



THE PAPER

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

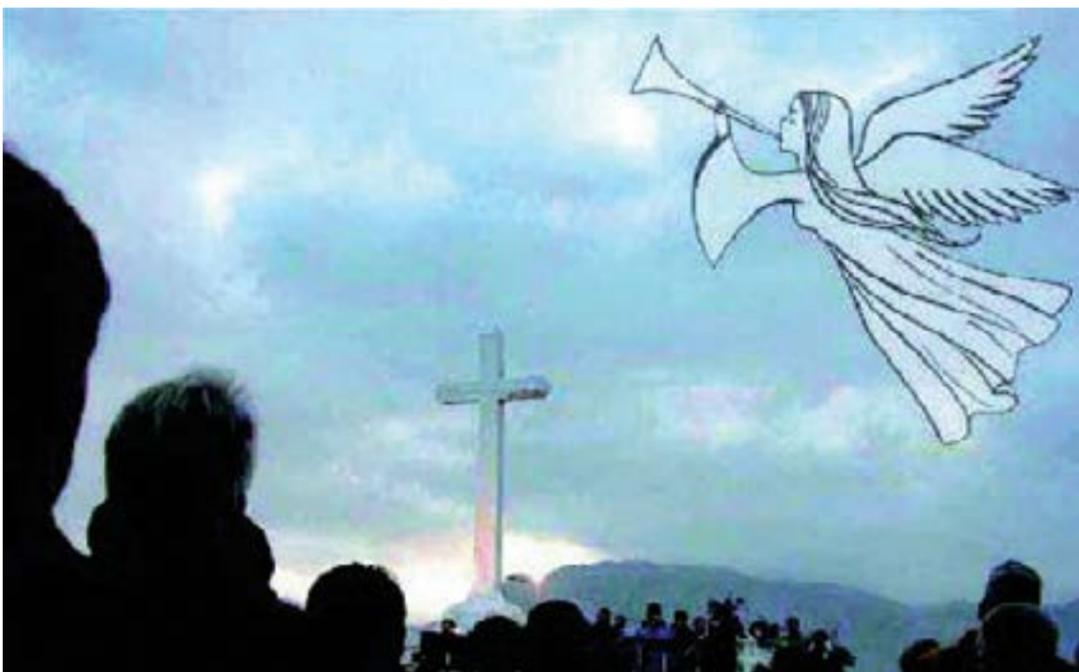
FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019

TELLING THE TRUTH FOR OVER 14 YEARS

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 5

Our Cross Has Blessed The Valley Since 1923

BY DAVID DEMULLÉ



The Annual Easter Sunrise Service, that is coordinated through the Verdugo Hills Ministerial Association (VHMA), will be a beautiful experience and a dramatic reminder of Christ's promised resurrection after his death. This service has been a Sunland-Tujunga Easter Tradition since 1926, and will be held at The Cross of San Ysidro on McGroarty Peak in Tujunga.

Vans will begin to transport people to the cross starting at 4:30 a.m., from the corner of Foothill Blvd. and Hillhaven (next to the Travel Inn). The service will begin promptly at 6 a.m. and conclude by 7 a.m.

The worship will be led by the New Hope Worship Band, along with musicians from many of the local churches.

The Verdugo Hills Ministerial Association has coordinated the service with several of the area pastors participating. In 1992, the Los Angeles Times religion editor John Dart wrote that old newspaper clippings indicate that a cross was

first erected on the peak in 1923 and was dedicated in a ceremony led by a Catholic priest. The sunrise service, which began around 1926, event and well-attended by members of the Foothill communities.

This celebration at the cross originally came about when the local ministers and Kiwanis Club members got together and started the early morning service, and it has grown to what it is today.

There are five ministers from five of the churches in the Sunland-Tujunga area that are involved providing the service. Each minister does a part of the whole service, which is nonsectarian. For 90 years, the Kiwanis Club had prepared the cross and area for the service.

On Saturday, church members clean up the area, bring up the chairs and, if it needs some touch-up work, repaint the cross. The association provides the chairs, sound system and lighting of the cross, which is lit Saturday night and stays on until after the service. All

the setting up for the service is done by association members. The preparation takes all day Saturday and a few of the members will spend the night at the cross.

There are usually around 400 to 500 people that attend the service. In the past, resident and Kiwanis member Sandy Miller dedicated a lot of time and energy in putting on the Easter Sunrise Service as a service to the community. Although she passed away 12 years ago, her family continues his dedication in putting on the Easter Sunrise ceremony. To honor the decades of work by Miller, who was the heart and soul of the annual service, the Miller family has continued to provide the assistance needed to enjoy this year's sunrise service.

