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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Praying for America

Christians Flock to State Capitol for Decision America Tour with Franklin Graham

By Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - American Christians are looking for a miracle to save this country through all levels of society and government: socially, economically, and politically.

On March 30th, 2016, a sea of 7,500 men, women, and children from all parts of California began to flow onto the Sacramento State Capitol grounds, hours before the noon starting time of the Decision America Tour 2016 with Franklin Graham. By midday the throng had wrapped around the front and sides of the capitol building. They were there to pray for America and to hear the Gospel message of evangelist Franklin Graham.

Since their first stop in Des Moines, Iowa, on January 5th, the Billy



An estimated 7,500 people gathered at the California State Capitol—the largest Decision America Tour crowd to date. Photo courtesy Decision America Tour

Graham Evangelistic Association has embarked



“God hears prayer.” Franklin Graham reminded the crowd again and again the power of their conversations with God. Photo courtesy Decision America Tour

on a journey of spiritual revival to all 50 state capitols. Sacramento was its 13th stop. Its mission is to provide Bible believing Christians a “real-world” means to bring about the miracle of restoration.

In this critically important election year, Franklin Graham (63) son of well-known evangelist of 67 years, Billy Graham (97) has set about to share the three vital components of this challenge with all who will listen: Pray, Vote, and Engage.

Graham’s program is modeled after the work

of Nehemiah in the Old Testament whom God sent to Jerusalem to rebuild its walls and admonish the people to repent, turn away from their sins, and come back to God. Graham stressed throughout the hour that the fate of America is in the balance and depends solely on how Christians stand up and take it back from the immorality and wrongdoing prevalent in today’s society.

As with the people of Jerusalem who, after finally repenting, again won favor with God,

Franklin preached that God will give America favor once more when its people stand up for the truth and principles of the Bible and the “old fashioned” values on which our founding fathers established in America.

Franklin stressed that this shows the need to first confess and pray fervently for one’s own sins, those of their community and country and even for those of their ancestors.

He also stressed that, next to prayer, the most important thing a Christian

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Governor Brown Rams Through Minimum Wage in Eight Days

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently joined legislators and labor leaders to announce a landmark agreement that makes California the first state in the nation to commit to raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour statewide.

The Governor was joined at the announcement by: Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León; California Labor Federation president Kathryn Lybarger; SEIU United Long Term Care Workers’ Union president Laphonza Butler; Burger King employee Holly Diaz; Senator Mark Leno; California Labor and Workforce Development Agency secretary David Lanier; United Domestic Workers of America executive director Doug Moore; Teamsters Union International vice president Rome Aloise; and United Healthcare Workers West executive board member Georgette Bradford.

“California is proving once again that it can get things done and help people get ahead,” said Governor Brown. “This plan raises the minimum wage in a careful and responsible way and provides some flexibility if economic and budgetary conditions change.”

Under the plan, minimum wage will rise to \$10.50 per hour on January 1, 2017 for businesses with 25 or more employees, and then rises each year until reaching \$15 per hour in 2022. This plan also recognizes the contributions of small businesses – those with fewer than 25 employees – to California’s economy and allows additional time for these employers to phase in the

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Cohousing Expert Gives Eye to the Future

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Fair Oaks Eco Housing is sponsoring a free presentation by national cohousing expert Kathryn McCamant on April 26th at 7 p.m. in the Fair Oaks Library.

McCamant, an architect, author, and development consultant will speak on “25 Years of Cohousing in North America: What Have We Learned?” The presentation will provide an overview of the national cohousing movement, with examples of communities that have been built around the country over the last two decades, including Southside Park Cohousing in Sacramento, Nevada City Cohousing, and Wolf Creek Lodge in Grass Valley. McCamant is the development consultant for

Fair Oaks Eco Housing, the area’s latest cohousing community, which will soon be built on Fair Oaks Boulevard, near New York Avenue.

The presentation will kick off the first-ever National Cohousing Open House Day on Saturday, April 30th, when communities across the country will host tours and visits for the public. McCamant says: “Cohousing neighborhoods across America are proving that we can live a more sustainable lifestyle, that is healthier and more fun for people of all

Continued on page 2



Fair Oaks Eco Housing Group: the area’s latest cohousing community. Photo courtesy Fair Oaks Eco Housing

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Franklin Graham: Praying for America



Franklin Graham addresses thousands who are fired up to pray for America. Photo courtesy Decision America Tour

Continued from page 1

can do is vote; pointing out that in the last election only 20 to 30 million evangelical (biblical) Christians voted. Franklin quoted the words of his father Billy, from 1952, the year he was born: “It is the duty of every individual at election time to study the issues and candidates.....and to vote.” He urged people to vote for those who are morally and spiritually in line with the Church and will protect the liberties we enjoy. Even if one must vote for the “lesser of two evils”...vote. “Unless America turns back to God, repents of its sin, and experiences a spiritual revival, we will fail as a nation. God honors leaders in high places who honor biblical truth and principles and are willing to live by them,” Franklin recited.

