



SPITFIRE GRILL A MUST-SEE (& HEAR!)

See Page 29

It's a Pacific Palisades July 4th Trifecta

School's out! Summer solstice nears! And you still can't get the Dodgers on local television!

That means only one thing—it is time to start preparing for the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July celebration.

Remember to register for the Will Rogers 5/10K. The race kicks off Independence Day at 8 a.m. in front of the Palisades Library. Visit: Palisades10K.com.

Local civic and neighborhood groups are sought to march in the parade or enter a homemade float—nothing is more fun than walking or riding down Sunset while waving at your neighbors, providing a Youtube and selfie opportunity. The deadline looms, visit: palisadesparade.org or email palisadesparade@gmail.com.

If decorating is not your forte, PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) is seeking volunteers. A mere two hours of your time can guarantee a successful community event.

Volunteers particularly needed are:

1. Parade Banner Carriers: Anyone over age 10 is eligible to carry a banner in the

(Continued on Page 5)

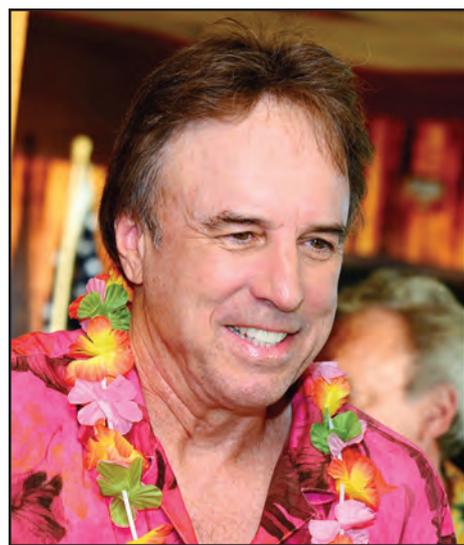


The award-winning Palisades High School band marched in last year's Fourth of July parade.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

'Mayor' Nealon Selected as Grand Marshal

By SUE PASCOE
Editor



Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon is the Fourth of July grand marshal.

Photo courtesy Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce

Selecting a grand marshal for the Palisades Fourth of July parade is somewhat of a mystical process. Some say conjuring goes on, others compare it to waiting word about a new pope, standing outside the Chamber of Commerce office and watching for white smoke signifying a new honoree.

The wait is over. After Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon's triumphant six-month fight to rid Pacific Palisades of crime, he was the unanimous selection for this year's Fourth of July parade.

A popular *Saturday Night Live* star, comedian and actor, Nealon talked to the *Palisades News* from the Bonnaroo festival, a comedy and music event outside of Nash-

ville that routinely draws 80,000 people.

He felt honored by the unexpected parade title. "I don't know what's coming next," Nealon said. "Honorary mayor, grand marshal—crossing guard?"

He said he was stressed out about the law enforcement duties of being a marshal because "I'll have to give out tickets and arrest people along the parade route."

Nealon's jam-packed Fourth of July weekend starts on July 2 when he will headline at the Ice House Comedy Club in Pasadena. The next day he will help judge PAPA's Patriotic Home Decorating Contest.

On July 4, he will wield the starter pistol for the 5/10K Will Rogers Race and then ride in the parade with his wife, actress Susan Yeagley, and their son Gable.

Since his selection as honorary mayor in January (by the Chamber of Commerce), what have Nealon's official duties included? "Fundraisers and helping clean out a few attics," he quipped.

On the Conan O'Brien show in April, Nealon spoke about his life as honorary mayor and his pledge to fight criminal acts. For example: residents who take little sample cups of frozen yogurt at and keep refilling them, without purchasing anything.

He also vowed to get tough on drugs in Pacific Palisades—specifically, the rampant use of botox. And he promised to rid the town of those who forget to bring their own

shopping bags from home and must purchase a paper bag.

Nealon is also working to stop our neighbors to the south from invading the Palisades and will ask Santa Monica's honorary mayor to pay to put up a wall. (The O'Brien segment can be viewed on YouTube.)

Born in St. Louis, Nealon was raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His father worked for a helicopter company and Nealon, from the time he was six until he was 10, lived in Germany, where he learned to speak the language fluently.

"I learned how to swim in Greece, ski in Austria and argue in Italy," Nealon said.

Growing up, "I always wanted to be a musician," said Nealon, who plays guitar. After seeing the movie *Deliverance*, he also taught himself to play banjo. "I was too intimidated to sing on stage, but started going to clubs and telling jokes."

After attending Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, Nealon moved to Los Angeles, hit the comedy-club circuit and soon appeared on Johnny Carson and David Letterman. He was a cast member on *SNL* from 1986-95.

Nealon made his film debut in the 1987 romantic comedy, *Roxanne*, with Steve Martin and has starred in more than two dozen comedies, including *Happy Gilmore*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Daddy Day Care*. Visit: kevinnealon.com.

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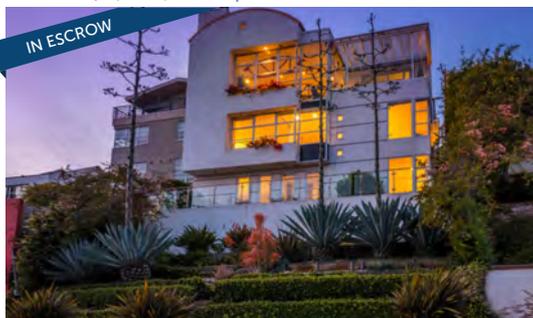
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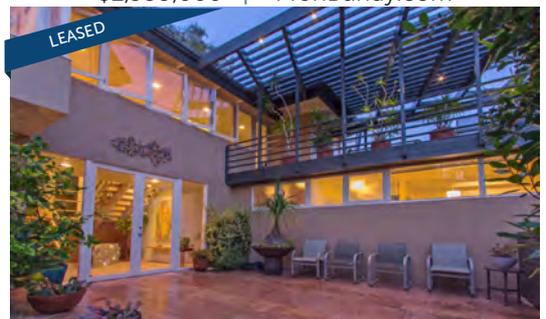
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PaliHi Graduates Start a New Journey

By SUE PASCOE
 Editor
 Photos by Lesly Hall

A record 700 seniors said goodbye to Palisades High School on June 9 at a graduation ceremony filled with energy, laughter and remembrances.

Marching into the Stadium by the Sea, the students joined the more than 2,000 relatives and friends in the stands who listened as Danika Masi sang a powerful rendition of the National Anthem.



Nadia Tahsini

Masi, who also starred in the school's musical *Evita*, will attend the Manhattan School of Music.

The pledge of allegiance was led by student body president Evan Holland (University of St. Andrews, Scotland). Nick Christman (San Francisco State), the senior class president, gave the welcoming address.

Students welcomed the crowd in 16 different languages, such as Mandarin, Turkish, Russian and Igbo, reflecting the international diversity at PaliHi.

Valedictorian Nadia Tahsini (Stanford), who had a 4.4 GPA after taking 11 advanced placement courses, was one of the speakers.

"Where are we headed?" she asked. "I'm not just talking about college. Similar to Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, you cannot precisely know both the position and the momentum of a student. It's okay not to know. The time is not yet come to finalize our momentum."

Salutatorian Olivia Stutman had a 4.38 GPA (also 11 APs) and will attend Cal Berkeley.

Seniors audition to be one of four other student speakers at graduation. Those chosen this year—Ajamn Lee-Johnson, Gina Luna, Paul Kim and Michael McNorvell—represent the stimulating differences in the



Michael Cameron (UCLA), Jason Camorlinga (West L.A.), and Hayden Cannizzaro (SMC).

student body.

McNorvell, who is one of only four cellists selected for a spot at Washington University (St. Louis), spoke about the students' journey to graduation.

In elementary school, "our concerns weren't grades or health, but Yu-Gi-Oh card collections and tech-decks and cooties," McNorvell said. Then in middle school, "every day was a battle against our ever-

evolving selves" and high school "we spent our weekends really living it up, consuming almost toxic amounts of . . . literature and mathematics." He concluded, "Adulthood is kinda gonna be a mixture of awesome and awful. And you know what, that's the beautiful brilliance of life."

Luna (West L.A. College) said, "Among the graduates, over a hundred zip codes are represented here today. It's been a long journey for many of us. I wake up at 5 a.m. every morning to catch four buses and a train to get to school on time and still manage to keep my eyes from closing in class." She noted that it also took two hours to get home. "There were many times that I wanted to quit, leave Pali, and go to a school down the street from my house, but I wanted a good education," she said, ending with, "Si se puede y si se puede."

A musical interlude arranged by Joshua Elson, highlighted seniors and included songs "Home" (Phillip Phillips), "In My Life" (Beatles), "I Can" (Nas) and "Unwritten" (Natasha Bedingfield).

About 257 of the graduates will go to a two-year college, allowing them to transfer to a four-year college and save thousands of dollars in the process. About 388 grads will attend four-year colleges that range from M.I.T. to Swarthmore and the University of Wisconsin; nine will enter the military; 10 will take a gap year, 10 will go straight to work; and three will become apprentices. The remaining students had not made their plans available to the college center.



Left to right: Liana Sheily, Sage Wiley, Caroline Sherman, Roberta Tarvydaite, Charlotte Shenassa, Nardos and Sofanit Shiferaw.



Backbone Trail Opens

At a morning ceremony at Will Rogers State Historic Park on June 4, the 67-mile Backbone Trail was officially opened after 40 years of property negotiations. The trail through the Santa Monica Mountains runs from Pacific Palisades to Point Mugu.

The day before, the Backbone was named one of six new National Recreation Trails by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis.

According to the National Park Service statement, "Because overnight camping options are minimal at this point, the National Park Service recommends hiking the trail in sections. The long-term vision is to create a small number of backcountry tent sites

that would be available by permit only."

Hikers who initially wanted to make the trek had to skirt around private property. A coalition of public agencies was finally able to acquire more than 180 parcels valued at more than \$100 million. Arnold Schwarzenegger and fitness entrepreneur Betty Weider donated a 40-acre property in Zuma Canyon, which was one of the key links to complete the trail.

Representative Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) secured federal funds that enabled the National Park Service to acquire the King Gillette Ranch and trail links in Zuma and Trancas canyons.

The trail is owned not only by the National Park Service but also by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Santa



Trailmaker Ron Webster. Photo: Jim Kenney

Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority, according to the *L.A. Times*.

Patriotic Pups To March in Parade

If you have a dog that gets along with other dogs and doesn't panic when it sees a horse, then consider marching with the Patriotic Pups in the Fourth of July parade.

For the past 21 years, between 70 and 100 dogs trot along the parade route with their owners, wowing the crowd with their resolute cuteness. All potential marchers should call Marilyn Haaker at (310) 454-6430 and leave their name, telephone number and the pup's name.

Shortly before the parade begins at 2 p.m., owners and canines meet under the trees at Palisades Elementary, corner of Via de la Paws (Paz) and Bowdoin. Owners should bring water for their pets.

Official Fourth Of July Program

The Official Fourth of July Program, produced by the *Palisades News* to benefit PAPA will hit the mailboxes on June 26. Inside you'll find the parade lineup, featured stories about the day's events and local businesses whose advertising dollars supporting the day's festivity. Support these merchants and realtors.

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Fourth

(Continued from Page 1)

parade. Come alone or bring a friend. Arrive at the Methodist Church by 1:30 p.m.

2. Convertible Drivers: A few convertibles and drivers are needed to chauffeur parade dignitaries—this is a great opportunity to showcase a car.

3. Concert/Fireworks helpers: Volunteers needed at the ticket booth and to assist with the concert. Shifts are hour and half, starting at 4 p.m. Concert volunteers receive a T-shirt featuring the concert mascot, Johnny Splash.

Contact PAPA People Coordinator Sylvia Boyd atsyljonboyd@gmail.com or (310) 454-9566 or Sanjay Borgata sbargotra@unibiz.com.

Tickets are on sale for the parade reserved grandstand and for the concert. Visit: palisadesparade.org.

Kids on Bikes Can Win a Prize

Kids, decorate your bike, Razor/scooter or tricycle in a patriotic motif for the Fourth of July parade and you could win first prize (\$75), second prize (\$50) or third prize (\$25). The winner will also have his/her photo printed in the *Palisades News*.

The Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave., and now also at 11726 Barrington Ct. (Brentwood), has hosted the Kids on Bikes



Photo: Shelby Pascoe

brigade for the past five years.

“We’re excited to sponsor this event again,” said storeowner Kevin Sabin. “We are trying to run things as efficiently as possible to ensure that all kids who participate in decorating are judged.”

Youths who want to enter the bicycle decorating contest must come to the Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave. (across from CVS) with a fully decorated bike between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3. Authorization forms will be handed out and a photo of each entry will be taken.

Judges will scrutinize photos, and awards will be presented on July 4 as bikes are assembling for the parade. Only those who have had their photos taken on July 3 will be eligible for prizes.

Everyone is welcome to ride in the parade, as long as they are wearing a helmet and have a completed authorization form, which must be picked up prior to the parade at The Yogurt Shoppe.

