated extraordinary dedication. They selflessly worked to ensure that communities received not just gifts and meals, but a true sense of hope and belonging. Our commitment to 'humankindness' truly shines brightest when we come together to uplift those most vulnerable in our communities."

Throughout the holiday season, Dignity Health's commitment to humankindness manifested through a series of impactful initiatives, including:

-Nourishing Communities: Through partnerships and employee efforts, they delivered essential food provisions and meals across California, including large-scale Thanksgiving dinners, and collected thousands of pounds of non-perishable food, ensuring that many families did not go hungry during the holidays.

-Bringing Holiday Cheer: Teams orchestrated numerous drives, distributing over 4,240 holiday gifts and toys to children and families. Beyond toys, hundreds of coats, shoes, blankets, emergency kits and other critical winter items were provided to individuals and families in need.

-Empowering Families: Dignity's facilities collectively adopted over 150 families, offering comprehensive support that included food boxes, personalized gifts, and household necessities, allowing them to experience a brighter, more joyful holiday season.

-Deep Community Engagement: From distributing gas cards to help community members attend vital doctor's appointments, to arranging for home installations for at-risk individuals, and hosting celebratory holiday jams for hundreds of children, their efforts extended far beyond traditional donations, directly addressing diverse community needs with "humankindness."

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.

• Lance is not a common name these days. But in medieval times people were named Lance a lot.

• As people age, do they sleep more soundly? Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

• Chuck Underhill gets into the act with this one. The doctor tells the patient he has good news and bad news. The good news is the patient has 24 hours to live. The bad news? The doc forgot to tell him yesterday.

• Chuck says he went to his doctor for an ailment and was told to knock off all his bad habits, eat oatmeal and drink water for better health. "I feel a lot better now," he reports, "since I went to another doctor."

• With New Year's resolutions on our minds, Scott Harbin says he knows a man who gave up smoking, drinking, sex and rich food. Scott says he was healthy right up to the time he killed himself.

• Do you think it's strange that sick people have to walk all the way to the back of a drugstore to find medicine, while healthy people can buy cigarettes right up front?

• As we go into the new year, don't want to burst your bubble but statistics show that we keep only 8% of our new year's resolutions. That's okay - if it's the 8% I really need to accomplish!

• Question of the day: Why are there self-help groups?

• Here's one for the kiddies. A> If a man dies in England who was born in China, reared in France, worked in South America and married in Japan, what is he? A> Dead

• Did ya know? Before electricity, theaters would use heated calcium oxide (often nicknamed called quicklime) to light the stages. Hence, where the phrase "in the limelight" comes from!

Congressman Brad Sherman

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

WEDNESDAY ✦ JANUARY 21, 2026

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Valley Vantage, Warner Center News, Las Virgenes Enterprise and Encino Enterprise are published weekly by Kathleen Sterling. Offices are located at 22025 Ventura Blvd. #303, Woodland Hills CA 91364. Phone 818.313.9545 / Fax 818.302.1417. Email valleynewsgroup@gmail.com. Website: www.valleynewsgroup.com. Opinions expressed in articles are those belonging to the article's author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Publisher or its advertisers. Submissions are welcome and must include name, address and phone. All submissions become the property of the Publisher. Valley Vantage is a legally adjudicated newspaper of general circulation serving the County of Los Angeles by Superior Court Degree No. SFC 858.

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What Your Brand Needs in 2026

By Miri Rossitto

If your brand feels busier than ever but harder to explain, you're not alone.

As we move into 2026, brands are navigating AI acceleration, shifting platforms, economic uncertainty, and increasingly selective audiences. There's more content, more tools, and more noise than ever. And yet, the brands that win won't be the ones doing the most. They'll be the ones doing what matters most. In 2026, clarity, trust, and intentional connection will define brand success.