The VHMA is grateful for for the physical and financial support the Miller family has provided over the decades.

Continued on Page 3

EASTER AND KIDS EGGTAVAGANZA!!

Summit Christian Church invites you to celebrate for a special Easter Under the Oaks for the resurrection of Christ celebration! Summit kids will join in an Easter Eggtavaganza!

The real story of the resurrection will be highlighted by an egg hunt, games and a bounce house.

The Sunday April 21st outdoor Canyon Service begins at 10:30 am. Come

to: 9641 Tujunga Canyon Blvd., right off the 210 freeway.

Visit additional Sunday Services, 10:30 am, pastored by Scott and Connie Le La Cheur or click onto SummitChristianChurch.org.

For children info, contact Pastors Mike and Margaret Wood at MMchildren-Mineaol.com. The church phone number is (818) 353-1138



The gathering will be on the hillside directly behind the church under a lush canopy of oaks. The foundation of a turn of the century cabin serves as our stage and we give thanks to God for His Easter message of Hope surrounded by His creation. Everyone is welcome and we have something special planned for the kids as well.

Candidate Meet and Greet had great turnout!



Continued on Page 3

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GRASS FED, GRASS FINISHED CORNED BEEF
PICK SOME UP TODAY!

Well boys & girls and all those in between, the STNC is coming in the next 2 weeks. And what an election this will be. A couple of years ago, we had the largest turnout of neighbors in the history of Sunland-Tujunga. All because I declared it to be a race between the Armo's and the Red Necks. Boy did that get everybody excited. 1,200 people showed up. And those who lost, lost by 4 or 5 votes.

This STNC election isn't going to be that much different. Only this time the players have gotten older and wiser. And so have their public relations people. Half of those running are members of the cartel. Cartel? You ask. Yup. The

cartel as put together by Ms. Sonia Tatulian, is one of the most intelligent groups to ever plan the take-over of our community.

Tatulian with her minion Roger Swart, orchestrated the coming election by getting all her followers into the STNC Elections Committee. And from within, they then began to methodically arrange for distribution of city funds to her friends businesses and the dissemination of fake information about the other candidates platforms. Roger Swart took over the social media stage and the attacks on non-cartel candidates. *AND, it was completely legal said Christopher Garcia, head of the L.A. City Elections*

Committee.

Paid for signage and banners were conveniently delayed until almost the last day for candidates to sign up. Tatulian arranged with the elections committee to receive the majority of newspaper advertising funds and the exclusion of "local" newspapers to participate. AND, it was all legal. Because as one city worker said "no one had ever done that before!" And if it wasn't in the elections handbook, it wasn't illegal.

So what do we have here? We've got what the cartel calls "The Crooked Bunch" now being called the "Slate." We have the "Slate" now being called the "Cartel." Same people,

just different names, all in the same game of "Let's take over Sunland-Tujunga." Now don't get me wrong, THEY AREN'T DOING ANYTHING ILLEGAL! Just a bit unethical. But what the hell, this is Sunland-Tujunga.

Should you take the time to go vote? YES!! Because everyone here has a stake in what is going to happen in the next two years. This coming election is going to be a popularity contest. Most of you readers haven't the slightest idea of what our Neighborhood council



does and how it keeps things flowing here. But that's what our council does, keeps things running orderly.

If for no other reason, come vote to keep the "other" side from winning. *And while you're at it, remember that whatever happens, It was the water!*



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sierra Club Meeting



The Crescenta Valley Sierra Club presents, Bruce Hale's, The Mysteries of Easter Island, on Tuesday at 7:30 pm, May 14, at the Los Angeles County Public Library located at 2809 Foothill Boulevard, La Crescenta, California.

Bruce, a Sierra Club member and frequent presenter will give a slide show describing his recent visit to this isolated island, now a part of Chile in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Learn about the Rapanui

people who first arrived around the 5th Century AD. Today descendants still live on this tiny island proud of their heritage. The Rapanui reflect a story of survival, most famous for the huge stone statues on the island facing the sea. What was the purpose of these statues? How did the Rapanui move them from the quarry? How did the Rapanui navigate their canoes over 2000 miles on the Pacific? Why were the statues knocked down? Are any of Thor Heyerdahl's theories correct? Who cut down the last tree? Bruce will discuss these and other topics while showing pictures of the island and statues.

Our program begins following news of Conservation and Outings. This is a free program and everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. Please contact Wayne Fisher, Program Chair for further information at 818 353-4181.

Candidate Meet and Greet had great turnout!