The winners can use their gift card at either Yogurt Shoppe location.

Visit: aplacetomix.com or call: (310) 459-0088.

Caruso Project Needs One More Approval to Start

Caruso Affiliated’s Palisades Village Project cleared another major milestone on June 7 when the City Council’s Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) committee approved the project.

This left one final step in the approval process: a vote on June 14 by the L.A. City Council, which was expected to endorse the project.

At the PLUM meeting, which was recorded, Councilman Mike Bonin spoke first. “In all my years in government, I have never seen support this lopsided and this widespread,” said Bonin, who noted there wasn’t 100 percent agreement because hundreds of Alphabet Street neighbors opposed Caruso’s request to convert Swarthmore to one-way.

Bonin said he had asked Caruso for one additional condition: an operation management plan that will specify how the project will be operated.

To listen to the meeting recording, visit: lacity.org/city-government/elected-officials-offices/city-council/council-and-committee-meetings. The Caruso hearing starts nine minutes and 54 seconds into the tape and lasts about 26 minutes.

Prior to the PLUM meeting, the Palisades Preservation Association (represented by Jack Allen) and Caruso reached agree-

ment on several key issues.

1. Retail businesses on the Project Site that have a front on Monument or Albright may not have entrances (other than emergency exits) that open directly from Monument or Albright, nor may such businesses have display windows or commercial signage facing residences on the east side of Monument or Albright.

2. If after one year after the issuance of a permanent certificate of occupancy for the Project, PPA determines that the conversion of Swarthmore Avenue between Sunset and Monument to a one-way street is causing safety problems, the discussion may be reopened.

3. Caruso will not configure the intersection of Monument and Swarthmore so that vehicles exiting onto Monument from Swarthmore are required to only make a right turn (i.e., allowing drivers the option of turning left), subject to final approval by LADOT.

4. Caruso will install signage at Swarthmore and Monument directing people to the underground parking structure.

5. If the movie theater on Swarthmore ceases to be used for that purpose, Caruso will remove the marquee.

—SUE PASCOE

ELLEN McCORMICK

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Heard About Town

Shoplifter at Gelson's

A man in his late 50s, early 60s was being held at a tree by the steps at Gelson's. He started screaming "Let me go." A bunch of us rushed to see what was going on. It turns out the man had shoplifted spices and put them in his pants and the guy was trying to hold him until the police came. Enough people didn't know what was happening and told him to let him go. The guy jumped in a nice car, a woman was waiting and they drove off. One woman said to the Good Samaritan, "You should have just let him have them." Really. Shoplifting is never right, no matter the circumstances.

Not a 'Cookie Cutter'

For months, we have been watching and wondering what the building on Monument and Albright is going to be. It is almost finished, but what is it—a motel, a gallery, a store or perhaps a residence? It is really odd, but at least not a "cookie cutter" house!

The Hot Dog Show

The Hot Dog Show is often mentioned fondly among residents. Does anyone know who the original owner was?

(Editor's note: Joan Reeves owned the restaurant, she is now Joan Forde.)

Fire in Temescal

Last month I saw a campfire in Temescal Canyon Park. I know fires are permitted at certain functions, but I just feel uneasy. Whenever I hike through that park, I see all the dry brush and undergrowth. Maybe it would be best if a ban would be put on campfires at least until we had more significant rainfall.

Diseased Wood

With so many trees being cut down because of the bark beetle, I just wonder how many diseased pieces are lying along Temescal Canyon Road. Maybe the wood from trees that were affected should be handled differently.

Temescal Wood

I don't mind that people put wood along Temescal and then others pick it up and use it, but it isn't a dumping ground. I saw an old sofa and a palm tree just lying on the sidewalk. Someone is going to trip. It's really a liability.

(Editor's note: Don't dump furniture along any street. Call 311 and arrange a special pickup with the City.)

El Niño

It was announced that El Niño is officially over. Good to know, I was still waiting for it to start.

If you'd like to share something you've "heard about town," please email it to spascoe@palisadesnews.com

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

You Don't Know Jack

By LOU KAMER
Special to the Palisades News

In 1943, today's Swarthmore business block was a dirt field. Kids from the neighborhood would play baseball there. Cars would barrel down Monument, leaving the kids in a trail of dust. Jack Allen was one of those kids.

I met with Jack two weeks before he submitted his Caruso project appeal, and I have spent the past few months talking with him about the project, his values and his extensive knowledge of Pacific Palisades history.

Jack moved here as a youngster and has lived in town, mostly, ever since. He has been involved in almost every defining issue in our community's history since the 1970s: the 20-year No Oil! campaign that banned drilling along the Palisades coast; the 30-ft. height limits for buildings along Sunset; creating the Palisades Specific Plan; and the "Don't Mall the Palisades" fight that saved the historic Business Block building (now known for Starbucks and Café Vida) from becoming a shopping center. He has also fought the state's stop-sign cameras in Temescal Canyon and helped achieve the ban on gas-powered leaf blowers with Joan Graves. Along the way, he supported a skate park at the Recreation Center and a controversial sports field at Calvary Christian School that provides space for AYSO games. "Whatever's good for kids, that's what matters to me," Jack has said.

A former Beverly Hills City Attorney, Jack served for years on the Community Council, the Civic League, PRIDE and other organizations. He is lauded both locally and citywide as a voracious researcher who always does his

homework and articulates his position with laser accuracy. He is a quiet, effective protector of our town's spirit.

Jack has been Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 23 almost since Camp Josepho was gifted to the Boy Scouts. Thousands of kids call him a mentor. His four kids grew up here, and his grandson is an Eagle Scout in Troop 23.

Oh, and he nearly sued to stop Caruso's Palisades Village project.

In the eyes of many residents, Jack's fight against something so popular in the community seemed selfish and spiteful. They responded with attacks, both online and in the town's weekly newspaper, that were hurtful, personal and vicious. Their actions represented an unraveling of the very fabric Jack had so passionately helped knit over the decades.

Although I did not completely agree with Jack's methods, I came to understand that there is one man in our community fully dedicated to protecting the fragile, miraculous beauty and small-town sensibility we have here. That's Jack Allen. He has seen, as he calls it, our "veritable cul-de-sac at the far end of the great city of Los Angeles" since the 1940s. Although the buildings and people may change, what he cherishes will hopefully persist. We could all benefit by continuing his work with the same commitment.

I am relieved that Jack and Rick Caruso were able to eventually compromise to protect our culture while allowing growth and change. But more importantly, I feel honored to know this amazing and dedicated warrior of our community.

Jack, thank you for your lifetime of work for my town.

Thought to Ponder

"No one is so brave that he is not disturbed by something unexpected."

— Julius Caesar

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Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
(424) 744-8496
www.PalisadesNews.com

Owner

Wagenseller Publishing

Publisher

Scott Wagenseller
swag@palisadesnews.com

Editor

Sue Pascoe
spascoe@palisadesnews.com

Features

Laurie Rosenthal
LRosenthal@palisadesnews.com

Graphics Director

Manfred Hofer

Social Media

Matt Sanderson

Advertising

Jeff Ridgway
jeffridgway@palisadesnews.com

Grace Hiney

gracehiney@palisadesnews.com

Jeff Parr

jparr@palisadesnews.com

Advisor

Bill Bruns

Contributing Writers

Laura Abruscato, Debbie Alexander,
Laurel Busby, Libby Motika

Contributing Photographers

Wendy Price Anderson,
Bart Bartholomew, Shelby Pascoe

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VIEWPOINT

College-Bound Seniors Need Our Help

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Upstairs, Downstairs, for those of you who are under 40, was a popular PBS drama series in the early 1970s that depicted the lives of the wealthy Bellamy family (“upstairs”), who reside in London’s fashionable Belgravia, and their servants (“downstairs”).

Although I never actually watched the show, every time I volunteered in the Palisades High School College Center last fall as a writing coach, I thought about the concept. The students who grow up here and some of the students who travel here—the upstairs and the downstairs—live two different lives.

The majority of the seniors I tutored, the “downstairs kids” who came from low-income households, hadn’t had a writing coach and none had parents pushing them to go to a select college. Students had never visited the colleges they were applying to and most had received a fee waiver to take the SAT/ACT (for which they had no prior coaching, nor had they taken multiple practice tests).

One of the girls told me she had to get up at 5 a.m. to take the Metro train from Inglewood to LAX, where she caught a bus that took her to Santa Monica and then a second bus to PaliHi.

Even though the kids didn’t see the importance of writing about their travel to get to school, I did. Colleges/universities needed to know the reason there weren’t a lot of extracurricular activities on the application was

because of the commute.

I asked one girl why she didn’t attend the school just a block from her home. She said she was the top student in her class at that school, but felt alone. Being smart, working on academics wasn’t what the majority of her peers felt was important.

So she came to Pali and had to learn to succeed. She flunked her first math class, but discovered the tutoring center and managed to achieve good grades.

Another girl had to deal with an abusive parent until she was finally rescued by the police. But she kept forging ahead with her pursuit of college.

After a busy fall, December came and the applications were in. One day, I got a call from the College Center that one student I helped with an essay had received a four-year full-ride to M.I.T.

Students I worked with got into colleges, and most received some sort of scholarships.

I didn’t think much beyond that because when I took my own kids to college, we went to Bed Bath & Beyond and bought sheets, pillows and bedding for their dorm rooms. We picked up Kleenex, toiletries and school supplies. My kids went to East Coast colleges, so I made sure they had winter clothes, hats and mittens.

The College Center told me that some of the families who have kids going off to college are struggling to raise enough money to cover the gap between the scholarships and the cost for books and other necessities. Other kids have to pay for everything on their own; their parents

can’t help.

Most of these kids won’t start out with new sheets and a comforter in their dorm room—instead, they will pack something in their suitcase and go. (Of course, some of them don’t have a suitcase.)

What if . . . we treat these kids, “our” kids—because they’ve been part of our community as students—to a gift card to Bed Bath and Beyond or Target or Amazon? They aren’t asking. They aren’t looking for a handout.

You can become an Angel Aide by sending \$100 or any amount (it’s tax deductible) to Pali’s Booster Club at PaliHighBoosterClub.com or by mail to P.O. Box 223, Pacific Palisades 90272. The boosters will forward all donations to the College Center to help purchase gift cards for deserving seniors.

The College Center has sent me the names of 11 students with the greatest needs. They will be attending Long Beach State, M.I.T., Morehouse College, UC Riverside, Sonoma State, UC Merced, San Jose State, Columbia College Chicago, International Fashion Academy in Paris, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and UC Santa Cruz.

Ruth Grubb, the head college advisor at PaliHi, wrote: “Any help with finances would help all of these students; they all have travel expenses and all will have to purchase things for their dorm room, not to mention text books. Eight of them are moving out of Southern California so will need to buy appropriate clothing and shoes. Contact me if you want more information.”

Call: (310) 230-6643.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Community Council Elections

I couldn’t help but chuckle at the Heard About Town comment (June 1) by the Palisadian after attending his first Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting. He has never been to one before and wasn’t even aware that he could vote for his Area Representative, but then lamented why he couldn’t vote for [PPCC] president?

I think the reason is that area reps campaign in localized neighborhoods for genuine votes from people who get to know them and learn their positions on various matters that affect the area. This way votes can be informed and not haphazard.

Someone who’s never been to a PPCC meeting can hardly make an informed choice about the role of president without knowing what the role entails and having gotten to know the candidate(s) for the position over the course of years of having watched them on the Board. An uninformed vote is a terrible thing.

Maryam Zar
Incoming PPCC President

Step Up and Support Community

Thank you for bringing the Village Green to the attention of the community in your May 18 issue (“Funds Needed for the Village Green”).

I, for one, am a regular visitor to the VG, meeting friends for coffee, sometimes a take-out lunch and occasionally business meetings. I’m amazed that most people in our community do not know that this is a

privately-owned and maintained treasure in the heart of our Village. Now, more than ever, it is important for the community to step up and contribute to maintaining this gem. (Visit www.palisadesvillagegreen.org/contact for info on how to donate.)

During the Caruso Project construction phase, which will be starting soon, rather than heading out of town, whenever possible, show support for our community by patronizing the stores and restaurants on both sides of Sunset, from Ralphs to Gelson’s, as well as along Monument, La Cruz, lower Swarthmore, Antioch and Via de la Paz. Our central business district could easily become a ghost town during the next 18 months. Let’s show our support now, and in the future, to the Village Green and to our local businesses to ensure a vibrant Village for years to come.

Sandy Eddy

Past President, Palisades Chamber of Commerce

Hats Off to Election Volunteers

Many thanks to all the volunteers in Pacific Palisades (and throughout Los Angeles County), who worked tirelessly on June 7 to ensure a fairly smooth voting process. I had the pleasure of working with two colleagues, Betsy Rosenthal and Brett Newton, at Marquez Charter Elementary School. I also want to acknowledge the assistance from the school staff which also played an integral role in the process, as do many others, whether it is a private residence, church or other location.

