

The Gover Leaf

November-December 2023

311 N. Main Street | Cloverdale, CA. 95425 (707) 894-4826 | info@cloverdaleseniorcenter.org www.CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org Follow Us! facebook.com/CloverdaleSeniorCenter instagragm.com/cloverdaleseniorcenter @95425Seniors



Melanie's Message

It is hard to believe that it is nearly the end of 2023. As I reflect on fond memories and what I am most grateful for during this past year I pause to give thanks for being a part of a team

that makes a difference in our community. It has been over six years since I walked into our Senior Center and asked if I could volunteer to help at the front desk, which led to a job offer to become the Program Manager. Every day I come to work I feel the sense of belonging, the warm embrace of friendship, and just how good it feels to be here with the treasured jewels we call seniors.

The end of the year is also a time we ask our friends to think about supporting our center financially with our year-end appeal ask and Giving Tuesday. One of our biggest supporters who also volunteers her time to enhance this special place with her many talents wrote the following about the magic of our Senior Center while also acknowledging the need for continued donations.

In the gentle embrace of time's river, where memories shimmer like stars in the night, the Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center stands as a sanctuary of souls. Here, laughter dances like a melody, carried on the gentle notes of a piano, and the aroma of homemade soup on Fridays fills the air like the sweetest verses of a timeless song.

We find ourselves at a crossroads as we approach the year's end. The rising costs of operation threaten to cast shadows over our sanctuary. Still, we hold fast to the enduring belief that every note of kindness, every stanza of support, can chase away the darkest of clouds.

Picture this: Fridays, a crescendo in our symphony of life, where laughter paints the air with vibrant colors, and the piano weaves a tapestry of memories. It's the day we gather at the produce market, and the aroma of homemade soup is a chorus that warms both body and soul. Your generosity is the key that unlocks these heartwarming moments. Your donation, whether as gentle as a lullaby or as powerful as an anthem, becomes part of the melody that guides us forward. Together, we compose verses of compassion, harmony, and hope.

In this song of community, you are the conductor of our dreams. As the year wanes, we invite you to join us, not merely as a donor but as a lyricist of our future. With your support, we continue to sing the song of compassion and to dance to the rhythm of unity. In the heart of giving, we find the soul of our center.

I want to end with a big thank you. Thank you for sharing your stories, your laughter, your heartache and tears, and adding your presence to the richness of this delightful place we call our Senior Center.

Holiday Tea Party

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 1:00-3:00 PM 311 N. Main Street, Cloverdale

(MEMBERS \$5 DISCOUNT)

TICKETS \$40

Limited tickets are available at the front desk or on cloverdaleseniorcenter.org. Ticket Sales Oct 2-Dec 1

To decorate the table with winter's intrigue, Sparkling snowflakes and candles, a magical league. Glistening ornaments and ribbons so fine, Transforming the setting into scene so divine.

The scene is all set, cups and plates so neat, With lemon curd, festive treats, and sandwiches petite.

This year, in person, with smiles shining bright, Bountiful joy fill the air for this festive life.

Tickets on sale soon, but quick they'll be gone, A holiday delight you won't want to sleep on. Expect them to sell out with a festive cheer, Secure your spot early, before none you will fear.

Contact Melanie to sign up to decorate a table for our guests; grab a friend and get creative.

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Connect with Us Senior Center Reception

(707) 894-4826
reception@cloverdalesenior
center.org
311 N. Main Street, Cloverdale
M-F 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Creative Notions Store

(707) 894-4110 119 W. 1st Street, Cloverdale Tue. - Fri. 10 AM - 4 PM

Board of Directors

Pamela Powers - President Evelyn Spire - Secretary Shawna Masur - Treasurer Bert Bernstein Frank McAtee Kenneth Allen Email the Board of Directors at: BOD@CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org

Staff

Melanie Hall Program Manager Melanie@CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org

Suzi Croft Operations Coordinator Suzi@CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org

Trish Chappell Office Assistant Trish@CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org

Sandra Hoevertsz Senior Project Director Hoevertsz@CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org

Welcome New Members!