Clear Positioning—Fast

Your audience shouldn't have to work to understand what you do. If your brand relies on vague language or broad promises, you're losing attention before it ever turns into trust. Clear positioning means knowing exactly who you serve, what problem you solve, and why your approach matters, without buzzwords or over-explanation. This year, focus beats flexibility. The brands that stand out are comfortable being specific.

Consistency Across Every Touchpoint

Your brand isn't just your website or your logo. It's every interaction someone has with your business. When your messaging shifts across platforms or teams, trust erodes quietly. Brand clarity requires alignment: the same story, values, and tone everywhere your brand shows up. If your internal teams can't describe your brand the same way, your audience won't either.

Lead With Humanity in an AI World

AI can help you move faster, but it can't replace perspective, empathy, or judgment. In 2026, your advantage isn't automation; it's intention. The brands that resonate use AI to support their voice, not replace it. Audiences are increasingly sensitive to content that feels generic or disconnected. Your brand should sound human because that's what people trust.

Treat Trust as a Growth Strategy

Trust is now a competitive advantage. Audiences are cautious. They're paying attention to consistency, transparency, and follow-through. Saying less and standing behind it matters more than reacting to everything. Strong brands earn credibility, not chase relevance.

Internal Alignment Before External Impact

Your brand will never be stronger externally than it is internally. When teams aren't aligned on values and messaging, customers feel it. In 2026, brand strength depends on shared understanding across leadership, marketing, sales, and operations. When your people believe in the brand, delivering it becomes natural.

Build Community, Not Just Reach

Algorithms change. Communities last. In 2026, brands that invest in real relationships, through owned channels, partnerships, and consistent presence, build resilience. Community isn't about constant engagement. It's about meaningful connection and trust over time. Loyalty follows when people feel seen and valued.

Fewer, Stronger Brand Moments

More content doesn't mean more impact. Audiences are overwhelmed, and focus is the differentiator. Every campaign, message, or initiative should reinforce your positioning and values. If it doesn't move the brand forward, it's noise.

Growth That Aligns With Your Brand

Growth without alignment leads to dilution. Every new product, partnership, or pivot shapes perception. In 2026, strong brands let their identity guide decisions and not the other way around. When growth aligns with purpose, it feels intentional and credible.

The Bottom Line

The brands that succeed in 2026 won't be louder. They'll be clearer. Clarity builds trust. Trust drives growth. And brands that invest in both now won't just keep up with change, they'll lead the charge.

Miri Rossitto is the founder and CEO of Cowe Communications. Follow @CoweOfficial or visit cowe.com for more.

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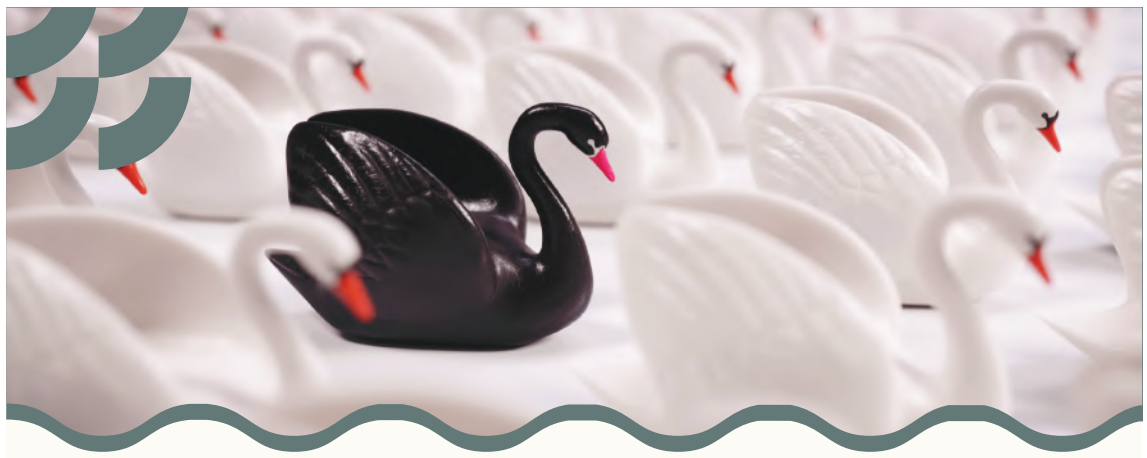

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Community Comes Together for ONEgeneration Seniors During Holidays

ONEgeneration's Annual "Adopt a Senior" SHARE Project provided a wonderful opportunity for generous donors and community partners to assist homebound and frail older adults within our community.