Continued from Page 1

With all but 2 candidates showing up for the meeting with about 33 stakeholders, the candidates meeting was a success. The event was live streamed to social media sites and had over 300 views. Under the direction of STNC president Dana Stangel, questions were asked of the candidates and their replies carefully scrutinized by the rows of community members. It

was a "peaceful" meeting and everyone got along ignoring their different opinions. Maybe one of the factors leading up the peacefulness could have been the great food from Leo's Pizza. I for one and other community members had been complaining about the 36" piece of dead cardboard pretending to be pizza that had been found at previous STNC events.

Hansen Dam Fire

click on photo to see video



Another fire in Hansen Dam set by a homeless person. No one was injured.

Our Cross Has Blessed The Valley Since 1923

Continued from Page 1

This year the VHMA is responsible for continuing the Easter Sunrise Service tradition to the community. The music group Tapestry from New Hope Community Church will be leading the worship with their pastor Eddie Ledesma bringing the

message titled "Wake Up."

Pastors from the community of Sunland-Tujunga will be sharing in scripture readings and prayers. You will not want to miss this special time of worship and praise as we watch the sunrise as we celebrate the

Risen SON.

Come early to ensure that you will have enough time to be transported up the hill. For additional information, please contact Bob Snyder at pastorbob@churchofthefoothills.com or on the VHMA Facebook.

Those who wish transportation should meet at the intersection of Foothill and Hillhaven by the Travel Inn between the hours of 4:30 and 5:45 a.m.



Associated Press



L.A. Press Club



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NOW HIRING: WILDFIRE CLEAN UP CREWS TO CLEAR DEBRIS IN FIRE-PRONE NORTHEAST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY



Wildfire cleanup crews at work in the NE Valley

Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez announced new jobs to support wildfire debris clean up in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, particularly in the communities impacted by the La Tuna and Creek Fires. The jobs will be prioritized for veterans and individuals affected by these 2017 wildfires.

Councilwoman Rodriguez, in partnership with the City's Economic Workforce Development Department, secured a \$500,000 state grant to fund positions and improve the public trails and spaces damaged by the fires. This funding complements current debris cleanup efforts in the Seventh Council District -- in 2018, the Councilwoman secured \$1 million to fund 70 full-time positions to remove wildfire debris, burned vegetation, and repair trails at several areas burned in the 2017 wildfires: McGroarty Arts Center in Sunland-Tujunga,

Lopez Canyon Landfill in Sylmar, Hansen Dam in Lake View Terrace, City-owned land at Eldridge/Harding in Sylmar, and La Tuna Canyon hillsides. In the 2018 program, brush was cleared along 25 miles of horse and foot trails in La Tuna Canyon, several thousand feet of burnt methane pipes were removed at Lopez Canyon, and debris was cleared in these high fire severity risk areas.

"We don't want a repeat of the recent devastating fires," said Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez. "This debris cleanup is one example of how we can do further preventative work to reduce the risk of these destructive fires."

For more information on the program and how to apply, please call Noel Khoshabou, Program Manager at (213) 355-5304 or Abigail Portillo, Case Manager at (213) 355-5300.

WHAT'S HAPPENING in the FOOTHILLS

Kids Easter Eggstravaganza!

Summit KIDS

Invite you to join us as we Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. There will be lots of fun with an Egg Hunt, The Easter Story, Games, a Bounce House and Much, Much, More! (ages 3-11 are welcome)

For more information
Contact: Pastor Mike & Margaret Wood
818 353-1138
MmChildrenMin@aol.com

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Spring Eggstravaganza

Saturday April 20, 2019

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12:00 PM - Ages 4-5 years
12:30 PM - Ages 6-7 years
1:00 PM - Ages 8-12 years

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APRIL 27**

**VARTAN
KESHISH**

REGION 1

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Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
VARTAN KESHISH
 For Region 1 Representative

I’m running for Region 1 Representative of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council because I want to:

- ✓ Improve Public Safety
- ✓ Improve Our Roads
- ✓ Work with our community groups and organizations
- ✓ Give back to my community



I am knowledgeable about our community’s Land Use and will help to improve our neighborhoods.

My favorite things about Sunland-Tujunga are our beautiful mountains, our small town and our peaceful and quiet community.

I believe in local control for our community, not the control of those outside the community who want to take over local control. I’m standing up for Sunland-Tujunga because I believe in what we have here and how important it is for us to protect and keep it. If you want to protect our quality of life, improve our community and keep our community’s unique character then please vote for me.

I cannot be bought and no one is controlling me. I do not accept any donations. I look forward to your vote and serving our community.

