



First Power-Pole Station Goes Up

The first of two 65-ft. pole-top distributing (PTD) stations has been installed at the corner of Temescal Canyon Road and Sunset Boulevard. A second station will be placed at Sunset and the western end of Marquez Avenue.

They are a temporary solution until a second substation can be built to serve Pacific Palisades.

Last January at a Community Council meeting, Bill Herriott and Jack Waizenegger of the Department of Water and Power addressed the town's frequent power outages.

Three circuits in the Palisades have been overloaded since 2009. Last year, they were overloaded at 118 percent, 123 percent and 114 percent, respectively. The heat generated from being overloaded can cause shut-downs and reliability issues.

Waizenegger said, "This is a good band-aid," but he noted two issues with a pole-top station as opposed to a substation. The PTD is fused and has no backup transformer; plus it has overhead exposure and minimal remote monitoring.

Although Waizenegger acknowledged that alternate energy sources and low-en-



A pole-top electrical distributing station was installed at Temescal Canyon Road and Sunset Boulevard.

Photo: Sawyer Pascoe

ergy appliances can help, this area's power station (built in 1935 at the corner of Sunset and Via de la Paz and upgraded numer-

ous times) has reached its capacity.

The DWP reps also warned that additional poles may be installed, perhaps as

soon as this year. Once a substation is installed, the poles can be removed.

—SUE PASCOE

Soccer Turf Wars at Paul Revere Heat Up

By SUE PASCOE
Editor



The small field next to the buildings is called the Garden field and was given to AYSO. The large field nearer Sunset was given to a club soccer team by LAUSD. Photo: Sawyer Pascoe

A club soccer team has been granted a permit for a playing field at Paul Revere Middle School. If this decision by LAUSD goes unchecked, the AYSO Region 69 soccer program will lose a field that has been integral to its Saturday program for decades.

Revere's grass athletic field is divided into two soccer fields: the large one (Sunset), closest to Sunset Boulevard, is for older players and the small field (Garden) is closer to the Revere greenhouse.

AYSO has been fighting for months to retain its use of both fields this coming season, as there is no available replacement field in Pacific Palisades or Brentwood.

Hopes were raised on July 7 when the *Palisadian-Post* published an article headlined "LAUSD Permits AYSO Use of Paul Revere Fields," stating that the fields at Revere "will still be available to Region 69 teams."

However, longtime AYSO volunteer Steve Morris quickly responded by email to AYSO supporters, writing: "While the reporter was busy congratulating AYSO for keeping its permit at Revere, the article was inaccurate while missing the point of the community's alarm and outrage. AYSO was never in danger of losing Paul Revere; that was never the issue.

"What AYSO was protesting was the loss of all usage of the Sunset field to a club founded by and run by coaches who not only use the field for their SCDSL [Southern California Development Soccer League] purposes, but for private lessons and clinics as well.

"The 1,700 players of AYSO were relegated to the smaller Garden field, while the Chelsea club numbering less than 100 players [75 are currently listed on the SCDSL roster] was granted full control of the Sunset field," Morris said.

From September through December, AYSO (a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization serving youth in Pacific Palisades and Brentwood) uses the Sunset field for week-day practices and on Saturdays for the Girls U12 games.

The field is not actually used by 1,700 AYSO players, as Morris stated, but nevertheless is an irreplaceable space for hundreds of players. This year the Girls U12 program already has 10 registered teams.

In prior years, AYSO has shared the two Revere fields with club soccer teams (Galaxy Alliance, now TSA-FC LA) and a lacrosse youth league. Field availability has never been an issue, until now.

The Chelsea Club operates under the JUSA Club out of Yorba Linda, because it lacks the necessary 10 teams to form its own

(Continued on Page 9)

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Levy Wins Bicycle Decorating Contest

Jimmy Levy, 8, was the top winner in the Fourth of July bike-decorating contest, sponsored by The Yogurt Shoppe owners Kevin and Jennifer Sabin.

"We truly enjoy sponsoring Kids on Bikes as it is so incredibly rewarding," Sabin said. "We are honored to be part of this community and part of the parade, which is such an amazing and well-organized event."

For the past six years, The Yogurt Shoppe, at 873 Swarthmore Ave. and now also at 11726 Barrington Ct. in Brentwood, has hosted the contest, which includes a \$75 yogurt gift card for first place, \$50 for second and \$25 for third.

This year there were about 75 entries, with more bikes than scooters, but Sabin noted that there were more scooters this year.

He said the toughest thing about judging was "hearing the kids' stories about how much time, effort and creativity they put into decorating their bikes and scooters."

"We were very moved by the passion and commitment that so many of our participants demonstrated," Sabin said, noting it made it even harder to select the top three places.

Levy, a third grader at Village School, had never entered the contest before. He was asked how he came up with decorating ideas for his bike. "My mom and I bought a bunch of decorations, and I figured it out as I went along," said Levy, who also added that the best part was "getting to ride at the front of the parade with the other kids." He is the son of Brian and Nancy Levy.

Second place went to Natalia Fishkin, 10, daughter of James and Erica Fishkin. London Evans, also 10, took third. She is the daughter of Derek and Lindsay Evans. Both girls attend Seven Arrows.

Although Evans has decorated her bike every Fourth of July since moving here in 2010 from Colorado, this was her first

time in the contest. "My idea this year was to represent the entire United States," London said. "I also wanted to put real sparklers on my bike, but my parents advised against that."

Sabin was asked about the most rewarding aspect of the contest.

"Definitely calling the family of the first-place winner and speaking with the parents and Jimmy late in the evening the night before the parade," he said. "I let them know they won and I could hear the excitement in their voices."

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First place went to Jimmy Levy.



Second place finisher Natalia Fishkin



Third place finisher London Evans

Just Like Dancing With The Stars (Almost)

You have watched the *Dancing With the Stars* professionals teach people how to dance. Now Pacific Palisades residents can learn the basic dance moves at a Dance Fitness Class for Adults from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Mondays through August 29 at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club.

Everyone is welcome (\$15 per class for non PPWC members).

This class takes you through various styles such as ballroom, rumba, salsa and bachata. It's for all fitness levels and there is no experience needed. Dancing reduces stress and increases coordination, flexibility and balance. The class is hosted by the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. RSVP to Roberta at (310) 454-9012.

YMCA Proposes Cutting Hours

The Palisades-Malibu YMCA on Via de la Paz is proposing severe cuts in operating hours starting August 1.

Monday through Thursdays the gym would be open from 5:45 a.m. to 8 p.m. On Friday, it would be open from 5:45 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday it would be open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Current hours are Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Executive Director Shelly Skaro was called and emailed about this decision, but is on vacation until July 20.

An employee at the Y spoke on the condition of anonymity. She did not know if Skaro had contacted the local board, but said, "Metro recommended that a few branches reduce hours and this was one, based on usage over the past six months."

The employee was asked why the hours would be cut back, given the Y's statement "Our strength is in community" and "The Y is community centered. For nearly 160 years, we've been listening and responding to our communities," and "The Y brings people together. We connect people of all ages and backgrounds to bridge the gaps in community needs."

The employee once again said it was a decision made by Skaro and Metro. It was pointed out to the employee that by limiting afternoon and evening hours, teens who are in school during the week and sleep in on weekends would have difficulty using the facility. It would also affect commuters, many of whom don't make it home by 7 p.m.

One of the reasons given for cutting the hours was the increase in the minimum wage by the City of L.A. (as of July 1) to

\$10.50 an hour.

Will YMCA workers be able to make up lost hours on another day?

"Metro gave the instruction to cut operation and payroll costs," an employee said.

The people working at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA will now make less than before, even with the increased minimum wage.

Metro YMCA Senior Vice President of Communications Kris S. Nakamura responded, "These are proposed new hours. Through the end of the July, Palisades-Malibu YMCA will monitor activity of members to determine if adjustments needs to be made prior to August 1 when the new hours are proposed to take effect. We are committed to serving the Palisades-Malibu community and our members can trust that our hours will continue to reflect their needs."

—SUE PASCOE

'McMansion' Law Will Not Apply to Palisades

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The City Planning Commission voted on July 14 to support the new Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BMO/BHO), which now goes to the City Council for final approval.

But thanks to Councilman Mike Bonin, Pacific Palisades homeowners will be exempt from the new law, if it passes.

On page 6 of the 179-page report on the ordinance, the following paragraphs were attached:

"In the course of introducing the proposed changes of the BMO/BHO to the public, the Department encountered varying opposition to the prospect of more restrictive single family development provisions, especially in the Pacific Palisades area of the City. As a result, a range of zones from re:code LA will be considered for portions of Pacific Palisades as if they were one of the Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) neighborhoods.

"This will provide residents a choice of more permissive or more restrictive regulations. The portions of Pacific Palisades covered by the new re:code LA zones will

not be subject to the BMO/BHO development standards addressed by the new zones; however, residents of specific sections of Pacific Palisades could opt to retain the BMO/BHO regulations or to become part of a different re:code LA zone from the rest of Pacific Palisades. In addition, specific plans that regulate single-family development are not subject to BMO/BHO development standards."

(Currently, there are 15 neighborhoods that have an ICO that establishes temporary restrictions on the size of new single-family dwellings—and are more restrictive than current regulations. The ICO's end in 2017 and at that time those areas will fall under the new law.)

This means that residents from San Pedro to the Valley will be required to observe the ordinance if passed, Pacific Palisades will not.

The Palisades will not have to observe the new BMO/BHO ordinance that drops the "green building" exemptions, which allow for larger residences when resource-efficient materials are used. Critics said the practice resulted in out-of-scale houses, negating a favorable environmental impact.

Palisades residents also would not have



A typical house in the Alphabet Streets that occupies the property from lot line to lot line.

Photo: Sawyer Pascoe

to observe the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) that would go from .5 to .45. For example, instead of a 5,000-sq.-ft home on a 10,000-sq.-ft. lot, the maximum house size would be 4,500-sq.-ft.

Oversized garages that many used for home studios or gyms, rather than for parking cars, would go unchecked. For other L.A. residents, the first 200 sq. ft. of an attached front garage would be exempt, while a 400-sq.-ft. garage at the back of the lot would ALSO be exempt.

Covered porches and patios would now count toward the FAR, rather than being exempt—but not in the Palisades.

The *L.A. Times* reported in a July 14 article that some homeowners complained

their families would be penalized: "Steve Mayer, a father of three who lives in Rancho Park, said that his home would be limited to 2,600 square feet, even though 4,000-square-foot mansions abounded around him. 'They got their mansions,' Mayer said in an interview with the *L.A. Times* shortly after he testified at City Hall. 'At least give me a chance to expand adequately.'" Not a Palisades problem.

Bonin's office was contacted but had not responded by press time.

Even though City Councilman Paul Koretz first proposed new zoning ordinances two years ago, and City Planning has held 15 meetings on the Westside over the past year, many Palisades residents argued they

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hadn't been adequately notified. Koretz's office was also contacted for a statement about the Palisades exemption, but had not responded by press time.

On July 13, about 140 people attended a meeting on the BMO/BHO at Palisades High School.

L.A. City Planner Christine Saponara gave a presentation to a vocal audience about possible zoning steps in Pacific Palisades that might be taken.

"Property value is not just about square footage," she said, noting there are views, neighborhood character and parking, among other amenities. "Hancock Park and the Miracle Mile have imposed rules, but property values haven't gone down there."

Residents were then broken up into smaller groups according to the neighborhood where they resided. The two largest groups represented were the Marquez Knolls and the Alphabet Streets.

The *News* sat in on the Alphabet Streets/Mesa Bluffs group.

Architect and Civic League President Richard Blumenberg told the planners that much of the Palisades is in the 9300 tract and that this area already had a zoning plan in place that works. The problem, according to Blumenberg, is "nobody enforces the rules."

Other residents chimed in. "A lot of builders don't follow the rules," and "If the City fines them, they just take it as a loss on the building," and "Even if the City fines them, no one makes them take the building back down."



City National Bank Is Open

City National Bank spokesperson Debora Vrana said the bank will remain open during construction on Swarthmore. The *Palisadian-Post* reported in its July 14 issue that the bank had closed. Vrana told the *News* that the bank is open and "We're committed to serving all our clients in Pacific Palisades."

The Bank, located at 1012 Swarthmore Ave., opened in 2011.

Call: (310) 873-5300 or visit cnb.com.

