THE VALLEY

200

THE MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADERS IN THE VALLEY AREA 2019
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n the following pages are profiles of the 200 people we consider the most influential in the Valley area.

If you scan the profiles, you’ll see immediately that these impactful leaders are not easy to categorize. Some are driven business operators. Others lead organizations that strive to make our community a better place. A few are top educators. Still others might be described as ingenious or indefatigable professionals. I could go on, but all can be characterized this way: They are leaders. They are the ones striving to accomplish important objectives in whatever realm they operate in. They are the engaged and persuasive ones we depend on. They are the most influential people in our midst.

Why do we list these 200 people? There’s value in simply identifying the dynamic agents among us, sure. But beyond that, I like to think that the Valley 200 is an important way to recognize the ones who stand up for the rest of us. After all, these are the folks doing the heavy work to make our Valley area a better place to live, work, have fun and learn. We are pointing them out so that the rest of us can acknowledge them.

If you come across any of the people on the subsequent pages, you may feel compelled to congratulate them. That’s perfectly understandable, of course. But please don’t forget to do something important: thank them for their many contributions.

I will conclude this note, as I always do, by saying this: I believe our list of influential people is very good, but it is not perfect. If you know anyone who’s an emerging leader, or perhaps an established one we overlooked, let me know. I’d be pleased to consider them next year. You can always reach me at ccrumpley@sfvbj.com.

Sincerely,

Charles Crumpley
Editor and Publisher

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DAVID ADELMAN  
GS&G Law  
David Adelman is a partner at GS&G Law, an Encino-based law firm where he focuses his practice on corporate, real estate and intellectual property transactions. For his clients, he develops business strategies, provides business counsel and structures, negotiates and documents business deals. Adelman served internships at the California Supreme Court and the American Civil Liberties Union. He holds community service in high regard, and is on several nonprofit boards, such as the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, where he is a past chair; Valley Presbyterian Hospital, New Horizons and Fit 4 The Cause.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: TJ Korean BBQ followed by Carnival Karaoke. 
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. Apparent imperviousness to continuing political and social volatility and uncertainty. 
PASSION: Providing fitness programs to low-income communities through my nonprofit organization, Fit 4 The Cause. 

WAYNE ADELMAN  
The Decision Group  
Wayne Adelman, 70, is owner of the Decision Group, a business consulting firm specializing in developing and implementing strategies for success. Adelman has served on the boards of Valley Industry and Commerce Association, where he was vice chair; Valley Economic Alliance; Valley Economic Development Center, where he was chair; California State University – Northridge Alumni Association, where he was president; CSU Alumni Council, where he was president, and he is now chair of the Fernando Awards Foundation. In addition, he has served on numerous government appointed commissions.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Rocky Point and the surrounding hills in Chatsworth; great place to find serenity.  
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Don’t know. The impact of tariffs and other factors impacting the economy are unknown.  
PASSION: Spending time with family and friends. 

MARY AKPOVI  
Martini Akpovi Partners  
Mary Akpovi, Ph.D., is a partner with the accounting firm of Martini Akpovi Partners in Encino. Akpovi is a certified public accountant with focus on tax and consulting in the areas of estate planning, mergers and acquisitions and international operations. She holds a doctorate in business administration and a master’s in business taxation from the University of Southern California, along with a master’s in business administration from Santa Clara University. Akpovi devotes significant time to volunteering with various local and foreign charities that serve women, orphans and the homeless. She has sat on the boards of Exceptional Children Foundation and the Valley Rescue Mission and received the Business Journal’s Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Women’s Council last year.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Hope of the Valley Van Nuys Help Center – where the homeless are helped and encouraged.  
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: It should be up because all economic indicators are currently favorable.  
PASSION: Building/re-building lives wherever they may be, in whatever ways I can. 

LEE KANON ALPERT  
Alpert, Barr & Grant  
Lee Alpert, 72, is a founding member and senior of counsel to the law firm of Alpert, Barr & Grant in Encino. He is also the president and founding member of Alpert Dispute Resolution and Consulting Inc., and he is a registered lobbyist. Alpert is chair of the committee overseeing the $550 million rebuilding of Providence Tarzana Hospital (soon to be Providence Cedars Sinai Tarzana Hospital). He is a past president of these organizations: the governing board of Providence Health and Services hospitals; the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power board of commissioners and the Los Angeles Building and Safety Department. He is First President of Neighborhood Empowerment, a past commissioner of the Los Angeles World Airports, and is past chair and current and founding board member of Genesis L.A. Alpert also serves on these advisory boards: Homes for Families, which provides affordable homes for military veterans; the Valley Industry and Commerce Association; the Valley Economic Alliance and New Directions for Youth. Alpert is past president of the San Fernando Valley Bar. He has received the Fernando Award for lifetime achievement.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Golf clubs, parks or lakes. Why? Peace, tranquility and beauty of nature. 
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Sadly, truly uncertain, because of volatility and instability in Washington and world.  
PASSION: Helping those in need. Grandkids, travel, athletics, reading, television/movies and friends.

ERICK ARNDT  
SCV Startup  
Erick Arndt, 48, is founder of SCV Startup, a content- and mentorship-driven accelerator program designed to help launch technology companies in the Santa Clarita Valley. Arndt also is a wealth advisor and co-founder of Virtue Wealth Management. He helps human resource directors and chief financial officers improve their retirement plans, teaches employees about money and helps clients pursue their financial and life goals. Arndt also is a member of the advisory board at College of the Canyons.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Hollywood Bowl. What a wonderful venue. Can’t wait for Mozart Under the Stars!  
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up but I pray political leaders are paying attention and not just working on new taxes. The world is changing quickly, and we need to adapt.  
PASSION: Self-improvement. Right now it’s nutrition and feeding my body optimal food. 

SUE M. BENDAVO  
Lawitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan  
Sue Bendavon, 56, is chair of the employment practice group at the Lawitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan law firm in Encino. For more than 29 years, she has exclusively represented employers in their legal matters. She is a strong proponent of employee claims prevention via workshops and the Painstaking Treatment of Risks company policies. She also is co-chair of the Labor and Employment Committee of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Fryman Canyon in Studio City. I love to hike on the weekends and being in nature.  
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Like a roller coaster – up and down – due to political tensions and uncertainty.  
PASSION: Being outdoors and having new experiences – like traveling to other cities and countries and learning the history. 

BARRY COHN  
Really Great Employee Benefits  
Barry S. Cohn, 64, is president of Really Great Employee Benefits, an employee benefits consulting firm headquartered in Canoga Park, and the chief executive of JorgensenHR, headquartered in Santa Clarita. RGEB works with 350 companies, assisting them with all areas of human resources. Cohn serves on the boards of Valley Industry and Commerce Association and the Valley Economic Alliance. He has chaired three Light the Night Walks raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. He has served on the board and executive committee of Shomer Torah Synagogue for 8 years as well as the UCLA Alumni Executive association executive committee and the board of the UCLA Foundation. He’s also a member of ProVisors and other organizations.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I like to walk or hike starting at the Victory Boulevard trailhead in Alhambra Ranch.  
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I think the economy will be growing about the same, around 3 percent.  
HOBBY OR PASSION: My favorite hobby is watching old movies, especially film noir, and reading mysteries, spy novels and nonfiction. 

MARTIN M. COOPER  
Cooper Communications, Inc.  
Martin Cooper, 77, is president of Cooper Communications Inc., in Encino, a public relations and marketing firm he founded in 1982. Previously, Cooper was senior vice president-marketing and corporate communications at Playtex Products. Prior to that, he was senior vice president of a national public relations firm and supervised such clients as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences with its annual Academy Awards and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses. Previously, he was Disneyland’s advertising and promotion manager. He has authored four books, one of which was a compilation of his Business Journal essays. He most recent book, “Read All About It! The San Fernando Valley: 1946-1970,” won the annual CSUN Ovation Library Award for the best nonfiction book on the San Fernando Valley in 2016. He received his profession’s highest award, the Public Relations Society of America’s Silver Anvil. Founder of The Executives, a support group of the Jewish Home of the Aging, he was presented his highest honor, the Circle of Life Award. In 2014, he received the Fernando Award. He is past chairman of the Boys & Girls Club of the West Valley and chairman of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.  
FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Wherever there is good food, good wine, and good conversation…life’s greatest pleasures.  
ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up – and down. Tariffs and a lack of a clear national fiscal policy lead to instability.  
PASSION: Antique typewriters (1850-1930), Winston Churchill and travel.
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DAVID FLEMING
Senior Advisor to Sen. Robert Hertzberg

David Fleming, 84, described by former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan as “Mr. San Fernando Valley,” now serves as the senior advisor to State Senator Robert Hertzberg. During his 58-year legal career, he was appointed to 14 federal, state, county and city boards and commissions. He has also served on more than 20 nonprofit boards and foundations and chaired many of them, including the Valley Economic Alliance for 16 years and Valley Presbyterian Hospital for 25 years. A founder of the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BzFed), Fleming was the recipient of the Fernando Award in 1992 and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce’s Civic Medal of Honor in 2014. In May, he was given the Twice a Citizen award from the Los Angeles Police Department Reserve Foundation.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: CSUN’s Performing Arts Center. For years many of us worked to bring performing arts to the Valley. Now we have it.


PASSION: Golf – but I’m getting too old to play often.

STEPHANIE FORMAN
Tharpe & Howell

Stephanie Forman, managing partner of Tharpe & Howell, oversees the operations of the Sherman Oaks law firm, which is the largest in the Valley area. She is AV Preeminent Rated, one of the highest ratings available to attorneys nationwide, and her practice focuses on all phases of civil litigation in both federal and state courts, including arbitration, mediation and trial. Forman represents a broad range of clients, primarily in the areas of employment and labor law, premises liability, product liability, wrongful death and mass tort litigation. She has extensive experience counseling companies on administrative and regulatory compliance issues, including environmental and diverse risk assessment matters. She is also a member of the Defense Research Institute and the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Petit Trois. Great food, and sitting at the chef’s counter is a treat.

PASSION: Travel with my husband and son. We love to explore new places.

JOEL FOX
Fox and Hounds Daily
Joel Fox Consulting

Joel Fox, 70, leads the website Fox and Hounds Daily, which offers commentary and news on California business and politics. He served as founder and president of the Small Business Action Committee from 2003 to 2017, and he is known for his 19 years with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, serving as president from 1986 to 1998. Over the years, Fox has taken a key role in many statewide and local ballot proposition campaigns; he served on six state commissions appointed by Governors Pete Wilson and Arnold Schwarzenegger and Assembly Speakers Antonio Villaraigosa and Bob Hertzberg, as well as serving as vice chair on the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Budget Task Force appointed by Supervisor Mike Antonovich. He was a senior policy consultant for the Schwarzenegger for Governor campaign during the recall election of 2003 and was a state co-chairman of the John McCain for President campaign in 2008. He has written hundreds of opinion articles which have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times, among others, and he has written several books. He has been an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy at Pepperdine University since 2006.


ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: No one has called this right recently so who knows. Down a bit.

PASSION: Pirates, from the Golden Age to the political world.

KAREN L. GABLER
LightGabler

Karen L. Gabler is an employment law attorney and co-founder of the LightGabler law firm in Camarillo. She has counseled employers and management on virtually every aspect of employment law for more than 26 years, concentrating on proactive strategies to foster workplace productivity and prevent legal problems. She has authored numerous articles and served as an expert commentator for a variety of business and legal publications. She is a sought-after speaker and conducts regular seminars and training programs on employment law and management skills. For seven consecutive years, Gabler has been selected as a Southern California Super Lawyer. She has been named the Woman of the Year by the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce and has been recognized by the Business Journal as a Trusted Advisor for Innovation Leadership and a Top Attorney in Client Service. She has taught employment law and litigation as an adjunct professor at the Pepperdine University School of Law. Gabler has been active in more than a dozen business and civic groups and received the United Way’s Milton M. Teague Award for volunteer service. She was honored with 805 Living magazine’s Giving Back award.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Burbank Airport – whether on my way to something fun, or returning home to people I love.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up – because I’d rather expect good things in the future than waste time worrying!

PASSION: Riding my horse! Outside, working with animals, feeling instead of thinking.

FRED GAINES
Gaines & Stacey

Fred Gaines, 59, is the founding and managing partner of Gaines & Stacey, an Encino law firm that provides counsel on real estate law. He specializes in regulatory approvals, litigation about development and California Environmental Quality Act lawsuits. Voters put Gaines on the Calabasas City Council for two terms and he is a two-time mayor there. The former chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, he received that organization’s Harmon Balbin Community Service Award in 2005. He serves on the board of the Valley Economic Alliance as well.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Every Sunday my wife Jill and I take a hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. The Valley looks amazingly beautiful from up there.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Based upon low unemployment and low interest rates, I see the economy sustaining slow steady growth into the foreseeable future.

PASSION: I love watching baseball, especially my beloved Dodgers. I hope to complete my visits to all 30 MLB ballparks by the end of this season (I’m at 23 right now).

TIM GALLAGHER
The 20/20 Network

Tim Gallagher, 63, the former editor and publisher of the Ventura County Star, is a public relations consultant who has worked on behalf of developers, nonprofits, business owners and universities. He started The 20/20 Network in 2007 after 29 years as a reporter, editor and publisher at newspapers in New Mexico, Texas and California. At the Ventura County Star, he was the editor from 1995 to 2004 and then the publisher from 2004 to 2007. His years in the news business fed his appetit for public affairs. “I hate politics, but I love public policy,” he said.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Wildwood Regional Park. So many hiking paths.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Same. 2020 is an election year and most potential actions are on hold.


ANDREW J. GREY
SRG

Andrew J. Grey, 63, is a certified public accountant and co-managing partner of SRG in Woodland Hills. He has developed an extensive audit and tax practice, specializing in tax minimization, financial statement presentation and sophisticated estate planning. Outside of public accounting, Grey’s experience includes controller and chief financial officer for the Baldwin Co., a real estate development company; and serving as chief financial officer at several private and publicly traded companies. Grey was the founder of a consumer product company in over 27,000 retail stores. Grey’s professional affiliations include the AICPA, California Society of CPAs, and the American Bar Association. He is a trustee on three family owned real estate companies with more than $1.5 billion in net equities, and a trustee of several charitable trusts and foundations. In 2013, Grey won one of the Business Journal’s Trusted Advisors awards.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I love the energy of Ventura Boulevard from the Cahuenga Pass to Woodland Hills. I enjoy all the great shops and restaurants.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: While the national economy may be down overall, California will remain strong because of our unique diversity and energy.

PASSION: Traveling is my greatest passion! I truly love for the adventure.

LISA GRITZNER
LG Strategies

Lisa Gritzner, 46, the founder of LG Strategies, a public relations and strategic communications consulting firm based in Los Angeles. She served as president of public relations firms Celrell Associates in Los Angeles from 2004 to 2016 and was chief of staff to former Los Angeles City Councilwoman Cindy Misclkowski from 1998 to 2004. Gritzner is chair of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. She is a past president of the Saban Free Clinic board and sits on the founders’ board of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. She was selected to participate in Harvard University’s Senior Executives in State and Local Government program in 2004.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I love the energy of Ventura Boulevard from the Cahuenga Pass to Woodland Hills. I enjoy all the great shops and restaurants.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: While the national economy may be down overall, California will remain strong because of our unique diversity and energy.

PASSION: Traveling is my greatest passion! I truly love for the adventure.
SCVEDC congratulates the leaders from the Santa Clarita Valley on their Valley 200 recognition!

Located just 30 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, the Santa Clarita Valley offers you the space to think big. Consistently ranked as LA County’s most business-friendly city, Santa Clarita is also named among the best cities to live, healthiest cities, and best places to start a family. We invite you to discover why more and more companies are choosing to call the Santa Clarita Valley home!
**CALVIN D. HEDMAN**
Hedman Partners

Calvin Hedman, 62, is president of Hedman Partners in Valencia. He has more than three decades of experience as a certified public accountant. In addition to audit and tax services, Hedman provides consulting expertise in strategic planning, acquisition due diligence reviews, estate planning, shareholder buyouts, and business acquisition or sale structuring and planning. Prior to establishing Hedman Partners, Hedman served as a partner in Grant Thornton's Los Angeles office and the Valencia firm of Martin & Hedman. A member of American Institute of CPAs and California Society of CPAs, Hedman also serves on the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp.'s board. He is a founding member of the Santa Clarita Valley Aerospace Defense Coalition and is on the Santa Clarita Valley YMCA's advisory board.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Valencia Country Club (or any golf course) – I enjoy a “walk in the park” and being outside and active.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** The same (if not up). With the current direction and steam of the economy, I expect continued growth, but more modest as we could be restricted by a limited available qualified labor force.

**PASSION:** Travelling with family and being active (especially playing basketball and golf).

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**TERRI HILLIARD**
Terrill Hilliard P.C.

Terrill Hilliard, 58, is a lawyer and published author. Her law practice centers on advanced estate planning, business succession planning, asset preservation, special needs trusts and family protection planning for seniors, notably veterans. She won the Business Journal’s Trustee Advisor award in 2017 and 2018. She founded the Pro Bono Panel of Attorneys called “Legal Concerns” where she oversees lawyers in eldercare, advising seniors and caregivers in estate planning. In 2019, she became a founding member of the National Alliance of Attorneys for Alzheimer’s Planning, a nonprofit focused on educating caregivers and clients as well as the community. Her next two books focus on Alzheimer’s care for the newly diagnosed and the caregiver entitled, “You’re not Alone.”

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** The L.A. Zoo and a family favorite Cuban restaurant, “La Bamba” in Burbank.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Bloom, then bust.

