

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

DECEMBER 2004

Every Moment Is A Gift

A single page was torn from a magazine in July 2000, and since that time, this page has been prominently displayed on our refrigerators. We would like to share with you this encouraging and thought-provoking letter.

- - Tara and April

Written by Oprah Winfrey in 2000:

Tomorrow is not promised, nor is today. So I choose to celebrate every day I'm alive by being present in it. Living in the moment means letting go of the past and not waiting for the future. It means living your life consciously, aware that each moment you breathe is a gift.

Living in the moment brings you a sense of reverence for all of life's blessings. I have been fortunate to live in beautiful surroundings, and sometimes it's easy to take them for granted. So, walking on Fisher Island in Florida one weekend, I thought, What if I were still a 10-year-old girl on welfare, who was seeing this island for the first time? Even though I had strolled past the bougainvilleas and palm trees countless times, I experienced a moment of awe.



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When you live in the moment, you don't put off enjoying your life. Recently, a store clerk told me his boss had given him a beautiful cashmere scarf. The man treasured that scarf so much, that he decided to purchase a less expensive one so he wouldn't wear out his gift. While shopping for a new scarf, he lost the cashmere one.

"What's the lesson?" I asked. "That I shouldn't have been carrying that other scarf?" he said. "That I should be more careful?"

"Nope," I said. I told him that the lesson is to use your good things now. If he had been willing to appreciate and luxuriate in the more expensive scarf, he would still have it.

Every moment is a gift, so make it count! We wish each and every one of you a Safe and Wonderful Holiday Season!

-- Tara and April

Do You Have A Designated Driver For Holiday Gatherings?

Every day of the year, but especially as the holidays approach, designating a driver as part of planning an event where alcohol will be consumed is the responsible thing to do. A designated driver (DD) is someone who agrees to drink non-alcoholic beverages only, takes care of other members of his or her group, ensures all group members get a safe ride home, and plans ahead! How does it work? DDs

can be used for house parties, socials, evenings at the bar, anywhere alcohol is consumed. You just need people having fun, a car, a sober driver, and a plan.

Licensed Establishments. Many licensed establishments support their customer's decision in having a DD by offering free non-alcoholic drinks to the DD. Some require a group of at least four people in order for the DD to receive four non-alcoholic drinks. Other establishments vary the number in the group, or the number of free drinks. As well, some use wrist bands and/or drink tokens to identify the DD.



Banquet Halls and Private Events. Banquet halls and organizers of private events not held in licensed establishments can also support their customer's decision in having a DD by offering free non-alcoholic drinks to the DD.

House Parties. As a responsible host, ensure that guests who consume alcohol at your party have a designated driver for a safe ride home.

Holiday Eating Tips

1. Avoid carrot sticks. Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.
2. Drink as much eggnog as you can — and quickly. Like fine single-malt scotch, it's rare. In fact, it's even rarer than single-malt scotch. You can't find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-aholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!
3. If something comes with gravy, use it. That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.
4. As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk. If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.
5. Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating. The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it.
6. Apple pie. Pumpkin pie. Mincemeat pie. Have a slice of each. Or, if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?
7. One final tip: If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Reread all tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner.

Remember this motto to live by: "Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well-preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, martini in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO what a ride!"

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed and Sold by "The Sister Team"

SOLD (Aug through Dec 2004)

4373	12th Street, Riverside 92501	\$415,000	4 bed, 3 bath	2121 sq ft	2-car & guest & pool
3138	Brockton Ave, Riverside 92501	\$350,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1529 sq ft	Two 1-car garages
4080	Elmwood Ct, Riverside 92506	\$315,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1132 sq ft	1-car garage
6634	Eva Pl, Riverside 92504	\$315,000	4 bed, 2 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage
4210	Highland Pl, Riverside 92506	\$285,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage
4211	Larchwood Pl, Riverside 92506	\$295,000	3 bed, 1 bath	1100 sq ft	1-car garage
3265	Pine St, Riverside 92501	\$395,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1700 sq ft	2-car garage
3545	Rosewood Pl, Riverside 92506	\$449,900	5 bed, 2.75 bath	2000 sq ft	4-car garage & spa
3574	Rosewood Pl, Riverside 92506	\$425,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1700 sq ft	2-car garage & guest
25631	San Antonio, Moreno Valley	\$329,400	3 bed, 2 bath	1774 sq ft	3-car garage & pool
1933	Wetherly Way, Riverside 92506	\$365,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1578 sq ft	2-car garage