The turnout at our precinct was steady throughout the day, and it was gratifying to assist nearly a dozen young people voting for the first time. They were elated to be a part of the democratic process as we walked them through all the pertinent steps. We also appreciated all the voters who came to the polls to cast their ballots or to drop off vote-by-mail ballots, and those who sent in ballots via U.S. mail.

The day is long for the volunteers (we do receive a modest stipend: less than \$4 an hour). All volunteers must arrive by 6 a.m. to set-up the precinct and open the polls by 7 a.m. We work steadily throughout the day until the polls officially close at 8 p.m.

Although exhausted, the poll workers must pack up the multitude of materials and literature, voting booths and ballot boxes. This does not include the task of thoroughly counting the on-site casted ballots, vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots and voided ballots (yes, people make mistakes). Once the count is validated, the paperwork must be delivered to an official election center (our center was in Santa Monica).

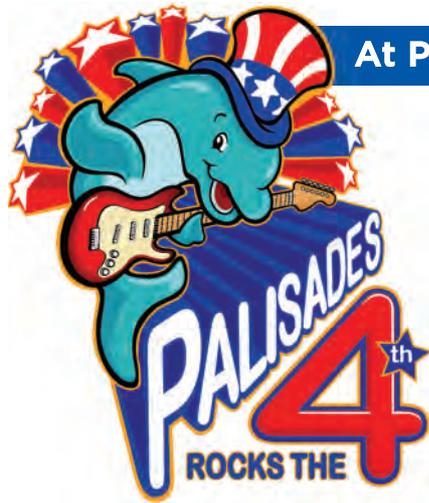
As the November general election approaches, consider becoming a volunteer poll worker, go to LAVoteVote.net or call (800) 815-2666 (select option #7).

Christy Dennis

Palisades News welcomes all letters, which may be emailed to 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.

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Rustic Clubhouse Will Undergo Upgrades

By DEBBIE ALEXANDER
Staff Writer

The courtyard in the historic Rustic Canyon Park clubhouse will undergo an appealing upgrade this summer as the initial phase of a community effort to restore the building to its former 1920s glory.

Six sets of glass French doors (budgeted at \$6,000 per set of double doors) will be installed, modeled after the original ones and replacing current doors that are in bad shape with dry rot.

"That's what we can afford at this point, thanks to last year's Rustic Night fundraiser," said Veshlemoey Zwart, president of the Park Advisory Board, which is spearheading an ambitious restoration project at the park.

The remaining funds from Rustic Night will be used to refurbish the inside of the tennis pavilion, redo the electrical wiring within the pavilion and make improvements to surrounding structures.

This work is part of the Preservation Master Plan that was recently unveiled during a public presentation.

Architect George Taylor Loudon and his staff, who specialize in historical restorations, spent close to a year creating this vital 100-page document with the generous help of local historian Randy Young and the Palisades Historical Society.

"This building is the heart and soul of Rustic Canyon," commented Loudon, and Young noted that "this master plan will greatly aid us in maneuvering the ins and outs of local government to achieve our goals in preserving the clubhouse."

New Park Director Paige Barnes welcomed more than 30 residents in attendance, a few of whom grew up in the area. Young himself is a native of Rustic Canyon and co-authored (with his mother Betty Lou) a history of the canyon.

Before recounting the history of the Spanish-style clubhouse, built by The Uplifters Club in 1923, Young introduced a descendant—Sharon Shapiro, the great-granddaughter of one of the original members and now a field deputy for City Councilman Mike Bonin.

Ironically, the "dry" Methodist founders of Pacific Palisades sold the land to The Uplifters, a rowdy bunch whose main goal was to drink with utter abandon in the era of Prohibition.

Since the original makeshift clubhouse on the property had burned down in 1922, concrete became the material of choice for the new clubhouse. Young pointed to the beams in the gym and said, "They're actually cast out of concrete. This building was built like a tank to last."

He then performed a nifty parlor trick by opening a door to reveal the original fire-



Rustic Canyon residents have raised money to install French glass doors. Photo: Debbie Alexander

place that is currently hidden and that stores sports equipment. Other gems like this might be uncovered during the restoration.

Unfortunately, the Great Depression began the unraveling of The Uplifters and by the mid-1930s the club was bankrupt. In the late 1940s, much of the surrounding land was sold off for the subdivision of Rustic Canyon.

Maybell Machris purchased the clubhouse and eight acres of land in 1953 in memory of her husband, Alfred, and generously donated ownership to the city of Los Angeles. Since then, the Department of Recreation and Parks has managed the property.

The locally prominent architectural firm of A. Quincy Jones and Fred Emmons repurposed and repaired the structure to function as a park facility in 1960. Much of their work remains in place today.

Back then, the idea of historical preservation was rarely considered. Hence the significance of this new blueprint for the clubhouse, which achieved Historical Cultural Landmark status in 1999.

Acknowledging that "I'm not as humorous as Randy," Loudon took the floor to discuss the many other architectural goals outlined in the plan.

"What we are proposing is adaptive reuse because the building currently has many ongoing programs including two nursery schools, and functions as a public park," Loudon said.

The plan includes many specific details with precise measurements about the current condition of the clubhouse, including doors, windows, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems along with infrastructure issues and problems like dry rot. Plus, the caveats of hazardous materials like lead paint and asbestos that may need to be removed.

The plan also offers numerous restoration and preservation recommendations, which "can really be viewed as a series of projects," Loudon said.

Any and all construction plans need approval from both the L.A. Historical Cultural Commission and the Department of Recreation and Parks, which handles the work.

The meeting ended with a plea from Zwart, "We are going to reinvigorate this landmark which brings a lot of joy to our community, and as your Rustic Night ambassador please save the date of September 24, 2016," she stressed. "Through that fundraiser we can achieve more period windows and doors for this historical and magical place."

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Summer Reading For All Ages At Library

The Palisades Library's summer reading program, "Read for the Win!" goes through August 6. Sign up to receive a game board and a schedule of summer programs at the library.

New this year: the Adult Summer Reading Challenge! Come into the branch to sign up. Get the whole family reading and participating in library events this summer. Challenge: to see which family member will be first to complete his/her game board.

Contact a librarian at (310) 459-2754. Teen librarian Annie Cipolla, children's librarian Gail Kim, and the two Marys (adult librarians) will be happy to answer any questions.



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Irvin and Sonia Lirman (above), Josephine and Herman Moonves (above right) and Reuben and Blanche Rosloff (below right) have all been married 70-plus years.

es, and a keynote talk by Bill Bruns, advisor to the *Palisades News*. Every table had a birthday cake and each guest received party favors.

“This tradition started in 1996 in Dr. Margaret Jones-Kanaar’s backyard on Via de la Paz,” said Bruns, who was editor of the *Palisadian-Post* at the time. “She was celebrating her 92nd birthday and she wanted to have a big party for fellow 90-year-olds. Honorary Mayor Eddie Albert came. Margaret hosted the lunch until 1999, when the Junior Women’s Club stepped forward.”

During his remarks, Bruns praised the longevity of numerous married couples in attendance, especially Herman and Josephine Moonves (January 1943), Irvin and

Sonia Lirman (February 1943), Blanche and Reuben Rosloff (January 1944) and Hal and Beverly Vieau (July 1945).

Eateries that donated food to the luncheon included Casa Nostra Ristorante, Vittorio’s Ristorante, Matthew’s Garden, Café Vida, Pinocchio in Cucina and The Yogurt Shoppe. Individual supporters included Joanna Curtis, Nancy Niles, Scott Schaffer, Haldis Toppel, Robin Weitz, Julia Winter and Ron Vinje. Business contributors were Luxe Home Healthcare, Atria Park, Dr. Nasreen Babu-Khan, C.H.E.A.R. Physical Therapy, Bellagio Nails, Vivian’s Boutique, Michael Solum/Farmer’s Insurance, American Legion Post 283 and Balloon Celebrations



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Bambino Helps Find Local Babysitters

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Palisades News Reporter

Sean Greene was stuck in traffic. He was on his way back to the Palisades from his job as CEO of MatchCraft in Santa Monica. It had been a long work day and he wasn't looking forward to the chaos waiting for him at home.

All he wanted was a nice, quiet dinner with his girlfriend, but that was never going to happen because it was too much of a hassle to get a babysitter to watch his three kids and her two kids.

Resigned, he drove through the Alphabet streets, past teenagers playing basketball and baseball. All of these kids had the potential to be babysitters and yet, he had no way of getting them to babysit for him.

And so, in May of 2015, the idea for Bambino was born.

Bambino is an app designed to easily connect Palisadians who need babysitters with Palisadians willing to babysit.

"What we're trying to do is take the stress out of finding a babysitter," said Greene, who quit his job at MatchCraft, a marketing company, in September.

What this means is that a babysitter can be hired well in advance or on demand, depending on what is needed. It also means that no paper money changes hands—everything is done through the app—and parents don't have to wonder how much to



Sean Greene has launched Bambino, a community babysitting app.

pay their sitters.

The app, which launched on June 10, is designed to serve the local community using local babysitters. Anyone 13 and older can register to be a babysitter, although those under the age of 18 need their parents' permission.

The app requires access to the user's Facebook page and two letters of recommendation, preferably from people the potential sitter has babysat for before (teachers are also a good reference).

Although this process seems relatively simple, Greene says they've run into some issues.

"People are very worried about logging in with Facebook," said Greene, who believes this worry is founded in a fear of spam or improper use of Facebook profiles.

However, he points out, the choice to sign up through Facebook was made only for the connection factor. For example, the app will show users which babysitters their Facebook friends have used, making it eas-

ier to find recommendations.

The Bambino app is free and does not have ads, which sets it apart from competitors like care.com, Urban Sitter and Sittercity. The company makes money by taking a small portion of the babysitter's fee, which changes depending on the level of babysitter experience and the number of children babysat.

There are three levels of babysitters: junior sitters (aged 13-15), standard sitters (aged 15-18) and advanced sitters (aged 17 and older). The prices vary per level, with rates starting at \$12.50 for junior, \$15 for standard, and \$18 for advanced. For each additional child under the age of 13 there's a 10 percent fee.

"We want people to go out and relax," Greene said. "We're modernizing the way you find, book and pay babysitters."

Bambino is currently only offered in Pacific Palisades, but Greene plans to expand it into Santa Monica and Brentwood depending on how things progress.

"I really love this community," said Greene, who moved to the Palisades from North Carolina in 2009. His youngest son Brady, 13, just finished seventh grade at Calvary Christian while his middle son Carter, 17, will start his senior year at Palisades High School. His daughter Mackenzie, 19, attends Loyola University of Chicago after graduating from PaliHi last year. Both Mackenzie and Brady babysit through Bambino.

Visit: bambinoapp.com.

Sidewalk Sale on Saturday, June 25

With 11 stores and restaurants along Sunset Boulevard and Swarthmore Avenue scheduled to close July 10, the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce is promoting a Village-wide Sidewalk Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 25.

"Come enjoy the friendly atmosphere of our village while exploring hidden treasures and eating at our local restaurants," says Chamber President Adam Glazer of Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Check out sales at Boca Man, Boca Woman, Denise Carolyn, Marc Michel Eyewear Studio, Michel Michele International, Petit Ami and other village stores. The Chamber chairperson is Susan Payne of RE/MAX Realty.

Once City Council approval is given for the Village Project, the storm drain that is currently under Swarthmore will be relocated. According to Caruso's Village Project Facebook page, demolition of the remaining stores will begin in mid-August.

Call: (310) 459-7963.

Alternative Lifestyles for Seniors

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

This is the sixth in a series of articles to address "downsizing" issues for seniors when they decide to sell their house. The focus here is on determining what type of lifestyle they wish to have.

Having counseled seniors over the years, I've found that many have not yet fully considered the variety of available housing. Since many seniors would rather not move at all, it seems easier for them to avoid examining various alternatives. Often, they decide to stop thinking about positive reasons to move, which may be related to health, ease of daily living and proximity to grandchildren.

However, for those who do consider the potential benefits of moving, there are some guidelines that may help narrow the field by comparing a few different lifestyles. What each alternative might look like and how it might feel is important to consider.

There are several variables that comprise a wide variety of community alternatives,

such as location, size of community, composition and type of community, size of living space and ownership type. Examples include:

Location: Where the alternative housing is geographically, and whether it is in an urban or suburban area may be an important factor.

Size: An individual community can range from a few people living together, to an apartment-like building with 20-30 occupants, or to an entire development with hundreds of people in relative close proximity.

Composition: The community may be age specific, multi-generational, geared toward primary interests, etc. It also may include assisted living or some form of continuing care in case the need arises.

Living Space: The size of the unit could vary from 300-sq.-ft. to full-size spacious homes. Most people preferring a community lifestyle usually downsize, but some may still desire a larger living space.

Ownership: This could be private, co-op, or even leased from a single entity.

It may be useful to write out your thoughts about the variables. If you have a clear idea about any of them, having the details on paper can eliminate alternatives that really would not be ideal. I also believe that noting which aspects you do not want is as important as identifying the factors that are the most important to you.