**PASSION:** Mentoring nonprofit businesses to bolster their ability to help others.

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**GREG HUTCHINS**
Holthouse Carlin Van Trigt

Greg Hutchins, 58, is a certified public accountant and principal at Holthouse Carlin Van Trigt in Westlake Village. He has more than 30 years of experience providing tax consulting and compliance services to high net worth individuals and their related entities. He is on the board of Moore Stephens North America and is also a member of Moore Stephens International Limited, an independent global accountancy and business advisory association of affiliated CPA and financial services firms. Additionally, Hutchins is on the board of several private and public companies, and he frequently speaks at industry events regarding the impact of changing tax law.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Selfishly, the golf course. For family purposes, going to the barn to watch my daughter jump her horse

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Though there do appear to be some headwinds, I’m still seeing positive trends so I’d say up.

**PASSION:** Fishing trips with my daughter

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**JONATHAN “JAKE” JACKBS**
Rose, Snyder & Jacobs

As a certified public accountant, Jonathan “Jake” Jacobs specializes in mergers, acquisitions and financing for middle-market companies, working with his personal network of finance experts. Before joining his partners’ firm in Encino, Jacobs, 70, was in charge of the West Coast entrepreneurship practice and of the Warner Center office for KPMG Peat Marwick. He is a former chairman of the United Way’s San Fernando Valley Region and served on the advisory board for the David Nazarian College of Business at California State University – Northridge. He serves on the Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. He also chairs the California Onocologie Research Institute in Culver City and is board Treasurer for Muse/Ique in Pasadena.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. President Reagan’s core values and beliefs are timeless, and it was America at its best.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** As long as we deal correctly with international issues, it should remain peaceful and calming.

**PASSION:** Sharing my good fortune and life lessons with others.

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**DAN KAHN**
Kahn Media

Dan Kahn, 40, founded Kahn Media in 2008 with the premise of merging public relations tactics with consumer engagement through branding, social media and influencer marketing. The company, based in Moorpark, has 25 employees 6 publicists, social strategists and other creatives and developers. The company this year was named one of the fastest growing in the country by Inc. magazine, and it is a member of the Forbes Agency Council as a PR/Digital advisor. Kahn serves on the board of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) and the Checkered Flag 200 charitable organization.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Hiking on local trails with my family and dogs. PR is a high-pressure gig, and while urban, the Valley is surrounded by stunning trails that are great for blowing off steam.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Historically the economy has dipped into recession every 7 years; so we are due for a correction. Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

**PASSION:** I am passionate about media, but outside work I love camping with my family – we try to go at least once a month. It helps us get away from technology and connect with the important things in life – each other.

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**ALEXANDER S. KASENDORF**
Albert, Barr & Grant

Alexander S. Kasendorf, 44, is a partner with Albert, Barr & Grant in Encino and has more than 18 years of legal experience focusing on matters involving complex business, real estate and commercial law and litigation, dispute resolution, strategic advocacy and lobbying. He is a registered lobbyist with the city and county of Los Angeles. He was named as a Super Lawyer in 2019. He is vice chairman and secretary of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. Kasendorf is a former chairman and president of the San Fernando Valley Jaycees, and he won a Trusted Advisor award from the Business Journal in August 2017.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** The Van Nuys Sherman Oaks War Memorial Park. My three children play football, baseball, soccer and basketball at the park and it is a great place to let the kids (and dogs) run loose and have fun.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Down. We are due for a downward turn and I can see some of “our” more questionable economic policies coming home to roost.

**PASSION:** My kids. Love watching them play.

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**RICHARD KATZ**
Richard Katz Consulting

Richard Katz, 68, served in the California State Assembly for 16 years, including 10 years as chairman of the Transportation Committee. He helped create the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority, or Metro, and after his days in Sacramento served for eight years on the Metro board. As a board member of Metrolink, Katz focused on safety issues, including leading an effort that resulted in the transit agency being the first to implement Positive Train Control, satellite-based safety technology. Katz is the owner of a public policy and government relations firm, Richard Katz Consulting. He serves as chairman emeritus of the Valley Economic Alliance, and he is on the boards of Heal the Bay, the Saving the West Foundation and the Los Angeles Coalition.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** My barber (Tarzana), who doubles as a very successful day trader.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Slightly up, because it's a presidential election year.

**PASSION:** My passion is my 12-year-old son, Mitchell. My hobbies are my 60 roses, basketball (playing, watching) and politics.

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**YI SUN KIM**
G&B Law

Yi Sun Kim, 39, is a partner with G&B Law and president of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. She practices in the areas of bankruptcy, business litigation and business transactions. Kim won the president’s award in September 2015 from the San Fernando Valley Bar Association; the William J. Lasarow award for pro bono service, also in 2015, from the Public Counsel and the Los Angeles County Bar Association; the Misty Alpert, Barr & Grant Business Rising Star award in 2013 from the Business Journal. Also, she was named a Super Lawyer in 2019. She is vice chairman of the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) and the Checkered Flag 200 charitable organization.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Any of the roads leading to a view of the entire Valley. It’s always peaceful and calming.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Down because it is coming to that stage of the market cycle.

**PASSION:** Still looking for one that sticks. And the time to enjoy it.
Coby King
High Point Strategies

Coby King, 58, is president and chief executive of High Point Strategies, a long-time San Fernando Valley public affairs firm specializing in strategic and crisis communications and governmental advocacy. He has been very active in the effort to bring more transit to the San Fernando Valley, among other quality-of-life issues in the Valley. King serves as a past chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and currently is on its executive committee; a member and past president of the state board that reimburses consumers that have been cheated by car dealers; and in leadership positions with the California Democratic Party and Sierra Club.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Saddles Peak Lodge. I love the sophisticated food and drink, the rustic lodge atmosphere, and the setting in the Santa Monica Mountains.
PASSION: I’m a peakbagger, meaning I climb mountains on lists. For instance, I’ve been to the highest point of 56 of California’s 58 counties.

Stephen Landsman
Squar Milnar

Stephen Landsman is a certified public accountant and partner with Squar Milnar. Landsman has 20 years of experience in tax planning and compliance and specializes in tax structuring for real estate entities. He joined Squar Milnar in 2011 and became partner in 2013. In 2012, he was selected by the Business Journal as one of the Valley Area’s Most Trusted Advisors. Prior to joining Squar Milnar, Landsman was a senior manager in the accounting department at White, Zuckerman, Warnsky, Luna, Wolf & Hunt.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Encino Little League where I am a manager for 6 to 8 year olds.
PASSION: Spending time with family and supporting various nonprofits including Girl Scouts, Fit 4 The Cause and youth sports.

Jonathan Fraser Light
LightGBaller

With over 30 years of experience representing employers, Jonathan Fraser Light provides day-to-day legal advice, in-house employer training programs, and litigation services to companies of all sizes to reduce liability and protect against lawsuits. He also speaks before business and employer groups on such topics as harassment avoidance, supervisor training, human resources best practices and the latest employment law issues. He has received the highest “AV” rating from Martindale-Hubbell and has been a peer-nominated “Super Lawyer” for more than a decade.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Restaurants on the 101 Corridor. There’s a bunch of great ones!
PASSION: Movies and travel and food. Saw 45 movies in theaters last year!

John Lockhart
People Media

John Lockhart, 60, is president of People Media Worldwide Inc. in Westlake Village. People Media manages strategic communications for several emerging and established organizations. People Media also produces the CFO Focus series, and quarterly Icons of L.A. and InfoDines to recognize local business and civic leaders. Lockhart serves on the board of the Association for Corporate Growth 101 and the advisory board for Start Up Kids, teaching entrepreneurial skills to elementary school children.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Lakeside Cafe in Encino. Food and service are great. It is a good getaway place for lunch or happy hour.
PASSION: Horses and horseback riding at ranch in Ventura County.

Pegi Matsuda
Pegi Matsuda Consulting

Pegi Matsuda, 64, opened Pegi Matsuda Consulting in Sherman Oaks last year, the culmination of contacts and coalitions that she has built across several decades as a result of her civic and community engagement. Matsuda is also a board member for many of the Valley’s best-known organizations, including Valley Economic Development Center, Valley Industry Commerce Association, Valley Economic Alliance, Woodbury University, Valley Presbyterian Hospital, West Hills Hospital and the Fernando Foundation. She was named Woman of the Year in 2013 by the 42nd Assembly District. She is Pamadasa president and publisher of the Business Journal from 1999 through 2012, then began serving as foundation president at Valley Presbyterian Hospital before segueing into her consulting practice.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Bream Park in Studio City.
PASSION: My two Shelties: Ernie and Kacie.

Robert Rodine
The Polaris Group

Robert Rodine’s consulting practice, the Polaris Group, performs economic impact analyses, creates financial models, does business planning and conducts transactional analyses. He has particular experience in transportation, especially aviation and the Van Nuys Airport. Business organization involvement includes 11 years as a board member of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and 10 years as chairman or co-chair of VICA’s Aviation Committee. He is a founding member of the Valley Economic Alliance and former co-chair of the Livable Communities Council. He serves as president of the Valley International Trade Association for nine years. Rodine served as a Mayor Richard Riordan appointee to the Van Nuys Airport Citizens Advisory Council.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: An active cyclist heretofore, all the Valley streets have been a fabulous playground.
PASSION: Up! The heart of the economy is powered by businesspeople driven to achieve success.

Richard Rosenberg
Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt

Richard Rosenberg, 66, is a partner in the Encino law firm of Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt. The firm exclusively represents employers, and Rosenberg has spent his career assisting management with workplace issues. He has been on the list of Southern California Super Lawyers every year since its inception and on the list of Best Lawyers in America since 2009. He has lectured for bar associations, trade organizations and management groups throughout the United States and has delivered workplace law training and dispute prevention seminars to lawyers, human resources professionals and executives. He also has published more than 75 articles and legal commentaries in numerous trade publications and legal journals.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Driving on Mulholland Drive at dusk. The twinkling lights are so beautiful, and everything looks so peaceful.
PASSION: Golfing.
We congratulate all the leaders in the Valley 200. Thanks to them, our economy is stronger and our community is better!
THE VALLEY 200
BUSINESS
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BUSINESS JOURNAL

MADELYN ALFANO
Maria's Italian Kitchen

Madelyn Alfano, owner of Maria’s Italian Kitchen in Van Nuys, opened the first Maria’s restaurant in Sherman Oaks in 1985 and has since expanded the franchise to 11 locations, several of which are in the Valley area. Alfano is very involved with organizations, serving as vice chair of the California Restaurant Association and foundation chair for the National Association of Women Business Owners - Los Angeles. She also sits on the Board of Advisors for the UCLA Anderson Business School. Alfano was awarded a Valley of the Stars award last year by the Valley Economic Alliance and was named by the Los Angeles Business Journal as the most influential businesswoman of 2017.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Woodley Park and the Japanese gardens is a blessing to our Valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up, but I am concerned that small businesses will be challenged to survive and thrive due to escalating costs in rent, labor and legislation.

PASSION: People. I love to mentor hungry entrepreneurial minds and assist businesses in need of thoughtful coaching.

MICHAEL ARCHER
ERP Power

Michael Archer, 59, is co-founder and chief technology officer of ERP Power in Moorpark. Established in 2004, ERP designs and manufactures energy-efficient LED electronics for commercial and industrial lighting applications. The company last month announced its acquisition of Lumenext Inc., a specialty lighting company. Prior to founding ERP, Archer started EOS Corp. in 1991. EOS was a design and manufacturing company building products for the computer industry. During his decade at EOS, Archer grew it from inception to $35 million, ultimately selling it in 2001. The company was responsible for many of the standard power supply packages used in the computer industry today and serviced Apple, Dell, HP, and Texas Instruments. Early in his career, Archer was senior scientist for Power One, developing the advanced power technologies used in many industrial applications.

MARTHA DIAZ ASZKENAZY
Aszkenazy Development
San Fernando Valley Sun and El Sol Newspaper

Martha Diaz Aszkenazy and her husband Sveryn Aszkenazy own Aszkenazy Development in San Fernando along with the San Fernando Valley Sun and El Sol Newspaper, a bilingual news operation that serves the entire San Fernando Valley. Martha Aszkenazy is chair of the board of Project GRAD Los Angeles and is chair emeritus of the Valley Economic Alliance. She's won numerous awards over the years including the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Woman-Owned Business. She was named among the 25 Most Influential Leaders of the San Fernando Valley by the Business Journal and was named Latina Entrepreneur of the Year by the Latin Business Association, among other honors.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Malibu Canyon Creek was a favorite place to take the kids camping in the summer because of its proximity to creature comforts and natural beauty.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I am concerned about the economy and hope that it will only be slightly down a year from now. The trade war with China, continued levying of tariffs and the deep partisan division is what informs my outlook.

PASSION: Gardening is my favorite thing to do. Being outdoors and touching the earth is relaxing and caring for plants and seeing them bloom is very gratifying.

EDWARD G. ATSINGER III
Salem Media Group

Edward G. Atsinger III is chief executive and a board member of Salem Media Group in Camarillo, known for its conservative, Christian and family-themed content. Salem owns 116 radio stations in 39 markets. In addition, the company owns Salem Radio Network, which syndicates talk, news and music programming to approximately 3,200 affiliates; Salem Media Representative, a radio advertising company; Salem Web Network, an internet provider of Christian content and online streaming with more than 100 Christian content and conservative opinion websites; and Salem Publishing, a publisher of conservative and Christian books and magazines. Atsinger co-founded the company with his brother-in-law in the early 1970s and has been involved in the ownership and operation of radio stations since 1969. He is on the board of the National Religious Broadcasters and Oaks Christian School in Thousand Oaks and is chair of the Radio Music License Committee.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Ronald Reagan Library where Salem hosts numerous informative and entertaining events.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I think the economy will continue to be strong through 2020.

PASSION: I am an avid bicycle rider on country roads in the area.

FREDERICK C. BEDDINGFIELD III
Sienna Biopharmaceuticals Inc.

Frederick C. Beddingfield III, Ph.D., is founder, president, chief executive and member of the board of Sienna Biopharmaceuticals Inc. of Westlake Village. He started Sienna in 2016 and took the company public in 2017. He’s a board-certified dermatologist and dermatologic surgeon. Previously, Beddingfield served as chief medical officer of Kythera Biopharmaceuticals from March 2013 until it was acquired by Allergan in 2015, and he worked at Allergan from 2003 to 2013. He is a clinical associate professor of medicine/dermatology at the UCLA School of Medicine; serves on the board of Advancing Innovation in Dermatology; and is founder of the Dermatology Summit and Dermatology Entrepreneurship Conferences.

PAMELA BERG
MP Printing & Mailing

The co-owner and president of MP Printing & Mailing in Panorama City, Pamela Berg has a long record of service with the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. Berg, 67, chairs VICA’s membership committee, serves on the executive board and was the organization’s President in 2017. She and husband Kevin have built up a company named as one of the top 100 small printing companies in the country by the National Association of Print Leadership. In November, she qualified as one of 100 volunteers who traveled to Washington, D.C. to help decorate the White House for the holiday season.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Balboa Park. It has great walking and running paths around the lake and park.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down – we can’t keep going at the current rate with the deficit.

PASSION: Interior decorating.

BEAU BOECKMANN
Galpin Motors

Beau Boeckmann, 49, is president of Galpin Motors, a Van Nuys auto dealership group owned by his father, Bert Boeckmann. The group includes dealerships for Ford, Lincoln, Honda, Volkswagen, Subaru and several others. Boeckmann has worked in the family business for more than 25 years. He performed a variety of jobs for the company as a teenager, and, after graduating from the University of Southern California, worked full-time on the sales floor and in the service, finance and rental departments. He also serves on product committees for Ford Motor Co. He has served as a member of the National Lincoln Dealer Council.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Castle Park! I played there as a kid, now I play there with my kids!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up! I’m an optimist. (And maybe a little contrarian.)

PASSION: Cars, trucks, vans, automobiles, vehicles, hot rods, jalopies, etc.

BERT BOECKMANN
Galpin Motors

Bert Boeckmann, 89, is the owner of Galpin Motors, an automotive group based in Van Nuys. He began his career selling automobiles at Galpin Ford in 1953. By age 26, he was promoted to General Manager. He began a buyout of the company in 1960 when he was vice president, purchasing Galpin stock with his earnings. He was majority stockholder by the time he was named president in 1964, and achieved sole ownership of the dealership four years later. Today, Galpin Motors is one of the most successful automotive groups in the country, and Galpin has been No. 1 Ford dealer in the world for 29 consecutive years. Among other honors, he was Time Magazine’s National Quality Dealer and got the Distinguished Service Citation from the National Automobile Dealers Association. He was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame and Galpin was the first to be inducted into the Top Volume Ford Dealer Hall of Fame. He was awarded the Presidential Citation for Private Sectors Initiative (the nation’s highest award for entrepreneurs) and the renowned Horatio Alger Award. Boeckmann has long contributed to the community in a variety of ways, and he was Police Commissioner of Los Angeles nearly 17 years.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: At 8 years of age, fishing in the stream that now runs into Hansen Dam – very fond memories.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Hoping for continued economic growth in 2019 – with no recession on the horizon.

PASSION: Playing cards nightly with my lovely wife, Jane, and spending time with my growing family.
KARL BOECKMANN
Galpin Motors

Karl Boeckmann is vice president of Galpin Motors, the family-owned group of car dealerships based in North Hills that sells vehicles from Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Volvo, Jaguar and Aston Martin, among other brands, and operates Galpin Auto Sports, a customizing and aftermarket retail venue. Boeckmann was born and raised in Glendale and is a graduate of Glendale College and USC. His charitable contributions to the community include serving on the boards of Goodwill, New Directions for Youth, Pierce College, Diabetes Association, Fernando Award Foundation and Providence Tarzana Hospital. Boeckmann also is a founding director for the LAPD Valley Foundation. He is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, One Generation Hearts Across the Valley award, Philanthropist of the Year and the Fernando Award for outstanding community leadership and service.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Balboa Park. Has golf, tennis, basketball, soccer, baseball, walking and running paths, and the artificial lake for bird watching, etc.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Unfortunately, down due to the number of costs associated with our community. Cost of living, housing prices, taxes, utility costs, taxes, and by the way did I mention taxes (many unseen)?

HOBBY: Working with people in our auto business.

PASSION: Working with the charities within our community. Traveling with my wife of 40 years.

