

Defend Your Business or Organization Against a Data Breach

Cyber Security 101 Webinar to provide essential security tips

With the nation on high alert, now more than ever is the time to make cyber security a priority within our organizations. "Every day we are hearing about the devastating costs

of data breaches on businesses and organizations of all sizes. As the cyber security landscape changes, cyber security management for both the public and private sectors is essential," stated

Carol Crosby, President and CEO of the Whittier Chamber. It is estimated that 60% of companies go out of business within six months after a cyber attack.

Without a cyber security strategy, businesses and organizations will not be able to defend themselves from cyber threats leaving them vulnerable to malicious actors, who will then identify the organization as an easy target. "Cyber security awareness education and training is an essential step in helping to prevent a data breach within your organization," Crosby explained. Join the Whittier Chamber as we partner with Pocket Security to bring you an easy-to-understand webinar filled with great tips on how to protect your business or organization. The webinar will be held on Friday, April 14, from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Webinar fees: \$25 Members; \$40 Non-Members

"At Pocket Security, Inc. we believe a proactive approach to securing data and systems is essential, especially as new threats arise looking for vulnerabilities within our organizations. We are a one-stop shop for all of your cyber security needs," explained Leda Muller, Pocket

Security, Inc. President.

Topics to be covered in the Cyber Security 101 Webinar include:

- Importance of cyber security to businesses and organizations
- Understanding the difference between an IT professional vs. a Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)
- Guidance on what you can do to protect your organization from ransomware, cyber attacks, and phishing expeditions
- Data breach case studies
- How to better secure your organization
- Data security tips

Register today for the Cyber Security 101 Webinar at Whittierchamber.com or call 562-698-9554.

Pocket Security, Inc. offers solutions to help educate, create awareness, and develop a plan in cyber security, risk management and business continuity tailored to each organization so individuals within each organization will feel empowered to make informed and strategic decisions to carry out their mission safely and confidently.

For more information, contact Julie Kline, Chief Operating Officer - jkline44@pocketsecurity.org

DEFEND YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION AGAINST A DATA BREACH

THE WHITTIER CHAMBER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH POCKET SECURITY, INC. PRESENTS THE CYBER SECURITY 101 WEBINAR TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SECURITY TIPS

Friday, April 14, 2023
8:30 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.

\$25 Members; \$40 Non-Members

Register today for the Cyber Security 101 Webinar at WhittierChamber.com or call (562) 698-9554

POCKET SECURITY, INC. OFFERS SOLUTIONS TO HELP EDUCATE, CREATE AWARENESS, AND DEVELOP A PLAN IN CYBER SECURITY, RISK MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY TAILORED TO EACH ORGANIZATION SO INDIVIDUALS WITHIN EACH ORGANIZATION WILL FEEL EMPOWERED TO MAKE INFORMED AND STRATEGIC DECISIONS TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION SAFELY AND CONFIDENTLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JULIE KLINE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, [JKLINE44@POCKETSECURITY.ORG](mailto:jkline44@pocketsecurity.org)

See what's inside

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Silver Shield Awards



page 15
Check out our New Members!

Chamber's Top Priorities Revealed, Awards Presented, at Annual Meeting

For the past 12 months, Kwan Lee from Martplan Insurance has had a magical year at the helm of the Whittier Chamber's Board of Directors. And, as quick as you can say Abracadabra, beginning April 1st, Gregg Durkee from Kaiser Permanente will step in as the next volunteer Chair of the Board for the start of the Chamber's 109th year. Both Kwan and Gregg have been involved in the Chamber for many years and share some strong leadership similarities, including their belief in the organization, and their love for Whittier and the businesses the Chamber serves.

For over a century, the Whittier Chamber has proudly served the interests of businesses within our community. On Thursday, April 6, the Chamber will highlight the accomplishments of the past year and honor the volunteers and member businesses who made it possible at the 109th Annual Meeting & Installation, presented by the DoubleTree Hotel Whittier and U.S. Bank. This year's event is taking place at the DoubleTree Hotel Whittier with the evening's festivities kicking off with a networking hour beginning at 5:00 p.m. followed by a magical dinner program starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets to this special event are \$85 per person and include great networking, delicious food, special entertainment featuring Magic Castle magician David Stryker, and a few more fun surprises. "The Annual Meeting provides



Continued on page 4

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**Whittier Chamber Business Focus
Official Publication of the Whittier Area
Chamber of Commerce**

This publication is mailed to 12,000 licensed businesses in the city of Whittier, all Whittier Chamber members, and Whittier residents in selected areas.

We welcome comments, press releases, and community interest stories. The Whittier Chamber reserves the right to approve and edit submitted material.

The inclusion of advertising, logos, or paid advertorial, or reference to any products, process, service, trade name, trademark, or manufacturer in this publication is not an endorsement by the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Gone Fishing

Reflecting on the past year as we exited out of COVID restrictions, the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce made significant progress in growth and retention of our members. We began the fiscal year with the theme of "Going Fishing." This theme is a reflection on our Chamber members' business pursuits and personal wellbeing. The term "Going Fishing" can be defined in many ways to an individual and businesses alike. To me personally, "going fishing" is

a hobby that I picked up after many years during COVID lockdown and proved to be an activity that allowed me to reset personally and provide a time of reflection. While we all can go fishing by getting a pole and going to your favorite pond, river or even the ocean to catch a fish, if you do not have the right set of tools, it is more than likely that you will not have much success. This is the same for your business. In order to attract the right type of customers and retain them,



Kwan Lee,
Chair of the Board

a business must have the right set of tools to effectively deliver the products and services the customer needs. This is where the Whittier Chamber comes in to provide the resources, information and education needed for your business to thrive.

During the past year, the Chamber facilitated many networking opportunities like ribbon cuttings,

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The 110% Club

Thank you to our generous members who have chosen to be part of our 110% Club. Their additional investment of 10% of their dues allows the Chamber to support business growth and strengthen the economic vitality of our region.

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CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

The CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE is a dedicated group of influential businesses that help shape our community vision and support the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce's ability to strengthen the regional economy.



Three Dynamic Business Leaders Recognized for Their Contributions to the Chamber Board

Dedicating their time, talent and treasure to the Chamber's Board of Directors for a combined total of over 15 years, Sandra Hahn, Trese Childs and Judy Bradt will retire at the end of the Chamber's fiscal year on March 31, 2023. "I was proud to serve with these wonderful community leaders who contributed greatly to shaping our community vision," said Chamber Chair of the Board Kwan Lee from Martplan Insurance. "I want to thank each of them for their mentorship, and the shining example they set for me and other members of the Board," Lee continued. "Their enthusiasm, leadership and commitment to the business community will be greatly missed on our Board," added Chamber President and CEO Carol Crosby.



