

The Waite Awards 2024

Living in Los Angeles, movie commercials frequently end in “awards eligible in all categories.” We assumed that was true everywhere, but no. LA is just really into giving out awards. Perhaps we should give out our own awards. Without further ado, we present the Waite Awards for 2024.

Best Reality Series Reunion Award – There was a gathering of Margie and her seven siblings in Seattle for the first time in years. Without planning it, they all showed up wearing the same colors, just right for a group shot. It was a feat that could never have been done if they had tried to make it happen.

Best Retirement Again Award - Barry retired from the Carson Chamber. He had offered to fill in a few months while they hired a new president. That was in 2021. Does 3 ½ years count as a few months? Don’t worry, he is still teaching, doing a little consulting, and serving on the city council. And stuff.

Best Performance in an Election Award – Barry ran for reelection to the Lomita City Council. It was a bruising campaign, but that’s because he tripped while gathering signatures for his reelection papers. No one else ran. They either didn’t think they could beat him or realized it is a crappy job they don’t want.

Best Consumption of Carpeting Award – The clear winner in this category is Amos the dog. At some unknown point, he pulled up long strings of carpet fiber and swallowed them, leading to a clog in his innards the size of a baseball in his gut, which in turn led to surgery. The good news is we hated that carpeting and wanted to get rid of it anyway. We now have lovely wood flooring throughout the whole house that matches. He feels fine. Good boy, Amos!

Hottest Performance in the Cold Award – We got a new furnace at the cabin. What’s that you say? No big deal? It is the tale of scope creep. The furnace was getting old, so better to replace it before winter hits and we are stuck. Except the duct work needed to be replaced. And the old furnace vent is asbestos that had to be encapsulated. And there was nowhere to run a duct upstairs. And the new unit didn’t fit under the house without digging out an area for it. There is more, to the point we ended up with a new water heater as part of the work, but we are just glad it is warm in the cabin now.

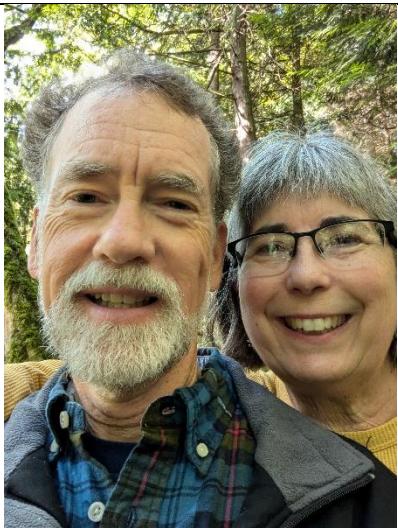
Best Melting in the Desert Award – Margie went with Barry to a conference in the desert in May. She was out thrifting while he was in meetings. She texted him, “It is 107 at my car. We are never moving here.” But it’s a dry heat, right?

Best Organization Award – Margie put together an around the block yard sale to clear out her excess eBay inventory. It is a big block, and we were mobbed by shoppers. Alex and David came to help, and Alex bought a chair – from David.

Best Baritone Award – Barry won another Harmony Platoon singing contest. Last time, he was the only baritone. This time, there were a few at least. Did we mention he was running the contest? Coincidence.

Best use of Marriott Platinum Status Award – Barry traveled so much for business he upgraded his status with Marriott, which gets him a free bottle of water. He went to Sacramento in the winter (cold) and summer (hot), Washington DC in March (extra cold), and Tampa in November where the weather was very nice except for the hurricane. He has been nominated for Titanium status: two bottles of water.

Let’s give a big hand to all our award winners! Let us know what you’ve been up to. We still have the address waite@earthlink.net.



No idea where we took this one, but it's us! We can handle grey.



Amos heading home from carpet removal surgery.



The perfectly coordinated Hayes family. One meal moved right into the next and it was blissful...



Who doesn't like carving pumpkins? All our pets are the same color, handily enough.



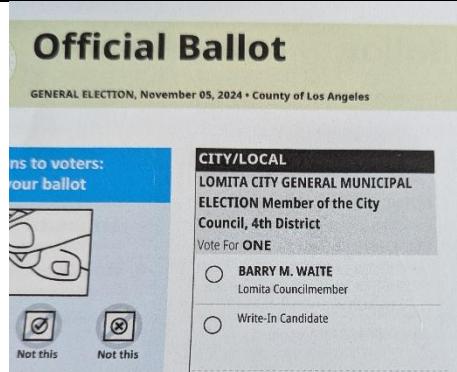
A perfectly posed and not posed at all shot of the cats hanging out at the cabin



Lomita youth entrepreneur of the year Pearl. She went on to win the national award!



Margie's sale was mobbed. Everything must go, and it did. That's Alex's new chair on the right.



Top listing on the ballot is helpful. Being the only listing helps a lot more.