ROBERT BRADWAY
Amen

Robert Bradway, 56, became chairman of Amgen in January 2013 and chief executive in May 2012, and served as the company’s president and chief operating officer from May 2010 to May 2012. Bradway joined Amgen, the biotech giant in Thousand Oaks, in 2006 as vice president of Operations Strategy, and served as executive vice president and chief financial officer from April 2007 to May 2010. Previously, he was a managing director at Morgan Stanley in London. Bradway has been a director of the Hoeing Co., a trustee of the University of Southern California; an advisor of the Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, and chairman of the non-profit CEO Roundtable on Cancer.

PASSION: Teaching various classes in the Aviation Administration Bachelor of Arts program at California State University - Los Angeles. He’s a certified private and instrument-rated pilot. One can escape the bonds of traffic and cloud hop or go on a coastal tour. It brings serenity.

STEVEN BRONSON
Interlink Electronics Inc.
Qualstar Corp.

Steven N. Bronson, 53, has more than 35 years of business and entrepreneurial experience. His background in investment banking, operations and management has led him to acquire meaningful stakes in several technology companies and assuming top roles in them. He became the chief executive and chairman of Westlake Village-based Interlink Electronics Inc. in 2010. In 2013, Bronson became president and CEO of Simi Valley-based Qualstar Corp., a high-quality tape library manufacturer, and its subsidiary NZPower, a manufacturer of high efficiency power supplies for diverse electronics industries. He immediately initiated a turnaround strategy that led the company to profitability. He also has served as chairman and chief executive of BKF Capital Group Inc. in Westlake Village since October 2008.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Boating on Lake Sherwood. Peaceful and beautiful scenery!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down. Geopolitical uncertainty and tariffs.

PASSION: Travel, health and fitness.

CURT CASTAGNA
Aeroplex/Aerolease Group

Curt Castagna, 55, and chief executive of the Aeroplex/Aerolease Group, which includes general aviation and business aircraft centers at the Van Nuys and Long Beach airports, and airport consulting services provided internationally. He’s a director of the National Air Transportation Association, a commissioner overseeing the five Los Angeles County airports, and is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives. Castagna also has more than two decades of experience as an adjunct professor, teaching various classes in the Aviation Administration Bachelor of Arts program at California State University - Los Angeles. He’s a certified private and instrument-rated pilot.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The airport. It’s got energy, brings business to the region and airplanes are cool

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Slightly up. California continues to challenge the ability for business investment. Taxes, work force, homeless and housing are key issues.

PASSION: Flying. It’s three dimensional. One can escape the bonds of traffic and cloud hop or go on a coastal tour. It brings serenity.

MICHAEL CASTAGNA
MannKind Corp.

Michael Castagna, 42, is the chief executive and a director of MannKind Corp. in Westlake Village. The company makes an inhalable insulin called Afrezza and develops products for orphan lung diseases. Castagna, who holds a PharmD degree, has over 20 years of experience in health care, pharmaceutical, biotech and specialty pharmacy industries. He has proven pre-launch and launch experience on over 20 brands. He’s known as a disciplined leader with a personal commitment to developing people.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Any of the car shows because the variety of what you can see.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down, debt is high, housing is slowing and the market is due.

PASSION: Kids, travel and fixing the challenges people face with diabetes.

ALAN COMINS
Green Polishing Solutions
Premier Carpet

Alan Comins, 57, is the founder of Green Polishing Solutions in Chatsworth. The company installs polished concrete flooring and can pour new concrete or polish existing slabs. It has worked with retail centers, showrooms, condominium lobbies, high schools and other large spaces. Comins has a background as a CPA and controller and served as chief financial officer at Floormart in Glendale and was later a principal and co-owner of Carpetland in Beverly Hills. In 2001, he launched Premier Carpet in Chatsworth, and it is still there today. In 2008, he founded Green Polishing Solutions. He is a lifelong San Fernando Valley resident, and he is active in the American Society of Concrete Contractors.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Once a month, I love to visit Napa Winery to see the Acoustic Saints, L.A.’s best classic rock acoustic band.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Unfortunately, at least somewhat down. The GDP will slow next year, due in part to trade wars, the now-record long expansion, the steep rise in national debt, and the predicted rise in interest rates. However, with low unemployment and money on the sidelines, we will still have a strong economy.

PASSION: Short board surfing; playing and collecting guitars.

MARK DAVIS
Sun Hill Properties Inc.

Mark Davis is chief executive of Sun Hill Properties Inc., which operates the largest hotel in the Valley area, the Hilton Los Angeles Universal City. Sun Hill, based in Universal City, also operates the Courtyard by Marriott Ventura-Simi Valley. Davis has worked in the hospitality industry for more than four decades, and specializes in helping companies with strategic financial performance, market share penetration and team development. He serves on the boards of the Los Angeles Hotel Lodging Association, Valley Industry and Commerce Association and Los Angeles Convention and Tourism.

KEVIN DEMOFF
Los Angeles Rams

Kevin Demoff, 42, is the chief operating officer and executive vice president of football operations with the Los Angeles Rams, working in the team’s Agoura Hills headquarters. He is the team’s top front-office executive and liaison to the owner, Stan Kroenke. After serving on the group that helped return the Rams to Los Angeles, Demoff is playing a significant role in the design and construction of the Rams’ 298-acre sports and entertainment district in Inglewood. Demoff and the Rams helped lead a regional effort to bring the Super Bowl to the new L.A. Stadium, which will be played in 2022, and he worked with the Olympic Bid Committee to help deliver the Olympic Games to Los Angeles. Demoff serves on the boards of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission and Los Angeles Sports Council and he is part of the American Cancer Society’s CEOs Against Cancer group.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Bellwether. The best fries in the Valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Way up because of our new stadium in Inglewood!

PASSION: Cooking...if I was ever home on time to make dinner.
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PASADENA
SKYLER DITCHFIELD
GeoLinks
Skyler Ditchfield, 37, founded Camarillo-based telecommunications service provider GeoLinks in 2011 alongside his cousin, Ryan Hauf. In May he was appointed to the Federal Communications Commission’s Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. He is or has been on the FCC Advisory Board for Wireless Internet Service Providers Association; the Schools, Hospitals and Libraries Broadband Coalition’s committees for strategic advisory and fundraising and the Forbes Los Angeles Business Council. He has been recognized as “Entrepreneur of the Year” last year by the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce and a “Top Innovator in Diversity and Inclusion” by Mogul, a social networking platform for women.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Love going to Brent’s Deli with my wife and daughter. Best food and selection!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Corporate tax benefits up, money coming back from overseas!

PASSION: My wife and daughter are No. 1, then health, weightlifting and fast cars.

ROSS E. DUEBER
ZPower
Ross E. Dueber, Ph.D., is president and chief executive of ZPower in Camarillo. The 59-year-old has led the company in pioneering the development of silver-zinc battery chemistry for microbattery applications. ZPower was ranked No. 82 on Inc. Magazine’s 2018 Top 500 Fastest-Growing Private Companies List and was also awarded the 2018 Stevie Award for Employer of the Year – Manufacturing. ZPower was named Business of the Year by Camarillo Chamber of Commerce in 2018, and it was ranked No. 1 on the Business Journal’s Fastest-Growing Private Companies List, among other honors. During his career, Dueber has participated in defining battery and energy storage strategies for many of the world’s top organizations, including the U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense, Department of Energy and NASA. He has worked with such companies as Ford, United Technologies and Dow Chemical on battery and fuel cell development. Early in his career, he was an associate professor and director of analytical chemistry at the U.S. Air Force Academy where he was named an “Outstanding Academy Educator.”

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Santa Monica Mountain trails adjacent to my home – beautiful and peaceful.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up, definitely; rapid pace of innovation drives my optimism.

PASSION: Breaking 80 for 18 holes.

CHAD FAULKNER
Mamba Sports Academy
Chad Faulkner, 51, founded and operated the Sports Academy, a 96,000-square-foot athletic training center in Thousand Oaks. In the past year, he took on former Lakers player Kobe Bryant as a partner, renaming the facility Mamba Sports Academy. It offers specialized fitness programs, coaching and medical services. Faulkner also co-founded Riverside-based financial services firm Curo Financial Strategies Corp., where he serves as chief operating officer. He has served on the boards of charitable foundations including the Snyder Legacy Fellowship, which provides leadership development opportunities to students at Kansas State University; and the Special Forces Charitable Trust, which offers support to U.S. Army Special Forces members.

CHERI FLEMING
Valencia Acura
Cheri Fleming, 67, and her husband, Don, purchased Valencia Acura in 1997. The store is now one of the highest-ranking customer satisfaction dealerships in the country. Sales penetration in their primary market area and customer loyalty ranks among the highest in the nation. Fleming is a longtime leader in Soroptimist International and the Child and Family Center. She is a director of Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital and chairs the hospital’s cultivation and awareness committee to help build a new patient tower. Fleming has won more than a dozen awards including several “Woman of the Year” honors from different organizations and this year was awarded the “Silver Spur Award for Community Service” by College of the Canyons Foundation. She was the Volunteer of the Year Award at the Business Journal’s Women in Business event last year because of her considerable civic and community activities.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Acura sponsors great entertainment at the Hollywood Bowl during the summer, and I love the immersive experience.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I am known as being positive and optimistic. I predict an uptick at our car dealership and hope everyone follows!

PASSION: I have a passion for volunteering.

JENNIFER FRIEDLAND
Corporate ImpressionsA
Jennifer Friedland is founder, president and chief executive of Corporate ImpressionsA, a commercial print services firm in North Hollywood. In 2009, she also acquired DoradoPkg and merged the companies. Friedland built two divisions: ImpressionsA, which remained a dedicated business printer; and Dorado Music Packaging, which specializes in the resurgence of vinyl by producing LP record jackets, box sets and CD packaging. Friedland has spoken about the Power of Print at events for the Grammy Museum, SXSX Music Convention, Skirball Museum and more.

NAJEEB GAHARI
NetSol Technologies
Najeeb Gahari is founder, chairman and chief executive of NetSol Technologies Inc. The Calabasas company provides global business services and enterprise application products to private and public sector organizations worldwide. Gahari was responsible for restructuring the company’s business model into that of an IT company and was instrumental in completing the NetSol Technologies IPO in 1998.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Commons in Calabasas. Nice restaurants, theaters, nice walk from office, relaxing, calm.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down due to longest expansion since 2010, trade and tariffs uncertainty, inflationary signs.

PASSION: My business, travel, philanthropy, quality time with family, regular exercise in gym.

ROBERT A. IGER
Walt Disney Co.
Robert Iger, 68, is chairman and chief executive the Walt Disney Co. of Burbank, the world’s largest media company and purveyor of some of the most respected brands around the globe. His strategic vision for Disney focuses on three fundamental pillars: generating the best creative content possible, fostering innovation and technology, and expanding into new markets around the world. Iger led Disney’s acquisitions of Pixar (2004), Marvel (2009), and Lucasfilm (2012), and the openings of Disney’s theme parks in China. He has been named one of Fortune magazine’s “25 Most Powerful People in Business” (2006, 2007); one of the “Top Gun CEOs” by Forbes magazine (2009); one of the “Best CEO” by Institutional Investor magazine (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011); MarketWatch CEO of the Year (2006); and “CEO of the Year” by Chief Executive (2014).

TONY KNOPP
TicketManager
Tony Knopp is co-founder and chief executive of TicketManager in Calabasas. The company offers web and mobile products that help companies manage client entertainment, such as creating events, inviting guests, registering and checking-in customers and reporting on the effectiveness of each event in real-time. Knopp is an advisor to Techstars Sports Accelerator, founded the TicketManager Partner Summit, is on the board of multiple sports tech start-ups and serves his local church and community.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I often joke I’ve never lived east of the 5 Freeway and that’s due to the beach. If you need me on the weekend, you can find me either surfing in Malibu or playing the back nine at Calabasas Country Club.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. There is too much money sloshing around looking to invest, and that will continue to postpone the natural cyclical recession we’re overdue for.

PASSION: I love complicated and difficult things so it’s no real surprise my favorite hobbies are surfing, playing golf and practicing jiu-jitsu.
Acquired in 1989 by Sun Hill Properties, **Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City** welcomes guests with bright, open spaces complimented by panoramic views of the San Fernando Valley. Located adjacent to Universal Studios and just minutes from Hollywood, the hotel has been a destination of the region for over 30 years.

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CLAY LACY
Clay Lacy Aviation

Clay Lacy, 86, is founder and chairman at Clay Lacy Aviation, one of the first jet charter and executive jet management companies on the West Coast. It is headquartered at Van Nuys Airport. He has flown more than 380 aircraft types, logged more than 50,000 flight hours and accumulated more miles flying jet aircraft than almost anyone. In 2010, the Federal Aviation Administration presented Lacy with a Wright Brothers Master Pilot Certificate in recognition of his aviation expertise and safe operations for more than 50 years. The same year, he was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame for his achievements as an air pioneer. This year, Lacy also received the Aircraft Owner and Pilot’s Association’s top honor, the R.A. “Bob” Hoover Trophy, for his contributions to aviation, support of young people and inspiration to pilots. Lacy also helped pioneer development of the Astrovision camera system, which was used to film such movies such as “Flight of the Intruder,” “The Great Santini,” “Armageddon” and “Top Gun.”

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Van Nuys Airport, because that’s where all the action is.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Continued slow growth. Economic conditions in the U.S. are good.

PASSION: Aviation!

ISAAC LARIAN
MGA Entertainment

Isaac Larian, 63, founded MGA Entertainment in 1979 and built it into the largest private toy company in the world. In 2001 MGA launched the Bratz line of dolls that revolutionized the doll industry. In 2006, the company acquired the brand Little Tikes, diversifying into toys for younger children. Prior to founding MGA, Larian imported textiles and brassware through his own mail-order company. He was the national winner of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2007 and the local winner in 2004. He arrived in the United States at age 17 with $750 and put himself through California State University - Los Angeles on a dishwasher’s wages; he was awarded the school’s Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2005. He has been active in several charitable foundations that focus on helping children and families including LeFron James Family Foundation, City of Hope and the Hope Foundation, among others.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The new MGA headquarters in Chatsworth. It is a state-of-the-art work, live, play campus. The best in Southern California.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down. The trade wars and tariffs are going to kill this economy.

PASSION: Playing and traveling with my grandson!

RICHARD LOGUERCI0
Town & Country Event Rentals

Richard LoGuercio, 65, is owner and president of Town & Country Event Rentals in Van Nuys. He has more than 40 years of experience in the industry and began his career working part time at a local United Rentals store. In 1978, LoGuercio co-founded Rentals West, and then in 1981, launched Classic Party Rentals in Culver City. He opened Town & Country Event Rentals in July 2005 in a 61,000-square-foot facility in Van Nuys. Town & Country has since expanded into a 180,000-square-foot facility, opened additional hour stores in Pasadena and Santa Barbara and now employs more than 500 full time. LoGuercio also is active in the California Business and Industrial Alliance, or CABIA, the Pacoima-based group formed to fight the state’s Private Attorney General Act.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: On occasion, I like to take a cruise down Ventura Boulevard all the way from Studio City to Woodland Hills. Lots going on and forever changing and evolving.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Being in the event business and because most larger events are planned ahead of time, we see lots going on towards the end of this year and spilling over into next. If we can keep it the same as this year, we’d be happy and if it’s up, happier!

PASSION: I’d like to say something different, but truly, I love my business and everything we do. Every day is different. No two are the same!

JOHN MAIER
Blue Microphones

John Maier, 55, is chief executive of Westlake Village-based Blue Microphones, which designs microphones and headphones. Before joining the company, Maier was chief executive of audio equipment distributor TC Group Americas Inc., where he helped the Danish company build its presence in North America. Prior to TC, Maier held several leadership positions in the audio industry, including at Alexis, Guitar Center and Sound Marketing. Throughout his career, he has served as a board member or advisor to many companies and nonprofits. Besides Blue Microphones, he currently sits on the boards of Loud Audio (Mackie); In The Band, a non-profit that brings music programs to schools and communities, and PAMA, the Pro Audio Manufacturer’s Alliance.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Maggiano’s restaurant. It’s a chain but started in Chicago, where I’m from, so holds a special place for us.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down. The longest expansion in memory will have to end sometime.

PASSION: I’m a musician – a drummer from a very young age and still playing!

TOM MANZO
Timely Prefinished Steel Door Frames

Tom Manzo, 51, is president of Timely Prefinished Steel Door Frames in Pacoima. Two years ago, he started an organization called the California Business and Industrial Alliance, or CABA, to fight the state’s Private Attorney General Act law after his business was snagged by the law. The company employs close to 200 and manufactures fire-rated door frames, sidelights, pocket door frames and the like. Manzo was born in Detroit and joined Timely more than 15 years ago, working his way up from product manager. Previously, he worked with a supplier to the Big Three automotive companies and ran his own business supplying repair services to suppliers.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: My in-laws’ house. It is always great to be with family.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I think the economy in California will slow. One major impact is the increase in payroll due to minimum wage increases along with the most expensive workers compensation rates in the nation. Losses by way of the Private Attorney General Act are costing employers millions. Recently, Social Security sent out no-match letters and many employers lost good employees over this. It appears sanctuary status only works for the criminals and not the good, hard-working immigrants who losing their jobs every day.

PASSION: To overturn a law, the Private Attorney General Act, that the wealthiest trial attorneys have been using as a weapon against good business owners to extort money from them.

SCOTT MILLS
The Garland

Scott Mills, 46, is general manager of The Garland. He’s a second-generation hotelier with more than 25 years of hospitality experience who oversees all aspects of the iconic North Hollywood hotel. Since joining in January 2015, Mills has led the rebrand and $20 million renovation of The Garland, which resulted in it being recognized among the top hotels by Condé Nast Traveler. Previously, he was vice president of hospitality operations for The Siegel Group in Las Vegas, and worked with the Viceroy Hotel Group as general manager of the Avalon Beverly Hills. He spent 11 years with Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. Mills is on the board of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, the Los Angeles Tourism Marketing District and the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board and the East Valley Family YMCA. Mills is also the recipient of the 2017 California Hotel and Lodging Association’s Outstanding General Manager of the Year award.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Any golf course – love being outdoors, walking and enjoying the SoCal weather! Even if I’m a hack!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. But there is uncertainty – potential to be down pending some current political maneuvers. Long positive run in the hospitality business, and at some point the cycle will start over.