Farmers Market to Move to PaliHi

The Swarthmore Farmers Market will move to Palisades High campus, starting July 24.

John Edwards, president of Raw Inspiration (which oversees the market), addressed about 75 people during a special Park Advisory Board meeting on July 6 at the Palisades Recreation Center. Most of the attendees were there to object to Raw Inspiration's plan to move the market to the upper athletic field at the park during construction of Caruso Affiliated's Palisades Village project.

"We've been on Swarthmore for 16 years,"

Edwards said. "In January we got a communication from Caruso that we could stay on the street during construction, but a few weeks ago, we received a communication that it would now not be possible."

Edwards then introduced Melissa Farwell, who announced that thanks to a last-minute lease agreement with PaliHi, "We're moving to the high school. We just found out today."

The market will be located off Bowdoin on the hillside parking lot above the high school and below El Medio. There are three levels of parking, and the market is cur-

rently slated for the second level. There will also be parking in the faculty parking lot next to Gilbert Hall and in the parking lot above the football stadium.

Farwell said the market would definitely remain at PaliHi for at least 18 months, and added, "We got an email from Caruso today saying we could come back to Swarthmore," when Palisades Village opens (now estimated for mid-2018).

Raw Inspiration was asked if Caruso was helping with the costs at the high school. "No" was the answer.

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Heard About Town

Citizen's Arrest Query

I would like to understand why the police have to be present and observe an attempted kidnapping in order to arrest and detain the perpetrator, even though there are viable witnesses other than the victim and his family. ("Transient Grabs an 8-Year-Old Boy" July 6, page 3.) This does not make sense and it does not sound like a misdemeanor either. How can a citizen press criminal charges—doesn't that have to be the district attorney?

(Editor's note: The District Attorney's Office will press charges, but needs to know that the citizen will show up in court to testify.)

Patriotism vs. Greed

Setting up my patio early on July 4th for a party, I became aware of grinding, sawing and loud conversations, coming from the 1100 block of Galloway. This lasted all day into the evening. At first disbelief, then annoyance and aggravation that a construction crew was actually working on a national legal holiday! Independence Day is set aside for families to celebrate the birth of our nation, and barbeque without being subjected to disruptive construction noise. Why would a developer have crews work on a major holiday?

Landscaping the Chabad

From one who lives in Castellammare and drives by the Chabad on Sunset daily, the place is surrounded by walls, with dirt between them and the street! It would be so nice (not to mention neighborly) to have some landscaping installed, preferably greenery, to soften the blow.

Another Reckless Driver

I was in the crosswalk about two feet from the curb by the Woman's Club, when a silver Prius blew through a stop sign. Had I not jumped forward, it would have hit me. Only then did the car stop. The man in the passenger seat just laughed and then the driver, a woman who looked close to 60, turned and drove up towards Gelson's. I was clearly shaken, but they didn't even roll down the window to say "Sorry." If you narrowly miss someone in a crosswalk, you have no business driving.

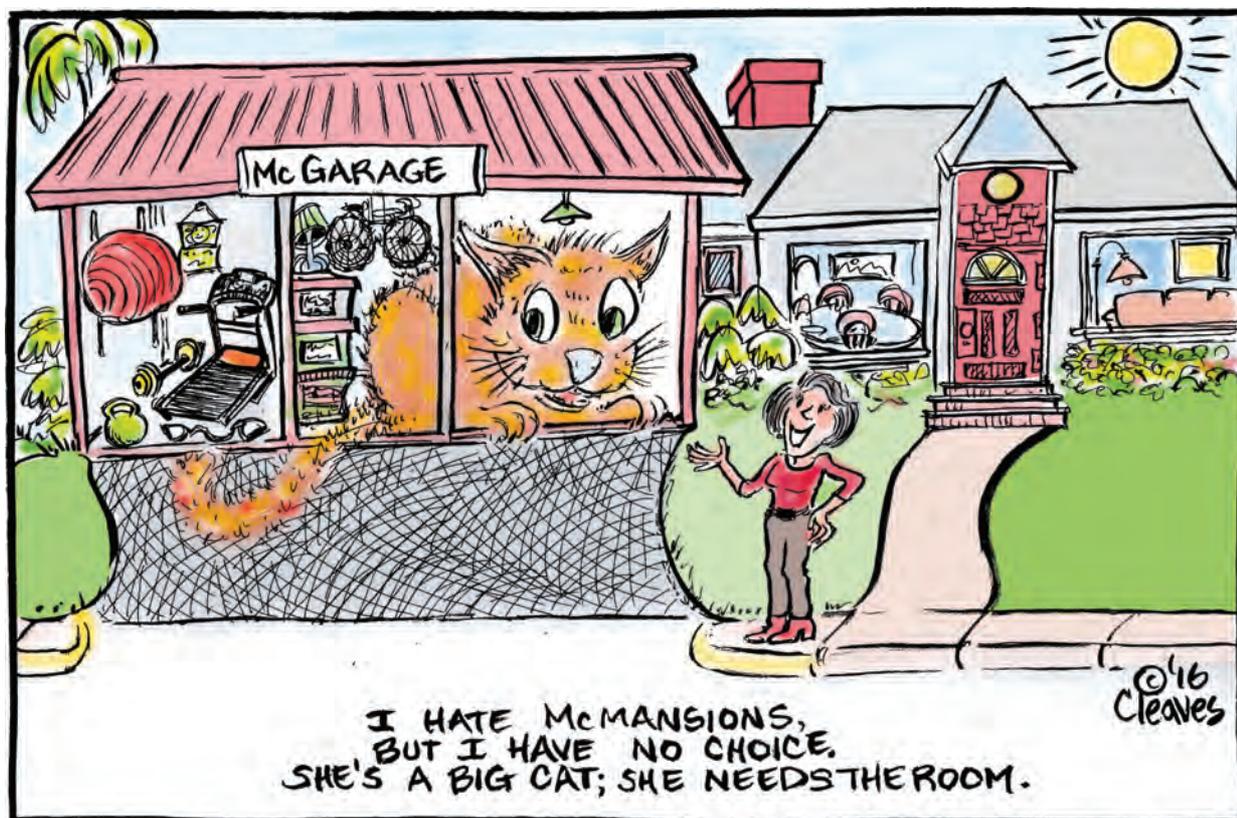
Busy Street

The new building going up between the post office and the Garden Café appears to be really busy with activity. Any idea how long it will take to finish it?

(Editor's note: Owner Eliot Zorensky said that the exterior should be finished within a month.)

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Understanding How to Parent

By LOLA COFFEY
Special to the Palisades News

Even though my husband and I have raised our two children the same—or tried to—they are different. I hoped that one would maybe teach in college or be a doctor or dentist. The particularly athletic one, I hoped might play in college.

It hasn't happened. I felt like I was a failure at parenting.

Experts say parents are supposed to read to kids every night to develop their love of reading. I did. It wasn't a chore, because I always loved reading. But neither kid would pick up a book just for fun. Taking my kids to museums and plays, enrolling them in chess and providing piano lessons is what I thought a good parent did.

I watched my neighbor's kids score high on tests and get into Ivy League Schools. Mine didn't. Other parents would brag about their kids' latest accomplishments. I didn't feel that doing well on League of Legions was something to bring into a conversation at a school meeting.

Last Saturday, I read an article in the *Wall Street Journal* that made me feel much better.

It was an essay adapted from Dr. Alison Gopnik's book *The Gardener and the Carpenter: What the New Science of Child Development Tells Us about the Relationship between Parents and Children*.

Gopnik, a professor of psychology at UC Berkeley, says the idea of "parenting" implying that parents must do something is a recent idea. (Probably starting around 1958 and becoming more popular in the 1970s.)

She writes, "The idea that parents can learn special techniques that will make their children

turn out better is ubiquitous in middle-class America. But this prescriptive picture is fundamentally misguided. It's the wrong way to understand how parents and children actually think and act, and it's equally wrong as a vision of how they should think and act."

The professor maintains that parents think there is some expertise we could acquire to help us in our goal of shaping our kids' lives, but there's little scientific evidence to support that.

Rather, she approaches parenting from an evolutionary aspect. One of the ways that humans were able to adapt to a changing environment and survive as a species was by nurturing a wide range of children with different temperaments and abilities. After reading that, I started to feel better.

But there was a paragraph in the essay that really seemed to make a lot of sense. "Instead of valuing 'parenting,' we should value 'being a parent.' Instead of thinking about caring for children as a kind of work, aimed at producing smart or happy or successful adults, we should think of it as a kind of love. Love doesn't have goals or benchmarks or blueprints, but it does have a purpose. Love's purpose is not to shape our beloved's destiny but to help them shape their own."

Gopnik argues that we should view raising a child as if we're a gardener. We make a safe place for plants to grow and we nurture them, but she says, "As all gardeners know nothing works out the way we planned. The greatest pleasure and triumphs, as well as disasters, are unexpected."

Instead of this being about me and whether I'm a failure as a parent, this is really about my kids as they find their own way. All I need to do is love them.

Thought to Ponder

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

— Abraham Lincoln

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EDITORIAL

Can Local Organizations Manage to Survive?

In Pacific Palisades, organizations like the American Legion, the Optimist Club, the Historical Society, the Lions Club, Rotary, the Temescal Canyon Association and the Village Green are all on the endangered list. If these organizations were wild animals, there would be an outcry to save them. Most likely, the millennials would be leading the charge.

But since these organizations, in general, don't know how to appeal to the younger generations, they are slowly declining, not only in the Palisades, but across the country.

Some club members blame under-35 residents for not joining. They maintain that this generation, born between 1982 and 1994, is too self-absorbed and is unconcerned about getting involved in the town as members of clubs and organizations.

Ryan Akins, who grew up in Pacific Palisades and graduated from Palisades High in 1995, has a different take.

When he spoke to the Rotary Club the first week in July, he noted that adults between 20 and 34 are a larger generation than the baby boomers. This group represents 50 percent of the global work force and in 10 years will represent 70 percent.

"If you don't tap into the millennials, your club won't exist," said Akins, who lives in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and has a Dale Carnegie franchise.

This poses two questions for service organizations: 1.) How do you get new members to join? and 2.) How do you keep them active in the club?

Using the acronym PESTO, Akins said Purpose is the first thing that an organization has to address to attract millennials. The generality of a mission statement or a logo on a Facebook page or website doesn't draw new members. He took the Rotary Club's statement "Service above Self" and asked what it meant.

Members gave general answers, which prompted Akins to challenge the group to be specific. Akins talked about how important it is for service clubs to have an updated website and Facebook page. Millennials, who are hooked into technology via iPhone, iPad or computer, will not pursue an organization if they find a static picture on the Internet with a P.O. box as the contact information.

Clubs are urged to explain current and upcoming projects and fundraisers, and display what they want to accomplish across the top of the page.

The E in Akins' acronym is Elicit ideas from millennials. Most of these adults graduated from high schools and colleges that required community service. Many started their own nonprofits in high school or college. Let them bring new ideas and excitement into the organization, and let them lead.

One Rotarian, who also serves on the Village Green committee, asked how they could attract younger members for the privately run park. "I remember when snow was brought in and kids got to play in it," Akins said. "Are you still doing that? I would also have musicians and artists and make it a vibrant center of town."

The S in PESTO stands for Social. Most clubs have social events, but what about simply carving out time for a fun activity among members? "How many times do you get together just to have fun?" Akins asked. Maybe that's part of the appeal of Team Red, White and Blue—a new veterans group that provides opportunities for veterans to socialize through a hike or a run or maybe even a happy-hour mixer.

Akins said the T stands for training, and suggested that clubs ought to consider instituting professional development. We're not quite sure how that would look, but we bet there are some millennials in our reading audience who could tell us exactly what they're looking for.

Finally, there is the O for opportunity. The opportunity to lead should be given to this new generation, who are educated, technically capable and, from what we can tell, enthusiastic about making a difference.

If anyone can save an "endangered species" it will be the millennials.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking Nightmare Is Coming

I would like to know where you got your information on the upcoming parking crisis (Editorial, "Change It's a Comin' to the Village," July 6). There are many of us here who have been parking at the lot that is due to be demolished. We have personally contacted all the places you mentioned and gotten different answers. The Atrium [on Via] told us \$200, and Chase Bank told us they rent only to customers with businesses in that building. Also, the Monument building told us they will rent only to tenants of the building.

