



# The Green Sheet

Volume 14 Issue 1 January 2011

San Marino Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

## *Chamber Office finds a new home...*

**A**fter many months of agonizing the rapidly increasing rent of the Chamber Office, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Chamber has found a new home.

In the past several years, the building owners, and new management companies, continued to raise the rent of the Chamber Office. The rent increased by over 400% in just 3 years. With the current economic downfall, which has taken its toll on the Chamber, the ever increasing rent issue became a major problem for Past Presidents Lisa Watkins, Chris Carlos and current President Sandra Troup.

This past Winter, the Chamber sat down with City Manager Matt Ballantyne and Mayor Dennis Kneier to discuss the possibility of the Chamber moving to the vacant office at the San Marino Center. After City Council approval, and Chamber Board approval, the Chamber has a new home.

A HUGE Thank You to those who were responsible for moving the Chamber Office on New Years Eve. Yes, New Years Eve was moving day, and it could not have happened without the dedication of Rita Rodriguez, her children Andrew and Ashley, Pete & Lisa Loeffler and the team of firefighters who once again provided the muscle needed to move the heavy furniture! The Chamber cannot thank the firefighters enough for their constant rush to help when we call. They don't just put out fires and save lives, but they truly support the community in every aspect. We are grateful to have such a strong and supportive 'bunch of guys' in the City. Thank you: Fire Marshal Jim Frawley, Captain Mark Dondanville, Firefighters Nick Maza, Shawn Stewart, Rob O'Niel, Jeff Tsay and Engineer Cris Marcel Smith.

## *2010 Business Person of the Year Michael Mele- Bella Italia*



With proud Father, Franco watching, Bella Italia owner, Michael Mele was presented the 2010 Business Person of the Year award by Chamber President Sandra Troup, and Chamber Board Member and longtime Bella Italia customer and friend, Pete Loeffler.

## *2010 CLASS Award presented to Chris Carlos- Athens Services*



A very humbled and surprised Past President, Chris Carlos [Athens Services] was presented the 2010 CLASS Award by Chamber President Sandra Troup, and Chamber Past Vice President Anne Turk. Chris was honored for his true dedication and support of the Chamber and its events. As Anne noted in her dedication, "Chris is the perfect member for whom this award was started. His dedication would make Peggy Class proud!"

Continued on Page 5

**Presidents Elite Club  
2011**

**Platinum  
Member**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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sandradesign@charter.net

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Rita Rodriguez- Office Manager  
Office Hours- Monday-Thurs 9-4

## President's Message..... by Sandra Troup



Dear Members;

*HAPPY NEW YEAR! It's a new year, and time for new beginnings for the Chamber as we get settled into a new home. As you have read on page 1, the continuing increase in the rent of our office, left us no choice but to seek another space. I would like to thank Mayor Dennis Kneier and City Manager Matt Ballantyne for accepting our proposal to move into the vacant space at the San Marino Center. The City was eager to help the Chamber, and we are very grateful for their support. Please stop by the new office to visit Office Manager, Rita Rodriguez any time. The door is always open to our members and we hope to be settled in and back to business as usual real soon.*

*Speaking of settled in, a big heartfelt "thank you" to Rita Rodriguez for her dedication to the Chamber. She has been hard at work getting the Chamber settled in with no help. Un-packing boxes and files and re-arranging all our events supplies fell on her shoulders, and she single handedly took the task to heart. We thank you for your continued dedication to our membership.*

*I would like to thank our outgoing Board members, who fulfilled their terms in December. Past President Chris Carlos [Athens Services], who kept us on track this past year during difficult financial times not only in our businesses and economy but for the Chamber as well. Ellen Daigle [Ellen's Silkscreening] who has been an invaluable asset to the Chamber and the Board of Directors, and Fire Marshal Jim Frawley who kept us connected to the City and stepped up whenever we called. I cannot thank them enough for their continued*

*support to the Chamber. I hope you will all continue to be an active part of our Chamber*

