Tara & April's-

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

DECEMBER 2012

YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT IS ENGLOSED!

For 15 years, we've been delivering annual calendars to clients, friends, and our "Wood Streets" neighborhood... a tradition we look forward to every winter holiday.

The magnetic calendars include a special adhesive strip on the back of the magnet which enables them to go almost anywhere (stainless steel appliances, wood, plastic, glass, etc.) and they are *repositionable*!

In addition to our magnetic calendars, we also have large wall calendars, so please let us know if you need an extra one for your office, for a friend, or for your vacation home.

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Getting Through ALL of the December Holidays

If you're Christian, wish others a Merry Christmas. If you're African American/Canadian, wish others a "Joyous Kwanzaa'. If you're Jewish, wish others a "Happy Hanukkah". Or simply wish others "Happy Holidays". No one should be offended. We should all be thankful that others care enough to wish us well.

While **Christmas** is the most widely celebrated in the United States, there is no shortage of other holidays to commemorate the month of December.

Hanukkah is not the holiest of Jewish holidays (that would be Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement), but it commemorates the rededication of the temple of Jerusalem and begins December 8 this year.

Yule, another name for the Winter Solstice, on December 21, was celebrated centuries before Jesus Christ was born and marked a turning point in the season when the worst of winter was over.

Kwanzaa (Swahili for 'first fruits") is a non-religious African American holiday celebrating family, community, and culture that started in 1966 and begins on December 26 thru January 1.

Please share the love this holiday season and remember that our similarities bring us together, yet our differences keep us interesting!

Holiday Wishes from "The Sister Team"

Wishing each and every one of you a happy holiday season and the best wishes ever for the new year!

Warmest regards,



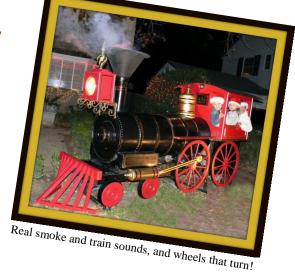




4th Annual

"Cookies with Santa

Come visit with Santa! He will be making a special appearance at 3943 Chapman Place (the house with the train) Sunday, December 9th 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.



Santa will be handing out candy canes too!

Santa's helpers will be serving hot chocolate and cookies for children and adults. Don't forget your camera!

For more than half a century, the spirited residents of Chapman Place have banded together to decorate their homes for the season, and in a big way! There is a four-page article in the December issue of Riverside Magazine (pg 32). HOLIDAYS & TRADITION



Merry Christmas!





Friends Referring Friends!

A great referral is when you introduce someone you care about, to someone you trust....

The Brown Family (referred by Jeff and Julie Olson)

Tiffani Costa

Gary and Gerry Eldred (referred by Scott and Kris Sawyer, past and treasured clients)

Daniel and Candyce McCloud

Paul and Micki Merlino

Mark and Liz Ostoich (past and treasured clients)

Don Rayner and Darlene Cook Susan Soares

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

Absolutely NO ONE sells more homes in The Wood Streets neighborhood than "The Sister Team"!!

we **LIVE** in the neighborhood, we **WORK** in the neighborhood, we **KNOW** the neighborhood, we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!

www.TheSisterTeam.com

December Quiz Question

How many years does it take for most pine trees to grow to six feet, the average height of a Christmas tree?

Everyone (any age) responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

a \$25 VISA gift card to use wherever you like, just like cash!

Drawing to be held on 12/23/2012



October Quiz Answer

Question: 'Cascade', 'horsetail', 'plunge', and 'tiered' are types of what?

Answer: Waterfalls.

Congratulations to Tristan Jackson

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$25 VISA gift card!



PHOTO BY JERRY RICE Daniel Cocco will greet guests at the Mission Inn and Laurel Hampton-Hunt will serve one of the four courses during the Twelfth Night Celebration and Progressive Dinner.

The Old Riverside Foundation

invites you to their

Twelfth Night Celebration and Progressive Dinner

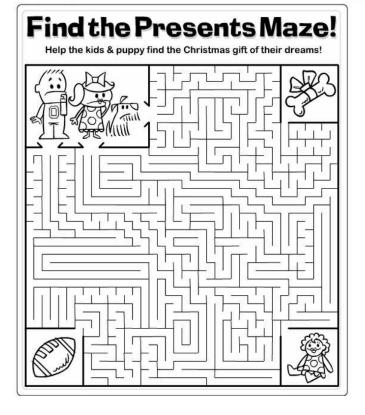
January 4 and 5, 2013 with seating at 6:30 and 8:00

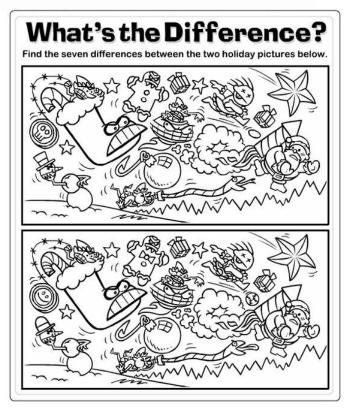
The Old Riverside Foundation wants to give you an opportunity to relive the grand English tradition of Twelfth Night!