In 1976, when Franklin was 27, two years after he became a Christian, his father preached that Christians need to get involved in the political process, including public service at all levels. He challenged all who have a good foundation in Jesus and the Bible to step up and offer themselves for public office, regardless of their party. There are many places they can seek votes, from city council where they can become mayor to serving on commissions, and especially school boards, on up to the federal level.

Feeling the Holy Spirit standing amongst 7,500 hands joined in prayer gave attendees the assurance that they are not alone in this. Thunderous applause arose as Franklin sent the thousands of Californians home to their work

by urging them to all “become community organizers for God and political activists for God!”

Instead of the traditional “altar call” the prayer rally ended with a call to text one’s decision to accept Christ, to make the Decision America Tour pledge and receive more information.

In an email, a spokesperson for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association said, “Of the thirteen Decision America Tour events we’ve held so far, Sacramento was our largest with 7,500 people in attendance at the Capitol. This was a tremendous response. People really do care deeply about the direction of our country and believe that we need to pray for our nation and our leaders now more than ever.” ★

Supervisors Want Delta Tunnel Vote

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors took action yesterday to support AB 1713 by Assembly Member Susan Eggman, a bill that would require a public vote of any proposed Delta tunnels project.

For years, Sacramento County expressed concerns and opposition to the Brown Administration’s plan to build two 40-foot diameter tunnels through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. For this reason, the Board of Supervisors appreciates Assemblymember Eggman’s leadership on this incredibly vital issue.

“Assemblymember Eggman’s legislation to require voter approval of the Governor’s intrusive twin tunnels proposal is an example of good and transparent public policy,” said Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, chair of the Board.

“The new proposal is the same package wrapped differently,” said Supervisor Susan Peters. “It is disruptive to the environment and culture of the Delta and does not meet the water needs of the state. It does more harm than good.”

“The public deserves the opportunity to cast a vote on such an enormous and expensive project,” commented Supervisor Patrick Kennedy. “Assemblymember Eggman’s bill rightfully gives the people a voice.”

“Sacramento County continues to welcome ideas about how best to protect the Delta

and responsibly convey water in our state, but what we cannot and will not do is agree to compromise our constituents’ way of life in the process,” added Supervisor Phil Serna.

“The Sacramento San-Joaquin Delta is a source of pride for our region,” said Supervisor Don Nottoli. “The Tunnels will forever change its majestic landscape and the natural environment while altering a generations’ old way of life for those who live and work in the Delta.”

Over the past year, the tunnels plan was rebranded and divided into two parts. Previously named the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDGP), the plan is now referred to as the “CA WaterFix” and “EcoRestore.” While rebranded, the plan to build the massive tunnels under the Delta remains largely unchanged, which is arguably one of the most egregious parts of the plan. Also of concern is that the bifurcation of the tunnels plan may simplify the state and federal permitting processes, allowing the Governor to move forward more quickly and with less administrative oversight on the project. A project of this magnitude, scope, and impact should have public input by way of a vote.

Sacramento County remains concerned about the negative impacts that the tunnels will have on the Delta’s thriving agriculture industry, infrastructure (road and utilities), water supply, flood protection and socioeconomics as the approval

of the project could result in the destruction of the Delta as we know it today. Sacramento County’s chief concerns are as follows:

- It proposes to irreversibly change, and in many instances permanently destroy, the generations-old socioeconomic fabric and physical landscape of the Delta.
- It will not produce a single drop of new water, but will leave a legacy of negative impacts on the Delta, its economy, and its people.
- The tunnels have a 10-12 year construction period and will result in major negative impacts to the lives of Delta residents, the local and regional economy, and its irreplaceable natural resources.
- It neither solves California’s water management problems nor helps to address the Delta’s degrading ecosystem.
- Water modeling continues to show the Folsom Reservoir likely going to “dead pool” approximately once every 10 years, severely impacting access to surface water (the primary source of water) for significant urban populations in Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties. This would severely impact the region’s larger economy, property values, and livability.

Visit www.delta.saccounty.net to get the latest Delta news, tell your Delta story, and get involved.

Source: Sacramento County ★

Cohousing Expert Gives Eye to the Future

Continued from page 1

ages, as well as good for the environment.”

Cohousing neighborhoods are composed of privately-owned homes clustered around shared open space and common facilities. A central clubhouse typically includes a dining room, kitchen, lounge, workshop space, kids’ playroom and guest rooms. It is the heart of the neighborhood for a variety of activities. Cars are kept to the edge of the site, thus making the neighborhood pedestrian-friendly and safe for children. Future residents are involved in the design and development so that it reflects their needs and priorities, creating a truly custom neighborhood.

Environmental sustainability is a core value in these neighborhoods. Smaller, energy-efficient homes, green building attributes, and renewable energy systems



Kathryn McCamant, an architect, author, and development consultant will speak on “25 Years of Cohousing in North America: What Have We Learned?” Photo courtesy Fair Oaks Eco Housing

are made possible by combined efforts and shared resources. On-site activities and companionship enable residents to socialize close to home and reduce their need to drive as much for day-to-day activities. The Fair Oaks

property offers close proximity to the American River Parkway, Fair Oaks Village, Bannister Park, the Sacramento Waldorf School, and Rudolf Steiner College.