If you take the time to be even more detailed and systematic about this process, you could create a comparison chart and then highlight or circle the desired choices in each category. For example, you might conclude that perhaps your ideal next home would be a co-op owned, 1,800-sq.-ft. home in the suburbs near a variety of health and shopping resources, and with at least 100 others living in the gated community.

Michael Edlen is one of only a few local agents certified as a Seniors Real Estate Specialist®. He has counseled approximately 1,000 seniors over the past 30 years. Call (310) 230-7373 or email michael@michael-edlen.com.

Palisadians Lash Out at City Planners

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A local June 2 meeting with three members of the L.A. Planning Department was intended to offer homeowners a chance to ask questions about the proposed changes to the City's baseline mansionization ordinance (BMO) and the baseline hillside ordinance (BHO).

Instead, many of the 60 people attending the meeting (hosted by Coldwell Banker at Palisades High) used it as an opportunity to vent anger at the planners.

Some of the comments included: "You're trying to penalize us in Pacific Palisades" . . . "Twenty-seven thousand people here did not even know this was being proposed" . . . "How many City Council members are architects? . . . "We're a unique area" . . . "Is there any way to stop this?" . . . "They're like Nazis [City Council], they're crazed about anti-mansionization and want to impose it on the rest of us" . . . "If you don't listen to me, just remember I'll be voting in the next election" . . . "Why didn't you let people know about this?" . . . "Why wasn't a feasibility study done?"

The current building code pertaining to the square footage of new and remodeled homes in relation to the lot size was passed in 2008. Still, "McMansions" continued to proliferate across the city of Los Angeles and many residents began advocating for tighter anti-mansionizing amendments in the code. In 2014, City Councilman Paul Koretz introduced a motion to address oversized houses.

City planners, who were working on revisions ("Recode LA") that would more specifically fit different neighborhoods, were told to drop everything and work towards a shorter-term fix for the BMO/BHO for the entire city.

The first draft of a new code was presented for public comment last December. Subsequently, revisions were made. The

next draft was completed in April and public comments were taken through June 10. City planners will tentatively present their proposals to the City Planning Commission at a public hearing on July 14, and Pacific Palisades residents may attend and comment.

At the June 2 meeting, the City planners were asked if they had even considered Pacific Palisades when the BMO/BHO drafts were written. Phyllis Nathanson, Tom Rothmann and Nick Maricich stressed that this was a citywide ordinance and no specific neighborhood was considered over any other.

The planners agreed with speakers who argued "one size does not fit all," but explained that the prevailing attitude (within the City) is that a "baseline ordinance," which will set sensible limits, needs to be passed first. The flexible new zone options (there are six under development) will let neighborhoods "customize."

Currently, there are 15 neighborhoods (including Kentwood, Mar Vista, East Venice and Bel-Air) that have a higher concentration of construction than the rest of the city and those areas have an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) that establishes temporary restrictions on the size of new single-family dwellings—and are more restrictive than current regulations.

Planner Maricich said that residents of Bel-Air specifically asked for the ICO because of the extensive grading and hauling on the narrow, winding roads in their area.

The planners were asked if the Palisades, which does not have an ICO, could have one implemented in order to allow larger homes than the baseline regulations. "No," was the answer. The ICOs were established in March 2015 because of concerns regarding overbuilding and grading. They expire in 2017, and those areas will then fall under the new code.

Homes in the Coastal Zone which are not in a designated hillside area (see map)



The Pacific Palisades area inside the red borders is in the exempt Coastal zone. The area above the line would be affected by the City's proposed building code amendments.

in Pacific Palisades will not be affected by the new BMO/BHO. Visit: zimas.lacity.org.

The Pacific Palisades Community Council adopted a motion on May 26 that was sent to Councilman Mike Bonin. It read in part: "As currently drafted, the ordinance fails to take into account the unique aspects and character of our community particularly with respect to design, grading and effect on property values."

Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association (representing about 1,250 homes), sent a June 1 letter to Councilman Bonin that noted: "Contrary to PPCC's position, MKPOA endorses amendments to BMO/

BHO which would further restrict the mansionization, over-building and excessive grading/hauling in the Marquez Knolls community . . . MKPOA applauds the efforts that have been taken by the Department of City Planning to restrict mansionization with its latest amendment."

Many other vocal opponents of the proposed code changes live in the Alphabet Streets (the neighborhood bordered by Sunset, Via de la Paz, Bestor and Chautauqua), outside the coastal zone. "Fifty percent of the homes are already big," one person argued. "Those of us with small
(Continued on Page 15)



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Planners

(Continued from Page 14)

homes don't want to be penalized [when they go to sell]. There are a lot of seniors who will use the money from sales to help with retirement."

Under the BMO, homes in the R1 Zone on lots 7,500 sq. ft. or larger are currently allowed a base FAR (the ratio of a building's total floor area to the lot size) of 45 percent of lot area (3,375 sq. ft.), plus a 20 percent bonus for a total home size of 4,050 sq. ft.

Under the new ordinance, the base FAR would remain the same at 45 percent of lot area, but the 20 percent bonus option would be removed for R1 zoned properties in the BMO area. One of the proposed new customized zones, the R1-A Zone, would allow larger home sizes than the baseline. Under that proposed zone, home sizes would be restricted based on a sliding scale from 55 to 65 percent of the lot area (e.g., 4,575 sq. ft. on a 7,500 sq. ft. lot).

Homes in the BMO area which are on lots smaller than 7,500 sq. ft. in the R1 Zone currently have a base FAR of 50 percent, plus an allowable 20 percent bonus.

Under the proposed ordinance, the base FAR would remain the same at 50 percent, but the 20 percent bonus would be removed. With the R1-A Zone, the building percentage would range from 55 to 65 percent depending upon lot size.

For example, if the lot were 5,200 sq. ft.,



Left to right: City Planners Phyllis Nathanson, Tom Rothmann and Nick Maricich explain the new code to Palisades residents.

the proposed BMO code would allow 50 percent, or a 2,600 sq.-ft. house; the current code allows an additional 20 percent bonus for a total of 3,120 sq. ft., while the R1-A Zone would allow 65 percent or a 3,380 sq. ft. house.

Councilman Mike Bonin's Planning Director Tricia Keane attended the meeting and said, "The Councilman is listening. Our office will be working with planning to see what the right solution is. We recognize that one size doesn't fit all."

Visit: planning.lacity.org, click on ordinances.

Community Council Seeks Candidates for Election

The Pacific Palisades Community Council will hold elections for eight Area Representatives and one At-large Representative for a two-year term.

Pacific Palisades is divided into eight areas and the representative must reside within the specified area boundaries. (Visit: pacpalicc.org.) The at-large representative must live, own property or operate a business within the Pacific Palisades.

Representatives are the voice of their neighborhoods or the entire community, and vote on topics of community-wide interest. All interested parties must submit a

candidate's statement of 100 words or less on an issue the candidate feels is important to the community, the number of years living here, and a photograph (digital format).

Statements must be submitted before or by 7 p.m., Thursday, July 28, at the PPCC meeting held in the Palisades Library community room. The election will be held later this summer.

Email: info@pacpalicc.org (preferred method) or by regular mail: PPCC Candidate Statement, P.O. Box 1131, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

Teen Programs Available at Library

Signups are under way at the library for the teen summer reading program (ages 11-18) that continues through August 6. Activities are planned that will enable participants to earn library prizes, plus the chance to win gift cards and a four-ticket Family Pack to Universal's Harry Potter World.

"Money Talk for Teens" will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 25. Recent Vanderbilt graduate Eric Fram will walk teens through every aspect of handling money, from budgeting, the perils of credit-card and debt, saving for retirement and various investments. Please RSVP to ensure an adequate supply of workbooks.

At 1 p.m. that same day the Origami Club will meet with instructor Travis Taft. All ages, from beginners to experts, are welcome.

The Curiosity Machine people will come to the library at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 28, to help reprise the challenge of making a helicopter fly using just straws, paper plates, rubber bands, paper clips, a pencil, washers and three helium balloons. Visit: curiositymachine.org.

Teen volunteers will be available to serve as free tutors during the summer months to help younger students who want to get a jump on the next school year in math or science. Call: (310) 459-2754.

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Yogurt Happy Hour Aids Parade

The Yogurt Shoppe is supporting PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) by hosting a full month of fundraising with its frozen yogurt Happy Hour. From June 26 through July 23, a percentage of all sales between the "happy hours" of 5 to 7 p.m. will go directly to the parade association.

Owner Kevin Sabin has also hosted the Kids on Bikes brigade in the parade for the past five years.

The Yogurt Shoppe is now at two locations: 873 Swarthmore Ave. and 11726 Barrington Ct. (Brentwood).

Sabin said, "We pride ourselves on being a part of the local community and are huge advocates for community support and outreach programs."

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Homeless Task Force Hosts Forum

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A heavy-set homeless woman, with long hair, usually sleeps overnight in the Palisade Branch library alcove. Sometimes she's joined in the space by other homeless individuals.

On June 8, she was seated on the bench in front of the Palisades Branch Library, drinking a soda. As the woman watched cars and kids go by that afternoon, one wondered if she was aware of the meeting that was being held inside that was focusing on the homeless.

About 50 people met to discuss best practices for addressing the homeless in beach communities. Participants included representatives from Mayor Eric Garcetti's office, Beverly Hills, Malibu, Hermosa Beach and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness.

The audience included members of the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, the Community Council and Ocean Park Community Center. But the meeting, chaired by Stephanie Cohen, Assemblyman Richard Bloom's senior field representative, seemed to be an opportunity for officials to compare notes.

Mayor Garcetti's Daniel Tam reminded the audience that "The City is not going to solve the problem, it will be all of us—you and I."

Garcetti has announced a Welcome Home Project that involves 100 gatherings to assemble 100 baskets of items that can be used by a homeless person (or family) who is moving into an apartment or shelter. E-mail addresses of participants are collected for future engagement opportunities and the host delivers the basket filled with towels, kitchen utensils, etc. to one of 12 fire stations. On June 18, Big Move-in volunteers will gather the baskets and deliver them to homes/shelters. Visit: lamayor.org/volunteer.

Melissa Miller of the Mayor's office said that Garcetti had made the homeless "one of the top priorities for his administration." He is promoting three pillars: 1.) housing, 2.) preventing people from becoming home-



Local, city and county officials met to discuss the homelessness problem.

less and 3.) street engagement.

About \$138 million has been budgeted for next year for housing and supportive services and will come mostly from the general fund, according to a June 2 announcement from Garcetti.

Additionally, the City is also working towards a "Healthy Street" program, which includes requiring all homeless tents taken down from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (unless there is rain); keep sidewalks clear so pedestrians and people in wheelchairs can pass; keep a 10-ft. distance from doors and driveways; limit personal property to no more than 60 gallons; not to fasten or tie anything to private or government property.

At the meeting, the annual homeless count by LAHSA (Los Angeles Homeless

Services Authority, established by L.A. County and the City) found that Pacific Palisades has an estimated 192 homeless individuals.

Two OPCC social workers, Glanda Sherman and Maureen Rivas (hired in January by the Palisades task force), said they regularly interact with 50 to 60 homeless people. Fifteen of them have either moved into temporary shelter or are in the process of getting off the streets. Some have housing vouchers, but no place to live.

Although they have vouchers to help make up the difference on rents, there is a shortage of apartments.

One woman, who identified herself as a landlord, said she wasn't going to take any more vouchers.

She explained that one tenant pays \$85 a month towards rent. The remainder of the money comes from the government. In order for the woman to keep that subsidy, she must attend appointments, but has not.

The landlord received notice from the government that because the woman wasn't going to appointments they would no longer subsidize the rent after June 30. "I can't carry her," the landlord said.

The landlord said she had repeatedly called the City to try and help the woman, but no one would return her call. Molly Rysman from Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office said she'd take care of it because the County was working on "having a person you can call when there is a problem."

James Latta, the human services administrator for Beverly Hills, said he urges people not to give transients handouts. "Giving money allows them to stay in place and they won't take help. I don't give money or food, but I give services."

He said that when people give a transient \$10, it makes the giver feel better, but doesn't help the transient. "Real change, not spare change," is the sign in Beverly Hills.

Malibu, which is adopting the Palisades model for dealing with the homeless, had a LAHSA count of 161. The Malibu task force has signed a letter of commitment with OPCC and will start fundraising.

It was announced that Doug McCormick will be the new PPTFH president, succeeding Maryam Zar, who will become president of the Community Council in July.

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PaliHi's Football Team Seeks Support

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Palisades News Reporter

On a recent Sunday, as Palisadians perused fresh vegetables at the farmers market, or stopped to get their cars washed next to Ralphs, or made a quick trip into Starbucks for a pick-me-up, they were greeted by the smiling faces of players on the Palisades High football team.

The players were selling cards that gave discounts at 21 local businesses, including Café Vida, the Massage Place and Açai Nation as part of a fundraiser backed by the Quarterback Club.

