UPCOMING TOWN HALL

Holiday Greetings from Two of Valley Glen’s Prominent Leaders
Dr. Erika Endrijonas – President
Los Angeles Valley College
Paul Krekorian – Councilman
District II

For our final Town Hall of the year, VGNA attendees will have the opportunity to hear from two people whose work is intricately tied to the future of Valley Glen. Dr. Erika Endrijonas has been President of Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) since 2014. In that short time, she has transformed the energy on the campus, addressed many issues adversely affecting student education, and instilled a strong team ethic for faculty, teaching, and management. During her talk she will focus on the many ways that LAVC is providing access to education and fostering success among its students.

Paul Krekorian has been our City Council representative since 2010. He makes his home in the San Fernando Valley where he was born and raised. Councilman Krekorian serves on the city’s Budget & Finance committee and in other important committee roles for Job Creation, Entertainment, Trade, and Transportation. He has an inside view of the major issues that concern Valley Glen and the greater Los Angeles area. Councilman Krekorian will speak to some of these issues and to the challenges in the year ahead.

Partners Recognition
We like to celebrate our partners! The VGNA is happy to recognize in attendance our community partners from government, education, and business.

ARC Choir
Don’t miss a performance by the ARC (Activities, Recreation, and Care) Bell Choir. Their beautiful music will set put your heart in the right place. The ARC is located in Valley Glen, and the Bell Choir has been active for twenty years and has played in just about every venue you can name: Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, LA County Fair, KCET, Anaheim Stadium, etc.
Message from the President

Hello Neighbors,

However quickly the days have raced by, 2017 has been a great year for Valley Glen and the VGNA. Our community is definitely on the rise led by important improvements happening at Los Angeles Valley College and Grant High School. The VGNA for its part has been working successfully on a grass roots level to bring people together from all corners of Valley Glen in support of our community and its needs.

Fundamentally, the VGNA wants to make Valley Glen “smaller”. We want to connect you to people you might not otherwise know. We want you to meet your councilman and his aides. We want you to meet the leaders and faculty from our local schools. We want you to meet the LAPD SLO officers that serve Valley Glen. We want you to meet the members of the Greater Valley Glen Council. And, of course, we want you to meet your neighbors.

With the crazy pace of life in this metropolis it can be tough to get people together, even for the best of causes. We accept that challenge at the VGNA because the results multiply geometrically with participation. If we gather fifteen workers for a Clean Team event, we can transform unsightly areas of Valley Glen in a single morning of work. If seventy-five people show up at a Town Hall, we can build momentum for new projects and causes.

A perfect example is our “Helping Hands” project, profiled in this issue’s centerpiece article. We want Valley Glen residents to donate (it’s tax deductible) and help financially challenged students who are striving to matriculate at Los Angeles Valley College. If you become one of many Valley Glen residents who donate to this cause, then the positive effect will be extraordinary for this project.

Your contribution to the VGNA and our causes is the most direct investment that you can make in your community. Every one of your dollars comes back to benefit Valley Glen and your neighborhood. This holds true also for our business partners who advertise in this newsletter. We are a small, but mighty non-profit organization, but please remember that the VGNA, this newsletter, and our community outreach cannot exist without your help.

We hope that you are planning to join us on Tuesday, December 5th for the year-end VGNA Town Hall celebration. This is going to be a wonderful evening. We will hear important words from prominent community leaders, listen to beautiful music, and meet in common cause to ensure that 2018 is an uplifting, productive year for Valley Glen, our residents, and our families. See you there!

PLEASE DONATE

Please visit www.valleyglen.org and look for the red Donate Button or simply send a check payable to:
VGNA, 13300 Victory Blvd., Box 385 Valley Glen, CA 91401

—

Representatives:

Area A: Mickey Jannol
    Harry Norton
    Joan Gil

Area B: Dean Abston
    Gerhard Runken
    Edie/Sid Yukelson

Area C: Peer Ghent

Grid 1: Bruce Gaims

Grid 2: Tom & Janet Newton
    Francisca Reynoso

Grid 3: Linda Carreon
    Regla Vera

Grid 4: Michael Rosenzweig

Grid 5: Howard Gradet
    Pat Kovach

Grid 6: Michael Merzliking

Grid 7: Mirna Pajuelo
    Emilia Trivossano
    Angelica Fuentes
    Mercedes Driotes

Grid 8: Eileen Martin
    Robin Shafer
I AM MIRNA PAJUELO

A resident of Valley Glen for over forty years, Mirna Pajuelo is a patient, effective community advocate. She was an important contributor to the founding of the VGNA and Valley Glen in the late 1990’s. She remains very involved with the VGNA and has information on almost any issue.

