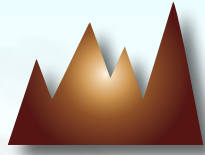
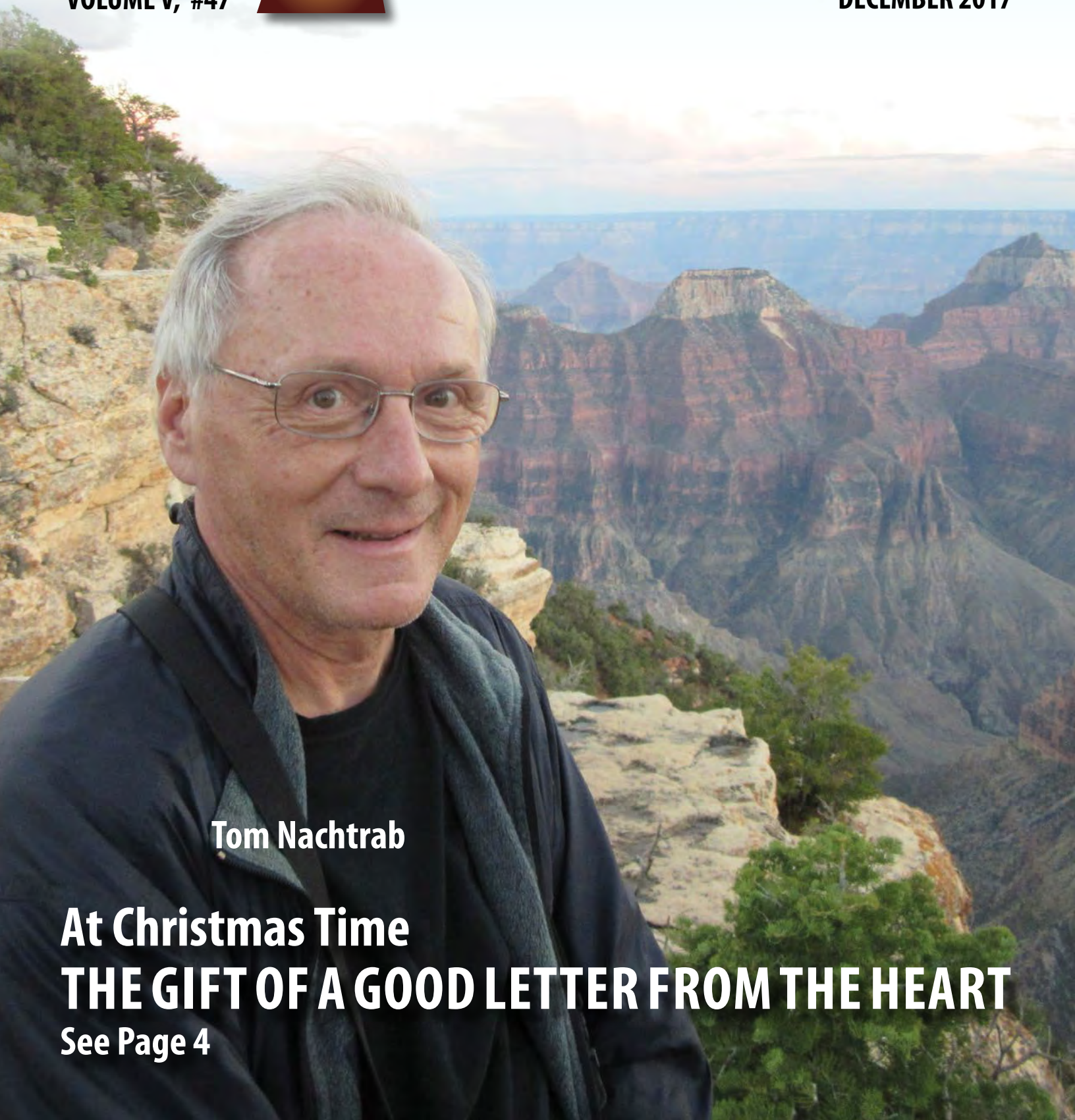


# SUMMIT LIFE

VOLUME V, #47



DECEMBER 2017



**Tom Nachtrab**

**At Christmas Time**

**THE GIFT OF A GOOD LETTER FROM THE HEART**

**See Page 4**

# LOCAL CIVIC GROUPS CRY FOUL IN NUCLEAR AND CHEMICAL WASTE QUALITY MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER COSTLY, POLITICALLY DRIVEN

In separate letters to County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), two area civic organizations earlier this month laid down markers against what they believe to be costly, damaging and politically motivated background remediation proposals effecting Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), just a mile up the road from the Summit and Mountain View mobile home communities.

