

# Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

## ♥ Love Can Conquer All ♥

In 1844, Robert Browning was an unknown poet and playwright when he first read Elizabeth Barrett's volume of poetry titled *Poems*. He was 32 years old. Elizabeth was a well-known poet – and an invalid. She was 39 years old.

Robert was so moved by her poetry that he wrote to her, "I love your verses with all my heart, dear Miss Barrett..." The two then commenced writing more than 600 letters to each other during the next 20 months.

Elizabeth had suffered from the time she was a teenager from uncontrollable spasms of pain and breathing difficulties. She had been a shut-in for years and a spinster as well, for her father was a very controlling, wealthy man who had forbidden all of his 12 children to marry.

Robert began to court Elizabeth, but at first she didn't take him seriously. She found it hard to trust his intentions because she had been isolated for so long and because she questioned the treatment of women inside the institution of marriage. But despite these almost overwhelming obstacles, Robert continued to court her with passion.



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Finally, with Robert's encouragement, Elizabeth left the room where she had spent the previous six years of her life. She began to go outside and live an active life again, and she cut back on the morphine and opium the doctors had prescribed for her pain. In 1846, Robert and Elizabeth married in a secret ceremony to hide the fact that she was defying her father. When her father found out, he disinherited Elizabeth.

The couple spent the next 15 years together productively writing. Their courtship inspired some of the most beautiful and romantic poetry ever written, including the most famous line from Elizabeth's *Sonnets From The Portuguese*: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways."

Elizabeth died in her husband's arms in 1861.

*Celebrate your own love story on Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's Day!*

— Tara and April

### How Do I Love Thee?

*By Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
(1806-1861)*

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with a passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints,--- I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life! --- and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.



### I thank all who have loved me in their hearts...

*By Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
(1806-1861)*

I thank all who have loved me in their hearts,  
With thanks and love from mine. Deep thanks to all  
Who paused a little near the prison-wall  
To hear my music in its louder parts  
Ere they went onward, each one to the mart's  
Or temple's occupation, beyond call.  
But thou, who, in my voice's sink and fall  
When the sob took it, thy divinest Art's  
Own instrument didst drop down at thy foot  
To hearken what I said between my tears, ...  
Instruct me how to thank thee! Oh, to shoot  
My soul's full meaning into future years,  
That *they* should lend it utterance, and salute  
Love that endures, from Life that disappears!

### One of Robert Browning's Letters to Elizabeth Barrett

*(January 10, 1845)*

I love your verses with all my heart, dear Miss Barrett,---and this is no off-hand complimentary letter that I shall write,---whatever else, no prompt matter-of-course recognition of your genius, and there a graceful and natural end of the thing.

Since the day last week when I first read your poems, I quite laugh to remember how I have been turning and turning again in my mind what I should be able to tell you of their effect upon me, for in the first flush of delight I thought I would this once get out of my habit of purely passive enjoyment, when I do really enjoy, and thoroughly justify my admiration---perhaps even, as a loyal fellow-craftsman should, try and find fault and do you some little good to be proud of hereafter!---but nothing comes of it all---so into me has it gone, and part of me has it become, this great living poetry of yours, not a flower of which but took root and grew---Oh, how different that is from lying to be dried and pressed flat, and prized highly, and put in a book with a proper account at top and bottom, and shut up and put away . . . and the book called a 'Flora,' besides!

After all, I need not give up the thought of doing that, too, in time; because even now, talking with whoever is worthy, I can give a reason for my faith in one and another excellence, the fresh strange music, the affluent language, the exquisite pathos and true new brave thought; but in this addressing myself to you---your own self, and for the first time, my feeling rises altogether.

I do, as I say, love these books with all my heart---and I love you too. Do you know I was once not very far from seeing---really seeing you? Mr. Kenyon said to me one morning 'Would you like to see Miss Barrett?' then he went to announce me,---then he returned . . you were too unwell, and now it is years ago, and I feel as at some untoward passage in my travels, as if I had been close, so close, to some world's-wonder in chapel or crypt, only a screen to push and I might have entered, but there was some slight, so it now seems, slight and just sufficient bar to admission, and the half-opened door shut, and I went home my thousands of miles, and the sight was never to be?

Well, these Poems were to be, and this true thankful joy and pride with which I feel myself,

Yours ever faithfully,

Robert Browning

## Secrets Of A Groundhog

Groundhog Day is February 2, and tradition has it that the groundhog is supposed to awaken on this day and come up out of his burrow. If he sees his shadow, he'll return to the burrow for six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't see his shadow, he remains outside and starts his year, because he knows that spring has arrived early.

But – what *is* a groundhog?

