UPCOMING TOWN HALL

Bringing Los Angeles Valley College into Our Community

Dr. Erika Endrijonas – President Los Angeles Valley College

At the upcoming Town Hall, VGNA attendees will have the opportunity to hear from an individual whose work makes Valley Glen a richer, more dynamic place to live. Dr. Erika Endrijonas has been President of Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC) since 2014. In that short time, she has transformed the energy on 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 resources that LAVC has for Valley Glen residents. You will be surprised at the educational classes, recreation, family and individual assistance, and arts and entertainment that are available for you and your family at our local college!

Partners Recognition

We like to celebrate our partners! The VGNA is happy to recognize in attendance our community partners from government, education, and business. We will give a special nod to the “Helping Hands Project” which helps combat homelessness and dire needs among LAVC students.

Local Arts and Entertainment

We are delighted to present a performance by the ARC (Activities, Recreation, and Care) Bell Choir. Their beautiful music will set put your heart in the right place for the Spring season. 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. Don’t miss it!
Message from the President

Hello Valley Glenner,

I hope that your 2018 is off to a great start. We missed you in December when the VGNA Town Hall was cancelled due to the fires and the closing of Los Angeles Valley College for several days. Even though it seems like more than three months ago that the mountains were in flame all around us, our thoughts are still with the many families whose lives were impacted much more deeply than our own.

One positive that can emerge from horrific events like the fires of last year is the profound way that neighbors can come together to help each other. When people put their heads and hearts together, the power to get things done goes up geometrically. Fortunately, we do not need a crisis to take advantage of this wonderful quality in humankind. We just need to identify with each other and have a common goal.

In that spirit, the VGNA is framing 2018 with our new “We Are Valley Glen” theme. In a city of over 60,000 like Valley Glen, the number of neighborhoods, the diversity of our residents, and the pace of life can get in the way of our sense of community and purpose. “We Are Valley Glen” is the recognition that Valley Glen is our home and that we take pride in declaring the responsibility that we share with our neighbors for its future.

Valley Glen gets “smaller”, the more we know each other. At the VGNA’s Town Halls, events and mixers, and in partnering with schools, government, and the Greater Valley Glen Council, we meet residents from all corners of Valley Glen who want to contribute. For the VGNA, “We Are Valley Glen” means that we have a job to bring these people together to do more for the quality of life in our community than they could ever do alone.

Valley Glenners share common goals for our neighborhoods: safety, good schools, cleanliness, well-maintained streets and parkways, and healthy businesses. If we gather our numbers and create a collective will, then we will have the power to affect meaningful changes. Just by reading this newsletter and staying in touch with the VGNA by phone, e-mail, or social media, you take a steps becoming part of that process.

Take another step and please attend our Town Hall on Tuesday, March 13. Dr. Endrijonas, the President of LAVC, is a wonderful speaker. The Helping Hands Project is an important cause for our community. And you do not want to miss the ACA Bell Choir! Come to this event. Listen, interact, and contribute. Join the VGNA and your fellow Valley Glenners in making “We Are Valley Glen” mean something important and beautiful in 2018.

Please Donate

Please visit www.valleyglen.org and look for the red Donate Button or simply send a check payable to the: VGNA, 13300 Victory Blvd., Box 385 Valley Glen, CA 91401
Esther Hickman and her husband, Keith, were tired of living in Portland, Maine. In 2015 they moved to Valley Glen. Too bad for Portland and how lucky for Valley Glen! For Esther, coming to Valley Glen was a return home to Southern California. She grew up in Malibu. Her Ecuadorian mother, María, and Austrian father, Hans, were first generation immigrants who worked hard to create a good life for her and her two older brothers. Esther never did much surfing, but her mother did encourage her children to study music.