Last season, the varsity team won the Western League championship for the first time in more than 30 years and the JV team won its second straight league title. This spring, the Quarterback Club was founded as a way to raise money for the football program.

Although the program is supposed to be funded through educational spending by the state of California, the money allotted to football cannot sustain the 100 players on both teams.

"The Pali Quarterback Club must fund-raise to meet the football program's total budget, less than 10 percent of which is funded directly by Palisades High," said club president Lisa Manheim.



Football mom Lisa Taitelman (center) joined Palisades High School football team members (left to right) Kian Farahdel, Jared Dodson, Jack Estabrook, Theo Shulsky, Jonah Manheim and Syr Riley to sell discount cards to raise money for the football program.

Manheim is one of 18 members of the Quarterback Club, which is a nonprofit comprised of current parents. Her son, Jonah, is a junior and plays quarterback and tight end for the team.

The Quarterback Club devised the idea

to sell discount cards as a way to help pay the remaining 90 percent of the football budget. The cards are being sold for \$20 and do not expire until March 31, 2017, which means that if the card is used often it will pay for itself. All \$20 goes to the team

because the local businesses agreed to be sponsors of the team. The players sold 200 cards on two Sundays in May.

Manheim noted that the cards are beneficial to the team and the town. "The response from the local community has been just great," she said. "It's a win-win because the locals save money, local businesses get more business and the football team raises needed funds."

In addition to the discount cards, the Quarterback Club is reaching out to local alumni and residents interested in the program, and plans to hold a Season Kick-Off BBQ at the end of summer.

Income from the cards will help pay for tournament fees, new equipment (shoulder pads, and helmets), and first-aid supplies. The long-term goal is to pay for upgrades to the weight room and purchase new strength and conditioning equipment.

The Quarterback Club plans to sell more discount cards at Fourth of July festivities, including while the football players once again help carry banners in the parade.

Visit: QBClub@palifootball.org

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PPBA World Series Caps the Season

Pinto Yankees Defeat Dodgers

By LAURA CARR
Palisades News Intern

The Yankees outscored the Dodgers, 15-10, to win the PPBA Pinto World Series on June 2, after winning 9-6 the day before.

Nicholas Bertram led the Yankees with three hits (including a homerun) and five RBIs in the championship game. Teammates Brady Eng and Keiran Pack each had three hits and Vance Clarke had three RBIs.

Hudson Lake and Max Meier had three hits apiece for the Dodgers, and Max Meier had an inside-the-park homer.

The Yankees ultimately won the game by scoring six runs in the fifth inning with a

groundout by Jax Wilson and four singles.

Yankees coach Bejan Rufeh said, "If anyone saw our first practice, they would have set the bar low and any expectations for success even lower. The coach was a little green and the players needed work. We lost the first four games of the season before winning two as a result of forfeits due to the holiday schedule."

Rufeh added, "Somehow we managed to finish 8-8 [in the regular season]. Luck was on our side as we played one talented and well-coached team after another but still found a way to win." The Yankees finished with an overall record of 10-8, while the Dodgers were 8-10.



The Pinto Yankees celebrate their win.



The victorious Mustang Tigers.

Tigers Take Mustang Title

The Tigers swept the Red Sox in the PPBA Mustang World Series on the Field of Dreams at the Palisades Recreation Center. They handily won the opener, 20-7, on May 31, and continued their hot hitting on June 2 to win, 17-4, after trailing 2-1 through three innings.

Saxon Wald recorded three hits for the Tigers in the championship game, while teammates Victor Lowe and Jack Gargiulo each had four RBIs. Wald also pitched four innings and struck out six batters.

In Game 1, Oliver Silverman of the Tigers had three hits and five RBIs and Gargiulo struck out five batters. The Tigers finished with an overall record of 17-6-1, while the Red Sox were 11-11.

Summer Football Camp Returns

Coach Todd Tharen will return this summer with his popular football camp at Palisades High School. "This is our fourth year and each year gets bigger and better. It's all about fun!" Tharen said.

The camp is for ages five to 12 and runs Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sessions are June 20-23, June 27-30 and July 25-28.

Training will include conditioning, speed and agility; knowledge of rules and learning how to play; wet-water football day; water balloon toss; Capture the Flag and scrimmage games.

"Kids will gain a fast knowledge of the game and learn what it takes to compete while having fun," said Tharen, noting that older kids will get to work with college-skilled players at selected positions.

Tharen started playing football when he was eight and received a football scholarship after playing at Fairfax High School. He attended Marshall University in West Virginia as a receiver/punt returner.

"I played with some truly great future NFL players including Randy Moss, Chad Pennington and Troy Brown in college," said Tharen, who has coached at Venice High for seven seasons, coached middle-school football at Calvary Christian School for three years and has been a volunteer coach at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA for 10 years.

Call: (323) 574-0317 or email: ttodd337@hotmail.com or visit: teamtodd sports.com.

Bronco Dodgers Beat Cardinals

It took only one game for the Bronco Dodgers to claim the PPBA Bronco World Series title as they edged the Cardinals, 12-11, in extra innings.

Playing their first game in 10 days, the Dodgers faced the Cardinals on May 31. The Cardinals reached the finals by upsetting the unbeaten Tigers on May 26.

The Cardinals jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning, but the Dodgers closed the gap in the third with a two-run double by Wyatt Standish and a run-scoring double by Charlie Kaplan.

"We took a 10-9 lead in the fourth inning following four straight hits from Jack Wynperle, Davis White, CW Ford and Jack Gurevitch," said Dodgers coach Jim Ford.

Gurevitch ultimately led the Dodgers with four hits and five RBIs, including a dramatic game-tying homer in the sixth inning to tie the game, 11-11. On the mound, he struck out three batters as he gained the pitching victory.

Coach Ford added, "We had great pitching from Standish, White and Gurevitch." In the bottom of the seventh, Kaplan singled for the Dodgers, stole second and scored the winning run on an infield hit by Wilson Buchanan.

The Dodgers finished their season with an overall record of 13-6, while the Cardinals were 11-9.



Wilson Buchanan, Davis White and Charlie Kaplan.

SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP (CONTINUED)

Boys' Lacrosse Captures City Title

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Dolphins reclaimed their City championship on May 20 by beating Hamilton, 19-9. Macchio Rissone scored six goals and had two assists for Pali, ranked 919th nationally and 66th in California.

Coach Kevin Donovan said, "I think it was a good year, as I took over only a couple days before our first scrimmage. It took some time for myself and the players to get adjusted to each other, but I credit our players for sticking with me through the early growing pains."

Since there are only four teams in the City Section, Pali's main challenge came from out-of-league teams such as Mira Costa, Palos Verdes and West Ranch.

"I am proud of the way the team grew together and developed over the year," Donovan said. "We had a great record (16-3) and big wins over Brentwood, Culver City, Santa Monica and a double overtime win against El Segundo in the first round of the playoffs, but seeing the kids come ready to work every day and improve was the best thing for me."



Pali Dolphins go on the attack.

Photo: PaliHi Photography

The Dolphins edged El Segundo, 11-10, to reach the playoffs as the 16th seed, but then lost 21-3 to No.1-ranked Palos Verdes in the Greater Los Angeles tournament.

Pali had only three seniors this season: Cooper Lee, David Paris and Orlando Piedrahita. Lee, who scored more than 40

points this season, will play for Colorado College (Division III) next year.

Donovan said his offensive MVP was sophomore Macchio Rissone, who scored more than 100 points and played well with his other sophomore attackmen, Jake Takakjian and Zane Daily. The coach called them his "trifecta."

Midfield Brando Kay (junior) won more than 65 percent of his face-offs, and Donovan noted that freshmen Kyle Lee and Jack O'Rourke "developed rapidly this year." Sophomore Liam Mathers won the defensive MVP award.

In the CIF Southern Section playoffs, No. 2-ranked Loyola beat St. Francis, Oaks Christian and Harvard-Westlake before edging Palos Verdes in the final, 7-6. The Cubs then defeated Corona Del Mar, 10-6, in the Southern Section championship game on May 14. Loyola was ranked 40th nationally and 4th in the state.

Boys Baseball Ousted in City First Round

Coached by Michael Voelkel, the Dolphins were 15-14 overall and 10-2 in league. They beat Marshall, 1-0, in order to face top-seeded Chatsworth in the first round of the City Section Division I playoffs, but then lost 10-0. Chatsworth advanced to the finals at Dodger Stadium and lost to El Camino, 2-1.

Palisades will lose seven seniors: Jake Georgeff, Aidan Wirshing, Tyler Yeh, Roben Sieling, Riley Ali, Matthew Silvera and Western League MVP Harrison Hart, a shortstop/pitcher who will attend Cal State Northridge.

Track and Field Highlights

The Palisades girls team finished fourth at the City Section championships, with Carson claiming the title for the third straight year. Dorsey captured the boys title and the Dolphins were eighth.

In the girls 100-meter race, Queen Okoh took fourth and Kendal Lake eighth. Lake also placed seventh in the 200. In the 800, Nicole Figueroa was fourth. The 4x100 relay team of Okoh, Lake, Kayla Williams and Ejiro Agege finished fourth, but the same team in the 4x400 relay took second. The Dolphins also placed second in the 4x800 relay. Sophia Rothenberg placed fifth in the triple jump and seventh in the long jump.

On the boys' side, Makhai Husband (headed for UC San Diego) was fourth in the 400 and fifth in the 200, which qualified him for the state track meet. In the 800, Hunter Parker took third and also qualified for state. Ben Hamer was fifth in the 1600 and Jacob Pollack was fifth in the 3,200. The 4x400 team of Raynard Beckham, Husband, Rayne Camden and Doug McGhee took second.

In addition to Husband and Parker, Palisades sent both of their 4x400 teams to the state meet in Fresno. The Dolphins did not place high enough to score.

—SUE PASCOE

Girls Softball Is Second in League

Second-year coach Tori Dario's team finished second in Western League play with a 10-2 record (12-10 overall), but failed to make the playoffs.

Outfielder Daisy Jones (headed for the

University of Oregon) was captain and the only senior on the team. With seven juniors, nine sophomores and a freshman returning, this will definitely be a team to watch next year.



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PaliHi tennis captain Ben Goldberg.

Photo: PaliHi Photography

Boys Tennis Retains Elite Status

Bud Kling's team started the season in March by winning the California Classic in Fresno, defeating Northern California powerhouse Menlo, 5-2.

The Dolphins then finished second in the National High School Tennis All-American Tournament, which featured 16 of the nation's best tennis teams, including Horace Mann School (New York), Corona Del Mar and San Marino.

Palisades lost in the championship match to Torrey Pines, the defending national champion, 6-3, at Newport Beach.

Overall this season, the Dolphins were 27-2 as they went undefeated in Western League play and cruised to an eighth straight City team title and the program's 34th overall. Individually, the Dolphins took second (Jake Sands) and third (Ben Goldberg), and were first, second and fourth in doubles as Diego Huttepain and Henry Lovett beat teammates Alex Liu and Jared Fong in the final.

"It was a good year," Kling said.

In the state regionals, Palisades defeated Los Alamitos, 4-3, but then fell to University (Irvine). Kling explained that Torrey Pines, San Bernardino and Palisades were the three top-ranked teams, but had to play without their number-one players, who were in tournaments. All three teams lost

in the quarterfinals.

"If we had Jake Sands, who was competing in Hawaii, we would have prevailed," Kling said.

He loses only four seniors: Captain Ben Goldberg (headed for UCLA), and doubles players Alex and Kevin Liu and Jared Fong.

Register Now for Will Rogers 5/10K

Registration for the town's traditional Fourth of July Will Rogers 5/10K Run is now underway.

Online preregistration is \$50 for the 5/10K and \$25 for the half-mile Kids' Fun Run. Online registration deadline is June 29, mail-in deadline is June 25.

For those who register by those deadlines, packet pickup is at Bentons The Sport Shop on July 2 and 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Online late registration is Sunday, July 3 by midnight and the cost is \$60 for 5/10K and \$30 for the kids' run. Packet pickup is day of race.

Day of race registration is from 6:30 to 8 a.m. at the Palisades Recreation Center. Cost is \$60 for 5/10K and \$30 for the kids' run.

Visit: palisades10K.com or email admin@palisades10K.com

Girls Lacrosse Falls in Finals

The Dolphins lost in the City finals to Birmingham, 7-3, in a rematch of last year. The two teams had played three times prior this season, with Birmingham winning twice (4-3 and 6-2) and Pali winning 6-5. In the four-team playoffs, the Dolphins beat Hamilton 11-10 and Birmingham defeated Valley Academy to gain the finals.

Coached by Betsy Economou, Pali was 8-1 in league, but had to schedule tough outside competition (losing to teams like Chaminade and Mira Costa) in hopes of being chosen for the 16-team Greater Los Angeles tournament.

The 16th-seeded Dolphins had to face Oak Park (ranked 97th nationally and 12th in California) in the first round, and were routed, 17-1. The Valley team eventually beat Redondo in the championship game, 13-8, but lost to Mater Dei, 15-4, in the CIF Southern Section finals.

