



# Gizelle & John Sipin

The Sereno Group Real Estate  
27 years as Negotiation Specialist in every market.  
Helping our clients get what they want!

*Clients For Life*  
November 2016

## Thanksgiving Divorce

Eddie in Dallas calls his son in New York just before Thanksgiving and tells him, “I am sorry to tell you but your mother and I are going to divorce. I just cannot take any more of her moaning. We can't stand the sight of each other any more. I am telling you first, Eddie, because you are the eldest, please tell your sister.”



When Eddie calls his sister Julie, she says: “No way are they getting divorced, I will go over and see them for Thanksgiving.”

Julie phones her parents and tells them both “You must NOT get divorced. Promise you won't do anything until I get over there. I'm calling Eddie, and we'll both be there with you tomorrow. Until then, don't take any action, please listen to me” , and hangs up.

The father puts down the phone and turns to his wife and says. “Good news” he says, “Eddie and Julie are coming for Thanksgiving and they are both paying their own way.”

***“To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone.”***

***- Reba McEntire***

# On Gizelle's Mind

Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and it's such a great time to give thanks for all that we have in our lives. I am so thankful for my parents and the sacrifices they made to ensure that me and my 5 siblings would be prepared for life. They prepared us by teaching through doing and by paying attention (most of the time) I learned a lot. I learned to be curious and interested in people and to not judge a person by the way they looked or what they had or didn't have. I learned that life lessons were taught every day and if I paid attention I would be able to figure many things out for myself. I learned to surround myself with loyal people who only wanted the best for me as I did for them. I



learned that choosing to be happy is way more fun and productive than focusing on what's wrong in the world. My wish for Thanksgiving and every day is that everyone can find love, peace and happiness in their lives and be surrounded by people who believe in YOU 100 percent and are able to express it freely.

My family celebrates Thanksgiving at our home every year. Years ago when my father was still alive we started a tradition at the table that lives on. After we say grace and the heavy eating starts. We casually go around the large table and give thanks for what the year has brought. It's a beautiful way to

appreciate those in our lives verbally and let them know how important they are to us. I'm really happy we were able to do this while my Dad was alive and for him to feel the love and appreciation we all had for him. Is there anything better then someone verbally telling you how important you are to them?

One other tradition we started was to write down what we're thankful for on a card we hang from the chandelier. I've preprinted the person's name and the year on the card and we hang them on the chandelier during dinner. I love reading the cards through the year. Someday when I'm old and grey and don't get around so well I will put the cards in a beautiful glass bowl, read them and remember all the blessings God has given me in my lifetime. God Bless all of you and may your holidays bring you lots of joy and laughter.



Love, Gizelle



# Top 10 things to do in **Santa Cruz** over Thanksgiving weekend:

- 1) Take a walk on **West Cliff Drive** and check out the **Surfing Museum**.
- 2) Hike the **Pogonip Emma McCrary Trail** to spectacular views of Santa Cruz. Named after Alisha's husband, Marcus' Grandma, Emma McCrary.
- 3) Have lunch at the **Crows Nest** and watch the boats sail by.
- 4) Stroll through beautiful **Capitola Village** and stop for coffee at **Mr. Toots** on the Esplanade.
- 5) Check out the **Mystery Spot** and be intrigued.
- 6) Say hi to the **Sea Otters** and **Sea Lions** at the end of the Municipal Wharf and enjoy a delicious bowl of clam chowder at **Stagnaro's**.
- 7) Play a game of **beach volleyball** at the **Harbor or Main Beach** – wear off some turkey.
- 8) Ride the **Merry Go Round** at the **Boardwalk** with your Mom and dine on corn dogs and bacon wrapped chocolate at Marini's Candies.
- 9) Stroll Downtown, visit **Bookshop Santa Cruz**, go to a movie and dine at **Hula's** where they have the friendliest staff in town and the BEST Mai Tai's!
- 10) Come see us at our **OPEN HOUSE** on **Saturday 11/26 1–4pm. 18 Ridgecrest Drive in Scotts Valley**, we'd love to see you.



# Alisha & Kamala's Corner...

I LOVE THE HOLIDAYS! Thanksgiving is the official kick-off to the Holiday Season (for me at least). I have so much to be thankful for and still so much to accomplish in my life. What I love most about the holidays is that it gives us all a chance to reset the last year. Review the good, the bad, the challenges and triumphs. We get to stop from our crazy lives and sit around a table and give thanks for the year and share our favorite stories of those missing.

So let's make this short and sweet, here are the 5 things I am thankful for this year: 1) the time I spend with Gramma and the Bennadja munchkins, 2) Friday double date nights with mom and dad, 3) Marcus and Andy's safe return, 4) RAIDERS winning, and 5) the relationship with my husband who is my all-time favorite person! I love you Marcus.