Must be present to Vote and Show ID that you Live, Work, Own Property or have a Community Interest in Sunland-Tujunga

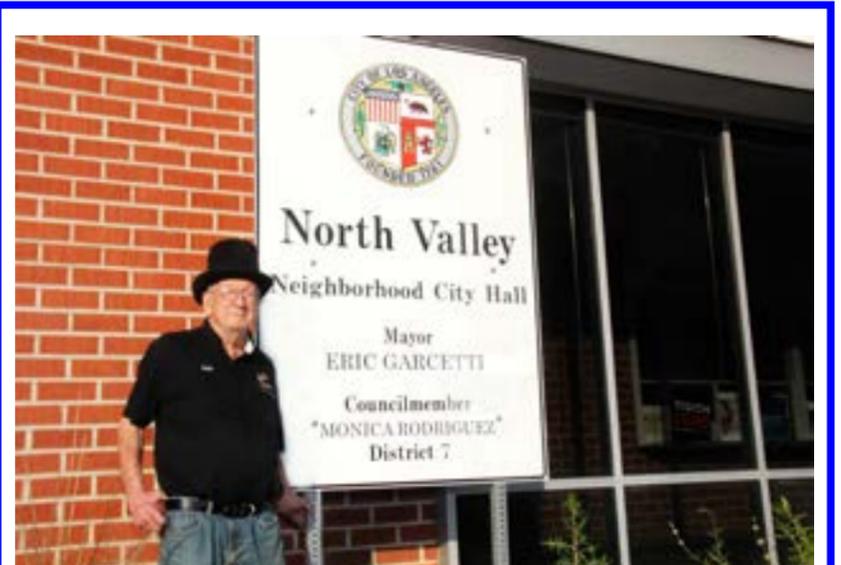
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I’m John Clausen and I’m running for Group Representative of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council. I was born in Los Angeles and have lived in Tujunga for over 70 years.

I went to Pinewood Elementary and Verdugo Hills High School and have had a business in Sunland-Tujunga for over 50 years. I have watched Sunland-Tujunga grow over the years and I feel that I really know what it needs to continue its growth.

I have been in the Chamber of Commerce for over 50 years, held the office of chamber president and was elected Honorary Mayor. I am a trustee in the Sunland-Tujunga Elks Lodge and have a great rapport with everyone in our community. (I fixed most of their plumbing problems.)

I want to be a Group Representative for our council so that I can continue helping our community expand its business base, and help beautify Foothill Blvd. and make Commerce Ave. a great place to shop. Vote for me April 27th.

HAPPY EASTER



WHAT'S UP DUC?

Verdugo Hills Liquor Store
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ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBERANCE MARCH!

by David DeMullé

One hundred and four years ago, independent observers reported to their governments that the ottoman Turks were systematically eradicating Christian villages and people throughout the country. And the death toll continued to rise until over 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered.

The Turkish government refuses to acknowledge their responsibility. Next Wednesday, April 24 is the 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In past years, over 100 thousand people marched on the Turkish Council General in Los Angeles, in remembrance of those lives lost and to demand that the

Turkish government acknowledge their act.

Fittingly it was called the March for Justice and the marchers walking hand in hand filled the streets from sidewalk to sidewalk as they marched the six miles from Sunset Blvd. and Western to the Turkish Consulate General on Wilshire Blvd.

More than 200 Armenian-Americans gathered at the Great Caesars Banquet Hall last year, where owner Hamlet provided coffee, tea and cookies, as well as coordinating the buses to

take the Sunland-Tujunga residents to the beginning point of the march.

If you want to join the

marchers, be at GREAT CAESAR'S BANQUET HALL, 6723 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, by 8:00 AM.





“To leave the world a bit better...”

words by Ralph Waldo Emerson that I strive to live by.

I would like to represent our Sunland-Tujunga stakeholders as your new 2019 STNC president.

I intend to work with our Board members and give voice in City Hall to our diverse community, which I have called home for over 20 years.

My Community Contributions Include:

- Caregiver who specializes in care of local seniors and their quality of life
- A proud grassroots environmentalist activist who spearheaded the purchase of The Big Tujunga Canyon Park property, which is now owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- The first Latina serving on the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council’s Land Use Committee
- Served on the STNC Mission College Committee that brought our long awaited (since 2009) Satellite Mission College to Sunland-Tujunga, opened in 2016
- Worked with S.A.F.E. Coalition against the High Speed Rail threat
- Sunland-Tujunga Homeless Working Group member 2012-2015
- A Visiting Hospice Volunteer
- Dance Instructor

Liliana Sánchez for STNC 2019 president

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SUNLAND TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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BAKIAN-KOROGHLYAN