Judy Bradt, owner of A Special Event, has spent the last four years on the Chamber's Board of Directors. Prior to that, Judy served two years as the Ambassador Chair of the Chamber's important volunteer leadership team. Judy has been a strong advocate for the Chamber and has supported many Chamber events over the years. Judy has served on numerous Chamber committees, lending her creative ideas and can-do attitude to everything from the Hathaway Golf Classic to the Business Expo to the Annual Meeting and everything in between. She has been instrumental in helping the Chamber build better and more memorable events for our members. Judy has been a great supporter of our Student Chamber Leaders as well as new businesses in the area. We will miss Judy's understanding of the value of networking and her passion for the Chamber.



Sandra Hahn, owner of Crêpes & Grapes Café, joined the Board of Directors in 2017 and served as Chair of the Board in 2021-2022. During her time on the Board, Sandra provided marketing insight, an important connection to the restaurant community and strong leadership. Sandra led the Chamber as we emerged from pandemic restrictions, while managing her own challenging tasks as a restaurant owner. A supporter of Chamber programs and events for many years, Sandra has served on the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, Shop Local Expo Committee and oversaw the Chamber's Marketing strategic area this year. Always an engaged participant at monthly Board meetings, we will miss Sandra's creativity, her ability to bring people together and her thoughtful consideration of all angles when making decisions for our members.



Trese Childs, Director of Catering at the DoubleTree Hotel Whittier, also joined the Board in 2017. Prior to that, Trese served as a member of the Chamber's Ambassador Team. During her time on the Board, Trese contributed her sales and marketing experience to help support and grow the membership. Trese served on the Executive Committee for many years as the Vice Chair of Networking and Marketing and, most recently, as the Vice Chair of Membership, overseeing the Ambassador Committee. Trese has also been instrumental in working with the Student Chamber Leaders and has served on numerous committees throughout the years. We will miss Trese's great sense of humor, her amazing support of our Chamber members, her creative marketing ideas and her passion for the Whittier community.

A Message from the Chair - Continued from page 2

Tasty Tuesday, Wake Up Whittier, Thirsty Thursday, New Member Orientation and Business Expo. These are just a few of the events that the Chamber offered throughout the year and the team worked hard to deliver value to our members. These events are great for new and existing members to expand their networking by casting a wider net.

As my year winds down at the end of March 2023, the business community and members of the Whittier Chamber are in good hands with the Chamber team, the Board of Directors and the Whittier Chamber Ambassadors. I want to thank my Board of Directors for their guidance and vision this year and I wish only the best and continued success to the Whittier Chamber under the leadership of Gregg Durkee from Kaiser Permanente as your incoming Chair of the Board.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your Chair the past year and I look forward to new ideas and opportunities that will promote, educate, advocate and connect our members and our community.



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WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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WHITTIER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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JOIN US FOR A **Magical Night** at the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting and Installation Dinner

Thursday, April 6

DoubleTree by Hilton, Whittier
5:00 PM Cocktail Reception

Presented by **usbank**



City Of Whittier UPDATE



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



MAYOR

Joe Vinatieri



City Looks to Advance Work Plan & Partnerships with Productive Spring Ahead

Congratulations to the Whittier Chamber of Commerce for hosting the 23rd Annual Silver Shield Awards Banquet last month honoring the officers of the Whittier Police Department at Pacific Palms. Thank you to the committee for making it another successful event, and to the many residents and local businesses for their sponsorship and generosity. I am always moved by the many heroic stories of bravery highlighted, and the lengths our officers go to help and protect the people of Whittier and Santa Fe Springs. The City is extremely fortunate to have its own Police Department and the City Council is proud of each and every sworn and civilian member, along with our wonderful group of volunteers, who answer the call of duty day in and day out. Congratulations again to all the men and women recognized for their outstanding service and dedication. Public safety is our number one priority, and a safe community is a prosperous community. We will continue to prioritize supporting and funding public safety in Whittier.

In recent months, the City Council has approved and advanced a variety of projects that will provide considerable benefit to the community, focusing largely on its longstanding strategic goals and objectives for the City which include enhancing the quality of life in Whittier, providing support for public safety, maintaining a strong local economy, ensuring long term fiscal sustainability, and implementing open and transparent government practices that make it easy for

community members like you to be informed and stay involved. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated City Council and staff that continue to seek new, improved ways to serve the community and ensure that Whittier remains a great place to LIVE, WORK, SHOP and PLAY in 2023.

In that spirit of service, the City recently partnered with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn to bring a Paramedic Assessment Unit (PAU) to Station 28 on Greenleaf Avenue, marking the 2nd PAU engine now in Whittier. The addition of the PAU means a shorter response time to get a paramedic on scene and quicker access to life-saving medical care. I am excited to note that the City Council has also moved to establish an ad hoc committee that will focus on updating and modernizing Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 17 on Hadley Street and bringing the building up to code. Additional ad hoc committees have also been proposed to focus on tracking State legislation more proactively, specifically bills related to public safety, housing, and revenue and taxation that may adversely affect the people of Whittier, and another proposed ad hoc to lend support to local school districts and education partners to advance joint projects like new athletic fields and drug awareness campaigns through which the greater Whittier area may benefit.

Other important Council actions this year have included furthering the City's decennial redistricting process to ensure compliance and representation; establishing a new

partnership to support operations, grant research, and collection curation with the Whittier Museum; implementing an expedited system for solar permits; and approving the initial design concept for the future Greenleaf Promenade that will allow staff to solicit bids this summer for the much-anticipated Uptown streetscape construction project. Very importantly, the City has also established the Whittier Well-Being Initiative aimed at creating awareness of the dangers of counterfeit pills, and more specifically fentanyl, and leveraging coordination between the City and our public health partners to strengthen mental health support and resources in our community. I urge local parents and residents to visit www.cityofwhittier.org/whittierwellbeing to access informational materials, videos, tool kits, and links to regional and national agencies, as well as local support groups and programming. Remember, "One Pill Can Kill."

Spring is officially here and the City's Parks, Recreation & Community Services department will host an Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m. that I hope you will join us for. The annual celebration will take place at Founders Memorial Park (6031 Citrus Ave.) and commemorates Whittier's 39th year receiving the Tree City USA designation. We'll be joined by representatives from Cal Fire, local garden clubs, and the Whittier Conservancy, and students from Longfellow Elementary School are expected to assist park staff in planting new trees.

Please save the date for the City's Eggxtravaganza and Family Fair scheduled for Saturday, April 1, or on Saturday, April 8th in the case of rain. Join us from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Parnell Park (15390 Lambert Rd.) and participate in several egg hunts throughout the day, as well as photos with the Easter Bunny, play time on the inflatable attractions, crafts, music, community booths, and food trucks. Wristbands for \$5 are required and financial assistance is available for families in need. Don't miss one of Whittier's favorite family events! Speak to a PRCS staff member at (562) 567-9450 to learn more.