PASSION: Family, sports and wine!
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JOAN ROTH-OSEARY
Someones In The Kitchen

Joann Roth-Oseary, 73, is president of Someones In The Kitchen, a full service catering and event planning business, with 35 full-time and 150 part-time employees. Within three weeks of baking apple bread for friends 33 years ago, she managed to sell more than 750, launching SITK into a household name. Roth-Oseary is on the board of the Valley-based California Business and Industrial Alliance and has donated her time and professional services to the AIDS Project Los Angeles, The Fred Jordan Mission, and Homeless USA. In 2009, SITK was named the Best Catering Company by the Los Angeles Daily News and received the Lifetime Achievement Award by Special Event Magazine.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The lake at Balboa Park. It is filled with the locals all enjoying the day.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: We have had a great year and I do not anticipate any downturns. “It’s the economy!”

PASSION: I am truly passionate about my business and my grandchildren. For some added fun I just took up tap dancing!

JOHN M. PARKER
Parker Brown Inc.

John M. Parker is owner, founding partner and the chief financial officer of Parker Brown Inc., a leading construction company in the San Fernando Valley. Parker also is a director of Mission Valley Bank in Sun Valley and chairs its audit committee. He is a past president of the United Chambers of Commerce and is a past president of the Canoga Park/West Hills Chamber of Commerce. He also was president of the Canoga Park Improvement Association. Parker, an immigrant from Ireland, helped start the annual St. Patrick’s Day March through Canoga Park. Along with other duties, he is a commissioner of the Los Angeles County Building and Rehabilitation Appeals Board as well as in the Los Angeles City Innovation and Performance Commission. He also serves on the management board of the Valley Economic Alliance.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: So many to choose from. Wood and Water restaurant on Ventura Boulevard. YMCA in Porter Ranch.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. We are in a good place with employment figures. Great time to start a career, especially for young people.

PASSION: Sailing and Gardening.

LOUIS PERRY
Kadima Security Services

Louis Perry, 58, is founder and owner of Kadima Security Services. The Encino company provides security for high-profile individuals such as politicians and former presidents, as well as security details. He is also security correspondent for local news outlets. As an inspector for the California State Athletic Commission, he was a boxing official who often serves ringside. Perry served on Sylmar’s Neighborhood Council. He is chairman of the Stevenson Ranch Neighborhood Watch, diplomat of ABC Homeland Security and an honorary member of the International Police Association.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Jerry’s Famous Deli in Encino because I like the atmosphere and environment.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy will be up, but relationships between political parties, races, and hate crimes will be bad.

PASSION: Spending time with and walking my dog, Maxims.
PASSION: to Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Community Forest Advisory Committee. member for community service; she is a two-time Fernando Award finalist and she was appointed Architecture Department. She received VICA's Harmon Ballin Award, which honors a VICA Family, food and friends (along with some gardening).

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Nethercutt Collection. Artistry, ingenuity, and history. Brilliant and engaging staff.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Tuscany il Ristorante. If I'm not in my kitchen then I want to be in Chef Tommaso’s!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. The 2020 presidential campaign will drive bold change to differentiate candidates.

PASSION: Creating experiences for family, friends and colleagues.

PASSION: Family, food and friends (along with some gardening).

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Local economy could be down due to increased personal taxes and wages.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Brent's Deli. The pastrami is great.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The whole Topanga corridor. The mix of people, business, restaurants and shopping areas always keep me finding new places.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. There has been solid growth in many sectors restaurants and shopping areas always keep me finding new places.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The 2020 presidential campaign will drive bold change to differentiate candidates.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Old Town Junction in Newhall. Great food, ambience and fun!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: China trade deal: better. No trade deal: flat to down.

PASSION: Collecting antique maps.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Hopefully up, due to elections, but I’m skeptical.

PASSION: Travel.

JAN SWARTZ
Princess Cruises

Jan Swartz, 49, is president of Princess Cruises in Santa Clarita. She has held that role since 2013, after serving more than 15 years in senior leadership positions for the premium cruise line. Swartz has held that role since 2013, after serving more than 15 years in senior leadership positions for the premium cruise line. Swartz also has served as group president of Carnival Australia since 2016. She oversees seven brands operating in Australia, and she holds executive oversight of the P&O Cruises Australia brand. In addition, Swartz is president of the Princess Cruises Community Foundation, providing assistance to charitable organizations. She was named a Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles in 2015, and is a member of the Company of 200, an invitation-only organization of the world’s most successful women business leaders. In 2018, Swartz was appointed to the board of MGM Resorts. She has served as the marketing chair of the Cruise Lines International Association and was a member of the board of the Princess Cruises Community Foundation.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Old Town Junction in Newhall. Great food, ambience and fun!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up.

PASSION: Travel.
Can’t really speak to one favorite place to visit. Angeles and currently is working on the California High-Speed Rail project. Tutor is also a industries. It shows strong, stable, well-rounded performance throughout the nation and across many ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I believe we will have a strong economy for at least two years. done and has a great mix of restaurants and stores to hang out al fresco. FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I enjoy the Village right here in Woodland Hills. It is beautifully Michael Wilding, 52, is the general manager at the Hilton woodland Hills / Los Angeles hotel. A native of Austria, he graduated from the Hotel and Tourism College in Vienna and started his career with Hilton Hotels in Southern California where he worked at four properties, including the Hilton Anaheim and the Hilton Los Angeles Airport. In 2000 he became leader of the rooms division at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki, Hilton’s largest hotel. He eventually became the resident manager and in 2011 became general manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton Alana Waikiki. Active in the community, he won a Forty under 40 Award from the state of Hawaii for his achievements, leadership and commitment to the community. Wilding became general manager in woodland Hills last year and has joined the board of the Warner Association. FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I enjoy the Village right here in woodland Hills. It is beautifully done and has a great mix of restaurants and stores to hang out al fresco. ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I believe we will have a strong economy for at least two years. It shows strong, stable, well-rounded performance throughout the nation and across many industries. PASSION: I love to travel, explore and learn from all cultures and ways of life. That’s what got me into this business in the first place.

Forbes as one of America’s Top 50 Women in Tech. She won the CEO of the Year Award from the Business Journal at what is now called the Women’s Council Awards in April 2017.

Ronald Tutor, 78, has served as chief executive of Tutor Perini Corp. since March 2000, chairman since July 1999 and director since January 1997. The Sylmar company, which trades on the New York Stock Exchange, is a leading civil, building and specialty construction company that offers general contracting and design-build services to private clients and public agencies throughout the world. It built much of the Metro Red Line in Los Angeles and currently is working on the California High-Speed Rail project. Tutor is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Southern California.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Can’t really speak to one favorite place to visit.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy a year from now should definitely be up because I believe it’s up everywhere.

PASSION: My passion is travel and yachting.

Adel Villalobos, 46, is founder and chief executive of Valencia-based Lief Labs, a manufacturer and product developer of dietary supplements. He got his degree in biochemistry and nutrition from California State University - Northridge. After college, he held a variety of positions at Natrol, a vitamin and supplement company in Chatsworth, where he was cross-trained in customer service, as a lab technician and in marketing, product development and legal services. He started his own company in 2008 with his varied expertise. Villalobos is a founding member of the Nutrition Industry Association, board member of the Supplement Safety and Compliance Initiative, and sponsor of Vitamin Angels and Heart of the Brain.


ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy has flattened and I expect it to stay flat in 2020. I don’t see a bubble in the real estate market as long as interest rates climb slowly and methodically.

PASSION: Being part of the growth and development of my 12-year-old daughter and 10-year-old boy in all facets: sports, socially and school.

Robert Yallen started working in the family advertising business in 1981. He eventually became president and chief executive of the Woodland Hills company, which developed a direct response TV specialty. Yallen directs 12 integrated business units centered on media, creative, production, marketing and entertainment service. He also is an entertainment attorney with expertise in structuring celebrity brand deals.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I enjoy riding our horses with my beautiful cowgirl wife Linda in Almanstar Ranch, a beautiful wildlife refuge and natural park which abuts our community.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: To me the material issue is that even after a downturn in our economy, which is inevitable, it should be short lived and nothing like what we experienced in the Great Recession of 2008-09.

PASSION: I started racing cars competitively. As part of a race team I compete in a Formula Continental. I’m by far the oldest rookie ever but not the oldest guy out there!

THERESE TUCKER
BlackLine

Therese Tucker, 58, founded BlackLine in 2001 and is the chair and chief executive. The Woodland Hills company, which develops cloud-based accounting software, went public in October 2016. She designed the first offerings of the company’s products and engineered its transition to the cloud in 2007. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and Mathematics from the University of Illinois. Tucker last year was named by the San Fernando Valley. Witt has also served on various boards and with community organizations.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Anywhere in the mountains surrounding the Valley that has a great view.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down, because in California most homeowners received a substantial federal tax increase.

PASSION: Creating, which enables me to live life with passion, an adventurous journey.

RONALD TUTOR
Tutor Perini Corp.

RANDY WITT
Randy Witt Productions

Robert Yallen, 67, of InterMedia Group of Co.s. He also is an entertainment attorney with expertise in structuring celebrity brand deals.

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PASSION: I started racing cars competitively. As part of a race team I compete in a Formula Continental. I’m by far the oldest rookie ever but not the oldest guy out there!

ROBERT YALLEN
InterMedia Group of Cos.

Adel Villalobos, 46, is founder and chief executive of Valencia-based Lief Labs, a manufacturer and product developer of dietary supplements. He got his degree in biochemistry and nutrition from California State University - Northridge. After college, he held a variety of positions at Natrol, a vitamin and supplement company in Chatsworth, where he was cross-trained in customer service, as a lab technician and in marketing, product development and legal services. He started his own company in 2008 with his varied expertise. Villalobos is a founding member of the Nutrition Industry Association, board member of the Supplement Safety and Compliance Initiative, and sponsor of Vitamin Angels and Heart of the Brain.


ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy has flattened and I expect it to stay flat in 2020. I don’t see a bubble in the real estate market as long as interest rates climb slowly and methodically.

PASSION: Being part of the growth and development of my 12-year-old daughter and 10-year-old boy in all facets: sports, socially and school.

MICHAEL WILDING
Hilton woodland Hills / Los Angeles

Randy Witt, owner of Randy Witt Productions in Sherman Oaks, is in his third decade of helping clients communicate with video. His portfolio includes television shows, commercials, corporate videos, live events, and award videos. He has worked with legends such as Dick Clark and Steve Allen. He currently serves as Chairman of the Valley Economic Alliance, an organization that engages and unites Valley stakeholders to raise standards of living and economic vitality across the San Fernando Valley. Witt has also served on various boards and with community organizations.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Anywhere in the mountains surrounding the Valley that has a great view.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down, because in California most homeowners received a substantial federal tax increase.

PASSION: Creating, which enables me to live life with passion, an adventurous journey.

ROBERT YALLEN
InterMedia Group of Cos.

Robert Yallen started working in the family advertising business in 1981. He eventually became president and chief executive of the Woodland Hills company, which developed a direct response TV specialty. Yallen directs 12 integrated business units centered on media, creative, production, marketing and entertainment service. He also is an entertainment attorney with expertise in structuring celebrity brand deals.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I enjoy riding our horses with my beautiful cowgirl wife Linda in Almanstar Ranch, a beautiful wildlife refuge and natural park which abuts our community.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: To me the material issue is that even after a downturn in our economy, which is inevitable, it should be short lived and nothing like what we experienced in the Great Recession of 2008-09.

PASSION: I started racing cars competitively. As part of a race team I compete in a Formula Continental. I’m by far the oldest rookie ever but not the oldest guy out there!
Dianne Harrison, Ph.D., is the fifth president of California State University - Northridge and began her appointment in June 2012. Previously, she served as president of California State University, Monterey Bay, beginning in 2006, and she worked at Florida State University for nearly 30 years in various capacities. Harrison serves on the boards of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Valley Economic Alliance and Valley Presbyterian Hospital. She holds a Ph.D. in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and a master’s of social work and a bachelor’s in American Studies, both from the University of Alabama. In March she was honored as Woman of the Year for California’s 18th Senate District.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** The Soryya Center for the Performing Arts.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Hard to predict, but a university-prepared workforce is essential to the economy.

**PASSION:** Reading, going to the movies and exercise.

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**GERHARD APFELTHALER**

California Lutheran University

Gerhard Apfelthaler, 53, is the dean of the School of Management at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. After starting his career at the University of Economics and Business Administration in Vienna, Austria, he joined public service at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber. He was appointed Deputy Austrian Trade Commissioner to the United States in Los Angeles during the early and mid-1990s. In 1997, he was part of the founding team of a university in Austria. In 2000, Apfelthaler was appointed Commercial Attaché at the Austrian Embassy in Singapore, and he also built a boutique consulting firm specializing in international market entry strategies. After joining California Lutheran University’s School of Management in 2009 as professor of international business, he became dean of the school in 2013. He is also the co-founder of two pharmaceutical start-ups, Cure Pharmaceutical and Oak Therapeutics, and the non-profit Start-Up-Kids. He holds a doctorate in social and economic sciences and has published books and articles in academic journals and co-founded the European Journal of International Management.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** I like Jazz, so I’ll go for Herb Alpert’s Vibrato.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Still about the same, although trade wars will start to hurt us in the long run.

**PASSION:** Cheesy, but I am truly passionate about two things - my family and my work!

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**MATTHEW FIE NUP**

California Lutheran University

Matthew Fi enup, Ph.D., is the executive director of the Center for Economic Research and Forecasting at California Lutheran University. He also teaches courses in econometrics and environmental economics in the university’s Masters of Quantitative Economics program. He is also the Fox Canyon Water Market Group and was chosen by Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency to serve as exchange administrator for a first-of-its-kind water market pilot program involving Ventura County farmers.

Fi enup, 44, returned to school and obtained his doctorate degree after running a small business in Ventura County for more than a decade. He and the Business Journal co-produce the Valley Economic Forecast, and annual assessment of the San Fernando Valley economy.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Stoney Point in Chatsworth. With its rich climbing history and unique landscape, it is simply one-of-a-kind.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** I am truly bullish on the San Fernando Valley! The Valley is home to a vibrant, dynamic economy – a true economic hotspot among neighboring regions.

**PASSION:** There is nothing on earth as fun for my wife and me as skiing or rock climbing with our two boys. The boys each started at age 2 ½, so it’s practically in their blood.

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**WENDY GREUEL**

California State University - Northridge

Wendy Greuel, 58, is an executive-in-residence at California State University – Northridge’s Nazarian College of Business and Economics. Greuel began that position in September 2016 and was instrumental in opening Discovery Cube Los Angeles in the Valley and serves as the vice chair of the board. She was on the Los Angeles City Council, representing the San Fernando Valley from 2002 to 2009. As a council member, she helped enact business tax reform and focused on basic city services, such as sidewalk and street repair. She was elected the Los Angeles City Controller and held that office from 2009 to 2013. Earlier, she worked at DreamWorks SKG and served in the Clinton administration at the Department of Housing and Urban Development overseeing southern California. She worked in Mayor Tom Bradley’s office for 10 years.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Fryman Canyon Park. I enjoy going hiking early in the morning or in the early evening at Fryman. It’s a great place to see a view of the Valley, run into friends and enjoy nature.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** I believe the economy will be about the same in the next year but that everyone should be prepared for a downturn in the next five years. However, the Valley continues to be a place where small and medium size businesses can thrive and grow.

**PASSION:** My husband and I enjoy bike riding around Balboa Park and the Orange Line bike path and finding a place on Ventura Boulevard for breakfast after our ride early on a Sunday morning.

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**DIANNE HARRISON**

California State University - Northridge

Dianne Harrison, Ph.D., is the fifth president of California State University - Northridge and began her appointment in June 2012. Previously, she served as president of California State University, Monterey Bay, beginning in 2006, and she worked at Florida State University for nearly 30 years in various capacities. Harrison serves on the boards of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Valley Economic Alliance and Valley Presbyterian Hospital. She holds a Ph.D. in social work from Washington University in St. Louis and a master’s of social work and a bachelor’s in American Studies, both from the University of Alabama. In March she was honored as Woman of the Year for California’s 18th Senate District.
SUMANTRA SENGUPTA  
California Lutheran University

Sumanta Sengupta, 50, is Assistant Dean of graduate program enrollment and academic director of California Lutheran University’s Executive Masters of Business Administration, Masters of Business Administration and Master of Science in Management programs. He is also a business consultant, strategist and turnaround specialist. In the past he served as interim president for 2½ years of a global agriculture and animal feed company with operations in 36 countries and 3,000 employees. Sengupta has written 4 books on business and authored 24 articles in business publications. He serves on the board of the Valley Economic Alliance.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:  The Village area – always bustling and a nice place to spend some time with friends and family. And Old Town Pasadena – reminds me of the East Coast.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:  Current indicators of earnings and revenue seem to be aligned with some upward trajectory – however the continued “saber rattling” between the political parties and trading partner countries could result in negative territory.

HOBBY OR PASSION:  Hobby is reading books on various business topics – normally 1 - 2 a month. Passion is to work with helping the next generation surpass all our own achievements.

CHANDRA SUBRAMANIAM  
California State University - Northridge

Chandra Subramaniam is the dean of the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics at California State University, Northridge. He came to the San Fernando Valley college last year after serving as interim dean and professor of accounting at the University of Texas at Arlington College of Business. He has taught at all levels including in the undergraduate program, master’s program, executive MBAs and doctoral seminars. He is and has held board memberships in the Ft. Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of CPAs and the Financial Executives International.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:  Griffith Park. It has a great observatory and wonderful views of Los Angeles.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:  While I am expecting volatility, I am hoping the economy stays about the same.