Esther’s brothers played violin and clarinet. She became an opera singer. After getting her music degree from UCLA, she moved to New York city at age twenty-five to pursue an opera career. While she auditioned, played roles, and hoped for her big break, she waited tables, bartended, and worked as an administrative assistant to pay the bills. She was introduced to Keith on a blind date. By the time they got married, Esther had secured a real estate license. She loved being a broker and soon left her singing career behind. After doing business in New York and then in Maine, she and Keith made the cross country move to the West coast.

Esther and Keith are a formidable business couple. They are realtors for Compass and highly respected for their professional work. Even more importantly, they are happy parents of an adorable eleven month old daughter, Isabella. Their household also includes Esther’s eighty-seven year old father who is still actively working.

continued on page 6
Thinking About Home Improvements – Info for Owners

With warmer weather on the way, you may be planning home repairs or improvements. These projects can range from landscaping or painting to major remodels and significant structural alterations. We’ve all heard horror stories about home improvement projects going off the rails. With careful pre-planning and common-sense practices, however, you can minimize risk and ensure successful results. You will also need to educate yourself (before you invest your money) about California law regulating contractors and the home improvement industry.

Practically everyone knows that California contractors must be licensed for any project costing $500.00 or more, labor and material combined. Fewer know about the various license classifications and who can legally undertake the work required. For example, can a general contractor legally perform electrical work on your home? It depends on the scope of the work you need done.

Likewise, you may know it makes sense to have a written contract. Most consumers, however, are not aware of the specific requirements that apply to home improvement contracts. These requirements address format, contents, notices, and disclosures.
This valuable information lies scattered here and there in state and local codes, regulations, and ordinances.

That being said, the California State Contractors License Board is a great place to start. The Board, an agency within the California Department of Consumer Affairs, maintains a website with a wealth of information. The web address is http://www.cslb.ca.gov. On most search engines, simply type “cslb” and find a link to the Board’s site.

At the Board’s site, click the “Consumers” tab at the top of the page. You can check out contractors and learn about home improvement laws and contracts. Don’t miss a video called “Doing It Right: Hiring a Licensed Contractor.” http://www.cslb.ca.gov/Consumers/Hire_A_Contractor/Do_It_Right_Video.aspx. You can go directly to the URL or type “Doing it Right” in the search bar at the top right of the site.

In future articles, we’ll dive deeper into the home improvement industry, including specific contract requirements and other useful project information.

Submitted by:
Thomas W. Newton - Attorney At Law

VGNA Town Hall / Meeting
Location: Los Angeles Valley College
A sincere thanks to the generosity and support of LAVC President Dr. Erika Endrijonas and her staff for making a home for our Town Hall meetings:

LAVC, 5800 Fulton Avenue,
Administrative & Career Adv Building
Second Floor, Room 2505
6:30 pm Meet & Greet
7:00 pm Start

Please visit www.valleyglen.org/lavc-map to view and download the LAVC map and meeting location.
Do you live in a Birdhouse Ranch Home?

There’s a new book about William Mellenthin, a builder and contractor who built many of the Birdhouse ranch homes in the San Fernando Valley, filled with rare photos & documents.

To get a copy, go to: williammellenthin.com

Discount Coupon Code: Cupola

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Chris Lukather is a S.F. Valley native who now resides in Valley Glen. When buying his home he came across the “bird houses” designed by William Mellenthin. He learned little was known about Mellethin or his houses. Now, three years later, we have Chris’s unique, informative book on the subject: http://williammellenthin.com/product/william-mellenthin-builder/. It’s a great read and testimony to Valley Glen’s charm!

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Esther Hickman continued from page 3

How Esther finds time to do so much for Valley Glen is a mystery. She organized a caroling group in Valley Glen this past holiday season. She is currently helping to organize our membership drive. She has even convinced Keith to throw his talents in with the VGNA!

Esther speaks a little bit of Spanish and German. She confesses that her cousins who live here in the Valley often tease her about her bad Spanish. No doubt she handles their ribbing with the same bright smile that is on her face every time you see her in and about Valley Glen.