The background remediation proposals, contained in a draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) released by the DTSC in September, would be damaging to the adjacent eco-system, charged the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA). Remediation to background may be illegal, suggested the Chatsworth Lake Manor Citizens Committee Rural Town Council.

The two area organizations back a risk-based cleanup for the polluted site, one that conforms to the Environmental Protection Agency's recreational open space standard under California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

According to a Boeing spokesperson, the words "remediation to background," and "risk-based remediation" are two diametrically opposed terms that oversight agencies may be forced to reconcile

before a viable cleanup plan can go forward at the field laboratory, a site which a half century ago generated nuclear and chemical waste as a Rocketdyne test facility.

"Cleanup to background means the excessive cleanup of inert, non-hazardous waste, returning the land to its pristine roots possibly before it was even occupied by man," the spokesperson explained. "Risk-based remediation, on the other hand, means accepting some waste as harmless as in the remediation of underground storage tanks at gas stations where some pollutants remain in the soil."

Historically, in 2007, NASA, the DOE and Boeing consented to an order calling for a risk-based cleanup. In 2010, however, under political pressure at the highest government levels, NASA and the DOE reversed themselves and demanded a background level cleanup. In April, Boeing honored its earlier commitment by recording a risk-based land conservation easement that ensures that at least 2,400 acres will forever be preserved as open space habitat for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.

"Boeing is actually the only one that is trying to do the right thing in our view," said Kip Drabek, Lake Manor town council president. "The Federal Government is once again doing what Washington wants at the expense of the local

communities, local environment and the taxpayer."

Remediation to background levels, for example, would result in 96 earth hauling truck trips a day from the laboratory site for over a 15 year period, explained Mr. Drabek. "The 4.2 million cubic yards of material proposed to be moved would be enough to bury the 18-acre Coliseum 147 feet deep (over 11 stories) not to mention damage to the environment from trucks spewing countless gallons of diesel fuel. This is not necessary, and in fact is illegal per CEQA which was enacted during the Reagan administration and ignored in September's draft PEIR."

"In addition," suggested Mr. Drabek, "the pollution material needs to be removed from the site by other means than using Woolsey Canyon and connected roads. Conveyor systems out along Edison Road to the North East in Ventura County are one option."

In its letter to the DTSC, Tom Nachtrab, SSMPA President, charged that the agency's draft PEIR did not analyze a sufficient range of cleanup alternatives. "DTSC must not be bound by arbitrary, politically-predetermined constraints in its selection of effective and executable cleanup alternatives such as in the 2010 cleanup reversal."

SSMPA recommends that DTSC provide a framework that enables



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

# AL WASTE REMEDIATION PLANS AT THE BOEING SITE. AIR ALLY EXPEDIENT DECISIONS, THEY DEMAND

all responsible parties at the Santa Susana Field Lab to execute a minimal-impact, risk-based cleanup, protective of human health and environment, to EPA's recreational open space standard.

"We recommend against excessive cleanup of inert, non-hazardous waste, that is, against a cleanup with a risk that may far exceed the "risk" of leaving inert materials in place."

According to the letter, SSM-PA's posture on the cleanup at the SSFL derives from four guiding principles.

1. The cleanup must do more good than harm.
2. The cleanup must protect the health and safety of surrounding community members as well as the future users of SSFL land.
3. The cleanup must preserve as much as possible of SSFL's extraordinary cultural resources, natural habitat, and wildlife.
4. The cleanup must be "doable" and affordable, in financial terms and in terms of human well-being.

