

FROM THE EDITOR

Suzanne Takowsky

Every morning when I wake up and every night before I go to sleep, the first words and the last words I say are to thank God for all the blessings he has brought, and continues to bring into my life. I love my job. I love my staff and I love all the people I have come to know over the years. I appreciate and applaud so very much their kindness, loyalty and hard work. I love Beverly Hills — a city I have lived in for 35 years, and I love California. No place is like California for sure. We live in a wonderment of possibilities and opportunities that offer each of us (if we want it bad enough) a place for our talents to shine. Speaking of shine — sunshine and sunshine and sunshine all year long, month after month. Myself and millions of other Californians... WELL... we'll take it.

Indeed, I'm thankful for this wonderous life I live. And most of all I'm thankful for my family and friends — those who mean so much to me. My children are healthy and my grandchildren are healthy, and every day they inspire me to be a better person because I learn from them the true and honest joys of life.

As parents, it's easy to love our children and grandchildren and do and want the best for them. Children at any age are a handful, and I don't think we ever stop being parents and helping and watching over our kids. Most of us have our plates full helping our own families and finding the time to take care of what they need. Parenting is a full time job pony-backed to our regular full time day jobs. When the day is done we are burnt to a crisp. All we want is bed and sleep. Believe me I get it.

BUT ... in keeping with my "thank God for a wonderful life and family" theme... I have to acknowledge as a human being, woman, mother and media-conscious reporter that this "ideal" life that I have been so graciously offered and maybe you offered as well — is NOT the life some other parents, children and extended families live. There are many areas that encompass the necessity for each one of us to become more aware of those around us who could use some help. In this issue, however, I would like to point out the parents, children and extended families who have family members with special needs. Nearly one-fifth of all Americans — more than 54 million men, women and children have a physical, sensory or intellectual disability, according to the National Organization on Disability. For those parents, families and children, life may not be a rosy as my life, or your life.

Definitely it's easier to look the other way when we see uncomfortable things, but how exactly does looking away and ignoring life around us raise our consciousness and awareness for ourselves and our families? It doesn't. If you as a parent are involved in humanity, then your children are raised to be involved in humanity. And, they will live their own lives involved in humanity and teach their children to be involved in humanity. PERIOD.

This year right here in Los Angeles from July 25th thru August 2nd, we have the great honor of playing host to the 14th Special Olympics Summer World Games. This very special event marks the first World Summer Games held in the United States in 16 years. More than 7,000 special needs athletes from 170 nations are here to kick some ass. How proud are we to have LA as the chosen city for this spectacular world class sporting event? We are beyond thrilled. We are blessed. The Opening Ceremony is July 25, 2015 at LA Coliseum. Game competitions are in aquatics, gymnastics, track and field, basketball, football (soccer) and 25 other Olympic-type sports. For information visit: www.LA2015.org.

This dramatic and could-be-once-in-a-lifetime-event gives each of us an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful world of our children and their children. None of us know what is around the corner, but it's nice to know there are people waiting with open arms to help us if we need support. Go and enjoy the games and take your kids and their friends. This is a front row seat into the true meaning of courage — something all of us need a little more of. NO?

