

# PALISADES NEWS

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Uniting the Community with News, Features and Commentary

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## Victory Lap at PaliHi

At the 44th annual YMCA-Optimist track meet, four-year-old Benjamin Algra is surrounded by enthusiastic fans as he takes third in his division in the 50-meter run. (See story, Page 12.)

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

## Caruso Project Moves Forward

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

**R**ick Caruso's Palisades Village development cleared an important hurdle on April 28 when the L.A. City Planning Commission approved the project.

Caruso's plans must now be approved by the City Council's Planning and Land-Use Management (PLUM) Committee before a vote by the council itself, likely in June. Construction could start in mid-July.

After the hearing, Brentwood resident Caruso said, "We are thrilled that we received this approval and that the appeal by Jack Allen was denied. The community did a tremendous job of working together to help" (Continued on Page 9)

## Eric Weiss Pens Winning Parade Theme Slogan

By LAUREL BUSBY  
Staff Writer

**E**ric Weiss is a radio guy, and he enjoys tossing around ideas for slogans.

When he read about the parade theme contest in the *Palisades News*, Weiss asked his sons, Benjamin, 10, and Zachary, 7, to help him think up some ideas. Unfortunately, they weren't too interested, so he played around with some slogans for a few minutes on his own and came up with "Independence Day—the Palisades Way."

"I love slogans, and so when I saw the article, I took five minutes to brainstorm," said Weiss, who currently operates a talent agency for radio personalities. His slogan won, and his prize is the chance to ride with his family in the Fourth of July parade fire

truck. "This is the first time I've ever entered a slogan in a contest," but at work, "a lot of time is spent brainstorming things like this. That's fun for me."

Riding in the parade will also be a treat. The event is a favorite for Weiss, his wife, Jacqui Bell, a realtor with Gibson Realty, and their sons, who attend Village School. Weiss grew up in the small town of Berlin, N.J., which also had a similar parade. Since moving to Pacific Palisades in 1989, he has regularly watched the local festivities, but this year will be his first time being in the parade.

"I love the parade," Weiss said. "When I ended up moving to the Palisades, it brought back all of those memories of a small-town Fourth of July parade, and I enjoy going to it."

Weiss spent the first half of his life on the East Coast, first in his hometown, which is

just outside Philadelphia, and later at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He attended law school at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and his first job was at Mutual Broadcasting, also in D.C.

However, about a year later in 1985, the company was acquired by Westwood One, the nation's largest radio network, and Weiss moved to Los Angeles to become the company's head of business and legal affairs. He spent 10 years at Westwood One before transferring to his own endeavors, which continued to connect to radio. He became the CEO of AME, Inc., a producer and distributor of nationally syndicated programming, and then he was vice chairman of Premiere Networks, also a producer and distributor of nationally syndicated programming, which was purchased by Clear Channel Communications in 1997.

Afterwards, he ventured away from radio to take control of an infomercial company, National Media, and then was the CEO of buyitnow.com. In 2001, he returned to radio to represent talent with his business, The Weiss Agency, which is located in the Palisades.

His first client was radio personality Casey Kasem, and Kasem's daughter, Kerri, also a radio and television personality, is currently his client. The Weiss Agency represents a number of local radio personalities, including former Palisades parade Grand Marshal

John Kobylt from KFI's John and Ken show, which is the nation's most popular talk radio show; Tim Conway, Jr. also on KFI; Jillian Barberie Terri-Rae Elmer and Doug" (Continued on Page 3)



Eric Weiss.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

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# Weiss

(Continued from Page 1)

McIntyre of KABC; Lisa Stanley of KRTH; Valentine from MYFm; and both Heidi Hamilton and Frank Kramer of KLOS.

"In addition to negotiating their deals, I assist some clients with building their brands and finding new opportunities," Weiss said. "Marketing and programming is something I'm very involved in."

Locally, Weiss volunteers on the Marketing Committee at Village School, and his wife is on the board of the Palisades Country Estates Homeowners Association in the Highlands. Weiss also has coached for both rookie and bantam league basketball at the Palisades Recreation Center. The parade slogan contest has given them a new way to be involved with the community.

"I was pleasantly surprised to hear that my slogan was chosen," Weiss said. "I'm looking forward to coming to the parade this year."

## Marquez Elementary To Hold Talent Show

Marquez Elementary will hold a school talent show from 6 to 8 p.m., Friday, May 6, in the school auditorium. The show will feature two original songs written by students, and a guitar/vocal duo featuring Trinity Drummond who is a Marquez Class of 2014 alumna and headlined the 2016 L.A. Marathon starting line Skechers Performance of "God Bless America" this year.

Tickets are \$20 with discounts for families.



(Left to right) Jonathon Holmes has a vacuum that sucks up the running water, so it can be recycled; Spectrum manager Mario Costa observes; and Jose Junior Hernandez runs the high-pressure steam cleaner in front of the Palisades Garden Café.

## Power Washing Paid for by BID

The Pacific Palisades Business Improvement District launched its first Village project by power washing the commercial sidewalks within the BID boundaries.

The project started on April 25 and was completed last Friday by Spectrum Facility Maintenance. Two steam-cleaning trucks used high-pressure steam equipment as well as biodegradable detergents to remove stains, dirt, grime, gum and soil that had saturated the concrete. All wastewater was recovered and recycled using Spectrum's state-of-the-art recycling system, which is E.P.A.-compliant.

The Palisades BID meets the first Wednesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at UDO Real Estate, 15233 La Cruz Dr. The group operates under the Brown Act and residents are welcome to observe. Phone: (424) 256-5733 or e-mail: laurie@palisadesbid.org.

# Revere Bus Proposed

Why waste your valuable time sitting in traffic on Sunset at Allenford in the morning and afternoon to deposit or pick up your Paul Revere middle-school student? Next year, parents will have another option.

In order to help alleviate traffic congestion, a Pacific Palisades Route bus is proposed that would hold 52 students. It would load its first students at Palisades Circle (at Palisades Drive) at 7:10, then at Sunset Blvd. (at Palisades Drive) at 7:15, then Sunset Blvd. at Bienvenida, next Sunset Blvd. at El Medio and last stop on Sunset at Carey, arriving at school at 7:30 a.m. The route would be reversed after school, adjusting to the school-day pickup, which on Tuesday and Thursday means leaving Revere at 2:15 p.m.

The cost for year-long round-trip transportation is \$1,650. The deadline to sign up is June 1. So far only 13 people have signed up. There is space for 52 students. Visit: paulreverms.com/domain/311.

Currently one bus is planned, but a second could be added if demand were sufficient. Revere organizers were asked if there is any funding for those who can't afford it. Unfortunately, currently there is none.

If there is a philanthropic-minded individual in the Palisades who would like to see at least 52 cars taken off this route in the morning/afternoon, or if there is person who knows of a grant that could be used towards this traffic-easing effort, please call (310) 917-4800 or email parent/community liaison Lori Vogel: lori.vogel@lausd.net.

Additionally, three other parent-chartered buses are planned for Holmby Hills (two buses) and Southwest L.A. to help transport students accepted into the charter school.

The four Metro buses (three head to the Palisades and one downtown) that are available in front of Revere after school will continue to operate.

Visit: paulreverms.com.

# PAB Looks for Potrero Park Answers Tonight

The quarterly Palisades Park Advisory Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, May 4, in the small gym at the Palisades Recreation Center.

Topics for discussion include an update on the L.A. County Parks & Recreation needs assessment for Pacific Palisades and surrounding areas.

Also invited to speak about Potrero Canyon from the City Bureau of Engineering is Robert Hancock.

Norm Kulla, former Councilman Bill Rosendahl's senior deputy, told the News that Potrero plans were in place before he retired a year ago. Public information officer Mary Nemick said the Bureau is working on them and once they are completed, construction will resume.

The date of the opening of the park will depend on plan completion and approvals from Department of Water and Power, Caltrans and the Coastal Commission.

Nemick said there's about \$24 million in the Potrero Canyon account, without the funds from the most recent auction. There is one more property to be auctioned.

Visit: paulreverms.com.

# Expo & Classic Autos May 15

The Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its annual Expo & Classic/Exotic Auto event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 15 on Via de la Paz and Antioch Street.

Dozens of cars will once again line Via, and will feature pre-1975 autos, including T-Birds, Jeeps, Porsches, VW Bus and Woody Wagons.

Antioch will be filled with vendor booths promoting health, environment, education, financial, camps, home and garden, travel, technology and community organizations.

Rocking the streets will be Amazing Music performers under the direction of owner Patrick Hildebrand. Multi-enter-

tainer Michael Cladis and his One Man Band will perform.

Look for Gerry Blanck's Martial Arts demonstrations and Emily Kay's Fancy Feet dancers. Adam, the Balloon Man, will be on hand to make your child's favorite animal and once again, the Slot Car Race Track will be available.

Keeping the streets clean will be Chrysalis StreetWorks.

The event's Platinum sponsor is Arete Preparatory Academy; Gold sponsor is Hornburg Santa Monica and Silver Sponsors are US Bank and Luxe Home Healthcare.

There is still time to participate by calling (310) 459-7963.



Last year's Expo drew crowds.

Photo courtesy Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce

# How Art Helps Heal and Transform

By LAURA ABRUSCATO  
Contributing Writer

Art was always a way for Palisadian Cathy Salser to feel safe and find her voice. In the summer of 1991, wanting to help others through art, she took a road trip across the country, stopping along the way to teach art workshops at domestic violence shelters.

Out of this trip, the nonprofit A Window Between Worlds (AWBW) was born, which this year is celebrating its 25th anniversary of helping people heal from trauma through art.

AWBW will host its Art in the Afternoon fundraiser at the Venice Skills Center on Saturday, May 7 from 12 to 4 p.m. The event is for the whole family, and there will be food, the Aquarium of Pacific on Wheels, art making, carnival games, auctions, massages and more.

"Families and all ages can come and experience art as a celebration of life and help launch the program at new sites," says Salser. Recently, 70 social-service agencies applied for training in the Windows art programs, but there was only space for 24.

The Venice-based organization, whose earliest supporters included many Palisadians, now has a \$1.5-million budget and 16 staff members, and provides 90,000 art sessions a year in 28 states. In celebration



Palisadian Cathy Salser, left, founder of A Window Between Worlds, with G Hannelius, star of A Dog With A Blog.

Photo courtesy of A Window Between Worlds

of AWBS's anniversary, a grant will match all new and increased donations this year up to \$250,000.

Two years ago, the organization broadened its scope from working with women and children at domestic violence shelters to working with people healing from all types of trauma. This was inspired by one of its leaders, who told AWWB that the art workshops were also very effective in working with combat veterans, allowing space for them to be vulnerable.

The organization is collaborative in that it

partners with agencies such as The Salvation Army Haven, LAUSD, and CLARE Foundation, which in turn serve children, teens or adults who have been affected by trauma. A Window Between Worlds trains leaders from the organizations, who then take their training and hold art workshops for their clients. The workshops help the leaders open up communication with their clients.

"I'm sharing what I know," says Salser, who as a child witnessed verbal abuse between her parents and who now has their support on her own healing journey. The

art workshops help survivors of trauma feel empowered and gain resilience.

"I hope it's a window of safety, for a person to plant a seed of change," says Salser, who lives in the Alphabet neighborhood with her partner Shelly Meyers, an investment manager, and their sons, Sam, 8, and Tucker, 5, who both attend Palisades Elementary.

Salser recalls visiting one of the shelters where she had taught an art workshop two years earlier. When she arrived, she was approached by a woman who said, "Come out to my car, I have to show you something." The art project that she had done in Salser's workshop, symbolizing what she was moving away from and toward, was hanging from the rear-view mirror. She used it as a daily symbol of hope.