This holiday season, over 290 seniors (ages 60-101), along with low-income families, received gifts of essential household items tailored to their specific needs. Bath benches, nutritional drinks, robes, blankets, toiletries and so much more were provided for those unable to afford these necessities. Each year, the care donors put into every package is truly heartwarming; whether it's selecting the perfect size dog toys or a Dodgers Christmas ornament for a lifelong fan, these gifts often become the only treasures they receive during the holidays. This year, one donor made it possible for a senior to receive a recliner chair, a gift that will significantly enhance his daily quality of life due to health issues that confine him to that chair for most of the day.

ONEgeneration are incredibly grateful for the support from their corporate partners and philanthropic groups, including Kaiser Permanente - Woodland Hills, UCLA West Valley Medical Center, Intuit, Corebridge, the National Charity League (SFV Chapter), and many others. Thanks also to the families and individuals in the community who embraced the spirit of giving by assisting an older adult this holiday season! Your support for those served is truly appreciated.

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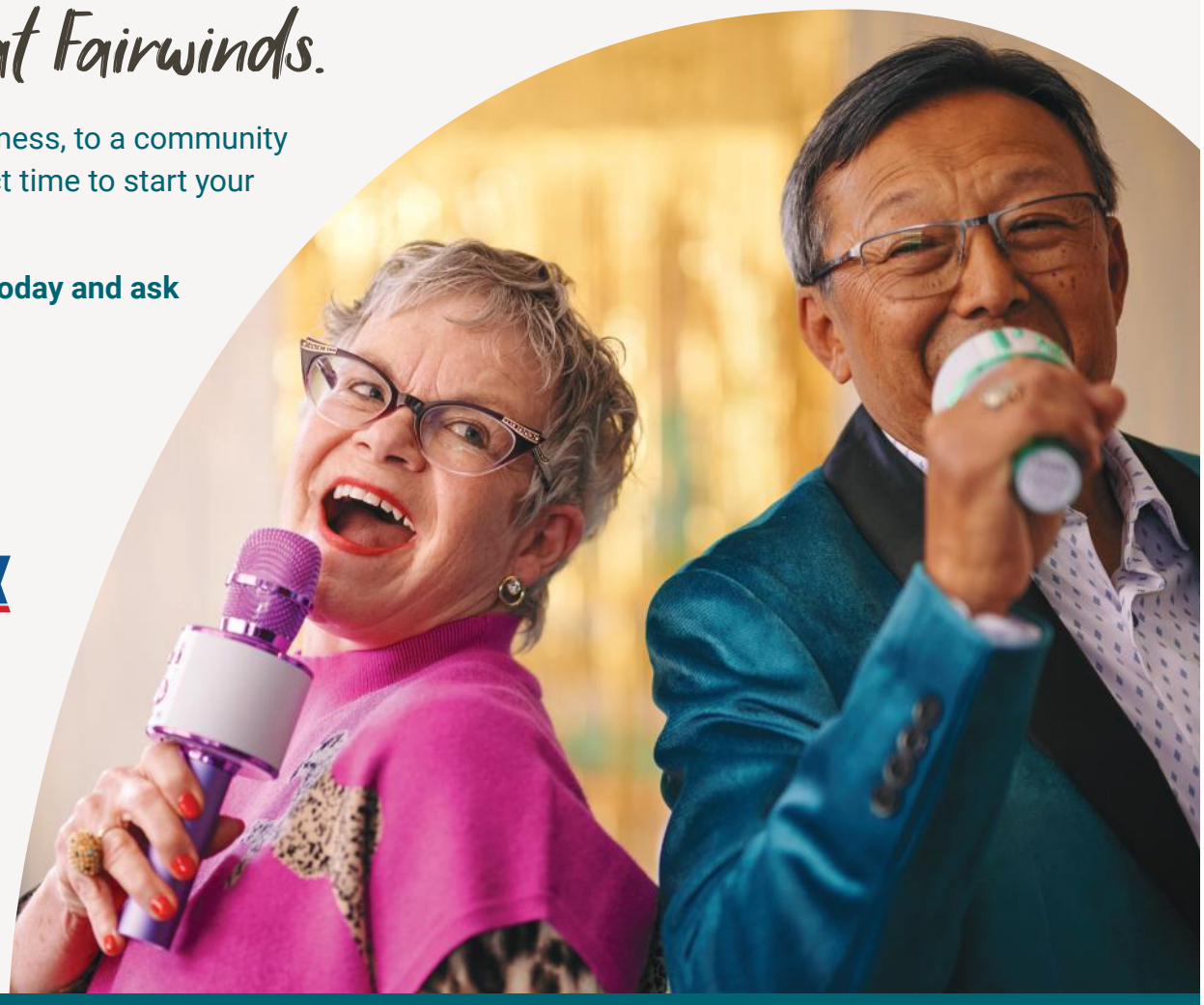