IN ESCROW

4033	Garden Home, Riverside 92506	Sold prices posted in next "Activity Report"	2 bed, 1 bath	825 sq ft	1-car garage
3707	Mt. Whitney, Riverside 92506		3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage & spa

AVAILABLE

3461	Bonita Ave, Riverside 92506	\$354,900	3 bed, 1 bath	1500 sq ft	2-car garage
3969	Elmwood Ct, Riverside 92506	\$279,900	2 bed, 1 bath	1100 sq ft	1-car garage
4060	Ramona Dr, Riverside 92506	\$249,999	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage
6929	Yellowstone, Riverside 92506	\$359,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1550 sq ft	2-car garage

Need Last-Minute Holiday Gifts?

Call Teresa Chavez, your local Riverside AVON representative, at 951-684-3296 for a free booklet so you can order any last minute gifts and even have them delivered to your door before Christmas!! You can also reach Teresa via e-mail at avongotme@yahoo.com. Also, receive FREE product if you sign up to be an Avon representative!

Happy Shopping!!

*Do you want to find other
local businesses that give
outstanding customer service?*

*Request a free copy of our
service directory,
including plumbers, contractors,
painters, electricians, tutors, etc.
All of the businesses listed have a
proven track record
for providing the outstanding
customer service you deserve!*

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Sharon Dragan (past and treasured client)

Chris and Jennifer Allen (past and treasured clients)

John and Michele Davis (referred by Chris and Jennifer Allen)

Martha Abild (selling a home in the "Wood Streets" neighborhood)

Blake Alterman (selling a home in the "Wood Streets" neighborhood)

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.

December Quiz Question

What is the second largest planet in our solar system?

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

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 1/10/05



November Quiz Answer

Question: Where is the world's tallest tree?

Answer: Montgomery Woods State Reserve (Northern California). See page 6 of this newsletter for more information.

Source: forests.org

**Congratulations to
Sean-Michael Mahony**

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere.

Just ask "The Sister Team"!

**It's all part of our
Free, No-obligation
Home Finder Service.**

Call Tara or April any time:
(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429

We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

The Pet Page

Winter Holiday Hazards For Pets — Here are some tips for keeping your pets out of danger during the holiday season:

PLANTS

- **Lilies** that may be found in holiday flower arrangements could be deadly to your cat. Many types of lily, such as Tiger, Asian, Easter, Stargazer, and the Casa Blanca, can cause kidney failure in cats.
- **Poinsettias** are generally over-rated in toxicity. If ingested, poinsettias can be irritating to the mouth and stomach, and may cause mild vomiting or nausea.
- **Mistletoe** has the potential to cause cardiovascular problems. However, mistletoe ingestion usually only causes gastrointestinal upset.

HAZARDS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

- **Christmas tree water** may contain fertilizers, which, if ingested, can cause stomach upset. Stagnant tree water can be breeding grounds for bacteria, which can also lead to vomiting, nausea, and diarrhea, if ingested.
- **Ribbons or tinsel** can get caught up in the intestines and cause intestinal obstruction.
- **Glass ornaments** can cut the tissues of the gastrointestinal tract if ingested.



OTHER WINTER HAZARDS

- **Antifreeze** has a pleasant taste. Unfortunately, very small amounts can be lethal. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than four teaspoons can be dangerous to a 10-pound dog. Propylene glycol is a safer form of antifreeze. Low Tox™ brand antifreeze contains propylene glycol and is recommended to use in pet households.
- *If you think your pet has consumed antifreeze, contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (1-888-4-ANI-HELP) right away!*

— Adapted from www.veterinarypartner.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

“The Sister Team” is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always for the animals!