Arlene Fink
en Route Travel

(Editor's note: We told Fink we had received our information from Arnie Wishnick, executive director of the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce. Fink replied, "Arnie's answer that he walks four or five blocks after parking doesn't work for those of us who have to go in and out several times during the day. Parking is scarce on the street now and will only get worse.")

More Parking Challenges

(Editor's note: Terry Bahri at en Route Travel on Sunset Boulevard shared the following letter with the News. When she was contacted about permission to print her letter she added, "There is no solution for the next two years and Arnie [Wishnick, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director] said, 'I'm just hoping that we can all stay in business the next 18-24 months!' Arnie will bring the matter up to City Councilman Mike Bonin.")

Good Morning, Arnie!!!! How are you? Hope you are not going too crazy with all the changes happening around town. I am writing to you regarding the parking

situation, which I am sure you are very well aware of.

Today, there was an editorial in the *Palisades News* about the parking situation and the newspaper mentions three parking lots that are currently accepting monthly membership (wrong!). Since we heard about the parking lot closing, our office contacted every single lot in the Palisades, and none has any available spots. Even the Atrium lot, which claims they have spots, is taking advantage of the situation by charging \$200/mo., which is exorbitant! Their current members are paying \$110 and now they want to charge nearly double. Totally unacceptable!

Has the Chamber been able to discuss this situation at all? Where are all the cars that are parking in the current lot going to park? The streets are going to be jammed with approximately 100+ cars trying to find spots. I don't think anyone would be able to take two years of parking nightmares.

Terry Bahri

Spitz Disputes Published Letter

I regret that the *Palisades News* chose to publish (without correction) a letter from a Marquez resident containing inaccuracies about PPCC's position on the BMO-BHO Code Amendment. PPCC's actual position is a matter of record and has been made available to the public for several weeks; see pacpalicc.org.

In fact, at the recent public meeting at Palisades High, I reiterated PPCC's position: PPCC opposes the proposed Amendment as drafted because a one-size-fits-all solution does not work for the Palisades. The unique aspects and character of our community must be taken into account, and further revisions are necessary in order to accommodate the needs and concerns of our many neighborhoods.

I repeated this position publicly at the PPCC board meeting on June 23 (a meeting attended by, among others, an MKPOA officer and the *News* editor). These facts should have been made clear to the public.

As reflected in extensive meeting minutes which are available to all on the PPCC website (www.pacpalicc.org), I presided over three public forums on the BMO-BHO Code Amendment matter. Numerous community members, including Marquez residents, were in attendance and expressed their views. PPCC's board reflects the diversity of the Palisades community, with 23 voting members and over 30 additional alternates and advisors from all walks of life and constituencies in the Palisades (including elected representatives from every residential area and organizational representatives from all significant Palisades organizations). Several of our board members and officers are themselves Marquez residents. PPCC's position, reached after extensive discussion and a unanimous board vote, reflects community consensus on the matter.

I have personally reached out to Planning Dept. officials and CD11 senior staff to reiterate PPCC's position that Code provisions must be enacted to ensure that applicable zoning rules reflect the unique character and concerns of all of the Palisades' diverse neighborhoods.

I am proud that PPCC has been an effective community liaison to government officials.

Chris Spitz

President Emeritus, Pacific Palisades Community Council

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.

TPY's *Xanadu Jr.* Opens Friday

The Theatre Palisades Youth will present the pop-rock musical comedy *Xanadu Jr.*, written by Douglas Carter Beane, starting this weekend at Pier-son Playhouse on Temescal Canyon Road.

The student version of this show is based on the Tony-nominated Broadway musical, which emulated the 1980 Universal Pictures film with a screenplay by Richard Danus and Marc Rubel, who were inspired by the 1947 film *Down to Earth*.

Set in Venice Beach in 1980, the play features the magical Greek muse Kira descending from Mt. Olympus to inspire a struggling artist, Sonny.

Sonny hopes to achieve the greatest artistic creation of all time, the first roller disco. Problems arise when Kira falls in love with the mortal, and her jealous sisters take advantage of the situation, and chaos abounds.

Directed by Lara Ganz, this musical comedy features an original hit score by pop-rock legends Jeff Lynne and John Farrar, including songs like "Magic," "All Over The World," "Suddenly," "I'm Alive," "Evil Woman," "Have You Never Been Mellow" and "Xanadu."

Cast members include Alexandra and Gabriella Abraham, Lauren Bernstein, Eliza Byrnes, Kerry Cooper, Rex Crabtree, Bella Dixon, Barrett Eastman, Callum and Mir-



Theatre Palisades Youth will take you back to 1980.

Photo: Lara Schrader

eille Ganz, Rachel Grossman, Safiye Gurdil, Sophie Herron, Katie and Nick Jeffers, Evangeline Lindes, Emma Lindgren, Madeline Milam, Lexie Palmer, Cleo Schwartz,

Gwyneth Seelinger and Riley Stoler.

Show times are Fridays, July 22 and 29 at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, July 23 and 30 at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays, July 24 and 31 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and should be purchased early, because the shows generally sell out.

Call: (310) 454-1970 or visit: theatrepalisades.com

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AYSO

(Continued from Page 1)

club. (The current SCDSL website has rosters for six teams.)

Last year, Chelsea LA, which has players from Pacific Palisades, played its games at Yorba Linda.

A SCDSL administrator told the *Palisades News* that in order to schedule games here in the Palisades, the club has to show it has a permit for a field, for full days on Saturday and on Sunday.

SCDSL hadn't received the Revere field permits from Chelsea as of July 13. "How they get the field is not our concern," the administrator said.

Steven Rosen, general manager of the club team, told the *News*, "Chelsea SC LA is a year round non-profit soccer club based out of the Pacific Palisades. We appreciate the continued support that LAUSD, the staff at Paul Revere Middle School, our players and families, and the community provide us so that we can continue to develop youth soccer in our area.

"All youth sport programs face field space issues, especially in the Pacific Palisades area," Rosen said. "We look forward to working with LAUSD and the community to find solutions to this growing problem."

Club coaches are paid by parents and the cost starts at about \$200 a month per child (for a year). Club soccer, by nature of needing to win and move up in brackets, does not dictate equal playing time among the players on a team.

In AYSO, all kids are required to play at least three-fourths of a game, and the cost for the season is \$295. Coaches, referees, the registrar and even Janet Anderson, the regional commissioner, are not paid.

Teams exist for boys and girls from U5 (under 5 years of age) through U19. There's a VIP Program (Very Important Players) for children and adults whose physical or mental disabilities make it difficult to participate on mainstream teams. That program is held at the Calvary Christian School field.

The *News* contacted LAUSD to ask how the Revere permits were distributed and received a lengthy press statement from Board President Steve Zimmer: "I am a longtime supporter of AYSO... No matter how much we value a particular program, neither myself nor any local Principal is involved in the allocation of field use or schedules during non-school hours. This is the case for obvious reasons of fairness and objectivity in the space allocation process. . . .

"The District will continue to provide access to soccer fields using our established process to maximize objectivity."

George Wolfberg, a longtime referee with AYSO and vice president of the Palisades Community Council, wrote the *News*: "Zimmer's statement is disingenuous at best. Previous board members have been supportive of AYSO. He doesn't seem to care."

LAUSD also released a statement: "While AYSO is one of the largest users of field space for the District, we try our best to accommodate civic permit requests and provide equitable usage to all requestors.

"Civic center permits are short-term facilities agreement use permits designed to be economical so everyone has access to our school facilities."

The *News* asked LAUSD media representative Elvia Perez Cano if a reporter could speak to the person who made the Revere decision.

"The answers provided have been formulated with the input from the Civic Center Permit Office," Perez Cano said. "We have nothing further to add at this point."

In June, AYSO volunteers started a petition in support of two Revere fields for AYSO, stating "It's time the community raised its voice." Visit: ipetitions.com/petition/ayso69.

In response, a parent on the Chelsea team sent a letter to club parents saying, "We are very grateful for the support of the school administrators at Paul Revere... I have already been in contact with LAUSD, who called me this morning about this, as well as the principal at Paul Revere."

The email further explained, "Our coaches run the PEP program for soccer at Paul Revere, moving it from a seasonal to a year-round program. . . . The PE department at Paul Revere is thrilled."

Revere is closed through July 20 and Principal Tom Iannucci could not be reached for comment about his relationship with Chelsea coaches and parents.

"Less than 100 kids are getting 50 percent of the space," AYSO's Steve Morris said. "We don't want Chelsea kicked off. AYSO just wants to share the field in an equitable fashion."

No Book Donations Accepted in Aug./Sept.

The Friends of the Palisades Branch Library regret that its volunteers will NOT be able to accept ANY book donations during August and September.

Donations on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 12:30 and 5 p.m. will resume on Tuesday, October 4, at 861 Alma Real Dr.

The Friends of the Library thank you for your cooperation. If you have book donations that cannot wait until October, please take the books to other locations.

If you would be interested in volunteering to receive donated items in the library once the program resumes, call (310) 962-8313.

Visit: FriendsOfPalisadesLibrary.org.

Democratic Convention Watch Party Set July 28

Democrats (and independents!) are invited to view Hillary Clinton's acceptance speech (live from the convention in Philadelphia) on Thursday, July 28, at 929 Colorado Ave. in Santa Monica (off 10th St.). Admission is \$20 and doors will open at 6 p.m. There will be a light dinner, drinks and giant-screen televisions. For tickets, visit palidems.org or mail checks to P.O. Box 343, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272 or call (310) 230-2084 or email info@palisadesdemclub.org.

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White Bike Appears on Temescal Canyon

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A white metal bike memorial appeared in Temescal Canyon Park in April, with the name “James Rapley” carved into it.

Rapley, who worked in Chicago, was on a layover in Los Angeles on his way to his home country of Australia in December 2013. While pedaling up Temescal Canyon Road (north of PCH), he was struck and killed by an intoxicated teen driver from Santa Monica.

At that time, a ghost bike was placed at the site. According to the L.A. Ghost Bike website (ghostbike.org/la), a bicycle is painted all white and placed at a fatal bike-accident scene as a reminder of the tragedy.

Cathie Santa Dominigo, Superintendent for the Planning, Construction & Maintenance Department of L.A. Recreation & Parks, was asked when memorials at City parks became available.

“Let me check with our maintenance folks to find out more info,” Santa Dominigo wrote in a May 23 email. “I’m only aware of one memorial that was approved by the Board in recent times as part of a lawsuit settlement at Spring Street Park in Downtown.”

Eight days later, she responded, “I was informed that this [the bike memorial on



Although the bike in Temescal Canyon Park looks like a ghost bike memorial, this metal structure carved with the name James Rapley (a biker who was struck and killed by a motorist) is actually a bike rack.

Temescal] was installed through our maintenance department at the request of the Council office.”

On June 14, the News contacted Councilman Mike Bonin’s office and asked why the family/Council office did not use the

typical process of memorializing a person. (Benches start at \$3,500 and for an additional \$1,000 a plaque is placed.)

Jessie Holzer, Councilman Bonin’s mobility deputy, did not answer that question, but instead replied on June 16: “Sorry for any confusion. I obviously did work with the Department of Recreation and Parks to get this installed.

“I assisted the family of Mr. James Rapley to install the memorial. I am not familiar with the process of putting memorials in parks, but I can tell you what I know about this project.

“We chose the location in the park because the adjacent sidewalk was not wide enough to park bicycles and meet ADA requirements, and this park did not already have any bike parking. The family purchased

the bike rack, which cost about \$850.”

Rapley’s girlfriend, Karen Scott, wrote on Foreverlovedforevemissed.tumblr: “Got an email from the L.A. City Council that James’ permanent ghost bike memorial/bike rack has finally been installed . . . But I’m so grateful for the council for putting this memorial up and for the strangers who never knew James, from the ghost bike community and bikinginla blog, who have worked with the council and James’ family to have this created. It is the first of its kind in L.A. at least and now that there is a process that has been created, these permanent reminders can have a better chance of being installed in high-risk areas to try to help stop more of these tragic losses in the future.”

David Wolfberg, mayoral appointee for the Los Angeles Bicycle Advisory Committee and a volunteer with the Ghost bike organization, wrote in a July 6 email to the News, “John Rapley [James’ father] is also particularly concerned about DUI driving which was a major circumstance in the killing of James. The council office was approached with the family’s support and offer to finance a memorial here.”