The 27th Annual Shelter's Right Hand 5K Run/Walk is also coming up on Saturday, April 22, kicking off at 8:00 a.m. at Central Park in Uptown. Each year, our community comes together to take a stand against domestic violence by supporting emergency services and assistance offered by Whittier's own Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. Thank you to the many sponsors who help make this such a successful event each year!

Lastly, please join me on Friday, April 7, for the 57th Annual Whittier Mayor's Prayer Breakfast at the DoubleTree Hotel (7320 Greenleaf Ave.) in Uptown. This year's speaker is Fernando Arroyo, former Army Special Forces Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, veterans' advocate, author, and inspirational speaker. Doors open at 6:30 a.m. for the breakfast event and tickets are available for purchase online at www.whittiermayorsprayerbreakfast.org.



*Wishing you and your family a blessed
Easter holiday and active spring season –
Whittier's... On The Move!*

Annual Meeting - Continued from front page

a great opportunity for our members to connect with each other, learn how the Chamber benefits business, and understand the role the Chamber plays in building a strong community," explained Chamber President and CEO Carol Crosby.

During the program the Chamber will retire three outstanding Board members. Sandra Hahn (past Chair and owner of Crêpes & Grapes Café), Trese Childs (Director of Catering at the DoubleTree Hotel Whittier), and Judy Bradt (owner of A Special Event) as well as Ambassador Team

Chair Laurie Perschbacher (owner of MAP Property Management). All have contributed greatly to the success of the Whittier Chamber.

In addition, incoming Chair of the Board, Gregg Durkee, will announce his Executive Board, introduce his Board of community leaders, and install four new Board members including Liz Apodaca (My Attorney LA), Clarissa Estrada (Credit Union of Southern California), Jere McDonald (Jere E. McDonald, an Accountancy Corp.) and Constanza Pachon (The Whole Child). "We have assembled

a great team for next year," said Durkee proudly. "I am grateful to each member of the Board for graciously committing their time and talents to the organization this upcoming year."

Outgoing Chair of the Board, Kwan Lee, will present awards to outstanding businesses and exceptional volunteers who have helped make the past year a success. "It has been a great honor to serve as the Chair of the Board this past year," said Lee. "I am grateful for all the support I received from my fellow Board members, and countless outstanding business and community

members," he added.

Sponsors for this event include Presenting Sponsors DoubleTree Hotel Whittier and U.S. Bank and Community Partners Athens Services, Kaiser Permanente, PIH Health, Republic Services, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary and Suburban Water Systems. Additional sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Reservations for a table of eight or an individual seat at the event can be made by visiting www.whittierchamber.com or by calling (562) 698-9554.



City Of Whittier UPDATE



10-4 tips from the

WHITTIER POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Chief
Aviv Bar**

Business Burglaries are Rising Regionally

Almost nightly we hear in the news about businesses in Southern California that have fallen victim to overnight burglars. These burglaries are costly in both the theft of money and products as well as the needed repairs to entry points that have been breached by the suspects. These overnight burglaries are being carried out by two distinct categories of criminals: organized burglary rings and opportunistic burglars.

Organized burglary rings operate regularly with a plan in mind and a specific target list. Business locations that carry specific merchandise, high value items, and restricted products and equipment, are often targeted by organized burglary rings. Some examples include pharmacies, jewelry stores, and warehouses. These groups of burglars are well connected to other criminal who specialize in moving the stolen goods through a secondary market for resale. Most of the industries targeted by burglary rings are members of professional associations that have developed best practices for protecting locations and reducing the chance of victimization. Locking up highly desirable items, reinforcing entry points, operating high quality video surveillance, making use of security guards, and ensuring alarms are engaged after normal business hours are a few of the most common recommendations.

In contrast to well organized burglary rings that target specific industries, the majority of businesses face the possibility of falling victim to opportunistic burglars. These burglars may operate alone or with a friend, often supporting a drug habit and requiring a steady flow of cash or items they can sell for cash. The current overnight trend throughout Southern California is window-smash burglaries at eating establishments, but other businesses with storefront glass are just as susceptible.

These opportunistic burglars are targeting cash registers, tip jars, and office safes, to obtain cash. There are several steps businesses can take to reduce the chance of being burglarized and suffering significant losses. To defend against glass break entry, businesses can install storefront security folding gates or shutters. While this is a significant investment, it is a visible deterrent that may keep opportunistic burglars moving along. Visible signs or stickers by entry points that state "No Cash Left in Registers Overnight" is also a way to communicate to potential burglars not to take a chance on the location. Emptying out tip jars nightly will reduce visible items that may make a business desirable for an opportunistic burglar. Finally, avoid leaving large sums of money in the safe overnight and ensure the safe is of high quality, at least 500 lbs. or bolted to the floor.

It is important to report all burglaries to the police department. Officers will collect all associated evidence, including video surveillance, and burglary detectives will investigate the case.



Whittier Councilmember Octavio Cesar Martinez, Assemblymember Blanca Pacheco, Supervisor Janice Hahn, Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, Senator Bob Archuleta, Santa Fe Springs Councilmember Bill Rounds, Whittier Councilmember Cathy Warner, and Whittier Councilmember Fernando Dutra gather at the 23rd Annual Silver Shield Awards Banquet

Kwan Lee, Board Chair, and Shannon Hammer, Vice Chair of the Whittier Chamber present retired Officer John Scoggins with the Community Service Award



Photo courtesy of Say Cheese Photography



2023 Silver Shield Awards

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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- RD McDonnell • Merrill Lynch - David Krake • Mi Burrito (2) • Ralph & Jeanne Muhlestein (3)
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Whittier Police Chief Aviv Bar presents the Medal of Valor to Officer Dave Perez



Chief Sponsors Mitch Clemmons Plumbing posed at the Say Cheese Photography Awards Banquet

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Longtime Employees Takeover ACRO Printing, Inc.

In February of 1991, ACRO Printing, Inc. began its journey in the city of Whittier with one part-time pressman in a building behind Merle West Carpets. Within six months, ACRO moved to 13301 Philadelphia Street in Uptown Whittier, where it remains to this day.

After 33 years, Bonnie and Glenn Watje sold ACRO Printing, Inc. to longtime employees, Catalina Gonzalez and Sean McAfee, (Catalina for 15 years and Sean for 18 years). The new owners will continue to give the same excellent customer service in design, print, promotional items, and mailing service to the Whittier and surrounding communities.

Bonnie and Glenn send their thanks to the local businesses, organizations, friends, and acquaintances that were all a part of the 93,105+ projects produced over the last 33 years. The Chamber thanks them for their involvement in the community and support of numerous organizations over the years.

Stop by and say, "hello" to Catalina and Sean as they continue to service the communities that have been with ACRO for so many years.



Local Agent Recognized by Anthem Blue Cross

Paul Viveros has been a registered health underwriter and an integrated employee benefits and Medicare consultant since 1995. He enjoys working with business owners and CFOs to attract and retain employees by creating employee benefits packages.