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HEALTH

CDC Lowers Vaccine Recommendations for Children

In an unprecedented overhaul of vaccine recommendations for children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced a major shift in suggested vaccines. While the vaccine schedule for children has typically consisted of 18 shots, the health agency is now only advising shots against 11 diseases.

The recommended shots that are still in rotation include those combating measles, mumps, rubella, polio, pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), pneumococcal disease, HPV and chickenpox. Shots for RSV, meningitis, dengue, hepatitis A and B are only encouraged for high-risk groups. Additionally, the CDC suggests that families use "shared clinical decision-making" with their doctor to decide on flu, COVID-19 and rotavirus vaccinations.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and federal officials stress that the change aligns with Denmark's approach to vaccines (which is a limited approach) and is meant to restore trust in public health that was lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Helen Chu, an infectious disease professor at the University of Washington, stated, "The abrupt change to the entire US childhood vaccine schedule is alarming, unnecessary, and will endanger the health of children in the United States."

While the vaccine schedule for children has typically consisted of 18 shots, the health agency is now only advising shots against 11 diseases.

Parents who still wish to have their children fully vaccinated will still have access to those shots, but may have to explicitly ask for them at the pediatrician's office. Insurers should still cover the cost of those shots without cost-sharing.

Where this new schedule may cause disruption, is potentially causing insurance coverage and school requirements to change. Schools and daycare centers typically follow the recommendations of the CDC and this new schedule could raise the risk of disease outbreaks.

Cross the Pond for Christmas! A London Adventure

By Kathleen Sterling

Now that the holidays are over and you've done the family thing - too much food, too much stress and too much chaos - it's never too early to plan next year!

This holiday my daughter and I canceled Christmas (we actually postponed it; we're not that callous) and traveled across the pond to celebrate.

Christmas in London is crazy, crowded, loud and fun. Everywhere you go the stores try to outdo each other with window displays and the streets are filled with seasonal lights and Mariah Carey blasting from every pedicab.

Regent Street and Oxford Street are shoppers' mecca, and we hit every store in town - Harrods, Selfridge's, Marks & Spencer, Primark and Marks & Spencer again... and again.

Gifts, goodies and our annual Christmas candle were on the list. Those who know me know I pack an extra suitcase to drag to London!

Home base this year was a new hotel, as our old favorite was under renovation. We actually have a new favorite in The Mandeville, tucked in between Mayfair and Marylebone. Its main draw was its walking distance to Bond Street and Regent Street. Plus, being just five minutes from a tube stop makes it the perfect central location.