*Our last two mixers of 2010 were a smashing success. Dan and Alison Hodgkiss opened their doors at Hodge Podge for another great Mixer and Steve and Jamie Inzunza of Mamma's Brick Oven Pizza and Pasta were so generous to provide the food for the occasion. Thank you Dan and Alison for your constant support of our Chamber.*

*And while we are sending out thank you's, another big Thank you to Anne Turk [Anneticipaation.com] and Michael Mele [Bella Italia] who came to our rescue at the last minute and stepped in to host our Holiday Mixer. It was a very fun and festive evening for our membership. A great way to welcome our new board members, and to say thank you to those leaving our board.*

*Our year will begin with a big celebration to christen our new office. I hope you will be able to join us in the Fireside room as we break open the champagne and toast to a new year and new beginning for the Chamber. I hop to see you all soon!*

*Sandy*

*Chamber President 2010-2011  
sandradesign@charter.net*

FOUNDED IN NOVEMBER OF 1959  
the mission of the San Marino Chamber of Commerce is to promote the economic well-being of the community, to be an advocate for its members and to provide community leadership.

# Welcome New Members:      Renewing Members:

*San Marino Patch*  
*Jessica Hamlin*  
 100 Highland Place, #7  
 Monrovia, CA 91016  
 (626) 354-5042  
[www.sanmarino.patch.com](http://www.sanmarino.patch.com)

*Chris Datwyler*  
*Hathaway-Sycamores*  
*La Cienega Company*  
*Patricia Woolman*  
*Mamma's Brick Oven Pizza*  
*Whatshebuy's*  
*One West Bank*



**The Green Sheet  
wants to hear  
from YOU!**

*Thank you for your continuing support of  
the Chamber and your investment in your  
business thru Chamber membership.  
We value your membership and encourage  
you to be active members and participate  
in Chamber events.*

The Green Sheet wants to hear from YOU!

Let us know what's going on in your  
business. Email us your sales, anniversaries,  
special events awards or anything you want  
advertised to the membership.

Email any info to the Green Sheet Editor  
at [makeupguru@att.net](mailto:makeupguru@att.net).

Information deadline is the 15th of the  
month for the following months issue!

Join us on Facebook  
and interact with  
other members



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/SanMarinoChamber](http://www.facebook.com/SanMarinoChamber)

## JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR

1		<b>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</b>
12	7:30pm	City Council Meeting- City Hall
17	6:00pm	<b>ANNUAL OFFSITE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MTC</b>
20	5:30pm	Monthly Mixer-CHAMBER RIBBON CUTTING@ San Marino Center- 1800 Huntington Drive, SM

## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2	8:00am	Board of Directors Meeting- Groundhog Day!
9	7:30pm	City Council Meeting- City Hall
10	5:30pm	Monthly Mixer- @ Alex & Friends- All are welcome!
14		<b>HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!</b>
21		<b>President's Day- Chamber Office Closed!</b>

## MARCH CALENDAR

2	8:00am	Board of Directors Meeting
9	7:30pm	City Council Meeting- City Hall- Ash Wednesday
10	5:30pm	Monthly Mixer- Location TBA
13		<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!</b>
17		<b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! WEAR GREEN!</b>
20		<b>First Day of Spring!</b>

## GREEN SHEET ADVERTISING

### BUSINESS CARD

\$35 PER MONTH

ONE MONTH FREE W/ PURCHASE  
OF A FULL YEAR

**1 / 4 PAGE (3.5"W X 4.75"H)**

\$70 PER MONTH

**1/2 PAGE (3.5"W X 9.5"H)**

\$100 PER MONTH

**INSERTS- \$75 PER MAILING**

**CALL THE CHAMBER OFFICE  
FOR EXACT COUNT.**

**CALL THE CHAMBER OFFICE  
TO PLACE AN AD - 286-1022**

AD MATERIALS DUE BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH  
FOR THE FOLLOWING ISSUE

# November Mixer hosted by Hodge Podge

A fabulous time was had by all as the Chamber came together for a Fall gathering on Huntington Drive. The Hodgkiss family opened their doors to the Chamber as Hodge Podge, A Stitch in Time and Hodgkiss Insurance Brokers came together to host our monthly gathering. The scrumptious food was compliments of Steve and Jamie Inzunza of Mamma's Brick Oven Pizza & Pasta. The bar was flowing with favorites as Dan Hodgkiss hosted guests to their choice of spirits.