Mirna was born in El Salvador in 1949. When she was twenty-two months old, her mother passed away. When she was sixteen, her father also passed. She was raised by her grandmother. As a young woman in El Salvador she had a relatively good job working for a law firm. The pay, however, was hardly enough on which to live, and at age twenty she left for the United States on a work visa.

She arrived in Los Angeles looking for a “better life”. Mirna had no relatives in the city and knew very little English. She and a friend took up residence in the Mid-Wilshire area. They worked as nannies to pay the rent. For Mirna, who had been accustomed to a professional office environment, it was quite an adjustment.

Mirna, however, did not waste time. Within four years she met and married her husband, Carlos, went to school for English, learned a trade as a keypunch operator, had her first child, Richard, and, after a series of moves around Los Angeles, bought her home in Valley Glen. She had her daughter, Sandra, in 1978, and became an American citizen in 1984.

In the years since she has studied business at the Ross Institute in Burbank and Child Development at Los Angeles.

continued on page 5
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 5th
VGNA Holiday Town Hall

Thursday, December 14th
GNA Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, December 30th
Clean Team Event

Thursday, January 11th
VGNA Executive Board Meeting

Saturday, January 27th
Clean Team Event

Thursday, February 8th
VGNA Member Mixer

The VGNA is a volunteer organization.
We welcome people who are willing to contribute.

We need people to help deliver newsletters, assist with outreach to neighbors, businesses, and schools, work on the Clean Team and other events, and keep us posted on Valley Glen news.
Please get in touch and lend a hand.

Also, if you are not receiving our e-mail updates, please sign up at www.vgna.org.

Valley Glen Services Directory

Need to know which number to call to remove graffiti? Want to reach your local police?
Need to speak to the mayor? The VGNA publishes an annual services directory for residents with all the important local and city phone numbers and email addresses.
Download your copy from www.valleyglen.org/public-services-directory.
LAPD Holiday Shopping Tips

Officer Bailey is twenty-one year veteran of the LAPD and a Senior Lead Officer for two years.

- Lock your vehicle every time you leave it unattended and always lock your valuables in the trunk.
- If you don’t have a trunk, hide valuables (especially GPS and GPS docking stations under the seats, in the glove box, or other compartments within the vehicle. Never leave valuables in plain view.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Do not park in remote locations.
- When returning to your car, stop, listen, and look around. Stay alert to your surroundings.
- If you see or hear something suspicious, STOP! Ask security or store personnel to escort you to your vehicle.
- Have your car keys readily available before you get to your vehicle.
- Crime deterrence begins with YOU, so if you see something, report it!

Mirna Pajuelo continued from page 3

Valley College. Of her work for Valley Glen, Mirna says, “You have to make your mark in your community”. Her current pet peeve is traffic safety and speeding. She is gathering the necessary signatures on her street to get the city to install speed bumps.

In 1979 Mirna and Carlos and their children visited her grandmother in El Salvador. Her grandmother felt the same great joy that Mirna has felt raising her children in Valley Glen and watching them go on to their own successful lives and families. These days, when Mirna is not helping out with the grandchildren or the VGNA, she enjoys gardening, reading, and walking her dog, Chekeepoo.
People in all areas of Los Angeles are aware and concerned about the issue of homelessness. Valley Glen is no exception. Homelessness has been a topic at VGNA Town Hall meetings. Valley Glen residents often share information, ask questions, and ponder solutions for the problem on Next Door and other social media.

Homelessness is a complicated issue. Los Angeles voters recently passed two measures (H and HHH) that pave the way for more affordable housing and services for the homeless. Appreciable positive effects, however, of these measures are likely to be years down the road.

Valley Glen residents have a very simple way to make a difference on homelessness in our community. The Helping Hands Project (HHP) at Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) supports students experiencing homelessness and/or who are in dire need of basic necessities and may not qualify for certain on-campus or community programs.

HHP was established five years ago by several LAVC departmental staff who pooled resources to assist a homeless student living on-campus with her two year old daughter. They soon learned that many other students were homeless or on the verge without means to afford transportation, books, clothes, toiletries, tuition, fees, etc. They developed a fund through the LAVC Foundation to address this larger problem.

The HHP now has 35 active committee members (and counting). For every student referral to HHP a needs assessment is conducted, including verification that no services are being duplicated from other sources. Before any monetary funds are allocated HHP seeks resources (on and off campus) from other partner organizations, especially for housing and food.

No matter how you voted on H and HHH and no matter what your political stripes, we should all be on the same side of helping individuals who
are fighting to improve their lives and who want to contribute to our community and the larger world. Ellie Rabani, who oversees the HHP program, has a long list of students who fought their way from near destitution to matriculation at LAVC.