Salser believes in art being useful, and is now the lead artist on the Touchstone project—where participants make a small art piece glued to a glass stone that they can carry through their day as a reminder of hope and change.

Attendees at the Art in the Afternoon fundraiser will have a chance to make their own touchstones, so as they help to support others transforming through art, they can also transform themselves. Tickets are \$60 for adults, \$25 for teens and \$10 for kids and can be purchased the day of the event at the Venice Skills Center, 6114 Fifth Ave., or at awbw.org.

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# Palisadians Protest Illegal Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Pacific Palisades resident Jennifer Orme-Erwin has been waging a campaign in the Marquez area to rid the neighborhood of gas-powered leaf blowers.

"We have many kids in the Palisades with allergies and asthma, who would love it if you could print something!" she wrote in an email to the *News*. And she asked all Palisades homeowners to "Please remind your gardener to use a rake or electric blower so we can enjoy walks and take in the fresh ocean air."

Gas-powered leaf blowers are illegal in Los Angeles. The ordinance (LAMC 112.04) went into effect on February 13, 1998: "No gas-powered blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at any time. Both the user of such a blower as well as the individual who contracted for the services of the user if any, shall be subject to the requirements of and penalty provisions for this ordinance."

Santa Monica Canyon resident and activist Joan Graves led the fight for passage of the ordinance, with key help from Jack Allen, Pepper Edmiston, Bob Locker and Diane Wolfberg (who won a Golden Sparkplug Award for developing the Zero Air Pollution website).

The campaign to pass an ordinance was focused on the amount of pollution produced by gas-powered blowers, which sweep particulate matter into the air composed of dust, fecal matter, pesticides, fungi, chemicals, fertilizers, spores and street dirt (which can include lead and carbon). Those with asthma or allergies are particularly susceptible to the air pollution caused by gas blowers. Visit: zapla.org.

The *News* emailed Pacific Palisades Community Council at-large representative George Wolfberg about the difficulty of enforcing the ordinance, given the scarcity of LAPD patrol cars in the Palisades.

He responded that he recently spoke to West Area Captain Tina Nieto about enforcement. "She said to report illegal leaf blowers by calling (877) ASK-LAPD. I did and they came out and confronted the most egregious offender in my neighborhood."

Wolfberg added, "Police will enforce per the ACE (Administrative Citation Enforcement) ordinance." A citation (like a \$100 parking ticket) can be issued to the operator and to whomever employed the person.

The *Washington Post*, in a September 2013 article about gas-powered leaf blow-

ers (which use two-stroke engines), called them an environmental hazard, and explained the technical problem.

The engine lacks an independent lubrication system, so fuel is mixed with oil and about 30 percent of the fuel does not undergo combustion. Air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons escape.

"In leaf blowers, two-stroke engines have been shown to emit contaminants comparable to large automobiles," according to the *Post*. "A 2011 test by the car experts at Edmunds showed that 'a consumer-grade leaf blower emits more pollutants than a 6,200-pound 2011 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor.'"

"The company subjected a truck, a sedan, a four-stroke and a two-stroke leaf blower to automotive emissions tests and found that under normal usage conditions—alternating the blower between high power and idle, for example—the two-stroke engine emitted nearly 299 times the hydrocarbons of the pickup truck and 93 times the hydrocarbons of the sedan. The blower emitted many times as much carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides as well."

—SUE PASCOE

## Free Movie Will Be Screened at Library

The Palisades Branch Library's monthly movie series will feature a real blockbuster, directed by Palisades resident J.J. Abrams, at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 14 in the community room, 861 Alma Real. The movie, free to residents, is rated PG-13 and has a running time of 135 minutes.

Three decades after the defeat of the Galactic Empire, a new threat arises in this *Star Wars* series. The First Order attempts to rule the galaxy and only a ragtag group of heroes can stop them, along with the help of the Resistance. Abrams based one of the characters in the film on his former English teacher Rose Gilbert.

The movie stars Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Oscar Isaac.

## 70th Annual SM Association Meeting Set for May 10

The Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association will hold its 70th annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, at the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center, 601 Latimer Rd. Speakers will include Councilman Mike Bonin and Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness Chair Maryam Zar.

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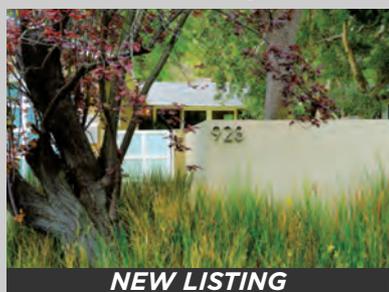
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## Heard About Town

### Dead Trees at Park

Many of the pine trees at the Recreation Center are dead, dead, dead. Likely a result of the drought and bark beetle. I have had three dead trees removed from behind my house and was told that they were a danger as they get brittle and limbs can fall off. Don't know whether that's true or not, but the arborist had no reason to try to frighten me as he had his crew already removing my trees. If true, the trees at the park need to come down ASAP, but I don't think the City of L.A. will share my concern.

### Put Benches in Dog Park

I have a suggestion for the Palisades PRIDE benches and streetlights that may be removed from Swarthmore. Why don't we earmark them for the Palisades dog park when we manage to convince the "powers that be" to create one?! They would be put to good use and appreciated.

### Flowers from Caruso

I heard from a neighbor, who spoke in favor of the Caruso project at the March 24 Planning Department hearing, that she received flowers from Rick with a signed note.

*(Editor's note: There's nothing wrong with thanking people who support you. Another person in the Alphabet Streets wrote the News that "I thought the flowers were a cheesy touch. A lot of people in my neighborhood got them.")*

### Dog Park Hopeful

I've been reading about the people working to get a dog park in Pacific Palisades. To paraphrase Caruso supporters—start bulldozing tomorrow! I can't wait until I can let my dog run off-leash.

### More Restaurants

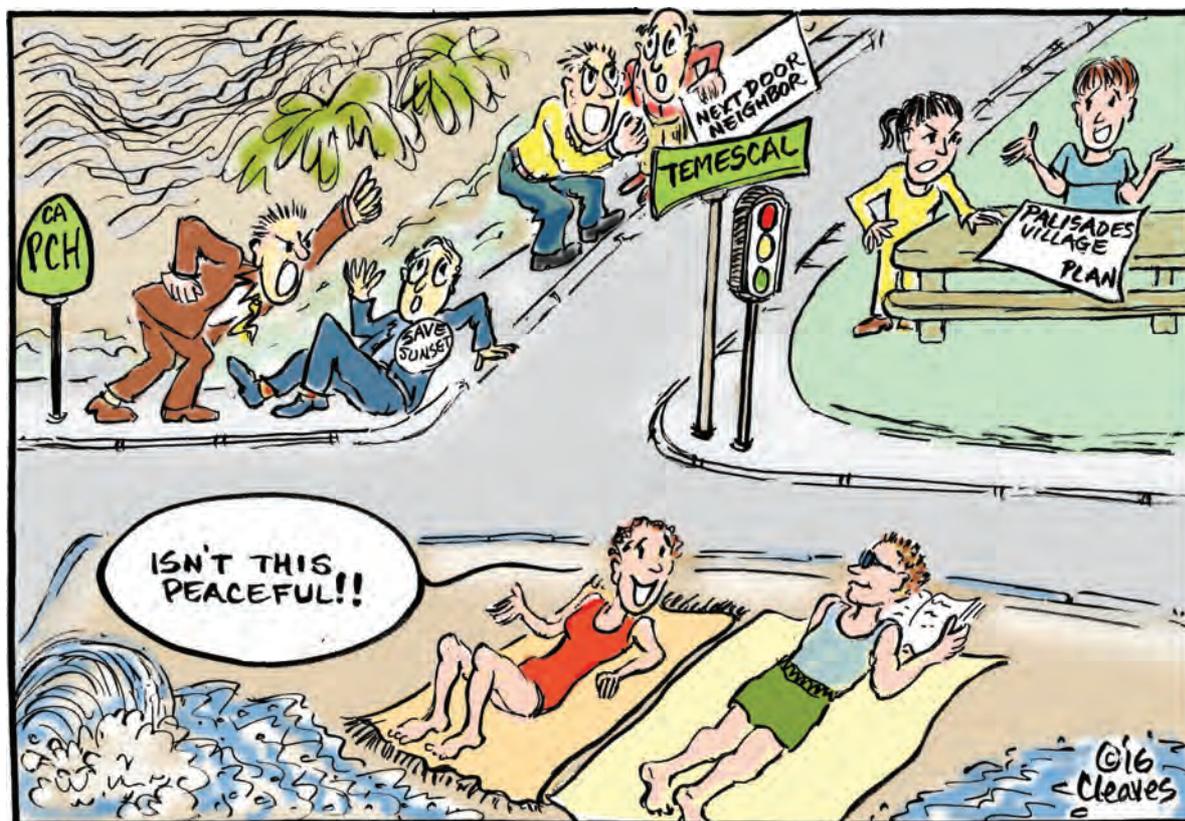
Whoever sent in the long list of restaurants in the Palisades forgot to include Beech Street, which has beer and wine, and Marix in Santa Monica Canyon, which has a full bar and some decent margaritas. They also overlooked Patrick's Roadhouse, which has great breakfasts, but no booze. And of course there is Shore Bar, which has the best drinks in all of Los Angeles, but the lines are too long on a weekend to stop by for just one.

### Nextdoor Palisades

Has anyone else noticed that there seems to be a lot of anger on the Nextdoor Palisades site directed at other people who have different opinions? This is America, right?

*If you'd like to share something you've "heard about town," please email it to [spascoe@palisadesnews.com](mailto:spascoe@palisadesnews.com)*

## ANN CLEAVES



## VIEWPOINT

### Washer Woman Woes

By DEBBIE ALEXANDER  
Staff Writer

When our six-year-old Frigidaire washing machine began leaking water out the bottom, I called Sears, because I had an extended warranty policy with Sears Factory A&E Repair Service. My first repairman swore we didn't need service. "Really?" I asked. "No, frontloading washers like yours sometimes leak," he said, and advised adjusting the soil level settings. "You can continue using it." That night I tossed in some clothes and added detergent, the water filled, and voila—nothing happened, the machine didn't work. I tried pressing start a few more times but with the same results, then popped the wet load into the dryer. I called Sears, again, insisting we definitely needed service ASAP. The soonest appointment was 7 days away, from 8 a.m. to noon. I accepted that lame offer.

Then, I panicked because my family of five generates about 20 loads a week. I immediately recognized that I had a first-world problem. At least I own a washing machine, and am not reliant on beating our laundry in the Ganges River.

My neighbor graciously let me do a few loads over there, and I took clothes to the cleaners, but at \$3 a pound the cost was too high. Then, I discovered Fox Laundry, a laundromat on Montana in Santa Monica. Whatever did not fit into a full load, I turned over to their fluff and fold at \$1.20 a pound.

Meanwhile, my Sears drama got ugly. Seven days later, technician Frank arrived late and diagnosed the problem—the water fill valves were cracked and another adjacent part was needed. He

ordered them and had them sent directly to me, but the soonest he could return was in eight days.

I got into a rhythm of going to the laundromat twice a week. While there, I met others like me whose machines were broken. I got hip to getting rolls of quarters from the bank. The toughest part was loading and unloading the car.

A key washer part did not arrive and I had to reschedule Frank—another two-day wait.

Finally, Frank returned and fixed the machine, but said I also had a plumbing problem—water valves and hoses to the washer were way past their prime.

Art the plumber came, and when he tested the washing machine, water poured out of the bottom.

I immediately called Frank—the earliest he could return was in another six days.

After the plumber fixed the hoses and valves, I tried the washing machine—some water dribbled out, but subsequent loads were okay. However, I kept my third appointment with Frank just in case.

