

Palisades Hikers Illegally Locked Out

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Palisades News Reporter

Palisades News has learned that a well-used public trailhead and parking area in the Highlands has been closed and is in danger of being developed as a residential property.

The property, at 16701 Via La Costa, was dedicated for public use in 1989 as part of an agreement between Headland Properties Associations, LLC, the developers of the Highlands, and the Coastal Commission.

According to the agreement, Headland was required to build a restroom and parking spaces to make it easier for Los Angeles residents to access the Temescal Ridge Trail, which connects to Temescal Canyon and the Backbone Trail and also serves as a firebreak.

The agreement also lays out ownership rules:

"The trailhead may be transferred to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for purposes of maintenance and liability, or other public or non-profit agency approved by the Executive Director [of the Coastal Commission]."

(Continued on Page 26)



The trailhead's bathroom and parking are closed off to public use.

Photo: Sarah Stockman



Movies in the Park Opens on Saturday

The town's 13th annual Movies in the Park will return this Saturday, August 6, at sundown with a showing of *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, rated PG-13.

The movie is sponsored by Marc Michele Eyewear on Antioch.

Every Saturday night in August on the Field of Dreams at the Palisades Recreation Center, 851 Alma Real, residents can enjoy a free movie, free hot dogs and fun at the park. Please, no alcohol, no smoking, no stick chairs and no pets.

The hot dogs, served by Recreation Cen-

ter employees, are paid for by Mike Skinner, who was a key leader in the local campaign to fund and build the Field of Dreams.

This year, get ready for the 1989 action/adventure *Indiana Jones*, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery, directed by Palisadian Steven Spielberg, by brushing up on some trivia questions:

- 1.) In what language did Indiana have to count to 20 before his father would listen to him?
- 2.) What does Indiana fear?
- 3.) In *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, what kind of fruit did Indiana almost eat, but later found out was poisoned?
- 4.) How did Indiana get his name?
- 5.) In *Last Crusade*, what transport did Indiana and his father use to escape the Nazi Control Center?

Movies in the Park, a nonprofit founded in 2004 by David Williams and John Wirth, and joined by Andy Frew and Brad Lusk, has led fundraising efforts, selected movies, created the on-screen and audio ads, announced and advised youth volunteers. Working with them as a volunteer since MITP's inception is Marilyn Crawford,

(Continued on Page 11)



See Page 18

Proposal to Take Away Downhill Temescal Lane

The downhill side of Temescal Canyon Road from Sunset Boulevard to Pacific Coast Highway will be downsized to one lane in order to accommodate a buffered bike lane, if Jessie Holzer's plan goes through.

Holzer, Councilman Bonin's mobility deputy, spoke to the Pacific Palisades Community Council on July 28 and explained that although there is a bike line on either side of Temescal Canyon Road, "We're looking to upgrade our bike lanes and make them better."

In addition to taking away a downhill traffic lane, she is also proposing a protected bike lane on the uphill side: the bike lane would be next to the curb, next a barrier and then car parking next to the moving vehicles.

Holzer said Department of Transportation had counted 684 cars from 7 to 8 a.m., which is below the 700 count that would trigger a CEQA analysis.

She said DOT had looked at taking out parking along the road, but felt it was

(Continued on Page 5)

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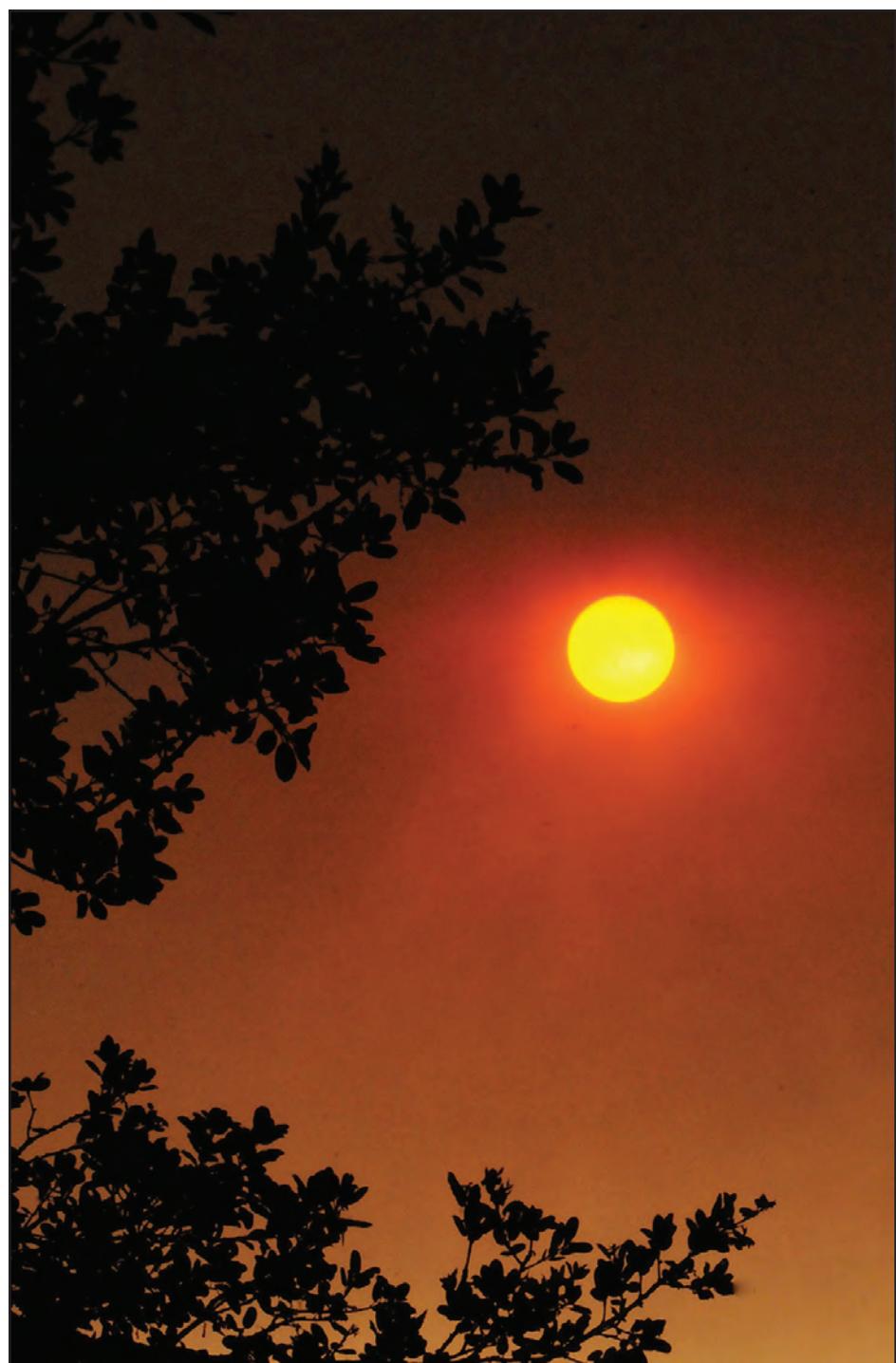


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Palisadian Jim Kenney took this photograph at 4 p.m. on July 23 in the Palisades. "With smoke from the fire in Sand Canyon, the brilliant red of the sun only lasted about 20 minutes; when the wind shifted, it became much less dramatic," Kenney told the Palisades News.