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EMER STNC TREASURER
EMER DONE COMMISSIONER



SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CANDIDATE FOR REGION 1 REPRESENTATIVE



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:
SUNLAND TUJUNGA DREAM TEAM FOR STNC

VOTE ANA ORUDYAN

CURRENT WOMEN EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR
COME OUT & VOTE ON APRIL 27TH
JOIN ME IN MAKING SUNLAND TUJUNGA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FOR ALL OF US, A PLACE WE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME

SUNLAND TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
VOTE FOR POLET ABOOLIAN
CANDIDATE AT LARGE GROUP REPRESENTATIVE



Volunteer at Mountain View School for the last 6 years, PTA & School Site Council member

VOTE FOR POLET ON APRIL 27 REPRESENTING SCHOOL & PARENTS

SUNLAND TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
VOTE FOR ROXANA POPESCU
CANDIDATE FOR REGION 2 REPRESENTATIVE



There's no progress without evolution & no evolution without change!
Join me to make it happen

VOTE FOR ROXANA ON APRIL 27

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CANDIDATE FOR REGION 3 REPRESENTATIVE



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:
SUNLAND TUJUNGA DREAM TEAM FOR STNC

VOTE RAFI SHAHEENIAN

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON APRIL 27TH
JOIN ME IN MAKING SUNLAND TUJUNGA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FOR ALL OF US, A PLACE WE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
CANDIDATE FOR REGION 4 REPRESENTATIVE



CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK:
SUNLAND TUJUNGA DREAM TEAM FOR STNC

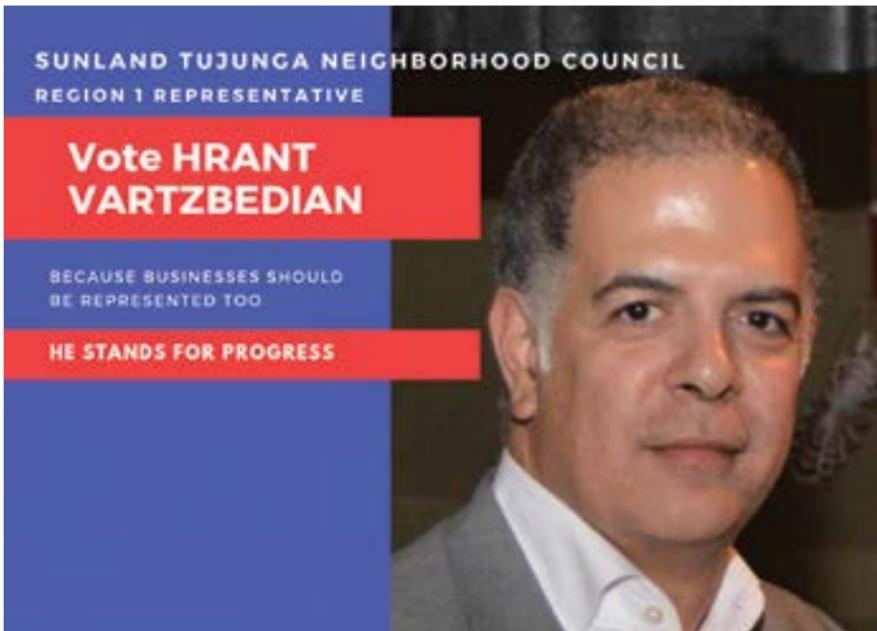
VOTE ARAZ PARSEGHIAN

COMMISSIONER AT NORTH VALLEY AREA PLANNING
VOTE ON APRIL 27TH
JOIN ME IN MAKING SUNLAND TUJUNGA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FOR ALL OF US, A PLACE WE ARE PROUD TO CALL HOME

CINDY CLEGHORN for Secretary

- *Communication*
- *Integrity*
- *Transparency*
- *Responsible*

VOTE on APRIL 27



I'm Hrant Vartzbedian, business owner in Region 1 of Sunland Tujunga, serving the Neighborhood Council since 2016 as businesses representative and now a candidate as Region 1 representative, member of the Sunland Tujunga Chamber of Commerce and currently serving as President, manager of the Western District of AGBU, the world's largest Armenian philanthropic organization with Chapters all around the world, married and father to three.

This neighborhood has to become more business friendly because businesses need to be heard at the Neighborhood Council too, because small businesses are the backbone of rural communities, because having empty lots and deserted store fronts on your main streets will only hurt your neighborhood, we've got to think of the bigger picture and the health of the community as a whole.

Because experiences and fresh ideas are needed to revamp a town that is asking to thrive, residents need safety and security, kids need their parks, pools and ice rinks.

Let's make Region 1 the best One, there's a challenge. Now go out and Vote on April 27th.