Another technician, Vadim, showed up and I learned that Sears has only two washer and dryer specialists to serve our area. I then investigated Sears Factory Service on the Internet and discovered quite a long rap sheet of poor customer service on extended warranties.

After reading through one horror story after another, I felt lucky that I was without our washer for only 21 days.

Last week, Sears called to sell me another year of warranty for \$400. I politely declined because I still have two years. I hope I don't have to call Frank or Vadim.

*(Debbie Alexander lives in the Palisades Riviera neighborhood.)*

### Thought to Ponder

"Never follow anybody who hasn't asked 'Why?'"  
— Aniekee Tochukwu

## PALISADES NEWS

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## EDITORIAL

# Caruso Responds to Neighborhood Concerns

Ever since November 2014 when he unveiled his initial plans for the Palisades Village project, Rick Caruso has actively sought input from residents from throughout the community, including those who have legitimate concerns about his 3.1-acre development on Swarthmore, Monument and Sunset.

Members of the Protect Our Village group (formed last fall) and other Alphabet Street residents (notably Lou Kamer) have met numerous times with Caruso and other members of the Caruso Affiliated team. Their goal: try to reach common ground on issues that could negatively impact the adjoining neighborhood, such as noise, hours of operation, parking on residential streets, traffic on Sunset and traffic flow around the project.

Last Friday, following the Planning Commission's approval of the Palisades Village project, Protect Our Village announced that "recent discussions with Caruso Affiliated have culminated in a mutually beneficial agreement." POV advisory board members Ted Weitz and Mark Grinblatt said, "The agreement is a great leap forward in enhancing the success of the development."

The signed agreement focuses on about 15 Conditions of Approval. Caruso Affiliated agreed to work with the City to incorporate POV's requested conditions as final conditions of approval, and to incorporate the remaining requirements into a private agreement with POV.

This list of conditions covers a range of issues that affect the local neighborhood, while also providing some benefits for all Palisades residents. Among the conditions:

**Parking.** Caruso's employees, valets, and customers

will park in the underground lot (470 spaces) and be incentivized to do so. There will be free validated parking for patrons for limited amounts of time, including patrons of the farmers' market and users of the community room. The goal is to have people park in the lot rather than on local streets.

**Community Room Space.** The two sides found a way to accommodate meetings of community groups of up to 125 people in a much-needed 1,250-sq.-ft. community room. Use will be free of charge and there will be a reservation system.

**Various Restrictions.** The agreement imposes reasonable hours of operation for retail stores, alcohol service, restaurants, the movie theater, refuse collection, commercial deliveries, and bathrooms (the latter to limit vagrancy). Service and loading restrictions are intended to reduce truck presence and congestion on residential streets as well as reduce early morning and evening noise.

**Resident Complaints.** According to the agreement, complaints or concerns can be sent via email to a liaison group that will work with Caruso Affiliated. (This same neighborly approach worked effectively in 2001 when the Getty Villa reopened after a major expansion and installation of an outdoor performance amphitheater.)

**Neighborhood Traffic Improvement Fund.** The agreement will provide for a monetary pledge from Caruso Affiliated to deal with traffic or roadway improvements to help resolve potential traffic impacts on local streets. One possibility: left-turn signals onto Sunset from Monument and Via de la Paz.

Interestingly at the April 28 hearing in Van Nuys, the Planning Commission asked Caruso to add parking and shuttle service for employees, and said they'd like to see the community room included—some of the same items POV discussed with Caruso.

"It is encouraging to have developed both a professional and warm personal relationship with Rick Caruso and Michael Gazzano," said Grinblatt, a business professor at UCLA. "I hope that relationship continues to evolve so that we work together on ideas that improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. My goal, and I am sure that of everyone at Caruso Affiliated, is to make the Village Project and Pacific Palisades icons that the rest of Los Angeles will envy and emulate."

"We are pleased that POV and Caruso Affiliated have reached an agreement on Palisades Village," said Caruso, a Brentwood resident whose most prominent development is The Grove. "I'm thankful for the relationship we built with POV and we have enjoyed working with its members."

He continued, "A cornerstone of our approach is that we have always worked very closely with communities, listening to what their needs and wants are, and building better projects because of it. This agreement gave POV greater comfort with the plan, while we maintained key aspects of the project that so many in the community had already embraced."

Smart man, Caruso. We applaud his extra effort in working with those who had various concerns. That's a good neighbor.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Expenditure by PRIDE Is Urged

I read with great interest your article concerning the commemorative tiles on Swarthmore, and Palisades PRIDE, the nonprofit that installed them (April 20). I was surprised to hear about the substantial amount of money residing in the coffers of this organization.

In 1998, representatives from PRIDE contacted me. It had come to their attention that I was the person installing the bricks around all the palm trees in town, and they correctly figured that I could help them.

Gravel had been put in the new cutouts around the ficus trees on Sunset after roots were trimmed. The space around the ficus trees had been left unpaved to alleviate the cracking of the sidewalks from the roots of the trees. The gravel had been spreading over the sidewalks and into the streets. I told them that pavers could be set around the trees, after the gravel had been removed. I agreed to perform this work for them.

I installed pavers around every ficus tree on Sunset. Of course, the gravel had to be removed first. I took truckload after truckload of gravel from around the trees, then set the pavers in sand. It was a grueling task that I performed for a very small sum; I believe \$1,500 all told.

At the time, I stressed that the pavers would have to be picked up and the roots trimmed when new root growth disrupted them; then they could simply be replaced. That was 18 years ago, and anyone walking down Sunset today can see that in many cases the pavers have been displaced

by the growth of the roots.

Might I suggest that PRIDE hire someone to perform this work before someone is seriously injured tripping over the pavers?

Gregory Willis

### Paskenta Project Will Be Dangerous

(The following letter was sent to the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Commissioners on March 31.)

I write in opposition to the above-referenced project (the "Project"). Any construction on Paskenta Road would result in a dangerous condition. Paskenta Road is the only means of access/egress for the residents of Marinette Road and Oracle Place. There are 49 homes in our community. Even a temporary blockage of Paskenta Road would not only isolate the residents, but it would put them at an unreasonable risk if emergency services (such as Fire Department, Police Department or ambulance response) were required.

The City of Los Angeles has recognized these risks by prohibiting parking on both sides of Paskenta Road.

The Project seeks to remove "6,045 cubic yards of earth" from the property (see Notice of Public Hearing re: the Project).

In addition to the impaired access caused by the earth removal, there is the further risk of potential landslides with accompanying damage to Paskenta Road itself. There is no assurance that the hillside will be adequately sup-

ported during the earth-removal and grading processes.

Moreover, since the property is located within Tract 9300, no improvement may be constructed without the prior consent of the Pacific Palisades Civic League pursuant to recorded covenants, conditions and restrictions. There is no available evidence that such consent has even been sought.

Peter Scolney

(Editor's note: A Community Alert to Alphabet Streets neighbors noted that the property owner hopes to build a 6,000-sq.-ft. home on a "virtually unbuildable hillside slope." His requested haul route for earth material would require an estimated 850 round trips by 10-wheel dump trucks, traveling one mile from Paskenta, down Chautauqua to Drummond and then over to Sunset. The Alert said that "One of the conditions of approval requires that 'No Parking' signs are posted along the haul route," over a period of months. In addition, "an estimated 100-200 concrete trucks" will be needed "to build a series of retaining walls approximately 150 feet in length and over 50 feet in height above grade, [and] numerous flatbed trucks delivering steel for shoring, grading equipment, cranes and more traveling through the ABC streets." A public hearing before the L.A. Board of Building and Safety Commissioners will be held on May 10 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Michele Adams at adamsjmj@gmail.com.)

Palisades News welcomes all letters, which may be emailed to [letters@palisadesnews.com](mailto:letters@palisadesnews.com). Please include a name, address and telephone number so we may reach you. Letters do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Palisades News.

## VIEWPOINT

# City Must Release Archer-Related Emails

By ZOFIA WRIGHT  
Special to the Palisades News

As opponents of the controversial \$100 million plan to expand the Archer School for Girls campus, we recently won a court order requiring disclosure of 146 emails written by or to city officials, including Councilman Mike Bonin, about the Archer project. This victory was achieved despite City Hall's vigorous efforts to keep the content of these documents hidden from the public.

The City and Archer wrongly withheld these emails in violation of the law. This is a major victory for transparency and good government. Now the public will be able to see what the City and Archer were trying to hide about their internal deliberations concerning the school's expansion project.

The fight over disclosing the emails is one battle in the Sunset Coalition's larger war to overturn the City Council's misguided decision to allow the Archer expansion project to go forward in a flurry of intense lobbying. According to the latest City records, Archer spent \$985,016 to hire the law firm of Latham & Watkins and Sugerman Communications simply to lobby City Hall officials and influence their decisions regarding the expansion project.

Our Sunset Coalition—a partnership of the Brentwood Residents Coalition, the Brentwood Hills Homeowners Assn. and a number of concerned Brentwood community leaders—is suing Archer. Our lawsuit makes the case that Archer's massive expansion project will overwhelm

Brentwood with its illegally large structures, jeopardize the health of its own students with toxic fumes and swamp already-paralyzed Westside streets, including Sunset Boulevard, with thousands of additional vehicle trips.

Our L.A. Superior Court lawsuit alleges the campus expansion project—involving nearly 250,000 square feet of construction and tens of thousands of construction-related truck trips—will “significantly burden not only the nearby residential community, but also the entire west side of Los Angeles.”

The controversial emails we are now about to secure were among thousands of City Hall documents initially delivered to us by the City in November during the regular course of the lawsuit.

During our inspection of these many documents, we found 173 emails whose content was redacted or otherwise obscured without a valid reason. We made a motion demanding the release of those documents.

Superior Court Judge Robert H. O'Brien agreed there was a problem and ruled that 146 of the 173 emails contained information that should be released.

O'Brien noted that “many [of the emails] reflect public commitments, efforts for compromise, evaluation of community interests, balancing interests, and frustration and venting regarding efforts at compromise apparently overseen by the councilman's office . . . Also, many reflect internal on-going negotiations.”

O'Brien observed that some of the email comments were so frank and revealing that it is clear the authors “never meant [them] for general circulation.”

“This ruling could have a major impact on the way the City does business in the future,” according to our attorney Doug Carstens, a partner in the law firm of Chatten-Brown & Carstens. “Public employees, including elected officials, have now been warned that their emails can be made public. After all, these officials work for the public, not the other way around.”

Proposition 59, passed by voters in 2004, unequivocally established the public's right of access to the writings of public officials. Proposition 59 amended the state Constitution to provide: “The people have the right of access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business, and therefore, the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies shall be open to public scrutiny.”

“The public's right to access records of public agencies is enshrined in our state Constitution,” said Carstens. “Despite this, the City sought to keep documents from being disclosed. That attempt has been resoundingly rejected by the Court.”

In the spring of 2015, only weeks before Archer's project was scheduled for a City Council vote, the Brentwood community was blindsided when it learned that Councilman Bonin, individuals who we (mistakenly) considered to be our allies and Archer had agreed to a compromise plan to allow its massive school project to move forward.

That plan, in our view, failed to protect the legitimate interests of Brentwood, and that is why we at the Sunset Coalition are now suing the city.

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# Caruso

(Continued from Page 1)

make this happen. Although we are not yet done with entitlements, and need final City Council approval, this is a big step forward.”

Palisades Village, covering 3.11 acres on Swarthmore, Monument and Sunset, will require demolition of six buildings, the Mobil station and two surface parking lots. New construction will include eight buildings, eight residential units (overlooking Sunset) and a subterranean parking structure for 470 vehicles.

Last Thursday’s four-hour hearing in Van Nuys was conducted in front of Planning Commissioners David Ambroz (president), Renee Drake Wilson, Robert Ahn, Caroline Choe, Richard Katz, Veronica Padilla-Campos and Dana Perlman, plus director Vincent Bertoni.