"Please rework the PEIR by identifying, specifying and evaluating a rational soil cleanup alternative that meets the above principles," the SSM-PA letter suggested in closing.

"That may not be so easy since it will take many months to read and amend comments from a public still frightened by the potential effects of the initial pollution," said one official who asked not to be named. "This may turn out to be like slicing an onion, the more layers you peel, the more there are." ♦



## HOLIDAY LIGHT DISPLAYS WILL BRIGHTEN THE WEST VALLEY FROM NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 31

Valley residents have been making a visit to Candy Cane Lane a local Christmas tradition for more than 50 years. Homeowners who live at the intersection of Lubao & Oxnard Streets in Woodland Hills host displays of Christmas lights and decorations that draw long lines of motorists along the eight blocks. The display will last through the end of the year. The lights go out at 10 p.m. on weeknights and at 11 p.m. on weekends.

Each year, a Reseda resident lights up his street on the 7300 block of Yolanda Avenue in order to help the homeless. Visitors are asked to donate canned goods or blankets to the homeless in exchange for enjoying the display. The display is a tunnel of lights that adorn both sides of the

street and extend through much of the entire block. Visitors are asked to park on Valerio near the school.

Lights on Display is an award-winning lights display that began in Sherman Oaks in 2003. The 10-minute show features animatronics and boasts more than 50,000 LED lights. Animal tronic characters include Santa Claus and dancing and singing elves. Santa and his reindeer drive off from the rooftop each night while "snow" falls in the background. The show times are from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday through New Year's Day. The display is located at 3901 Longview Valley Drive in Sherman Oaks.

## **"WEST VALLEY RESIDENTS ARE NOW CALLING OUT IN UNISON TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL TO UNSHACKLE YOURSELF FROM THE POLITICAL FORCES WHICH UP UNTIL NOW YOU HAVE HAD TO HEED..."**

**Editor's Note:** Tom Nachtrab, a resident of Chatsworth, is President of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association. He fears that the cleanup of Boeing's Santa Susana Test laboratory to background levels would present an existential threat to the health and welfare of hundreds of thousands of residents who live in areas

surrounding the site. In a personal letter reproduced below, Mr. Nachtrab sees the solution to the problem as a gift at Christmas time for those regulators with the vision and guts to accept it. By itself, the letter is a gift to all of us.

December 9, 2017

To: SSFL CEQA Comments Department of Toxic Substances Control 8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826

Subject: Comments on Santa Susana Field Laboratory Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

Time for DTSC's Declaration of Independence

I gratefully take this opportunity to register a comment regarding the Draft PEIR (dated September 2017) for cleanup of the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL).

West San Fernando Valley residents are now calling out in unison to DTSC to unshackle yourself from the political forces which up until now you have had to heed. Residents are telling you to identify, specify, and evaluate a soil cleanup alternative for SSFL that ensures the health and safety of future users of SSFL, and simultaneously preserves the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of residents in communities surrounding SSFL.

The elected bodies of West Hills Neighborhood Council, Chatsworth Neighborhood Council, and Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council have all now told you that they want a minimal-impact, risk-based cleanup, protective of human health and environment. Other community organizations such as Chatsworth Community Coordinating Council, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, Lake Manor Citizens Committee Rural Town Council, and Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition have also now told DTSC that you must not be bound by arbitrary, politically-predetermined constraints, such as the 2010 Administrative Orders on Consent (AOCs), in your selection of effective and executable cleanup alternatives.

The surrounding communities are giving DTSC a gift, namely a safe haven from which you can proclaim your own Declaration of Independence.

Accept the gift and do the right thing for the people of California and the U.S.: Give us a rational, low-impact, risk-based soil cleanup plan for the former Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Sincerely,  
Tom Nachtrab, Chatsworth, California

# HERO DOGS IZZY AND ODIN SURVIVE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BLAZE, VIDEOS GO VIRAL AND ATTRACT REBUILDING FUND

By Bill Kreke, Owner,  
Kahuna Dog Walking; LLC,  
(818) 806-WALK

**T**he tragic fires of October 2017 have gone down as the worst in Northern California history. Over 245,000 acres were burned, almost 9,000 buildings destroyed and 43 people killed. At an estimated cost of \$3.3 billion in damages, the blaze has become the second most consuming fire in the U.S., exceeded only by the Cloquet fire of 1918 that burned 250,000 acres in Northern Minnesota and killed 453 people. With all the stories of tragic devastation both up North and now in Santa Barbara, there are two stories I'd like to share with you of amazing pet survival.