I'm Sevada Hemelians, a resident of Sunland Tujunga since 2005, and current Secretary of the Neighborhood Council since February 2018. Life is all about Balance. Be Kind, but don't let people abuse you. Trust, but don't be deceived. Be content, but never stop improving yourself. This philosophy has guided me through many moments in my life. I've spent years working and serving within my community, finding the balance of public, private and non-profit organizations but most importantly, always striving to improve my surroundings, and in turn, myself. Now, its time to continue serve my community even further by declaring my candidacy for President of the Board. I look forward to working with the other Board Members, community stakeholders on maintaining and furthering our unique community, which is unlike any of the other LA neighborhoods.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

They Call Themselves the Dream Team I Consider them a Nightmare

People watch TV and read stories in the news about corruption in our city's government, but the problem is that they don't realize that there's corruption right here in our community. Citizens have a right to know what is going on, and to have an opportunity to stop it from getting even worse.

There is a group of people running for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) who do not have the best interests of the community at heart. They already have demonstrated their incompetence at their jobs on the STNC. Worse, they don't follow Neighborhood Council rules, guidelines, or bylaws – just like the politicians that we read and hear about. This doesn't represent all of us in the community.

They harass community leaders. They threaten individuals. At least one of these candidates, Arnie Abramyan, has been captured multiple times on film assaulting people who dare speak out against them. He has left threatening, harassing, profanity-laden voicemails (many of which have been recorded and preserved). He also has a criminal record. Is this the kind of individual we want representing our community?

Let's give you another example: Sonia Tatulian, Roger Swart (Elections Committee members and Arnie Abramyan and others running for the STNC have been secretly helping Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez since she was on the L.A. City Public Works Commission. They want to change our community drastically, and they've engaged in a concerted campaign to destroy the good reputations of hardworking volunteers, some of whom are on the STNC or have been. It may take a while for the authorities to sort this out but its urgent that we stop it by all getting out and voting on April 27 – every vote counts.

The STNC Election Committee, which by law should be impartial, is actively promoting their own candidates while removing campaign literature from those they oppose. Emails reveal them engaging in

behind the scenes discussions about things that are supposed to be open and transparent so that the community can learn what's going on. They're intentionally keeping the community in the dark.

Roger (Rock) Swart and Sonia Tatulian are on the STNC Elections Committee. They routinely abuse their position by prohibiting lawful campaign activities by anyone but their slate – the Dream Team. They routinely violate community members' First Amendment rights. Mr. Swart describes himself proudly as a "senior volunteer" for Councilwoman Rodriguez. Again, are these the kinds of people who should be entrusted with our community's future?

Sevada Hemelians is running for president. Mr. Hemelians does not think the rules apply to him. He has not done his job as Secretary. He has not updated the STNC website such as current bylaws and standing rules. Shooshig Avakian Koroghlyan is running for First Vice President. She previously had to resign from the STNC to avoid punishment for mishandling STNC funds as she clearly stated at a candidate forum. Furthermore, Neighborhood Council representatives from across the City of Los Angeles sent multiple emails and messages requesting the Mayor remove her as a commissioner for lack of attendance. Her neglect of duty resulted in quorums not being met and the cancellation of meetings people had driven from all over the City to attend.

Sandy Capps is running for Treasurer. Ms. Capps has attacked STNC and community members and engaged in her own "investigations" of private citizens, intentionally damaging their reputation with malicious lies. She conveniently ignored the alleged crime which occurred while Ms. Avakian Koroghlyan was treasurer because they are friends.

Hrant Vartzbedian, owner of Code Blue and president of the Chamber of Commerce, has the most complained about building in our community and is violating building codes and

for not following the law. He's running for Region 1 representative. Hrant stated at the candidate forum that he would like to see eight story "stack and pack" buildings and Foothill Blvd. to have lots of night clubs. He doesn't even live here. He lives in Glendale.

These individuals have a single goal: Elect their chosen slate of candidates to take over the STNC and pack it with members controlled by Councilwoman Rodriguez. To do so they are willing – indeed, eager – to destroy the reputations of hard working people who combined have decades of experience and proven records of helping the community.

The Neighborhood Council's job is not to be friends with Councilwoman Rodriguez. It's to be the people's voice at City Hall and to hold the City Council's feet to the fire. Obviously Councilwoman Rodriguez is afraid of this kind of democratic oversight. Why is this plan to divide our community being put into place. The answer is that they have plans for our community and they need to get rid of the people who will stand in their way.

Not all the slate candidates are bad, but it's hard to trust those that have chosen to run with such a corrupt group.