Photo: Jim Kenney

Blood Drive on August 10

The second annual community-wide blood drive hosted by Amalfi Estates and the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce will take place from noon to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10, at the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real.

Last year, Amalfi hoped to reach 37 donors, but only 26 people were able to give blood. "This year our target is 37 to 50," said Jade Devot'e, executive assistant. "We'd really like to reach 50."

Amalfi Estates owner Anthony Marguleas and assistant Sarah Knauer organized the first event last August.

"Sarah came up with the idea because she has given blood every year since she has been eligible—and she also has given platelets," Marguleas said. "She helped organize blood drives during high school

and gave platelets to a friend's uncle who had cancer."

Marguleas, a Pacific Palisades resident, also had cancer as a young adult and needed blood. "In college I helped organize blood drives as well," he said. "It is one of the truly selfless things one can do and directly save lives."

According to the American Red Cross, a person donating blood could save three lives.

"Giving blood is very easy to do and has the biggest impact in making a difference in the world," Marguleas said. "To be able to save a life is truly the best gift one can give."

Anyone donating will receive free ice cream from the King Kone truck that will be parked in the library parking lot.

Sign-up: redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: Palisades.

Fire Officials Remind Residents: Ready, Set, Go!

The Sand fire in the Santa Clarita Mountains, which started as a half-acre blaze along the 14 Freeway at Sand Canyon, has burned more than 40,000 acres, destroyed at least 18 homes and resulted in one death. At least 10,000 homes had to be evacuated.

As fire officials worked towards containment, in almost every interview with the news media, at least one official reiterated that residents should be aware of, and follow, the Ready, Set, Go program.

Many Palisades homeowners live close to the Santa Monica Mountains. Wildfires have raced through the hills north of the Village, and even destroyed the church building at St. Matthew's (in 1978). It is not a question of if there will be a brush fire in our area, it is a question of when.

READY. Residents should have a pre-packed bag that may include will/trust documents, power of attorney, insurance

policies, recent tax return, copies of birth/marriage certificates, social security cards, passports, list of prescriptions, emergency cash, safe-deposit keys, driver's license, computer user names and passwords and checking and saving account numbers (and any other valuable documents that are not in your safe-deposit box).

In addition to important paperwork, your safe-deposit box should have inventory and photographs of valuable possessions for insurance purposes.

SET. Make sure each family member has a sleeping bag/blankets and a change of clothing. Put your pets in carriers to make sure they are not frightened and run away. Make sure your elderly neighbor has a way out.

GO. When asked to evacuate, do. Don't put your life or that of firefighters in danger, by staying.

Asilomar Bluff Stabilization Alternatives to be Discussed

Council District 11 and the City of Bureau of Engineering (BOE) will host a public meeting to discuss ways of stabilizing the Asilomar Landslide Area from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, at the Palisades Library community room.

The Asilomar Landslide Area extends from the middle of Asilomar Boulevard down to the Palisades Mobile Home Park. After conducting studies in 2008, 2013 and 2015, the BOE ultimately recommended a de-watering system consisting of five pumping wells and a collector pipe to convey water

to the existing sewer system. The studies also presented three alternatives for a retaining wall along the south side of the street.

Last April, engineering geologists conducted exploratory borings to obtain additional information about the subsurface soil. Various alternatives for wall design have also been analyzed and will be discussed at the meeting.

The wall design phase is expected to be completed by fall 2017 and construction of a retaining wall should be completed in winter 2020.



(Front) K.C. Cord, 22, and her sister Lexi, 20, were two of 30 people who donated blood during last year's Community Blood Drive.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

City to Study Hydraugers on Via Bluffs

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

If residents living south of Sunset Boulevard, east of Temescal Canyon and west of Potrero failed to check the Nextdoor Palisades online site on Sunday night, July 17, they would have missed this notice:

"ATTENTION—Bluffs area residents and Palisadians in Areas 4 & 6: The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) will be holding a community meeting on Monday the 18th at 10:30 a.m. at the Palisades Library, regarding Via de las Olas. They will be discussing a project to assess the hydraugers installed many years ago to see how they are working, clean them out, etc."

That 12-hour notice might explain why there were only four residents, two newspaper reporters and four people representing the City and Ninyo and Moore, a geotechnical firm, at the meeting.

Ninyo and Moore has been hired by the City for \$150,000 to inspect the existing 22 hydraugers (a way to drain water from the hillside before it saturates the face of the slope) below Via de las Olas. Typically, hydraugers are constructed by drilling a hole into a slope and installing a slotted pipe, with the outlet connected to a discharge area.

Palisades resident Roger Diamond, a leader in the 20-year No Oil! campaign that successfully prevented oil drilling on the flat



Via de las Olas, which was taken out of public use, may be reopened by the City if slope movement can be gauged.

land below Via de las Olas in the late 1980s, asked two City officials—Councilman Mike Bonin's field deputy Sharon Shapiro and BOE's Craig Kunesh—who had initiated the hydrauger request.

Kunesh responded, "Recreation and Parks." Diamond asked who in that depart-

ment, and why now. Kunesh said he would find out.

In a July 26 email to the *Palisades News*, Mary Nemick, BOE director of communications, wrote: "The request for the project originated following a meeting on March 18, 2004 between CD 11 staff, local home-

owners from Via de las Olas, and representatives from the Bureau of Street Services and the Bureau of Engineering."

Nemick attached a 2004 letter from then-Council member Cindy Miscikowski to Via residents: "In response to residents' requests for additional information regarding the

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condition and possible repair of Via de las Olas, the City's Geotechnical Engineering Division and Bureau of Street Services have submitted preliminary reports that I am making available to you and your neighbors."

In Miscikowski's letter, three options were there were presented for Via de las Olas, which was described as "in poor condition and was 'withdrawn from Public Use' in the 1950s due to public safety concerns following a significant landslide."

Originally, Via de la Paz street connected to Pacific Coast Highway prior to March 17, 1958, when a landslide at the west end of Via de las Olas brought tons of dirt onto a 200-yard section of PCH, closing the road. In the efforts to reopen the road, Vaugh O. Cheff, highway superintendent of the California Department of Transportation, was buried and died in a subsequent slide. With that slide, access to PCH from Via de la Paz was permanently closed.