Izzy, the 9 year old Bernese Mountain Dog: You may have seen the video of her reunion after it went viral. On October 9th, flames rapidly approached the home of Katherine Weaver, allowing her and her husband only seconds to flee. In the midst of the confusion, Izzy bolted from the burning home. Becky Jean Widen, the couple's daughter, wrote on Facebook that her parents "had to drive through walls of flames and across a burning wooden bridge, unable to chase after Izzy without risking their own lives."

A day and a half after the family evacuated, Katherine's son, Jack Weaver, and son-in-law Patrick Widen returned to the property to survey the damage and search for what they feared to be Izzy's remains. The only thing left of the Weaver home was a single wall. In the reunion video that went viral, the two men are shown describing other parts of the property that managed to escape damage including the vineyards and a tractor. It was then, after hearing familiar voices, that Izzy came out unharmed from behind thick bushes where he had been



hiding. Jack Weaver described to the Associated Press his mother's elation at knowing that Izzy had survived. "She went from being devastated about losing her home to being the happiest person I've ever seen," he said. Izzy, a two time cancer survivor, can now add wildfires to the list as well.

Odin, the Great Pyrenees who watched over goats: Odin is a year and half old Great Pyrenees who is being credited with herding to safety his family's goats. Odin's owner, Roland Tembo Hendel, of Sonoma County, told KTVU news. "The fire hit us first before any evacuation notices. We smelled smoke and there had been nothing on evacuations posted yet." It was an alert neighbor who called Roland to warn him that flames were on his property.

"We loaded up the dogs and cats, but Odin, our stubborn and fearless Great Pyrenees would not leave the goats," Hendel said. After outrunning the flames, the Hendel family mourned what they believed to be the death of their beloved Odin and their herd of goats. Three days later, after the family returned to the devastated property, their feelings of sadness and loss were soon replaced with joy and wonder when they discovered that Odin and the goats were alive. Odin's fur was singed, his whiskers were melted, and his paw pads burned. But Odin was still watching over his eight goats and had collected several orphaned deer along the way. Volunteers gave Odin and the goats a checkup and he was soon reunited with his litter-mate sister Tessa. A YouCaring.com page was set up for Odin, the goats, and the Hendel family. Generous people from around the world have now donated over \$83,000 to help the family rebuild!

In the face of tragedy and loss, it's good to find the positive. ♦



# ACUPUNCTURISTS ARE DOCTORS OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, NOT 'QUACKS.'

By Marci Wormser  
Staff Writer

**I**t wasn't too far in the distant past when some medical professionals dismissed alternative medical practices as "quack" medicine and referred to those who practiced it as "charlatans."

Today, however, those attitudes have changed to such an extent that even some of those same physicians are giving referrals to acupuncturists and chiropractors when traditional medicine fails.

Acupuncture's rise in popularity in the West isn't a surprise to Jenny Qiu, a licensed doctor of acupuncture.

Dr. Qiu has owned and operated the Traditional Chinese Acupuncture Clinic in West Hills Plaza on the corner of Roscoe and Valley Circle Boulevards since 2011. She runs the clinic with the help of her husband, who manages the business side of the clinic, and her son, Xiaobo Zhu, who works as the receptionist.

"They've done acupuncture for thousands of years," she says, explaining that, "Acupuncture holds the balance of the body."

While pain pills provide a temporary fix that can cause more problems, she says, "acupuncture is all natural" and fixes the problem at its core.

In China, where Dr. Qiu and her family hail from, acupuncturists are as highly revered as physicians, so much so that they work alongside each other in treating patients.



Dr. Jenny Qiu has owned and operated the Traditional Chinese Acupuncture Clinic in West Hills Plaza since 2011. She studied acupuncture in China for five years and has practiced it for more than 30 years.