PASSION:  Travelling to new places around the world when time allows.

DAVID STEELE-FIGUEREDO  
Woodbury University

David Steele-Figueroed, Ph.D., serves as the 14th president of Woodbury University, a private, non-profit university in Burbank with a second academic site in San Diego. Founded in 1884, Woodbury is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in Southern California. Prior to joining Woodbury, Steele-Figueroed was dean of San Jose State University’s Lucas College and Graduate School of Business. Before beginning his academic career, he played a variety of strategic roles with Chevron Corp., including senior strategic planner and financial analyst on the Chevron-Gulf merger team, and president of Chevron Latin America. Born in Venezuela, he attended the University of Birmingham in England, where he earned B.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering. He later completed graduate business training at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He is on the board of Better Burbank Corp.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:  I enjoy the intimacy and the diversity of entertainment options of Burbank’s downtown area – all within walking distance.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:  About the same, although it could be down due to the potential trade war with China.

PASSION:  Researching and writing articles about higher education, given its importance in maintaining U.S. leadership in today’s global innovation economy.

DIANNE G. VAN HOOK  
College of the Canyons

Dianne G. Van Hook, Ph.D., is the chancellor of College of the Canyons. Her 31-year tenure makes her the state’s longest serving community college chief. She has served on more than 35 statewide commissions and boards. College of the Canyons is engaged in over 70 business, nonprofit and educational partnerships annually. She was named as the Santa Clarita Valley Newsmaker of the Year, and was named the No. 1 most influential person in the Santa Clarita Valley by The Signal.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:  The Village area – always bustling and a nice place to spend some time with friends and family. And Old Town Pasadena – reminds me of the East Coast.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:  While I am expecting volatility, I am hoping the economy stays about the same.

PASSION:  Travelling to new places around the world when time allows.

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PASSION:

Paula Bahamon, 51, is vice president-business banker at Mission Valley Bank. Bahamon serves on the board of MEND (Meeting Each Need with Dignity), a nonprofit serving economically challenged communities in the San Fernando Valley. She is active in her church and has served on the board of the Valley Economic Alliance. Woodbury University recently elected her to its advisory board. The Business Journal named her Banker of the Year at last year’s Trusted Advisors Awards, and she won the Rising Star award at this year’s award for volunteerism. Davis is a member of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and five area chambers of commerce. He has belonged to the Greater Van Nuys Rotary club since 1986. Davis is a longtime supporter of New Horizons, ONEgeneration, Valley Community Healthcare and New Directions for Youth. He was recognized this year with the Trailblazer Award by ONEgeneration.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:
The Sportsmen’s Lodge, where my wife and I were married. Sorry to see it go.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:
I think about the same because I’m an optimist.

PASSION:

Collecting and effectively using Frequent Flyer miles and points.

FRANK DI TOMASO JR.

Bank of Santa Clarita

Frank Di Tomaso Jr., 61, was part of the management team that founded the Bank of Santa Clarita in 2004, and he serves as executive chairman and chief executive. The company is a full-service community bank that serves small to mid-sized businesses, professionals, entreprenuers and consumers. Prior to the founding of the bank, di Tomaso was senior vice president and business development officer at City National Bank in Los Angeles from 1997 to 2004, and senior vice president and commercial loan team leader from 1996 to 1997.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:
Towsley Canyon Hiking Trail to escape the hustle and bustle, exercise and enjoy nature.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:
Slightly up, given the trade war situation. If resolved then…WAY UP!

PASSION:

Fly fishing.

JAMES GARRISON

Pacific Federal

James Garrison, 69, is president of Pacific Federal in Glendale. Founded by Garrison in 1977, PacFed in 2017 was acquired by Zenith American, one of the nation's largest employee benefit administrators. Garrison serves on the board and the executive board of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce where he is co-chair of the Health Care Council. He is board member of the Los Angeles Chamber’s L.A. Jobs PAC, Music Fund of Los Angeles and VICA PAC. He is vice chair of the Development Council for Loyola Marymount University, Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles. Garrison is the recipient of numerous community service awards including Boys & Girls Club of the San Fernando Valley's Golden Hands Award, Dolores Huerta Foundation Richard Chavez Memorial Award, and Teamsters National Hispanic Caucus Community Award. He is a past California Member of the Electoral College and a past member of the California Democratic Party Finance Council.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:
I’m a big fan of the Americana at Brand in Glendale. It is the best thing that has happened in and for Glendale since Y2K.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:
Definitely Down. I thought I was smarter than an economist; in the fall of 2019, I made a wager that the economy would “tank” by end of April 2019. I recently paid off a $2 bet to Chris Thomberg of Beacon Economics. I have to go with Thomberg: The economy will go down…within the next 12 months.

PASSION:

I’ve never had single passion except for spending time with my wife (and family). This year LACF is our new favorite sport. Mammoth Mountain and Marina del Rey are next.

DAMIAN BONROUHI

Calabasas Capital

David Bonrouhi, 49, is co-founder and managing director of Calabasas Capital, a boutique investment banking firm. Calabasas Capital provides sell-side and buy-side mergers and acquisition advisory and private equity and debt capital-raising services to lower middle-market companies. He worked in private equity for five years and began his career as a certified public accountant with PriceWaterhouse. He is on the board of the Association for Corporate Growth 101 Corridor and is its chairman.-chairman.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:
My family and I frequent the Americana at Brand, a beautiful open-air, walkable treasure in Glendale.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:
Within the next year the economy will slow down due to the decrease in global growth.

PASSION:

Spending time with my wife and one-year-old son.

TIM GASPAR

Gaspar Insurance Services

A lifelong entrepreneur, Tim Gaspar, 37, started his first business while in high school and ran a party equipment rental company before graduating from California State University - Northridge. Gaspar worked for Marsh & Co., where he offered insurance and risk consulting before purchasing his book of clients from the Encino agency. In 2008, he founded Gaspar Insurance Services, which relocated from Encino to Woodland Hills. In 2017, Inc. magazine ranked Gaspar's firm as one of the fastest growing companies in America. Today, Gaspar Insurance employs over 40 as one of the largest independent insurance firms in Los Angeles. Gaspar, who started the CSUN Entrepreneurship Scholarship, chairs the board of managers at West Valley YMCA and sits on Insurance Brokers Association's Valley board.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:
A & W Seafood on Reseda and Sherman Way for really great Chinese food. And you can walk to Michoacan ice cream after it's perfect.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:
Down or flat. We are somewhere near or at the end of this amazing expansion period. That’s not pessimism. Just the reality of our market cycles.

PASSION:

Entrepreneurship for sure. I like to see people take nothing and turn it into something. It’s what makes our country great.
DAK GILINSKY  
DLC Group  
While he is only 33 years old, Dak Gilinsky brings 10 years of experience to his position as managing director at DLC Group, a finance and accounting consulting firm headquartered in Woodland Hills. In that position he participates in the firm’s leadership council as well as market strategy, business development and talent management. Prior to joining DLC last year, Gilinsky helped to launch the Los Angeles office of Axion, a provider of legal services. Outside of the workplace, Gilinsky enjoys spending time with his family and volunteering at the San Fernando Valley chapter of Chrysalis, a nonprofit helping homeless and low-income people find employment and at various animal rescue.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: I love hiking in the Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. It’s amazing to see how close we are to wide open spaces in the Valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Momentum is strong in all segments we are exposed to.

PASSION: Spending time with my four-month-old son.

TAMARA GURNEY  
Mission Valley Bank  
Tamara Gurney is the founding president and chief executive officer of Mission Valley Bank, a community-based business bank headquartered in San Valley with offices in the Santa Clarita Valley. She is active with the Federal Reserve’s Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. She serves on the board of Pacific Coast Banker’s Bank and serves on the board or advisory boards of the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp., the Valley Economic Development Corp., the Valley Economic Alliance, the Los Angeles County Business Federation or BizFed, College of the Canyons Foundation, YMCA of Santa Clarita, Southland Sings and the San Fernando Valley Community Foundation. She was recognized by the Santa Clarita Valley Leadership Committee as the Business Person of the Year in 2012. The Business Journal named her a Trusted Advisor in 2011, and she is a past president of the California Independent Bankers Association. She has become the voice of community banking as she has made numerous visits to Washington to lobby for community bankers.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: I love hiking in the Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park. It’s amazing to see how close we are to wide open spaces in the Valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Momentum is strong in all segments we are exposed to.

PASSION: Spending time with my four-month-old son.

VAHID KHORSAND  
BWS Financial Inc.  
Vahid Khorsand, 38, is an analyst and partner at BWS Financial, an independent equities research firm in Woodland Hills that was ranked No. 1 in 2017 for five-year and one-year performance by Investors. Khorsand is actively engaged civically. He is an appointee of Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Los Angeles Citywide Planning Commission where he was elected Vice President last year. He is the founder and current chair of the United Chambers of Commerce’s Inspirational Women of the San Fernando Valley. He is a founding member of the West Valley Democrats, and co-chair of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley’s Endorsements Committee. He was an appointee to Los Angeles Metro Transportation Authority’s San Fernando Valley Service Council, a citizen oversight council, from 2015 to 2018. Prior to his appointment to the Planning Commission he was president of the LAPD Valley Traffic Advisory Council, Vice Chair of the United Chambers of Commerce of the San Fernando Valley; Secretary of the board of O’Neil Generation on the board of the Encino Chamber of Commerce where he was also a past president, and an appointee to the Van Nuys Airport Citizen Advisory Council. He has served on the Woodland Hills - Warner Center Neighborhood Council and is a past president of the San Fernando Valley Jaycees. In 2012 he was recognized by the Business Journal as a 40 under 40 standout.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: A walk around Lake Balboa on the weekend is a multi-cultural treat.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Hopefully, about the same. Trade negotiations prolonged into a presidential election year could mean major corporations hit pause on capital investments.

PASSION: My passion is coming up with events, projects, and/or groups, that work towards highlighting and improving the San Fernando Valley. My hobbies are reading as much as I can about business, economics, and social change.

STANFORD KURLAND  
PennyMac Financial Services Inc.  
Stanford Kurland, 67, is the founder and executive chairman of Westlake Village-based PennyMac Financial Services Inc., which is focused on producing and servicing domestic mortgage loans. PennyMac has been among the country’s largest by mortgage production volume. Additionally, Kurland is the founder of Private National Mortgage Acceptance Co. as well as executive chairman of PennyMac Mortgage Investment Trust. Before founding PennyMac, he worked in a variety of leadership positions at Countrywide Financial Corp. He got his bachelor’s degree in 1975 from California State University Northridge.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: Based on where I spend a lot of time – it has to be Costco!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same.

PASSION: Volunteering for Police Activity League Supporters.

MITZI LIKE  
LBW Insurance and Financial Services  
Chief Executive Mitzi Like, 61, runs LBW Insurance and Financial Services in Valencia. In addition to her management duties, she handles the firm’s largest book of business. In 1977, she formed Like Financial with her father, a later merger created LBW. Today it remains a family-owned insurance agency with seven family members from three generations on staff. In 2013, Like formed Western Resource Network, a strategic alliance with two insurance agencies in the L.A. region. She serves on the boards of the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Foundation and Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp. One of LBW’s high-profile clients is the city of Santa Clarita.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: Valencia Country Club.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same, but it’ll be a bumpy ride along the way.

PASSION: Golf, Kings games, Rama games, snow skiing and grandkids.

JAMES MUNTER  
Bank of America  
James Munter leads a team of financial specialists for Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Encino. He is vice president overseeing client relationships within the commercial bank, which offers advisory and global financial services for companies’ domestic and international operations. Munter also serves on the bank’s Latino Leadership Council, which is dedicated supporting the Latino business community. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Miami with a focus in International Finance and Marketing.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: The Discovery Cube. It allows my children to explore and be hands on with so many exciting exhibits locally in the Valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I see more of the same. Still a lot to be optimistic about with industry growth; but with looming uncertainty in trade this can increase the resistance for future growth in the economy.

PASSION: My children are my passion and their hobbies are my hobbies. This summer is all-star baseball and softball and I couldn’t be happier.

ROSS PENDERGRAFT  
Leavitt Group  
Ross Pendergraft, 62, is executive vice president of the Leavitt Group insurance firm in Woodland Hills, where he’s responsible for growth of Leavitt Group’s employee benefits initiatives in Southern California. Pendergraft’s specialties include employee benefits, 401(k)’s, worksite benefits, estate planning and Medicare. Prior to working at Leavitt, he was executive vice president of USI Insurance Services, vice president of Arroyo Insurance Services and account manager with the Handler Group. He is an active board member of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association; he has been on the board since 2012 and chairs VICA’s health care committee. Pendergraft is also president of the East Valley Police Activities League Supporters, or PALS.

FUTURE PLACE TO VISIT: Based on where I spend a lot of time – it has to be Costco!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same.

PASSION: Volunteering for Police Activity League Supporters.
DAVID POMS
Poms & Associates

David Poms, 63, is chief executive of Poms & Associates, an insurance and risk management firm in Woodland Hills. He founded the agency in 1991. There are 115 employees at the firm, with offices in West Los Angeles; Ventura; Walnut Creek; Roseville; Dayton, Ohio; and Albuquerque, N. M. Poms has served on the board of the United States Olympic Committee, as well as for various organizations within the insurance industry.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Calabasas Tennis Club. Have been a member since it was formed and enjoy playing tennis and catching up with fellow tennis players and coaches.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I think there are signs the economy is slowing down and assume that will translate into a very mild recession.

PASSION: Tennis and skiing are my hobbies. I try to play, work permitting, as often as possible. Love to be outdoors, so whether it is tennis, hiking or walking on the beach, I am outside, rain or shine.

SIM TANG-PARADIS
City National Bank

Sim Tang-Paradis, 49, is vice president and manager of City National Bank’s Westlake Village office. She has more than 25 years of banking experience. Prior to joining City National, she served as a vice president and SBA business development officer with California Oaks State Bank in Thousand Oaks. Active in the community, Tang-Paradis serves on the board of Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County, the Golf Committee of California State University - Northridge’s Construction Management Program, and the Health Care Foundation for Ventura County. She also serves on the board of Commerce Department’s Minority Business Development Agency of Pasadena — operated by SoCal Corporate Growth Partners, for which Tang-Paradis serves as board secretary.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Westfield mall is the best place to shop and to de-stress!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: My conversations with clients all point to steady, stable growth.

PASSION: Both of my girls are softball players. I love watching them play.

DANONE SIMPSON
Montage Insurance Solutions

The founder and chief executive of Montage Insurance Solutions with more than 20 years’ experience in all lines of insurance, Danone Simpson has built an agency focused on employee benefit and property and casualty programs for the commercial and non-profit sectors. She has won multiple awards, including being selected this year as one of 16 Most Influential Insurance Brokers in Los Angeles by the Los Angeles Business Journal and as CEO of the Year by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal last year. She has been named a Trusted Advisor in Insurance and her firm was named One of the Top Twelve Women-Owned Businesses in Los Angeles. Simpson was selected by Forbes magazine to be represented in the Women of Power series for Southern California, among other honors. She serves on the Valley Village Board of Directors and was honored as a founding member of Women for Wishes.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The National Parkland behind my home. The vast open space brings peace.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The Valley is thriving; however, the political climate creates continued market volatility.

PASSION: Reading great business books, creating power-points with lessons learned, for staff and peers.

LOUIE VALDEZ
Valdez Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors

Louie Valdez has been a financial advisor for 27 years, helping affluent families in the Conejo Valley achieve their financial goals. Valdez, 50, is a graduate of California State University - Northridge with a degree in finance and economics. Outside of the workplace, Valdez has given his time to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, Boys and Girls Club of Moorpark and Moorpark Foundation for the Arts. He currently serves on the board of California State University, Channel Islands Foundation.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Santa Monica Mountains and the Reagan Library. I plan to be a docent when my youngest daughter goes off to college in 2020.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up, given lower individual and corporate tax rates working through to lengthen this economic cycle, one of the longest on record.

PASSION: Supporting the community and cheering for the L.A. Dodgers.

DAVID POMS
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ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I think there are signs the economy is slowing down and assume that will translate into a very mild recession.

PASSION: Tennis and skiing are my hobbies. I try to play, work permitting, as often as possible. Love to be outdoors, so whether it is tennis, hiking or walking on the beach, I am outside, rain or shine.

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PASSION: Reading great business books, creating power-points with lessons learned, for staff and peers.
KATHRYN BARGER
Los Angeles County Supervisor

Kathryn Barger, 59, is on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors serving residents of the 5th District, which includes the San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Antelope valleys. She began her career in public service as a college student intern in the office of Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and rose to the position of chief deputy supervisor in 2001. She served in the latter role until her election to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. She is an advocate for the environment and efforts to preserve open space, enhance parks, trails, recreational programs and facilities and she supports libraries and after-school programs. Barger was born and raised in the 5th District and comes from a family with deep roots in public service in Los Angeles County.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Love hiking with community groups in the Santa Susana Mountains near Chatsworth.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I’m cautiously optimistic as L.A. County businesses lead the nation in cutting-edge innovation.

PASSION: Public service and my constituents are my top priority.

BOB BLUMENTHAL
Los Angeles City Councilmember

Bob Blumenthal, 51, was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in March 2013. He represents the 3rd District, which includes Canoga Park, Reseda, Tarzana, Winnetka and Woodland Hills. Previously, Blumenthal served in the California State Assembly from 2008 to 2013, representing San Fernando Valley communities. He has also worked in Washington as a staffer to Sen. Bill Bradley, Congressman Howard Berman and as staff designer to the House Budget Committee. He later worked as director of government affairs for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and district director to Congressman Berman in the San Fernando Valley.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Creating new green spaces and enhancing new parks is a key priority. It is always special to spend time with my family at places like the new and improved Woodland Hills Recreation Center and enjoy some of the fruits of our labor.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I hope it’s up, but we are overdue for a correction.