Shortly after the 2004 letter went to homeowners, a new bulkhead was built on the bluff near Friends Street, below Via de las Olas, and a portion of the street repaved. The road between Via de la Paz and Mount Holyoke remained closed to all but local residents.

In Miscikowski's letter, Option 3 ("Full Improvements") was to reconstruct the entire street at an estimated cost of \$560,000.

The News asked Nemick, "Why is the City following up 12 years later?" She had not responded by press time. But Craig stated late in the meeting that the City wants to "open up the street for the pur-

pose of Rec and Parks."

At the hydrauger presentation, Diamond told Shapiro and Kunesh that as part of the Proposition O victory (in 1988), Occidental Petroleum was required to maintain the hydraugers.

Sapiro and Kunesh were not aware of the existence of such a contract. But, according to an *L.A. Times* story ("Digging for Facts in the Palisades Oil Dispute," by Bill Boyarsky, September 18, 1988):

"Occidental has agreed to install a system of drains in the slide area. These would be 2 1/2-inch tubes, called 'hydraugers,' to carry water out of the landslide mass. Two engineering firms have assured Occidental and city officials that the hydrauger system would be effective in draining the landslide."

The *Times* later reported that in the November election that year, "Los Angeles voters handed Occidental Petroleum a stunning defeat by narrowly approving Proposition O, which repeals three ordinances authorizing the oil giant to drill in Pacific Palisades."

"At the same time, voters by a 2 to 1 margin turned down Occidental's counter-initiative, Proposition P. The vote, coming after the most expensive campaign in city history, could mean the end of Occidental's decades-old attempt to drill in Pacific Palisades."

"Killed by passage of Proposition O were ordinances narrowly approved by the City Council and Mayor Tom Bradley in 1985 that granted Occidental authority

to sink up to 60 wells on a two-acre site across Pacific Coast Highway from Will Rogers State Beach."

Diamond said at the July 18 meeting, "The agreement made with Oxy and the City is still enforceable." Shapiro and Kunesh said they would investigate.

Diamond, an attorney who lives along Via de las Olas, recalled that he became involved in No Oil! after he happened to read a small legal notice in the *Times* and attended a public meeting held by the City. "There was no one there but me," Diamond said. "This is déjà vu."

At that meeting, Diamond said, "They wanted to change the zone below the bluff from R-I to SL Ocean (submerged land zone)." Since oil drilling isn't allowed in a residential zone, the change would have made the land drillable.

Diamond's lonely attendance at that obscure meeting led to a 20-year legal battle that ended with Proposition O.

"When you come to a meeting that isn't publicized, you're naturally a little suspicious," Diamond said.

In the meantime, Ninio and Moore will began locating the existing hydraugers that were installed in the bluff by Occidental and clean them if necessary. Three borings will also be done at the top of the hill to further evaluate the landslide area, and four inclinometers will be installed to measure the slopes.

The work was scheduled to begin on July 25 and will take about four weeks.

Bike Lane

(Continued from Page 1)

needed for beach goers. Also considered was taking out the middle lane, which is used as a turn lane. Instead, the decided solution was to take out a traffic lane.

Several people in the audience urged the lane to stay and said the real need was for a sign that allowed three lanes of traffic to turn off Temescal Canyon onto Pacific Coast Highway during rush hour.

Holzer was asked if the traffic count had been when Palisades High School (2,800 students) were in session. Holzer said she would find out. She was asked if the number of bikes using the road had been counted, but she did not know.

Area 4 Representative Rick Mills urged her to speak to Palisades High School because they work with the traffic congestion at Bowdoin and Temescal.

Area 6 Rep Stuart Muller suggested that a buffered bicycle lane be examined at some other site in the City, not here. (There are only three ways in and out of the Palisades and Temescal Canyon Road is one.)

Service Club Alternate Rep Kevin Niles asked about the food trucks that park along Temescal, and where people would stand—most likely in the bike lane.

One rep told Holzer, "Please do not do anything further without consulting the PPCC."

—SUE PASCOE

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Heard About Town

A Parking Suggestion

I read the letters in the paper (July 20) about parking issues in the Village over the next two years. Why not allow all the people who work in the Village and now park in the Swarthmore lot to park on both sides of Pampas Ricas in both directions? (I realize certain Huntington homeowners might object, but couldn't they be persuaded to be civic-minded until the new parking structure is completed?) The Chamber of Commerce could hire a van driver, who could serve on Pampas Ricas as a "parking concierge" to help workers get back and forth into the Village.

A CVS Parking Idea

Maybe CVS could offer monthly parking on their under-utilized rooftop parking lot, which is generally only full when parents are picking their kids up from Village School or Seven Arrows.

Deer on Temescal

Last week, I was taking a taxi to the airport early in the morning. The driver was going down Temescal Canyon and suddenly had to slam on the brakes. A deer had run right in front of his car. The deer was tapped by the car, stopped for a second and then ran off. We continued to the airport, but I just wanted to warn everyone driving on Temescal Canyon Road to go slow when it's dark—there are deer that live in the canyon.

Hit-and-Run Driver

On June 24, around 8:30 a.m., I stopped at the service station at the corner of PCH and Sunset. I went in to pay for my gas and a black SUV Mercedes, partial license plate 7S--155, put her car into reverse and hit my driver's side door, causing extensive damages. An eyewitness states that the female driver was aware of what she had done but just took off. I reported the hit-and-run to the police, but they don't do anything because it's a misdemeanor and because I only have a partial plate.