Dr. Qiu studied acupuncture for five years in China, where she earned a degree of acupuncture.

"I have learned traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine for five years," she says. "I practiced it in a hospital in China for 21 years and for 10 years in the United States."

In China, she explains, doctors practice both Western and Eastern medicine.

"They need to learn both," she says, adding that acupuncture aids in healing during the recovery period after the patient has stabilized.

In addition to treating pain, according to Dr. Qiu, acupuncture helps treat such conditions as allergies, anxiety, the after-effects of a stroke, sinusitis, joint problems, prostate problems, sciatica, insomnia and stomach disease. It also helps combat the negative effects of chemotherapy, helps balance estrogen during menopause, aids with weight loss and detoxification and helps enhance the immune system.

Not only does the ancient practice help blood circulation, it also clears blockages, she says.

According to the doctor, during acupuncture, "Needles are typically placed in several acu-points and are usually left in for about 20-30 minutes. The goal is to normalize the circulation of Qi and blood by stimulating the energy points and keeping the whole body balanced."

"The number of treatments needed," she says, "depends upon the duration, severity and nature of the health condition. Three to five treatments may be sufficient for an acute condition, while a series of five to 15 treatments may be needed to resolve chronic conditions."

"Some degenerative conditions may require ongoing treatments over a long period of time," she says. "Other techniques may include moxibustion, which is burning herbs to heat the acu-point; cupping, which is using suction; auricular therapy, which is ear acupuncture; tui na, or Asian massage; and acupressure."

"Normally, we recommend you use a combination (of treatments)," she says. "It's better than just one."

Her treatments include looking at the patient's tongue for clues about their overall health. The color of someone's tongue, she explains, can indicate whether someone has heart, liver, stomach or kidney problems.

And her methods, she says, have yielded much success.

She once had an 18-year-old patient who had such severe stomach problems that he weighed only 80 pounds and couldn't eat. He was in and out of the hospital many times, but he couldn't be cured. In a last-ditch effort to save his life, he visited Dr. Qiu, who also uses healing herbs as part of her treatment. After treating the young man with special herbs for a month, he began eating normally. After

# SOME OF THE BEST HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE U.S. NOW REFER THEM



In addition to treating pain, according to Dr. Qiu, acupuncture helps treat a myriad of conditions, including allergies, anxiety, sinusitis, joint and prostate problems, sciatica, insomnia and stomach disease. It also helps enhance the immune system and clears blockages.

three months of the herbal treatment, his digestion issues were resolved. The once emaciated man now weighs 150 pounds and is healthy, according to the acupuncturist.

Another patient, she says, came to her with such severe headaches that she couldn't sleep. Her pain persisted for six months. After three treatments, according to Dr. Qiu, the headaches were gone.

Dr. Qiu gets most of her business through word-of-mouth.

"Mostly it's through friend recommendations or a family member tells another family member," she says.

She gave one example: "One of our patients had a disc herniation, and she was in a lot of pain," relates Dr. Qiu. "She was planning to schedule a surgery. She tried acupuncture only once and her pain stopped. She told many of her friends that I changed her life and recommended they come to the clinic."

She has had such a successful practice, she says, that

she is contemplating expanding her business in the future.

Most of her patients hail from the San Fernando and Conejo Valleys, which is the targeted population she had planned on serving when she opened her clinic.

When her family moved to the Alhambra area from China, she says, she noticed that there were a large amount of acupuncture clinics in that area, due to the large Chinese population that lives there. She felt that the West Valley and surrounding areas were underserved.

She takes pride in the fact that she comes from a long line of acupuncturists. Her father and grandfather, she says, were also acupuncturists.

Her son Xiaobo, who's studying to be an acupuncturist himself, hopes to continue that family tradition.

"This is a family generation-after-generation practice," he says.

Dr. Qiu accepts some medical insurance. She is located at 23723 Roscoe Boulevard. Her office is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Her clinic is closed Sunday. She can be reached at the clinic at 818-888-6631, on her cell phone at 818-325-6088, or via e-mail at zhen8350@yahoo.com. ❖

## SUMMIT LIFE

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