



Chamber of Commerce
Newsletter

January 2007 • Volume 2 • Issue 1

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***Amanda St. John and Nanette Martin of MuttShack
 to Speak at Luncheon Wed., January 24, 11:30 a.m.***

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce will host a special luncheon that will discuss emergency preparedness. The luncheon will feature Amanda St. John (top photo) and Nanette Martin of the non-profit MuttShack Animal Rescue Foundation as speakers on Wed., January 24, 2007, 11:30 a.m. at the China Town Buffet, 13760 Foothill Blvd., in Sylmar.



In addition to rescuing animals from shelters and finding permanent homes for them, MuttShack responds to major disasters with focus on rescuing and rehabilitating abandoned animals.

MuttShack rescued over 3,000 animals that were abandoned in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. MuttShack also provides an online Animal Rescue Certification FEMA class to train volunteers to assist animals in disasters. Amanda St. John is the founder of

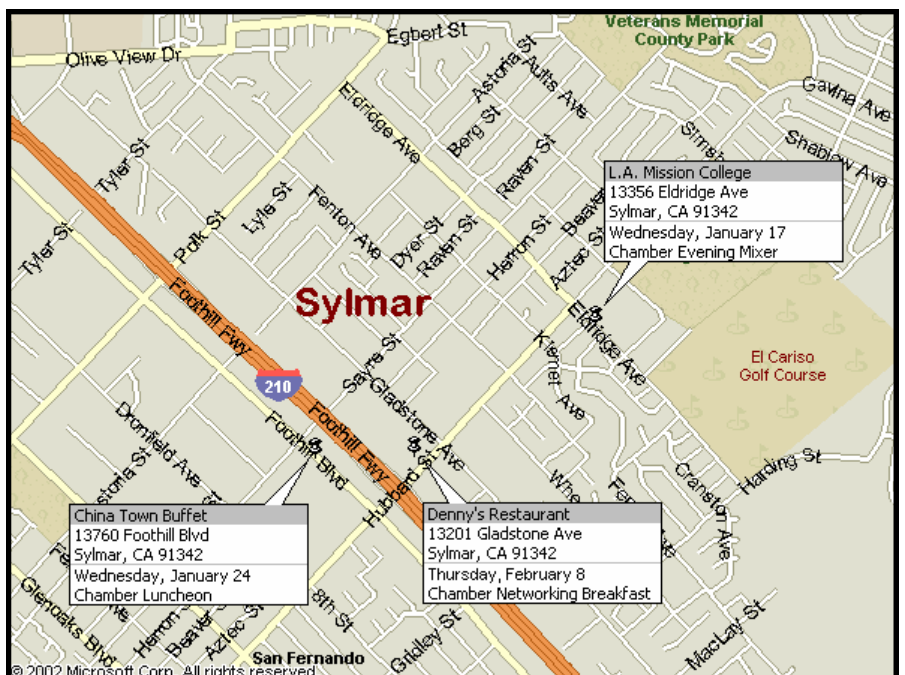
MuttShack, located in Lake View Terrace. In 2005, St. John was honored with special awards from the House of Representatives and the City of Los Angeles for her outstanding rescue efforts and community service.

Nanette Martin is the staff photographer for MuttShack. As a documentary photographer, Martin focuses on recording the aftermath of disasters and has taken photographs of scenes following Sept. 11, Hurricane Katrina and the 2003 Cedar Fire.

If you RSVP to (818) 367-1177 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, deduct \$5, as you have earned the RSVP discount. Lunch is included in the price of your ticket. Whether or not you eat, you must purchase a ticket to attend. Those that reserve who do not cancel will be billed.

***Join the Chamber
 Membership Drive!***

Rejoin the Chamber now to maintain the old rate. If you delay, you will pay the new rate that takes effect March 1. So act quickly to continue your membership. Annual membership includes a subscription to our monthly printed newsletter, which features news on community affairs, important business information and upcoming events.



Locations and Dates of January Chamber Mixer and Luncheon and February Breakfast.



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Board Members

Cheri Blose
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Barry Sylvan
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Rebecca Bascom
2nd Vice-President

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Charlotte Bedard
Nick Krall
Directors

Office Staff

Bart Reed
Membership Executive

Numan Parada
Communications Director

Mission Statement

The mission of the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce is to resolutely foster, promote and ensure progressive and orderly economic, industrial, commercial and agricultural development, to proactively address civic issues, and support social interests in order to make the community a better place in which to live and work.

Chamber History

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce was established in 1946 under the name of the Foothill Village Chamber of Commerce. The name was changed to the Sylmar Chamber of Commerce in 1958.

Nuestra oficina emplea una plantilla bilingüe para servir la comunidad hispana.

"It All Comes Together in Sylmar!"