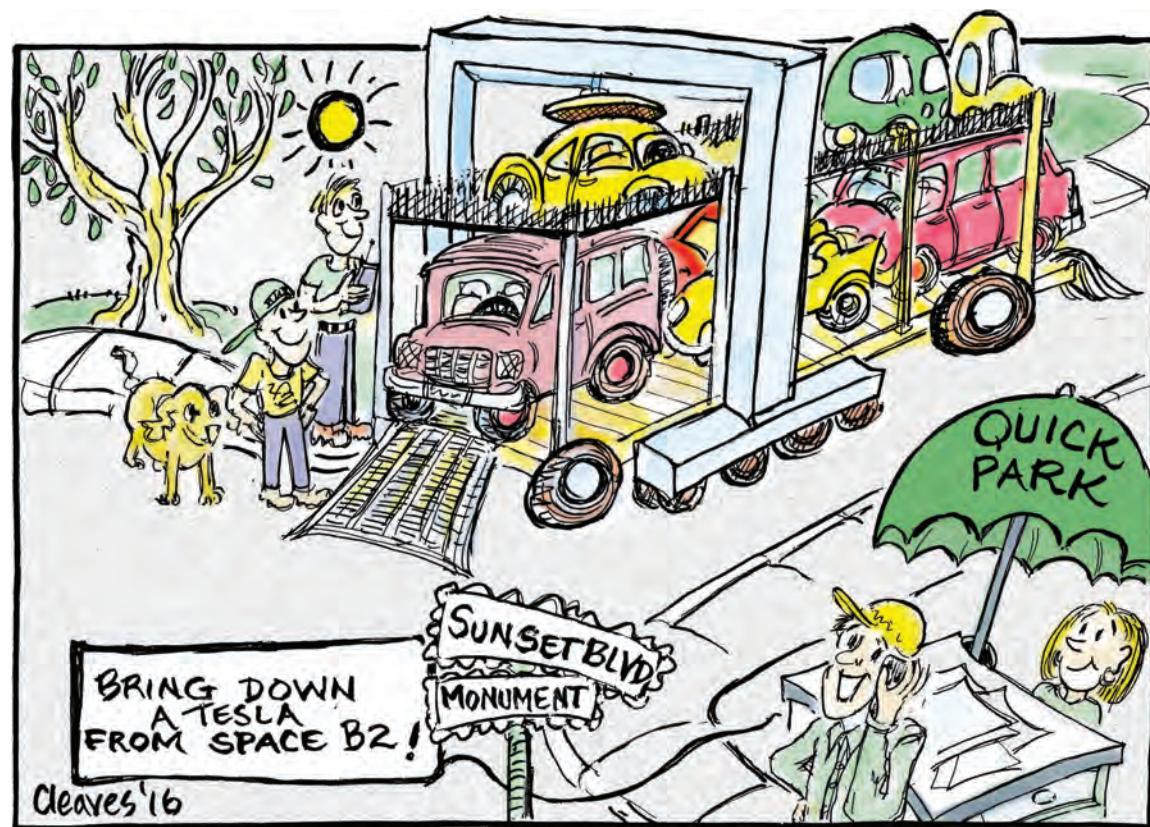
(Editor's note: If you know the woman driving the black SUV Mercedes or if you are that woman and would like to make this right, contact us and we'll put you in touch with the victim.)

Explosive Nastiness

My young adult daughter was in the crosswalk, walking with the light, crossing Temescal Canyon Road after shopping at the farmers market on Sunday. A man in his 50s wanted to turn right on red off Bowdoin and screamed at my daughter, because he didn't want to wait for her to finish crossing. He should be ashamed about the vulgar language he used in public. This is the kind of explosive nastiness that we don't need in the Palisades, a family town.

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Positive Parenting Support

By KANE PHELPS
Special to the Palisades News

opment and behavior: *The Whole Brain Child* and *No Drama Discipline*.

Siegel and Bryson posit that discipline, the word itself, means "teaching" and hence, not "punishment."

Teaching is ineffective when children are in a reactive (upset) state. Teaching is a skill. These researchers demonstrate how to build the "yes" brain, with core strategies that range from playfulness (involving whole body, such as jumping, dancing, or just acting silly, using accents, etc.) to reflective listening and "attuning."

The idea is for the parent not to stifle but rather to shift the reactive (upset) state to one that is more receptive to dialogue and reflection. When parents become reactive and yell, threaten, or challenge, children will often either escalate or withdraw. Teaching is not possible.

Siegel and Bryson emphasize the importance of self-care and "being gentle with ourselves" in order not to let the stresses of parenting become overwhelming.

Starting on Monday, August 29, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Jordan and I, in partnership with the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, will be offering a FREE parent support group. In addition to nurturing a sense of community with Palisades parents, our goal will be to impart some of the strategies enumerated in the two excellent books by Siegel and Bryson.

(Editor's note: Kane Phelps, MA, LMFT has 30 years of experience working with parents and families. Jordan Marks, MA, PPSC, LMFT has 15 years of experience working with children and teens. The Palisades-Malibu YMCA is located at 821 Via de la Paz and the class will be held in the second-floor conference room. Parents are asked to call in advance to confirm attendance: (310) 454-5591.)

Thought to Ponder

"America has the best politicians money can buy."
— Will Rogers

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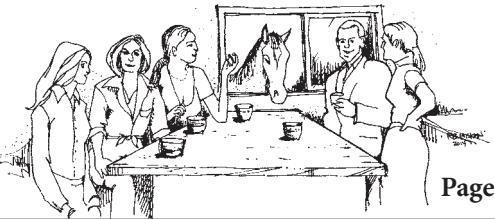
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VIEWPOINT

Mansionization Ordinance Is about Fairness

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

I've been obsessed with fairness since I was little. Maybe it has to do with growing up on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota or maybe it has to do with being one of six kids in a family fighting for parents' attention. Or maybe it has to do with cod liver oil.

So many kids in my first grade class had health issues that it was decided all had to line up at recess time to take a tablespoon of the vile tasting ointment—unless your parents could afford to buy vitamins. Mine couldn't and I choked the cod liver oil down. Unfair.

How I feel about mansionization doesn't have a lot to do with this Viewpoint. If you want to read an opinion piece about that challenge, I'd suggest Ryan Bradley's essay in the *Los Angeles Times* ("L.A.'s Growing Mansionization Problem," July 28, page A-13). He cites a study which found that even with added space in a house, families tended to use the kitchen and family room all the time, but the living room, porch and more than 50 percent of the rest of the first-floor communal spaces remained almost entirely unused. He notes that the average size of a house has grown from 983 sq. ft. in 1950 to more than 2,660 sq. ft. today.

How I feel about house size, view rights, lack of green

space around a home and even property values has nothing to do with my current anger.

The two paragraphs below, inserted by Councilman Mike Bonin's office on page 6 in the proposed 179-page zoning ordinance that was passed by the City Planning Commission on July 14, makes me ill with its inherent privilege.

"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."

This means that while families in the San Fernando Valley and other areas of Los Angeles will have to observe the new ordinance regarding home sizes, we, the people of privilege in the Palisades, will be exempt.

Many of you were probably required to read George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. The book, published in England in 1945, was the tale of how animals, led by the pigs, take over the farm. In liberating themselves from the drunken farmer, all animals were initially created equal.

I remember thinking, what a cute little story about the animals. But as I read, I became more and more horrified about the treatment of those who were not defended or could not stand up for themselves.

I later learned that this "cute" story was written to reflect events leading up to the 1917 Russian revolution and into the Stalin era.

One quote in the book has stuck with me: "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

In political terms, as Orwell implied then, and as we see today, while some governments might proclaim the equality of their citizens, they actually give power and privileges to a small elite.

