

EDITOR'S NOTE



Autumn is nigh and filled with promise in the form of rain that may or may not be coming sometime soon. Since we are in the midst of the worst drought in the 130 years that such things have been recorded in California, we are all keeping our fingers crossed that, this time, the weather report is correct.

A new nip in the air causes many of us to think of soup and just in the nick of time we have a fabulous new soup recipe to try courtesy of Carrie Clough. In fact, I'm delighted to say this issue is filled with recipes—all of which sound delicious and look relatively easy to make. I'm determined to try at least a few

of them. My goal is to expand my tired repertoire beyond the three things I seem to cook over and over again!

A source of endless inspiration to me is the Ojai community's wealth of creative talent. As editor of this magazine, I feel infinitely fortunate to meet so many insightful, informed and entertaining writers whose paths I might never have crossed if I didn't have this job. These talented individuals generously share their personal stories, provide historical context, impart critical environmental information and create works of art, literature and so much more in ways that are never dry and are always interesting. The recipes are just a bonus gift.

With this in mind, I'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to several new voices: DK Crawford, Kira Ryder, Taylor Cook and Nancy Michali, and a "welcome back" to all the other contributors whose wit and wisdom have graced our pages over the years.

Another thing that not only inspires but also is a source of desperately needed optimism during a time when the daily news is rife with doom and gloom is the extent to which so many people in this community care passionately about nurturing and protecting this beautiful place and one of its most precious resources—its children. Countless individuals selflessly give of their time and energy in a grassroots, hands-on, proactive way on a regular basis.

A wonderful example of this community spirit in action was the recent Locally Grown 2 concert at Libbey Bowl, a fundraiser for Food for Thought: The Ojai Healthy Schools Program. The event was a resounding success not just because it raised badly needed funds to keep this important program moving forward, but also because every effort was made to make it a "green" event. Hundreds of people of all ages attended and a joyful time was had by one and all.



On the evening of the concert, the moon shone its magical light through the branches of the park's magnificent oak trees; we basked in its glow and while listening to beautiful music, it felt as though all was right with the world. And in those moments, in that context, and with all of that goodwill surrounding us, it was. Thank you to all of the Locally Grown 2 organizers and volunteers for creating such a memorable event!

Now let's hope those little olive fruit fly buggers will continue to stay away from my olives until harvest time. So far, so good. I actually seem to have what looks like my first viable crop. I know you may be tired of my olive obsession, but I feel compelled to give regular updates anyway. Please bear with me.

And please enjoy the harvest moon, the fall colors (yes, we do have them in California!) and time spent breaking bread with family and friends in good health!

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