--Tara and April

Did You Know ...

.... that a female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 dogs in 6 years. One female cat and her offspring can produce 420,000 cats in 7 years. Please spay or neuter your pets!!!



Where Is The World's Tallest Tree?

The tallest tree in the world is a 367½-foot coast redwood in Montgomery Woods State Reserve in Northern California. That's five stories taller than the Statue of Liberty and twice the height of Niagara Falls!

Called the "Mendocino Tree," its age has been estimated at about 1,000 years. The diameter of its trunk near the ground is 10.3 feet.

Coast redwoods range from southern Oregon to central California, extending not more than 50 miles inland – only as far as the coastal climate has its influence. Fog plays a vital role in the survival of these trees, protecting them from the summer drought conditions typical of this area. They also need abundant winter rain and moderate year-round temperatures. In ideal conditions, a coast redwood can grow two to three feet in height annually, but when the trees are stressed from lack of moisture and sunlight they may grow as little as one inch per year.

The scientific name for coast redwoods is *Sequoia sempervirens*, Latin for "ever living" – appropriate since many coast redwoods are 600 to 1200 years old and some have lived more than 2000 years!

– Adapted from www.parks.ca.gov

Fun Facts About Figure Skating

Before you strap on the blades to go sliding and gliding, here are some fun facts about ice skating:

- * The first skates were made from honed animal bone and attached to the feet with leather straps. The Dutch word for "skate" is "schenkel" which means "leg bone."
- * Skeletal remains with animal bone blades tied to the feet testify to skating's existence as early as 10,000 BC. These remains were found in peat bogs in The Netherlands.
- * Scandinavia is called the mother of skating because of the sport's popularity there, beginning around AD 1000. Ice skating was primarily a means of transportation at first, although documents from The Netherlands indicate that speed races were held in towns as early as the 15th century.
- * In the 1700s, wealthy men started skating clubs in Scotland. By this time skates were made of a wooden block with an iron blade stuck in it. The blade had no sharp edges.
- * In the 1860s, a U.S. inventor and dancer, Jackson Haines, developed a skate that fastened onto the shoe, enabling skaters to make many more moves. Haines introduced the idea of skating to music, and became known as the "Father of Figure Skating."
- * Ice skating is not only fun, it's great exercise! For safe skating the National Safety Council recommends learning basic skating skills, such as how to stop and fall safely; skate only on specially prepared skating areas where you're sure the ice is strong enough to withstand your weight and never skate alone.



*****PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AT WORK*****

**SPECTACULARLY IMMACULATE
"MAGNOLIA CENTER" SHOWPLACE**



\$354,900



Thousands of dollars invested in this 3-bedroom home prove that the current owners had plans of living here forever. With the exception of the original (and extremely functional) kitchen, this home is almost like brand-new: newer roof, newer central air and heat, new windows throughout, new interior and exterior paint, new fixtures, indoor laundry, etc. Built in 1941, this 1500 sq ft home has also been 100% insulated (attic & all exterior walls). Newer full-size stackable washer and dryer, newer gas range/stove, and refrigerator included in price. Large backyard (.21/acre) with fruit trees.

**NORMAL ROCKWELL CURB APPEAL IN
DESIRABLE "MAGNOLIA CENTER" NEIGHBORHOOD**



\$359,900



Seller recently spent over \$25,000 in upgrades on this gorgeous "Sungold" ranch-style home near the new Riverside Plaza Shopping Center. Approximately 1550 sq ft of living space includes 3 spacious bedrooms, 1.75 bathrooms, new laminate floor throughout, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, indoor laundry, central air/heat, new interior and exterior paint, new water heater, and master bedroom has his/hers closets with attached private bathroom. 2-car detached garage with two extra storage rooms.



Tara and April Glatzel
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(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429





Happy
Holidays!



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Chit Chat

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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