HOBBY OR PASSION: I used to have lots of hobbies but now I enjoy taking my kids to and watching them at their swim meets, dance recitals, basketball, baseball and other activities.

JOEL FAJARDO
Mayor of San Fernando

As the mayor of the city of San Fernando, Joel Fajardo, 36, has focused on balancing the city’s budget, upgrading infrastructure, fighting the impacts associated with the proposed California High-Speed Rail project and promoting its rich cultural programs, healthy lifestyles and inclusiveness. Fajardo is currently serving his third term on the City Council and previously served as mayor for a year in 2015 and as vice mayor in 2016. He attended private and public schools in the San Fernando Valley. He graduated from Grant High School in 2001 and from Boston University in 2005 with a degree in International Relations.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: My Grandma Fajardo’s house in Pocoma because we always have great conversation and food.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Too early to predict.

PASSION: Playing with my 7-month old daughter.

LAURA FRIEDMAN
43rd Assembly District

Since 2001, Laura Friedman has owned and operated her own small business, PlanetGlass.net, a website dedicated to Mid-20th Century Modernist art glass and jewelry. But she is also well known as a public official. Friedman, 52, served as a Glendale City Council member for seven years, including one term as mayor. In 2016 she was elected to the State Assembly where she represents Glendale, Burbank, La Cañada Flintridge and portions of Los Angeles. In her first term, Friedman authored a package of bills to establish water efficiency standards, strengthen environmental sustainability, improve access to higher education, health care and transportation alternatives. She’s an advocate for the environment, the arts and reproductive rights.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I’m a Trekkie, so the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden. It’s been used as the backdrop for several Star Trek sets, including Star Fleet Command at the San Diego Convention Center.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down because of the growing wage gap and decline of the middle class.

PASSION: If I had extra time, I’d be playing pool.

EMILY GABEL-LUDDY
Mayor of Burbank

The mayor of Burbank has served on the City Council since 2011, but Emily Gabel-Luddy previously served on the Planning Board for 10 years. A professional urban planner, she began her career designing small parks. Later, she joined the Los Angeles Planning Department where she worked with communities to address development and land use issues. In 1990, she received a Loeb fellowship in Advanced Environmental Studies at Harvard University. She established L.A.’s Urban Design Studio to integrate pedestrian and urban infrastructure needs to create walkable neighborhoods. She and her husband Bill have lived in Burbank for almost 20 years.

JESSE GABRIEL
45th Assembly District

Jesse Gabriel represents the west and central San Fernando Valley in the California Assembly. The 37-year-old legislator was elected in a special election in June 2018 and was re-elected to a full term in November. Prior to becoming an elected official, Gabriel was a constitutional rights and general litigation attorney. As an assembly member he serves on the Appropriations Committee as well as the Committees on Higher Education, Housing and Community Development, Banking and Finance, Privacy and Consumer Protection, and the Select Committee on Women’s Reproductive Health. A committed environmentalist and longtime community activist, Gabriel previously served as a board member of the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters and the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I love to hike from Mulholland past the Nike Missile Control Site. You get amazing views of the Valley and the broader L.A. region.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I’m hoping for continued growth, but worried about the real toll of gridlock and gamesmanship in D.C. We’re trying to do things differently in Sacramento.

PASSION: There is nothing I enjoy more than spending time with my kids. Our favorite activity this time of year is to hang out in the backyard and eat popsicles.

ROBERT M. HERTZBERG
California State Senator

Robert Hertzberg, 64, is a California State Senator representing the 18th District, which includes much of the San Fernando Valley. He is the Senate Majority Leader. He was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1996 and served as the 64th Speaker of the Assembly, unanimously elected in 2000 and 2002. After his tenure as speaker, Hertzberg went to the private sector and co-launched a company that produced inexpensive, lightweight solar panels for homes around the world. In recognition of his clean energy efforts in Rwanda, he received the “World Bank Award for Lighting Africa,” and the Guardian magazine named him one of the “50 People Who Could Save the Planet.” In 2014, he returned to state government. Hertzberg has advanced environmental protection laws, championed clean water access, and passed legislation to prepare for future droughts by making water efficiency a way of life for Californians.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Mulholland Drive overlooks – seeing the majesty of the Valley inspires me.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Better. We are going to see a boom of housing construction jobs.

PASSION: In my spare time, I work on writing my book, “Fresh Eyes: Governing in an Era of Unprecedented Change”

JACQUI IRWIN
44th Assembly District

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, 57, is in her third term as the state representative for the 44th District, which includes an area bounded by Oxnard, Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village. She was first elected to the Assembly in 2014 and serves as the chair of the AssemblyVeterans Affairs Committee and the Select Committee on Cyber Security. She also sits on the Business and Professions Committee as well as committees that oversee agriculture, the budget, higher education and privacy and consumer protection. Prior to the assembly, Irwin served for 10 years on the Thousand Oaks City Council, including two terms as mayor. Before being elected to public office, she was a systems engineer at Johns Hopkins University Applied physics lab and worked at Teledyne Systems.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The parks and hiking trails – To be outdoors exercising and getting some solitude.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up – We have record low unemployment rates.

PASSION: Hiking with my dogs Smokey and Bandit, reading and spending time with family and friends.
Paul Koretz
Los Angeles City Councilmember

Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz, 64, has represented the city’s 5th District for 10 years. District 5 runs along the city’s spine in the Santa Monica Mountains and includes communities on the west side of Los Angeles as well as in the San Fernando Valley. Koretz was born in the Valley. He’s a champion of environmental protection including fighting climate change, conserving water and protecting natural resources. He also worked against Mansonization in the area and has worked to try to solve the city’s homelessness problem. Among his honors, he has won the Green Leaf Award for Innovation from City Plants, a nonprofit partner of the city of Los Angeles and the Department of Water and Power; the 2019 UCLA Tom Bradley Local Leader of the Year Award for his commitment to UCLA and the city of Los Angeles; the 2018 Courageous Leadership Award from Women Against Gun Violence; the 2018 Environmental Leadership Award from the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations; and the 2018 Alcohol Prevention Hero award from the California Alcohol Policy Alliance.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Los Encinos State Historic Park. I love its history.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down. Trump’s tariffs will disrupt the worldwide economy.

HOBBY OR PASSION: Politics/government. I get to do my hobby every day. And baseball.

Paul Krekorian
Los Angeles City Councilmember

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Paul Krekorian, 59, has spent more than a decade in public service. He first served as a California State Assembymember, and since 2010 has served as a Los Angeles City Councilmember. In the latter position he chairs the Budget and Finance Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on Job Creation, and serves on the Housing Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on the Summer Olympics and Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee, among others. Krekorian is a board member of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Metrolink, and San Fernando Valley Council of Governments. He graduated from Cleveland High School in Reseda, earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Southern California and law degree from UC Berkeley. Before his life in public service, Krekorian spent 25 years in the private sector as a business litigator.

Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Councilmember

Nury Martinez, 45, is the president pro tempore of the Los Angeles City Council and represents the 6th District and the communities of Lake Balboa, Van Nuys, Panorama City, North Hills, Arleta, and Sun Valley. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Martinez is interested in supporting families’ efforts to raise their children in safe neighborhoods with the opportunity to achieve and maintain the middle class goals of the American Dream by fighting for good paying jobs, increased green space and environmental justice for the communities of the Northeast Valley.

Rob McCoy
Mayor of Thousand Oaks

Rob McCoy, 54, is the mayor of Thousand Oaks and the senior pastor at Godpeak Calvary Chapel, a post he’s held for over 15 years. McCoy has long been involved in religious and civic matters such as serving on the board of the Conejo Pregnancy Center and formerly serving as chaplain for the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office. His career in city government includes stints on the City Selection Committee, the Finance/Audit Committee, the Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee, the Ad Hoc Homeless Committee, the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and more.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Tomodachi, or any place that serves excellent sushi.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Unemployment is down. Investment is up. Businesses are expanding. Even with California’s high tax environment, we will still benefit.

PASSION: History.

Ara Najarian
Mayor of Glendale

Ara Najarian, 58, is a lawyer by training, having earned his J.D. degree from the USC. He entered private practice and opened an office in Glendale. He also volunteered as a judge pro tem in several area courts. But it is in public service that Najarian is widely known. He is currently serving his fourth term as the mayor of Glendale. He was first elected to the city council in 2005 after having served two years on the Glendale Community College board of trustees. He has served on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, including as chairman in 2009-10. Najarian currently serves as vice chair on the Metrolink board.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Relaxing in the Americana at Brand.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy will be slightly stronger in the upcoming year.

PASSION: Competitive swimming. I train with a master’s swim team and compete in ocean swims and swim meets.

Adrin Nazarian
44th Assembly District Assemblymember

Adrin Nazarian is in his fourth term as the state representative for the 46th District, which includes Lake Balboa, North Hills, North Hollywood, Panorama City, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Toluca Lake, Universal City, Valley Glen, Valley Village, Van Nuys and Hollywood Hills. He was first elected to the Assembly in 2012. Prior to serving in the assembly, Nazarian was chief of staff to Los Angeles City Councilman Paul Krekorian and aide to Congressman Brad Sherman. He has served on boards for community-based organizations including the East Valley YMCA and YWCA. He received his bachelor’s degree in economics from UCLA and lives in West Toluca Lake.

R. Rex Parris
Mayor of Lancaster

R. Rex Parris, 67, is the longtime mayor of Lancaster, his hometown. During his tenure, Parris set out to transform the city, starting with a redevelopment of the downtown area, bringing in new industry, including Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer Build Your Dreams Motors Inc., and taking steps with alternative energy to make Lancaster a net zero community. In 2013, Lancaster was named by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. as the Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County for the second time in six years. He started the Parris Law Firm in 1985 with his wife, Carrol, and focused on personal injury cases. His practice later expanded to include wrongful death, legal malpractice, employment law violations and consumer class actions. His firm represented residents in the Porter Ranch area following a massive natural gas leak that started in October 2015, and his firm was the first to file a class action lawsuit against Southern California Edison for its involvement in the Woolsey Fire in November.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Lancaster Boulevard on Friday night. The people are enjoying each other and everyone is smiling.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: It will be up. BYD and Northrup will both be hiring over a thousand people in Lancaster over the next year.

PASSION: Discovering innovative methods to persuade and lead people.

David Ryu
Los Angeles City Councilmember

Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu, 44, represents the 4th Council District, which includes Sherman Oaks, Toluca Lake and several areas of the Los Angeles basin. In July 2015 he became the first Korean American to serve on the Los Angeles City Council. He is the chair of the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments. Ryu studied economics at UCLA; public policy and administration at Rutgers University; won a United Nations graduate internship and was a Netkal Fellow at USC’s School of Social Work. As senior deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Burke, he worked on issues such as public health, housing, children and family services, transportation and senior services. His background also includes serving as director of development and public affairs at Kedren Acute Psychiatric Hospital and Community Health Center.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park – a beautiful place to be with the community.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up – with exciting opportunities around the corner.

PASSION: Watching movies with my fiancé.
DAVID SHAPIRO  
Mayor of Calabasas

David Shapiro has long served the city of Calabasas and is now mayor. He served as president/chair of the Calabasas Library Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Since 2013 he has been a member of the Calabasas City Council and has served two terms as mayor. He was recently elected to become the regional councilmember for Southern California Association of Governments and serves on the Valley Economic Alliance board of governors. Additionally, Shapiro serves as captain of the City of Calabasas Relay for Life Team and supports many other philanthropic organizations, including Rotary Club of Calabasas, Habitat for Humanity, and Golden West ALS. He is a lawyer with a private practice.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Leonis Adobe and King Gillette Ranch for history, and ending up at Losi’s Delicatessen for a bite.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW? I’m concerned a bit for the economy, and markets could be in for a correction. Too much uncertainty and disruption. We need to become more stable to grow.

PASSION: Love going to or watching sports events (especially Dodgers, Clippers, Rams and Chargers), music (concerts), theater (plays), chess and movies.

BRAD SHERMAN  
U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Brad Sherman from Sherman Oaks represents the San Fernando Valley in the House of Representatives. He has been in Congress since 1997 and is currently serving his 11th term. Sherman is a senior member of both the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Financial Services Committee; a member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee; and serves as chair of the Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation Subcommittee. Sherman is a tax law specialist and certified public accountant. Prior to joining Congress, Sherman was on staff at one of the nation’s big-four CPA firms. While at the firm, he audited large businesses and government entities, provided tax law counsel, and advised entrepreneurs and small businesses on tax and investment issues.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I regularly attend the Sunday Summer concerts in Warner Center Park organized by the Valley Cultural Center.

HENRY STERN  
California State Senate

Henry Stern is a sixth-generation Californian and native of the 27th Senate District, which includes parts of Los Angeles and Ventura counties. He was elected state senator in November 2016 after being endorsed by his predecessor, Sen. Fran Pavley; environmental groups; teachers and school board members from Los Angeles and Ventura county school districts and the Association of Los Angeles County Sheriffs, among others. Stern has lectured at UCLA and UC Berkeley, enjoys volunteering at his local Boys & Girls Club and is a member of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee, the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, American Jewish Committee, and Truman National Security Project. He is an alumnus of Harvard University and UC Berkeley Law. Stern’s father is actor Daniel Stern.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Pretty sure it will be the new Porto’s in Northridge.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Hopefully still growing at a pace that maintains (California’s) status as the world’s 5th largest economy.

PASSION: Hiking and reading.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Michael Olenick  
President & CEO, Child Care Resource Center

2019 San Fernando Valley Business Journal’s 200 MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADERS!

Dr. Michael Olenick has been advocating for children and families for 40 years! He is responsible for managing over 1,000 staff, a $300 million budget and direct services to 50,000 families monthly. He was appointed to the California State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care by the Governor, served on the Speaker of the Assembly’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Early Childhood Education, the CA Child Welfare Commission, Zero to Three’s Board of Director, and is the Board Chair and Public Policy Chair for the Child Care Alliance Los Angeles.

Child Care Resource Center  
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THE VALLEY 200
HEALTH CARE

DR. PETER GROSSMAN
Grossman Burn Centers

Dr. Peter Grossman, 56, is the medical director of Grossman Burn Centers based in West Hills with locations in Bakersfield and in Kansas City, Mo. The facilities treat burn patients from around the world. He is the president of the Los Angeles Society of Plastic Surgeons and a clinical instructor of medicine at UCLA. He is a board-certified plastic surgeon whose private medical practice is divided between cosmetic and reconstructive surgery and the care of burn-injured patients. Grossman is a graduate of Northwestern University and the Chicago Medical School. He completed a general surgery residency at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; a plastic and reconstructive surgery residency at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; fellowships in breast reconstructive surgery; and aesthetic and endoscopic surgery at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Grossman received an Armand Arabian Leaders in Public Service Award last year.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The hillsides overlooking the Valley bring both a sense of nostalgia and growth.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Why be negative?...UP!

PASSION: Studying futurism and the possibility of radical life extension.

DR. BERNARD KLEIN
Providence Holy Cross Medical Center

Dr. Bernard Klein, 58, is chief executive of Providence Holy Cross Medical Center, a 377-bed, not-for-profit facility in Mission Hills that offers inpatient and outpatient health services for residents of San Fernando, Santa Clarita and Simi Valleys. Previously, he served as chief medical officer for Providence Holy Cross. Klein is a board-certified Internal Medicine physician and has an MBA. He also is chair of the Facey Foundation board, and he is vice chairman of the Hospital Association of Southern California board.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The many varied restaurants – great food, atmosphere and enjoyable experiences.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up – it will be an election year.

PASSION: I love running for great causes including cancer and sudden infant death syndrome.

NATASHA MADARIAN
ProHealth Medical Group

Natasha Madarian, 38, is chief operating officer of ProHealth Medical Group, which specializes in workers compensation programs. She oversees four occupational clinics, an orthopedic specialty group, surgery center and a newly launched mobile medical unit. In 2009, Madarian participated in a TV pilot program similar to “The Apprentice” called “The Next VP Star.” Although she won the contest, the show was never picked up. She is active in the community and has been on the board of the Valley Economic Alliance since 2013.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I enjoy going to the 94th Aero Squadron. It’s a neat spot to grab a bite and watch private jets take off and land.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I believe the economy will stay the same until after the results of the election.

PASSION: I enjoy spending time with my family. Especially enjoy boating day trips to the ocean following the beautiful coastline.

ABNER MASON
ConsejoSano

As founder and chief executive at ConsejoSano, Abner Mason, 57, leads the North Hollywood company that helps patients engage with their health care insurance coverage, with emphasis on multicultural populations. ConsejoSano’s clients are typically health plans and provider groups with Medicaid and Medicare Advantage patients. He also is the founder and co-chair of Health Tech 4 Medicaid. Previously, Mason was founder and chief executive of the Workplace Wellness Council of Mexico, which provides member companies with wellness programs. From 2002 to 2009, he worked as executive director of the AIDS Responsibility Project, where he created business councils on HIV/AIDS in Mexico and Jamaica. Mason has served on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and as chief policy advisor to the governor of Massachusetts.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Restaurants in the NoHo area. I love the range of food options.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I think the economy will be up because the fundamentals continue to point in the right direction. And the administration will take steps to keep the economy strong in an election year.

PASSION: Residential real estate development.

PRECIOUS MAYES
Pacific Hospital of the Valley

Precious Mayes took over as president and chief executive of Pacific Hospital of the Valley at a crucial period. Since April of last year, she stayed off 11 near-closures of the Sun Valley hospital and transformed years of massive financial losses. Her connections to state and federal agencies proved crucial to obtaining funding. With more than 25 years of experience in health care leadership, she helped implement executive financial enhancements and a patient experience program.

Mayes was named Executive of the Year by the Business Journal at this year’s Women’s Council as well as in 2016. She is an active member of the California Hospital Association, California Association of Healthcare Facilities, American Healthcare Association and National Center for Assisted Living.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I love to visit the Huntington Library. I enjoy the gardens and galleries, the peacefulness that send you back in time.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The U.S. economy seems to be in good shape now, but the forecasters are indicating that there is real risk, that the national economy will slide into a recession. However, I am optimistic and feel we will rebound before we get to that point.