The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce paid for two luxury buses to transport residents who wanted to speak at the hearing.

First considered was Jack Allen’s 24-page appeal of the City’s Advisory Agency decision regarding Caruso’s application. Allen, a former Beverly Hills city attorney, filed on behalf of the Palisades Preservation Association. He could not attend the hearing and was represented by his lawyer, John Murdoch.

Allen argued that unless the applicant provided free parking to employees and validated parking for customers, they would

park in adjacent streets; that the City document (Mitigated Negative Declaration) did not discuss hours of operation for establishments serving alcohol; that the MND did not address entertainment events that could result in excessive noise; that the MND did not address the impacts of the haul route; that key elements of the Palisades Specific Plan were either ignored or incorrectly interpreted; and that although Caruso’s traffic consultants had studied nearby intersections and said there would be no significant impact, they had not adequately studied traffic circulation and that converting Swarthmore into a one-way street should be denied.

City Planners Michelle Levy and Lekisha Hull then presented their findings, and Caruso spoke on behalf of his project and showed a video.

During the public comment period, a long line of residents endorsed the project and said they wanted Allen’s appeal denied.

One resident, concerned that mall patrons would drive into the adjacent neighborhood looking for parking, asked if sensors could be placed on Swarthmore to let people know via a sign that on-site parking was available. Another resident worried that if employees are required to park in the subterranean lot, there might be little room for customers.

The commissioners then began their deliberations.

They asked about the haul route and were told that it was not part of the planning deliberations; the issue will go before

the Building and Safety Commission.

Two commissioners addressed the architecture and felt that perhaps blending the early mission style and 1950s contemporary that is found in the Village area should be addressed. They were booed by residents in the audience who wanted Cape Cod. The other commissioners did not take a stand on the architecture, with Ahn stating, “I’m hesitant to go into design. Rick Caruso has a good track record.”

The commissioners addressed one speaker’s belief that the 100-plus trees growing on the property are healthy and should be replanted, rather than destroyed. She was told that a City arborist had concluded that the existing trees have lived their useful lives, and will be replaced at about a 2:1 ratio.

The commissioners addressed parking and asked Caruso to have a seasonal parking plan. If stores hire extra workers and there’s no room for parking in the garage, Caruso will shuttle them free to off-site parking.

According to the MND, 60 of the 470 spaces in the structure will go to employee/tenant parking. Caruso said he would enforce it to keep employees off neighboring streets, and he would investigate parking sensors on Swarthmore.

The commissioners liked the green space inside the project, but wanted it more open, so that people could use it as a public park and wouldn’t feel they had to buy something to use the space. To that end, the commissioners requested a low wall (4 ft.) and if there’s a gate, it will remain unlocked.

Commissioner Wilson said she was glad to see that the farmers market would continue on Swarthmore, but wondered why the Community Room was removed.

“Not enough parking,” said Caruso, who offered to reinstate a modest community room if the City will allow parking requirements to be lessened.

President Ambroz commented, “I’m shocked at the lack of opposition for a project this size. Mr. Caruso has done a lot of outreach. I see a united community behind this project.”

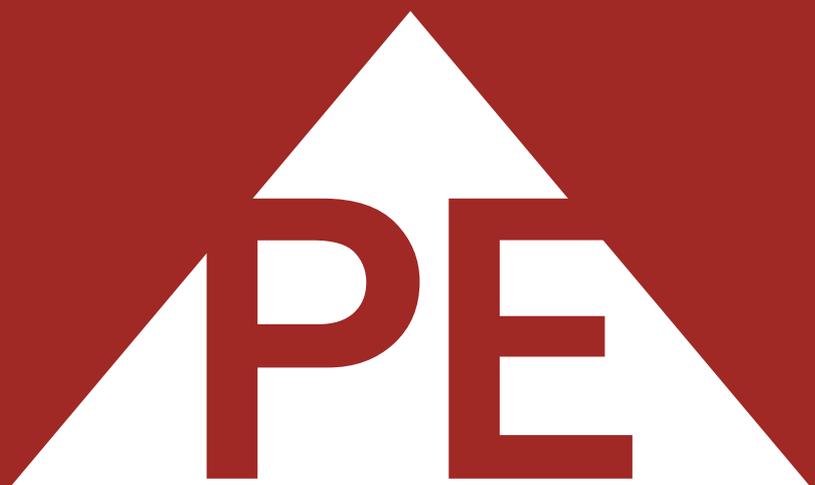
The commissioners asked for the following from Caruso before his project goes before the PLUM Committee:

- 1.) During construction, where possible, the use of solar or electric generators instead of diesel.
- 2.) A minimum number of transportation passes for employees.
- 3.) A Transportation Demand Program in place, which helps reduce vehicle demand and peak-hour trips associated with the project.
- 4.) A lower wall along Monument and permeable paving where allowed by code.
- 5.) EV charging stations to be placed on Swarthmore.
- 6.) A community room.

The commissioners then voted, beginning with Jack Allen’s appeal. His lawyer, Murdoch, said that all the issues had been resolved, with the exception of a one-way Swarthmore.

The Commissioners voted to deny the appeal, and then voted to approve the project.

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## Historic Building Purchased for Renovation

By LAUREL BUSBY  
Staff Writer

The historic Thelma Todd building is getting a facelift. The new owner, Robert Hayman of Hayman Properties, plans to return the property at 17575 Pacific Coast Hwy. to its glory days of the early 1930s, when actress Todd lived and operated her sidewalk café there. He bought it specifically so he would have such an opportunity.

"I've always loved that building, and I've always thought it could be something spectacular and wondered why it was in a state of seeming neglect," said Hayman, a Malibu resident who purchased the three-story, 16,000-sq.-ft building for \$6 million in 2014. The renovation project "is almost more personal than business."

Todd, an actress who died under mysterious circumstances on December 16, 1935, ran a café on the first floor of the edifice. She also lived on the second floor in side-by-side apartments next to her married lover, Roland West, a film director, who ran the nightclub Joya's on the second floor.

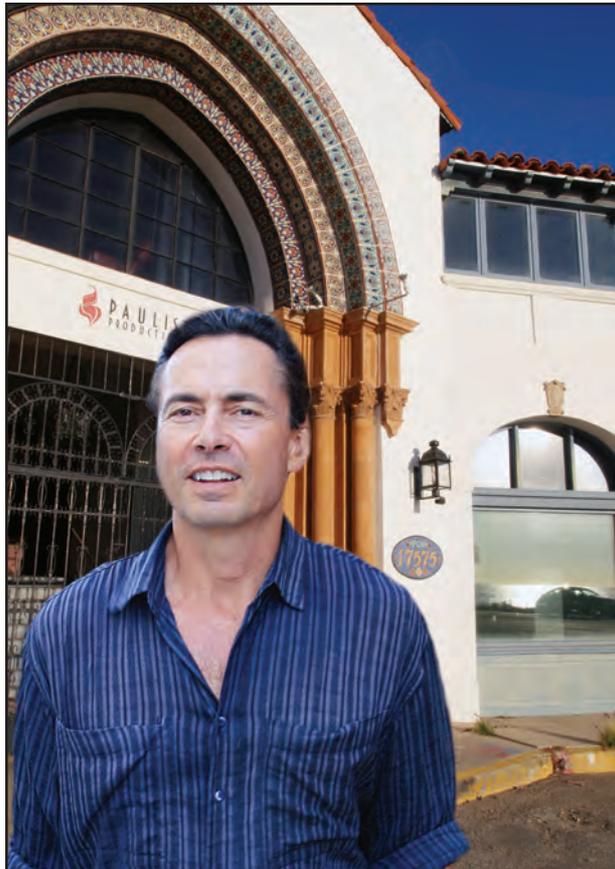
Todd, who starred in dozens of movies, including *Monkey Business* and *Horse Feathers* with the Marx Brothers, was found dead in a garage above the property. Whether Todd was murdered or died of suicide or an accident was never fully determined, although theories abound.

For Hayman, the intrigue of the history, which includes gangster Lucky Luciano, one of the suspects, appealed to him, as did the building's location—across from the beach (just west of Sunset Boulevard)—and the unique Mediterranean architectural style with its Moorish influence.

"That's what made it really become intoxicating," Hayman said. "It's a period piece of the late '20s and the '30s."

Over the next year, Hayman and his team plan to use pictures and research about the building's original look to bring it as much as possible back to those roots. Michael Treiman and several others working on the project, including hands-on manager Lisa Baragosh and Pacific Palisades historian Eric Dugdale, gave a tour for a few dozen people on April 14 to provide a peek at both their plans and the building's history.

For example, the front of the building used to have an open walkway that is now enclosed, Treiman said. The group is working within building code requirements to



Robert Hayman.

provide a bit of that open feel by switching out the windows that are half-sized now with full floor-to-arch windows.

Many fixtures, such as period lights, lightboxes in the front arches and the aesthetics of the grand staircase, will be retained. Other parts of the renovation are more pragmatic. For example, Hayman's team is working to waterproof the structure, because waterproofing was not done when it was originally built. In addition, they plan to install an elevator to make the second floor more accessible and meet ADA requirements.

The floor of Todd's former café is now slanted, so the crew has to pull out the hardwood flooring and repair it. However, they are carefully removing the wood, so that ideally it can be reinstalled after the repairs are finished.

"We just want to put it into its original pristine condition," said Hayman, who noted that his employees

are lobbying him to move Hayman Properties' offices into part of the building once it's renovated. "It's a real labor of love . . . not just for me, but for the whole team."

The building was previously owned by director West until his death in 1952, and then his widow, singer Lola Lane, inherited it. She later deeded it to the Catholic production company Paulist Productions, which sold it to Hayman.

Hayman grew up with an entrepreneurial father, Fred Hayman, who also had a strong sense of beauty and style. The elder Hayman, who died in April, was known as "the godfather of Rodeo Drive" and owned the landmark menswear store Giorgio on Rodeo Drive with its signature perfume. His son still owns the building, which now houses Louis Vuitton.

The younger Hayman grew up in Malibu and Beverly Hills, where his father had previously worked as manager of the Beverly Hilton. The boy spent his summers with his maternal grandfather in Mansfield, Ohio, in a two-story log cabin in the woods. Going from ritzy Beverly Hills to "hillbilly" country every year "was a hell of a juxtaposition."

After graduating from Boston University in 1982, he worked in commercial real estate for a few years before returning home to work with his father at Giorgio.

Hayman later branched out on his own, creating a T-shirt company with Soviet-inspired prints. He intended to sell a few shirts, but the venture took off and the items were soon selling at Macy's, Sax Fifth Avenue, and other stores.

He then started a consulting business that evolved into work with a direct-sales dental company called Discus Dental that had multiple teeth-whitening products like Brite Smile and Zoom. When the company was sold after 17 years to a division of Philips Sonicare in 2010, it was earning almost \$200 million annually.

During most of his time with Discus, Hayman lived in the Palisades, but he and his wife, Denise, and their children Gabriella, 14, and Julian, 11, moved to Malibu four years ago. His attention now has moved mainly to real estate. He owns a medical office property in Huntington Beach, a Burbank office building designed by Roy Disney, and a second Beverly Hills property. However, the Thelma Todd building is his most unique property.

"We're just proud and really honored to be able to have this incredible piece of history and be the caretakers for it," Hayman said.

By MICHAEL EDLEN  
Special to the Palisades News

(Editors note: This is the fifth in a series of articles in answer to requests for more informational help with "downsizing" issues for seniors. The focus here is on considerations about the timing of a move.)

Previous articles in this series have included the concept of "right-sizing," thoughts on preparations for an eventual move, and practical suggestions to begin the process. The question of when to plan the move is equally important.