—SUE PASCOE



Kaitlin Iraheta

Photo: PaliHi Photography

Advertising Banners Available for Race

There are still a limited number of banners available for local businesses or groups that would like to advertise, while supporting the Will Rogers Run. The banners are hung on the scaffolding that supports the start and finish line banners and are seen by more than 3,000 people. The cost is \$500 and those interested can contact Jimmy Klein at JRK461@gmail.com.

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Palisadian Dickey Supports Genii Awards

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

The Alliance for Women in Media Southern California Affiliate (AWM SoCal) recently held its 57th Annual Genii Awards at the Skirball Cultural Center.

The national organization is based in Washington, D.C.; its Southern California division encompasses the area from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

AWM SoCal is dedicated to “celebrate programming that’s for, by and about women,” said Palisadian Kim Spence Dickey, who is the press and community outreach director for the association’s board of directors.

“We are constantly recognizing new producers of programming that further women in the industry,” Dickey said. “We really support other organizations that help us move women up the ladder in terms of gender parity, equal opportunity in the industry and all of those things that help women have a seat at the table.”

This year’s Genii winners included documentarian Nicole Boxer, Extra co-hosts Tracey Edmonds and Charissa Thompson and Time Warner Cable executive Lisa Meier, plus three scholarship winners from UCLA, USC and CalArts.

Past winners include Betty White, Whoopi Goldberg, Cloris Leachman, Jamie Lee Curtis and Lucille Ball.



Left to right: Laura Nickerson, Senator Barbara Boxer and Nicole Boxer.

Proceeds from the Genii Awards celebration go towards scholarships and educational programs.

Boxer’s mother, Senator Barbara Boxer, was on hand to present the Excellence in Documentary award to her daughter.

“If you really want to know what an excited mother looks like, I am the model,” Boxer said. “I am thrilled. It’s one of those great moments, because Nicole has worked so hard and her subject matter has been difficult. She has taken issues not in the public

eye, like homelessness for women and the trauma they went through, rape in the military, rape on college campuses—very tough issues—and she has brought them to light.”

Dickey has been involved with the organization for about 10 years. Her responsibilities include getting speakers at industry panels and bringing in media experts to talk about myriad topics.

Among Dickey’s many duties for the Genii Awards were finding presenters and honorees as well as soliciting items for the silent auction (including rental of the Pacific Palisades Woman’s Club).

AWM SoCal strives “to offer women opportunities to grow” in media and entertainment, Dickey said. There is a mentoring program, to help “nurture the next generation.” The organization, run solely by volunteers, is strongly focused on empowering women.

Throughout the year, there are many educational and speaker programs, and “a lot of opportunities to meet women who are accomplished in the field,” Dickey said.

The next AWM SoCal event will be “Speed Mentoring: Digital Media,” which Dickey describes as similar to speed dating. Dozens of mentors will meet for about five minutes each with dozens of mentees, exploring entertainment-industry possibil-

ities and job openings. It will be held on June 4 at CBS Studios in Studio City.

Dickey spent 30 years in marketing and public relations, running a variety of red-carpet events, including the Spirit Awards and the Los Angeles Film Festival. She worked at Ogilvy and Mather and J. Walter Thompson.

Though recently retired, Dickey remains involved with a variety of different projects, including StorybookProducer.com, where she is the producer/publisher, and DogWell.guru, where she is the producer/blogger.

The New England native has been married for 31 years to third-generation Palisadian Stephen Dickey, who manages properties in town. The couple met in college at Brigham Young University in Utah. They have lived in the Highlands for 13 years, in a home where Maya Angelou once lived. They live with their poodles, Lacie and Shalie.

Stephen’s grandmother was realtor Lelah Pierson, who was a character actress before turning to real estate. His grandfather was J. Townley Pierson, who came to the Palisades in 1925. Pierson Playhouse is named after the couple, who donated the property. Stephen’s mother, Helen, is a native Palisadian, and his late father, Robert, was a Chamber of Commerce president in 1967-68.

Reiley to Discuss Aphrodisiac Foods

Amy Reiley, a leading authority on aphrodisiac foods, will speak at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, in the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real.

Reiley will explain the folklore and science behind some of the world’s most notorious aphrodisiacs, while also debunking some popular myths. Participants will learn how certain foods can be used for our own amorous purposes, from fertility to seduction.

Reiley earned her master’s degree in gastronomy from Le Cordon Bleu and has appeared as an aphrodisiac expert on television and radio programs from *The Tonight Show* to NPR’s *Wait Wait . . . Don’t Tell Me!* She is the author of four books, including *Fork Me, Spoon Me: The Sensual Cookbook* and *Romancing the Stone*.



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A Proud Son Pays Tribute

By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

Everyone always knew where they could find my father. Most days he could be found in the backyard leaning on his garden hoe in a relaxed, contemplative pose. His tranquil demeanor revealed a man who appeared to be at peace with himself and the world.

He maintained this even, steady temperament throughout his life, and his innate kindness was palpable—people sensed that about him immediately.

My dad was known for his patience and never seemed to be in a hurry. For a man who was once the fastest sprinter in East Texas—and had the state track medals to prove it—he moved at his own pace regardless of the situation.

He had a deep and abiding love of nature and a genuine appreciation for the land, something he acquired naturally while growing up in Groveton, Texas, a few miles northeast of Houston.

Irian Vickrey was born the seventh of ten children into a family that learned the hard-scrabble life of farming in their small East Texas town.

I often kidded Dad about his unusual first name and suggested that his parents had run out of names by the time he was born. He said that before his high school

graduation, he was already known simply as “Vick.”

His farming background was likely what had given him a genuine reverence for the natural world. At times, when I watched him leaning forward on all-fours working the soil in his flowerbeds, it seemed his pose almost resembled a meditative ritual.

He once raised a wide-ranging vegetable garden, but in later years, was satisfied to tend his roses, strawberries and flowering shrubs. He carefully placed pine straw from nearby trees underneath each strawberry plant in order to prevent mildew. He gently tended the plants as if they were his children.

My mother contributed to the gardening as well. She had a great fondness for flowers, and could often be seen working side-by-side with my dad, trimming and watering while he loosened the soil around the roots. Neighbors routinely stopped by to admire their handiwork.

After my dad’s retirement, he could be spotted in the late afternoons sitting out back under a shade tree with his next-door neighbor and lifelong friend, Marion Willard. Their conversations were languid and relaxed, going something like this:

“So, Vick, it sure is a hot one today.”

(Pause...)

“Yep, they say we’re in for a long spell.”

(Longer pause...)

“Did you hear that Claude Bell is in the

hospital?”

(Another pause...)

“Maybe we should go visit him this evening.”

(Pause...)

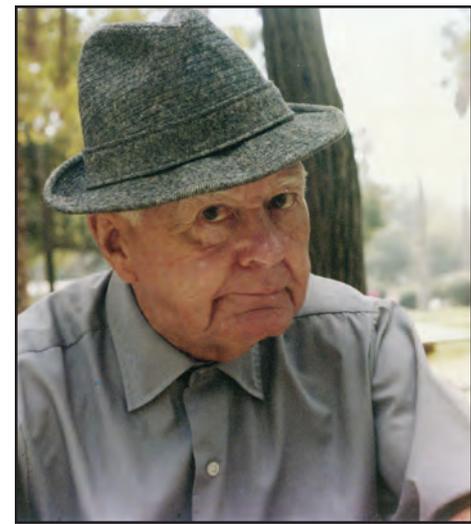
“Your car or mine?”

Companionship came easy for my dad—and with few wasted words. He engendered a trust that allowed friends to share the small moments of their lives with him freely and easily.

He tolerated the political ranting of his youngest son, but would occasionally bring his calm and patient style to quell the uprising. I remember pontificating once about something that our President had done, and he calmly said, “Bob, he’s doing the very best he can do.” The pure innocence of his comment essentially ended my spirited rant.

Perhaps that is why I yearn for his calming voice during this maddening Presidential race, in which angry and mean-spirited rhetoric is reaching near-hysterical levels. His sense of kindness and fair play would hardly be appreciated in the current political arena.

During my college years, Dad helped me land a summer job in the payroll office at Armco Steel, where he had worked for so many years. I often heard tributes from his fellow employees who shared their memories of working with him, but shortly after he announced his retirement, one testi-



Irian “Vick” Vickrey, 1980

mony in particular stood out above the rest.

A tall, grey-haired African-American man approached me one day outside the office with his hand extended. “I’m told that you’re Mr. Vick’s son.” I nodded. With a slight crack in his voice and with misty eyes, he said, “Mr. Vick is simply the kindest man I have ever known, and I just hope you know that about your daddy.” With that, he turned and walked away.

That singular moment gave significant pause to this once rebellious son, and those words have resonated with me for a lifetime.

(Bob Vickrey is a longtime Palisadian whose columns appear in several Southwestern newspapers and a regular contributor to the Boryana Books website.)

Daniel Edlen’s Vinyl Art on Display

Daniel Edlen’s vinyl art is on display at Café Vida, 15317 Antioch St, through July 3.

“My dad got me into vinyl,” said Edlen, who lives in Gilbert, Arizona. “I love everything about it, from the pops and clicks and the ritual of dropping the needle to the blue sticky stuff to weigh down the tone arm just right.”

As a teenager, Edlen spent time in art classes and in used record stores. He took a salvaged and beaten old *Sgt. Pepper* album and painted, the first of many.

Friends suggested he sell his work. “After a few group shows, word of mouth, and the growth of social media, it all started to come together,” Edlen said, who noted he



painted pieces for the David Lynch Foundation auction and a VH1 gallery show.

“Something like 40 percent of vinyl being bought never even gets played. There’s something about the tangibility of the memories, a physical thing, which lends itself to expanding collections,” he said. “My work fills a niche.” Visit: vinylart.info.

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Revere's AcaDeca Club Performs Well

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

The Paul Revere Middle School Aca-Deca Club competed in the Southern California Academic Pentathlon in Orange County in May.

Vying against teams from public and private middle schools, Revere's sixth graders placed fourth in their division among 45 schools in seven divisions. The school's two seventh-grade teams competed against 46 schools in six divisions and placed second and third in their division.

Out of 41 eighth-grade schools divided into seven divisions, the Revere team placed fourth in its division.

"I'm happy they did so well," said team leader Dennis Hamanishi, a seventh-grade history teacher. He was especially proud of his varsity students getting four perfect scores on the Super Quiz.

Each year the pentathlon has an overarching theme, and this year it was India. The students received a copy of *The Jungle Books* by Rudyard Kipling, on which they were tested in the competition. The competition included five subjects: language arts, math, science, history/social science and fine arts. Students participated through written tests, an essay and the game show-style Super Quiz.



Members of the Paul Revere AcaDeca Club: Front row, left to right, Alette Wells, Lena Jones, Paige Snepp, Majd Garmankani, Deanna Chun, Natasha Asamoia and Larry Smith. Middle row, left to right: Kevin Barrios, Alvin Carrillo, Michael Khojastegan, Ashley Ramos, Rachel Mejia, Jennifer Salvador, Eleanor Casparian and Francis Arellano. Back row, Assistant Principal Blakley Coe, left, and AcaDeca Coach Dennis Hamanishi.

Photo: Lesly Hall

"We always do well in math and language arts—we have strong departments at the school," said Hamanishi, who also coaches the debate team and girls' basketball.

When former principal Fern Somoza

came to Revere from Granada Hills High School (the recent national winner in the Academic Decathlon), she wanted to start a similar program. Hamanishi, who has been teaching at Revere for 33 years, vol-

unteered to run the club, starting in 2012.

Last fall, he received the Lori Petrick Innovation Grant from the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation for the AcaDeca pro-

(Continued on Page 25)

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AcaDeca

(Continued from Page 24)

gram. The grant money is used to support the program, including buying books for each team member.

The extracurricular club meets once a week during lunch period, with 30 to 60 members from all three grade levels participating.

The group has in-school competitions during the first semester, and all-star teams are selected to attend the Southern Cali-

fornia regional competition. Many of the students stay with the club even if they are not on the all-star team.

Each team has three students in three categories based on GPA—honors, scholastic and varsity—equating to an A, B or C average.

The Super Quiz is the only part of the competition that can be observed by the public. Each GPA team goes to the gym floor and gets 10 multiple-choice questions on a written form. The question is also read aloud by an emcee, and each student has 10 seconds after the question is finished to mark his or her answer. Teams can receive medals for top Super Quiz scores as well as overall scores.

“I’m very proud of them,” said Blakley Coe, Revere assistant principal. “Fern Somoza thought it would be fun to use academics and compete. Our goal is for kids to go to the high school academic decathlon.” PaliHi’s academic decathlon team is coached by science teacher Gregg Strouse, who welcomes the Revere graduates to join the team.

The eighth graders are now tutoring the sixth graders in the competition. “They gain self-awareness, a feeling of accomplishment and self-discipline,” said Hamanishi of his club members. “There are guidelines given to them in the study guide but it is up to them to study for it.”