Cheri Strong Holly Werner Kate Berlin Marlene Crane



Noeline Harris Richard Crane Terry Yanglin

Board of Directors & Committee Updates

Fee Changes start February 1

- Class and activity fees: **\$7 members, \$10 guests.**
- Lunch costs: All lunches will be \$8; see staff if you need assistance with this expense, no one is turned away for inability to pay.

Board Meeting are on the third Wednesday of the month at 4 PM at the Senior Center.

Year-end Fundraising Underway

If you have the ability to donate to our center to help us keep our programs running, provide support for the aging process, and provide a place for our community to interact, please consider us this year. You can mail a check, call, or visit our website to donate.

If donating is not within your means now, consider telling friends and family what you appreciate about us, and share our social media messages and fundraisers. Every person can help in a meaningful way! Thank you, Cloverdalians!

Fellowship Club & Donors

For the past few years we have had donors and grant funding to sponsor memberships, lunches, and occasionally class fees for our low-income seniors. If this is something you would like to know more about please visit our website under memberships, or speak with a staff member.



Activity Highlights

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Get gifts for that hard to buy for person, plus one or two for vourself! Handcrafted and Unique Creations Jewelry and Art **Needle Crafts & Quilted Creations**



Bring a friend, grab a hot spiced cider or holiday goodie, and join us for fall favorite soups

> Join us at the Senior Center 311 N. Main Street, Cloverdale



Proceeds support local crafters and our Senior Center programs.



Photos from previous Craft Fairs

Coffee with the Mayor & Friends



Thursday, November 9 10-11 AM

Chief Jason Ferguson Lieutenant Christopher Parker **Cloverdale Police Department**

Chief Ferguson will be speaking on his tenure as Chief of Cloverdale and his upcoming retirement.

Thursday, December 14 10-11 AM

Zaw Wao Htoo, PhD Community Nutrition & Health Advisor University of California UC Cooperative Extension

Navigating Medicare & General Insurance Discussion with Q&A by Erica Bishop, State Farm Ins.

Tuesday, November, 4-5 PM

Erica will be focusing on Medicare Insurance. She may additionally discuss life insurance and auto insurance and provide a status update on homeowners insurance in California.



(This is not a sales pitch, Erica will be providing information and answering questions)

> RSPV - Call (707) 894-4826 or stop by the front desk to sign-up

Age Well, Drive Smart

Wednesday, November 15 9 AM-12 PM

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The "Age Well, Drive Smart" class is an education program specifically designed to help seniors tune up their driving skills, refresh their knowledge of the rules of the road and discuss normal agerelated physical changes and how they affect driving ability.



Plant-Based Cooking Class

Thursday, November 2, 11:30 AM-1 PM **Plant-Based Holiday Meals**

Chef Karen will teach the foundational skills (and recipes) needed for a Spectacular Plant Based Holiday Feast!!!



Thursday, November 16, 11:30 AM-1 PM **Stuffed Holiday Pumpkins**



We will make stuffed pumpkins, mashed potatoes & gravy, and a surprise dessert if we have time!!!

Thursday, November 30, 11:30 AM-1 PM Plant-based holiday desserts



Notes For The Journey

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Notes for the Journey by Louise Young

This will be a new regular column in our newsletter. Enjoy!

When we were children, we loved the holidays of gathering and feasting, mostly because we had no responsibility for the planning, expenses, shopping, cooking, serving, and clean-up. Thanksgiving, until Great Grandpa died, was huge, with close to fifty aunts, uncles, their spouses, and an army of cousins. The feast was held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkelev in a huge banguet room, tables stretched from end to end. After eating, the kids started to fidget, so we were excused, but confined to the banquet hall. No problem. We chased under tables, around serving carts, tunneling behind coat racks bulging with everyone's outerwear. When the noise got too loud, Great Grandfather, imposing at six feet four inches, pounded on the table and demanded quiet. Which lasted about 10 minutes. We had a grand time.