Paul opened Whittier Health Insurance Solutions in 2000 and has been a Whittier Chamber member since 2014. After many years of working in Whittier, he was able to expand his business across seven states.

After the major expansion of his business, he relocated his facility from La Habra to Whittier. The new center is 2,000 square feet and located on the first floor of the Social Security red-brick building in Uptown Whittier. He enjoys helping community members with all Medicare questions and educating them on their entitlements. All services are completely free and at no cost to the client.

Paul believes that convenience and expertise is the best way to run his business. "Most of the time, the senior gets same-day service by stopping into our Medicare resource center. We help them fill out necessary government forms, send them upstairs to SSA, and they come back down to enroll into a plan." Says Paul.

Whittier Health Insurance Solutions has three Medicare health plan consultants with a combined experience of over 75 years. Paul's two associates, Jackie Galindo and Virginia Venegas, are fully bilingual and bi-literate in Spanish.

Whittier Health Insurance Solutions evaluates plans, provides second opinions, and helps seniors that are new to Medicare all year round.

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How Grief Can Destroy Families

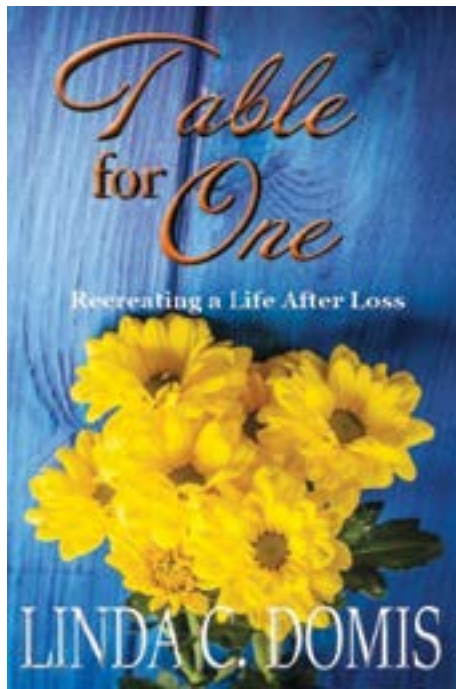
While it seems like grief would bring families together as they all suffer the loss of a loved one, often it does just the opposite. Grief can throw family dynamics into disarray and when there have been significant interpersonal issues before death, those can be amplified or enhanced after loss. Even if you think your family relationships are mostly good, a death can bring out many conflicting emotions in family members.

Linda C. Domis, bestselling author of *Table for One: Recreating a Life After Loss* states, "Family grief is something that is not talked about near enough. In my case, I lost a long-time spouse while my adult children lost a strong parent. We each experienced that loss differently and those differences can drive wedges into the strongest family bonds."

Many family grief issues go back to the idea of expectation. We all expect everyone to grieve just like we do and that is not how it is. Family members may not understand why one person seems to be grieving more deeply than another or how to cope with that difference in grief process.

Domis states, "In order to avoid some of these negative outcomes for any family, it all starts with the knowledge that grief is different for each person. They must work to understand, rather than judge, those who grieve differently than they do – especially family. If the family can embrace effective communication and understanding from the outset, they are much less likely to become distant. Emotions are always high after the loss of a loved one so making a commitment to communicate and understand one another is essential to a positive outcome."

Learning to understand grief and create a new life of hope and promise that includes your whole family isn't easy, but it is possible. Linda C. Domis uses her experience with grief and family to help others understand their own circumstance and find a way forward through the very darkest times.



Visit www.LindaCDomis.com to view her Media Kit.

Media Contact:
Linda Domis,
Phone: (562) 665-1785
linda@lindadomis.com

Better to Chase a Dream, Than Live Without One "CARLOS" GOES TO WHITTIER COLLEGE

On March 30th, *Carlos Through the Tall Grass*, a heartwarming comedy about a first-gen, Latino high school student, will screen at Whittier College. Written and directed by Rick Dominguez and produced by Patti McCarthy, the film shares the story of Carlos, a brilliant high schooler, who is having a hard time deciding whether to go to college or stay home to take care of his quirky family and needy friends who depend upon him.

Carlos faces a dilemma familiar to Latino, first-gen students, who carry the guilt of leaving their friends and family behind. Carlos is a coming-of-age story about realizing you can't get anywhere new if you stick to the same familiar roads—sometimes your dreams are just out of sight, waiting for you, beyond the tall grass.

The film holds special appeal to the Whittier College campus since many students were involved in the making behind, and in front, of the camera and it was produced by the Whittier College faculty. The film was shot entirely in Whittier and serves as a love letter to the local community.

The film will be screened on Thursday, March 30th, at 6:30 pm at the Robinson Theatre in the Shannon Center, 6760 Painter Ave, Whittier. Filmmakers will be present for Q & A.



For more information, please visit carlosthroughthetallgrass.com

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Whittier Union Language Teacher Receives Recognition of Merit from SoCal French Educators Group

Santa Fe High School students have been saying “Oui, j’aime ça!” (“Yes, I love it!”) in world language teacher Isabelle Teraoka’s French class for more than 15 years, immersing themselves in French culture while channeling the Belgium native’s passion for language, words and sound.

Whether the students are conversing entirely in French, watching French films and TV shows, or participating in a French language poetry slam workshop via Zoom, Teraoka’s patience and enthusiasm has helped scores of students master a foreign tongue that is the international language of cooking, fashion, architecture and the arts.

For her outstanding leadership and excellence in teaching and service, the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Southern California chapter has awarded Teraoka its 2022 Recognition of Merit in French Education. Teraoka received her award at the AATF end-of-year dinner at TAIX restaurant in Los Angeles in December 2022.

“When I received the award, I felt it was like wind in my sails. Especially with the challenges of the last two years, this is very special for me,” Teraoka said. “As a language teacher, you are personally invested in your students, you are conversing with them for an entire class, so I feel this award is for my students. This is very meaningful to me. I work very hard. I am typically one of the last teachers to leave the school every day.”

Whittier College Program Coordinator of French Cultural

Studies Marie-Magdeleine Chirol Hill presented Teraoka with the award, praising her immersive teaching style and ability to turn out graduates who have levels of fluency above that of many college students. Chirol Hill pointed to a current Whittier College French student, Santa Fe Class of 2022 graduate Damian Garcia, as evidence of Teraoka’s effectiveness in the classroom.

“This year I have the pleasure of having one of her former students in my conversation class,” Chirol Hill said in her presentation. “I am impressed by the level of this first-year university student. There is no doubt that this student’s success is partly due to Isabelle’s great teaching qualities and the many interactive activities included in her classes.”