The store was hustling and bustling as guests took advantage of the holiday delights that surrounded them for their gift giving needs.

The monthly Progressive Raffle was the talk of the evening, and once again, another member joined the Biggest Losers List. Don't be the next on that list- make sure to join us for our monthly mixers and your chance to win the big cash prize. ALL members have a chance to win, but you MUST be in attendance when your name is called!

Marty Jojorian  
[Jorjorian Rugs], Phil  
Raacke [SM Security],  
Jim Liu [One West  
Bank], Lt. Steve  
Johnson[SMPD]



Tom Bristow [The UPS Store], Jose Guzman [Oaknoll Barbershop]

Alison Hodgkiss [Hodge Podge/A Stitch in Time] and husband Dan Hodgkiss [Hodgkiss Insurance Brokers] welcome Chamber President Sandra Troup for the November Mixer



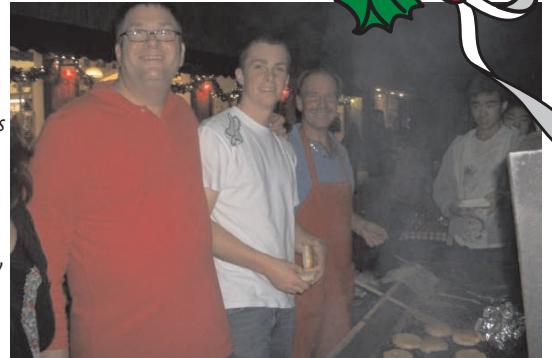
# Christmas Around the Drive

Chamber President Sandra Troup tells Santa she would like a new office location for the Chamber for 2011.....and what do ya know- Santa fulfilled her wish! Now THERE'S a Santa who's a keeper!



RE/MAX hosted Balloons for the kids as Dioni Rovello shows off the fancy creations to CAD Chairs Marci Donovan and Dina Lopez

Hodge Podge and Kraemers Jewelers flipped burgers for hungry shoppers- Dan & Patrick Hodgkiss get the buns ready while Steve Gilmore mans the grill



Anna Hasbun helps little ones with crafts as Stepping Stones to Learning hosted a craft table for kids.

# TRULY A MIRACLE

## Editors Note:

**The Following was sent to me by Past President Dan Hodgkiss to be shared with the membership for the 'Holidays'. Due to unforeseen circumstances there was no December Green Sheet. However, I feel the power of Dan's message should ring clear no matter the month on the calendar, or the time of the day. I hope you'll open your heart to its message.**

Dear fellow members;

As many of you know I have been battling a bone infection. The outcome has not been positive. I needed help with simple things in my business and around my home. One of my Clients, The Society of St Vincent DePaul introduced me to a Dominican Nun by the name of Sister Mary Sean Hodges. She runs halfway houses for life time prisoners that have been released on Parole for a second chance. She has the capacity for 34 men. Currently her homes are full. What makes this situation unique is that these men are in prison for life sentences. Most have been locked up for more than 20 years. Through Sister's persistence she has been able to get these men a second chance. Through letter writing the parole board has listened. These are prisoners who had weak role models and did stupid things when they were young.

Unfortunately, when these men get out of prison, they can't find jobs because no one will give them a chance. While in prison they were lucky to make \$.17 cents an hour. What a culture shock they have to adjust to when they get out.