The VGNA has set a goal of raising $2000 for the HHP this holiday season. To reach that goal, we need only one hundred residents to contribute $20.00 (tax deductible) to the cause. Please do it now so we can say as a community that we are stepping in to do our part to combat homelessness and support education in Valley Glen.

The VGNA has worked hard to partner with our Valley Glen schools and improve the quality of education for our community’s children and young adults. We are also very concerned with core issues of safety, cleanliness, traffic, and community development.

Our partnership this holiday season with “Helping Hands” is aimed at two major community problems: student attrition and homelessness. We need your support.

PLEASE DONATE NOW

To Donate On-Line http://www.lavcfoundation.org/givenow.php
(please enter your donation under “Other Designation” and write “HHP/VGNA” in the “Additional Instructions” Box)
A new community of 63 spacious single family homes available to tour in Valley Glen. Featuring contemporary urban design in a commuter-friendly location near shopping, dining, and recreation opportunities along the Tujunga Wash Greenway.

Priced from the High $600,000s
3 Bed / 3.5 Bath - 1,947-2,203 Sq.ft.
Rooftop Decks

www.theglenla.com

Schedule a Tour Today
Sales & Info Center Now Open
Tue-Sun 10am-5pm / Mon 2-5pm
13103 Victory Blvd, LA 91401
info@theglenla.com or 818-572-6589

The Market is Hot,
Demand is High,
Prices are Up!

Thinking of Buying or Selling?
“Think Linda Carreon!”

LINDA CARREON
“I Carry On while others quit!”
Realtor® CalBRE# 00569297
(818) 406-1543
Linda@LindaCarreon.com

www.LindaCarreon.com
Representing Buyers and Sellers Since 1976
LAVC FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CALENDAR

December Music Concerts

LAVC Guitar Orchestra, Guitar Ensembles and Soloists
Friday, December 1, 8:00 PM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106
Tickets: $10 general admission
Dr. Gregory Newton, director
with special guests The LAVC Monarch Jazz Vocal Ensemble
Performing works by Alonso Mudarra, J. S. Bach, Erik Marchelie, Claudio Camisassa, Imagine Dragons, and a selection of holiday music

LAVC Choir Concert
Sunday, December 3, 5:00 PM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106

LAVC Wind Ensemble Concert
Monday, December 4, 7:00 PM
Location: Theater Arts (TA) - Mainstage Theater
Ticket Cost: $10 General Admission
Wind Ensemble repertoire for the Dec. 4 concert is:
The Eighth Candle - Reisteter
Christmas Jazz Suite - Holcombe
Here We Come A Wassailing - Barker
Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer - Marks arr. Brown
Chanukah - The Festival of Lights Overture - Bobrowitz
Christmas Fugue - Brown
Sleigh Ride - Anderson

Music 250 Performance Workshop Concert 1 of 2
Tuesday, December 5, 11:20 AM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106

Music 250 Performance Workshop Concert 2 of 2
Thursday, December 7, 11:20 AM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106

Commercial Voice and Broadway Concert
Friday, December 8, 8:00 PM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106 - And Music Instrumental Room (112)
Tickets: $10, available at-the-door
Students in LAVC Commercial Voice and Musical Theater classes will perform American Jazz Standards and songs from Broadway musicals. A reception immediately follows the performance.

Valley Symphony Orchestra Concert
Saturday, December 9, 7:00 PM
Location: Theater Arts (TA) Main Stage Theater
Tickets: $25 general /$15 student/senior
The VSO concert for December 09 is:
IN MEMORIUM
Arshagouni - A Christmas Fantasy
Avedissian - Hoverkagan (Pastoral Poem) (premiere of chamber orchestra version)
Khatchaturian - “Lezghinka” from Gayane
Beethoven - Symphony No.5 in c minor, Op.57
Guest soloist: Salpy Kerkonian, flute

LAVC Fine and Performing Arts Calendar of Events:
http://www.lavc.edu/Master-calendar/Arts.aspx
Valley Glen residents.

Seasoned professionals who have negotiated the sales and leases of hundreds of properties, ranging from studios to multi-million dollar homes. Our online reviews speak to our proven track record of robust high-end marketing, strategic negotiations and personal attention to detail.

We work at Compass, a forward-thinking company that is reinventing the real estate industry by combining exceptional agents with best-in-class technology to make the process of buying, selling or renting a home intelligent and seamless.

Contact us today for a complimentary price analyses and marketing consultation.