Yes, Palisades residents, here in Los Angeles we are "more equal than others."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need More Mansionization Control

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to Vince Bertoni, Tom Rothman and Christine Saponara at the L.A. City Planning Commission about the proposed new city ordinance regarding house-size regulations. It was shared with the Palisades News.)

I have lived at Friends Street and Via de la Paz for more than 30 years. My neighborhood is slowly being erased. I have lived in basically a construction zone off and on for years, but never as intensely as the last two years. I am totally 100 percent in favor of stopping these mansions from being built.

I am more than willing to suffer losses in my property value if I have to, but I don't believe this argument at all!!! It is perpetuated by real estate brokers and builders who see the Palisades as their cash cow. I care about where I live!! I have no peace and quiet during the day.

Luckily, I work so I am not home during the day, but Saturdays are now the same. Since I am 67 I would like to retire one day, but I could not stand being at home. Construction is constant and I have no say in the fact that they are building monster houses, ruining the neighborhood, building high hedges and walls so no one can see each other, creating an entirely different place to live, and most of these are "spec" houses.

Builders and realtors are reaping the benefits and they don't live here. We get nothing out of this deal. I don't plan on selling my house. I don't look at it as just a place to make money. I want to live here like I did for many years in peace and quiet with neighbors who actually know and care about each other.

It is your job to protect the people you represent. Not the builders, not the realtors, not the construction workers. Please do your job and stop the destruction of the Palisades by people who do not live in the Palisades and only care about the money they can make here. Please, please, stop this from happening in my hometown!

Chris Van Hook

Disappointed in Bonin's Action

Dear Councilman Bonin,

I was deeply disappointed to read in the *Palisades News* that you were instrumental in getting Pacific Palisades exempted from proposed amendments to the BMO/BHO.

I have lived in the Palisades for 31 years, and am tired of seeing huge houses built on smallish lots. There is little or nothing that an individual can do about this. Neighbors are not given adequate or timely notification of projects, developers prevaricate, Building & Safety is largely a rubber stamp. If you want evidence of what I am writing about, look at the new house on Marinette Road just north of Paskenta (6,000-sq.-ft. house on a street of 2,000-sq.-ft. residences), or look at the huge house with a tower just off Bestor near Chautauqua.

The BMO/BHO might have helped put a brake on this sort of rampant building, but you listened only to some vocal, greedy constituents who somehow think it is their right to build virtually as high and as big as they want without regard to the character of the neighborhood or the concerns of their neighbors.

As a result, I don't see how I could vote for you in the next election, but I am sure the developers and realtors will!

Betsy Handler

Clarifying the Chabad's Landscaping

(Editor's Note: We received a second Heard About Town about the lack of landscaping around the Chabad walls on Sunset and Los Liones Drive: "I was glad to see the comment [July 20 News] about landscaping the Chabad. I also live in Castellammare and would like to see the area outside the walls of Chabad landscaped. It boggles my mind that the owners of the Chabad school walk past this unsightly mess every day and ignore it.")

Rabbi Zushe Cunin of the Chabad JCC Pacific Palisades responded:

"We, too, are eager to implement our thoughtfully planned landscape design for the area surrounding our Chabad campus, a sketch of which has already been informally presented to the Design Review Board.

"Our challenge has been that the DWP has, as of yet, not finished its work on the electrical boxes located both above and underground at Sunset and Los Liones. As soon as their work is complete, we look forward to immediately beautifying our surroundings and our community with new landscape designs."

Bob Benton Applauded

I am writing to acknowledge Bob Benton for his amazing generosity and support of our Palisades

(Continued on Page 8)

Letters

(Continued from Page 7)

community. Bob has immersed himself in a variety of events throughout his many years as owner of Bentons The Sport Shop on Swarthmore. Many local charities have benefited from his kindness and donations.

The closing of his store on July 10 was bittersweet for his family and friends, as we toasted this truly amazing man and his awesome manager, Dottie Henkle.

The following day, Bob donated sports shoes, dance shoes, clothing, sporting equipment and so much more to St. Anne's Home in Los Angeles.

Opened in 1908 as a safe refuge to unwed mothers, St. Anne's programs have evolved into comprehensive services and housing for children and families. Bob's generous and thoughtful "gifts" will help to enrich the lives of thousands of children, teenage mothers and low-income families that St. Anne's serves each year.

We look forward to celebrating the grand reopening of Bentons in 2018, and the chance to support Bob Benton and Caruso's new Palisades Village.

Joyce Walter
St. Anne's Guild

Not Parenting, But Being a Parent

I wanted to applaud Lola Coffey's Viewpoint in the July 20 *Palisades News* in which she reviewed an excellent article in the *Wall Street Journal* written by UC Berkeley Professor Alison Gopnik entitled "Against Parenting."

While the title actually sounds counterintuitive, it was an excellent piece encouraging parents to avoid the pitfalls of viewing parenting as "a kind of job" and to get back to the idea of just BEING a parent.

After all, Professor Gopnik points out, we don't "wife," we don't "husband," and we don't, in our day-to-day cyberfree lives, "friend" people either.

By viewing your parenting as a job, she asserts, you naturally expect a certain product or a certain result. And as any parent will tell you in great glorious detail, that is certainly not always the case.

In our competitive contemporary society, we are taught that with the right set of techniques, or with the right set of instructions, we can produce the highest-quality child. But what this philosophy does is take the parent farther away from his or her natural intuition and instinct. And with the "how to parent" industry booming, parents have become less confident in just being a parent, but instead are consumed with doing the right kind of parenting.

As Professor Gopnik astutely points out, "The most important rewards of being a parent aren't your children's grades or trophies ... They come from the moment-by-moment physical and psychological joy of being with this particular child, and in that child's moment-by-moment joy in being with you."

There are no guarantees in being a parent, other than it will be a glorious, unpredictable, wonderful, exhausting and unforgettable ride.

I wanted again to applaud Lola Coffey for bringing this important article to our attention and commend the *Palisades News* for always bringing such high-quality, well-researched and relevant news to our community.

Alisa A. Bromberg, M.D.

(Editor's note: Bromberg is a Palisades pediatrician and parent.)

Ficus Trees and Hearing

My name is Rosanne Mangio (the person who cares about our Palisades Village trees). On July 26, I spoke to

Tim Tyson (Urban Forestry) and Ron Lorenzen (Public Works).

They informed that the two ficus trees on Sunset Boulevard [by the Mobil station] will be destroyed because Caruso's underground parking will be using the space under them.

I was also informed that the right turn lane from Sunset to Swarthmore will be taken away or greatly modified.

I asked the two gentlemen why Caruso could not modify his underground parking lot to keep away from these two trees. They could not give me an answer.

To say the least I am beyond being upset about this. Caruso could modify it if he wanted to, and that's the plain truth. He could start his lot from the alley east to the existing parking lot and leave these beautiful trees alone, but he won't.