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Holiday Toy Drive Mixer a Success

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce held a special holiday toy drive during its monthly mixer on Wednesday, December 20 at Kiss It Self Storage in Sylmar, hosted by KISS Manager **Younes Younes**. For the event, Chamber members and guests were encouraged to bring an unwrapped toy. During the course of the mixer, folks came in with presents and shared holiday cheer with each other over refreshments. Chamber President **Cheri Blose** welcomed mixer regulars as well as newcomers.



Photograph by Bart Reed

Among the attendees included **Luis Sanchez** of the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, **Nina Royal** of the North Valley Reporter, **Robert Carter**, **Lisa Pierce** of Barry Sylvan Company, **Tammy Flores** of the Sylmar Neighborhood Council, **Alma Wade** of San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, **Rebecca Bascom** of Legend Mortgage, **John Severino** of Symphony Mortgage, and **Nick Krall** of Primerica Financial Services.

The day after the event, Younes and Chamber Membership Executive **Bart Reed** delivered the toys to Olive View Medical Center.

If you want to be part of the action, come to our upcoming Valentine's Day evening mixer on **Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 p.m.**, at **Las Hadas Family Dentistry**, 12737 Glenoaks Blvd. #6, in Sylmar. To RSVP, call (818) 367-1177. Don't forget to bring your cards!

Guests Informed at December Luncheon

Guests at the Thursday, December 14, Sylmar Chamber Luncheon listened to updates on local crime from LA Mission Area Commanding Officer **John A. Villegas**. **Valerie Kieselhorst** of Voila Photography once again offered her photographic talents for the event. Local entrepreneurs welcomed newcomers such as **Circe Lucina Cox** of San Fernando Valley Financial Development Corp. and **Harman "Sunny" Singh** of Guesthouse Inn. Representatives from local businesses and non-profits made their presence known at the luncheon: **Al Porter** of Speed Barn, **Becky Bascom** of Legend Mortgage, **Barry Syl-**

van and **Lisa Pierce** of Barry Sylvan Company, **John Severino** of Symphony Mortgage, **Bonnie Bernard** of Flowers 4-U, **Vanessa Smart** of The Entrepreneurs' Source, **Alma Johnson-Hawkins** of LA Mission College, **Younes Younes** of Keep It Self Storage, **Alma Wade** of San Fernando Pioneer Cemetery, **Lee Hull** of Hull Realty, **Luis Sanchez** of the Los Angeles City Office of the Mayor, and **Nina Royal** of the *North Valley Reporter*.

Chamber Announces February 21 Luncheon

The Sylmar Chamber of Commerce will host a luncheon that will feature Valley Economic Development Corporation (VEDC) President Roberto Barragan as the speaker on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 11:30 a.m. at the China Town Buffet, 13760 Foothill Blvd., in Sylmar.

Since 1976, the VEDC has provided various services to San Fernando Valley small- and medium-sized businesses while maintaining strong relationships with civic leaders.

If you RSVP to (818) 367-1177 by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, deduct \$5, as you have earned the RSVP discount. Lunch is included in the price of your ticket. Whether or not you eat, you must purchase a ticket to attend. Those that reserve who do not cancel will be billed.



Photograph by Valerie Kieselhorst

LAPD Captain Jorge A. Villegas.

Fun For All At December 7 Breakfast

Members of the business community mingled during the Chamber Networking Breakfast held on Thursday, December 7. Local entrepreneurs met each other over a hearty breakfast courtesy of **Farooq Ghias** of Denny's Restaurant. Guests learned about other area businesses and shared the latest news on local happenings. Guests included **Al Porter**, **Cheri Blose**, **Becky Bascom**, **Riffat Khan** of Proton Website Design, **James Thomasson** of Cal National Bank, **Bernardino Cardoza** of Sylmar Drywall, **Lee Hull** of Hull Realty, **Scott Siegfroid** of Verizon Wireless, **Alma Johnson-Hawkins** of LA Mission College, and **Valerie Kieselhorst**.



Photograph by Valerie Kieselhorst
Scott Siegfroid of Verizon Wireless.

Network Breakfast Thursday, Feb. 8 and Mar. 8 at Denny's

If you want to interact with your business community, don't hesitate to reserve your seat at our next Networking Breakfasts on Thursday, February 8 and March 8, 7:30 a.m., at Denny's Restaurant, 13201 Gladstone Ave., near Hubbard St. and I-210, in Sylmar. Tickets are \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members. Deduct \$5 if you reserve your seat by 4 p.m. on the day before each breakfast. Breakfast is included in your ticket. To RSVP, please call our office at (818) 367-1177.

Come to Chamber Evening Mixer at L.A. Mission College Wed., January 17, 6:30 p.m.