Holzer and Santa Domingo were asked if the memorial process and policies are now changed for City parks. Would it now be possible for additional memorials along Temescal Canyon Road for the two pedestrians killed: Louis and Daphne Padula; biker Dr. Keith Nolop, who was struck by a motorist on May 6 and succumbed to injuries on May 31; the two transients who have died in the canyon; and the worker, Gilbert Vargas, who was crushed by falling earth during the storm-water tank construction?

Holzer responded, “That’s a question for Rec and Parks, so I defer to Cathie.” Santa Domingo did not respond.

The News did receive an email from Ted Rogers of Biking in L.A. who clarified, “This is not a ghost bike, it is a bike rack. This is a functioning piece of park furniture, and has been approved by the city as such. While it was placed in memory of someone who died needlessly on our streets, anyone is free to lock their bicycles up to it.”

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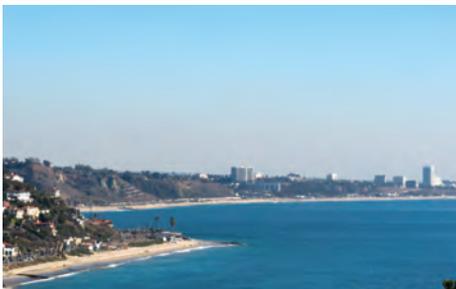
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Solum Gives Back to His Town

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

When his wife Jennifer was pregnant with their first child, Michael Solum wanted to return to his hometown of Pacific Palisades to raise their children.

Part of this change involved switching career paths, and a friend from his days on the USC football team suggested opening a Farmers Insurance agency. This would be a shift from his work in sports marketing, but the idea took root.

"I had always wanted my own business, but never could figure out what that business would be," said Solum, who earned a B.A. in business administration from USC in 1993. "This opportunity presented itself, and I went after it."

Solum, then a Venice resident, enrolled in a Farmers Insurance program that taught about the company's products. In 2009, three months after his daughter Sierra, now 7, was born, he opened his agency at 881 Alma Real. A second daughter, Kaia, 5, joined the family two years later, and both are now enrolled at his childhood school, Corpus Christi.

"It's great to be back where I grew up and serve the community," said Solum, who lives in the Highlands and enjoys dropping his kids off at school seconds away from his business office. "I love being in the area and not really having to leave unless I have to."

Solum, who grew up on Toyopa with his parents Conrad and Alli and his three sisters Lori, Kami and Kathy, has also enjoyed giving back to his hometown by sponsoring the Corpus Christi golf tour-



Michael, Sierra, Kaia and Jennifer are rooted in the Palisades Community. Photo: Lesly Hall

namment and providing water for the 10K race, of which Farmers Insurance is now an official sponsor.

Farmers is his agency's main insurance provider, but Solum also offers varied insurance products from Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Aetna and other insurance companies. His business has two agents and five employees in total, including Shannon Winters, who also grew up in the Palisades. The company provides all types of coverage, including home, health, auto, life and small business. His niece Meghan, 22 (daughter of his sister Lori Middleton, who

also lives in the Palisades), assists with online marketing and also bakes cookies for the holiday baskets the company sometimes sends to local real estate agents, mortgage brokers and escrow agents.

The real estate industry brings him a good portion of his business through referrals for homeowners' policies, Solum said. His local expertise has made him particularly capable with helping people who need insurance in high fire danger areas, where coverage is sometimes hard to find.

"Due to this drought, it's become harder and harder to get fire insurance up in the

hills," Solum said. "We have other markets that we can go to if Farmers won't take it . . . Real estate agents will sometimes get stuck and say, 'My client can't find insurance, but we need insurance to close the loan.' Just being in the area, we know where to go. We know who will take a \$5-million home up in the fire line."

Solum said his company may personally inspect the homes as part of finding a workable policy. "We really pride ourselves on superior customer service."

Part of that service involves providing clients with annual reviews to make sure they don't need to alter their policies when their circumstances change, either from adding assets or downsizing. "People buy insurance and forget it, but if you haven't updated in 30 years, there's a problem," Solum noted.

He also offers the same service for potential clients. For example, he said a friend's mother recently came to him after her husband died so that Solum could assess her policy coverage. Everything looked good, so he suggested that she retain her current coverage. At other times, more insurance is needed.

"All insurance is the same until you have a claim," Solum said. "If you have a claim and you're not properly covered, then you're mad, because you weren't protected for this or that. We try to button all that up before you walk out the door to make sure you're properly covered."

Aging-in-Place Home Adjustments

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

(This is the seventh in a series of articles in answer to requests for more informational help with "downsizing" issues for seniors. Previous articles in this series explored issues about where, when and how seniors can approach decisions regarding moving to a more suitable home. Since the majority of seniors would prefer not moving at all, this article begins some considerations of the aspects of aging in one's current home.)

A plan for aging in place involves a well thought-out control of the house environment and general qualifying living. It may be helpful to involve family members in the planning and to focus on health, mobility and service needs.

Some of the key factors to consider:

1. Are there any significant safety risks that can be resolved, such as dim lighting, hand rails on stairs, slippery tub or shower, loose carpeting, etc.?

2. Can entries, doorways and halls fit a walker or wheelchair if needed later?

3. Are there some relatives and close friends nearby in case of need?

Assuming that the home still fits the owners' needs and that they can continue to manage its maintenance, there are many modifications that will help make it a safer and more comfortable environment. Some of these are:

BATHROOM

1. Large shower with low or no threshold
2. Shower seat and hand-held showerhead with 5-6' long hose
3. Grab bars on all sides of the shower, tub and toilet
4. Toilet seat adapter to raise the seat several inches higher than a standard toilet
5. Easy-to-reach shower and tub controls
6. Sit-down height counters and knee space
7. Emergency alert device or button

KITCHEN

1. Easy-to-grasp cabinet pulls or knobs

2. Cabinets with roll-out shelves and turntables

3. Electric cooktop with front controls and hot-surface indicator

4. Refrigerator without top-level freezer or ice maker

5. Linoleum flooring

6. Microwave at counter height

7. Labels on drawers and shelves

8. Sensors to turn lights on

9. Counter space for moving items from refrigerator, cooktop, oven and sink

A future article will cover more issues such as home design, care, faucets, switches and entry. Also, as was discussed in a previous article, even just decluttering and organizing can make daily living easier.

Michael Edlen is one of only a few local agents certified as a Senior Real Estate Specialist®. Contact him for questions regarding your property or any real estate related issues at (310) 230-7373 or michael@michaieldlen.com.

Pacific Palisades Community Council Will Meet July 28

The Pacific Palisades Community Council will meet Thursday, July 28, at 7 p.m. in the Palisades Branch Library community room, 861 Alma Real.

The agenda includes the introduction of new LAPD officer Rusty Redican, who is on bike patrol on the beach. He has often been first on site in Pacific Palisades when there is an emergency. He will entertain questions from residents.

Also speaking will be Jess Holzer, Councilman Mike Bonin's mobility deputy. He will speak about a proposed dedicated bike lane on Temescal Canyon Road. Will it take away parking, will it take away a lane? Holzer will explain.

Visit: pacpalicc.org.

Max Impact Owner Pens Guide to Stopping Bullies

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

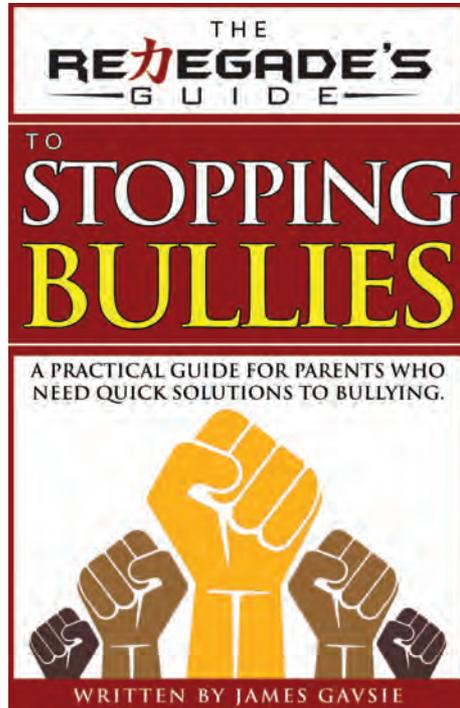
The *Renegade's Guide to Stopping Bullies* aims to help families put a quick end to bullying their kids may face.

James Gavsie, owner of Max Impact Martial Arts at 16632-1/2 Marquez Ave., wrote the 202-page e-book, available on Amazon for \$9.95 (and soon to be released in print), to share techniques he gained not only through helping local kids address bullies, but also by handling bullies in his own childhood.

The book includes personal stories of his unique approach, which involves parents taking ownership of the issue and making certain to stop the bullying behavior immediately. After the bullying is stopped, Gavsie then recommends teaching the child various skills to use in the future.

It may seem difficult to stop bullying immediately, but one Gavsie technique has been particularly effective for his clients and also worked in his own childhood, when he dealt with intense bullying. He calls this method the bigger-shark theory, and it entails finding a powerful ally for the child, who can be there to make sure the bully will no longer bully.

In some situations, this might be an adult. For example, in his book, Gavsie describes meeting a kid at the bus stop, asking him to point out the kid who had been bullying him on the bus, then simply being there as a physically imposing man who the bully is now aware is watching him. In addition, he asked the kid to sit by the bus driver, so the bullying couldn't happen without an adult being able to step in. After a few days, Gavsie no longer needed to meet the kid at the bus



stop and the kid could sit wherever he liked on the bus, because the bullying was over.

At school, the bigger shark to protect a kid might be a popular older kid, who could be physically bigger but also could have the strength of popularity on his or her side, so the bully feels peer pressure to leave the kid alone.

"There's no shortage of people who are willing to volunteer to help those who are being bullied," Gavsie writes in his guide. "It just takes a degree of 'out of the box' thinking and social assertiveness to befriend such a person and then put the bully in his or her place."

Visit renegadesguide.com for more information.

Trees Addressed at Park Meeting

The quarterly Palisades Park Advisory Board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, July 20, in the small gym at the Palisades Recreation Center.

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

There will also be a discussion about the proposed Park funding ballot measure. On May 3, the Board of Supervisors, and LA County Regional Park & Open Space District during its regular meeting presented two options for a 35-year park parcel tax measure for the November ballot. One would assess a 3-cent parcel tax per square foot, while the other would as-

sess 5 cents. The smaller tax would generate \$189 million per year, and the higher rate would bring in \$390 million per year.

Steve Dunlap, Forestry Department of Recreation and Parks, will attend and discuss the status of the trees in the park and will answer questions.

PAB Board member Robert Harter will speak about the proposed Bocce Court.

Free Programs For Seniors Target Fall Prevention

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. Attendees are invited to stay and socialize after the program held in the community room.

Fall prevention will be the subject on July 25. Fall prevention expert Gretchen Swanson, who is the advisor to the fall prevention program run by the Heart of Ida community organization in Long Beach, will be the speaker.

A separate eight-week fall prevention class will be held by WISE & Healthy Aging at the library beginning on Tuesday, July 26.

Palisades Alliance for Seniors is an intergenerational group helping seniors in Pacific Palisades stay in their own homes and stay connected with their community. Visit: palisadesalliance.org.

Free Library Programs

The following programs at the Palisades Branch Library community room located at 861 Alma Real are free to residents:

Saturday, July 23, at 2 p.m. "Internet Safety" with Girl Scout Abby Brown.

Monday, July 25, 10:30 a.m. "Fall Prevention" with Gretchen Swanson.

Wednesday, July 27, 5:30 p.m. "Mindfulness Meditation" with Natalie Bell.

Saturday, July 30, 2 p.m. "Irish Dancing and Instruction" with Ceili Rua and Erin Ealy.

Tuesday, August 2, 12:30 p.m. "Fall Prevention" WISE & Healthy Aging. Call (310) 459-2754.

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Optimists Award Two College Scholarships

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Palisades High School seniors Binyam Asnake and Ethan Acevedo were awarded scholarships by the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club in June. Asnake will attend Claremont McKenna College and Acevedo will go to Humboldt State.

"My mom [Asegedech Lemma] has always told me that 'Education is the key to success' and that has really stuck with me throughout high school," Asnake said. "I try to give everything I do my best effort."

Asnake, who was born in Ethiopia and now lives in the West Adams neighborhood, moved with his family to the U.S. at age 5. He attended nearby elementary schools and John Burroughs Middle School before securing an opening at PaliHi, a charter school.