While the Hodgkiss family was in the process of putting on a new roof we needed to clean out our attic before this could be done. Unable to help because of my medical condition, I looked for help. We hired 5 men for 3 months every weekend to help out. We found the most polite hardworking and respectful workers. We sat around our pool, shared meals and heard unbelievable stories. This has been a great education for Alison, Dan, Porter and Patrick. Alison was skeptical and scared at first but worked right alongside these men. We came to learn about the true meaning of gratitude. We all deserve a second chance.

At the November Mixer, the San Marino Chamber of Commerce met Johnny, who assisted Dan Hodgkiss. Johnny has been out of prison for two months. He spent 20 years of his life incarcerated for second degree murder. Dan needed help again and Johnny has been eager to work.

For several months I have been thinking how we could get these men back to work. They currently live on general relief at \$221.00 per month. \$200 goes to sister and the balance \$21.00 is for them to live on for 30 days. They do get food stamps, but they leave prison with no belongings or clothes. I need not say more.

My dream is to set up these men in a landscaping business. To do this we have many needs. The first being a van. The miracle arrived the evening of the mixer. Tom Bristow arrived early, asking if he could help set up. I told him I was covered. Tom proceeded to tell me that he is down to one car and that he is sending his work truck to Sacramento for a program that is taking used vehicles. In trade he will get \$1,000. I asked Tom if he would like to donate that van. He was reluctant. That \$1,000 he would get would provide a down payment for a 2nd vehicle.

As the evening went on, Johnny's luck won him several raffle prizes. Just earlier that day he dreamed of purchasing presents for his children for the holidays.

At the end of the evening, while Johnny was cleaning up, Tom, a very good friend and client of mine, was saying goodnight. I proceeded to tell him that Johnny is a member of the Prisoners Resettlement Project. He is a life time prisoner that is being given a second chance. My dream is to start a Landscaping business and that is the reason I asked for your van. Tom stopped me and said "you may come over next week and pick up the van."

You ask why we are members of the Chamber of Commerce. Do we just attend mixers? One very kind gesture can really make a difference in a group of men's lives. It's the quiet acts we never hear about that need to be told. So as the Holiday season has arrived remember how blessed we are to have our health and our families. Yes, we are living in a challenging environment, but through partnership we will get through tough times. Shop San Marino whenever you can. Do business with one another. Show your appreciation to the hard working businesses this town has and those who have made this Chamber what it is today.

To Tom and Mary Bristow you are truly Angels. Your unselfish act will serve as the foundation for a future.

One last note: Johnny thanked me for the experience today. He had to ask me what a Chamber of Commerce was. He has never had the exposure before. While my relationship with Johnny was meant to help him, he has no idea how much it has done for me. Thanks Johnny for grounding me and teaching me the blessings of life!

Dan Hodgkiss



**A big Thank you to Dr. Jack Hamilton and his team of volunteer Chamber members, Rotarians and teens who decorated the annual 'Little Christmas House'! Once again they did a GREAT job and we salute them for their dedication to this project!**

*The San Marino Chamber  
of Commerce*

*invites you and your guests to the*

*February Mixer*

*Thursday, February 10th*

*5:30 – 7:30pm*



*Hosted By:*

*Alex & Friends*

*902 Boston Court  
Pasadena*

*Raffle Prizes  
Progressive Raffle*



*Members – \$8*

*Non-members – \$15*

## Spotlight on New Member

### Mr. Appliance of San Gabriel Valley

812 South Date Avenue, Unit B

Alhambra, CA 91803

626-872-6800



Eric Feder, owner of Mr. Appliance® of San Gabriel Valley announces the startup of his full-service appliance repair business.

“Mr. Appliance of San Gabriel Valley will have the personal touch of a locally owned operation,” Eric said. “The technology and systems in place at Mr. Appliance will help me deliver faster, more reliable service.”