This boutique hotel had large rooms (a necessity for two women with four suitcases and lots of shopping bags), lovely amenities and God bless the Brits, a deep tub!

They gave us the room with the lighted Christmas tree right outside our window so we were totally in the holiday spirit!

Their breakfast buffet was included and offered a huge choice of breakfast items. They also offered what looked like a lovely afternoon tea and a Christmas dinner, but we had made other plans.

When I was a student at Cambridge years ago, British food was an oxymoron. Truly awful mixed grill of meat, potatoes and more potatoes.

It's come into its own, and we carefully had planned our dining out to visit as many of our favorites as we could in one week!

Our first stop was Dishoom Covent Garden for their Bombay cuisine. While we had made a reservation, the line trailing down the block was a testament to how popular this restaurant has become. We craved the special lamb dish they offer, as each location has their own chef specialty and we couldn't stop thinking about this biryani dish since our last visit. That along with prawns, ruby chicken, samosas and a chocolate pudding with chili ice cream, we were in heaven.

After dinner we hit the Covent Garden market to sit in the courtyard and listen to an opera singer while having an after-dinner drink.

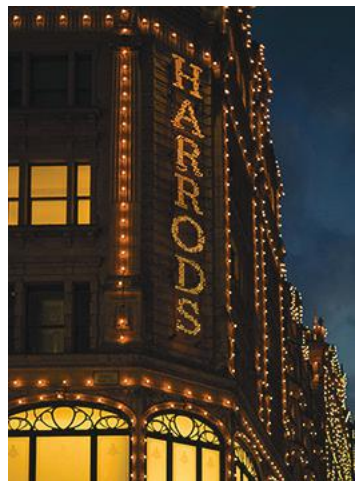
The gorgeously rustic Maggie Jones had reopened after a fire, so we got traditional British cuisine one night, with Stilton mousse, roast rump of lamb, cabbage and a bread and butter pudding to fill us up.

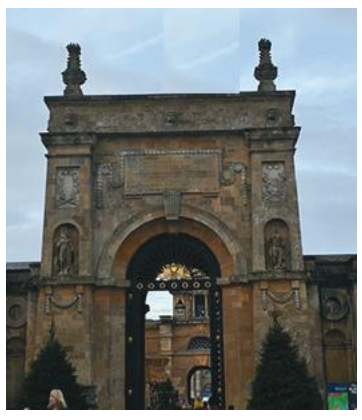
We did a lot more than eat and shop!

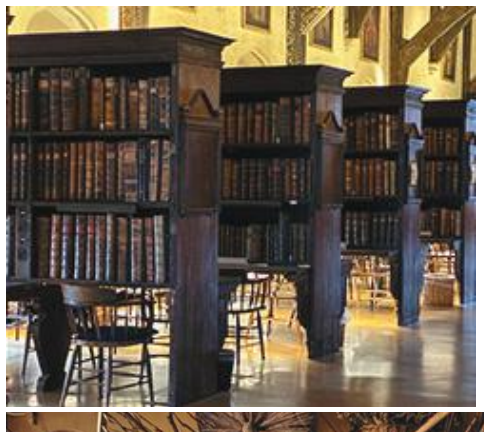
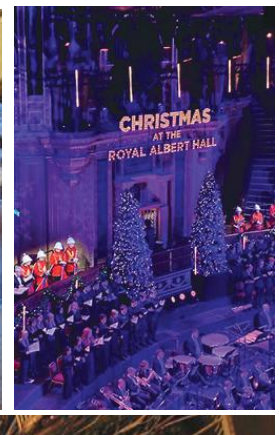
London is theatre, and so many of the plays on offer we'd seen in Los Angeles, so we laughed and went to see Paddington. No lie, it was such a fabulous production and great story I absolutely loved it more than the will-go-unnamed play I'd just seen in L.A. Plus they gave us a goodie box that naturally had to include a marmalade sandwich and a drink of choice. Tip: Get the marmalade martini!