Born in Belgium, Teraoka first found a love of language while vacationing with her family in Spain, giving Teraoka her first experience in learning a foreign language. When she was nine years old, Teraoka spent 18 months living in the United States with her family, attending an American school and learning English. Upon returning to Belgium, she was able to continue learning English by watching Disney movies and reading books.

Teraoka’s family relocated permanently to the United States when she was in the eighth grade. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and Latin/Greek at Rutgers University, the multilingual Teraoka found her way to Southern California and earned a teaching credential at California State University, Long Beach in 2005. She began teaching



Santa Fe High School world language teacher Isabelle Teraoka (left) was presented with a Recognition of Merit in French Education by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) Southern California chapter, for her stellar efforts to promote French language and culture. In her presentation, Whittier College Program Coordinator of French Cultural Studies Marie-Magdeleine Chirol Hill (right) praised Teraoka for her ability to graduate students who have levels of fluency above that of many college students.

at Santa Fe later that year, immediately establishing a rapport with her students.

“I’m glad that I decided to learn French because we not only learn the French language, but we also learn about French-speaking nations and their beautiful cultures,” Santa Fe senior Karina Ramirez said. “We have made crepes and ratatouille. We have interactive assignments and we all work together. Ms. Teraoka is my favorite teacher. She is sweet and understanding and patient and her class is a lot of fun.”

Teraoka teaches French 1-4, Spanish 1, and Advanced Placement French. She also encourages her students to attend extracurricular events, such as Whittier College’s annual French play and the American

French Film Festival in Los Angeles. Teraoka prompts dialogues beyond the classroom by arranging Zoom meetings with unique French speakers who share their passion and experiences with the students.

Teraoka also works to find host families for visiting French students, regularly attends French workshops and has given educational presentations for the California Language Teachers’ Association.

“We are thrilled to hear that Isabelle Teraoka has been honored by her colleagues and peers,” Principal Craig Campbell said. “Isabelle is a creative and innovative teacher and has an amazing rapport with her students. Isabelle doesn’t just teach language, she serves as an ambassador for world culture and diversity.”

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MARCH **APRIL**

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Ambassadors are **volunteers** who believe in the Whittier Chamber's mission & values

Christy Wyant
Martplan Insurance

Lauren Sweeney
Rise Up For You

Christy Wyant, Martplan Insurance Agency Inc.

Christy Wyant is a Licensed Insurance Agent and Marketing Manager for Martplan Insurance Agency and calls herself a "relationship-based insurance agent." Christy has been helping individuals, families, and business owners protect their assets for over 30 years, by word of mouth and built on trust. Christy says, "I am proud to be a member of the Martplan Insurance team as the philosophy is to take care of the client, take care of the company and everything else will fall into place."

Christy has been a Chamber member since 2017 and a Chamber Ambassador since 2018. She loves meeting new people and the business connections she has made through various networking events that the Chamber offers.

When asked what she enjoys most about being an Ambassador, Christy said, "Everything! It's difficult to pick just one, so I'll mention three: welcoming the new members and helping them get acclimated to the "happenings" of Wake Up Whittier, supporting new businesses at their grand openings/ribbon cuttings, and

lastly, I cherish the friendships I have made with this amazing group of selfless individuals!"

Currently, Christy is not "officially" on a committee, but she always enjoys helping out, especially at the Hathaway Golf Tournament (which Martplan sponsors the Putt for Prizes contest), New Member Reception, the Annual Awards and Installation meeting/dinner, and the Business Expo.

When asked what fun Spring Break plans she may have, Christy mentioned, "In March, my fun Spring Break plan is to run in the "70's Groovy themed" La Habra Family 5K Run/Walk (#lahabraraces) and the L.A. Marathon. In April, I am doing a Spartan race in San Diego as well as the Shelter's Right Hand 27th Annual 5K Walk (shelterighthand.org)!"

Christy stated, "If anyone is contemplating joining the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, DO IT! Get involved, you will make connections and you will not regret it! And of course, I have to end with 'Martplan is the Smartplan for all your insurance needs!'"

Lauren Sweeney, Rise Up for You

Lauren Sweeney is the Vice President of Business Development at Rise Up for You. Lauren supports companies and individuals to gain confidence, emotional intelligence, personal branding, company culture, and public speaking skills.

Lauren loves getting to meet local business owners and helping support their businesses. Lauren and her husband grew up in Whittier and they have lived here for over 10 years. They love the Whittier Chamber for the way it creates massive opportunities for businesses to grow! Also, the events are well-attended by everyone, from the mayor to the local school districts, which is unique within a Chamber.

When asked what she enjoys most about being an Ambassador, Lauren says, "The sense of pride and community to support each other. Getting to know new

business owners and connecting them with our abundant events!"

Lauren loves to regularly attend Chamber events, such as, Wake Up Whittier, New Member Reception, Non Profit Network, and the Annual Installation and Business Expo. Lauren is also involved in the Silver Shield and Business Expo committees within the Chamber.

When asked what some of her Spring Break plans are, Lauren responded, "We are taking our kids to Newport Beach for Spring Break and we might work on our surfing skills or find fun tide pools to explore!"

Lauren has been a Chamber member for almost three years and an Ambassador for over two years. Lauren stated that being part of the Whittier Chamber has been an incredible experience and one that she looks forward to continuing for years to come!

Ambassador Team 2022-2023

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Alyssa Barrios, *Mary Kay*
John Bogdanov, *TelWorx*
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Lucy Spencer, *EXP Realty Whittier*
Lauren Sweeney, *Rise Up for You*
Christy Wyant, *Martplan Insurance*

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



The Whittier Chamber celebrated Home Instead Senior Care's remodel and expansion with an official ribbon cutting joined by City of Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, La Habra Mayor James Gomez, and Chamber Board Members and Ambassadors

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn cuts a ceremonial ribbon surrounded by City of Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, council members and fire department staff during a ceremony for the new paramedic assessment unit at Los Angeles County Fire Department Station 28



Chamber Takeover! Whittier Chamber members and Ambassadors took over Bizarra Capital for a delicious lunch and networking

Old, new, and prospective Chamber members gathered at De Luca's Italian restaurant for the Tasty Tuesday networking lunch



Jim Coombs, Superintendent of Lowell Joint School District updated local businesses and Chamber members on District priorities at the January Wake Up Whittier at Jordan Elementary



Lauren Sweeney with Rise Up for You, discusses how you can be a "Non Profit Superhero" while also taking care of yourself at a recent Chamber Non Profit Network event at the Whittier Central Library

**Congrats to this business also celebrating a ribbon cutting:
Tacos Y Que**



AROUND TOWN

Rotary Aids Earthquake Victims

The Rotary Club of Whittier was able to fill an entire van as part of a warm clothing drive sponsored by Rotary District 5320. The request was for new or gently used sweaters, coats, scarves and blankets.

The coming together of the clubs was an amazing thing to behold. A cargo plane filled to capacity left for Turkey while two more containers were filled and loaded on a cargo ship bound for Syria. The remaining items were divided and dispersed to local non-profits.