Esther & Keith Hickman
kehickman@compass.com
310.600.7306 | Esther | CalBRE: 01993403
310.779.8189 | Keith | CalBRE: 02003065
Cozze in salsa piccante di Arrabbiata (Mussels in Angry Sauce)

Christmas Eve, for many Italian families means “Feast of the Seven Fishes” “La Vigilia,” (the vigil). As an Italian/American family we are no different. We love this tradition for many reasons. It recalls memories of family and friends that are no longer with us, that would celebrate this feast with us. They all had recipes of their favorite fish dish. Some we still serve today. But as new cooks develop in the family so do the recipes.

Today our feast looks something like this: Deep Fried Calamari, King Crab Legs, Blue Point Oysters on the half shell, Shrimp Scampi over Linguini, Seared Diver Scallops with a tangerine and fresh herb sauce, Baked Clams Oreganata and of course Mussels in Arrabbiata Sauce.

For me, this dish always seemed to be the most festive in appearance and had the best aroma. No matter where you were in the house you could smell this dish cooking.

I hope you take the time to try this recipe. It’s good any day of the year.

Enjoy.

If you have a special holiday recipe you would like to share, please email it, and a brief story to editor@vgna.org.

We will post them on our website and hopefully start our own tradition sharing in our newsletter too.

PREP TIME: 15 MINS COOK TIME: 30 MINS TOTAL TIME: 45 MINS

SERVES: 2-4

2 POUNDS MUSSELS

¼ CUP CREAM OR HALF AND HALF

½ CUP OF WHITE WINE - PINOT GRIGIO

3 TABLESPOONS CHOPPED PARSLEY

1 MEDIUM YELLOW ONION MINCED

6 CLOVES GARLIC MINCED

1 TABLESPOONS RED PEPPER FLAKES +/- MORE TO YOUR TASTE BUDS

1 X 28 OZ. CAN SAN MARZANO TOMATOES CRUSHED

1/4 CUP EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

SEA SALT OR KOSHER SALT TO TASTE

INSTRUCTIONS

Rinse mussels under cool water. Discard any that do not fully close when rinsing or resting for 30 seconds (these are dead). Remove any beards if protruding from the shell.

In a large heavy bottom cast iron pan heat up the olive oil and sauté the onion with a pinch of sea salt until translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the garlic and red pepper flakes and let it cook only for a few seconds until you can smell it and doesn’t start to turn brown. Pour in the white wine and stir, scraping any bits on the bottom of the pan. Let the wine mixture reduce by half.

Transfer the tomatoes to the pot and bring to a simmer. Partially cover with a lid. Allow the sauce to simmer away on low flame for about 15 minutes then stir in the cream. Make sure to stir often, making sure the sauce does not burn. Add mussels, simmer for another 5 minutes or until the mussels have opened ¼ to ½ an inch.

Turn off the flame and season to your taste with the sea salt. Stir in the fresh chopped parsley and finish. Serve with a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil, red pepper flakes and fresh crusty bread.

Submitted by: Richard & Angela Rossi
You know that feeling of intense satisfaction? When you step back, survey your work, and you can see the difference you’ve made? It was like that.

That’s how working with the VG cleanup crew felt. OK, we didn’t quite muck out the stables (a la Hercules’ fifth labor), but we did take on a pretty gnarly job. Our rag-tag crew—OK, we were a group of urban professionals dressed in last season’s denim—‘got the job done’.

Here was our challenge. It might not look like much to the untrained eye. But those leaves and branches hid the true nature of the task that lay before us. Once we dove in, trimmed some branches, and started carting away the debris, here’s what we found:

• 5 discarded car tires
• A broken-down office chair
• 5 gallons of used motor oil
• Half a dozen 6 – 8-foot lengths of 2 x 4’s
• Two dozen concrete pavers
• A bunch of broken up dry wall
• A vacuum cleaner
• A nightstand (slightly worse for the wear)
• A shopping cart or two
• And about 27 bags of leaves and miscellaneous fast food trash
• (no partridges, no pear trees …)

Oh … and a sign: No Dumping

Here’s what that alley looked like when we finished.

And here’s our crew. (Note the look of intense satisfaction on their faces.)

That’s the kind of experience that can be yours. Join us. We gather on the last Sat of every month at Valley Glen Community Park (Ethel & Erwin) on Ethel Street. Just bring yourself. We supply the tools. And prepare to spend a satisfying morning in the company of good people (fellow Valley Glenners) doing something that matters.

START TIME FOR THE CLEAN TEAM VARIES ACCORDING TO SEASON AND IS PUBLISHED IN ADVANCE ON THE VGNA WEBSITE, BY E-MAIL, NEXTDOOR, AND ON FACEBOOK.

NEED TO REQUEST A CITY SERVICE?

Call 3-1-1 or use the MyLA311 App, to access more than 1,500 L.A. City non-emergency services.

My311 App available in the App Store and on Google Play. Or visit: www.lacityorg/myla-311