Eric worked as a loan underwriter and internal auditor at the former United Commercial Bank for nine years. He decided to purchase a Mr. Appliance franchise to realize his dream of owning his own business, one which he hopes will set a strong benchmark for high-quality appliance repair service in the San Gabriel Valley. His senior technician, Carlos Arce, has 14 years experience in the industry, so customers can be confident that they will be dealing with someone used to meeting exacting service standards.

“I wanted to have a business founded on quality systems and customer service,” Eric said. “We follow a professional system at Mr. Appliance. Our service technicians undergo background checks, wear shoe covers inside homes and use a menu pricing guide so there are no surprises.”

**Eric Feder** is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he majored in Asian Studies. After serving as a C-130 navigator for five years, he left the Air Force and earned a Master's Degree in Tokyo, Japan in Public Administration/International Business. He is a Chartered Financial Analyst (“CFA”) and has also passed the California CPA exam.

#### About Mr. Appliance®:

Mr. Appliance is North America's leading appliance repair franchise system. Established in 1996, its franchises provide full-service residential and light commercial appliance repair. Mr. Appliance has more than 150 locations throughout the United States and Canada and is consistently ranked among the top home service franchises by Entrepreneur magazine and other industry experts. Mr. Appliance is a subsidiary of The Dwyer Group, Inc. For more information, visit [www.mrappliance.com](http://www.mrappliance.com).

The Chamber welcomes Eric and his staff to our business community. Please welcome him the next time you see him at a Chamber event.

# Holiday Celebration hosted by .... Anneticipation & Bella Italia



A very festive Holiday celebration marked the end of another Chamber year, as Anneticipation and Bella Italia came to the rescue and stepped up to host the Chambers annual year end gathering. The restaurants festive decorations set the mood for a traditional Christmas time celebration.

Guests were treated to an Italian dinner complete with traditional pastries for dessert, eggnog and a fine selection of wine from the bar. The evening was all about the Raffle which was overflowing with fabulous prizes from very generous members. **Raffle prizes were compliments of: Anneticipation, Margie's, Soma Warna Real Estate, Athens Services, Diana Dee's Stationery, Joanna's Floral Expressions, Fruit in a Basket, Pete & Lisa Loeffler - RE/MAX Premier Properties, W2 Kitchen & Bath Inc., Pasadena Service Federal Credit Union.** The best way you can thank our members is by patronizing their businesses. Please thank them for their Chamber affiliation when you see them at Chamber events.

The evenings highlight was the presentation of awards and the announcement of the new 2011 Board of Directors. Before moving forward, the Chamber must give accolades and thanks to those members leaving the Board of Directors this year. **Ellen Daigle [Ellen's Silkscreening], Jim Frawley [SMFD] and Past President Chris Carlos [Athens Services].** They have each given so much of their time and talents over the past several years, and the Chamber truly thanks them for their service. Please extend a "thank you" to them for their service to our organization. We are very fortunate to have such giving members and we hope they will continue to be an active part of the Chamber.

A special thank you to **Rita Rodriguez, Marci Donovan, Dina Lopez and Wallace Lee** who worked Check In, the Bar and sold raffle tickets at the Holiday Mixer. Our evening would not have been a success without your dedication!

## Thank you for your service:



Members of this years Board gathered for one last time: Chief Jim Frawley, Marci Donovan, Dina Lopez, Past President Chris Carlos, Pete Loeffler and Ceil Mortimer. This year we say a special Thank You to outgoing Board Members: Jim Frawley, Chris Carlos, and not pictured, Ellen Daigle. They have all been a very valuable part of our Chamber and we thank them for their years of service

## Welcome New Board Members:

Stewart Rogers [Alice Computerworks], Firefighter Nick Maza, Joanna Jimenez [Joanna's Floral Expressions], Natalia Olarte [Fruit in a Basket], Debra Graynom-Daly [Law Offices of Debra Graynom-Daly], and 2011 President Sandra Troup. Not Pictured: Brian Barreto [California American Water Co.], Gail Roque [Roque & Associates]





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