Considering your lifestyle, both now and in the future, is helpful in deciding when to move. If you entertain frequently, you may need more space than if you rarely have people visit.

## Seniors: Time Your Move

If you plan to continue working or have some particular hobbies or interests, you may need extra rooms or space. These needs might not easily be met in a smaller residence so you may prefer to postpone a move.

Some people look forward to when they will be able to live in a retirement community, where they can participate in many recreational and various group activities. Others prefer to delay a move to any form of group or community living arrangement until they are simply unable to continue living on their own.

There are other practical issues that may determine the ideal timing of a move. For example, are there any events happening in

your near-future that would have a significant impact on your decision? These might include a retirement date, a spouse who is beginning to need special care that a facility might better provide, a grandchild being born and living in another city, etc.

Once the various issues of concern have been explored, it may be possible to set a target date for the move. This will give you a goal to work toward. If you don't set up a time frame, or at least an approximate target, this may result in indecision and procrastination, and you would not be taking appropriate actions to get the process done in a timely and well-planned manner.

The benefit of the approximate goal date

is that you will more likely focus on making progress toward fulfilling that goal a priority. Certainly, things may come up that may lead you to change the date, such as a new job assignment or unexpected news or information about family or friends.

However, having a date will give you a focal point to work toward and with.

Once you have a date in place, you can work backwards to see what actions are required to get to that goal. Having the plan in place and beginning to put the plan into action will lead to a more comfortable and smooth transition.

Michael Edlen has counseled approximately 1,000 seniors for the past 30 years. Call (310) 230-7373 or email michael@michaieldlen.com.



Lee Barron, 7



Cara Huang, 8



Colin O'Donnell, 7



Sienna Nocas, 7

# YMCA/Optimist Track Meet Held

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Photos by Shelby Pascoe

The 44th annual YMCA-Optimist Track Meet was held at the Palisades High School Stadium By The Sea on April 23. More than 150 kids, ages three to 15 years

old, competed in running and field events. Optimist Club members, organized by Rick Dewese, served as timers and starters and ran the field events.

Incredibly determined, the meet allows some of the smallest kids their first taste at organized competition.

More than that, it also emphasizes the importance of exercise and outdoor fun in

an age when more kids spend time in front of iPad, computer and television screens.

The following is a list of those placing first in each category:

### LONG JUMP

#### Girls:

- 5-to-6-year-olds: Mae Durkin 6'11"
- 7-to-8-year-olds: Sammie Skuro 8'6"

- 9-to-10-year-olds: Noelle Tobin 9'4"
- 11-to-12-year-olds: Violet Barron 11'2"
- 13-to-15-year-olds: Georgia Kelsey 13'

#### Boys:

- 7-to-8-year-olds: Sheamus Daniels 9'3"
- 9-to-10-year-olds: Noah Gebo 9'8"
- 11-to-12-year olds: Brady Hall 11'7"

(Continued on Page 13)

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- Escorting to Hospital



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# Track Meet

(Continued from Page 12)

## SHOT PUT

**Girls:**  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Keili Klein 18'5 1/2"  
**NEW RECORD** (Old Record: Courtney O'Brien, 2007, 17'6")  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Kerry Keefe 24'3"  
**Boys:**  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Alex Factor 15'  
 11-to-12-year-olds: James Rockwell 27'2"

## HIGH JUMP

**Girls:**  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Kerry Keefe  
 13-to-15-year-olds: Georgia Kelsey  
**Boys:**  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Cameron Hall  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Levy Shaked

## 25 METER RUN

3-to-4-year old boys and girls: Edward Durkin 8.03  
 5-to-6-year-old girls: Karoline Schmitz 5.03  
 5-to-6-year-old boys: Colin Ridgley 4.90

## 50 METER RUN

**Girls:**  
 3-to-4-year-olds: Katie Dahlberg 11.59  
 5-to-6-year olds: Skyla Burmeister 8.75  
 7-to-8-year olds: Sammie Skuro 8.56  
**Boys:**  
 3-to-4-year-olds: Felix Gibbons 10.96  
 5-to-6-year-olds: Dashiell Karish 9.28  
 7-to-8-year olds: Curran Pendergraft 8.26

## 100 METER RUN

**Girls:**  
 3-to-4-year-olds: Emily Kapur 29.13  
 5-to-6-year olds: Mae Durkin 18.09  
 7-to-8-year olds: Karys Campos 17.0  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Keili Klein 15.31  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Carys McKenzie 14.21  
 13-to-15-year-olds: Georgia Kelsey 14.44  
 3-to-4-year-olds: Felix Gibbons 23.0  
 7-to-8-year olds: (tie) Nikolas Koudis and Curran Pendergraft 16.44  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Owen Huang 15.87  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Oliver Nelson 14.25

## 200 METER RUN

**Girls:**  
 5-to-6-year olds: Mae Durkin 37.8  
**NEW RECORD** (Old Record: Min-Jee Gales, 2015, 39.4)  
 7-to-8-year olds: Kit MacLean 36.44  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Keili Klein 32.13  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Carys McKenzie 31.19  
 13-to-15-year-olds: Georgia Kelsey 32.81  
**Boys:**  
 5-to-6-year olds: (tie) Matteo Koudis and Colin Ridgley 40.15  
 7-to-8-year olds: Blake Sigworth 30.06  
**NEW RECORD** (Old Record: Finn Evans, 2015, 35.38)  
 9-to-10-year-olds: Owen Huang 32.97  
 11-to-12-year-olds: Olive Nelson 29.37  
 (tied record set by David Price in 2012)

## 400 METER RUN

**Girls:**  
 7-to-8-year olds: Kit MacLean 1:27.63



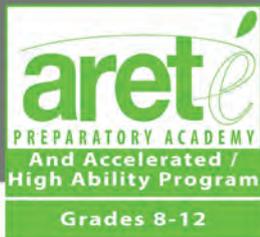
Alex Factor, 9, cleared the bar during the high jump competition.

**NEW RECORD** (Old Record: Fayre McKenzie, 2015, 1:38)  
**Boys:**  
 7-to-8-year olds: Blake Sigworth 1:18.10  
**NEW RECORD** (Old Record: Nikolas Koudis, 2015, 1:32)  
 9-to-10-year-old boys and girls: 1) Finn Evans 1:18.97  
 11-to-12-year-old girls: Carys McKenzie 1:10.44 **NEW RECORD** (Old Record: Elizabeth Rene, 2015, 1:11)  
 11-to-12-year-old boys: Oliver Nelson 1:13.91  
 13-to-15-year-old girls: Georgia Kelsey

## Marquez Annual Food Truck Festival

The Marquez Elementary School will hold its 8th annual Food Truck Festival from 4 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, in the Marquez Elementary lower yard. There will be live music and kids activities.

Put the pots and pans away that evening, try a new food item and know you are helping to support your local public school. Go to Facebook: marquezfoodtruckfestival or email marquezfoodtruckfestival@yahoo.com.



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## Two Athletes Combine Their Talents

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

**D**ynamic, confident, funny and intelligent. Two women attribute those personality traits to the athletic playing field and the lessons learned on it.

Now, two-time Olympic soccer gold medalist Angela Hucles and L.A. Clippers nutritionist Meg Mangano have combined their talents to start a new company, Fueling Dynamic Leaders.

The company is designed as a nutrition, leadership and wellness program for female athletes and presents an online education series that includes videos, workbook guides and a support system that help promote strength and healthy lifestyle practices.

Hucles and Mangano, who lived in the Highlands before moving to Santa Monica, hosted a webinar for high school students in early April: "The Top Five Ways to Prepare for College That Doesn't Involve Study."

Topics included standing out as a student-athlete, resting one's way to success, being a leader, hydrating to decrease risk of injury and how to time fueling around training without getting sick.

"What you put in your body influences how you play," said Mangano, who over the last 10 years has become board certified in sports dietetics. "Our emphasis is on fueling for a sport and the recovery by athletes."

Mangano, who grew up in Saratoga, New York, had played basketball and soccer, but once she picked up a lacrosse stick, "I loved it as soon as I started playing it."

She played lacrosse (midfield and attack) at the University of New Hampshire, while majoring in nutritional sciences. After graduating, she landed a nine-month dietetic internship at San Diego State that enabled her to become accredited.

Mangano emphasizes the importance of proper diet for an athlete.

"Hydration is the most impactful thing you can do. It affects everything in sport and health," she said.

Asked if different sports or differing positions on the field require different meal plans, Mangano explained: "The foundation remains the same—protein and quality carbs. Different individuals' needs vary by genetics, gender, age, activity level and body size and stature."

She noted that genetics means that different people respond to food differently. "For some athletes, they require so many calories that eating becomes a job." In addition, "Every sport has different needs."

Mangano works with individual athletes on a daily nutrition plan, including pre- and post-workout fueling and food for competition day.



Meg Mangano played for the University of New Hampshire.



Angela Hucles was a two-time Olympic gold medalist.

Virginia Beach native Angela Hucles, who is president of the Women's Sports Foundation and served as a television analyst during the 2015 Women's World Cup, said, "I was heavily involved with sports and I learned so many life lessons on the playing field."

But the Olympic gold medalist regrets that she didn't have Mangano's nutritional information when she was training.

Hucles' first sport was swimming. "I was six and my mom wanted me to expend my energy in a positive way. I liked it. Then the next year she put me in soccer, and I instantly loved it."

While only a seventh grader, Hucles was good enough to make the high school girls soccer team. She was also playing on her middle school's basketball team.

Maybe it was the age difference or the contrast in maturity levels, but Hucles told her mom she wanted to quit playing soccer.

Her mom said, "You made a commit-

ment to play on both teams and you will finish out the season."

In eighth grade, Hucles took time off from club soccer. She played basketball in the fall, but by spring was ready to play soccer again. "By playing another sport, I realized how much I missed it."

Hucles said that her parents (Old Dominion University faculty members Janis Sanchez-Hucles, professor of psychology and department chair, and Michael Hucles, associate professor of history), said "no" to a lot of sports tournaments and competitions, but instead made decisions based on what was best for the family.

During high school at Norfolk Academy, Hucles was a Parade and NSCAA All-American soccer selection in 1995, and when she graduated the following year, she was the school's all-time leading scorer with 204 goals and 106 assists.

She went on to play soccer at the Univer-

sity of Virginia, where she is still holds the school record in goals, game-winning goals and total points.

Hucles said that when she graduated with a degree in anthropology in 2000, "I didn't have a dream of professional soccer. It didn't exist for women." She worked for three months as a sales/management trainee, before turning semi-pro with the Hampton Roads Piranhas in the newly formed W-League.

The next year, after being drafted by the Boston Breakers for the newly formed Women's United Soccer Association, Hucles was a starter, but in 2003 the WUSA ceased operation.

Fortunately, her talents had not gone unnoticed, and she played in the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup—and then was a member of the gold-medal U.S. team in the 2004 Olympics.

In 2007, Hucles was once again made the World Cup team as a midfielder, but rode the bench. A year later in the Beijing Olympics, when Abby Wambach was injured, Hucles became the starter. She scored four goals—two against Japan in the semi-finals. She was second in scoring only to Brazil's Cristiane Rozeira.

After the Olympics, Hucles returned to the Women's Professional League, where she started in 19 games, scored two goals and an assist, but she retired in 2009.

Local soccer fans may recall that Hucles served as an assistant coach to Charlie Naimo for the Pali Blues in 2013.

The two women met at a mutual friend's birthday party. "We began discussing ways that we could combine our experiences and expertise and bring a unique offering that would add value to an already busy life of an athlete and coach," Hucles said.

Visit: [fuelingdynamicleaders.com](http://fuelingdynamicleaders.com).