Ron Lorenzen said to me that he gets the impression that Palisades residents do not have a problem with Caruso's plan because no one has called to complain.

So, I say to you, Palisades residents, if you are upset with the above plan and want it rethought before it is too late, and you care enough to voice your concerns, please get in touch with Ron Lorenzen and voice them.

There will be a public works hearing in the next 50 or so days. Have him inform you of the date and come to the hearing and show you care. His phone number is (213) 847-3333 and his email is ron.lorenzen@lacity.org. You can also c.c. Timothy.tyson@lacity.org.

I am giving you a heads up because I care. I have lived in the Palisades 60 years, since I was 11 years old. My dad (Vince) owned the Palisades Barber Shop for 41 years. Please take the time to show you care. Thanks.

(Editor's note: We contacted Public Works to verify a public hearing would be held and spokesperson Tonya Durrell said a meeting has not been set at this point.)



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Park Trees Face a Grim Future

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Steve Dunlap, a spokesperson from the Forestry Division of the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, was not encouraging as he spoke about the health of trees in city parks during the quarterly Park Advisory Board (PAB) meeting on July 20.

"Forty thousand trees in 500 parks are dead," Dunlap said. "This is due to the last five years of the incredibly driest weather we have had."

Dunlap said that 28 trees (mostly pines and eucalyptus) have been cut down at the Palisades Recreation Center because they were diseased or dead. Ten more dead or dying trees will have to be cut down.

Most of these trees have succumbed to Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, Golden Spotted Oak Borer, Thousand Canker disease and Xylella fastidiosa (leaf scorch), Dunlap said.

When trees don't receive enough water, they are not able to fight off invasive insects. "Usually the tree will encapsulate the insect with sap, which kills it," Dunlap said. "The lack of water takes away the tree's self-protection."

He explained that park trees went from lots of water to very little. The lack of water isn't only the result of drought, but from watering restrictions imposed by the De-

partment of Water and Power. Additionally, Recreation and Parks must now pay its own water bills. "Up until four years ago, DWP didn't charge for water, but they do now," Dunlap said.

In an earlier interview, L.A. Recreation and Parks General Manager Michael Schull told the *News*, "About a decade ago, the City required that our department start to pay its own utility bill [\$20 million last year]. Even though we've reduced our water usage by 50 percent since 2008, last year our water bill went from \$9 million to \$14 million."

An incredulous audience member asked, "The city is saying we don't want to help save the trees, and they're going away because DWP won't help?"

Dunlap said, "We need to conserve water and make a budget."

In a July 24 email to the *News*, Parks Assistant General Manager Ramon Barajas explained, "By ordinance we are currently allowed to water three days per week, two 15-minute cycles per day. The days are determined by the facility address. I asked staff to aerify and fertilize the grove [at the Palisades Rec Center] to try to get some food and relieve compaction in the area."

Barajas explained that additional water will be used to absorb the fertilizer into the ground. "Once the fertilizer been dissolved, we will go back to irrigating according to



This eucalyptus tree at the Recreation Center is dead and will be removed.

the ordinance," he said.

At the PAB meeting an audience member asked, "How will the city justify the cost of taking out all the dead trees and replanting them, when they could just turn on the water?"

Another person asked about drip irrigation. Dunlap acknowledged it does work, but in the parks, pipes would have to be placed underground, and it could be a problem for established trees because of

damage to the roots caused by digging.

Another person asked if well water was available for watering. Dunlap said he could bring it up at the next meeting.

Dunlap said a team of experts that include Fred Roth (Cal Poly Pomona), Don Hodel (UC Riverside), Jorge Ochoa (Long Beach State College) and Rec and Parks Forestry staff (Dunlap, Arthur Flores, Fred Hall and Leon Boroditski) had been assembled to examine the problem.

"The goal for the committee is to establish a plan for the reforestation of our parks utilizing the latest data from ongoing studies and developing planting palates that will flourish with our current conditions," Dunlap said.

A resident asked if the residents who live adjacent to the tennis courts could purchase new trees and have them planted. Dunlap said it is the wrong time of year to plant trees.

PAB members asked about the bare island in front of the small gym, where six dead stone pine trees were cut down this spring. Since the parking lot is supposed to be reconfigured, with some parking spaced into that island, no trees will be planted there until that project is finished.

Asked if there was anything special that can be done to save a tree that is dying, Dunlap said: "By the time you notice there's a problem, it's too late."

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Announcing the Pacific Palisades Community Council Election

VOTE!

PPCC Area and At-large Representatives are elected by the community every two years.

This summer, elections for Area and At-large representative will take place.

The voting period will be from August 10th through September 1st.

Vote online (see pacpalicc.org for online ballot & Area maps) or use the official mail-in ballot below.

PPCC was established in 1974 and served as a model for the creation of the current citywide Neighborhood Council system. Over the course of decades it has developed influence and authority when it speaks for the interests of Pacific Palisades with public and private entities alike. Elected Area Representatives represent their constituents on the PPCC Board, which meets twice monthly to discuss issues that are important to the community. PPCC serves as a forum for discussion of community issues and as an advocate for Pacific Palisades to government and private agencies. Your Area Rep will be the voice of your neighborhood on the PPCC!

**Please visit pacpalicc.org to learn about the candidate and read their statements. Then vote online or by mail-in ballot below.
We look forward to hearing your voice!**

Elected Representatives will take office on October 1st and serve a two-year term. The community is invited to vote for Elected Representative on the PPCC board in the following ways

Online voting: Click on the Election tab on the PPCC website at www.pacpalicc.org (online voting available from 8/10 until midnight 9/1)

Mail-in voting: Cut out and fill in the ballot below and return via U.S. mail (postmarked by September 1st)



VOTING: Residents of each PPCC Area may vote for their Area Representative. There is only one vote per household for Area Representative. Residents of all Palisades areas, as well as business operators and property owners in the Palisades, may vote for the At-Large representative.

CANDIDATES: Feel free to contact the candidates directly with questions or for more info. See ballot below for contact information. PPCC will hold a Candidates Forum on August 25th, at 7 pm, in the Palisades branch library. The public is invited to attend!

Pacific Palisades Community Council

OFFICIAL BALLOT – 2016 PPCC Elected Representatives Election

- I am a resident of Area ____ in Pacific Palisades and have indicated my vote for my Area Representative.
 I am a resident, property owner or business owner in Pacific Palisades and have indicated my vote for At-large Representative.

Name _____ Signature _____

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E-mail _____ Date _____

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See PacPalicc.org for each Candidate's official campaign statement.