Architects and authors Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant introduced cohousing to North America in the 1980s after studying the movement in Denmark. They are the authors of “Creating Cohousing: Building Sustainable Communities.” There are now more than 160 housing communities in the United States, including 32 in California. McCamant and Durrett, a husband and wife team, have worked together on over fifty cohousing projects. They live in Nevada City Cohousing.

The public presentation will be held at the Fair Oaks Library at 11601 Fair Oaks Blvd; admission is free. For more information, visit www.FairOaksEcoHousing.org.

Source: Fair Oaks Eco Housing ★

Governor Brown Rams Through Minimum Wage in Eight Days

Continued from page 1

increases.

The purpose of the plan is to increase the minimum wage over time, consistent with economic expansion, while providing safety valves – known as “off-ramps” – to pause wage hikes if negative economic or budgetary conditions emerge. The Governor can act by September 1 of each year to pause the next year’s wage increase for one year if there is a forecasted budget deficit (of

more than one percent of annual revenue) or poor economic conditions (negative job growth and retail sales).

Once the minimum wage reaches \$15 per hour for all businesses, wages could then be increased each year up to 3.5 percent (rounded to the nearest 10 cents) for inflation as measured by the national Consumer Price Index.

This plan also phases in sick leave for In-Home Supportive Services workers starting in July

2018.

Governor Brown signed AB 10 in September 2013 to raise California’s minimum wage 25 percent, from \$8 to \$10 per hour, effective January 1, 2016. There are approximately 7 million hourly workers in California, of which about 2.2 million earn the minimum wage.

Additional information on the minimum wage deal can be found here.

Source: Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. ★

| Minimum Wage Increases (If No Increases Are Paused*) | |
|--|--|
| January 1, 2017 (2018 for small business): | \$10.50 / hour |
| January 1, 2018 (2019 for small business): | \$11 / hour |
| January 1, 2019 (2020 for small business): | \$12 / hour |
| January 1, 2020 (2021 for small business): | \$13 / hour |
| January 1, 2021 (2022 for small business): | \$14 / hour |
| January 1, 2022 (2023 for small business): | \$15 / hour |
| January 1 annually after wages reach \$15: | Increase wages 0 to 3.5%, to the nearest 10 cents, for any inflation |
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 5

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 7 | | 1 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | |
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| 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 | |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | |
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| 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | |
| 1 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 6 | |

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Sacramento County DA Reports



“Non-Violent Second-Striker” Early Prison Releases: March 2016 Update

In January 2015, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) began a new parole determination process, evaluating “non-violent second-strikers” for early parole. If early release is granted, they are released after serving only 50% of their sentences. Under existing law, they would otherwise have to serve 80% of their sentences before being eligible for parole.

Upon receipt of inmate names from CDCR with a recommendation for release, the Board of Parole Hearings [BPH] conducts an administrative review to determine if the inmate should be released early from prison as a “non-violent second-striker.” BPH forwards the names of these eligible inmates to District Attorneys’ offices and invites input in making their determination about the inmate’s potential early release. Unlike parole hearings, where the prosecution, defense attorney, and victim may appear, there is no public hearing for these administrative reviews. Rather, the decision is made purely by CDCR administrative staff. Additionally, prior to consideration for early release, no evidence-based “risk assessment” is conducted to determine if the inmate poses a danger to the public.

In November 2015, the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office began posting on its website information about “non-violent second-strike” offenders who have been granted early release from prison.

As of March 30, 2016, 122 inmates sentenced from Sacramento County have been granted early prison releases. Given the number of violent offenders who continue to be granted early release, DA Anne Marie Schubert began monthly updates to provide the public with a sampling of the noteworthy criminals who appear to pose a risk to public safety, but are being granted early release into our community as “non-violent second-strikers.”

In the month of March 2016, inmates granted early prison release includes, but is not limited, to:

Robert William Adams – Adams has a 2008 strike conviction for first-degree residential burglary. In that offense, Adams went to the home of a mentally disabled classmate. When the victim opened the door, Adams pushed his way into the apartment and began taking items of value, knowing his disabled peer could not stop him. Adams then demanded the victim go with him to the bank so the victim could withdraw money for Adams

to purchase methamphetamine. When the terrified victim refused, Adams brutally assaulted him and then ripped the phone cord from the wall before he left. The victim suffered mental and physical damage from the incident, and a significant increase in seizures. Adams was sentenced to 5 years, 8 months in prison for this violent assault. Adams’ other past convictions include second-degree burglary, multiple vehicle thefts, and ID theft. In his current committing offense, Adams attempted to evade officers who tried to stop him for driving a stolen car. Adams lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the side of a home. He exited the vehicle and took off on foot. He was eventually apprehended with the help of a K9 unit. Officers found more than 17 grams of methamphetamine in Adams’ possession along with a loaded firearm. He was convicted of vehicle theft, possession of methamphetamine while armed with a loaded firearm and evading officers with wanton and willful disregard for public safety and sentenced to 9 years, 4 months in prison.