“It’s a wonderful program,” said Kristin Rigby, program specialist with the Orange County Department of Education, who runs the region’s pentathlon. “It’s a very vigorous program and the kids grow from it.”

Sample questions for the Academic Pentathlon Super Quiz:

Gandhi believed an individual should follow the beliefs outlined in the *Quit India* speech only if his

- a. family allowed it
- b. religion allowed it
- c. conscience allowed it
- d. finances allowed it
- e. government allowed it

Which Indian “solfege” pitch is the same as the “tonic” pitch?

- a. Pa
- b. Ha
- c. Sa
- d. Ga
- e. Re

(Answer for both questions is c.)

PASSINGS

Dr. Keith Nolop, 63, Dies; His 3 Cats Need a Home

Palisadian Dr. Keith Nolop suffered head injuries in a bicycle accident on May 6 in Pacific Palisades. He died on May 31. The family wrote: “Keith put up a valiant fight, but nature won the war as it always does.”

Nolop was born in Minneapolis in 1953 and moved with his family to Mobridge, South Dakota in 1960. From an early age, he was interested in science and math and earned perfect grades from elementary school through college. In high school he was an Eagle Scout, first-chair baritone in All-State Band, a representative to Boys State (where he captured first place in the comprehensive written examination) and the state’s highest scorer in the National Merit Scholar competition. After graduating at the top of his class in 1971, he studied biology at the University of South Dakota.

At USD, he was editor of the school newspaper and selected to Phi Beta Kappa honorary society as a junior. Keith graduated summa cum laude in 1975 and attended Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where he was first in his class.

After medical school, Keith worked in medical research and drug development, first with the University of Louisville and then 11 years with Schering-Plough. He worked as Chief Medical Officer for three biotechnology companies: CoTherix, Plexikon and Kite Pharma. In recent years he was an independent consultant.

His work included the blockbuster drug Nasonex, a groundbreaking melanoma treatment, and other highly-engineered cancer therapies. He also wrote more than 50 peer-reviewed articles and received several patents.

Keith loved skiing, hiking (especially Yosemite), wine tasting, Latin music, international travel, movies and playing the bass guitar. He also was active in animal rights organizations, including serving on the board of Voice For The Animals.

Never married, he was engaged to Sonia Jimenez in 2011; but she drowned while



Dr. Keith Nolop with his cats, that are now in need of a home.

they were vacationing in Costa Rica.

After Sonia’s death, Keith provided financial support and life advice to her adopted children, Roberto Jose Tercero and Martha Karina Tercero of San Francisco.

He is survived by his mother, Barbara Nolop of Peoria, Arizona; brothers Bruce (wife Susan) Nolop of New York and Neil (Hege) Nolop of Houston; and nephews Christopher, Michael, Andre and Nathan Nolop. He was preceded in death by his father, Francis Nolop.

Keith was the owner of three affectionate cats that now need new homes. If you can help, please contact Caitlin Dolan, Voice For The Animals Foundation at vtrafoundation.org or call (310) 392-5153.

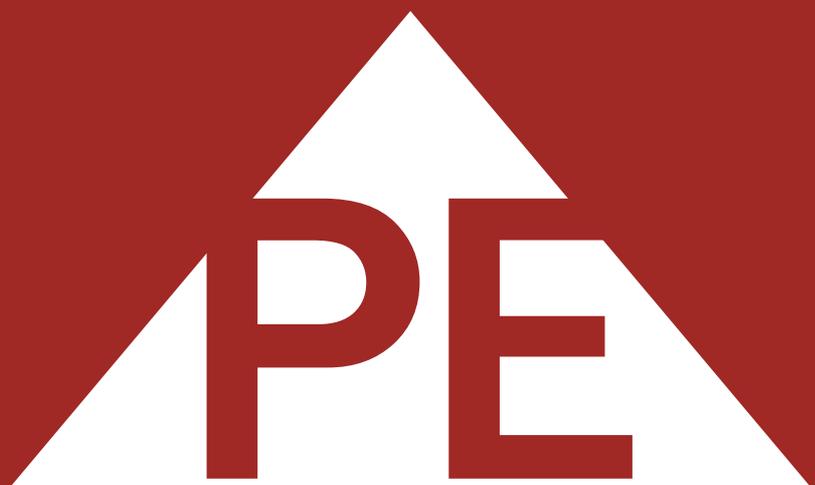
Free Program for Seniors on June 27

The Palisades Alliance for Seniors, in conjunction with the Palisades Branch Library, is offering free programs to seniors on the second and fourth Monday of every month, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

“Expectations, Delights and Disappointments of Grandparenting: How do we make the best of our role in the family?” will be the June 27 topic, with the discussion facilitated by Palisadian Sarah Adams, a grandparent and retired family therapist.

Visit: palisadesalliance.org.

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Getty Reveals Treasures of Silk Road

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

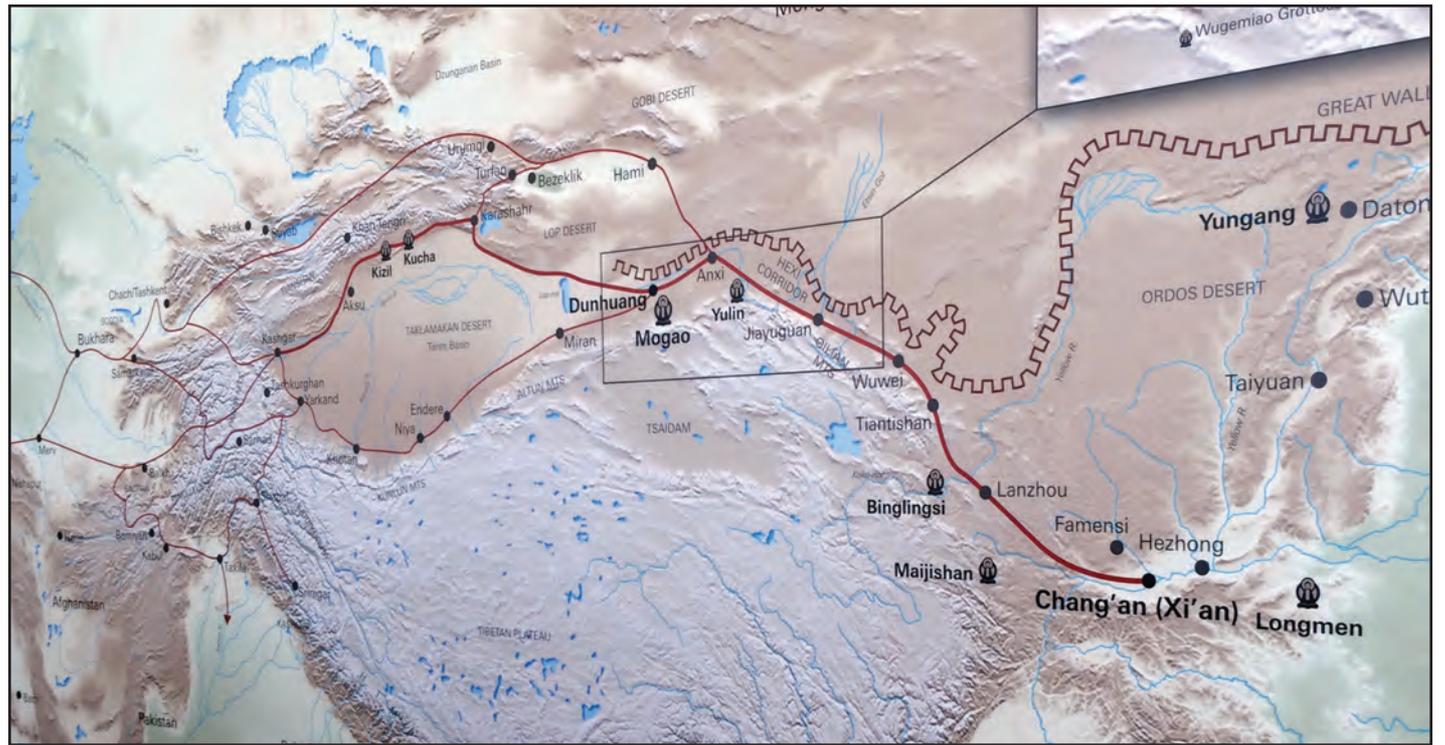
Most of us have heard of the Silk Road, certainly Marco Polo, but the details may be fuzzy, swathed in a centuries-old opaque history involving myriad rulers, merchants and religious seekers.

The Silk Road, or Silk Route, was a network of trade and cultural transmission routes that were central to cultural interaction through regions of the Asian continent connecting the West and East by linking traders, merchants, pilgrims, monks, soldiers, nomads and urban dwellers from China and India to the Mediterranean Sea during various periods of time.

Reaching its apogee during the Tang dynasty (618-907), the Silk Road was the most important pre-modern Eurasian trade route, whereby merchants benefited from the commerce between East and West, and when the Chinese empire welcomed foreign cultures, making it highly cosmopolitan in its urban centers.

The Silk Road could have easily been called the golden road, or the spice road or jeweled road for the variety of goods exchanged, according to Victor Mair, professor of Chinese language at the University of Pennsylvania: carpets, gold, semi-precious stones, fruits and animals from the Mediterranean; and from China, bowls made of the thinnest porcelain, bronze ornaments, medicines, paper, rice and tea.

“The major route traveled through the Gansu Corridor in Northwest China, which was like a funnel leading down into central China to Chang’an (Xian—home of the Chinese [terra cotta] soldiers). On the west-end, this route eventually split into var-



Heading east, the Silk Road caravan route passed through the Hexi region, west of the Yellow River, before beginning the arduous desert stages of the journey. Branches led north across the steppe and south to India.

Photo: Libby Motika

ious trade routes along the edges of the Gobi desert on its journey to India.”

Part trade route and part pilgrimage road, the Silk Road became the conduit for the spread of Buddhism in China from India. Merchants embraced the moral and ethical teachings and supported Buddhist monasteries along the way, and in return the monks gave the merchants lodging as they traveled from city to city. These communities became centers of literacy and culture with well-organized marketplaces, lodging and storage.

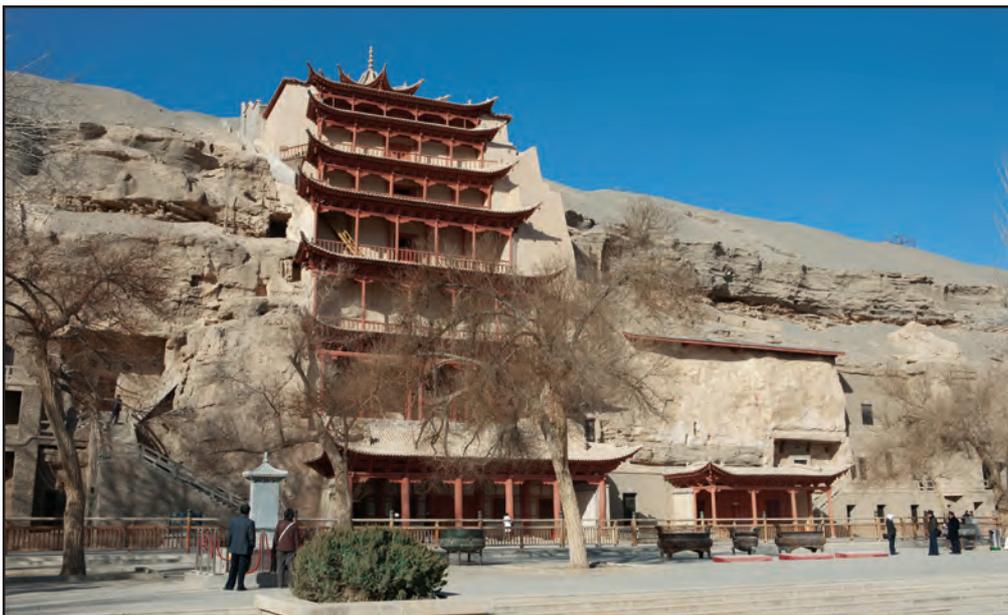
One such center was the city of Dunhuang, an oasis in Northwest China, and the site of some of the most spectacular Buddhist cave temples on the Silk Road.

In an extensive and ambitious new exhibition, The Getty Center explores the art, environment and conservation of the cave temples of Dunhuang.

Carved from soft sedimentary rock conglomerate, the caves varied in size, from those accommodating just three people to others able to hold large assemblies, or a 100-ft. Buddha. They were constructed by monks to serve as shrines with funds from donors, often important clergy, local ruling elite, foreign dignitaries as well as Chinese emperors. The caves were elaborately painted with colorful narratives of the Buddha’s life, often used as teaching tools to inform the illiterate about Buddhist beliefs and parables.