Meg Mangano and Angela Hucles have started a company, Fueling Dynamic Leaders, that emphasizes leadership and nutrition.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

# Wilimovsky Seeks Second Event at Rio Olympics

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Jordan Wilimovsky, who has already qualified for the Rio Summer Olympics in the men's 10,000-meter freestyle, continued his quest to qualify for the 1500-meter swim by winning that event in Mesa, Arizona, last month.

Competing in the Arena Pro Swim, an elite meet that featured Michael Phelps and Katie Ledecky, Wilimovsky not only won the event, but also swam 14:53.12—his lifetime best and the world's fifth fastest time this year.

The current top 1500 swimmer in the U.S. is Jaeger Conner, who has a time of 14:41.20. The United States can enter only two swimmers in this event. The world record (14:31.02), which is 30 lengths of a 50-meter pool, was set in the 2012 London Olympics by Chinese swimmer Sun Yang.

The U.S. Olympic Trials will be held June 26 through July 3 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Wilimovsky, 21, who lives with his family



Jordan Wilimovsky training for the Olympics.

Photo: Mike Lewis

in Sunset Mesa, qualified for the Olympics last July by winning the men's 10K open water race at the FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia. He swam 1:49:48.2, closely followed by the Netherlands' Ferry

Weertman. Sean Ryan, 22, also made the U.S. team by placing fourth in 1:50:03.3. Wilimovsky is only the second American to ever win the 10K world title.

The 5-foot-9, 145-pound swimmer took his senior year off from Northwestern University to train for the 2016 Olympics. "At school, you have to focus on classes and the collegiate season, which is in a short-course pool," he told the *News* earlier. "At home I can just train in a long-course pool, which is how they race internationally, and focus more on swimming."

In March, he was also named as a semi-finalist for the AAU Sullivan Award, which since 1930 which has honored the outstanding amateur athlete in the United States.

Wilimovsky, the sole swimmer, was joined by Derrick Henry (Alabama football), Deshaun Watson (Clemson football), Christian McCaffrey (Stanford football), Keenan Reynolds (Navy football), Ben Simmons (LSU basketball), Nirra Fields (UCLA basketball), Kelsey Minato (Army basketball), Breanna Stewart (University of Connecticut basketball), Mikaela Foecke (Nebraska volleyball), Ashleigh Johnson (USA Water Polo), Jordan Burroughs (USA Wrestling), Adeline Gray (USA Wrestling), Jamie Greubel Poser (USA Bobsled), Andrew Benintendi (Arkansas baseball), Brittany Bowe (USA Speed Skating) and Simone Biles (USA Gymnastics).

"The AAU James E. Sullivan Award is unique in that it allows us to recognize the most elite amateur athletes across every sport imaginable," said Melissa Willis, the AAU Sullivan Award National Chair.

The award went to Reynolds and Stewart at the New York Athletic Club on April 10.

Wilimovsky, who lives with his parents, Rolf and Wendy, and younger brother Alec, started his swimming career at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA pool (since abandoned) in Temescal Canyon. He now trains with Team Santa Monica.



Photo by Bart Bartholomew

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# Rivera Ends College Career

Jacob Rivera, a forward on the Potsdam College/University ice hockey team in New York, ended his college career with nine goals and eight assists in 68 career games.

The 6-1, 195-pound senior from Pacific Palisades helped the Bears finish 11-11-4 this season.

"Jake is a terrific kid," said Coach Chris Bernard. "His senior season was an exceptional end to a very productive career. He sincerely dedicated himself to bettering our program and our campus through hard work and involvement. He has been a great teammate and fun player to coach."

Rivera started skating in 1996, at age five, after going with his father to a Kings game at the Great Western Forum. They had been invited by NHL star Kirk Muller, who played on the 1984 Canadian Olympic team and then 19 seasons as a pro. After passing through the visiting team's locker room after the game, Jake told his father: "This is what I want to do."

Jake kept pestering his father for two weeks until Rick found the Iceoplex in Simi Valley (where the Kings then practiced) and signed Jake up for a youth program. On days when Jake wasn't practicing, he begged his parents to take him to the rink for open ice "stick time."

In an earlier interview with the *News*,



Jacob Rivera played for the Potsdam Bears.

Photo: Jason Hunter

Rivera said that after college he'd like to try out for a pro team. If that option doesn't present itself on the rink, he'll pursue a career in business administration.

Rivera was honored by President Dr. Kristin G. Esterberg for earning top marks at Potsdam, which is located on the out-

skirts of Adirondack Park. He was also named to the SUNY Potsdam dean's fall list.

Rivera has two younger brothers who also play hockey. Luke skates for the Freedomia Blue Devils and Nick, a left-winger, was the captain for the Omaha Lancers this past season.

## PaliHi's Johnson Wins State Coaching Award

Torino Johnson, the girls basketball coach at Palisades High, was named State Division I Coach of the Year by *Cal-Hi Sports* in April. He was also named as City Section Coach of the year.

In March, Johnson's team advanced to the opening round of the State Division I playoffs against Chaminade, which was ranked second nationally and first in California. Although the Dolphins (ranked 388 nationally and 51 in the state) lost 79-67, they put up one of the better fights in the tournament. Chaminade went on to defeat Miramonte in the finals.

One reason PaliHi was competitive is that Torino scheduled nonleague games with tougher opponents, giving his girls an opportunity to test themselves. In an earlier interview with the *Palisades News*, Johnson said, "I never schedule bad teams—there are no cream-puff games."

Johnson came to PaliHi in 2007 and the girls program has soared under his leadership, with four L.A. City Section titles in six years, and most recently capturing the section's first two Open Division titles. (The City created an open division for girls basketball in 2014-15 in order for the best teams to play more competitive playoff games.)

(Continued on Page 17)

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Torino Johnson Photo: Bart Bartholomew

# Johnson

(Continued from Page 16)

A graduate of Manual Arts and USC (2005), Johnson doesn't back down against challenges and expects the same from his athletes. He was recognized for his talents last year when he was one of four coaches selected to assist in the 2015 USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team Trials at Colorado Springs.

Johnson, who works as a special aide at PaliHi, emphasizes discipline and fun with his program and works with his players year round.

During the season, varsity players practice Monday through Saturday. He also insists that his girls keep their grades high.

"The kids are dedicated student-athletes who sacrifice weekends," Johnson said. "I remain inspired to mentor young adults—not only to teach them basketball skills, but also help them understand the ways in which basketball can help them become productive adults."

# Hacker: Colgate Standout Swimmer

Andrew Hacker, a senior at Colgate University, earned the dean's award for academic excellence for the fall 2015 semester. A graduate of Palisades High School, he is also a member of the Colgate swim team.

"Andrew is a competitor in the truest sense of the word. I have never coached anyone more determined to win a race than him," said head swim coach Andy Waeger. "He is a genuine young man who has a very bright future ahead of him."

In 2013, Hacker set a new freshman 1000 freestyle record (9:39.26) at Colgate. In his junior year, he set the program mark in the 200 free at the Patriot League Championships (1:39.82) and was named the team's most valuable performer.

As a junior, the 6'4" athlete posted top ten times in the 50 free (20.67) and the 100 free (46.10) during league championships. He was a member of the 200 free relay that turned in the third best time in school history (1:23.02). Hacker was also part of 400 medley relay that recorded second best time in program history (3:23.70) at Patriot League Championships.

That same year Hacker was also awarded the Ted Gregory Award, which was presented to the male or female exemplifying a long-standing commitment towards the swimming and diving programs and has



Andrew Hacker set new records at Colgate.

Photo courtesy of Colgate Swimming

also developed an understanding of his/her role on the team and has gone above and beyond in fulfilling that role in an effort to improve the program.

As he finished his fourth year of collegiate swimming, Hacker left his mark as the new school record holder in the 200 freestyle (1:39.82), as a member of the 800-freestyle relay (6:44.97) and the 400-medley relay (3:05.64).

Hacker has the school's second fastest time in the 50 free (20.40) and third fastest

in the 100 free (45.62). He also has the fifth fastest time in the 1000 and 1650 free.

Hacker was a member of the third fastest 200-free relay (1:22.73), the 400-free relay (3:05.64) and the schools fifth fastest 200-medley relay (1:33.18).

"He is a great teammate and leader and we are going to miss him a lot next year," said Waeger, who has coached Hacker the past two years.

Hacker, an environmental science major, is the son of Teri and Tom Hacker.

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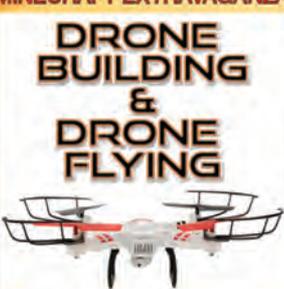


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# Residents Claim Pets Are Service Dogs

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Many Palisades residents have seen a dog trotting after an owner in Gelson's and Ralphs grocery stores wearing a vest labeled "Service Dog." Many of the owners do not appear to have a hearing, sight or other disability.

The News asked one woman about her disability and she replied, "My dog provides emotional support."

California Health and Safety Code, Section 114259.5 prohibits live animals in a food facility, which includes restaurants, grocery stores, and other places that sell food, such as the Pacific Palisades CVS—except for "service animals."

Is a dog that provides emotional support a service animal? No, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which defines a service animal as "[A] dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability.

"The work or task a dog has been trained to provide must be directly related to the person's disability, such as: 1.) assisting sight-impaired persons; 2.) alerting hearing-impaired persons to the presence of people or sounds; 3.) providing nonviolent protection or rescue work; 4.) pulling a wheelchair; 5.) assisting an individual during a seizure; 6.) alerting an individual to the presence of allergens; 7.) retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone; 8.) providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility impairments; and 9.) helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors."

To determine if it is a service dog, the U.S. Department of Justice permits businesses to ask two questions: Is this service dog required because of disability and what is it trained to do to mitigate the disability?

Neither a certification nor vest is needed for a legitimate service dog, but a quick search on the Internet provides an opportunity to register your common household pet as a service dog.

For \$139, one site offered the gold service,



Can you tell if this animal is a service dog, emotional support dog or pet? The animal is a pet.

which includes lifetime registration in the largest Service and Emotional Support Animal registry in the United States, two identification cards and a digital copy, an aluminum identification tag, a red vest, printed and electronic certificate and free shipping.

For \$40 less, the silver service provides one ID card and digital copy, one ID tag, a red identification vest and a printed and electronic certificate.

Yet another site charges \$36.99 for a service dog vest and two patches. Among the variety of patches to choose from were: Service

Dog, Access Required; Service Dog in Training; Working Dog, Do Not Pet; Emotional Support Dog and Psychiatric Service Dog.

Different from a service animal, an emotional support animal may go on some airline flights and may be allowed in some housing situations that restrict pets. But beyond that, this animal has no special access to public places, such as grocery stores, movie theaters or restaurants.

To get the emotional support designation, a doctor or therapist must write a letter saying the owner needs the animal and gen-

erally cites a diagnosis from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Or, for \$125 on another Internet site, "It [sic] easy as 1-2-3" to find out if your pet qualifies as an emotional support animal, by: "1. Completing the purchase online and receiving an email with a link to the online diagnosis questionnaire; 2. Submit the form; 3. A registered therapist will contact you for a phone interview; and 4. At the end of the interview, the therapist will make a diagnosis and 'if they estimate that you suffer from an ailment which would benefit from the presence of an Emotional Support Animal, they will produce the ESA letter.'"

The site warns that the ESA letter is valid for 12 months. "Please note that airlines and landlords will require a letter that is less than 12 month [sic] old."

Be wary if you try to pass off your pet as a service dog because it is against in the law in California.

Penal Code section 365.7 states: "(a) Any person who knowingly and fraudulently represents himself or herself, through verbal or written notice, to be the owner or trainer of any canine licensed as, to be qualified as, or identified as, a guide, signal, or service dog, as defined in subdivisions (d), (e), and (f) of Section 365.5 and paragraph (6) of subdivision (b) of Section 54.1 of the Civil Code, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that fine and imprisonment."