Michael Charter – Charter has a 2013 strike conviction for committing battery causing great bodily injury when he was in prison. In that case, Charter participated in an unprovoked, ruthless group beat down of another inmate, who was targeted because he did not want to associate with the white pride gangs. Charter and two other inmates repeatedly punched and kicked the victim in the face. The victim was knocked unconscious, suffered several lacerations to his face, and sustained two orbital fractures. Charter was sentenced to 2 years in prison for this attack. In 2001, Charter was convicted of assault and battery in the state of Virginia. In 2005, he was convicted of burglary in Virginia. In 2009, he was convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence. In that case, Charter pushed his then girlfriend onto a bed, slapped her, pulled her hair and head-butted her several times during an argument. While on probation for that offense, he failed to enroll in the Batterer’s Treatment Program as ordered by the court. He was convicted of 4 more felonies from 2011 to 2013. Charter committed his current offense while on parole for his prior strike offense. He was caught driving a stolen car that had another car’s license plate and was in possession of several shaved keys. He was sentenced to 2 years, 8 months in prison. Opposition Letter

The Early Prison Releases webpage can be found at www.sacda.org/early-prison-releases. ★



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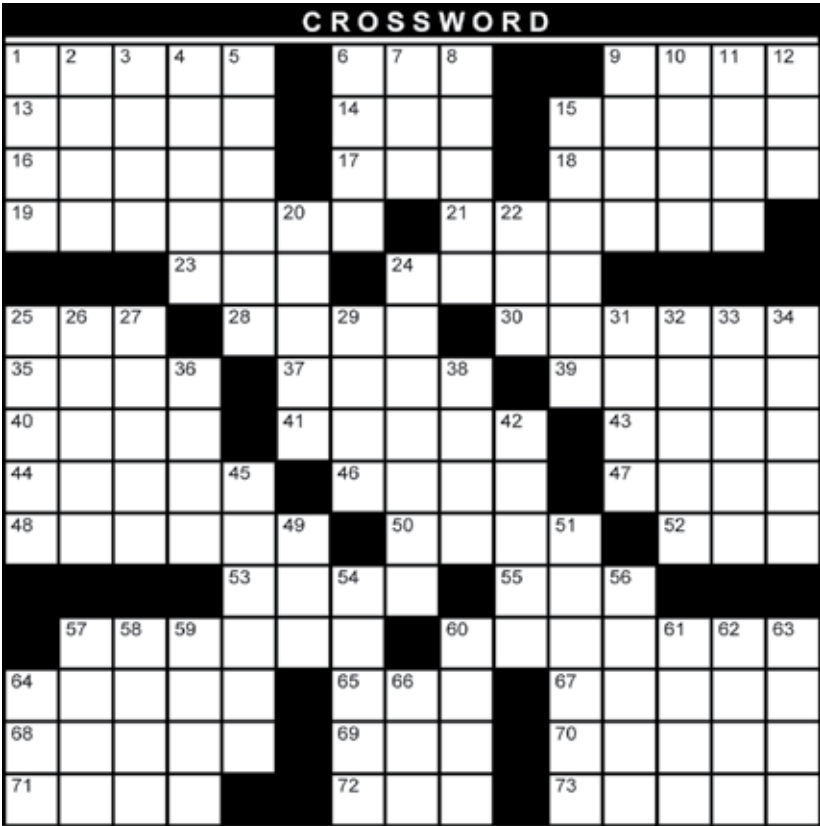
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- Santa and Uncle Sam have this in common
 - Be in a cast
 - Plural of cecum
 - ** ____ beaver”
 - **Pitching ____
 - Sacrificial spot
 - Less than 90 degrees
 - Grass bristle
 - Had in mind
 - **Retail ____
 - ** ____ it”
 - Bruin legend Bobby
 - Forbidden fruit, e.g.
 - ** ____, humbug!”
 - Ready and eager
 - Foot part
 - Mosque V.I.P.
 - Indian restaurant staple
 - Bodies
 - Part of cathedral
 - Binary digits code
 - Interest ____
 - Writer behind a writer
 - Rodeo Drive tree
 - Cold War’s Warsaw Pact, e.g.
 - Protective embankment
 - **You ____ what you sow”
 - King Kong, e.g.
 - Kick out
 - India’s smallest state
 - *Add this to injury?
 - *Disorderly person or thing
 - Ice cream amount
 - Roswell subject
 - Figure with vertex and rays
 - Coastal town in southern England
 - Animal’s nose
 - Leg of lamb
 - Actress Hathaway
 - **A bird in the hand is worth ____ in the bush”
 - Cardinal compass point at 90 degrees, pl.



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Are Cows Really Holy?

Dr. James L. Snyder

As an amateur wordsmith, I am fascinated with words and phrases. I love my cell phone because I have a dictionary and thesaurus all ready for my personal touch and I can research any word or phrase I hear.

One phrase my grandfather used a lot was, “holy cow.” He was a farmer so I instinctively thought he was talking about his cows. Why his cows were holy and others were not was something I could never comprehend. But, he was my grandfather.