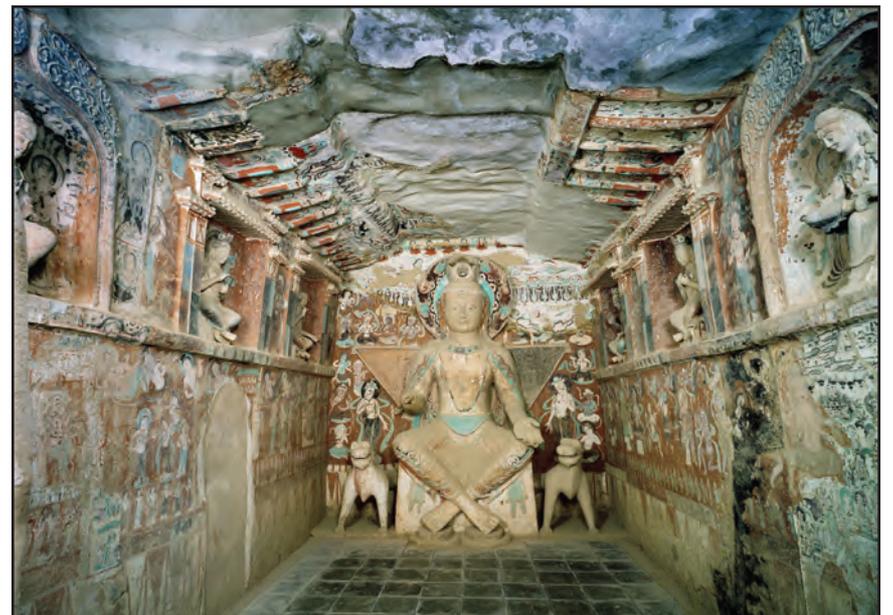
The cave temple complex, known as the Mogao Grottoes, was a thriving Buddhist center from the 4th to the 14th centuries, and is considered the most important site. After the Tang dynasty, the site went into a gradual decline and the construction of new caves ceased altogether as Islam had conquered much of Central Asia and the Silk Road was abandoned for trading via sea routes. But there are 472 surviving caves, 2,400 statues and hundreds of thousands of miles of paintings.

Through some 40 objects discovered in 1900 in Cave 17, known as the Library Cave (borrowed for this exhibition from the British Museum, the British Library, the Musee



The nine-story temple (Cave 96) houses a colossal Tang dynasty Buddha statue some 33 meters (108 feet) high. Mogao caves, Dunhuang, China.

Photo: ©Dunhuang Academy



Cave 275 view of the interior and sculpture of a bodhisattva, Northern Liang dynasty (420-429) CE) Mogao caves, Dunhuang, China.

Photo: Wu Jian, ©Dunhuang Academy



The cave temples of Mogao, carved into the cliff face along the Daquan River, are shaded by poplar trees planted in the 20th century and surrounded by austere desert. The nine-story temple can be seen at the center. Beyond the plateau above the cliff rise the Mingsha Shan—the Dunes of the Singing Sands. Photo: Sun Zhijun, ©Dunhuang Academy

Cuimet and the Bibliotheque nationale de France), we learn the details of life and influences of major cultures that spread throughout the world from travelers on the Silk Road—Greek and Roman via India, Middle Eastern and Persian, Indian and Chinese.

The exhibit displays manuscripts, paintings on silk, embroideries, preparatory sketches and the Diamond Sutra, a sacred Mahayana Buddhist text, dated May 11, 868, and thought to be the world’s oldest dated complete printed book.

Since few of us will visit this World Heritage Site, the Getty has constructed three full-scale, hand-painted replica caves, filled with Buddhist paintings and sculpture.

These replica caves were created by artists from the Dunhuang Academy of Fine Arts Institute in a time-consuming, step-by-step process. Clay from the riverbed that courses in front of the Mogao site was used for the base for the paintings. To replicate the paintings, artists photographed the original images and then were able to trace and hand paint using traditional pigments and scaled to original sizes.

Each of the three selected caves offers unique features, from painted stories of Buddha’s past lives to the magnificent ceiling in Cave 320 (8th century) teeming with small Buddhas surrounding a central peony motif. It’s best to study the objects in the Getty

Research Institute galleries first in order to understand how the caves were constructed, and most helpful to study the narratives and persons the paintings depict, while learning some basic Buddhist beliefs.

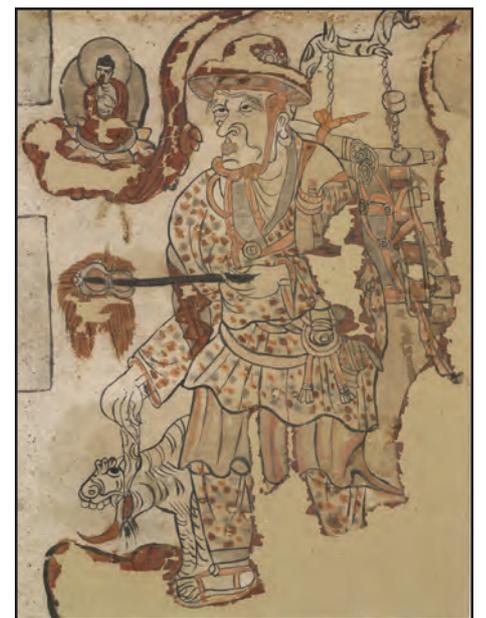
A multimedia gallery presenting a detailed examination of Cave 45, using 3D glasses, heightens the experience. Each of the walls of this High Tang cave is highlighted while the narrator explains the imagery, including the seven-figure sculpture group considered one of the treasures of Mogao.

Conservation of the site and its art is a cornerstone of the exhibition. For the past 25 years, the Getty Conservation Institute and the Dunhuang Academy have been working on site conservation and environmental monitoring, using Cave 85 as a test case for experimenting with effective ways for conservation and treatment of deteriorating walls.

The shrine in Cave 85, a large late Tang dynasty grotto commissioned in 860, is decorated with life-size portraits of donors and high officials and conveys insights into many aspects of life in this remote part of China.

In addition to using their scientific skills to stabilize the caves, conservationists have been addressing the impact of tourism, resulting in a visitor management and reservation system.

The 21st-century visitor has much to learn from the ancient Chinese documents discovered in the Library Cave, including volumes of information on science and technology: a new type of plow, the use of



Traveling Monk, ca. 851-900 CE, ink and pigments on paper. London, British Museum.

Photo: ©The Trustees of the British Museum.

stirrups, lunar calendars, classical herbal medicine and acupuncture, celestial maps, printing and distilling.

Visitors to Dunhuang learn about the history and art of the cave temples through digital and film representations, before touring the caves. But closer to home, the cave temples in the Getty exhibition offer an experience that gives us a palpable feel of the Mogao.

The exhibition runs through September 4. Visit getty.edu or call (310) 440-7360.

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Sather Sponsors Home Decorating Contest

Will you be the eighth winner of PAPA's Fourth of July Patriotic Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by Sotheby's Realtor Joan Sather?

All Pacific Palisades homes are eligible to enter. Simply upload a photo of their decorated home to the "Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Celebration" page on Facebook, or email the photo to info@palisadesparade.org, and it will be uploaded to the Facebook page.

From those photos, the 12 most promising homes are chosen, and judges visit each address, usually on July 3.

The winner receives an American flag that has been flown over the nation's Capital, gift certificates, a story in the *Palisades News* and participation in judging the 2017 contest. Last year's winner was the Jack and Sharon Sutton home on Galloway.

A year ago, Las Casas residents Scott and Susan Corwin and their son Joshua won

the inaugural Sponsor's Award, presented to "the home which best expresses effort above and beyond," Sather said. "This includes extra exuberance in décor, energy and enthusiasm expressed, while taking into consideration prior participation and commitment to the original intention."

"The whole point of this contest is to get people to decorate," said former Palisades Americanism Parade Association president Rob Weber, who serves as one of the contest judges.

"Last year, I was impressed by how the tradition of decorating homes on the Fourth has really blossomed on certain streets, such as Toyopa, Alma Real and Monument, where almost every home was festooned in red, white and blue in some fashion," Weber said.

"Seeing that patriotic spirit generates a wonderful feeling of pride in our community. It would be great to see at least a flag flying from every home and shop."

Sather, who has been a realtor in the Palisades for 27 years, has been sponsoring the contest since 2012. "I wanted to become more involved in the parade," she said. "With my relationship to houses, this was a natural segue."

The daughter of a naval officer, Sather has lived all over the United States, including Hawaii, and also spent three years in France. She attended five elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools and two colleges before graduating from UC Berkeley. She met her husband Kent in San Francisco and they moved to an apartment in



Joan Sather sponsors the town's Fourth of July Home Decorating contest. Photo: Lesly Hall

Brentwood.

Through friends, they heard about Pacific Palisades and started house-hunting. "We looked quite a while before we found something we could afford in the Marquez Knolls area," said Sather, who was pregnant with her first child. A major drawback was a long set of stairs to reach the home.

It was then she developed the buying philosophy she shares with clients. "There were more things about the house we liked

than we didn't like," Sather said. "Even looking at a \$10-million home, you won't find a totally perfect house. You have to decide where you compromise."

Sather tells her clients about the Fourth of July celebration. "It's a wonderful portrayal of Pacific Palisades. There is enthusiasm, community spirit and everyone enjoys the day together."

To reach Sather, call (310) 255-5450 or e-mail joan@joansather.com.

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- 2009: No contest held
- 2010: Mercer family (Toyopa)
- 2011: Almaraz family (Sunset)
- 2012: Hassett family (De Pauw)
- 2013: Mercer family (Toyopa)
- 2014: John Riley, Bev Lowe (Kagawa)
- 2015: Sutton family (Galloway)

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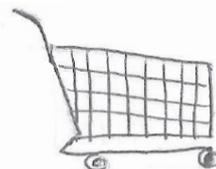
LOST & FOUND

Found: 1 like-new digital camera w/ matching black canvas case. Palisades Highlands, park trail off Michael Ln, on/about June 1-2. Please reply to Palisades News to identify.



The current successes of PPTFH's Outreach Team:

- **134** homeless individuals contacted
- **57** said "yes" to supportive service
- **17** are off the streets in interim housing



Thank you,
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Contact Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) for information and to find out how to contribute and effectively change lives.

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THEATRE REVIEW

Spitfire Grill Is Golden

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Go see *The Spitfire Grill* if you want to hear sublime voices and become immersed in flawless acting.

Go see *The Spitfire Grill* if you want to see a wonderfully constructed set and listen to an actual band.

Go see *The Spitfire Grill* if you want to experience a truly professional performance inside a community theater.

This is one of the best productions that Theatre Palisades has produced since 2005, when I started reviewing shows at the Pierson Playhouse. If you haven't been there or it's been a while, make reservations now, because tickets will be hard to come by once word of mouth travels around town about the quality of this show.

A friend who attended the show with me said afterwards, "I was going to say that Percy (Alyssa Rupert) had the best voice, but then I thought maybe Shelby did (Darcy Silveira) or Hannah (Joanna Churgin). Then I realized they were all really good." And they were.

Ross Chitwood, who plays the sheriff, also has an exceptional singing voice. An audience member might wonder how director Lewis Hauser was able to secure such a tal-

ent. Chitwood's bio explains he's the music director at the Palisades Methodist Church—after graduating from Juilliard School and from Rice University with a master's degree. He's also on the voice faculty at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

The nosy mail carrier and town gossip Effy (Susan Stangl) is perfectly played. Caleb (Terry Delegeane) handles his role with aplomb, and even the visitor (Phil Apoian) is totally believable. This is a great cast.

One of my favorite songs was "Ice and Snow," performed by the trio of Effy, Caleb and the sheriff. Such a lovely blending of voices!

All of the singers in this cast were a joy to listen to—sweet, pure. The theatre now uses microphones for the performers, which means you can relax and hear every bit of dialogue.

The three-piece band, under the direction of Brian Murphy, provides the perfect accompaniment.

The Spitfire Grill revolves around Percy, in her early 20s, who while in jail for manslaughter had clipped a photo from a travel magazine of Gilead, Wisconsin. When she's finally released, Percy travels to the small town to start her life anew.

Once she arrives, the sheriff finds her a



Sheriff Joe Sutter (Ross Chitwood, center) introduces Spitfire Grill owner Hannah Ferguson (Joanna Churgin, left) to the newly arrived Percy Talbott (Alyssa Rupert). Photo: Joy Daunis

job and lodging at the Spitfire Grill, owned by Hannah, a widow with a secret.

The sheriff becomes her parole officer, but townspeople are not thrilled that a parolee is living in town.

The Grill, the only restaurant in town, has been for sale for 10 years, with no takers. Percy comes up with the idea that for \$100 and an essay about why one should own the eatery, Hannah could raffle it off. Soon the café is flooded with essays about why Gilead would be the perfect place for a new start.

The Spitfire Grill is based on the 1996 movie by Lee David Zlotoff, with music and book by James Valcq and lyrics and book by Fred Alley.

Produced by Shirley Churgin and Sylvia Grieb, the show will run through July 10 at the Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 general admission and \$23 for seniors and students. Visit: TheatrePalisades.com or call (310) 454-1970.

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