If you feel quality of life in our community has declined – more homeless, more crime, more fires, gridlock, increased traffic deaths, lack of enforcement, and all the rest that's become depressingly familiar – then know that these candidates intend more of the same and perhaps worse. They don't care about you and me, they care about their own agenda and their cozy relationship with Councilwoman Rodriguez.

That is, if you don't stand up and help us save our community.

People say that votes don't count but in this type of election, one vote can make the difference.

I recommend as good choices to vote for only the following. If you see these names on the ballot, vote for them only.

Liliana Sanchez - President

Lydia Grant – 1st Vice President, Community Improvement

Nina Royal – 2nd Vice President, Outreach

Cindy Cleghorn – Secretary

Lallah Rowe – At Large Group Representative

Jon von Gunten – Group Rep – Neighborhood Watch

Vartan Keshish – Region 1 Rep

Arsen Karamians – Region 2 Rep

Pati Potter – Region 4 Rep

Carol Hutchinson – Region 4 Rep

John Clausen – Group Rep – Elks Lodge

They will make sure that the community remains informed and has a voice in decisions that affect all of us. They will return our Neighborhood Council to its former status, when it was one of the most well-regarded and efficient councils in the system.

We all deserve a Neighborhood Council that fosters a positive environment, welcomes everyone to the table, and gives our community a voice in the laws and actions of our City and City Council.

Susan Morgan
Long Time Sunland-Tujunga Resident

Great Fishing 101 event at Hansen Dam this past weekend!

click on photo to see video



Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez partnered with the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, LA Rod and Reel, Guppies Fishing Adventures, and the Discovery Cube Los Angeles to host a fun fishing event for local kids -- teaching the basics of how to fish,

and cast and reel the catch into the net. Hansen Dam Aquatic Center is home to the largest municipal pool in America and is a fantastic City facility for everyone in the family. Stay tuned for more great events like this at Hansen Dam this summer.

GO VOTE

ASK RUSTY

WIDOW ASKS ABOUT SURVIVOR BENEFITS



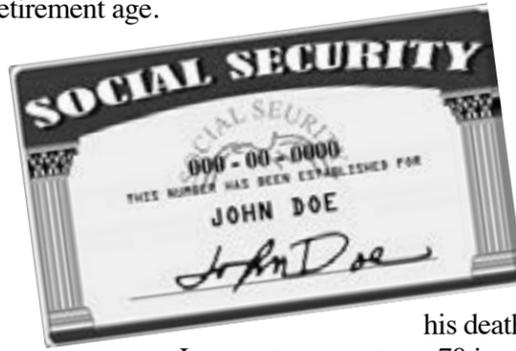
by AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor Russell Gloor, Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I am a Veteran. My husband passed away 7 years ago at the age of 64, at which time he was receiving SS Disability. I was 58 at the time he passed and could not apply for his Social Security. I was still working but let SS know he was deceased, so his check was no longer deposited. I am now 65 and my age to reach full benefits

without penalty is 66. I plan to work three more years before applying for Social Security. My question is: Can I apply for my deceased husband's SS benefits now and not my own without any penalties? And if so, what is the process? Thank you for your time and the information and resources you provide. Signed: Widowed Wife

Dear Widowed: Yes, as a widow you have the choice of claiming either your survivor's benefit or your own benefit but claiming either before your full retirement age will reduce it. If you claim your survivor's benefit before you reach age 66 it will be somewhat reduced from 100% of what your husband was receiving when he passed. Since you're now 65, the reduction won't be too severe (about 0.4% for each month before your

full retirement age of 66). Your own benefit would be reduced by about 0.69% for each month before your full retirement age.



I suggest you evaluate which of your future benefits will be greater – the survivor benefit at maximum or your own benefit at maximum. Your survivor benefit reaches maximum at your full retirement age of 66, but your own SS benefit can continue to grow until age 70 when it would be 32% more than it would be at age 66. You may want to set a goal to claim in such a way that you

can get the highest benefit for the rest of your life. If you know what your own benefit will be at your full retirement age, add 32% to that, and compare that number to the benefit your husband was receiving at his death. If your own at age 70 is more than he was receiving, then it would be wise to take the survivor benefit first and let your own grow by 8% per year until 70 and then switch from the survivor benefit to your own. If your survivor benefit at your FRA will be greater than your own at age 70, then it would be wise to let the survivor benefit grow to maximum at your full retirement age and claim it then.