I still remember the first time I heard him say that phrase; “Holy cow, it’s hot outside today.”

When he said it, I was rather confused. What does a cow have to do with it being hot outside and are cows really holy? It just did not make any sense to me.

Another favorite phrase was, “Holy cow, I’m tired.”

Again, what does a cow have to do with him being tired? Maybe he worked a lot with the cows. I know he had about a half a dozen dairy cows and he milked them all by hand. Maybe that is what he was talking about.

But the thing that really got me was what in the world does

“holy” have to do with a cow?

As I got older, I began to realize that “holy” and “cow” had nothing to do with each other. It was just a phrase my grandfather used, and, to put it mildly, it really meant nothing at all.

As an amateur wordsmith myself, I like to parse my words very carefully. I want to know what I am saying and say what I am thinking. Of course, according to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, thinking is not at the top of my list of activities. I cannot disagree with her on that one. One thing I have learned as a husband is that what I am saying to my wife may not be what my wife is hearing.

At a real desperate point in my life, I responded to an incident involving my wife and almost automatically, the phrase, “Holy Cow,” came tumbling out of my mouth. Needless to say, it was the last time anything like that ever happened.

My wife looked at me with one of “those looks,” and said, “Holy what?”

How can you explain something you do not understand yourself? She looked at me, I look back at her with one of those blank stares I am famous

for, and had no idea what she was talking about.

She had no idea what I was talking about and so I thought at least we were even. But not so.

I had to promise her “and cross my heart and hope to die,” never to use such a phrase again. “That phrase,” she said most defiantly, “is not permitted in this house.” She said it in such a way that I have, to this very day, never questioned her on it and have never used that phrase again.

James warned about this when he wrote, “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!” (James 3:5).

I do not know if cows are holy or not, but I will never put those two words together in a phrase whatsoever as long as the sun shines.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail james-snyder2@att.net. The church website is www.whatafellowship.com. ★



A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2 (Rated PG-13)

Fourteen years ago, writer and star Nia Vardalos delivered a sleeper hit with the romantic comedy “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”, one that navigated the culture clash of her marriage to the Anglo Ian Miller (John Corbett) unprepared for the unruly energy of a large Greek family.

Now all these years later, in a timeline that goes even a few years beyond the lapse of time from the first, “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2” remains, with its easy charm and likable tone, a pleasant though predictable story that returns all of the original characters.

In that sense, “Greek Wedding 2,” is not constructed, per se, for anyone stepping into this time machine of Greek culture that happens to be unfamiliar with Vardalos’ central character of Toula Portokalos, still held captive by the bonds of her immigrant Chicago-based family.

The patriarch of the Portokalos clan is Gus (Michael Constantine), so consumed with the old ways that he questions why his seventeen year-old granddaughter Paris (Elena Kampouris) is letting herself age without any prospects of matrimony of her own.

Well, the wedding in this sequel turns out to be Gus’ own, as he discovers to his chagrin that the marriage certificate to Maria (Lainie Kazan) from the old country was never signed by the local priest.

So technically speaking, Gus and Maria, in the eyes of God (but

Riley Reviews

“GREEK WEDDING 2” HAS EASY CHARM; SHOWTIME ROLLS THE “DICE”

not common law), are not married. At his advanced age, he just wants a quickie ceremony. The brash, rowdy Maria has other thoughts, namely a full-blown wedding that would not only be romantic but fit with the Greek heritage.

The film is populated with a lot of Greek relatives, most of them hard to distinguish from each other. Standing out in the animated family is Andrea Martin’s Aunt Voula, who wants to organize the event in such a grand, over-the-top manner that the wedding planner quits the job.

A sub-plot to the wedding business is the fact that Toula and Ian’s daughter Paris is considering attending an East Coast college if only to be free of the constraints of her suffocating family, when her mother desperately tries to persuade her of the virtues of nearby Northwestern.

Though Ian has little to do as he appears crowded out of most scenes with the drama of Greek relatives constantly meddling, there is also a predicable story about Ian and Toula trying fitfully to rekindle romance that has been slowly depleted from their own lives.

“My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2,” though not particularly original or even necessary to have been revived at this late date, has its genial moments of levity and humorous situations. The goodwill of the original will have to carry this sequel the best way it possibly can.

Showtime’s “Dice” Comedy Series

Showtime also appears to be relying on public memory to launch the six-episode comedy series “Dice,” an apparent semi-autobiographical account of the once top-billed stand-up comedian

Andrew Dice Clay’s attempt at a comeback after two decades in the entertainment wilderness.

In his heyday (well, even now to be sure), the comedian known as the Diceman built his career on being so edgy in his routines that his divisive comedy managed to offend every ethnic, racial and sexual identity group that felt abused and vilified by his barbed rants.

His comedy routines appeared patterned upon Don Rickles, but without any of the charm and occasional restraint. Now, the Diceman is in Las Vegas, hoping to gear up his faltering career, all the while struggling with his finances and employment prospects.