"I took the school bus every day," said Asnake, whose father passed away when he was 10. "It picked me up at 6:40 a.m. from a nearby school."

"My favorite subjects are math and history," Asnake said. During his senior year, he took AP calculus and AP physics. He was one of three seniors to receive a year-end math award.

"Math is straightforward and comes eas-

ily to me," Asnake said. "I got excited taking calculus this year because I got to see all the things I'd learned come together and I was able to tackle real-life problems."

He likes history because "it's interesting getting to know about different cultures and ways of life. Learning history has allowed me to have a broader perspective on the world, understand why things are the way they are now and understand people better."

PaliHi's tutoring coordinator Melinda Meinen thanked Asnake for his year of volunteering in the counseling center. "You made a significant difference in the lives of many struggling students and I appreciate your service," she wrote.

Asnake also earned Dillon Henry and PTSA Community Service scholarships to help pay for college. His mom works as a nurse in Clinical Informatics at Southern California Hospital.

Acevedo lives in Hollywood, where, he jokingly says, "the red carpet leads to my front door."

All four years at Pali, he had to take the Metro Sunset bus to school. "I have to wake up at 5 a.m. to catch the bus," Acevedo said. "I'm on it for an hour and a half, both ways." He earlier attended Paul Revere Middle School.

"My parents told me that I can do any-



Optimist Dan Ackerman presented scholarships to Ethan Acevedo and Binyam Asnake (right).

thing I wanted to," Acevedo said. "If I can dream it, then anything is possible. I have pushed through so many obstacles and barriers, including waking up at the crack of dawn since middle school, to reach my goals and to keep following my dream."

In sixth grade, Acevedo read the quote: "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." That shaped his choice of going to Humboldt to major in zoology and ultimately to UC Davis to become a veterinarian.

Acevedo explained, "Throughout high school my parents pressured me into choosing my major and looking into jobs of the new era or successful jobs such as engineering or computer programming."

He said his parents were even agreeable

to his becoming a video-game designer. "They knew I would sit and play video games all day if I could."

He took a month-long summer program at USC, where "I learned how to code, make character sprites and how to make a video game." But he also realized that although video-game design was fun and the salaries good, "I wouldn't want to do this all my life."

Reflecting, Acevedo realized the one constant in his life was his love of animals. In high school, his favorite subjects were the sciences, mainly biology.

Acevedo also won PTSA Community Service and Masonic Lodge scholarships. His father, Mynor, works for the L.A. County Mental Health Department and his mom, Lubia, is a social worker.

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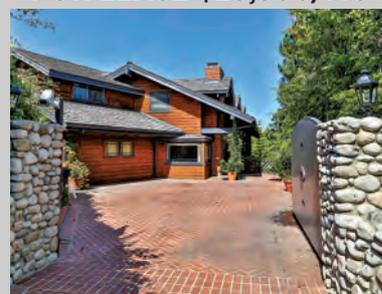
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SPECIALIZING IN PACIFIC PALISADES, BRENTWOOD, SANTA MONICA

Hassetts Nab First with Decorations

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Palisades News Reporter

For the past seven years, PAPA has hosted the Fourth of July Patriotic Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by realtor Joan Sather.

Weeks before the Fourth of July, Palisadians adorned their houses in traditional red, white, and blue. Flags flew from all possible outlets, taffeta crinkled around columns and along gutters, and some houses even changed the colors of their houselights to match their patriotic theme.

This year, no house was better decorated than 15346 DePauw Street, the home of Jim and Jackie Hasset and their two children, Jack (14) and Kate (12).

According to eight-year-old judge Gable Nealon, the house definitely earned its stripes. "This was pretty cool. It had lots of Fourth of July decorations that were very different, very detailed and unique," Gabe said.

This is not the Hasset's first win in this competition. Their first win came in 2012 and they were runners-up in 2011.

This year's top award was a surprise for the family. Normally they decorate up until the day their house gets judged and check out their competition around the neighborhood.

However, this year they were out of town



The Hasset family (left to right) Jackie, Jack, Jim, Kate and pets took first place in the home decorating contest.

Photo: Lesly Hall

until late July 3 because Kate's volleyball team was competing in the Junior Olympics in Indianapolis.

"We decorated before we left," Jackie said. "So we didn't get a chance to scope out our competition."

Decorating the Hasset's Cape Cod-style home is a family affair. "Everyone helps,

and we have a good friend, Pat Peters, who's good at helping us with our decorating," Jackie said.

The initial set-up process doesn't take as long as one would expect. The Hassetts keep all their Fourth of July decorations in a storage unit. (They had to purchase a unit a few years ago to house all of their holiday

decorations—they are also avid Christmas and Halloween decorators.)

After lugging their boxes to their home, they spend a few hours setting up. This year they hung patriotic stars in their trees, long flag banners along their house columns, and even decorated the front porch rocking chairs.

Nitty-gritty details are then added over the next few days.

"My daughter and husband one day added all the flags," Jackie said. "I think we had more than 50 flags that we put out everywhere."

For their decorating efforts, the family won a variety of prizes, including a flag that was flown over the nation's Capital and a whole lot of gift certificates to local shops.

The Hassetts have lived in the Palisades for nineteen years, fifteen of them in this house on DePauw. Both Jack and Kate attended Calvary Christian, and are now at Harvard Westlake. Jim is the executive vice president of credit investments at Athene Asset Management and was a PPBA coach when Jack was younger.

The whole Hasset family is looking forward to their next big decorating holiday, Halloween. Although they will still decorate for the Fourth of July, one of the family members will now be a judge for the 2017 contest.

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Ramsey Home Receives Sather's Sponsor Prize

With more entries than the year before, judging the PAPA's Fourth of July Patriotic Home Decorating Contest was a tough one for judges. This was the eighth year for the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) contest.

Sponsored since 2012 by realtor Joan Sather, the top winner was Jackie and James Hassett. Winning the Sponsor prize was Patrick and Elizabeth Ramsey.

Every resident in Pacific Palisades was eligible to enter the family's home by decorating, taking a photo and submitting it via a Facebook page. Other homes, such as the Ramseys', were spotted by the judges as they traveled the different neighborhoods on July 3 and were automatically entered.

"What's interesting is the Hassetts have won the contest twice," Sather said, noting that in prior years, the Mercer family won twice and the Almaraz family won one year and were runner-up a second.

"All of these folks just show over-the-top enthusiasm for the Fourth of July and it's important the way they express it by being creative and original about how they work with the layout of their front yards.

"It is not only what they choose to put up, but where they put it in their yard and how the total look turns out," said Sather,

who has been a realtor in Pacific Palisades 28 years. "All three (Mercer, Hassett and Almaraz) have this quality mastered."

This year for the first time, the Fourth of July home decorations were also done by homeowner caregivers.

Jacquie Leebody and Florence Bonkowski supervised the Fourth of July decorating efforts, which resulted in positive results. Leebody was the runnerup and Bonkowski received honorable mention.

"Jacquie's husband was a WWII decorated pilot and there was a banner of his plane in front of her house," Sather said.

The winner of the contest is invited to be a judge the following year. Jack Sutton, whose family was the 2015 contest winners, accompanied judges Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon and his son Gable, Parade President Daphne Gronich, Parade Marshal Rob Weber and contest sponsor Joan Sather.

The winner receives a flag that has flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Other prizes include car detailing at the Palisades Pit Stop Detail, certificates to The Yogurt Shoppe, Robeks, Massage Place, Dry Bar, Gift Garden Antiques and Palisades Gas 'n Wash.

Goorus Yoga donated a free month of unlimited yoga and the Bay Club gave a gym membership.



Fourth of July Home Decorating contest judges (left to right) Jack Sutton, Kevin and Gable Nealon, Joan Sather, Daphne Gronich and Rob Weber award the Sponsor prize to the Ramsey home on Alma Real.

"I want people to know that the local businesses do contribute and support July 4th in our town," Sather said. "Especially this year, since we are all facing some weird dy-

namics for the next couple of years until the Caruso project is finished."

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



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Tyler Newman, a student at Chapman University, captured the start of the race with a camera mounted on a drone.

Photo: Tyler Newman

Recapping the Will Rogers 5/10K Run

By SUE PASCOE
Editor
Photos by Shelby Pascoe



Tonny Okello won the men's 10K.

The day was nearly perfect for runners in the 39th annual Will Rogers 5K/10K Run, with overcast skies and moderate temperatures.

The Blue Eagle Color Guard out of March Air Force Base was sponsored by Palisadian Jordan Kaplan.

Next, U.S. military veterans Dr. Mike Martini (WWII), Peng Vang and Noe Aguirre (Post 9/11 conflicts), Wally Hastings (Korea), Frank Cornell (Vietnam), Kevin Niles (Vietnam), and Dick Littlestone (WWII, Korea and Vietnam) were introduced.

Race Sponsors Bill and Cindy Simon were thanked for their many years of participation.

From the popular event's first year in 1977, Saint John's Hospital has been a title sponsor. Marcel Loh, the chief executive of Providence Saint John's and the John Wayne Cancer Institute, and his wife Jane were on hand for the start of the race.

"We're so pleased to sponsor this race to help keep the community healthy," Loh said.

After Palisadian Kelsey Ross, 31, sang the National Anthem, Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon started the race.

Andrew Kline's "big truck," a customized pickup with an actual train horn, served as the pace vehicle. Kline, a former Rams football player, is the Founder and Managing Director of Park Lane Investment



Katie Dewitt won the women's 10K.

(Continued on Page 19)



The Rich sisters, Ella, 7, and 4-year-old twins Ava and Addison, are ready to sprint the Kids Fun Run.



Charles Sherman won the men's 5K.



Renee Delphin-Rodriguez won the women's 5K.

5/10K Run

(Continued from Page 18)

Company and is a Navy Seal Family Foundation board member.

At close to 8:15 a.m., the roughly 2,300 registered runners, walkers and stroller pushers set off on a course that winds through the Huntington Palisades, before veering down Sunset Boulevard—and for 10K runners, continuing into Will Rogers Historic State Park.

Culver City resident Tonny Okello, 32,

won the men's 10K for the third straight year with a time of 31:32, roughly a 5:05 mile pace. Katie Dewitt, 31, topped the women by running 41 minutes even, a 6:36 mile pace.

In 2012, the 10K course was measured to USATF standards, which lengthened the course by 475 feet. Until then Russell Edmond held the men's record (29.45) and Katie Dunsmuir Young, who won the race five times, had the women's record (35.09).

Currently, Okello has the course record of 31:21, set in 2014, and Kara Barnard has the women's record (38:34 in 2012).

Okello, who described the conditions as

"great," was disappointed he didn't break his record.

He started running in Uganda when he was 15 and then was recruited by the University of Alabama, where he ran the 5K and 10K. After graduating with a degree in communications he moved to Los Angeles.

He described this course as particularly difficult. "You go down the hill on Sunset and then you have to go up the hill on the switchbacks," he said. "Then you go down the hill [out of Will Rogers] and back up [to Chautauqua]. Mentally and physically, it's taxing."

Next up for Okello is a 10K in Santa Cruz on July 24 and then a half-marathon in San Diego in August.

"I'll be back," he promised. "I have to try and beat my record."

This year's female winner, Katie Dewitt, grew up in the Palisades. Her father, Jim, has photos of running with his daughter in the race from as early as 1992.

At the finish line Dewitt said, "This beats doing half marathons."

After attending Harvard-Westlake, where she ran track and cross country, she attended Yale University, graduating in 2007. She's now working for a solar engineering company in San Francisco and runs with her husband, Barry Fisher (who finished 13th in 38.22). They've run some half-marathons and may enter the 2017 Los Angeles Marathon.

The 5K winners were Charles Sherman, 17, in 16:07, with a 5:12 mile pace, and

Renee Delphin-Rodriguez, 37, in 19:12 with a 6:36 mile pace.

Last year's winner Drake Johnston, 21, took second in 16:17 and Palisadian Jennifer Karlan, 13, was second with a 20:06.