Give thanks and have a blessed Thanksgiving. XOXO Alisha



Life is shifting in ways that only God can predict. Anderson is home and the post deployment adjustment was real. It is interesting to re-acclimate yourself to your partner. No matter how smooth the distance was, and how much love you have for one another, returning home and getting back in the groove has been a fun process. It had its challenges but in every challenge as we learned to better communicate what was going on and also learn the day-to-day needs of one another that we hadn't experienced in six months of separation. Having him home and being able to share dinners and movies and small things like

walks around our waterfront here feel like daily Christmas blessings. While he was gone, anytime I went to a movie and watched the previews I would be excited about the movie based on their release date and if I would be able to go with Anderson. Just this week we saw The Accountant with Ben Affleck (A MUST SEE). Aside from having my husband back in my life, work is going well. I brought on a new client this month and it is fun to help people build their online customer experience. Sometimes things like consistency can make the biggest difference and having someone step in and help makes everything fall into place. Praying for continued good health and fun with my husband and growth within my business. Sending everyone warm holiday wishes during this upcoming season.

Kamala





Check out our new website!!!

***[www.sipinrealestate.com](http://www.sipinrealestate.com)***



Go to  
**[www.sipinrealestate.com/LAUNCH](http://www.sipinrealestate.com/LAUNCH)**

Enter into a drawing for a \$50  
gift certificate to Walnut Cafe!

Thank you, John and Gizelle



**"City's Best Breakfast"**  
Sunset Magazine

Voted "Best Breakfast" in The Santa  
Cruz Weekly Readers Choice  
Awards for "Best Breakfast" in  
Santa Cruz!

# *John's dropping a line*

Thanksgiving 2016, we are very excited to have our family all together again at one house this Thanksgiving. Mostly because Kamala and Anderson who live in Norfolk Virginia are making the trip to sit at our table along with Alisha and Marcus and the rest of Gizelle's family. Our kids, as do yours, grow up and are gone most of the year doing what we all did when we were young; blazing they're own trail... living as young people. I remember as a youth just going to Thanksgiving (basically just showing up), having a young man's body just stuffing myself or I should say gorging myself with food I would not taste again until another year passed. I wasn't going to cook a turkey any time soon.



If you know me now and think I don't say much, you should have known me as a child because I didn't say anything to anyone. My family growing up was pretty much all Filipino, except my mom and her sister, Aunt Dorthy, who were as white as this paper I'm writing on. The language spoken was Filipino and I was not taught so I didn't speak. What was said in a night of 20 to 30 relatives you ask... well your guess is as good as mine because I have no idea.

So along comes Gizelle and I, we decide that Thanksgiving will be our holiday to host at our home to share with the family. All relatives are invited (about 25 every year) and we share a big traditional Thanksgiving meal. So much delicious food is served and prepared by the relatives. We all sit at the same table that's maybe 30 feet long. Of course Grandma Alice leads us in grace and we do put out our special intentions of prayers for those in need of any extra angels anyone has to spare. Then it's silent except for the sound of forks and knives, water and wine glasses and the constant moan of the hummm yummy over and over. Until Gizelle takes the invisible mic and announces that we are going to go around the table and each and every one of us is going to share why we are so thankful this year. So different than when I grew up... looking back as a youth I don't know if I would have opened up at this table. I probably would have excused myself and snuck out the door and just hung out by myself, I was painfully shy. I have been known to shed a tear or two at that table listening and speaking.

I'm so blessed to have Gizelle, Alisha, Marcus, Kamala, Anderson and this great family to share every day of the year and especially Thanksgiving with my multiple blessings. Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.

John



*“The house you looked at today and wanted to think about until tomorrow may be the same house someone looked at yesterday and will buy today.”*

BEING POSITIVE IN A  
NEGATIVE SITUATION  
IS NOT NAIVE. IT'S  
LEADERSHIP.

We want to THANK ALL OF YOU for your continued business and referring your friends and family to us.

**Welcome new clients:**

Twuy and Todd Einck

John and Gilda Mesmer

Chris Carlson

Charlie, Eva and Steven Wertheimer referred by Vlatka Bathgate

Jim and Mary Trabing referred by Jerry Tins

**THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME**

**November Quiz Question**

What's the name of the newest coffee shop on Portola and 36th?

1st one to answer the question will win a gift certificate for coffee and treats!!!

Call or text Gizelle at (831) 212-9800... Goooooooood Luck!

Congratulations **Gilda Messmer** for  
winning the last quiz!

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## PLEASE FRIEND ME ON FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/GizelleandJohnSipin](http://www.facebook.com/GizelleandJohnSipin)

I post fun information about Santa Cruz local events!



Friends: Would you rather receive this electronically???

If so please email Alisha at: [alishahightower@gmail.com](mailto:alishahightower@gmail.com).

Call me with your real estate questions and check out our website.

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Find us at: [www.sipinrealestate.com](http://www.sipinrealestate.com)

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