Meanwhile, his live-in girlfriend Carmen (Natasha Leggero), constantly fretting over his irresponsible behavior and seeming inability to focus, tries to bring a semblance of order to his life. Good luck with that.

Dice can’t help but mess up everything, including not following through on his simple promise to be ready for the wedding of Carmen’s brother at a Vegas chapel, because he’s too busy arguing with the casino manager about the \$5 fee for use of the hotel’s ATM machine.

Actually, it’s worse than that. Rather than pony up a Lincoln for a simple cash transaction, Dice obtains a marker for \$100,000 to play many bad hands of poker, and he ends up fighting with an Elvis impersonator that he accuses of being bad luck.

Showtime’s “Dice” is set to explore the highs and lows of the stressed comedian’s frenzied life. Be warned that Andrew Dice Clay, having made his career with an extremely liberal use of profanity in his acts, is uncensored in his frequent rants.

It’s not just the vulgarity of unvarying swearing that may offend so many, but Dice also has very graphic ways of talking about sexual activities. “Dice” may run on cable, where it’s no-holds-barred, but this short series is likely to be limited in its appeal. But it’s only six half-hour episodes, so you won’t have to invest much time. ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris,
Christian Author

The many stories about Jesus in the Bible tell us He was always the expression of sincere and true love to those He came in contact. He was the clear expression of the Heavenly Father’s love for mankind regardless of what the problem might have been. As believers and followers we are to also be the same example of true and sincere love to those who cross our life’s path.

Many share they have accepted Jesus as their Savior and Lord of their lives. Our Bible teaches that when this happens His Spirit resides within.

Jesus = Our Example for Living

Then, our responses to all of life’s experiences should be like that of Jesus. God is the author to “True Love”. Under all circumstances His character and sincere expression of true love should be profoundly expressed throughout our life experience as one ministers His love to others.

It bothers me when I hear about older people who have been “forgotten”, yet were attendees and members of a church for years. This should never happen! During my journey a few people have been true examples of Jesus love to me. Receiving notes of encouragement always helped. Few times a personal phone call expressing they missed my presence really touched my heart. Having someone truly caring has encouraged my walk with God and it has made a significant difference to know I am loved and cared about from someone. This should happen to everyone!

Lets not waste our life

always thinking about ourselves but “IF JESUS LIVES IN OUR HEARTS LET US EXEMPLIFY HIS LOVE TO SOMEONE EVERY DAY THE REST OF OUR LIVES” How many times in your life experience have you shown you care about others? Write a note...Call someone to let them know you care... or visit them!

When we claim to have love in our hearts and/or belong to any church, this should be an unending occurrence to express God’s love daily to someone and light up their life with the love of God. Stop tooting your own horn and do something about it! One day every one of us will be accountable to God! No matter your circumstance you can be a healing vessel for the Lord by expressing His love to someone daily!

Marlys Johnsen Norris is the Christian author of seven books. You may contact her at Marlysjn@gmail.com. ★



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POPPOFF!

with **Mary Jane Popp**

your life. Accept that being shy is something that has held you back, knowing that now you are choosing to overcome that fear of social judgement.

2) **Get some emotional support.** The energy you get from people who care about you is a gift. It's important to remember that people who have close relationships and friendships generally live longer and fuller lives.

3) **Posture can help you beat shyness.** Remember your parents and teachers always told you to sit up straight and stand with your shoulders back and your head held high? They weren't trying to train you for the military. They probably knew that practicing good posture would have a positive effect on how you perceived yourself and how others perceived you.

4) **Self-care makes you confident.** Do you go out of your way to avoid drawing attention to yourself? Do you eschew makeup, bright colors, and fashionable clothes? Is your favorite color gray? Grooming and adorning yourself can affect your mood in a positive way, so don't be too shy or afraid to experiment.

5) **Nonverbal communication.** There are many ways to communicate that do not involve speaking such as gestures, posture, and facial expressions. Shy people often avoid

communicating through eye contact and facial expressions, as well as physical touch. But nonverbal forms of communication is easier to practice. For example, try using facial expressions such as nods and smiles to send positive messages to others. Facial expressions have the same meanings across many if not most cultures.

6) **Feeling all alone.** Mother Teresa once said that "the greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for." Have you ever felt so lonely that you thought your heart would break in two, and that you wouldn't make it through the night? It's very important to make connections with other people. Isolating yourself is only going to make you feel worse.

7) **Giving to others helps alleviate shyness.** When **Dr. Goldsmith** was young, he wanted to be a philanthropist, but had no money to start a foundation. Writing has made a difference in his life...a way of giving back. All you need to do is find a way to give from your heart. It's hard to feel shy when someone or something you care about is in need.

There's so much more, but not enough time to share. So, go to www.BartonGoldsmith.com for more information or check out "100 Ways to Overcome Shyness." Just reach out and touch life! ★



Lisa West
Community
Outreach Director



Where Will Your Loved One End Up



*Memorial Parks
Mortuaries & Crematory*

By Lisa West

Cremations are happening with such frequency, it's hard to keep up with all of the new products and services available. Did you know that you can have human cremated remains compressed into a diamond? You can have them sanitized and made into tattoo ink. You can even have them shot into space.