The groundhog (*Marmota monax*), also known as the woodchuck or whistlepig, is a rodent belonging to the group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. Most marmots live in rocky and mountainous areas, but the groundhog is a lowland creature widely distributed in North America, but more commonly found in the eastern and central United States. In the west it is found only in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, and northern Washington.

The average groundhog is 20 inches long, weighs 12 to 15 pounds, and has small, round ears, brown and gray fur, and a black tail and feet. They are well-adapted for digging, with short but powerful limbs and curved, thick claws suited for creating burrows for sleeping, rearing young, and hibernating during the winter. The burrows generally have two to five exits, and for safety's sake, the groundhog rarely ventures far from one of them. While preferring to flee from would-be predators, the groundhog is known to viciously defend its burrow when invaded by predators such as skunks, foxes, weasels or domestic dogs. It can inflict quite a bit of damage with its two large incisors and front claws, especially if the predator was foolish enough to invade the groundhog's burrow.

Groundhogs can live up to six years in the wild, and ten years in captivity. Their diet consists of grasses, clover, garden vegetables, leaves, twigs, apples, berries, and dandelion. They will occasionally eat small animals such as insects and snails. Groundhogs raised in captivity can be socialized relatively easily; however, their aggressive nature can pose problems. Doug Schwartz, a zookeeper and groundhog trainer at the Staten Island Zoo, has been quoted as saying, "They're known for their aggression, so you're starting from a hard place. Their natural impulse is to kill 'em all and let God sort 'em out. You have to work to produce the sweet and cuddly."

While the groundhog doesn't have the allure of the large or exotic mammals, keep this in mind – he's the *only* mammal to have a day named in his honor!

-- Adapted from *wikipedia.org*



## A Man Of Few Words

An eccentric philosophy professor gave a one-question final exam after a semester dealing with a broad array of topics. The class was already seated and ready to go when the professor picked up his chair, plopped it on his desk and wrote on the board: "Using everything we've learned this semester, prove that this chair does not exist."

Fingers flew, erasers erased, notebooks were filled in furious fashion. Some students wrote over 30 pages in one hour attempting to refute the existence of the chair. One member of the class, however, was up and finished in less than a minute.

When the grades were posted, the rest of the group wondered how that student could have gotten an A when he'd barely written anything at all. His answer consisted of two words:

"What chair?"

## 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!*

**Thomas and Desiree Duncan**

**Heather Moon**

**Scott and Sharon Neiman**

**Steve and Lynne Rayner**

**Vinese Torres**

*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.*

## January/February Quiz Question

**What is the largest flying bird in North America?**

*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 2/25/07*



## December Quiz Answer

**Question:** What sparkly prop from the movie "The Wizard of Oz" is on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.?

**Answer:** The ruby slippers.

*\*Did you know that the name for Oz in "The Wizard of Oz" was thought up when the creator, Frank Baum, looked at his filing cabinet and saw A-N, and O-Z; hence, "Oz".*

### **Congratulations to Bryan Roby**

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

### American Horses are Being Slaughtered...

...in the United States to provide a “delicacy” to European and Asian consumers. There are three foreign-owned horse slaughter plants in the United States; two in Texas and one in Illinois, but Americans don’t eat horse meat. Just last year, over 100,000 American horses were killed in these slaughterhouses and shipped abroad for human consumption. Every week Congress fails to act on this important bill means that thousands of American horses will continue to suffer terribly.

On September 7, 2006, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act passed in the U.S. House by a vote of 263-146. Not scheduled for a vote in the U.S. Senate, this bill died as the 109th Congress adjourned in 2006. We have another chance in 2007 with H.R. 503 and S. 311 — please call your reps and senators!

Most Americans want horse slaughter outlawed. The few who continue to reap the monetary benefits of this atrocity are naturally against a ban. It is the “ultimate betrayal” to teach a horse to trust us and do our bidding, then send him to a brutal, premature death. Our horses deserve better.



#### 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

The apologists also insist that horse slaughter is humane. This is a lie. Horses are transported in miserable conditions and are terrified as they approach the death chamber. The American public and over 500 organizations from the humane community, a majority of horse industry organizations and veterinarians, all back and support the effort to end the slaughter of America’s horses.

Please call or fax your U.S. representatives and senators. Ask them to end horse slaughter now. Ask your representatives and senators to co-sponsor H. R. 503 and S. 311.

Join the following celebrity supporters: Bo Derek, Willie Nelson, Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Nicolette Sheridan, and Gene Hackman, to name a few.