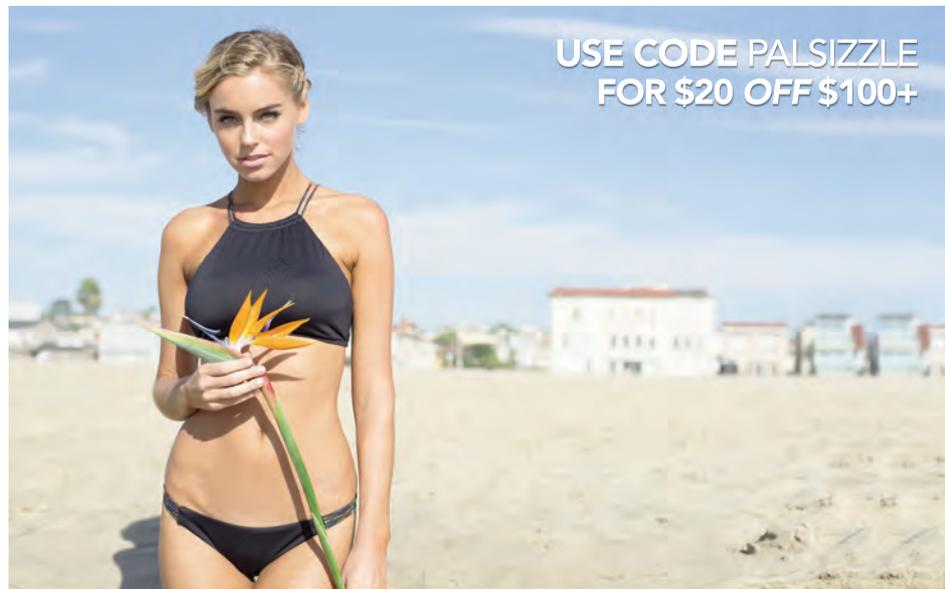
Sherman, who was second in last year's 5K (16:18), will be a senior at Loyola High School, and went to state in track and field. "I grew up playing tennis here," he said and then credited Okello with helping pace him. "Last year I went out too fast."

The Palisades Rivera resident attended Canyon School and Paul Revere and said that Revere coach Paul Foxson had helped with his running.

"I was hoping to go under 19 this race," said Delphin-Rodriguez, a Santa Monica resident, who won the 5K in 2014 (20:13). An attorney, she serves as a general counsel for Syner-Med, dedicated to healthcare.

For those who have been running the 5K race for years with times that haven't improved during the past two years, the reason could be that prior to 2012, the course was 427 ft. short of a full 5K. Beginning with the 2015 race, the course now meets USATF standards.

And then it was time for the most exciting race of the day, the Kids Fun Run. More than 400 youngsters, ages 10 and under, lined up behind a clown on Alma Real. Promptly at 9:30 they raced the half-mile loop that goes down Ocampo, turns on Drummond, then Toyopa and returns to the park entrance.



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Elsayegh Golfs at International Level

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Palisades News Reporter

Kaila Elsayegh is an energetic nine-year-old. She just finished third grade at the Village School, cooks dinner for her family twice a week, and wants to be an electrical engineer when she grows up. She is also a rising star in the



Even at her first lesson, the instructor was impressed with Kaila's natural swing.

youth golf world, competing on an international level.

Kaila picked up her first golf club at the age of seven. Her mother, Dr. Teresa Merced, had gifted Kaila's father, Dr. Ashraf Elsayegh, father/daughter golf lessons at Westlake Golf Course for Father's Day.

During the first lesson, the instructor was greatly impressed by Kaila's natural swing. By the third lesson he was completely ignoring Dr. Elsayegh.

"The first practice was great," Dr. Elsayegh said, laughing. "The second practice the instructor ignored me, and by the third practice he asked me to stop."

After that, Kaila was hooked.

She currently has what she describes as 2.5 coaches—two full-time coaches and one part-time coach—with whom she works two days a week. She practices between 12 and 14 hours a week during the school year at the Mountain Gate Country Club, about a 30-minute drive from her home in the Highlands.

Every weekend Kaila plays one or two tournaments as part of the Los Angeles Local Tour of the U.S. Kids Golf Foundation, which she joined in March 2015.

Kaila also plays basketball, just started tennis, and is teaching herself how to play the guitar. She takes school very seriously and thinks of it as her top priority. Most

(Continued on Page 21)

Palisades College Students' Academic Achievements

Palisadian **Arianna Du Manoir** earned a 3.5 GPA to gain a spot on the dean's list at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, for the fall semester.

Sara Wedeking, a 2015 graduate of Marlborough School, made the Bucknell University dean's list for the fall semester. Located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, Bucknell recognizes students who earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Wedeking was also named to the dean's list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester, along with **Avid Khorramian**.

Katherine Brody was named to the dean's list at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, for the fall 2015 semester. The honor is granted to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least 12 units.

At Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, sophomore **Gregory Lehrhoff** (former Mr. Palisades 2014 and an alum of Harvard-Westlake) made the dean's list with a GPA of 3.4 or greater. Lehrhoff is the son of Drs.

Nasreen Babu-Khan and Howard Lehrhoff.

Senior **Kyra Gardiner** was named to the fall dean's list at Tufts University.

Spencer Pekar qualified for the fall 2015 and spring dean's list at Belmont University in Nashville. To qualify, a student must have a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

William Reagan, who attends the University of Michigan, was recently selected to become a member Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society.

Also selected to Phi Kappa Phi was **Andrea Zetlin**, who was initiated at California State University, Los Angeles.

Alistair Whatley, who attends the University of Southern California, and is majoring in psychology was recently initiated into Phi Kappa Phi.

Palisadian **Kevin Boesky**, who attends Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, was named to the spring dean's honor's list. Boesky studies Mechanical Engineering.

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Elsayegh

(Continued from Page 20)

of her homework is done en route to golf practice or a tournament.

"[Kaila] doesn't know how to veg," Dr. Merced said.

The youngster's hard work has paid off. After joining the Los Angeles Local Tour, she remained in the top 10 for the spring, summer, and fall Tours.

Last August, Kaila was invited to the Venice Open in Venice, Italy, which is the European Golf Championship. There she placed second, with a score of three over par, in the Girls 8-and-Under age group after playing one round a day for three days.

On the Spring 2016 Local Tour, Kaila won five out of the seven tournaments, including the championships on May 22 with a score of one over par at Buenaventura Golf Course. Most recently, Kaila finished third in her age group at the 2016 California State Invitational at the Rio Hondo Golf Club.

One of the biggest challenges for Kaila is the fact that she's female. Although youth golf is very popular, the Local Tour is still very much male-dominated.

"There are 10 girls and 50 boys in each age group," Kaila said in reference to the Local Tour.

This approximation holds true for the professional world of golf as well. According to multiple websites, there's a four-to-one male-to-female ratio of golfers. This

disparity between the sexes also plays out in tournament earnings, an issue that has surfaced along with the gender wage disparity in professional soccer and tennis.

Because of this, clothing companies tend to cater to Kaila's male counterparts, making it hard for her to find appropriate golfing clothing. Dr. Merced has written numerous letters to clothing companies about this issue.

Kaila doesn't let this problem hold her back. She is very competitive and tries to outplay the boys in her age group as well as the girls. Her best 18-hole score on a regulation golf course is a four-under-par at the Upland Hills Golf Course.

Both of Kaila's parents are doctors, but they make sure they are available to drive Kaila to the course and support her at her tournaments. Her mother, who practices internal medicine at UCLA, serves as Kaila's caddy. Her father is a pulmonologist and ICU specialist at Cedars-Sinai, and makes up Kaila's cheering squad. Kaila also has a three-year-old brother who drives her crazy because he tries to copy everything she does.

Kaila hopes one day to join the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA), although not until after she finishes college. She would also like to play golf in the Olympics as the sport is returning to the Olympic schedule this summer.

For now, Kaila is looking forward to the World Championships on August 4-7 in Pinehurst, North Carolina. Last year she placed 19th overall, but this year she's aiming for the top three in her age group.



Dr. Ashraf Elsayegh holding his daughter's Hole-in-One trophy and Kaila who was the local tour champ in her age group.

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Palisadian Seeks Ms. America Title

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Palisadian Marjan Rajabi is seeking to become Ms. America. The contest is open to women 26 years and older, who are single, divorced, widowed or married, and the national pageant will take place September 1-3 in Brea.

Rajabi's day job focuses on security and compliance at Southern California Edison to make sure nobody hacks the grid. "I fight a million hacking attempts a week," she said.

Two years ago, Rajabi, the mother of two daughters, Arianna, 16, and Emma, 11, was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to me," she told Palisades Rotarians at a weekly breakfast. "Most people are like wheelbarrows, they only go as far as they are pushed. When we think we have time, then it becomes a luxury. But we have to seize the time, seize today."

Rajabi said that before going under the knife, she decided she was going to change her life. As a mom, she felt she had lost her dreams and her desires, and she started reexamining her life, asking herself, "What brings me joy?"

She remembered how, at age 12, she wanted to earn a black belt in martial arts. So as soon as she was out of the hospital,

she signed up at Max Impact in Marquez Knolls and started to train; she now has a green belt in Muay Thai and is working out with Brazilian jui jitsu, calling it "great stress management."

Rajabi's journey started as an 8-year-old girl in Iran. "I was wakened and told that we had to go," she said. "We got in a car, went on a flight and never saw my country again."

The family first moved to Germany, then France and Canada, before finally settling in the United States. Rajabi said she failed her first-grade reading entrance exam, was overweight, and had to learn a new language with each move.

"I was unattractive and socially awkward. I was the perfect target for bullies," she said, but she overcame these obstacles and now speaks four languages, reflecting the encouragement she received from her father, who told her that "Life is 10 percent of what happens, the other 90 percent is how you react."

Rajabi entered the Air Force ROTC program at Loyola Marymount University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1992, and her master's degree in the same subject from USC in 1997.

She became a cadet in the U.S. Air Force, flew in a military fighter aircraft and completed parachute training.

(Continued on Page 23)



Ms. California Regional Marjan Rajabi visits with a veteran at the CalVet home on the West L.A. VA campus.



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Ms. America

(Continued from Page 22)

"I attended Space Academy for adults which is part of the U.S. Space Camp operated by the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville Alabama," Rajabi said, noting the week-long program included living in a simulated-space habitat, mission specialist training, underwater astronaut training (requiring SCUBA certification), and training on astronaut simulators, including the 1/6th gravity chair and Multi-Axis Trainer. "When I became a mom, I decided not to pursue the astronaut track."

In 2000, Rajabi married Ramin Faramarzi and they moved to Pacific Palisades three years later.

After her cancer diagnosis and surgery in 2014, Rajabi said, "I began to listen more closely to my heart versus always being driven by the mind. That event taught me to live life passionately and honor my desires with a sense of urgency. It also taught me to take risks in life to break routines, to muster courage in the face of hesitation, and to stop judging others and myself."

On a whim, she looked up the Ms. America Pageant on the Internet last December.

"This pageant places an emphasis on inner and outer beauty and community service," Rajabi said. "Being an introvert and private person, the pageant was a perfect vehicle to help me expand myself, push the envelope and go outside my comfort zone.

I followed my heart and applied."

Once she paid the registration fee and was interviewed, she was accepted as Ms. California Regional.

Rajabi broadened her community volunteer efforts by joining Meals on Wheels, serving meals at Midnight Mission on Skid Row, visiting rehabilitation centers, supporting charity fundraisers and speaking to local groups about her platform: "Struggle to Strength—Overcoming Challenges in Life."

She walked in the Palisades Fourth of July parade as Ms. California Regional 2016—supporting the local Girl Scout troops. (One of her daughters is a Girl Scout).

"In hindsight, I didn't join a beauty pageant, I engaged in a life journey," Rajabi said. "I have done more in the last five months in terms of community service and stretching myself to connect with others than I've done in years."

This contest also relies on viewer participation, and Rajabi hopes that people from Pacific Palisades will go online and vote for her. Visit: MsAmericaPageant.com.



Marjan Rajabi attended NASA's space camp with the idea of becoming an astronaut.

Photo courtesy Marjan Rajabi

Area Representatives Sought For Community Council

Residents who are interested in local government are asked to become candidates to represent the neighborhoods where they live. If you are uncertain of your area, visit: pacpalicc.org/indix.pho/area-maps. The council meets the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 7 to 9 p.m. (except

for July, August, November and December).

PPCC members discuss and make recommendations on local issues. The deadline to file to run for office is 7 p.m. on July 28.

The names of area incumbents running for reelection can be found on the election page of the PPCC website. All seats

are open, whether or not an incumbent is running. Candidates for the at-large representative must either be a resident, operate a business or own property located in the Palisades.

The election will take place later this summer.