Then came Christmas. From the time we were very small, we helped decorate the tree, and with Mother's help made small gifts for each of the grownups. One year it was oranges studded with whole cloves, which would smell good for a whole year. Another year we made needle holders shaped like a little girl wearing a bonnet for each of the ladies and for the gentlemen, little cases for their cigarette lighters. We put out a dish of cookies and a glass of milk for Santa. Before dawn we were up, squealing and whispering, exploring every package. One year each of us got REAL cowboy boots and red Roy Rogers belts and hats. We were the envy of all the kids in the neighborhood when we played "war."

As we grew up, we helped Mother and Grandma with the meals, but our main assignment was doing the dishes.

Then came marriage and babies. Thanksgiving was at Grandma and Grandpa's home on Telegraph Hill and Christmas was at our house in Forest Hill Extension. At both feasts were relatives or friends who would otherwise be alone. The older adults would cluster in the living room sharing in once-ayear conversation, while my sister and I hid in the kitchen talking and doing dishes while the babies slept peacefully in the back bedroom.

The years went by, and soon each couple went their way and developed new ways to celebrate the great American holidays. Now the elders have passed, and my sons and my sister's daughter carry on with new traditions. I have a new tradition too, a non-holiday I like to celebrate. The Winter Solstice is not a holiday, but for me, it's a marker in the passage of time, a beacon pointing to transition. From this day forward until Summer Solstice in June, the days will lengthen, a minute or two each day. This year, the shortest day and longest night is on Thursday, December 21st, at 7:27 p.m.

My celebration is simple: I climb a hill to the top, or to a place where I can see around me. To prepare, I make a bouquet of small branches, one each from all the evergreen trees I can locate, and secure it with a few strands of grass. At about 3:00 in the afternoon, I start up the hill. I don't sprint anymore, so I have to make my way to the top slowly and start early to avoid getting caught hiking in the dark. I stand at the highest point I can reach and speak words of personal intention in each direction. I watch the sun move slowly to the west. When it touches the horizon, I lay my evergreen bouquet on a large rock and start down the hill. It will be dark by 5:30. I will have a flashlight with me, but I want to not have to use it. This year is a big transition year for me. I am alone now and will enjoy living alone, but a major intention is to stay connected to the people in my life. I am blessed with friends and family, activities, and friendly places where I can meet new people and make new friends. One of the best places is the Cloverdale Senior Center! Happy Holidays, everyone!

Cloverdale Connect

Thank you, Cloverdale Connect, for your ongoing support of our Center!

If you live in the 95425 area code and wish to receive a copy of the Cloverdale Connect, our local monthly newspaper, please contact (707) 322-3403

Volunteers Needed Drivers & Errands

We seek individuals willing to provide rides to seniors locally and/or out of town or willing to run errands, shopping, deliveries, etc., for our seniors.

Please contact our Reception Desk at (707) 894-4826 or email melanie@cloverdaleseniorcenter.org

Mark Your Calendar

November-December 2023

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November

Thursday, November 2 11:30-1 PM Plant-Based Cooking Class

> Saturday, November 4 10-3 PM HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

> Monday, November 6 Thai Spice (Asian Lunch) \$ 8

Tuesday, November 7 Giving Tuesday #1 Starts 8:30-4:30 PM Haircuts by appointment 4-5 PM Insurance Presentation

Wednesday, November 8 8:30-4 PM Podiatrist by Appointment

Thursday, November 9 10-11 AM Coffee with the Mayor & Friends

Friday, November 10 CSMC - CLOSED: Veterans Day (Observed)

> Tuesday, November 14 Giving Tuesday #2

Wednesday, November 159-12 PM Age Well, Drive Smart4 PM CSMC Board Meeting

Thursday, November 16 9-12 PM Alexander Valley Healthcare by Appointment (CalFresh, Medicare, & more) 11:30-1 PM Plant-Based Cooking Class

Friday, November 17 Ice-Cream Social, following lunch at 12:15 PM

> Tuesday, November 21 Giving Tuesday #3

Wednesday, November 22 2-3:30 PM Caregivers Group

Thursday-Friday, November 23 &24 CSMC- **CLOSED**: Thanksgiving (Observed)