PASSION: I enjoy traveling, reading, the arts and my family.

DR. RICHARD MERKIN
The Heritage Group

Dr. Richard Merkin is founder and chief executive of the Heritage Group in Northridge, which includes Heritage Provider Network and Heritage Medical Systems. Under his leadership, HPN has become the largest, physician-owned and operated integrated delivery system in the United States with more than 50 related health care companies and medical groups. Merkin serves on the board of the California Institute of Technology and board of trustees at Keck School of Medicine at USC. He is co-founder of FasterCures and established the Richard Merkin Foundation for Stem Cell Research, Richard Merkin Initiative at Johns Hopkins Brain Sciences Institute, Richard Merkin Foundation for Neural Regeneration at UCLA and the Merkin Family Foundation Fund for Regenerative Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. He was honored by the Milken Institute Global Conference last year with the inaugural Tommy Lasorda Leadership Award. Merkin recently announced the Merkin Institute for Translational Research at Caltech, a gift from him that will help Caltech scientists and engineers transform their breakthroughs into advances in human health.

NATALIE MUSSI
Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center

Natalie Mussi has led Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center as president and chief executive for five years. Previously, she served as chief operating officer of the hospital beginning in October 2008. During this time, she has led Los Robles through its Level II Trauma Center verification, acquisition of Thousand Oaks Surgical Hospital and oversight of the hospital’s construction and service expansion projects. Mussi joined Los Robles as director of Operations in Independence, Mo., where she served as the chief operating officer for five years. She also served as associate administrator at Riverside Community Hospital in Riverside.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The beaches and parks. The outside fresh air is rejuvenating after being inside all week.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same.

PASSION: My family. It is a joy to watch my kids grow up and experience life through their eyes as they see things for the first time.

PAYMAN ROSHAN
Kaiser Permanente Panorama City Medical Center

Payman Roshan has been senior vice president and area manager for the Kaiser Permanente Panorama City Medical Center and Antelope Valley Areas almost four years. He is responsible for all of the Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan operations in an area that serves more than 300,000 members and includes the eastern portion of San Fernando Valley, the Santa Clarita Valley and Antelope Valley. Previously, Roshan served as chief operating officer for three years at Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park, where he managed and led the day-to-day operations of the hospital. He also served as assistant medical center administrator for support services at the Baldwin Park Medical Center. He is on the board of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Japanese Gardens at Balboa Park. Tranquil and relaxing, they allow for me to mentally reset after a strenuous week.

PASSION: Playing soccer! I almost went pro after college. Love kicking the ball around whenever I can.
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Jamie A.
Henry Mayo Patient

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Valley Community Healthcare, a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable agency providing a medical home to almost 25,000 low-income men, women, and children in 2018.
PAULA WILSON  
Valley Community Healthcare

Paula Wilson’s appointment as president and chief executive of Valley Community Healthcare in 2004 was the culmination of a 25-year career with the nonprofit center, which began as a free walk-in clinic in 1970. During her time as vice president of Planning and Development, she spearheaded a $6 million capital campaign that resulted in the purchase and renovation of the present 40,000 square foot North Hollywood center. Her promotion to the top leadership position coincided with the organization becoming a federally qualified health center. Wilson then embarked on a growth and expansion initiative that included building the organization's board, developing key staff leadership positions and opening new facilities, including the North Hills Wellness Center in 2015. Wilson is on the boards of the California Primary Care Association and Healthcare L.A. Managed Care IPA. She received the San Fernando Valley Business Journal’s Women in Business award in 2009 and was named one of the Los Angeles Business Journal’s Top 200 Distinguished Leaders in 2018.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I spend a lot of time hiking the Valley trails: Franklin, Tree People, Dixie.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The same; especially for the health industry. Lots of jobs, technology, and aging boomers.

PASSION: I’m learning ballroom dancing, but not going to make “Dancing with the Stars” anytime soon.

KIMBERLY WYARD  
Northeast Valley Health Corp.

Kimberly Wyard, 66, has served as chief executive of Northeast Valley Health Corp. since 1996. She first joined its staff in 1974 and has held various positions, including Adolescent Health Program director, clinic administrator and deputy director. Wyard has a bachelor’s degree in journalism and completed graduate school at California State University - Northridge. The native Californian is a member of the Los Angeles County Community Clinic Association, National Association of Community Health Centers, and Health Care for the Homeless Committee. She is also a past member of the L.A. Care Health Plan board of governors, which represents federally qualified health centers, and served as president for Healthcare L.A., IPA’s board of directors from 2014 to 2017.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: CSUN! I’m an alumna and enjoy visiting the botanical garden and the Soraya.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Same. I don’t expect federal policy changes to impact the economy during an election year.

PASSION: I collect American decorative art (from 1900-1927), Native American textiles and pueblo pottery.

DR. JOHN YU  
ImmunoCellular Therapeutics

Dr. John Yu, 54, is founder and a director of ImmunoCellular Therapeutics, a clinical-stage, publicly traded biotech in Calabasas that is developing therapies for the treatment of brain cancers. Yu is an internationally known neurosurgeon and is the medical director of the Brain Tumor Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. He is professor and vice chair in the Department of Neurosurgery. Yu earned his bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and spent a year at the Sorbonne in Paris studying French literature. He completed his fellowship in immunology at the Institut Pasteur in Paris and earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and master’s degree from the Harvard University Department of Genetics.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Visiting our friends in our small group in Calabasas and Agoura Hills. Community is everything.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Down. Trade wars are ramping up which will negatively affect our economy.

PASSION: Playing electric guitar is my passion. I would have loved to be a musician but wouldn’t like the club scene.
BILL ALLEN
Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

Bill Allen, 61, has served as chief executive at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. since 2006. His family moved to Encino in 1959 so his father, entertainer Steve Allen, could produce his comedy series “The Steve Allen Show” at NBC Studios in Burbank. After attending USC, Bill Allen worked at CBS, where he supervised production of the show “Designing Women.” In the 1990s he was president at production company TEM in Stulak City, where he oversaw production of “Remington Steele,” “St. Elsewhere” and “Newhart.” After the Northridge earthquake in 1994, he helped create the Valley Economic Alliance and headed it for four years, and he remains active in Valley matters. Last fall he won the Fernando Award, widely considered the San Fernando Valley’s highest honor.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park where I hike with my family along the Mulholland Corridor enjoying breathtaking views of both the Valley and the Pacific Ocean.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy will continue to grow albeit modestly over the next year assuming (as I do) that interest rates will remain low and trade disputes will be resolved.

PASSION: Photography has been my lifetime passion and I have the external hard drives loaded with tens of thousands of pictures to prove it!

JILL BANKS BARAD
Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

Jill Banks Barad is a longtime civic leader and businesswoman in the San Fernando Valley. Through her consulting firm she has provided services to federal, state, local and judicial campaigns, as well as statewide and local ballot measures. Barad is the founder and chair of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, a coalition of 34 neighborhood councils. She also was the founder and president for 15 years of the Sherman Oaks neighborhood council. Her civic engagement has included serving on the boards of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, Habitat for Humanity SFV and the Valley Community Legal Foundation. She was a commissioner for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Barad has been recognized with multiple awards, including as a six-time finalist for the for the Fernando Award, the highest award for voluntarism in the San Fernando Valley.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Soraya at CSUN because it is a great venue for performing arts in the Valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same but we have to deal with housing and homelessness to keep the economy from getting worse.

PASSIONS: Musical theatre, contemporary art, gardening, opera, ballet, animal rights and rescue. (I have three rescue cats.)

PHIL C. BOUGH
Invesco QQQ Championship

Phil Bough, 57, is executive director of the PGA Tour’s Invesco QQQ Championship, a tournament on the PGA Tour Champions played at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks. In November 2009, he joined the PGA Tour as sales director for the Northern Trust Open at Riviera Country Club. He left that post in March 2014 to accept a position with the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce as executive director of the First Tee of Los Angeles, but moved to his current position in June 2017. Bough began his career in the United Kingdom as a camera technician, and after 10 years joined the Walt Disney Co. in the UK as a producer. Because of his passion for golf, he joined a sports-marketing agency, IMG, in 1995 as an executive in the European golf client division. He eventually became director of business development with Jack Nicklaus Productions in Los Angeles. In this role, he managed the company’s made-for-TV golf events.

KEN CRAFT
Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission

The homeless crisis is nothing new for Ken Craft, 55. In 2009, he founded Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission to provide food, shelter, clothing and care to those without housing. In 2016, the organization opened a Recuperative Care Shelter in Mission Hills for people released from hospitals. The organization has a catering kitchen and health clinic in Mission Hills, a Help Center in Van Nuys and shelters in Pacoima, Lancaster and Palmdale. It runs thrift stores in Granada Hills, Santa Clarita and Simi Valley. Every year the mission provides more than 250,000 meals and 75,000 nights of shelter to homeless individuals and families. Before launching Hope of the Valley, Craft was director at another rescue mission.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Costco... I find it therapeutic!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. We will secure a trade deal with China.

PASSION: Playing the piano.

DIANA DUEÑAS
Encino Chamber of Commerce

Diana Dueñas has been chief executive of the Encino Chamber of Commerce since 2007. She had been a member of the Encino Chamber for 6 years prior to that. She serves on the board of United Chambers of Commerce, a coalition of Valley chambers that gives local businesses a louder voice in government, and she also is co-chair of its Government Affairs Committee. She’s on the advisory boards of U.E.I. College in Encino and Grateful Americans Charity, a nonprofit that helps veterans fighting P.T.S.D.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Los Encinos State Park. Tranquility on Ventura Boulevard.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. We get a little extra income, we spend it on more services.

PASSION: Watching the complete original Law & Order series.

THOMAS FLAVIN
Burbank Chamber of Commerce

Thomas Flavin returned to Burbank, where he grew up, in 2016 to become chief executive of the Burbank Chamber of Commerce. He had served as mayor and city councilmember in Burbank from 1989 through 1993. He also has served as CEO of three regional economic development organizations. In the private sector, he was a business development executive in the broadband industry for Westinghouse Corp. and ICG Communications.

DAVID GOODreau
Small Manufacturers Association of California

During his career, David Goodreau has played a leading role in developing manufacturing, educational and regional economic development programs and policies. He founded Goodreau Machine Works in 1981 and later merged it with Newman Machine Works in 1983 where he was general manager and later president after the company changed its name to Quantum Manufacturing Inc. Since 1996, the 61-year-old Goodreau has been involved with the Small Manufacturers Association of California and is its chairman. He is also president of the Small Manufacturers Institute. A resident of Glendale, he serves as executive director of the San Fernando Valley chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Soraya Performing Arts at CSUN for the joy of hearing incredible musicians at a world-class venue.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Trending lower from election unknowns, lack of skilled labor and high costs.


TISH GREENWOOD
California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks

Tish Greenwood is the executive director of the California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks, located at The Oaks shopping center. Greenwood, 48, has worked at the J. Paul Getty Museum where she was an analyst in the budget and finance office. She received a bachelor’s in art history from John Cabot University in Rome and earned a master’s in museum studies from Georgetown University and in contemporary art from Sotheby’s Institute of Art – New York.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Driving along Mulholland Drive viewing the Valley below – great at night and daytime – full of personal memories and the vistas are inspirational.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Life is short, art endures and brings us together. Art will continue to thrive in the So-Cal region.

PASSION: Learning.

JOHN HEUBUSCH
Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation

John Heubusch is executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, the nonprofit organization founded by President Reagan to preserve and promote his legacy. He also is a novelist who wrote “The Shroud Conspiracy” and “The Second Coming.” Previously, he served as chief operating officer of Avalon Capital Group Inc., a private investment company. Heubusch also was chief administrative officer of Gateway Inc., the Fortune 500 computer firm. In political life, he was the executive director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 1995-1996 election cycle, and he served Elizabeth Dole as vice president of communications for the American Red Cross.
THE VALLEY 200 ORGANIZATIONS

DAVID HONDA
Fernando Awards
San Fernando Valley Fair
Commerce Department

David Honda, 68, is known for his prolific civic engagement. He is the project operator for the Commerce Department’s Minority Business Development Agency in Pasadena. He has been president of San Fernando Valley Fair for more than 20 years and he is on UCLA Extension’s Board of Advisors. For 19 years he has been co-chair of California State University – Northridge’s Construction Management Golf Program that funds student scholarships and provides other support. He is past chairman of the Fernando Award Foundation and is the current chair of its international award committee. Among his many affiliations, he has been a director of the Hollywood Bowl Society, president of the Asian Business Association-Los Angeles; involved with the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency, a joint powers authority, since its inception more than 10 years ago, and was a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business. In his career, he co-founded the Beverly Hills design firm Spacemakers Inc. in 1976 and served as its chief executive through 1980. He then started D.S. Honda Construction Inc. in Northridge and was president of the firm until 2008. Honda also has won numerous awards, including the Fernando Award in 2009.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: CSUN’s Soraya Performing Arts center. A beautiful 1,700 seat venue.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Changes in demographics, regulatory restrictions and way too many taxes.

PASSION: Developing a construction/supervisory robot for the drywall trade.

GAIL LARA
Women’s Collaborative Mentoring Program

Gail Lara, 63, is the executive director of the Women’s Collaborative Mentoring Program at the Valley Economic Alliance. She brings to the position more than 15 years as a business owner and experience in small business development and training. The mentoring program serves economically disadvantaged women-owned small business with free training and mentoring services. Lara is also a small business coach with Operation Hope. Over her career she has served more than 4,200 business owners. Lara also serves on the advisory board for the Special Needs Network, a program dedicated to helping children with Autism. She also served as event chair for a domestic violence awareness program.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Soraya Performing Arts at CSUN. Because the entertainment is superb, location is beautiful, and it feels like a cultural experience.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy will slow down a year from now because the price of goods and services is rising, and the pay scale is not keeping up.

PASSION: My passion is to enable local businesswomen and their communities to thrive.

JILL LEDERER
Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce

Jill Lederer, 63, is president and chief executive of the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce, which represents the Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village and Agoura Hills areas. It’s also one of the largest chambers in the western United States and the biggest in the Valley area. During her 11 years at the chamber, she has led it to two 5-Star accreditation ratings (2011 and 2016); less than 1 percent of the 7,000 chambers nationwide are accredited at the highest level. The Chamber also operates the Greater Conejo Valley Community Foundation and Conejo Valley Tourism Improvement District. Lederer also serves as a regent for California Lutheran University, a trustee for Los Robles Regional Medical Center, is a member of the Thousand Oaks Rotary and was a small business owner for more than 25 years. She was honored as the 2018 Woman of the Year by Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Hillcrest Open Space Loop hiking trails; pure peace.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Our economy will experience challenges but our diversity and entrepreneurial spirit will always prevail.

PASSION: I love to read, and my passion is anything that helps animals.

REBECCA LIENHARD
Tierra del Sol Foundation

Rebecca Lienhard, 53, has a near 30-year career with Tierra del Sol Foundation, a workforce development organization in Sundland—Tujunga where she strives to increase community integration for people with developmental disabilities. Lienhard has served on numerous community boards and committees, including the Vendor Advisory Committee for the California Department of Developmental Services’ North L.A. County Regional Center and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities’ Employment First Committee. Lienhard was presented the Inspirational Women Award by the United Chambers of Commerce in 2017 and was nominated for Women of the Year Awards by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal in 2015 and 2014.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Aroma Coffee and Tea or Mexicali in Studio City. Both have great ambiance and excellent food.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. The Valley is a very innovative place to be. New ideas drive new business.

PASSION: I’m a mom of six children and five grandchildren, and I’ve spent 30 years serving folks with disabilities. My passion is to create family and culture for all people.

BRIGETTE LODEN
Community Foundation of the Valleys

Brigette Loden, 62, is the executive director of Community Foundation of the Valley, a nonprofit that inspires, encourages and facilitates charitable giving for lasting impact in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. Loden, a lifetime volunteer, also has served as vice president of development for Providence Health and Services and is immediate past president of the Southern California Association of Healthcare Development. Loden has received the magazine’s “Women Who Mean Business” award for not-for-profit leadership, as well as the Southern California Association of Healthcare Development’s “Outstanding Leader of the Year” award.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Gatherings in the homes of friends. It’s an opportunity to connect on a deeper level.

PASSION: Friends, family, gardening, dogs and being outdoors.

MARTHA MEHRANIAN
Alman Family Fund Inc.

Maria Mehranian is president of the Armenia Fund USA in Glendale, which has raised more than $130 million for humanitarian aid and infrastructure development in Armenia. In March she was invited to present at the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters in New York. She is managing partner and chief financial officer of Cordoba Corp., an engineering and construction management firm specializing in infrastructure. A water policy expert, she is the former chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, where served two consecutive terms. She has played a pivotal role in developing the state’s water supply, quality, and resource policies. Mehranian is a past Corporate Woman of the Year honoree, an award jointly presented by the legislators of the 43rd and 44th Assembly and 21st Senate Districts of California. She is a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Also, she serves in leadership positions for several educational institutions and non-profit organizations, including Woodbury University, where she is vice chair of the board of trustees.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Griffith Park is one of my favorite places because of its multi-benefit uses. It provides open space, and through its observatory, makes science accessible to everyone.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The economy will stay the same. The chance of a downturn is diminishing. Every effort will be made to keep the economy stable and growing since it will be an election year.

HOBBY OR PASSION: Learning about the history of water in our region. I also like to learn about innovative ways we are going to improve mobility in our state. In addition, I enjoy learning Spanish and working out.