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‘Ladies and Gentlemen... The Beatles’

Text and images by LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

John. Paul. George. Ringo. Never have there been four other names so widely known and loved in all of rock n’ roll. In 1962, the four Liverpudlians joined forces to become what is widely considered to be not only the best, but also most important, band in the history of popular music.

Time has only increased their significance in music history. You can draw a line from any contemporary musician and it will go back to The Beatles, either directly or indirectly.

Countless books have been written about the band. Their songs have been covered thousands of times, by artists as varied as Frank Sinatra, the London Symphony Orchestra, Tina Turner, the Grateful Dead, Los Lobos, The Muppets and Nirvana.

Offering a retrospective into this special time in The Beatles’ history, the Grammy Museum in downtown L.A. is presenting “Ladies and Gentlemen . . . The Beatles” through September 5.

The exhibit focuses on the time period of 1964-66, the height of Beatlemania, and includes memorabilia, ephemera and merchandise.

Though it may be hard for today’s youth to imagine, back then there was rock ‘n’ roll. That was it. Music wasn’t subdivided to the extent that it is today.

For those too young to remember the mid-sixties, Beatlemania ran rampant throughout the world. Though the face of Beatlemania was usually teenage girls, screaming their lungs out, boys as well as adults were also affected (cheekily shown in an ad for the film, *A Hard Day’s Night*.)

Arguably, The Beatles were ahead of their peers in every way. They made movies and videos long before any other band. They experimented musically. They went to India and studied meditation with Maharishi Mahesh



John Lennon, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and George Harrison, better known collectively as the Beatles.

Yogi. They had their own cartoon show that aired on Saturdays.

One of the most engaging things about the exhibit is the journey back to a time when life was much simpler and more innocent. The Beatles—their enormous talent notwithstanding—came along at the right time, landing on these shores mere months after President Kennedy had been assassinated. Americans needed something to bring them out of mourning, and the Fab Four were the perfect antidote.

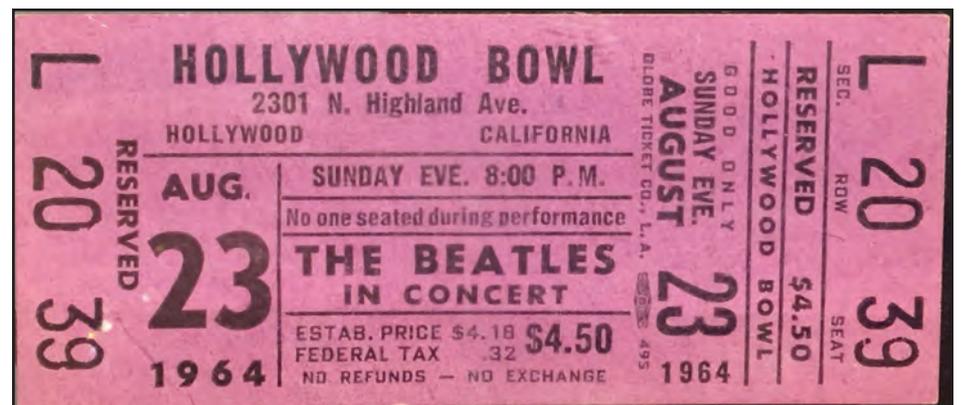
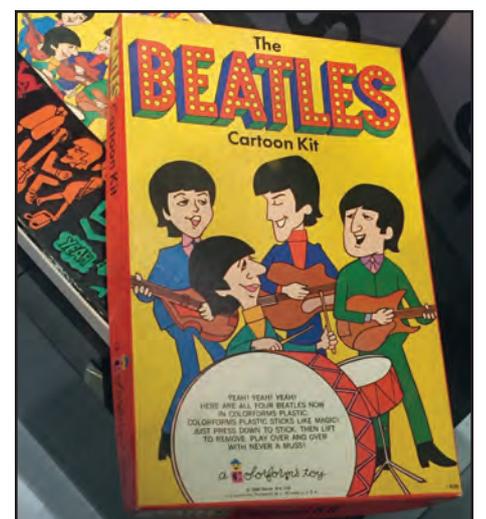
A highlight includes that fateful day in February 1964, when The Beatles landed

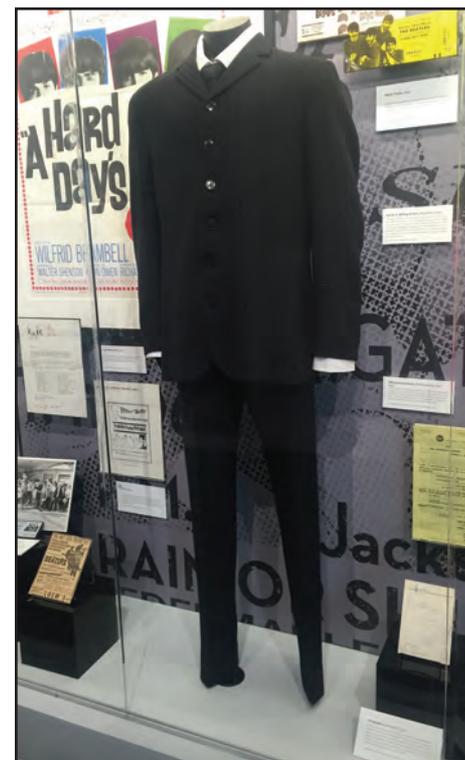
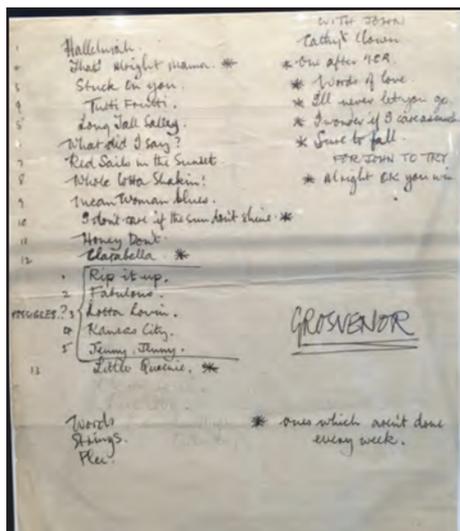
at JFK airport. It was pandemonium—with shrieking fans everywhere—which would last for years to come.

Even beyond The Beatles, the exhibit hearkens back to a time that no longer exists, and items that are long forgotten: 45-RPM records (youngsters, ask your parents), transistor radios and more.

The Beatles not only influenced music, fashion and hairstyles, but even more importantly, they expanded people’s minds and influenced how they thought. They also inspired thousands of garage bands across the country—and the world.

An Abbey Road street sign greets you
(Continued on Page 25)





The Beatles

(Continued from Page 24)

at the beginning of the exhibit, along with the famed album (not CD) cover of the Fab Four crossing Abbey Road, all the long-ago conspiracy signs right there: Why is Paul barefoot and smoking? Why does the license plate on the Beetle say 28IF, when Paul would have been 28 (including his time in the womb) if he were still alive? Turns out he was—and still is—alive.

Also on exhibit is the jacket that Ringo wore (and helped design) on the classic cover, and a pair of John's spectacles from the late 1960s.

Other clothes include a suit that Ringo wore in *A Hard Day's Night* and the jacket that Paul wore at Shea Stadium, complete with a Wells Fargo badge.

Merchandise is a big part of the exhibit: Beatles games, Colorforms, gum, tennis

A 1966 set list handwritten by Paul McCartney. It includes the original song, "One After 909," which was eventually released on the *Let It Be* album.

shoes, rings, a lunchbox, 45 records carriers, dolls, books, buttons, coloring books, trading cards, pins and other items show how all-pervading the Fab Four were.

An issue of *TV Guide* is opened to Sunday, February 9, 1964. Among the offerings that night were *Bonanza*, *My Favorite Martian*, *Candid Camera* and the *Ed Sullivan Show*, which featured The Beatles' American television debut and cemented their fame in this country forever.

Also included are concert and movie tickets, handwritten set lists and lyrics, concert posters, stills, autographs, contracts, a press release that details John's "The Beatles are bigger than Jesus" comment, magazine covers, telegrams, replicas of their instruments and membership cards for the Cavern Club, where they played in their Liverpool, England, hometown.

A tour date schedule from 1964 shows

A drum kit is provided for people who want to take a drum lesson via prerecorded video with Ringo Starr.

that the band hardly took a day off starting on August 19 in San Francisco through September 20 in New York.

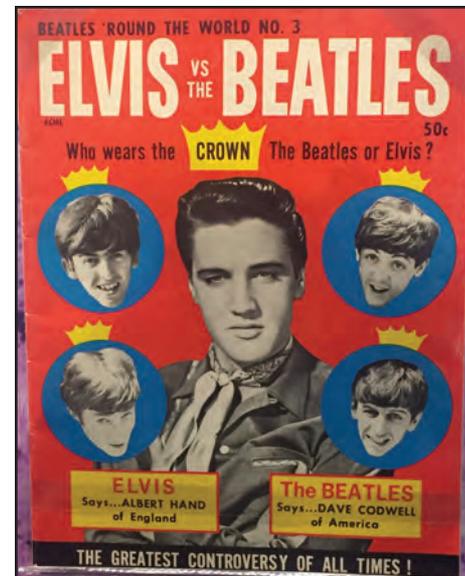
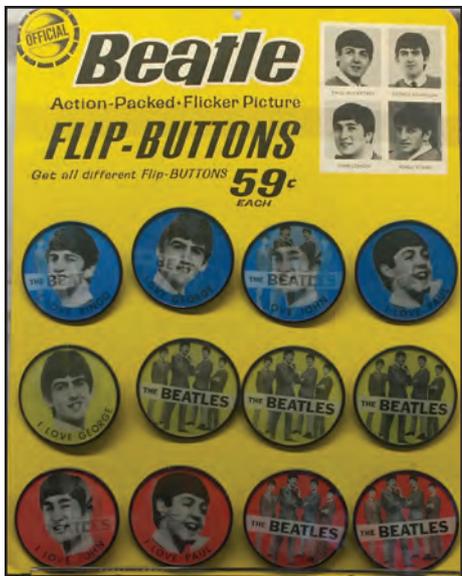
There are also video screens throughout the exhibit, with Beatles footage and interviews with various people connected to the band.

Interactive features include singing "Yellow Submarine" with Ringo, and sitting at a drum kit and getting a video lesson from Ringo himself. Both are fun for everyone.

Chances are a die-hard Beatlemaniac isn't going to learn anything new, but that doesn't diminish the fun of looking at the eclectic mix of offerings up close, and not in a book or on the Internet. For most of us, this exhibit is as close to a Beatle as we'll ever get.

For more information, visit grammy-museum.org.

Ringo Starr's suit from *A Hard Day's Night*.



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Rustic Park Has a New Director

By DEBBIE ALEXANDER
Staff Writer

As the new director of the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center, Paige Barnes brings an enthusiastic and dynamic energy to the beloved park. In her leadership role, she plans on maintaining the integrity of the various programs by meeting the needs and wishes of the clientele.

"When I got here, I decided to observe and see how things work," Barnes said. "Rustic Canyon is a very stable community, and the staff is an amazing group of individuals."

A 20-year veteran of the L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks, Barnes was recruited for this promotion from Branford Recreation Center in Arleta, where she was a facility director for six years.

"Branford was very sports-driven and heavily geared towards youth programs, more like the Palisades Recreation Center," Barnes noted. "There is always room for movement in the Recreation and Parks Department. If you are doing well, then you go where you are called."

First she needed to pass a required test. "It is civil service," she said. "I prayed that I passed. Then, I moved on to the interview and after that I prayed that I got of-



Paige Barnes is the new Rustic Canyon Recreation Center Director.

Photo: Lesly Hall

fered the job."

Barnes arrived in February and immediately turned her workspace into a home away from home. "I spend a lot of time here, so I need ownership over the environment and to know where things are."

Her touches include a few family heirlooms—her grandmother's couch and a chair, along with one of her artist father's

statues, which now greets park patrons near the office.

Her commute from Valley Village (near Studio City) to Rustic can be long, but she lucked into a flexible schedule that helps with beating the traffic.

According to Barnes, Rustic and Bradford are night and day from each other. "The communities and needs are very different,"

she said. "It's like I was cooking in a Mexican restaurant and have shifted gears to Italian. Yet, I am totally still cooking."

Barnes began her career as a part-time recreation assistant at Queen Anne Recreation Center in Los Angeles shortly after graduating from her father's alma mater, North Carolina Central University, as a drama major.