> Tuesday, November 28 Giving Tuesday FINALE DAY

Thursday, November 30 11:30-1 PM Plant-Based Cooking Class

December

Tuesday, December 5 8:30 AM-4 PM Haircuts by appointment

> Wednesday, December 6 1:30-4 PM Bunco #1

Saturday, December 9 1-3 PM Holiday Tea

Wednesday, December 13 8:30 AM-2 PM Podiatrist by appointment

Thursday, December 14

10-11 AM Coffee with the Mayor & Friends Tuesday, December 19

11:30 AM-4 PM Haircuts by appointment

Wednesday, December 20 1:30-4 PM Bunco #2 4 PM CSMC Board Meeting

Thursday, December 21 9 AM-12 PM Alexander Valley Healthcare by Appointment (CalFresh, Medicare, & more)

> Friday, December 22 12:30 PM Ice Cream Social

December 25-January 1 CLOSED



JOIN US FOR LUNCH 11:30-12:30 PM

Now serving on Mondays!

Monday - Thai Spice (Asian Lunch) \$8 RSVP by 3 PM Friday

Tuesday - El Milagro (Mexican Lunch) \$8 RSVP by 3 PM Monday

Weds. - Papa's Pizza Café (Pizza or Hot Sub) \$5 RSVP by 3 PM Tuesday

Friday - Homemade Hot Soup & Salad \$5 RSVP by 3 PM Wednesday

No one is turned away for inability to pay, please see a staff member for assistance.

2023	SAT	4 HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR 10-3 PM	Il State of the second	B	SS	
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Here at the Center

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Meditation

Discover how to release your stress and tension.

Open into a wonderful, peaceful attitude for the rest of your day and week.



Find out how to breath in ways that nurture your body, calm your mind, foster more joy, love, and gratitude.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:45-9:45 AM

> Members \$7 Guests \$10

Yoga with Eileen

Mondays & Wednesdays 8:45-9:45 AM

Improves muscle tone, enhances flexibility, eases aches and pains. Improves balance, builds stronger bones, increases concentration, boost mood, and mental stimulation.

Fee: \$5 Members, \$8 Guests

Chair Yoga with Eileen



Wednesdays 10-11 AM

From a seated position you can enjoy the same type of stretching and flexing needed to improve balance and encourage blood flow. Everything is modifiable and taught by an experienced instructor

Fee: \$5 Members, \$8 Guests

Chair Massages by Eleanor Gomez By Appointment

Fridays from 9 AM - 1 PM

Members \$20 Guests \$ 25

With many years of experience, 20 minutes it is a delight to sit in Eleanor's chair!

Call 707-894-4826 or stop by the front desk for an appointment



Strength Training with Marie Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-2:30 PM

Maintain Muscle Health, Bone Density, and Balance

This class can be an excellent way to maintain and increase your strength as your body ages. You can stand or Sit (or both), use free weights or no weights—builds muscle, strengthens balance, improves posture, improves bone density. Plus, it just feels good.



Fee: Members \$5, Guest \$8

Free Food Distributions

Provided by the Redwood Empire Food Bank Every Age - Stage - Language ALWAYS Welcome!



<u>Citrus Fairgrounds</u> **Mondays**, 4:00 - 5:00 PM (No distributions on federal holidays) Walk-up pick-up

> Cloverdale Food Pantry Fridays, 11-1 PM Pantry - walk-through

For more distribution dates, visit: https://getfood.refb.org/

Produce Market Day

Fridays 10-11 AM

Wholesale prices for everyone! Bring your reusable bags. CalFresh/Snap Now Accepted Sorry - no credit cards



NEW Lunch on Mondays

We are excited to announce a pilot program, we have partnered with Thai Spice to offer you a selection from their lunch menu. We will start serving this option on Monday, November 6.



Must order by 3 PM the Friday before



Member Spotlight

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Louise Young



My husband, Bill, and I moved to Cloverdale in May 2007. Being warm after a freezing winter and early spring in Little River felt so nice. We loved living close to the ocean and spent much time walking the bluffs and beaches, watching the waves and the many birds. We were getting older, though, and the limited services on the coast, as well as the cold, pushed us to a warmer climate.