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VGNA Mixer
Over Forty Business Partners and Core Volunteers

What a great mixer this past February 8th with local business owners and VGNA core volunteers! Valley Glen businesses need our support and recognition. The whole community benefits when local businesses prosper, grow, and get involved with our neighborhoods and residents. Special thanks to Janet Newton for a tremendous effort with the delicious food for this event!
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SOLD
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Cal DRE #00920540
Syd and Edie Yukelson
54 Years – Valley Glenners

Syd and Edie are retired (he was a LAUSD Principal, and she worked for several non-profit organizations). They keep busy with friends and family, travel, gardening, classes, and, of course, helping out in the VGNA. They deliver newsletters in their grid and attend most of the Town Halls and other events. Their motivation for their service is simple, “Keep Valley Glen safe, clean, and friendly.

Derek Zornizer
2 Years – Valley Glenner

Derek is a marketing professional and data analyst. He and his, wife, Lisa, love their street and their neighbors! Derek has been active on the VGNA “Clean Team” and has lent a big hand in managing the audio-visual at our Town Halls. Derek says, “I feel lucky to live where I do, and I’m interested in giving back in ways that I can whenever possible.”

Soraya Dosaj
32 years – Valley Glenner

Soraya is a public school librarian loves who loves Valley Glen. She is a dedicated member of the VGNA Clean Team and wants to reduce overcrowding and “trashiness” in our neighborhoods. Soraya is inspired by “people who are not afraid to roll up their sleeves and do something to improve Valley Glen.” She enjoys reading, dining out, hiking, concerts, and traveling.
Tony Richelieu  
15 years – Valley Glenner

Tony is an attorney by profession, but loves to get outside for gardening and exercise in his spare time. He is also a passionate cook. Tony likes the combination of L.A. weather and friendliness in his neighborhood. He would like to improve cleanliness in Valley Glen, and he really puts his back into the VGNA “Clean Team”. His desire is to “keep Valley Glen vibrant”.

Michael Rosenzweig  
8 years – Valley Glenner

Michael is a commercial property manager. He likes Valley Glen because “it feels more suburban than it is.” He and his wife and two kids get out frequently to entertainment and parks all over Southern California. Michael loves to fly planes. Somehow, he finds time for the VGNA. He is a past Treasurer, serves on planning committees, and delivers newsletters in his grid.

Cosmo Moore  
1.5 years – Valley Glenner

Cosmo is a stay-at-home dad and football coach. He, his wife, and son enjoy peaceful walks in Sunnyslope Square. He was proactive in getting gangs out of the vacant lot behind his home, has been a big supporter of VGNA events and causes, and has volunteered to help deliver newsletters. Cosmo says he wants to do his part in making Valley Glen “a better place for his son to grow up.”

Sales Gallery & Models Now Open

A new community of spacious single-family homes available for purchase in Valley Glen. Featuring contemporary urban design in a commuter-friendly location near shopping, dining, and recreation opportunities along the Tujunga Wash Greenway.

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Square footages are approximate only. Details may vary considerably and are subject to change without notice. Price effective as of date of publication and subject to change without notice. All renderings are artist’s conceptions and are not necessarily to scale.

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

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Spring Events

Friday, March 09, 2018
"Oasis in Space" Planetarium Show
Friday, March 9, 8:00 PM
Location: Planetarium (PLN)

Saturday, March 17, 2018
LAVC All-Steinway Celebration Benefit Concert
Saturday, March 17, 7:30 PM
Location: Theater Arts (TA) Main Stage
Theater - Mainstage Theater

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
DuselForty58 (String Quartet with Saxophones)
Wednesday, March 21, 1:00 PM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106

Saturday, March 24, 2018
LAVC Guitar Series Concert
Saturday, March 24, 8:00 PM
Location: Music (M) Recital Hall 106

LAVC Fine and Performing Arts Calendar of Events:
http://www.lavc.edu/Master-calendar/Arts.aspx
20 Years Experience as an Independent Agent & 20 Years as a Valley Glen Resident

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- **LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE**: Protect your savings, reduce the burden on your children, and maintain your independence. I will show you great options with the best value to meet your goals.
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- **ANNUITIES**: Participate in the market without the risk. Ask me how to get income for life.