"I'm not directing plays for theater," said Barnes, but she strongly believes that her career has allowed her to "still direct plays" with the programs and classes she oversees.

She feels Rustic is much more of an adult facility with a smattering of children's programs. Yet, her current focus is on the park's extremely popular summer camp.

A new act for Barnes also includes coordinating with the Park Advisory Board on the newly released Historical Master Plan for the venerable clubhouse.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me—unique to this specific park—and I am working with such a dynamic group of people on the plan," she said.

Barnes really appreciates the neighborhood passion for Rustic Canyon Park. "I lucked into such a loving and nurturing environment," she said. Yet, her highest praise goes to her staff because "they are constantly educating me, so I can fully serve the needs of this community."

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Stadium Concert Sells Out

By LAURA CARR
Palisades News Intern

The football field at Palisades High's Stadium-by-the-Sea steadily filled with people as the sun began its descent on July 4, three hours before the annual fireworks show was even slated to begin.

This was because of the ninth annual Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert, which featured a mix of professional and amateur music talent.

According to the concert's website (palisadesrocksthefourth.org), the pre-fireworks concert, which started in 2008, draws an audience of more than 7,000 people each year, and proceeds go to local organizations. In past years, performers have included the English Beat, Rocky Dawuni and the Westside Troubadours.

This year, the headlining act was the Los Angeles-based underground garage band We Are The West. On their website, the group describes themselves as "a convergence of sound and space both rare and compelling" that has made a name for itself over the past three years with their "intimate and hauntingly beautiful songs, and their uniquely organic approach to performance."

Emile Millar, Adam Topol, Ethan Phillips, the 2016 Palisades All Stars, Palisades High's Concert Band, Cohort and Trinity

Rose also performed at the concert.

Concert organizer Keith Turner said, "One of our goals was to feature the best local talent and if the group doesn't have that many hits, then they'll play some covers, and then some of their own music that's appropriate for the day. I really liked the fact that Brett Hool [of We Are The West] was our first headliner from the Palisades."

The concert was in full swing around 6 p.m., as toddlers played on Palisades High's blue track and adults lounged on the football field, enjoying the music.

"I've been coming here for the past couple years," Malibu resident Ali Heric said. "I really like it because it's a family-like atmosphere. There's a variety of different types of entertainment, lots of food, lots of people and great fireworks."

Concertgoers Gina Triola of Studio City and Jenna Kehrl of Santa Monica were impressed by the performances from the amateur talent. "The students and teachers, that was excellent. We were so impressed by the quality. We were really impressed, especially by [Trinity Rose] who sang the national anthem. Someone needs to get her a recording contract."

In the parking lot, an eclectic mix of food trucks was set up. Many people flocked toward Made in Brooklyn NY for pizza, while others enjoyed various cuisines from the 13 other food trucks present.



Photo: Virginia Bustamante Skolnik

At 7:10 p.m., the music switched to the "professional talent." The first group to perform, Emile Millar, Adam Topol and Ethan Phillips, informed the audience that it was their seventeenth show. The group's mellow music made it easy for the audience to sit back and enjoy the intimate atmosphere.

Palisadian Sam Lagana said, "Each year, we use this as a platform to just relax and chill out. We're excited to be with our friends in an environment where we can just enjoy and appreciate the talents of other people and the music. Each year presents itself in a unique way. It really gives it a nice close to a fantastic day in the Palisades."

At 8 p.m., the stadium lights turned on and We Are The West came onstage to the sound of ominous drumbeats. Bubbles floated around the stadium from bubble machines purchased at the parade, and audience members began to dance to the band's music.

Palisadian Johann Horn said, "Our group of 27 family and friends all really loved the performance that We Are The West put on for the Palisades Rocks the Fourth. As long-term residents of the Palisades, we were all duly impressed by their artistry and inspired performance. It was truly a Fourth that will remain forever etched in our collective loving memories of this wonderful slice of heaven that we know as Pacific Palisades: where the mountains meet the sea."

The fireworks were preceded by a salute to the veterans in attendance, with Lee Greenwood's "Proud to Be An American" playing in the background. A rousing rendition of "This Land is Our Land" followed, with humorous added lyrics from Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon.

The night closed on an exciting note, with a fabulous fireworks display courtesy of Pyro Spectaculars.

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Taking a Trip To Hogwarts

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

If you have a young (or old) Harry Potter fan in the house and you're wondering whether to visit Universal Studios' version of Hogwarts, my 11-year-old son would yell such a resounding "yes" that your wizard's hat would be blown off your head.

His parents also gave it two thumbs up. The Wizarding World of Harry Potter is a relatively small part of the park, but for fans, it offers a chance to throw off your Muggle ways and revel in J.K. Rowling's magical world.

Unlike the books, where Diagon Alley, Hogsmeade and Hogwarts are in different locations, in the amusement park they butt up against each other. Yet my husband, son and I were not perturbed by this mashed-up aspect of the attraction. We went wandering through the various businesses.

My son, a candy addict, desperately wanted to go to Honeyduke's first. At my insistence, we bought a chocolate frog (\$11.94 including tax), a frog-shaped chunk of very ordinary chocolate with a holographic wizard's card inside. We were warned to eat the frog's legs first so it wouldn't hop away, and we of course did so.

My son also had to have some butter beer, and the frozen version (the only version we tried) is tasty and unique. Like everything in the park, it's pricey (\$6.53 in a throw-away cup or \$14.16 in a souvenir mug).

In fact, the biggest downside of the park is how enticing and expensive all of the items in the stores are. My son, who had never before been to Universal Studios and was previously only a mild Potter fan, would have happily spent the day skipping the rest of the park and purchasing everything in the Wizarding World that we could carry.

Instead, we started and ended our day with Potter and checked out the rest of the park, which he enjoyed, but not nearly to the extent of the Wizarding World section, even though this area offers only two rides. I was also surprised by how entranced he was considering that he had never seen the movies



Portrait Gallery in Hogwarts Castle.

Photo courtesy Universal Studios Hollywood

and had only read the first five books. One of the rides, the Flight of the Hippogriff, which we actually got stuck on and had to be led off as they inspected the ride, is a fairly basic kiddie rollercoaster that wouldn't be worth much more than a short wait in line.

However, the other ride, Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, is well worth the wait and was my son's favorite part of the park. The ride combines 3D video with motion from the car to provide a fast tour through the world of Hogwarts, including a dragon encounter, a lightning-fast game of quidditch, and a drop into the world of the Dementors. The line moves fast and is part of the fun.

We had front-of-the-line passes that steered us by wizard portraits that talked and moved and argued with each other. One room has a three-dimensional Head of Hogwarts Albus Dumbledore welcoming you to his office and chatting for a bit, while Harry, Ron and Hermione entertain you in another waiting area.

Motion sickness was a bit of an issue for my husband and me, but my son was delighted with every aspect of the ride. Before we left the park, my son also desperately

who lucked out. Still, my son enjoyed choosing his own wand. Like everything else, they are pricey—\$52.27 after taxes for an interactive wand—but he was so delighted running around to the 11 spots where he could "cast a spell" that it was worth it.

For people who aren't particularly interested in Harry Potter, the Universal Studios attraction probably won't change that, but if his magical world excites you even a little, then you'll get a kick out of seeing the owl post and eating lunch in the Three Broomsticks. The lines were incredibly short, too, on the spring weekday we attended just a few weeks after opening, but I imagine that it would probably still be fun on a busy day. For fans of the books in particular, the area offers the chance to literally step into a novel, which is almost unheard of magic.

A side benefit was that my son started re-reading the books before our visit. He had stopped reading after the fifth one in a previous Harry Potter jaunt a couple of years ago, because he was loath to witness Dumbledore's death. However, upon our return home he felt driven to keep reading, finishing the fifth, the dreaded sixth book and zipping through the seventh. What other amusement park attraction could inspire a kid to dive into so many hours of reading with such obvious glee?

wanted to visit Ollivander's to get a wand. The wands are interactive, and there are spots where kids and adults use their wands to activate displays in store windows. My son intensely wanted to do that.

So we visited Ollivander's, which had the slowest line of any attraction in the park. My son wasn't chosen to have the proprietor select his wand, but it was fun to watch the girl

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Palisades Lunch Group Journeys to Spago

By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

When our monthly lunch group entered the posh setting of Beverly Hills' best-known restaurant, I was swept back in time 35 years earlier when I had visited the fashionable Melrose Avenue bistro Ma Maison.

I had come there representing my publishing firm to meet the young chef and part-owner of the elegant Westside establishment who had completed work on his first cookbook, which was to be released later that year.

A youthfully energetic and smiling Wolfgang Puck burst through the swinging kitchen doors and greeted me warmly as he whisked me away toward his private office. "Follow me. I've got big news."

Puck closed his office door and announced that he was leaving Ma Maison and would soon be opening his own restaurant on the Sunset Strip. He was excited about the future of his bistro that he would call "Spago," and we celebrated the impeccable timing of the publication of his new cookbook—*Wolfgang Puck's Modern French Cooking*.

The Austrian-born chef had come to

Los Angeles in the mid-1970s, after having apprenticed at Hotel de Paris in Monaco, Maxim's Paris, and two years at La Tour in the Midwest. His excitement about the project was palpable and contagious—especially for this relatively new arrival in town who had inadvertently stumbled upon the very beginnings of a food and dining empire.

Puck quickly became the new cover boy for the *Los Angeles Times* Food section. His national profile was dramatically enhanced amid the publicity surrounding Spago's opening, including his media appearances on behalf of the cookbook.

Restaurant critics hailed his classic French dishes as creative and innovative, as he blended the freshest local California farmers' market seasonal produce into his inspired recipes. He eventually introduced what he called "Asian-French fusion," and Puck was soon dubbed as the would-be savior for a region that had been derided as a veritable "dining wasteland."

During the course of the following year, I found myself dining in unexpected company as I occasionally treated bookselling friends to the new Westside hot-spot. Plates of tantalizing dishes that I could not begin to identify would magically appear at our



Photo: Barry Stein

table—compliments of the smiling chef, who was merrily creating his mysterious experiments behind the counter of the open-air kitchen that adjoined the dining room. As I watched Puck conduct the careful orchestration of his kitchen, he reminded me of a passionate scientist in his lab in a quest for new breakthroughs and innovation.

The charismatic chef routinely left his kitchen to roam the dining room and chat with his customers, who seemed to lap up the attention from the newborn star. One evening, Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau were at a nearby table and seemed as infatuated with his company as the rest of us. Hollywood had found its gourmet star and engaging host.

Spago soon began hosting the pre-eminent Oscar party after the conclusion of the Academy Award presentations, and every Hollywood star suddenly wanted to be seen in the presence of the talented Wolfgang Puck.

So now, all these years later, our modest luncheon group—minus one—arrived at Spago—Barry, Arnie and I—ready to break out of our Jewish deli routine and enjoy the cuisine of the city's finest chef. Our pal Josh had a last-minute scheduling conflict and could not join us this trip.

As we were shown our table, we quickly spotted Puck in the middle of the room mingling with his delighted customers with that same intoxicating charm I had remembered from earlier days. He still had the same boyish face, but it was now framed by short tousled graying hair.

I had forgotten how Wolfgang's cheerful spirit is so pervasive throughout the place. That spirit is reflected in the friendliness of his wait-staff and in the contented faces of his diners.

Our group's giddiness that day almost turned Barry into our very own version of Yogi Berra—the late New York Yankee legend whose famous convoluted sayings often conveyed a kind of folk wisdom.

As Barry fondly reflected on our group's outings in the last year, he said, "Just think, if we had only appreciated then how much fun we were having, how much more fun we might have had at the time." I just know Yogi would be smiling somewhere today if he had overheard Barry's mystifying observation.

In the past, I had remembered that a Spago visit centered on the pure celebration of food, but this trip seemed to be more about the simple pleasure of the spontaneous communal dining experience. Our food was excellent as usual, but we hardly discussed our lunch fare as we reveled in the scene playing out all around us.

Besides, we wanted to make sure we were fully appreciating the fun we were having this time instead of realizing it months later—with a sincere nod to our very own Yogi Berra.

Bob Vickrey is a longtime Palisadian. His columns appear in several Southwestern newspapers, including the Houston Chronicle. He is a member of the Board of Contributors of the Waco Tribune-Herald and a regular contributor for the Boryana Books website.

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