KATHY NORRIS
Valley Industry Association

Kathy Norris has for 24 years been president and chief executive of the Valley Industry Association, a business-to-business organization of membership in the Santa Clarita Valley. She has played a leading role in creating a number of events and programs that help local businesses, such as the annual VIA Bash, VIA Leadership Program and bi-annual CEO Forums. She is involved in civic affairs, such as the Soroptimists International of the Greater Santa Clarita Valley, and she has served on the board of the SCV Business Alliance, among others. In 2013, she received the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce leadership award, and she was selected as one of its Top 51 Most Influential People 8 years.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: In the Santa Clarita Valley, it would be either special events in Old Town Newhall or our local Farmers Market. In the San Fernando Valley, I enjoy visiting the shops and restaurants on Ventura Boulevard. You can walk everywhere!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up! Our growth pattern within VIA and the Santa Clarita Valley both indicate a positive business climate.

PASSION: I am an avid reader, but also enjoy traveling – especially if kayaking is involved!
Michael Olenick

Michael Olenick, Ph.D., 67, has served as president and chief executive of Child Care Resource Center in Chatsworth since 2003. His role involves oversight of programs, projects and services for more than 55,000 children and families each month. He is a governor’s appointee to the state advisory council on early learning and care, the Speaker of the Assembly’s commission on early childhood education and the state child welfare commission. He serves on the board of Zero to Three, a nationwide nonprofit organization promoting healthy childhood development. He is a past president of Child Care Aware of America and the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Pierce College. It’s our country club.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. It’s an election year.

PASSION: Walking. I try to do 50 miles a week.

David Phelps

David Phelps, 42, is president and chief executive of the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce. The San Fernando Valley native has more than 15 years of executive leadership in the nonprofit and political fields, coming from the Association of Independent Commercial Producers as director of external relations. In this role, he worked with close to 400 production companies, as well as hundreds of vendors and suppliers, to ensure a film-friendly environment in production centers countrywide. Phelps is currently on the board of FilmLA and previously served on the Valley Industry and Commerce Association as Entertainment Committee chairman.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Sherman Oaks Street Fair on Ventura Boulevard. The largest annual event in the Valley!

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same statewide. Further local regulations on small businesses will have large impact on our economic success beyond 2020.

PASSION: My family. Building closer community ties with business. Appreciator of pop culture. I love a good home poker game.

Kenn Phillips

Kenn Phillips, 60, is the president and chief executive of the Valley Economic Alliance, a nonprofit economic development and marketing corporation serving businesses in the San Fernando Valley including Calabasas, Burbank, Glendale, Los Angeles and San Fernando. The Economic Alliance is the home of the Woman’s Collaborative Mentoring Program, John Maxwell Training Series and hosts the National Association Women Business Owners satellite location. Phillips was promoted to the post in 2014 after 15 years as the organization’s senior vice president. Prior to joining the alliance, he spent 17 years as the community relations manager for the Boeing Co. in Canoga Park. He also has served as a commissioner for the city of Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board, Sherman Oaks and Encino Hospitals, California State University - Northridge’s Ernie Schaeffer Center for Innovation Entrepreneurship and Regional Higher Learning Consortium.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Japanese Garden. In the midst of the busy San Fernando Valley lies an oasis – a 6 1/2 acre garden, which features a dry Zen meditation garden, a “wet-strolling” garden and a tea garden.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same. Unemployment moves down to the low 3’s and inflation remains low, but there’s a continued exodus of middle-class jobs out of California and the increased minimum wage is affecting nonprofits’ ability to provide service to the most vulnerable.

PASSION: Tennis, gardening and fly fishing

Holly Schroeder

Holly Schroeder is president and chief executive of Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp., which works to attract and retain businesses in the Santa Clarita Valley. Prior to joining the economic development group in September 2013, she served for 8 years as executive officer of the Los Angeles Venture Chapter of the Building Industry Association. Currently, she is chair of the Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board and serves on the board of the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Foundation.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The many golf courses (see below!).

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: About the same, which is a good thing.

PASSION: I took up golf a few years back and have become absolutely hooked!

Matthew Swearman

Matthew Swearman, 47, is the senior director of development and donor relations at Valley Village, which serves adults with developmental and intellectual challenges. Before joining Valley Village last year, he worked as a public affairs and public relations professional for more than 15 years. Swearman is on the board of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, and he serves on VICA’s executive committee and foundation board. In 2017, he received the 12th Annual President’s Award from VICA. He’s a graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a BS in Education.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Mulholland Drive overlooking the San Fernando Valley because it’s a spectacular view.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: I do believe we are overdue for a recession, but I hope I am wrong.

PASSION: I love spending time with my Bassett Hound, and I enjoy vintage cars from the 1950s and ’60s.

Diana Williams

Diana Williams is the chief executive of the West Valley-Warner Center Chamber of Commerce and the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce Community Benefit Foundation. She launched such programs as the Community Choice Awards; Valley Regional Forum; Get Empowered, Get Employed; West Valley Adopt-A-School and Valley Stars Toastmasters. She serves on two of Councilman Bob Blumenfield’s “Community Action Teams” in beautification and economic development. She serves on the Board for the United Chambers of Commerce, Pierce College Business Advisory Council, Valley Advisory Council and the Ventura Boulevard Planning Review Committee, among other civic responsibilities.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Victory Trailhead is one of my favorite places to visit. This hike is low to moderate in difficulty and leads you to breathtaking views of our valley.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: The growth of this region (Woodland Hills, Tarzana and Reseda) will have a positive effect on the local economy here in the San Fernando Valley.

PASSION: Reading.
LEWIS C. HORNE

Lewis C. Horne, 60, is divisional president at CBRE Group with responsibility for the Pacific Southwest, including Southern California, Arizona and Hawaii. Horne leads the strategic direction and performance of the firm’s advisory services business, which includes advisory and transaction services, asset services, capital markets, local project management and valuations. He has held a variety of leadership positions in the company, beginning as an industrial brokerage professional in 1984 and quickly growing to become one of the top 3 percent of brokers companywide. Active in the community, he is co-chair of the Central City Association’s Homelessness Initiative, past chair of Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., and he is currently on the boards of the Los Angeles Business Council, World Trade Corporation Los Angeles and Catholic Big Brothers Big Sisters.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Hiking in Topanga State park – quiet, peaceful, great views.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: We are not seeing any signs of slowing.

HOBBY OR PASSION: Woodworking, guitar and spending time with my family, specifically my two grandsons, Kevin and David.

SHERYL MAZIROW

Sheryl Mazirow is president and founder of Mazirow Commercial Inc. She has more than 30 years’ experience in commercial real estate, and she specializes in tenant representation and advisory services for companies leasing, selling or buying office space. She has been recognized as one of the “Women of Influence” in Southern California commercial real estate. The Business Journal gave her the Lifetime Achievement award at the Women’s Council in April and in past years gave her the Executive of the Year award and Business Women of the Decade award. Mazirow holds the Certified Commercial Investment Member designation, which less than 1 percent of the world’s commercial real estate professionals achieve.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: The Village. It is urban and dynamic.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Companies are expanding and hiring employees.

PASSION: Hiking, biking, yoga and skiing!
**SHAWN MORADIAN**

**Thousand Oaks Boulevard Association**

Shawn Moradian, 38, became the youngest president in the history of the Thousand Oaks Boulevard Association in 2016. In this position, the Thousand Oaks native is responsible for revitalizing downtown Thousand Oaks into a walkable entertainment, shopping and residential hub. The organization works with the city to develop a half-mile section of the boulevard around the Civic Arts Plaza. Moradian also runs a family real estate firm that owns property in the business improvement district. Moradian has launched a craft brewery named Tarantula Hill Brewing Co. in downtown Thousand Oaks. Moradian serves on the board of the Thousand Oaks Police Charitable Foundation.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Tarantula Hill Brewing Co. Great family gathering place.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** Depends on many factors. The consensus is things will be cooling off next year.

**PASSION:** Traveling, spending time with interesting people, and developing new gathering places.

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**HESSAM NADJI**

**Marcus & Millichap**

Hessam Nadji, 53, is president and chief executive officer of Marcus & Millichap, a commercial real estate brokerage based in Calabasas with professionals throughout the United States and Canada. Nadji joined the company in 1996 as vice president of research and expanded the company’s real estate transactional leadership by also becoming a leading provider of market trends, analysis and expertise. His role grew to include marketing and development. Nadji played a key role in preparing and executing the firm’s IPO in 2013 and began serving in his current role in April 2016. Nadji is frequently sourced in media outlets such as the Wall Street Journal, Investor’s Business Daily, CNBC, Fox Business TV and industry trade publications. Prior to joining Marcus & Millichap, he was senior vice president at Grubb & Ellis, where he began his career in 1986. He is a member of the National Multi Housing Council executive committee, the Urban Land Institute, the International Council of Shopping Centers and NAIOP.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Decker Canyon Road for an aggressive Sunday drive.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** About the same. It’s already quite strong, interest rates have reversed course and are now lower than just a few months ago and inflation is in check.

**PASSION:** My passion is people, long-term friendships and business associations. I also enjoy cars and consider myself a serious Beatles fan.

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**LINDY PEARSON**

**Cresa**

Cresa Los Angeles Associate Lindy Pearson, 41, works at one of the largest of 50 offices of Cresa, the nation’s largest corporate real estate firm specializing in tenant representation and corporate services. She represents companies throughout the San Fernando and Conejo valleys, helping them find space (office, research and development, manufacturing and warehouse). Pearson is responsible for the business development efforts of the Woodland Hills office, including sponsorships, events and networking activities. She works with her husband, Rick Pearson. She is a member of ACG 101 Corridor and The Exchange networking organization dedicated to community involvement and non-profit support. She also is co-chair of the Child and Family Guidance Center’s Development Committee and a frequent donor to various non-profit organizations.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** West Hills Little League to watch my son play baseball and Chaminade High School to watch my daughter play soccer and basketball.

**ECONOMY a year from now:** About the same – balanced. We continue to see businesses thrive and population keeps rising.

**PASSION:** Yoga, raising children, travel, philanthropic endeavors, my vegetable garden and my chickens!

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**RICK PEARSON**

**Cresa**

Rick Pearson, 55, has spent the majority of his career in real estate representing tenants. Pearson began his career at Draum Commercial Real Estate serving corporate clients. In 1996, three years after Cresa’s formation, Pearson joined Cresa Los Angeles, where his clients included American Red Cross, Bank of the West, Standard Insurance and MGA Entertainment. In 2003, Pearson opened Cresa’s office in Woodland Hills to expand its reach into Northern Los Angeles and Ventura counties. In 2005, Pearson became a Cresa principal. He works with his wife, Lindy Pearson.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** The Ahmanson Ranch area west of West Hills. I ride my mountain bike in the hills once or twice a week.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** About the same. I’m optimistic that the economy will remain fairly level.

**PASSION:** Working around the house, long weekends in the RV and playing golf.

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**GLORIA POLLACK**

**Gelb Group**

Gloria Pollack is community liaison for the Gelb Group, focusing on a variety of non-profit organizations. She’s chair of Child Development Institute and will be honored in March at its Silver Jubilee event. She is a veteran board member of One Generation, working on the Gelb Scholarship Program. Pollack has been presented with a variety of local awards working including the Fernando Award, Armand Araban Leaders in Public Service Award, Valley Cultural Golden Horn, Zine Pioneer Woman, Antonovich Woman of the Year, the United Chambers Inspirational Woman awards and this year was named the Nonprofit Leader of the year at the Business Journal’s Women’s Council awards.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** El Portal Theatre and Japanese Gardens.

**PASSION:** Working toward the betterment of education in Valley schools.

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**TONY PRINCIPE**

**Westcord Commercial Real Estate Services**

Tony Principe, 52, is a principal and president of Westcord Commercial Real Estate Services in Thousand Oaks. A 33-year veteran and top producer specializing in office properties for Westcord, Principe has handled more than 3,500 sales and lease transactions totaling $4 billion. Principe is also co-managing partner of T.R. Funding, which has developed and rehabilitated more than 50 properties throughout the region since 1994. Among other honors, Principe was twice presented with the Power Broker Award by Costar Group and Commercial Property News, and the Business Journal once gave him an award for closing the largest office deal of the year. Principe until June was chair of California Museum of Art Thousand Oaks, a span during which the museum relocated to the Oakes mall. Long active in the community, Principe served as president of American Heart Association, Ventura County Chapter, and was an active director as well as treasurer in addition to several other civic responsibilities.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Aside from the museum, which I am very proud of, I love to mountain bike, so the top of one of our local mountains overlooks the valley.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** I would say the same. We have strong fundamentals in employment, technology and real estate occupancy rates that should outweigh the headwinds of trade and other issues.

**HOBBY OR PASSION:** I have a lot of hobbies and passions that keep my mind and body energized, including photography, painting, hiking, boxing and surfing.

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**SANDY SIGAL**

**Newmark Merrill Cos.**

Sandy Sigal, 55, and founded and is chief executive of Newmark Merrill Cos., which has acquired, developed or managed more than 100 retail centers. NewMark Merrill, based in Woodland Hills, has been ranked one of L.A.’s Fastest Growing Private Companies by Los Angeles Business Journal for seven years and has won numerous industry accolades. The firm’s owner or manages 75 shopping centers throughout California, Colorado and Illinois. At age 20, Sigal joined West Venture Cos., a Southern California-based builder. In 1993, Sigal was promoted to lead the company and in 1997 co-founded NewMark Merrill, purchasing West Venture’s retail assets. He is active in the community, serving on the board of Camp Bob Waldorf Foundation. In 2007, he received the William Shafter Humanitarian Award for his work for the foundation and the camp. He also serves on the board of Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters’ executive committee and is co-chair of Real Estate Principals Organization, a group of senior Jewish real estate principals and owners who support various organizations.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT:** Janus Marketplace in Thousand Oaks. We got involved with the center a week after 9/11, and watched it become a centerpiece of the community. In addition, I love the Sage Brush Cantina – it represents all that is good, fun and historic about the Valley.

**ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW:** I am great at predicting the past, not so much the future. In fairness hard to say what success in the economy looks like – less affordability, some income growth, and a lot of transition a year from now.

**PASSION:** My kids, lots of travel, reading and learning.

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**WENDY SIMPSON**

**LTC Properties**

Wendy Simpson has been president and chief executive of Westlake Village-based LTC Properties since 2007 and was appointed chair in 2013. The real estate investment trust specializes in senior housing and health care properties. Its portfolio includes more than 200 assisted living, memory care, post-acute/skilled nursing and range-of-care properties. Simpson joined LTC in 2009 as vice chair, and also served as treasurer, chief financial officer and chief operating officer. Previously, she held executive positions in public companies that owned acute care hospitals, psychiatric hospitals and home health services. She began her career in public accounting and has more than 25 years of experience in health-care related businesses.
CONGRATULATIONS MIKE TINGUS
On being named to the Valley200

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KEITH WASSERMAN
Gelt Inc.

Keith Wasserman, 34, founded Gelt Inc. in 2008 during the depth of the recession. He has been involved in the acquisition of several commercial, industrial and residential properties mainly in the western United States totaling over $1 billion in assets.

Wasserman co-founded Happy Home Communities in 2017, adding the manufactured home venue to his entrepreneurial ventures. Wasserman not only leads Gelt’s charitable giving program but he and Damian Langere formed the Gelt Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public nonprofit whose focus is on helping renters avoid eviction and stay in their apartments during an unexpected financial emergency. He’s a big brother in the Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Gelt’s 250-unit apartment project we are building called Watermark.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Fundamentals remain strong and I’m bullish on the local market.

PASSION: Golf, my wife and our two beautiful children, Wilhelmina and Ziggy.

MICHAEL G. TINGUS
Lee & Associates-LA North/Ventura

Michael Tingus, one of the region’s highest-producing commercial brokers, has worked with area landlords, developers, tenants and business owners for more than 30 years. Tingus, 54, specializes in industrial sales and leases, and he has won numerous industry awards, including from the Business Journal. He has been president of Lee & Associates-LA North/Ventura since 1994 and spearheaded company growth from a single office to four locations with 50 agents. He has played a significant role in the commercial development of the Conejo Valley. A member and chair of the Calabasas Planning Commission from 1993 through 2001, he co-authored the city’s general plan, land use and development code during his tenure.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: My brother’s house. He’s my best friend.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up.

PASSION: Golfing and fishing.

NANCY STARCZYK
Real Estate

Nancy Starczyk has worked in residential real estate in Santa Clarita and San Fernando Valleys for more than 30 years. She has served as president of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors, as regional chair and this year as chair of government affairs. She currently sits on nine boards and is a state director for both the California and National Associations of Realtors. Starczyk has served on the Board of the SCVYouth Project since 2009, holding various positions including president. In addition, she has worked as a volunteer/fundraiser for many community organizations. Starczyk, who speaks sign language, has assisted the deaf in real estate transactions and in various programs.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: Neighborhood parks. Walking my dogs, getting exercise and enjoying the surrounding beauty of nature recharges me.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: Up. Since I am in real estate, the housing crisis dominates my thoughts. As long as the Fed raises rates slowly the housing market will not boom then bust.

PASSION: I am an incurable collector of antiques and vintage items on my travels. My half-acre garden, that I have named “Starcliffe,” and my Weimaraners have become my greatest passion.

CAROL WOLFE
Rodeo Realty

Carol Wolfe of Rodeo Realty is among the Valley area’s best-known real estate professionals. This is her 45th year in the business and she consistently has been a top producer for Rodeo. She is in the 1 percent of top salespeople in the United States. Wolfe is a long-standing member of the Encino Chamber of Commerce and she’s on the real estate committee of Providence Tarzana Medical Center.

FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT: I like to see movies at the Laemmle because they often have foreign films not shown in other theaters. I also have enjoyed visiting the Japanese Garden, a unique hidden Valley gem.

ECONOMY A YEAR FROM NOW: With a strong housing market, mortgage interest rates at a two-year low, and the unemployment rate at the lowest level in 50 years, I think the outlook is good.

PASSION: I love real estate (my profession), and I also love traveling. I have been to every continent. I love researching and planning my trips.

Congratulations to our very own Rick & Lindy Pearson for making the VALLEY 200 Most Influential Business Leaders.
THE CUSUMANO REAL ESTATE GROUP

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Congratulations to the Valley 200 honorees who are helping businesses boom in our San Fernando Valley communities!