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Chuck Larsen

## Evening Presentation of 'Food for Thought'

Palisades Presbyterian Church offers its second evening Food for Thought event at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 10. Featured speaker is television photographer Chuck Larsen.

Larsen will speak about "More Famous People Who've Known Me," telling anecdotes about David Letterman. He has traveled and photographed the seven continents. Visit: [chucklarsenphotography.com](http://chucklarsenphotography.com).

Call (310) 454-0366 or email Sylvia Boyd at [syljonboyd@gmail.com](mailto:syljonboyd@gmail.com) to make reservations. Admission is free. Coffee and dessert will be served.

# Westside Ballet to Hold Showcase

Westside Ballet will hold its annual Spring Showcase at 1 and 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 8 at the Broad Stage at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center. Complimentary champagne sponsored by the Huntley Hotel will be offered to ticketholders.

The program will feature excerpts from three classics: *Napoli*, *Giselle* and *Swan Lake*; Balanchine's *Harlequinade Pas de Deux* and the jazz sensation, *Sweet Charity*.

Performing the Odette (white swan) solo will be Westside Ballet dancer Shelby

Tzung, who was just awarded the prestigious 2016 Spotlight Awards Grand Prize in Classical Ballet.

A Palisades High freshman, Tzung trains at the Westside School of Ballet and spends her summers as a scholarship student at both the School of American Ballet and, this year, the Pacific Northwest Ballet School.

In addition to Odette, the Pacific Palisades resident is also featured in *Napoli* and will dance another of her Spotlight Award-winning solos from Frederic Ashton's famous ballet, *La Fille Mal Gardée (The Wayward Daughter)*.

The school's artistic director, Martine Harley, said: "Our Spring Showcase is an opportunity for our gifted young dancers to perform in a wide variety of classical ballets and contemporary works, which is a critical part of their ballet training."

The program opens with a revival of *Napoli*, staged by Nilas Martins, A former Principal dancer with the New York City Ballet. His wife, Monique Meunier, is an alumna of Westside Ballet and a former New York City Ballet dancer.

This will be followed by peasant dances from Act I of *Giselle*, followed by excerpts from *Swan Lake*, including the iconic four cygnets, the Dance of the Two Swans, the Act III Spanish Dance and the Black Swan solo. The first part of the program will close with Balanchine's *Harlequinade*.



Shelby Tzung partnered by Seth Belliston.

Photo: Todd Lechtick

Following the intermission, Westside Ballet premieres an original work by resident choreographer and teacher, Sophie Monat, set to music by John Adams.

Westside Ballet's youngest dancers take the stage in Associate Artistic Director Caprice Walker's ballet *Mozartiana*, with music by Mozart. The program will conclude with the Bob Fosse jazz piece, *Sweet Charity*.

Visit: [westsideballet.com](http://westsideballet.com).

## Hold 'Em Poker Event May 21

The third annual Rotary Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament will be held from 5 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, in Janes Hall at the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church. Proceeds will benefit the Palisades-Malibu YMCA and the Rotary Club of Pacific Palisades Foundation.

The prize pool will be more than \$5,000. The initial buy-in is \$200 (includes dinner and two drinks) and the maximum number of players is 100. Only a few seats remain.

Contact Pete Crosby at (310) 454-6387 or [pcrosby@cgrmc.com](mailto:pcrosby@cgrmc.com); or Perry Akins at (310) 459-8551 or [perry@perryakins.com](mailto:perry@perryakins.com).



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## *Love Thy Nature* Is a Celebration

By LAUREL BUSBY  
Staff Writer

Photos by Eriberto Almeida, Jr.

Sylvie Rokab wanted to watch a movie about humanity's deep relationship with nature, but she couldn't find anything like the documentary she imagined seeing.

"There are lots of nature films and hardcore environmental films about nature," said Rokab, a documentarian who has worked on projects for the Discovery Channel, PBS and the Travel Channel. "I wanted to watch a film celebrating us and our connection to the natural world. I thought, 'Nobody's making that film, so how about if I end up making it?'"

The result of her decade-long dream is *Love Thy Nature*, which opens in Los Angeles on Friday, May 6, at Laemmle Monica Film Center (1332 Second St., Santa Monica). The movie, which began opening across the country in April in coordination with Earth Day, is a visually stunning and gently moving piece that reminds viewers how necessary a connection to nature is both for our species as a whole and each individual person.



Jorge Correa da Silva holds some earth in Vassouras, Brazil.

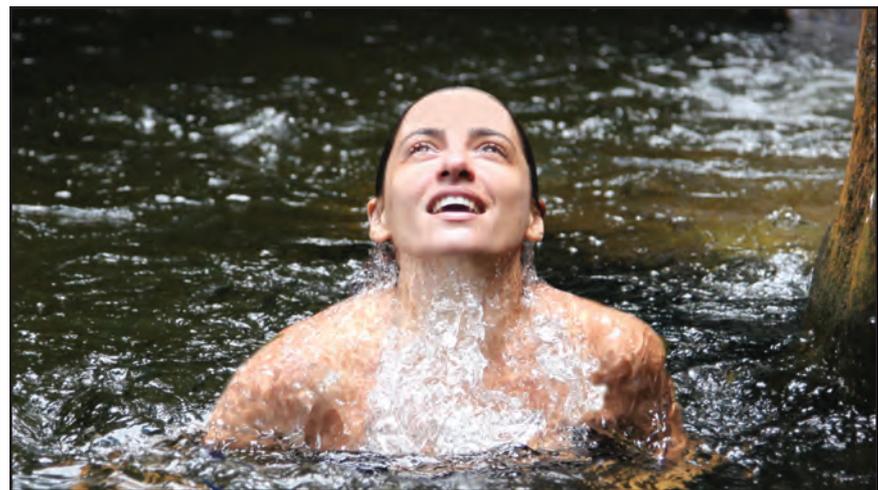
*Love Thy Nature*, narrated by actor Liam Neeson, plays all week at the Laemmle, and many of the showings involve special events, such as Mother's Day on Sunday and Friday's 7:20 p.m. premiere showing, which will be followed by a Rokab-moderated discussion with environmentalists Andy Lipkis of TreePeople and Atossa Soltani, the founder of Amazon Watch. (Visit: [lovethynature.com](http://lovethynature.com) for more information.)

"I'm really wanting to bring the community together," said Rokab, a Highlands resident. "The big buzzword of the film is 'connection'—connection with nature and connection with each other. Instead of having people watching at home on television, come out and enjoy the conversation."

Rokab is hoping that the movie stimulates people to reconnect with nature, and she has already heard back from some viewers that the movie has had just that effect. An attorney friend who attended a focus group showing one evening told her he felt compelled afterwards to visit the beach on his way home, so he drove to Malibu around 10 p.m. to simply connect with the ocean.

After a showing in Rokab's hometown of Rio de Janeiro, a woman came to her in tears with her lips trembling. The viewer told Rokab that she had given up pursuing a biology degree because she had "lost hope for nature." The movie had reawakened her passion and her desire to connect to nature. She planned to rethink her career.

"It cracks people's hearts and minds open," Rokab said. "It touches people in terms of possibility and potential. We celebrate the human species, instead of



Danielli Amorim emerges from the water in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

putting the species down. We show the incredible potential we have to change the world—both of our societies and our personal life. We cannot disconnect. We die inside, personally, spiritually and emotionally without nature. With it, we come alive."

For Rokab, making *Love Thy Nature* has been a long journey of persistence and inspiration. Ten years ago, when she decided to make the movie, she immediately began writing the proposal. She also chose to move to Los Angeles, because while she had a successful career in Miami working on documentaries, she felt that Los Angeles would be the best place to bring *Love Thy Nature* to life.

When talking to her L.A. realtor about where she wanted to live, she specified that she needed someplace with "pockets of nature." From a previous trip to L.A., she remembered a community near the ocean with mountains, and she asked the realtor to help her find it. It turned out to be Pacific Palisades.

When the realtor took her up Palisades Drive, Rokab began snapping photos. "I was shutter-happy," Rokab said. "I could tell she was going to take me to a beautiful place." She first rented and later purchased a townhouse with hiking trails nearby and a creek where every day



Sylvie Rokab meets an ostrich at Harnas Wildlife Foundation in Namibia.

she can “listen to the symphony of frogs. Coming to the Palisades was a no-brainer. Paradise in L.A. is right here in the Palisades.”

However, making *Love Thy Nature* was not so easy. She worked to get funding through the economy’s ups and downs, including the 2008 recession a year after she arrived in Los Angeles. At one point, she had reached a creative and financial standstill. During this period, she had a dream wherein her former sister-in-law, Danielli Amarin, a yoga teacher, was swimming in a natural pool. When Rokab woke up, she found an emailed invitation from Amarin to a yoga retreat at a spot with a natural pool.

Rokab flew home to Brazil to join the

retreat, where she also shot pieces of the movie. A scene with Amarin swimming and emerging from the pool became the poster image for the film.

“How’s that for synchronicity?” Rokab said. After this experience, “things started falling together. People began expressing an interest in working with me.” Over the following years, numerous people provided their expertise “for very little money, believing in the importance of the message,” she added. “It took a village to make this film.”

Technology is also a prominent feature of the 76-minute film. Rokab chose to create an immersive movie with high-end visuals and surround sound. In addition, some



Banded Mongoose at Harnas Wildlife Foundation, Namibia.

portions of the movie focus on biomimicry, a type of science that looks to nature for inspiration. For example, nanostructures in nature are inspiring new technology, and nature’s colors are providing ideas for creating colors used in cosmetics, paints and dyes without pigments or toxic ingredients.

The combination of nature and technology is a comfortable one for Rokab. She grew up with nature-loving parents, but also enjoyed photography and the technology involved in it. Each weekend, the family would visit the beach or go hiking, and this childhood shaped her view of the world.

“I loved to play with electronic gadgets, but we were also nature lovers,” said Rokab, who graduated from Barry University in Miami in 1996. “We don’t have to give up our connection to nature to be high tech.”

Rokab added that some viewers of the movie have asked her what they can do to connect with nature when they live in an area where parks and greenery are lacking. “A lot of time it can be as simple as opening a window in the morning, looking at the sky and seeing clouds passing by, or watching a sunset,” Rokab said. “Or take a week or two every year to connect with nature. Find a place that’s going to take your breath away—that’s what ultimately connects us with the world and with each other. It makes us healthier and happier people.”

She noted that some environmentalists have asked her whether connecting people to nature and stimulating their love for it can create activism on nature’s behalf.

“I say absolutely. We protect what we love.”

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# Comras Authors Book on Landscape Artist

By LIBBY MOTIKA  
Palisades News Contributor

While the name Ruth Shellhorn (1909-2006) may not register with many people, the footprint she left on the Southern California landscape brings her reputation into focus.

Shellhorn's art is ephemeral by its very nature—plants grow old and die, but what remains are design concepts and her appreciation of the whole landscape from small alcove to master plan as seen both in her concepts for Bullock's department stores to her core landscape designs for Disneyland.

Palisadian Kelly Comras, a landscape architect herself, will survey Shellhorn's career and her extraordinary achievements by presenting a short documentary and lecture based on her book, *Ruth Shellhorn* (University of Georgia Press) for Pacific Palisades Historical Society members and guests on Monday, May 23, 7 to 9 p.m. at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

After studying landscape architecture at Cornell University, Shellhorn embarked on her career in the summer of 1933 facing bleak employment prospects. With little hope of joining an established firm, Shellhorn instead sought out practitioners, expanding her contacts and slowly building a small residential practice. She eventually ran the practice with her husband Harry

Kueser, whom she married in 1940.