KATIE BRAUDE; Candidate for Area 1



PETER CULHANE; current Candidate for Area 2



DANIELLE SAMULON; Candidate for Area 3



PETER ZOMBER; Candidate for Area 3



RICK MILLS; current Candidate for Area 4



SANDY EDDY; Candidate for Area 5



SUE KOHL; current Candidate for Area 5



DAVID KAPLAN; Candidate for Area 6 & current Area Alt.



ERIC MARSHALL; Candidate for Area 6



CATHY RUSSELL; current Candidate for Area 7



REZA AKEF; current Candidate for Area 8



QUENTIN FLEMING; Candidate for At-large & current At-large Rep.



LOU KAMER; Candidate for At-large Rep.



Please check the box next to the Area representative for whom you'd like to vote, based on your area of residence in the Palisades, and one box for At-Large.

Zar Heads Palisades Community Council

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

New Palisades Community Council President Maryam Zar is an avid volunteer who has donated time to local schools, the council and the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness.

This work is vital to her. "I love to do it," Zar said. "I enjoy the freedom to be able to work towards issues that I believe in, pursuing them for a gain other than monetary and for the benefit of someone other than me. I think I really thrive on that. If I didn't have volunteer work to frame my day and frame my life, I'd feel lost."

Zar, who has three children attending local public schools, donates her time to Marquez Elementary, Palisades High School and Paul Revere Middle School, where she will be the president of the Parent Teacher Student Association in the fall. In 2014, Zar came to the community council as an educational representative, appointed by Paul Revere. Her role expanded later that year when she agreed to chair the council's Task Force on Homelessness, and in April, she was honored as a Volunteer of the Year by L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl.

For the homelessness task force, Zar formed sub-committees to look into aspects of the issue, such as fire danger, police enforcement, and simply counting the local



Maryam Zar is the new Community Council president.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

homeless population. The task force investigated what similar communities had done to address the varied issues that stem from homelessness.

A strategy emerged to: 1.) provide services

through the Ocean Park Community Center, whose two outreach workers connect with the local homeless population and work to find homes for them (including 50 of the roughly 200 local homeless population who are now engaged or enrolled in services with 15 already off the streets—three of them in permanent housing), 2.) reduce fire danger by posting signs designating areas as high fire zones, which meant camping was not permitted and a 72-hour notice would no longer be required for arrests of campers, and 3.) increase police enforcement not only through the changes that the signs allowed, but also via collaborating with the L.A. Police Department and applying community pressure through the task force.

In the process, Zar, who also writes for the *Huffington Post*, learned deeply about the homeless population.

"Homelessness is not this one big pot that we think of," she said. The homeless might be current or former foster kids, victims of abuse, people who divorced to escape horrible marriages without an adequate way to support themselves, people with mental health issues, or "some people who can't matriculate with society. Homelessness isn't homelessness. It's mental health. It's poverty. It's lack of support. People don't just pop out of the ground homeless. To get them off the street requires a whole host of services. There's no magic wand."

Zar, who on June 30 stepped down from chairing the task force, was initially hesitant to take on the role of council president because she was a relative newcomer to both the council and Pacific Palisades. She had moved to the Palisades in 2014 after 14 years in Brentwood. But other council members nominated Zar and encouraged her to accept the position.

Outgoing council president Chris Spitz said Zar's "skills, judgment and work ethic are unsurpassed. I greatly relied and continue to rely on her, and I am thrilled not only that she agreed to be nominated, but was unanimously elected and will be serving as Pacific Palisades Community Council's president in the coming term. [The council] is fortunate indeed to have a person of her caliber guiding this organization as we continue to address the many serious issues impacting our community."

Before coming to the Westside, Zar had traveled widely. At 9 years old, her parents left Iran before the revolution, and she lived in Paris and New Jersey before attending college at Boston University, where she graduated in 1990. She worked for a few years in Iran as a news correspondent for an English language newspaper, and later, she and her husband, who married in New York City, began a retail business involving shopping trips to Italy for goods that they sold in the United States, eventually operating six stores. The couple now owns a manufacturing company that produces accessories, such as shoes and belts, for various national brands.

Zar is looking forward to her new position on the council and treasured her time as a council vice president this past year working with Spitz. Spitz "spearheaded a great deal of innovation and stood staunchly against some encroachments into Palisadian quality of life issues that would have had repercussions for years to come," said Zar, who noted that she particularly valued Spitz' intellect and strength.

In addition, Zar is anticipating an interesting tenure of service as the council president. "I look forward to working with everyone, old and new, and hearing all points of view as we tackle new issues and grapple with ongoing projects that will surely affect our town," Zar said. "We will continue to be an important voice in the West LA Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) as well as among elected officials who have always lent us their ear due to the hard won credibility of the PPCC over the years."

Movies in the Park

(Continued from Page 1)

Palisades Chamber of Commerce administrative assistant.

The movies are possible because of support from Pacific Palisades Woman's Club; Gelson's Market; Dan Urbach Real Estate; Jody Fine Estates; SEIA—Estate & Investment Advisors; Botham Plumbing & Heating; PPBA—Pacific Palisades Baseball Association; Bambino—Babysitting App; Optimist Club; Areté—Preparatory Academy; Kehillat Israel; Amalfi Estates; and Horusky Construction Company.

Coming up on August 13 is the 1937 version of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, sponsored by Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association.

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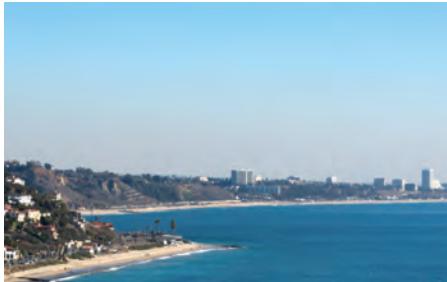


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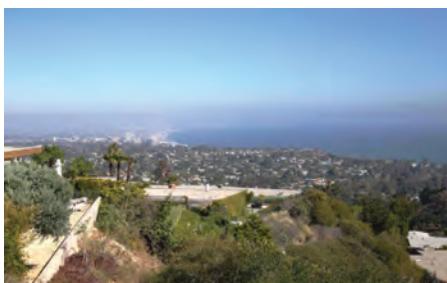


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Learn to Sew with Shane LaLonde

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Shane LaLonde offers her young kids play dates with a twist. After school or camp at Palisades Elementary, her daughter, Sierra, 9, and her son, Avery, 7, can go across the street to her small shop, The Sew Chateau, where they and their friends might create anything from a decorative pillow to a skull zipper pouch to bold Legos. Sometimes a friend might join them, and they all relish the creative results.

"Kids love to sew," LaLonde said. "They come in with an idea and leave with something they created. It's empowering for them. I like seeing them have fun and the sense of accomplishment that they leave with."

These play dates have been transformed into a business where up to three kids at a time can visit The Sew Chateau to learn to sew. For \$25 per child, which includes the cost of any materials they might use during a 1-1/2-hour session, the young creators can make a variety of items, such as totes, pillowcases and apparel.