Often families choose to take the cremated remains home in a decorative urn and display them on the mantel or scatter them in a person's favorite place. If you choose to take the urn home for a period of time before deciding on a final disposition, keep a few of these ideas in mind.

While scattering of cremated remains can be a meaningful choice, it is wise to wait at least one year before scattering. When considering this choice, it is important to remember that it is irreversible and the land where you scatter can have its usage changed in the future (in other words, something could be built there that you don't like and you may no longer enjoy visiting your loved one in that place). By holding off for one year, you are in a better frame of mind than when the loss was new and you were grieving the most.

Be very cautious when scattering. You are required by law to obtain a permit for scattering and there are many places where it is illegal to scatter cremated human remains. Again, another good reason to wait one year.

Many people choose to scatter only a

small portion of the cremated remains and keep the rest at home. Some spouses choose to keep their partner at home until they themselves pass away, then both sets of cremated remains are buried together in a grave or cremation garden.

If you have not made pre-arrangements for the final disposition of cremated remains, ask yourself this question. What will happen to that urn (that person), 10, 25 or 50 years from now?

Sadly, unidentified cremated human remains are often found in abandoned houses, in the trunk of impounded cars, at garage sales and even in landfills. The coroner is then called to take possession of these unknown cremated remains because there are no family members left to claim them.

Memorializing cremated human remains in a cemetery or memorial park, a cremation garden or a niche are wise decisions to ensure long-term security for your loved ones cremated remains and to have a place to visit them regularly. It will also bring you tremendous peace of mind.

Lisa West is the community outreach director for East Lawn and her column appears monthly. You can reach her at lisaw@eastlawn.com or (916)732-2020. For previous articles, please visit www.EastLawn.com. ★

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Is It in the Genes? Trump as Businessman

Commentary
by Dr. L. John Van Til

Donald Trump was, of course, famous long before he began his presidential run. That fame rested on his decades-long career in real estate. Though there are heated arguments currently between Trump and commentators regarding his net worth, there is no question that he has made tens of millions of dollars. Before dealing with that controversy, I would like to note how his father and paternal grandfather each made a fortune before him, largely in real estate. Thus, the question, “Is it in the genes?”

Donald’s grandfather, Frederick Trump (1869-1918), was born in the Palatinate region of Germany, apparently into a family of vintners. At age 16 he migrated to New York where he practiced hair-cutting for six years. He then moved to Seattle where he opened a restaurant, known locally as a “decadent restaurant” because it also provided prostitution services. He went on to open several more such establishments along a path that eventually ended up with a huge restaurant/hotel in Whitehorse, Yukon. Sensing that the Gold Rush was declining by 1903, and that there was a movement to limit prostitution, he sold his business and returned to Germany.

Frederick stayed there long enough to marry a former neighbor, Elizabeth Christ. The German government would not allow him to stay, however, because he had failed to pay his taxes before he emigrated to the United States, and had avoided serving in the military. On returning to the United States, he began to invest in real estate in Queens, New York. He died at the age of 49 in the 1918 flu epidemic. His wife, who also possessed business acumen, managed the real estate and in 1927 incorporated it as

Elizabeth Trump & Son. The son in Elizabeth Trump & Son was Fred Trump (1905-1999). By that time, young Fred was in his early 20s and showed great real-estate investment instincts. He began building large numbers of single-family dwellings in Queens, hundreds of them, at about \$4,000 each. As WWII came, he began building thousands of houses and apartments near the numerous military bases along the East coast. Some were rented and some were sold. Once the war was over, he continued the same process in the boroughs of New York, renting most of them. By the early 1950s he got into trouble with a U.S. Senate committee that was investigating abuses of the Fair Housing Act. In 1968, Fred’s son Donald — one of five children — joined him in the business. Donald took to the real-estate business with great energy and enthusiasm. The Trump Organization, the successor name to the one his grandmother had formed, continued to grow rapidly in the 1970s, building more houses and apartments which were rented. The firm, also under Donald’s leadership, entered the commercial real-estate business in Manhattan.

Working largely in Manhattan, he negotiated the purchase of dozens of foreclosed or bankrupt properties, creating much wealth in the process. For example, as rail travel slowed dramatically during these years, 100-year-old Penn Central Transportation went into bankruptcy. The Trump Organization acquired a huge tract of land surrounding the Grand Central Terminal for \$60 million. An additional factor in this deal was a 40-year tax abatement. His Grand Hyatt Hotel was subsequently built on this property. Meanwhile he was involved in dozens of other real-estate deals in New York City. Donald ran into trouble, however, when he sought to expand



his casino holdings in Atlantic City. Debt mounted. By 1989 the Trump Organization was unable to meet loan payments. After several attempts to restructure the debt and rescue these properties, the Trump Organization entered bankruptcy in 1991. Partners and investors reportedly lost hundreds of millions of dollars in the process. Financial conditions improved for the Trump Organization later in the 1990s, leading Donald to expand the range of investments beyond real estate. He bought golf courses, beauty pageants, and more — often highly leveraged financially. A particularly fascinating venture was in branding and licensing. The basic premise of this venture