Ironically, Shellhorn landed her first large-scale project during the lean years of World War II. In 1943, she began a design for a shoreline development study for the 11-mile stretch of coast between Playa del Rey and Palos Verdes.

The study became a blueprint for later management of the coast, defining restrictions on oil drilling, sewage treatment and public funding for park acquisition, Comras says. "It lay the foundation for the California Coastal Act of 1976."

The plan also spelled a turning point in Shellhorn's career. In 1945, she was hired to design a site plan for Bullock's Pasadena, the first suburban store in the region and one of the first to accommodate the automobile.

In designing the Bullock's campus, Shellhorn emphasized the pleasure of the whole experience. Not only did she create a pleasing environment for shopping, but she also provided settings where shoppers (and their patient husbands) could sit and relax.

"Shellhorn's Bullock's Pasadena set the standard for the shopping mall of future generations," Comras says. "In the process, her Bullock's designs became icons of the Southern California landscape."

Bullock's Pasadena also brought Shellhorn and Welton Becket together in the first of many collaborations. The architect, who was already well known in Los Ange-



Kelly Comras, ASLA, principal landscape architect of KCLA in Pacific Palisades, serves on the Pacific Palisades Design Review Board. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

les, first met her in 1945 and immediately shared the idea of "total design," which assigned one firm to manage an entire project, from design and engineering to interiors and landscape.

Their collaboration on projects increased as the architect relied on Shellhorn unre-

servedly, to the point that in 1955 Becket recommended her to his friend Walt Disney, who just four months before Disneyland was to open was struggling to unify the different sections of the park. How do you link tropical Adventureland to dusty, dry Fron- (Continued on Page 23)



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# Comras

(Continued from Page 22)

tierland and into the future in Tomorrowland, while making Fantasyland fairy-like? That was just one of Shellhorn's challenges. She also designed a circulation path through the park, plus the landscaping for the Town Square, Plaza Hub and Main Street.

Comras first became aware of Ruth Shellhorn while a graduate student in landscape architecture at Cal Poly Pomona. Assigned to profile a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, she picked Shellhorn, because she was the sole woman member.

Thirty years later in 2004, Comras decided to revisit Shellhorn as a subject for an online writing course.

Worried that Shellhorn's legacy was in danger of being tossed, Comras worked with Shellhorn to place her archive at UCLA, whose open-door policy makes her material easily accessible to the public.

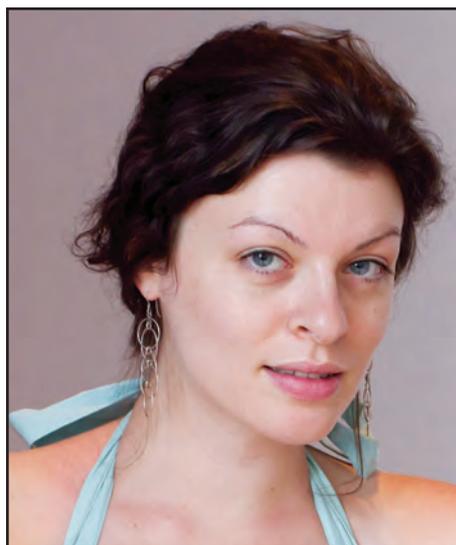
The lecture is free to the public with a reception to follow.

## Library Book Sale Saturday, May 7

The Friends of the Palisades Library will hold a gently-used book sale from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, in the parking lot of the library, 861 Alma Real. Credit cards, cash and checks will be accepted for payment.

Because of generous donations from community members, there is an excellent collection of well-priced, nearly new books, DVDs and CDs. Sales depend on the continuing support of volunteers, and the library benefits from the time and energy they provide.

In case of inclement weather, the book sale will be postponed until the following Saturday.



Composer Julia Adolphe



Librettist Nahal Navidar

# Chamber Music Palisades Season Finale Is May 10

The world premiere of "Moonlight Trio," an excerpt from a new opera, *So Donia Speaks*, by award-winning composer Julia Adolphe and librettist Nahal Navidar will be the centerpiece of the season finale program for Chamber Music Palisades.

The concert will begin at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, at St. Matthew's Church. Admission is \$30 at the door.

The program will open with the Sonata in D Major for flute and piano by Johann Nepomuk Hummel, followed by the excerpt from *So Donia Speaks*, and will close with the classic *Trio in B Major* by Johannes Brahms.

Guest artists joining CMP Co-Artistic Directors flutist Susan Greenberg and pianist Delores Stevens will be violinist Ida Levin, cellists Timothy Loo and David Garrett, soprano Sousan Jarjour and mezzo-sopranos Victoria Fox and Jessica Mirshak.

This season, a woman composer has been featured at each concert. The commissioning of Julia Adolphe's "operatic" trio completes a series that included works by Lili Boulanger, Louise Farranc and Amy Beach.

Adolphe won the 2016 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award and the 2015 Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The New York Philharmonic premiered her orchestral work *Dark Sand*, *Sifting Light* and has commissioned her to write a viola concerto for the Philharmonic's principal viola Cynthia Phelps.

In a tradition that continued for every CMP concert since its 1997 inception, the KUSC on-air celebrity Alan Chapman will provide entertaining and educational introductions to each work.

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# Spolin Players Perform St. Matthew's Concert At the Pierson May 15 To Feature Premieres

If you need a good laugh, or many laughs and maybe even a few belly laughs, come watch the Spolin Players perform from 4 to 5:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 15, at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

The performance is a fundraiser for the Palisades Democratic Club with the \$35 admission fee going to staff the 2016 election headquarters.

There will be a wine reception from 3 to 4 p.m. prior to the show.

The improvisational troupe, with Palisadian Gail Matthius, plays the theater games of Viola Spolin, "the High Priestess of Improv," who created the techniques used by

the cast of Chicago's Second City in the early 1960s, as well as every other improvisational comedy troupe since.

The Players were among the last group to study with Spolin, who died in 1994 at the age of 88. Matthius is a former *Saturday Night Live* cast member.

The completely improvised show is based solely on audience suggestions. Every show is completely different and original. No sets, no props, no costumes, yet you "see and hear" all three. Audience members are asked to bring their imagination and suggestions.

Visit: [palidems.org](http://palidems.org) or [facebook.com/PaliDems](https://www.facebook.com/PaliDems) or call (310) 230-2084 or email: [info@palisadesdemclub.org](mailto:info@palisadesdemclub.org).

Music for the Great Outdoors" is the theme of the St. Matthew's Music Guild concert at 8 p.m. this Friday, May 6, at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienvenida Ave.

On the program is Brahms's *Serenade No. 1 in D major* for small orchestra and Elgar's youthful *String Serenade in C*.

The concert will also feature two world premieres: John O'Reilly's *Chautauqua West* and Matthew Brown's *Afterimage*, commissioned by the Music Guild with support from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Palisadian John O'Reilly is one of America's most published composers. He grew up in upstate New York, where he attended the

Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam.

O'Reilly and his wife Judy have been interested in Chautauqua, an adult education movement that was prominent in the U.S. during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. *Chautauqua West* is a three-movement work scored for 15 winds and two percussionists. It traces the Chautauqua movement from its New York roots to its 1922 western expansion that ended in Pacific Palisades.

Matthew Brown was born in Southern California and studied at USC with Donald Crockett, Morten Lauridsen and Randy Newman. He received the Salter Endowed Music Award in 2003. His music has been performed by the LA Master Chorale, LA Chamber Singers, Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and Antioch Chamber Ensemble.

*Afterimage* was commissioned by the Music Guild in 2015 and is the latest in a series of works that explore the intersection between Western classical music and non-Western musical styles.

Admission at the door is \$35. Visit: [MusicGuildOnline.org](http://MusicGuildOnline.org) or call (310) 573-7421.

## Scooter-a-Thon Will Help Fund Research

A Scooter-a-Thon will be held on Saturday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at Palisades High School to raise money to fund research for Batten Disease. There will be face painting, a DJ, activity booths and In-N-Out Truck and the opportunity to scoot around the PaliHi track. Register: [curebatten.org/scooter](http://curebatten.org/scooter).

Palisadians Charlotte, 5, and Gwennyth Gray, 3, were diagnosed with Late Infantile-

NCL Batten Disease CLN6. Parents Gordon and Kristen Gray were told the rare disease progressively leaves a child blind, immobile and cognitively impaired; it eventually leads to death, usually between the ages of 6 and 12.

The family is trying to raise between \$10 million and \$12 million to push research forward to find a possible treatment. Charlotte is already experiencing some symp-

toms of this devastating disease.

If you would like to help the Grays and other families threatened by this rare genetically inherited disorder, make checks payable to The Charlotte & Gwennyth Gray Foundation, c/o The Giving Back Fund, 6033 W. Century Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Visit: [curebatten.org](http://curebatten.org) or [curebatten@givingback.org](mailto:curebatten@givingback.org) or [vimeo.com/129076730](https://www.vimeo.com/129076730).

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# PaliHi Seniors Honored for 'A Call Away'

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

If you have a child in the hospital, you might feel overwhelmed, not only with worry about your child and his/her illness, but trying to keep the household running.

Three Palisades High seniors—Amber Perry and Olivia and Zoe Stutman—started A Call Away, a community service effort to help those parents with grocery shopping, meal delivery, organizing paperwork, pet care, laundry, childcare and homework help, and raising money for parking fees.

In recognition of their outstanding philanthropic efforts, they were honored by the YMCA of Greater Metropolitan Los Angeles. They were chosen from 1,177 participants to attend the Youth & Government Excellence in Leadership Award Banquet in March.

After attending New West Charter Middle School, Amber, Olivia and Zoe stepped onto the PaliHi campus in 2012. As freshmen, they joined the YMCA Youth and Government program, which helps to develop positive character traits, emphasizes community involvement and teaches students the democratic process through hands-on participation in a model legislation and court program.

While involved with the program, the three girls sought ways they could reach out



(Left to right) Helen Levin (YMCA Board Member), Makayla Michelini (Y & G Delegate), Amber Perry (A Call Away Founder), Cameron Brown (YMCA Board Member), Zoe Stutman (A Call Away Founder), Shelly Skaro (YMCA Executive Director), Erika Siao (Y & G Delegate) and Olivia Stutman (A Call Away Founder) are all smiles at the YMCA Leadership banquet.

to those in need. Olivia and Zoe's father was in a serious car accident in 2009, and was hospitalized for many months, requiring multiple surgeries and a lengthy recovery time.

"Through our family's experience, we saw how hard it was to maintain some sort

of normalcy in our lives," the twins said. "We knew we wanted to help people going through similar situations."

When a close friend of Amber's family was diagnosed with lung cancer, the teen saw the strain on the family. "My mom paid for a private chef to prepare a home-cooked meal," Amber said. "They told us it was the best meal that they had in a long time—and

that stress was lifted off their shoulders, if only for a night."

"We discussed ways we could make a difference, and helping others with his hardship seemed essential," the three said. The most difficult part was getting their help to families who could benefit.

"Once we partnered with Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA, we had an easier time connecting with families in our community. We also work alongside UCLA Santa Monica Hospital and help families from other hospitals around Los Angeles."

Next year, Amber and Olivia will attend UC Berkeley with plans to major in cognitive science and economics, respectively. Zoe will attend Tulane and a major in public health. The three young philanthropists hope to continue A Call Away while in college. Amber's sister Jasmine is already in line to keep the program alive in Los Angeles.

Amber's parents are Linda and Michael Perry. Olivia and Zoe's parents are Sandy and Gary Stutman.

The three seniors called their involvement with the Youth and Government program life-changing and urge others to join. Meetings are held at PaliHi, but students from all local high schools are welcomed. Funding for this program is subsidized by program fees and donations raised through the YMCA's annual campaign which provides financial assistance for anyone who cannot afford the full cost of a program. Contact: Stephanie Duncan at stephanie-duncan@ymcala.org.

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