I snuck in a quick visit to The National Portrait Gallery, one of my favorite stops every trip. I spent just a few hours at the gorgeous Cecil Beaton exhibit viewing his photographs and costume designs for *Gigi* and *My Fair Lady*.

A day trip to Oxford was a treat for the train ride itself through the countryside. Just an hour outside of London, we took a tour of the Bodleian Library. Founded in 1602 by Sir Thomas Bodley, it is not only a culturally and historically important site, but still serves as the main library for Oxford University. Our 60-minute tour with an amazingly knowledgeable guide showed us the gorgeous old rooms, but also gave us highlights of those that have studied and written there, including Oscar Wilde, J.R.R. Tolkein and C.S. Lewis.





The library holds over 13 million books and manuscripts, from antique tomes that are secured by chains to the bookshelves to modern classics. It is primarily a research library used by students and scholars from all over the world.

The library is so gorgeous it has been used as a backdrop for many films, including *Harry Potter, X-Men* and *A Discovery of Witches*.

Just outside of Oxford is Blenheim Palace, where Winston Churchill was born. The palace was decorated for the holidays but you could see the bones of the impressive structure and gilded state rooms underneath all the decor. Blenheim has become a popular Christmas spot as they not only deck out the mansion each season in a magical theme (this year was Wizard of Oz), but adorn the gardens with a festive light display and Christmas market. The best part of our visit was the Churchill exhibit in the basement, showcasing a timeline from his birth in the library there through his war years and time as prime minister.

The expansive grounds are also gorgeous, but the inclement weather had us regrettably missing the maze.

Another exhibit of "Servants' Tales" was like walking through the kitchen of Downtown Abbey. It told the stories, lives, workloads and scandals of the servants toiling above at the palace. Worth the hour train ride out of London to see.

No visit to London is complete without high tea, and The Ritz offered a special Christmas edition with carolers and special treats. A meal in itself, we took an afternoon off and enjoyed our tea sandwiches, scones and pastries. They brought us so much we saved it for our Christmas Day picnic!

A tradition in Britain is the Sunday roast. We booked the Savoy Grill for our repast, and enjoyed Gordon Ramsay's classic British cuisine - Beef Wellington for Kate and the dry-aged sirloin with Yorkshire pudding for me. Along with a Buck's Fizz (basically a mimosa) we enjoyed fine dining for an afternoon.

Brits respect their heritage and so many of their great old buildings are re-purposed into something new - while keeping the old. The Booking Office at St. Pancras station is a restaurant and bar that was indeed the old train station booking office, and all the old ticket windows still line the back of the bar. At 5:05 pm every night, a bartender makes and lights up a rum punch and everyone gets a free drink. The tradition honors the opening of the St. Pancras Hotel on May 5, 1873.

Another fun find is Cahoots, a bar situated in an abandoned tube station. The 1940's-themed bar offers up live music, spirits and souvenir ceramic mugs of Queen Elizabeth, Vera Wang and Winston Churchill.

Our last meal was at one of our favorites - Cafe Murano. Angela Hartnett has several locations serving her fresh, seasonal Italian cuisine, with homemade pasta and absolutely some of the world's best olive oil (we had to buy a bottle to bring home). With good red wine, arancini and pasta under our belts, we were ready to close out our London holiday.

Pretty much everything closes down Christmas Day, so for our last afternoon we planned a picnic in Hyde Park before carol service at Westminster Abbey. With snacks from Marks & Spencer and our Ritz pastries, we joined the throngs of Londoners walking the park before sitting down to their Christmas dinner.

On Boxing Day we loaded up our suitcases with goodies and memories to bring home and actually celebrate Christmas on New Year's with the family. We are already planning next year's holiday getaway - though we promised everyone we'd be home for Christmas Day 2026!