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stevemalis@earthlink.net

Valley Glen residents.

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Esther & Keith Hickman
kehickman@compass.com
310.600.7306 | Esther | CalBRE: 01993403
310.779.8189 | Keith | CalBRE: 02003065
Join us in our 2018 VGNA Sponsoring Membership Drive

Dear Neighbor,

We are thrilled to have celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association (VGNA) this past year. Looking ahead in 2018, we are excited by our mission initiatives and their positive impact for our community.

As you know the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association is a non-profit organization dependent upon volunteers, advertisers, and neighborhood sponsorship.

In 2017 the VGNA:

- Fielded our monthly “Clean Team” to beautify neglected business and residential areas. Besides the physical labor often involved, this work also included calling in hundreds of 311 dumping and graffiti calls from every corner of Valley Glen.
- Delivered over 20,000 professionally curated newsletters that informed Valley Glen readers of valuable civic and safety information, upcoming arts and entertainment events, key developments in our schools, and meaningful personal stories about our residents.
- Hosted bi-annual mixers to create and grow a tighter knit community that sincerely cares for one another.
- Conducted quarterly Town Hall Meetings at Los Angeles Valley College that kept residents informed and involved with their neighbors, local government, law enforcement, schools, businesses, and artists.
- Managed and updated the VGNA website - an important resource for Valley Glen residents.
- Maintained a consistent, informative presence on social media, including Facebook and Next Door.
- Partnered with the LAVC Family Resource Center to help struggling families in Valley Glen.
- Partnered with the Helping Hands Project to take on homelessness in Valley Glen.
- Worked with Councilman Krekorian’s office and the Greater Valley Glen Council to address local issues.

With a growing population of 62,000 residents, the VGNA needs to grow as well to keep up with our community. To this end, the VGNA would like to invite residents of our community to become a sponsoring member and stand in solidarity with our efforts to serve and enhance our neighborhood and city experience.

With a sponsoring membership we expect you to let us know how we can improve and better serve our community. With just a $20 Annual Sponsoring Membership you can expect:

- An Invitation to our bi-annual mixers.
- Regular polling from the executive board about how you would like the VGNA to allocate its funds and energies for projects, initiatives, grants, and scholarships.

In 2018 we will continue to elevate ongoing initiatives and set new goals that will surely positively impact each and every resident in Valley Glen. With transparent and resourceful budgeting, we are confident you will see your sponsoring membership work wonders in 2018 and for years to come.

Every Valley Glen resident is a member of our community and the VGNA. We hope you will join us by sponsoring a bigger and better future for our beautiful community - rich in diversity, talents, and people.

We personally want to hear from you with any questions you might have. Please contact Esther Hickman at estherhickman@vgna.org if you would like to help or learn more about our upcoming initiatives.

With Deepest Gratitude,
The Executive Board of the VGNA
Valley Glen Neighborhood Association

Membership Application

Please provide all information requested.
Incomplete applications cannot be processed.
Please print legibly.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>Number and Street, Apt or Unit</td>
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<td>Email Address</td>
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<td>Preferred Phone</td>
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**Basis for Membership**
- ○ Reside within geographical boundaries of Greater Valley Glen.
- ○ Owner/Manager of a business located within the geographical confines of Greater Valley Glen.
- ○ Other: Please explain –

**Membership Class Requested**
- ○ General Member
- ○ Sponsoring Member (Annual Dues of $20.00)
- ○ Business Member (Required Annual Donation and/or Advertising Purchase of at least $250.00)

**Areas of Interest**
- ○ Outreach and Communications
- ○ Marketing
- ○ Grid Rep
- ○ Neighborhood Improvement Projects
- ○ Newsletter
- ○ School Support
- ○ Event Planning and Support
- ○ Public Safety
- ○ Other (explain)

*The VGNA respects your privacy and will not use your information for personal or commercial purposes.*

Valley Glen Neighborhood Association
13300 Victory Blvd., Box 385
Valley Glen, CA 91401

Phone: (818) 869-4973
e-mail: info@vgna.org
One of the great things about Valley Glen is our diversity. This column celebrates the many flavors that make up our little part of LA and tries to share those flavor experiences in some small way.