We found the Senior Center right away. The friendly atmosphere and many activities there attracted me, and we joined. We were impressed by the level of involvement among the people we met and their commitment to maintaining a place where people from all over town could join in the community.

I joined a meditation group sponsored by the center and, a little later, started taking Tai Chi with Janet Seaforth. Both those classes became regular commitments for me. Over the years, I've taken a college class, an Enneagram class, and training in Marshall Rosenburg's non-violent communication to raise empathy between people.

When the Senior Center agreed to sponsor a community garden in downtown Cloverdale, I was intrigued. I joined a group of hard-core gardeners who began by clearing away years of neglected trees, shrubs, and piles of deadwood. Soon, we learned how to prepare soil for planting, divided the space into garden plots, and developed a rota for watering and weeding. Our garden thrived. Soon, we had an irrigation system, and when PG&E was about to install electricity, the garden folded. The family who had loaned us the space passed it to a relative, and the garden closed in 2016. I was sad, but I had learned gardening skills that would stay with me for life.

As arthritis caught up with me, gardening became less hard-core. I branched out to learn more cooking skills, did more reading, and increased my interest in writing. I still cant bake worth a darn, though. I've kept aournal most of my life, and recently, I started a journal called "Notes for the Journey" that j will begin to appear in this newsletter, thanks to Melanie Hall. I had taken a creative writing class for three years at Redwood College in Fort Bragg, and I consider "Notes for the Journey" an opportunity to sharpen the skills I learned there. Pages will seldom be more than three paragraphs long and will focus on highlights and sidelights of life experience.

Family has been the center of my life for most of my eighty-five years. I now have the distinction of being the oldest person among my relatives left alive. Now, after the passing of my parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, my younger sister, and my first husband, my family consists of two sons, six grandchildren, and four greatgrandchildren. And so it continues, as it should. My sons and I are close, conversing often. One lives in Oregon, and the other in North Carolina. Soon, we will be together, joined in celebrating the life of Bill Adams, my second husband, on the Neptune Society's ship, Naiad, to scatter his ashes in the open ocean, as he wished.

I'm grateful for our center that honors senior life, for the diversity of offerings, and for the leadership provided by Melanie Hall and her staff. There are lectures, classes, parties, games, enough activities to tempt everyone to try something out, and a place to gather and avoid the pitfalls of isolation.

I hope the people of Cloverdale will continue to support our center. Elders sometimes feel forgotten, a little lost in this busy world of things that light up and talk to them and of people who walk with their heads down all the time. Community is more than jobs, school, and social events. It's being willing to be visible, to sit down with someone you haven't met before and have a conversation that you put together as you go along. In a community with others who are still interested in life, you can create your own script and be part of shared stories of people with lots of experience in living!

Thank you, Louise, for sharing your insight on life with your Notes for the Journey starting in this newsletter. We are so grateful for your continued support of our Senior Center.





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New SOS Counselor Hannah Button, MFT Trainee



My name is Hannah Button, I am a Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling trainee, and I am thrilled to be working at the Cloverdale Senior Center. I will be providing mental health counseling here

through a non-profit named SOS Community Counseling. At SOS, we provide services to individuals, couples, families, and youth on a sliding-scale fee.

As a counselor, my passion is to help people across the lifespan identify their goals, and collaborate with them to make those goals more achievable. Additionally, I think that our mental health has a big impact on our physical health, so I work to connect the two. Most importantly, I try to be someone that is warm and joyful to talk to. Even when we are processing difficult things, I want therapy to be a place that you can be eager to show up to every week, and where you can feel seen and supported.

Personally, I am an animal lover, an avid cook, and a dedicated reader. I have been working to read 23 books in 2023, and just recently passed my goal. I love people, and hearing their stories, which is a big part of why I chose to become a counselor.