With over 45,000 dead, Rotary had to step up to help. One van filled by one club may not seem like a lot but with the combined efforts of the 47 plus clubs within District 5320, we hope that we dented the relief efforts. Margaret Mead put it best when she wrote; "Never doubt that a small group



Rotary Club of Whittier filled van with warm clothing for earthquake victims.

of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

SOLA Lions Club Golf Tournament Raises Money for Special Olympic Athletes

The SOLA Lions Club, a local non-profit organization founded in 2009 to serve and support Special Olympic athletes, will hold their 5th annual Golf Tournament on Monday, May 1, 2023 at Friendly Hills Country Club. Check-in is at 9 a.m. and shotgun is at noon. Golf registration is \$225 per player and includes golf, cart, driving range, goodie bag, lunch, on course beverages and dinner. The Tournament will feature a putting contest, hole-in one contest, closest to the line drive, closest to the pin contest and a \$1,000,000 shot opportunity. Tee signs are also available for \$100.

SOLA Lions Club supports Special Olympic athletes who step out and compete in sporting events such as track and field, aquatics, bowling, softball and basketball. The Club helps provide sports and training programs for any individual with intellectual disabilities, thereby improving their lives and the lives of everyone they touch. The SOLA Lions Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7:15 p.m. For more information on the golf tournament visit www.solagolf.com. For information on other ways you can help the SOLA Lions Club, please visit www.solalionsclub.org



Rotary Club Hosts Bingo & Brew

Join the Rotary Club of Whittier for "Bingo and Brew" on Friday, March 24 from 6-9 p.m. at the Whittier Elks Lodge, 13620 E. Whittier Blvd. It will be a fun filled

evening of dinner, a flight of beer and bingo. Opportunity baskets, prizes, and a whole lot of fun awaits. Pricing is \$75 per person.

This is an amazing opportunity to support Rotary's community partners and the phenomenal work they do. Proceeds go to local youth and community grants. Sponsorships, tickets and further information is available at www.bingoandbrew.com

Dancing with the Whittier Stars is BACK!

After a 2-year hiatus, the Whittier Community Foundation is bringing back their popular Dancing with the Whittier Stars event. This exciting event pairs local community members with professional dancers Rudy and Maria Hernandez from RMH Entertainment. Dancing with the Whittier Stars will take place on Friday, May 5 and Saturday, May 6 at the Whittier Community Theatre. Both shows will be held at 6 p.m. with the Friday show featuring a Cinco de Mayo theme and the Saturday show featuring dances through the decades.

Dancing this year are community members Shannon Hammer from Shannon G's Flowers, Dr. Manuel Urteaga from Urteaga Chiropractic, Claudia Guardado from the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, Sarah Salazar from REACH, Whittier City Council member Octavio Cesar Martinez, Susan Ayala from Republic Services, Paul White from White Emerson Mortuary, Alyssa Barrios from Mary Kay, DeAnna Merino Contino from Whittier College, Virginia Salamanca from Mulberry Elementary School, Michelle Barron from Fidelity National Title and Michael Seril from Michael Seril Fitness Studio. All proceeds raised from this event will go toward Whittier Community Foundation projects including the refurbishment of the Emma Wicker Auditorium at East Whittier Middle School.

Tickets to each night's performance are \$50 and can be purchased through Eventbrite.com. Ticket prices include a buffet dinner and the show. Visit WhittierCF.org for more information.



5K Walk in Uptown Whittier to Benefit Victims of Domestic Violence

Registration is underway for the Shelter's Right Hand 27th Annual "Stepping Out Against Domestic Violence" 5K Fitness Walk to benefit the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter. On April 22, 2023, hundreds of community members and Honorary Chairperson, Paul White, will step out in support of survivors and remember victims of domestic violence. From Central Park, walkers will follow a 5 kilometer scenic walk through historic residential and business districts of Uptown Whittier.

The Shelter's Right Hand is pleased to announce that Janice Hahn, Supervisor-Fourth district, County of Los Angeles is the presenting sponsor of the Walk. The generous grant from this sponsor makes it possible for all entry fees, sponsorships and individual donations to go directly to the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter.

For registration and event information, visit the Shelter's Right Hand website at www.sheltersrighthand.org. For more information, call (657) 549-2551. Donations to benefit the Women's & Children's Crisis Shelter are payable to Shelter's Right Hand, P.O. Box 9304, Whittier, CA 90608.



Cinco de Mayo Celebration at the Whittier Regional Symphony

On Sunday, April 30, The Whittier Regional Symphony presents a Cinco de Mayo celebration with the Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Divas, Disney's official Mariachi. The celebration will be held at Vic Lopez Theatre in the city of Whittier at 2:30 P.M.

The concert is free to the public and sponsored by the Whittier Regional Symphony and tickets will be available for pick up at the Whittier Chamber office located at 8158 Painter Ave. Tickets can be picked up Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. and will be limited to two – four per person.

For more information, please contact the Whittier Regional Symphony office at 562-698-8626. We hope to see you there!



Boys & Girls Club of Whittier Presents: Tour de Great Futures!

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, all are welcome to join the fun at "Tour de Great Futures!" an inspiring indoor-spinning fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier hosted by MSF Studio. From 8 A.M. – 1 P.M., the Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier's gymnasium will be filled with music, energy, friends, refreshments and good times. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Whittier encourages you to gather a team of five friends, colleagues or co-workers to create a bike team to compete. Your team will have your own spin cycle for one of the five 30-minute spinning sessions; or you have the option to ride solo one time or all day. The best part of participating is knowing that you are helping the Boys & Girls Club provide all-day programs for over 200 kids in the Whittier community this summer!

If you would like more information on sponsorship opportunities, starting a bike team, riding as a solo rider or donating a raffle prize to support this event; please contact Stephanie Salas at (562) 945-3787 x 102, stephanie@bgcw.org or register at www.bgcw.org/tour-de-great-futures/.