The Sylmar Chamber invites you and your guests to attend a special wine and cheese evening mixer on Wednesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at L.A. Mission College, 13356 Eldridge Ave., in the Culinary Arts Dining Room 1007 in the Campus Center Building, in Sylmar. The mixer will be hosted by Mission College President Ernest H. Moreno, who will discuss upcoming campus events, and feature catering by Chef Rudy. Attendees are asked to park at the Faculty and Staff lot, where they will then be directed to the mixer location. Guests are encouraged to bring business cards and introduce themselves during the mixer. To RSVP, call (818) 367-1177.

Don't Delay! A Special New Year Storage Discount is Waiting For You At KISS Sylmar! Where you always come First...

Our store features state-of-the-art design and all the latest amenities to best serve you. Let us solve all your storage needs from cleaning out your overstuffed closet to storing your whole house. Come down now to get your space, and see why everyone wants to store with KISS.

- Individual door alarms
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www.keepitselfstorage.com/sylmar.htm



SPECIAL OFFER

(with this coupon)

50% Off

First Month Rental (Any Size)

Free lock when mentioning **Sylmar Chamber**.

(Offer expires March 31, 2007)



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Upcoming Events

Jan 9: ETI Corral 12 General Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Chamber Office, Sylmar.

Jan 10: Sylmar Woman's Club, 11:30 a.m., Odyssey Restaurant, 15600 Odyssey Dr., Granada Hills. Call (818) 833-8033. Tickets: \$20.

Jan 11: Sylmar Chamber Networking Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Denny's Restaurant, 13201 Gladstone Ave., near Hubbard St. and I-210, Sylmar.

Jan 11: Kiwanis Club Meeting, 12 noon, Denny's Hubbard at Gladstone, Sylmar. Call (818) 367-9310.

Jan 11: Sylmar Neighborhood Council Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Hubbard St. Elem. School Auditorium, 13325 Hubbard St., Sylmar.

Jan 17: Sylmar Chamber Mixer, 5:30 p.m., L.A. Mission College, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar.

Jan 18: Sylmar Block Captains' LAPD Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Chamber Office.

Jan 23: ETI Corral 12 Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Chamber Office, Sylmar.

Jan 24: Sylmar Chamber Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., China Town Buffet, 13760 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar. Speakers: Nanette Martin, Amanda St. John

Feb 6: Sylmar Chamber Board Meeting, 6 p.m., Chamber Office.

Feb 7: Sylmar Civic Association, 7:30 p.m., Chamber Office.

Feb 8: Sylmar Chamber Networking Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Denny's Restaurant, 13201 Gladstone Ave., near Hubbard St. and I-210, Sylmar.

Feb 13: Sylmar Chamber Valentine's Day Mixer, 5:30 p.m., Las Hadas Family Dentistry, 12737 Glenoaks Blvd. #6, Sylmar.

Feb 21: Sylmar Chamber Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., China Town Buffet, 13760 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar. Speaker: Roberto Barrigan.

COME TO 4 GREAT EVENTS!

Wednesday, January 17

Chamber Mixer at Mission College
(See Page 3)

Wednesday, January 24

Chamber Luncheon
Featuring: Nanette Martin
& Amanda St. John, MuttShack
Animal Rescue Foundation
(See Page 1)

Thursday, February 8

Chamber Networking Breakfast
(See Page 3)

Thursday, February 13

Chamber Mixer at Las Hadas
Family Dentistry
(See Page 2)

A Message from the President

Whenever a new year rolls around, people either look forward to it or face it with uncertainty. Some make resolutions to improve themselves or achieve success in their endeavors. How will we grow our businesses in 2007? Do we have the tools to make our dreams of better recognition and bigger profits a reality? The Sylmar Chamber knows that networking, establishing business relationships and staying informed on community matters form a step in that growth.

With the winter season in full swing, the Chamber will provide many opportunities for business representatives to meet each other and promote their interests.

LA Mission College will host our January 17 evening mixer, which promises to be quite a treat, while the China Town Buffet will once again host our January 24 Chamber luncheon. Farooq Ghias, who the Chamber is indebted to, continues to host our Networking Breakfasts at Denny's, including our next one on February 8. If you haven't done so, I invite you to reserve your seat and come to

our events to see what the Chamber is all about. My thanks goes out to Valerie Kieselhorst of Voila Photography, who has been photographing our events and providing images for our newsletter. I would also like to express my gratitude to Younes Younes, who hosted our wonderful mixer at Keep It Self Storage and gave us the opportunity to donate toys for the kids at Olive View Medical Center.

Whatever you resolve to do, the Sylmar Chamber will strive to help you reach your goals!

La cámara de comercio en Sylmar sabe que el año nuevo está lleno de promesa y de incertidumbre para su negocio. Aun así, la cámara entiende que el establecer un nombre en su comunidad es muy importante. Nuestros eventos, como nuestro próximo almuerzo el 24 de enero, son preparados para hacer exactamente eso: Establecer contactos nuevos y buscar clientes interesados en su especialidad. Llámanos para aprender más acerca de nuestros otros eventos y reserva su asiento en uno de ellos con toda confianza.

-Cheri Blose, President