Clockwise: Homemade pasta at Cafe Murano; Making rum punch at The Booking Office; The Mandeville Hotel; Sunday roast at The Savoy Grill; Shopping at Marks & Spencer; Christmas Eve carols at Royal Albert Hall; the rustic Maggie Jones restaurant; Bodleian Library; Blenheim Palace; Tea at the Ritz; Harrod's landmark department store.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Notebook Makes Audiences Swoon at Pantages

The Notebook: The Musical, based on the best-selling novel that inspired the iconic film, will make its L.A. Premiere at the Hollywood Pantages Theatre from January 6 to 26.

Chloë Cheers (Younger Allie) and Kyle Mangold (Younger Noah). Photo by Roger Mastroianni

The Notebook tells the story of Allie and Noah, both from different worlds, who share a lifetime of love despite the forces that threaten to pull them apart.

"Full of butterfly-inducing highs and beautiful songs" (*Entertainment Weekly*), *The Notebook* is a deeply moving portrait of the enduring power of love.

Chris Jones of *The Chicago Tribune* says *The Notebook* is "absolutely gorgeous, not to be missed," and *The New York Daily News* calls it "a love story for the ages."

The Notebook is directed by Michael Greif (*Dear Evan Hansen, Next to Normal, RENT*) and Schele Williams (*The Wiz, Aida*), and features music and lyrics by multi-platinum singer-songwriter Ingrid Michaelson, book by Bekah Brunstetter (NBC's *This Is Us*), and choreography by Katie Spelman.

Portraying the young couple throughout the years are a variety of actors to represent them as they age.

Older Noah is played by Beau Gravitte, Middle Noah played by Ken Wulf Clark and Younger Noah played by Kyle Mangold.

Older Allie is played by Sharon Catherine Brown, Middle Allie is played by Alysha Deslorieux and Younger Allie is played by Chloe Cheers.

The Notebook is two hours and 20 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission and recommended for ages 10 and up.

Tickets start at $57, with four pack offers available. To see showtimes and available tickets, visit broadwayinhollywood.com or call the box office at (323) 468-1770. The Pantages Theater is located at 6233 Hollywood Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Gerald Clayton Opens the Soraya's Fifth Annual Jazz at Naz Festival

The Soraya has assembled an entire company of musicians who are 2026 Grammy nominees: pianist and music director Gerald Clayton, Los Angeles-based gospel choir Tonality, and jazz vocalists Christie Dashiell, and Michael Mayo.

Opening The Soraya's fifth annual Jazz at Naz festival, Clayton brings us "Sacredness," his rendering of the work Duke Ellington considered his most important, the three Sacred Concerts that were performed between 1965 and 1973 in cathedrals and churches in San Francisco and New York City.

Ellington evoked a Cotton Club revue meets the African American Church that has endured as nondenominational and universal. Clayton brings Ellington's daring masterpiece into the present day with original arrangements, four dancers led by tapper and choreographer Josette Wiggan, an all-star jazz big band, and new spoken word creations.

Gerald Clayton suggests a new ideal and a promising way forward in modern jazz. A pianist, composer, and seven-time Grammy nominee, he stands out for his ability to balance heritage and innovation — bridging the tradition he grew up in and a fearless sense of exploration.

The concert also features Michael Mayo, Christie Dashiell, Tonality, and Josette Wiggan.

The opening of Jazz at Naz kicks off on Saturday, January 31, at 2 pm, with tickets starting at $59. Tickets available at thesoraya.org.

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts is located at 18111 Nordhoff St., on the CSUN campus.

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Award Season Has Kicked Off, Will Your Favorite Win?

In Los Angeles, awards season takes center stage (literally) and tinseltown has officially kicked off their period of recognition for those they deem best in movies and television.

While the Critic's Choice Awards has already taken place, and the Golden Globes air this Sunday, the SAG Awards are typically the best indicator of who will take home the top prize of an Academy Award. Individual SAG nominees have overlapped with the Oscar nominations at a rate of roughly four out of five.

The SAG Awards, recently rebranded as the Actor Awards, will air on Sunday, March 1, at the Shrine Auditorium. Netflix will stream the ceremony live.