I have loved getting to know the Senior Center more, so if you see me around, or with my office door open, please feel free to stop by and introduce yourself! I would always love a conversation, or any good book or recipe recommendations. If you are interested in seeing me as a counselor, reach out to our intake team at 707-284-3444, or info@soscounseling.org. Either way, I look forward to getting to know you, and I am so grateful to be a part of this amazing community

Thank you, Hannah, for the important work that you do to help others.

We are thrilled to have you here at the Senior Center and appreciate our collaboration with SOS Counseling.

Do you or someone you know need help with CalFresh, Medicare, and Covered California?



Cristina Rosas

Certified Enrollment Counselor from Alexander Valley Healthcare

Every 3rd Thursday from 9-12 Cristina will have appointments at our Center. For an appointment call 707-894-4229, press 2, then enter extension 1802.



Cloverdale Connect CHS Scholarship Fundraiser It's a Beatles music Sing-A-Long! Sunday December 10th, 2023

Buffet Lunch 12-1pm, Raffle 1-1:30pm, Entertainment begins 1:30pm

A **"Beatles Sing A Long"** with William Florian, formerly of the New Christy Minstrels Chef Raymond Pesce will be serving up his "World Famous" BBQ pasta! Lots of raffle prizes and door prizes! \$50 per person – includes buffet lunch, beverage, plus entertainment Venue: Cloverdale Senior Multipurpose Center 311 N. Main St. Cloverdale 95425 Purchase tickets via email or by phone

info@cloverdaleconnect.com or 707-322-3403 Only 60 tickets available

RSVP no later than November 22nd All net proceeds benefit the *Cloverdale Connect* Scholarship Fund





ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

311 N. Main Street - P.O. Box 663 Cloverdale, CA. 95425 (707) 894-4826 CloverdaleSeniorCenter.org

Membership for ages 21 -89: **Individuals** \$25 per year, **Households** (2 persons) \$45 per year. Membership for 90+ receives an **Honorary** membership (free) with renewed form. **Lifetime** Membership \$1,000.

Member Information			
Full Name :	2nd Member:		
Date of Birth :	Date of Birth :		
Phone:	Phone:		
Email :	Email:		
Address:	City, State, Zip		
Emergency Contact - (We consider a 2nd	Member an emergency contact already.)		
Full Name :	Relationship : Adult Relative		
Phone(s):	Spouse-Partner		
Newsletter Preference Emailed Weekly Mailed (Every 2 Months) Both - Email & Mailed	Are you interested in volunteering? We will follow up if you are interested. I am interested in volunteering No, thanks.		

Membership Agreement

Signing and submitting this form indicates your understanding of the following: Membership can be suspended or revoked for actions deemed harassing, violent, dangerous, discriminatory, neglectful, or otherwise unkind toward other visitors, volunteers, facilities, and staff. Our Participant Code of Conduct and Policies are available upon request; please see our front desk or website under "membership."

Your photograph, video photography, or other reproduction of your likeness may be used without compensation by the producers, sponsors, organizers, staff, or assigns for such purposes as they deem appropriate. **I acknowledge that I have read the above statement and notice.**

1st Member	2nd Member	Date				
OFFICE USE - Individual (1) \$25 Household (2) \$45 Fellowship Applicant (no fee) Honorary 90+ (no fee) Lifetime \$1,000 New Member (Not active 5 years) Renewing Member	Amount Paid \$ Date Paid Cashier	PAYMENT INFORMATION Cash Check # Credit (AUTH) # Fellowship Fund Approved by:				
OFFICE USE - PROCESSING Scanned Entered in MySeniorCenter Scan Card Issued Entered in DS						

Return Services Requested



311 N. Main Street Cloverdale, CA. 95425 (707) 894-4826 Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Cloverdale, CA 95425 Permit No. 2





Watch our social media on **Tuesdays throughout November** for messages of gratitude and belonging from our community.

We have a \$3,000 donor match offered. If we can get our community to match this pledge, we can double this impactful support.

How can you support us?

Donate: a one-time gift or pledge to give monthly (can be automated).

Become a Steward: Join for \$100 annually.

Spread the Word: Write to the city or share our fundraisers on social media. Tell others about why you support us.



Use this link to securely donate online

Use this link to find us on Facebook