was that his name and likeness were so well known that it could be licensed to all kinds of businesses in the belief that the name and picture would generate huge sales for the licensee. The range of licensees included hotels, restaurants, villages, vodka, buffets, catering services, ice cream parlors, bars, health drinks, steaks, a line of coffee, fragrances,

chocolates, board games, home furnishings, a line of clothing, bottled water, and, of course, Trump University, eventually re-named and then closed. (A small caveat here: One cannot always tell whether the Trump name and picture is based on a license because Donald Trump also owned some firms that licensees were permitted to mimic.) Donald Trump also had

a speaking service, Learning Annex. At one time he gave a series of three speeches, charging \$450,000 for each. The big question is: What is Donald Trump’s net worth? In 2015, Forbes suggested Trump’s wealth was about \$4 billion. At the same time, the Bloomberg Index pegged Trump’s wealth at \$2.9 billion. Any research on this topic turns up dozens of opinions with all kinds of qualifications. Trump, for the record, values his licensing business at about \$3.5 billion. The essence of it is, of course, largely intangible — his name and image. Whatever claims are made about Donald Trump’s wealth, it seems prudent to discount it based on the intangible nature of the licensing business. In conclusion, we return to the premise implied in the title of this article. Donald Trump has indeed made a lot of money, though some of it flowed from loans provided by his father Fred, whose estate was valued at \$300 million. Grandfather Frederick also made substantial money in real estate during the Gold Rush. It’s difficult to avoid the conclusion that Donald Trump followed in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather when it came to the “Art of Making the Deal.” Indeed, it seems that making such deals is in the Trump genes.

Dr. L. John Van Til is a fellow for humanities, faith, and culture with The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College. His latest books are Thinking Cal Coolidge and The Soul of Grove City College: A Personal View. ★

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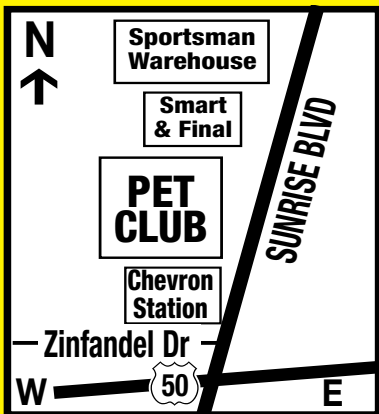
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ARM PLU 422

Game Plots

Virtual Reality Pulls Into the Station

By Noah Howard

An emerging technology could become an important moment in entertainment history. When the train pulled into the station in one of the first films ever shown to the public, people screamed, and ducked, and fled. This new medium of film was too real, too immersive. The train’s modern-day parallel is virtual reality (VR).

That initial reaction to the train was similar to my father’s reaction upon trying VR in HTC’s Vive headset, set for release later this year. VR headsets completely surround the wearer with the sights and sounds of a digital environment, and allow them to look around as they please. It aims for total immersion. When a whale passed by my father’s face he tried to reach out and touch it. Though his feet were standing on solid, flat ground, when presented with a digital cliff, he couldn’t bring himself to jump off. I learned through both the reactions of my father and the conversations with various people working on creating content for VR that this is an entirely new medium—the same as film or television or videogames.

VR is often thought of as an extension of videogames. The three headsets coming out this year are marketed mostly to gamers and are intended for use with game distribution software and systems. But there are plenty of people creating VR content that doesn’t fit into the videogame category. What my father (and I) tried were “experiences”; a sort of non-interactive, digital, moving diorama. We were also shown a proof-of-concept for a short VR film, a Bond-like action scene in which you could look at the fight happening all around you.

The bottom line is that all of this experimentation and variety branches from the fact that VR is so new and different, so intent on completely immersing you in another world, that no one knows how to handle it. It’s equivalent to early silent films that amounted to little more than short plays without any camera movement



VR headsets completely surround the wearer with the sights and sounds of a digital environment, and allow them to look around as they please. It aims for total immersion.

or technique.

In transitioning to VR, most videogames have wrestled with how to allow the player to control the action. Most VR games have to be in first-person, and we’ve never come up with a good way to control a first-person game in which the head movement is independent of body/hand movement, as would be necessary for shooters. For film, the wearer’s ability to freely look around the scene prevents the director from adequately controlling what the viewer sees. As the producer of the studio we visited told me, during an essential dramatic scene of a movie, the viewer could be off looking at a tree.

Nevertheless, these are all problems stemming from the raw new-ness of the VR medium. We can’t process VR because we still don’t know exactly what it is and what it can do. The first consumer headset, the Oculus Rift, was only released at the end of March, so we don’t even know what type of content the consumers in the market will demand. Nevertheless, this is an exciting time. We’re witnessing the birth of a new art form, a new type of entertainment, which could potentially become as much a part of our everyday lives as film, television, or videogames.

Keep your eyes open for VR. You might just see into another world.

To respond to Noah’s articles email him at digitalartsnoah@yahoo.com ★

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