Breaking records, *One Battle After Another* holds seven nominations, with *Sinners* holding five (the previous max nominations for one movie). *Frankenstein, Hamnet* and *Marty Supreme* are all tied with three nominations. In the television sector, *The Studio* dominated with five nominations, with *Adolescence* and *The White Lotus* tying at four each.

Nominations by studio inclue, Warner Bros at 13, Focus Features at six, A24 at four, Netflix at three, Paramount at one, Sony Pictures Classics at two and Universal at one.

Nominations by television studio include Netflix at 15, Apple TV at 11, HBO at nine, Hulu at three, FX Networks and Paramount+ at two each and ABC, Disney+ and Peacock at one each. For a full list of nominees in the television and movie catagories, visit deadline.com/2026/01/2026-actor-awards-nominations-sag-1236670128.

The Acadamy Awards will follow this (we'll see how closely wins match up) on Sunday, March 15, hosted by Conan O'Brien.

Nighttrek: What to See in the January Sky

By Neill Simmons

The highlight of January is the majestic planet, Jupiter. It will be at its brightest in the east on Saturday the 10th. Make sure to get your binoculars in order to see Jupiter's four biggest moons – Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto.

Also notice two twinkling stars to the left of Jupiter. These are Castor and Pollux, the famous twins of the constellation Gemini. Castor is not actually a single star, but a system of six stars that are so close together, they appear as one. It was one of the 48 constellations described by the second century astronomer Ptolemy, and it remains one of the 88 modern constellations today. Its name is Latin for twins.

The year begins with January's Wolf Full Moon on the 3rd, named for the howling wolves often heard during midwinter. On February 1st the Snow Full Moon will appear, reflecting historically heavy snowfall in our local mountains. Although the Moon shines bright in the night sky, it doesn't produce its own light. We see the Moon only because it reflects light from the Sun. The temperature on the Moon varies from super hot to super cold. When the Sun hits its surface, temperatures can reach a scorching 260° F. But when the Sun goes down, temperatures can plummet to around -243°F. Brrr

Jupiter will be at its brightest in the East on Saturday the 10th.

Make an effort this month to spot the brightest star in the sky, Sirius. Sirius is twice the size of our Sun and 25 times brighter. It is located to the right of Jupiter and is part of the constellation Canis Major. Bright stars, such as Sirius, were important to the ancient Polynesians for navigation of the Pacific Ocean. Sirius is located approximately 8.6 light-years away from Earth. A light-year is the distance light travels in one Earth year, which is about six trillion miles!

Every night in January, the famous Orion the Hunter constellation is visible in the southeast. Look for the three bright stars in a row which is Orion's belt. An important star in Orion is Betelgeuse located in Orion's left shoulder. It's a variable star, so a change in its brightness isn't unusual. But Betelgeuse is now dimmer than it's been for several years. Is it possible that this is a sign of instability in this old red supergiant star? And could it mean Betelgeuse will explode and die soon? When will it happen? The answer is: Maybe today. Maybe a thousand years from now.

A very interesting sight comes on Friday, January 23, when the Moon and the planet Saturn will appear to be near to each other. Saturn is one of the most fascinating planets in the solar system, known for its massive size, iconic rings, and unique atmospheric features. About 750 Earths would be able to fit inside Saturn. We are unable to stand on Saturn. It is made of gas, mostly hydrogen and helium, and does not have firm ground. Saturn has the highest number of moons in our solar system at 274. Titan, Saturn's largest moon, is the only moon in our solar system with an atmosphere.

A very interesting sight comes on Friday, January 23, when the Moon and the planet Saturn will appear to be near to each other.

The City of Calabasas Senior Center is presenting an astronomy talk on Thursday, January 22, at 2:30 pm. The winter sky, Vandenberg rocket launches, and NASA happenings will be discussed. Call (818) 224-1777 for more information. A nominal fee will be charged.

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.

15 THE SORAYA

JAZZ AT THE SORAYA

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