In any case, to answer

your question – yes, you can apply for your reduced benefits as a widow now or wait until you're 66 to get the full benefit, and the way to do that is to contact Social Security directly and request your benefit as your husband's widow. Survivor's benefit cannot be applied for online, so you should call Social Security (find your local office at www.ssa.gov/locator) and request an appointment to apply for survivor benefits. When you make your appointment, Social Security will advise you if they'll require any additional documentation. And if you wish to let your own benefit grow to age 70, then be sure to specify you are applying only for your survivor benefit, not your Social Security retirement benefit.

Reflections and glare create dangerous driving conditions



Motorists can be blinded by the sun when going east in the morning

As we brace for more hot weather, there may be an increase in the number of traffic accidents due to motorists being temporarily blinded by the sun, mainly because of the glare from highly reflective surfaces.

Sun glare not only endangers drivers' safety, but can also create a vision-health hazard for outdoor enthusiasts.

On top of the heat, we also have problems associated with glare from the sun while driving that are largely unrecognized, but likely affect the vast majority of adults. It also appears that as people age, they become more susceptible to glare and require a longer period of time to recover from exposure to it. In

discussing the matter with Officer Baltera of the Foothills Traffic Division, he states, "The danger comes primarily from two different conditions of light from the sun. One occurs when driving directly into the bright sunlight, temporarily blinding the driver. The other condition comes from reflected light off of another vehicle, the roadway or any reflective surface."

This glare-induced "blindness" is especially prevalent during the summer months, due to the lower elevation of the sun in the sky in the morning. As we used to comment in our regular "Wrecks of the Week," there are lots of good reasons to SLOW DOWN AND LIVE!

Obituaries

**WILLIAM (BILL) RATHFELDER
June 20, 1929 - March 26, 2019**

William (Bill) Rathfelder, 89, passed away peacefully in Glendale, Ca on March 26, 2019. He was born to Charles and Lillian Rathfelder in Los Angeles, CA, on June 20, 1929. Bill was the eldest of his siblings, brother Chuck, and sister JoAnn.

Bill married his first love Dorothy and they moved to La Crescenta in 1954 to make their home and start a family. Bill and Dorothy had two boys, David and Robert.

Bill spent most of his career working at Lockheed Aircraft in Burbank, involved on a multitude of military & commercial aircraft, including helicopters. Some of the more notable programs were the Super Constellation, F-104, L-1011, F-117A, and U-2. He retired in 1994.

Bill attended Mount Olive Lutheran Church in La Crescenta and remained actively involved in many things including playing the hand bells and choir.

As an avid amateur beekeeper for most of his adult life, Bill became

a member of LA County Beekeepers Assn, where he was very active and served as Treasurer for over 10 years.

Bill found great enjoyment anytime that he was outdoors in nature and travelling on numerous adventures with his close companion Marguerite Keating – often spending time in the mountains, tending to fruit trees and his prized varieties of lilacs.

Bill is survived by his two

sons, David and Bob, and four grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by all.

Crafters of Sunland/Tujunga

Spring Boutique

May 5, 2018

11:00 am to 5:00 pm

At Our New Venue:

Lutheran Church in The Foothills
2700 Foothill Blvd.
La Canada, Ca. 91021
(Near the YMCA and the 2 Flax)

If you have any questions, feel free to message Melody Kishimoto on our Facebook Group Page:
Crafters of Sunland/Tujunga



SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

STANDING UP FOR SUNLAND-TUJUNGA PROTECTING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY

This group of dedicated community leaders consists of long-time residents and business owners.
Our mission is:

- ✓ To be open and transparent
- ✓ Promote progress without overdevelopment
- ✓ Commit to keeping our community informed
- ✓ Improve Public Safety (crime/traffic/fire issues)
- ✓ Outreach to our youth and seniors



Liliana Sanchez
PRESIDENT



Lydia Grant
1st VICE PRESIDENT
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT



Nina Royal
2nd VICE PRESIDENT
OUTREACH



Cindy Cleghorn
SECRETARY



Lallah Rowe
AT-LARGE GROUP
REPRESENTATIVE



Jon von Gunten
GROUP REP
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



Vartan Keshish
REGION 1
REPRESENTATIVE



Arsen Karamians
REGION 2
REPRESENTATIVE



Pati Potter
REGION 4
REPRESENTATIVE



Carol Hutchinson
REGION 4
REPRESENTATIVE

Vote for us on Saturday, April 27, 2019

Vote anytime between 12noon & 6pm at North Valley City Hall
Auditorium (next to library) 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga

You will need to show ID so they know which Region ballot to give you. ID can be a driver's license, ID card, ID showing you work in Sunland-Tujunga, DWP bill, something with your Sunland-Tujunga address. Immigration status will not be checked! Just prove you live here!

Together, we will help maintain our community's unique character

standup4sunlandtujunga.com