RENEWING MEMBERS

Thanks to the following members for renewing their Chamber membership and for supporting our efforts to build a strong local economy

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023

1st Day Lending (626) 224-5920 Member Since: 2021	First Pacific Bank (Formerly Friendly Hills Bank) (562) 947-1920 Member Since: 2006	PIP Printing & Marketing Services (562) 921-5188 Member Since: 1968
Accurate Taxes, LLC (562) 632-1104 Member Since: 2022	Fix Auto Whittier (562) 698-8220 Member Since: 2021	R'Gals Properties (562) 692-5457 Member Since: 2012
Advanced Benefit Center (562) 947-0625 Member Since: 1992	Forkliftian, Inc. (562) 484-8643 Member Since: 2019	Rio Hondo College Foundation (562) 463-6654 Member Since: 2017
Aesthetic Transformation Spa LLC (562) 233-4315 Member Since: 2022	Friends of the Whittier Hills Association (626) 622-6541 Member Since: 2015	Roberts Real Estate & Property Management (562) 903-1139 Member Since: 2015
Allblack Co., Inc. (562) 946-2955 Member Since: 2021	Garber's Independent BMW & Volvos (562) 941-9545 Member Since: 2013	Say Cheese Photography (562) 698-0530 Member Since: 2011
American First Credit Union (562) 355-6242 Member Since: 2014	Gateway Management Company (562) 696-6900 Member Since: 2012	SCU Health (562) 943-7125 Member Since: 2019
AMG Printing (562) 696-8196 Member Since: 2021	Hadley Auto Body (562) 692-3793 Member Since: 1999	Shannon G's Flowers & Clothing Boutique (562) 789-5808 Member Since: 2003
Anaconda Street Productions (562) 945-8537 Member Since: 2021	Harmony Center for Spiritual Living (562) 698-0341 Member Since: 2004	Shakey's Pizza Restaurant (562) 692-0741 Member Since: 2000
Berkshire Hathaway Home Services (562) 943-7266 Member Since: 1975	Hemlock Company CBD Wellness (562) 273-5336 Member Since: 2019	Shepherd of Life (562) 696-1151 Member Since: 2020
Blue Mar Travel (562) 380-3330 Member Since: 2021	Jack's Whittier Restaurant (562) 693-8713 Member Since: 2019	Soroptimist International of Whittier (562) 652-3451 Member Since: 1998
Brick & Co. Real Estate (562) 335-5269 Member Since: 2021	La Posada (562) 945-2651 Member Since: 1994	Sprinkler Fitters U.A. Local 709 (562) 698-9909 Member Since: 2017
California Domestic Water Co. (562) 947-3811 Member Since: 1984	Lascari's Italian Deli (562) 943-1113 Member Since: 1983	Star Kleeners (562) 415-8676 Member Since: 2013
Candlewood Country Club (562) 941-1228 Member Since: 2010	Law Office of Alex M. Moisa, The (562) 945-2086 Member Since: 2020	Steve's BBQ (562) 789-0200 Member Since: 2015
Catering By Herach & Ara (323) 728-0573 Member Since: 2011	M&M Glass, Inc. (562) 945-6212 Member Since: 2014	Sunrun (310) 713-0873 Member Since: 2021
Chemique Pharmaceuticals (562) 698-0921 Member Since: 2018	Mary Kay (562) 322-2869 Member Since: 2020	Tanabe, Theodore A. D.D.S. (562) 698-0387 Member Since: 1999
Chick-fil-A Whittwood (562) 902-1550 Member Since: 2013	Matrix Oil Corporation (805) 884-9000 Member Since: 2002	Telcog Communications (844) 548-8647 Member Since: 2017
Chorale Bel Canto (888) 460-9222 Member Since: 2007	Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (714) 257-4481 Member Since: 2006	Town House of Whittier (562) 236-9069 Member Since: 1995
CIL Freight, Inc. (626) 964-3232 Member Since: 2016	Michael Seril Fitness Studio (714) 306-9002 Member Since: 2021	Whittier Area Community Church (562) 945-4500 Member Since: 1995
Crosspoint Christian Church (562) 698-2597 Member Since: 2021	Morphevolve LLC (562) 233-4315 Member Since: 2021	Whittier College (562) 907-4200 Member Since: 1959
Discovery Depot College Avenue Station (562) 358-5001 Member Since: 2019	Muhlestein, Jeanne Member Since: 1997	Whittier Fit Body Boot Camp (626) 765-1336 Member Since: 2022
Domis Team - Linda Domis (562) 884-5373 Member Since: 2004	Ocean Honda of Whittier (562) 280-2838 Member Since: 1942	Whittier Hospital Medical Center (562) 945-3561 Member Since: 1961
East Whittier City School District (562) 907-5900 Member Since: 2019	P.C. Help Desk, The (562) 869-4435 Member Since: 1996	Whittier Union High School District (562) 698-8121 Member Since: 1980
Fancy Nanci Balloons (562) 464-7357 Member Since: 2021	Perisho & Associates (562) 547-6569 Member Since: 2014	Xtreme Tint (562) 789-0600 Member Since: 2016
Farmers Insurance - Nancy L. Hicks Agency (562) 943-6721 Member Since: 2018	Piña Reading Academy (562) 698-7323 Member Since: 2011	

Congratulations to our Milestone Members this month!

Thank you to the following businesses that have been longstanding partners with the Whittier Chamber in helping to support our thriving economy.

MARCH

25 YEARS

Soroptimist International of Whittier
(562) 652-3451

15 YEARS

Friends Chiropractic
(562) 698-1275

10 YEARS

Clearman's Steak 'N Stein Inn
(562) 699-8823

5 YEARS

Chemique Pharmaceuticals
(562) 698-0921

April

70 YEARS

**Rose Hills
Memorial Park & Mortuary**
(562) 699-0921

CHAMBER CALENDAR

MARCH 2023

March 15 • 4 P.M.
Business Expo 2023
DoubleTree by Hilton-Whittier

March 20 • 6 P.M.
Multi-Chamber L.A. Kings Mixer
Crypto.com Arena

March 29 • 12 P.M.
Nekter Juice Bar - Ribbon Cutting
The Groves Whittier

March 30 • 5 P.M.
**Chamber Business Alliance
Spring Mixer**
Embassy Suites

APRIL 2023

April 6 • 5 P.M.
**Whittier Chamber Annual Meeting
& Installation Dinner**
DoubleTree by Hilton-Whittier

April 14 • 8:30 A.M.
Cyber Security 101 Webinar

April 19 • 7:30 A.M.
Wake Up Whittier
Whittier Community Center



For up-to-date calendar
information visit
www.whittierchamber.com

NEW MEMBERS

BATH & BODY SHOP

Pour Le Bain
Stephanie Benavidez
6721 Greenleaf Ave.
Whittier, CA 90601
(562) 464-3636
www.instagram.com/pour_le_bain



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS

RMLLC
Gary Chan
1135 Terminal Way #209
Reno, NV 89502
(323) 983-3379
www.ercspecialists.com



BUSINESS SERVICES

Whittierjobs.com
David Mora
921 N. Harbor Blvd., Suite 400
La Habra, CA 90631
(562) 652-5207
www.whittierjobs.com



CATERERS

The Hawaiian Hotdog
Jay Salazar
(562) 639-1058
www.instagram.com/thehawaiianhotdog



La Michoacana on Wheels
Jessica Camacho
838 Tri City Center Dr.
Redlands, CA 92734
(714) 936-1636
www.instagram.com/la_michoacana_on_wheels



CHIROPRACTOR

Joc Doc Chiropractic
Nik Noriega
11510 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90601
(562) 755-0275
www.msha.ke/drnk.com