Meet Chuck and Soussan Semerciyan—Valley Glen residents since 1987. Chuck, Armenian born in Turkey, ran a leather goods business on Ventura Blvd for many years before becoming a real estate broker 21 years ago. (You may recognize Chuck’s smiling face from the occasional ads you receive in the mail.)

Soussan, who came to the US from Persia to study at Cal State, is a Registered Dietician who’s worked at Cedar Sinai for many years. The two married in 1983 and raised their two children here in Valley Glen.

Soussan shares one of her mother’s recipes—something simple, traditionally Persian, and delicious.

**Salad: E Shirazi (Persian Cucumber Salad)**

4 Persian cucumbers
5 medium, ripe tomatoes
1/3 small red onion
1/2 bunch parsley
1 green pepper
Juice of one lemon
3 TBSP olive oil
1/2 Tsp salt
1 Tsp sugar

- Peel and dice the cucumbers and red onion into 1/4-inch pieces. Dice the tomato and pepper into ⅓ inch pieces. Mince the parsley leaves (no stems).
- Mix all the ingredients and let the salad rest in the refrigerator for 15 minutes while flavors blend.
- Serve as a side dish.

Do you know someone who represents the diversity of our community? Please introduce them and share a recipe that reflects the flavors of Valley Glen. Send a note to editor@vgna.org.
Ever seen a spot along the road, on a median, or in an alley that was weedy and trashy and made our neighborhood look bad? Ever wondered why somebody doesn’t do something about it?

Actually, VGNA volunteers are doing something about it. On the last Saturday of each month whoever shows up joins our “The Clean Team” for that morning. Last year the VGNA Clean Team made a difference all over Valley Glen with several major cleanups and hundreds of fulfilled requests to remedy dumping, trash, and graffiti.

We can make even more of a difference—with a bit of a different perspective. What if we realized that it’s our Valley Glen? And that we ALL own those spots that go untended. Maybe not everyone can push a broom or chop weeds. But every one of us can do something—even something small—to take care of our neighborhood and improve Valley Glen.

Get involved. Here are several things you can do—pick one:

- **Report!**
  - Everyone can do this—report bulky items for pickup or graffiti to be cleaned up:
    - Call 311 (that’s 311 on your phone), or
    - Go online to myla311.lacity.org and submit a service request, or
    - Download the 311 app and use it.

- **Pick it Up!**
  - You can make a difference even if no one is watching. If you see litter—pick it up and pitch it in a trash can.
  - One woman encouraged her fellow park visitors to each pick up one piece of litter. It’s was a small thing—but it makes a difference for our neighborhood!

- **Join the Clean Team!**
  - Come on the last Sat of every month
  - At Valley Glen Community Park (corner of Ethel & Erwin) on Ethel Street
  - Just bring yourself—we supply the mission and the necessary tools, maps, etc.
  - Check VGNA website, e-mail, Facebook, & Next Door for the start time as it varies by season

- **Become a Representative for your Grid!**
  - Will you volunteer to observe and report to 311 for your section of Valley Glen?
  - Please contact the VGNA at: cleanup@vgna.org
  - We will help you download and learn the 311 app and coordinate with others in your grid.
  - You can eradicate the effects of dumping, trash, and graffiti in your neighborhood.

- **Get Involved!**
  - Join us for the next Town Hall on March 13th
  - Bring your cell phone—we’ll walk through how to download and use the 311 app