For more info and/or to find your member of Congress:  
[www.saplonline.org/horses.htm](http://www.saplonline.org/horses.htm)  
[www.habitatforhorses.org](http://www.habitatforhorses.org)

**Wherever man has left his footprint in the long ascent from barbarism to civilization, we will find the hoof print of the horse beside it.**

—John Trotwood Moore

## REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

### Listed and Sold by "The Sister Team"

#### SOLD (Oct through Dec 2006)

|      |                        |           |                  |            |                   |
|------|------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 3968 | Bandini                | \$349,000 | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 950 sq ft  | 1-car garage      |
| 4270 | Emerson                | \$350,000 | 3 bed, 1.5 bath  | 1417 sq ft | 2-car garage      |
| 3551 | Larchwood              | \$436,000 | 4 bed, 1.75 bath | 2036 sq ft | 3-car gar & guest |
| 3920 | Larchwood              | \$356,000 | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 1320 sq ft | 1-car garage      |
| 3992 | Linwood                | \$350,000 | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 952 sq ft  | 1-car garage      |
| 4490 | Linwood                | \$405,000 | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1700 sq ft | 2-car garage      |
| 4033 | Maplewood              | \$358,700 | 2 bed, 2 bath    | 1140 sq ft | 1-car garage      |
| 870  | Via Mesa Verde (condo) | \$366,000 | 4 bed, 2 bath    | 1727 sq ft | 2-car garage      |

#### IN ESCROW

|      |          |   |                  |            |                  |
|------|----------|---|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 4181 | Highland | Sold<br>prices<br>posted in<br>next<br>"Activity<br>Report" | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1900 sq ft | 2-car gar & pool |
| 3857 | Linwood  |   | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 1120 sq ft | 1-car garage     |
| 6885 | Palomar  |   | 3 bed, 1.5 bath  | 1262 sq ft | 2-car gar & pool |
| 4684 | Rosewood |   | 3 bed, 1.75 bath | 1800 sq ft | 1-car gar & pool |

#### AVAILABLE

|      |             |           |                  |            |                  |
|------|-------------|-----------|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 4659 | Brentwood   | \$569,888 | 4 bed, 2 bath    | 2400 sq ft | 2-car gar & pool |
| 4060 | Garden Home | \$349,995 | 2 bed, 1 bath    | 1031 sq ft | 1-car garage     |
| 4076 | Garden Home | \$344,900 | 2 bed, 2 bath    | 900 sq ft  | 2-car garage     |
| 7421 | Kingsley    | \$359,900 | 3 bed, 1 bath    | 1100 sq ft | 2-car garage     |
| 4259 | Oakwood     | \$339,500 | 2 bed, 1.25 bath | 1030 sq ft | 2-car garage     |

*ALL of the properties above were listed and/or sold by "The Sister Team."*

*If you would like information on other properties in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.*

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

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

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

## AVAILABLE properties

proudly listed and presented by...

Tara and April Glatzel  
**"The Sister Team"**

Call for a  
**FREE**  
market analysis



Brand New  
2nd Bathroom!

**\$344,900** Cute "Wood Streets" cottage  
with 2 bds/2 bths, fireplace, central air/heat,  
remodeled kitchen, large yard, 2-car garage!



New  
Listing

**\$349,995** "Wood Streets" cottage with  
2 bds/1 bth, remodeled kitchen, central air,  
formal dining room w/2 hutches, large yard!



Architectural  
plans for add'l  
bed/bath

**\$359,900** Magnolia Center home with 2 bds  
plus sunroom (could be 3rd bdrm), 1 bthrm (plus  
plans for another bd/bth), hrdwd flrs, central air!



In Escrow

**\$359,900** Opened escrow on this "Wood  
Streets" bungalow within ONE WEEK!!!  
2 bds/1 bth, central air, fireplace, built-ins.



All-time  
low price!

**\$339,500** Classic "Wood Streets" Cottage  
on great street. 2 bds *plus* sunroom, 1.25 bths  
Low-maintenance backyard, central air/heat,  
newer appliances in awesome eat-in kitchen,  
bull-nosed ceilings. Attached 2-car garage!!



In Escrow

**\$429,900** "Wood Streets" 3 bd/1.75 bths.  
Absolutely turnkey on quiet cul-de-sac with  
central air/heat, 2-car garage and pool!

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



STUNNING!

**\$569,888** "Wood Streets" ranch, 2400 sq ft,  
with almost everything new: wood floors, roof,  
windows & central air/heat. Pool & 2-car garage!

Are you interested in a home  
*not* listed on this page?  
Just call **"The Sister Team"**  
and we'll quickly  
provide you with the  
information...

April: (951) 205-4429  
or  
Tara: (951) 205-4428

Realtors 



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!



Tara and April Glatzel  
"The Sister Team"  
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E-mail: aprilglatzel@remax.net  
Website: www.woodstreethomes.com  
Tara: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4429

Place  
Stamp  
Here

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.

If you want any friends, coworkers, relatives or business acquaintances to receive a free subscription to this newsletter, please contact us and we'll put them on the mailing list immediately.

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