CLEANING SERVICE

The Pressure Boys
Robert Orozco
(323) 747-9480
www.itsthepressureboys.com



CONSULTING

B2B Profit Pro
Tony Valenzuela
1117 Fairview Ave., #D
Arcata, CA 91007
(949) 922-7997
www.b2bprofitpro.com



CHURCHES

The Gathering Church
Raul Aldaco
7033 Greenleaf Ave.
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 755-9526



CIVIC MEMBER

Cindy Cuevas

CONSULTING

Big Creek Intelligence
Sean Wilson
P.O. Box 11143
Whittier, CA 90603
(877) 769-5499
www.bigcreekintel.com



DANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Steps of Gold
Alicia Mendibles
16527 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 307-6112
www.stepsofgolddance.com



DENTIST & ORTHODONTISTS

Dentist of Whittier General & Cosmetic Dentistry
Margarita Petrosian
16461 Whittier Blvd.
Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 414-5025
www.dentistsofwhittier.com



DJ SERVICES

D. Razo Entertainment Inc.
Dennis Razo
825 N. Euclid St., #F
Anaheim, CA 92801
(714) 605-0548
www.drazoentertainment.com



ESTATE SALES

Blue Moon Estate Sales - Whittier
Sherryn Ortega
(562) 686-5109
www.blumoonestatesales.com/whittier-ca/



Blue Moon Estate Sales-Whittier is happy to provide residential and commercial estate sale services with your needs in mind. They take the burden of planning, staging, promoting, and running a successful estate sale off your shoulders. Their experienced team is comprised of trustworthy, friendly, energetic folks who will work with the utmost care, discretion, and professionalism and are ready to do all they can to make your sale a success.

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Merlin Insurance & Investments
Ivan Dom
505 N. Brand Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91203
(626) 586-2902
www.merlinfinancialservices.com



INSURANCE

New York Life - Evelyn Betancourt
Evelyn Betancourt
801 N. Brand Blvd.
Glendale, CA 91203
(323) 497-7948
www.newyorklife.com/agent/embetancourt



Team M&M Insurance Agency
Lydia Uribe
7203 Greenleaf Ave., Suite H
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 204-8465
www.teammminsurance.com



MASSAGE THERAPY

Panchito El Sobador
Ricardo Ramirez
7957 Painter Ave., #203
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 572-9882
www.panchitoelsobador.com



ORAL HEALTHCARE

Tokii
Sonnal Ladva
(714) 501-4805
www.tokii.com



Established in 2021, Tokii is a family start up created to provide authentic Oral Care Solutions through Simple Innovative Designs. Their first product, also called Tokii, is a patented product inspired by the 5000 year Science of Ayurveda. It was designed to enhance your oral care regime by introducing tongue scraping at the tip of your toothbrush!

PAYROLL SERVICES

Payroll Ready
Paul Espinoza
1440-2 S. State College Blvd., Suite J
Anaheim, CA 92806
(949) 325-6770
www.payrollready.com



PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ernest Peralta Photography
Ernest Peralta
(714) 402-4946
www.eaperalta90640.myportfolio.com

Ernest Peralta Photography

REAL ESTATE

Re/Max Dynasty
Armelynda Negrete
15820 Whittier Blvd., Suite B
Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 698-8454
www.remxdynasty.com



RESTAURANTS

Alondra Hot Wings
Michael McPhearson
13205 Whittier Blvd., Unit A
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 236-5300
www.lovealondras.com



Pit N Bull
Brian Kiepler
13002 Philadelphia St.
Whittier, CA 90601
(562) 318-1101
www.pitandbullbbq.com



SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES

Whittier Place
Tierre Thornton
12315 Burgess Ave.
Whittier, CA 90604
(562) 777-1477
www.watermarkcommunities.com



SOCIAL SERVICES

The Nehemiah Project LA
Josie Martin
10252 Mills Ave.
Whittier, CA 90604
(562) 758-9808
www.nehemiahprojectla.org



TOY STORE

Bricks & Minifigs, Whittier
Katie Leushner
15334 Whittier Blvd., 10-C
Whittier, CA 90603
(562) 905-6008
www.bricksandminifigs.com



WEBSITE DESIGN & HOSTING SERVICES

AIM Squad
Ryan Contreras
(323) 547-1424
www.aimsquad.com



WINDOW COVERINGS

Benjamin Draperies LLC
Frances Benjamin
425 W. Allen Ave., Unit 110
San Dimas, CA 91773
(909) 592-3800
www.benjamindraperies.com



JOIN ME IN BECOMING A CHAMBER MEMBER

TESTIMONIAL



“ I recently completed a project for my fellow Whittier Chamber of Commerce member, Rich Southard at Home Instead Senior Care, who was expanding his current office location in anticipation of celebrating their 20th year anniversary in Whittier. Rich chose my company because we were a fellow Chamber member.

Because of the relationships that I have formed in the Chamber, I was successful in teaming up with other Chamber member to accomplish his tenant improvement build. Each person brought a special skill set to the project. It was a great way for me to pay it forward.

Chamber member, Jessie Carrillo at J2 Architects, located in the Nixon Building Uptown, produced the required plans for the City of Whittier Building and Safety Department to acquire the proper construction permits.

Chamber member, Aimee Phillips at Uptown Flooring & Design supplied and installed a beautiful new engineered wood floor to set a professional business atmosphere in the new office space.

My crew built the new metal stud framework laying out the new office configuration, installed a smooth drywall finish to the walls and completed the new office build by installing new commercial grade doors and hardware, and painting the offices with the existing Home Instead corporate colors.

Chamber member, Steve Rosas at Ooma, Inc. supplied and installed a new business phone system on the new telecommunication lines and hardware he installed running throughout the new office build. The new network is capable of future expansion as Home Instead grows in Whittier.

This is a prime example how Chamber members can work together to help each other out to accomplish a common goal. ”

RJP Construction
Ray Perez
Member Since 2016

Shop for Spring Savings



**Big 5 • Blaze Fast Fire'd Pizza • Burlington • Chili's • China Wok • Cricket Wireless
 Dollar Tree • Don Roberto's Jewelers • Doubleju • Famous Footwear • Fantastic Sam's
 Fashion Q • Five Below • GameStop • GNC • H&R Block • Hawaiian Island BBQ • Hear USA
 La Michoacana • Maki Yaki Japanese Grill • Marshalls • Michaels • Natalie's Nails & Spa
 Petco • Rite Aid • Ross Dress for Less • Rubi's Frosty Freeze • Sally Beauty Supply
 SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union • Staples • Subway • T-Mobile • The Olive Garden
 The Quad Cleaners • The UPS Store • TJ Maxx • Vallarta Supermarkets
 Weight Watchers • Yogurtland
 NOW OPEN – Casa De Café
 COMING SOON – It's Boba Time**

Whittier Boulevard & Painter Avenue • Whittier