Traditionally, Twelfth Night is on January 5th (the 12th day after Christmas), and has for centuries been the culmination of the 12-day Christmas season (thus the *Twelve Days of Christmas* holiday song). Guests are encouraged to wear period dress or semi-formal attire. Event benefits the foundation's historic preservation projects.

The four-course progressive dinner, which includes fine wines and tempting desserts, will begin at the Mission Inn staging area. Celebrants will then be transported via horse-drawn carriages to their respective appetizer, dinner and dessert houses in the historic downtown Riverside area. Reservations required. Contact (951) 683-2725 or www.oldriverside.org.







Soldiers' Angels

This volunteer-led nonprofit has hundreds of thousands of volunteers providing aid and comfort to the men and women of the United States Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, wounded, veterans and their families — year round, not just during the holidays.

Won't you please consider adopting a family for Christmas, send a card or a letter, or text "Soldiers" to 20222 for a one-time \$10 donation.

For more information on how to submit a soldier, become a volunteer, plan an event, or send pre-made holiday packages, go to soldiersangels.org.



"May No Soldier Go Unloved," encapsulates the motivation behind

Soldiers' Angels. Volunteers work tirelessly to demonstrate active care and concern for veterans, the wounded, deployed service members and their families.





Maple Syrup

The northeastern section of North America is one of the few regions in the world where the

e n v i r o n m e n t a l c o n ditions are capable of producing tappable sap that will yield maple syrup. It takes a tree almost 40 years to reach the size before it can be tapped.



The sap itself is made up of 90% water. The remaining 10% is a mixture of sugars, calcium, potassium, iron, etc. In order to make the sap into syrup, most of the water will be removed which is why it takes approximately 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup.

In order to be considered pure maple syrup, a product must be 100% pure. Products containing other ingredients are labeled table or pancake syrup.

Maple syrup is classified using different

grading standards. The grades listed on the bottles vary in the U.S. Usually extra light and Grade A typically have a milder flavor than Grade B, which is dark with a richer maple flavor. Grade C has a strong, thick taste and is used



almost exclusively as a commercial sweetener.

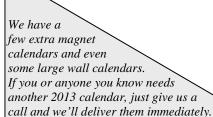
American labeling laws prohibit imitation syrups from having "maple" in their names.

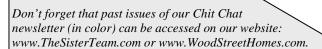
Song for Children

I built a little snowman (make circles with arms)
He had a carrot nose (point to nose)
Along came a bunny (hold up two bent fingers)
And what do you suppose? (shrug your shoulders)
That hungry little bunny (hold up bent fingers)
Looking for his lunch (bunny hop around)
Ate the snowman's nose (grab nose with fingers)
Nibble...nibble...CRUNCH! (CLAP once loudly)



\$249,900 — 5166 Brockton Ave., Riverside 92506 3 bed/1.5 bth, 1800 sq ft, central air/heat, standard sale







\$229,900 — 4458 Larchwood Pl., Riverside 92506 3 bed/2 bth, 1500+ sq ft, central air/heat, fireplace

2012 was one of our busiest real estate years of our career!
Thanks in part to past clients, referrals, and our long-term presence (of over 15 years) in the Wood Streets neighborhood!



\$325,000 — 4142 Linwood Pl., Riverside 92506 3 bed/1.75 bth, 1900 sq ft, central air/heat, gorgeous



\$375,000 — 4907 Cliffside Dr., Riverside 92506 3 bed/3 bath, 2800 sq ft, central air/heat, pool, view

REAL ESTATE: Six Straight Months of Gains

The Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller saga of home price escalation continues, given a September report that reflects six straight months of pricing gains. "Despite the seasons, housing continues to improve, "said David Blitzer, chairman of the Case-Shiller Home Price Index, a leading measure of home prices across 20 metropolitan areas of the U.S. "With six months of consistently rising home prices, it is safe to say that we are now in the midst of a recovery in the housing market."

The Real Estate Research Council of Southern California, in its newly released third quarter report, said home prices through October rose 1.4 percent from one year ago for the seven county area of Southern California. From six months ago, prices are up 2.4 percent.

Riverside County had the most significant gains, according to Michael Carney, executive director of the council based at Cal Poly Pomona. Across the county, home prices rose 6.3 percent year-over-year in October.

-Adapted from The Press-Enterprise



Happy



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Ticense #00981891

Ticense #01224102

Place Stamp Here

Chit Chat

Happy 10th Birthday, Chit Chat!

This 8-page Chit Chat newsletter, that we have been personally writing and distributing door-to-door to over 2,100 homes every issue, is celebrating its 10th birthday!!

For those of you who have not been in the neighborhood as long as us, you'll be surprised to know that we were delivering real estate tips, sales stats, American flags, and lots of goodies (candy, note pads, calendars, etc.) for more than 5 years *before* the inception of the Chit Chat; that means we've been the **real estate presence** in this neighborhood **for over 15 years**!

No other Realtors come close to our success here. Absolutely no one lists *and* sells more homes in the Wood Streets than "The Sister Team". This is due to our full-time and long-term commitment to the real estate industry (almost 25 years), our knowledge of the Southern California real estate market, and our personal involvement with every single transaction.

Not only do we live here and work here, but we ride our bikes and take walks throughout this amazing and wonderful neighborhood!