"Anything you can think of, we can pretty much make," said LaLonde, who also has two older sons, Sage, 20, and Elijah, 19. "Emoji pillows have been a big hit. It's an endless opportunity for the kids to be creative."

LaLonde never intended to open a sewing shop for kids. The former model and cable show host originally rented her space at 855 Via de la Paz in January so she would



Shane LaLonde with her son Avery and daughter Sierra.

Photo: Lesly Hall

have a creative spot to produce projects for her Etsy shop, also called The Sew Chateau. "I needed a space to be creative and have all my fabrics and notions and machines," she noted.

However, her kids' play dates soon expanded to paid lessons, and she has now been busier with those than her online store. Eventually, she imagines enlarging the operation to a bigger storefront that would

provide more space. Because of her current space constraints, she can only accommodate only three children at a time.

However, for those kids, she has an ample amount of supplies and four machines—three sewing machines and one serger. "It's small, but definitely efficient," said LaLonde, who moved to Pacific Palisades with her husband, Larry, seven years ago. "Kids can think of anything they want,

and we have it here."

The lessons are also fun for both girls and boys. "It's a great skill that everybody can use," LaLonde said. Boys at lessons "have had the greatest time. It's not just a female skill. There's machines involved," which she has found often intrigue boys, and she has varied fabrics, including Star Wars pieces that have appeal for both genders.

LaLonde's own interest in sewing grew out of her modeling career, which began at 9 years old when she became an Adidas model. She later hosted a kids show on Fox Sports and was one of the Barker Beauties on the game show *The Price Is Right*.

During these years, she was regularly fitted for costumes, and so she worked closely with the wardrobe department, clothing designers and stylists. "Being around that, it's an easy buzz to catch," LaLonde said.

When her first child was born, she started sewing, and it became a hobby that grew. "Anyone who sews knows it's a rabbit hole," LaLonde said. "You can make this and this and this. Before you know it, you're making everything. It's just a fun hobby, and now it's growing into something else and I'm really loving it."

To contact The Sew Chateau, call (310) 508-9940 or email thesewchateau@gmail.com

Riviera Palisades Street Names

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

(In 1990 Randy and Betty Lou Young published a limited edition book titled Street Names of Pacific Palisades & Other Tales. This short series of summaries of these names is based on that book.)

In 1927, the Riviera Country Club was opened for play by the Los Angeles Athletic Club. The Club had wanted a "country home" in the Santa Monica Canyon area large enough for a golf course and other sports facilities.

As part of the arrangement made with Alphonzo Bell to obtain that land, two Riviera tracts were subdivided and residential lots were sold.

The Riviera was designed to be an exclusive community with European charm and Mediterranean-style estates. The street names were drawn from the Bell family's travels to Italy and Spain, with most of the names being inspired by the Amalfi Coast near Naples.

Alta Mura: "high wall" or "lookout point" in Spanish. This is appropriate as it is above the Riviera tract.

Amalfi: a town south of Naples considered one of the most beautiful resorts in Italy.

Capri: a picturesque island in the Gulf of Naples.

Casale: named after Casale Monferato, an old town near Florence.

Corsica: a large French island in the Mediterranean.

D'Este: a famous villa and water garden at Tivoli.

Fermo: an ancient town in central Italy.

Lucca: a famous Italian walled city west of Florence, from where most of the olive oil is imported into the United States.

Minorca: an island in the Spanish Mediterranean.

Monaco: a small principality and resort on the French Riviera with the famous Monte Carlo Casino.

Napoli: an Italian port city, also known as Naples.

Parma: an Italian city, province and river, known for its Parmesan cheese

Pavia: a city near Milan, in northern Italy.

Ravoli: although not technically in the Riviera tract, it was named after the town of Rivoli in northern Italy.

Riviera: the narrow strip of land along

the southern Mediterranean coast of France and Italy.

Romany: named after the collective name for gypsies and their language.

San Onofre: derived from the Spanish "St. Humphrey," a 4th century hermit in northern Egypt for 70 years.

San Remo: named for either "St. Remis" (Spanish) or "St. Remus" (Italian), it is a popular winter resort in northern Italy.

Sorrento: named for one of the best-known resort towns along the Amalfi Drive, near Naples.

Spezia: the chief naval harbor for Italy.

Spoletto: historic town near Rome which is known for its summer arts festival.

Toulon: a major seaport and city on the French Riviera.

Umeo: not technically in the Riviera tract, this short street may be named after a town in Sweden.

Michael Edlen has been ranked in the top one percent of all agents in the country with over \$1.5 billion in sales. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales and historic events for 30 years. Call Michael at (310) 230-7373 or email michael@michaeledlen.com.

Fourth of July Snafus

Even though residents of Pacific Palisades know the Fourth of July routine—a race in the morning, a parade in the afternoon and a concert/fireworks show in the evening (and these events are communicated to the City well in advance)—there were still some snafus this year.

Signs that state “No Parking from 4 a.m. to 1 p.m.” and cost the race organizers \$15 apiece, are posted along the 5/10K course—generally several in a one-block area.

Since the parade route shares some of the streets with the race, PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) and race officials asked the city if instead of two signs at each location, just one sign could be posted, closing the street from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. This would save the race organizers money. (The parade is considered a celebration of First Amendment rights and does not have to pay for DOT personnel or signs.)

Unfortunately, instead of posting one

sign, two were posted on each pole, at three and four locations in a block—on either side of the street. One signed warned “No Parking from 4 a.m. to 1 p.m.” and a second “No Parking from 1 p.m. to 4 a.m.”

Race organizer Brian Shea spoke to Councilman Mike Bonin’s West L.A. Field Deputy Sharon Shapiro, who responded on July 3 by email: “Unfortunately, it seems that they did not post the parade correctly or even on time this year. Signs for the parade were posted two days after the race-route signs.

“While I know it seems annoying to you, believe me it is just as frustrating for me working yesterday in a scramble to reach DOT staff on a three-day weekend since they had not posted the [parade] route at all,” Shapiro said.

In an even bigger surprise, PAPA board member Rich Wilken, who normally makes sure there are barricades to close off streets along the race route, discovered cars com-

ing up Chautauqua as the runners were lining up. DOT had not closed off Chautauqua at PCH.

When Wilken drove on Sunset Boulevard to Amalfi he found that the street had also not been closed to westbound Sunset traffic. He dragged a barrier onto Sunset, found a police officer and asked him to watch it.

DOT is paid by race organizers to make sure streets are closed and no vehicles get through on the race route. Race officials are now withholding their \$11,000 check for lack of services.

The race could have used the one overzealous DOT person who was working the parade-route closures.

Stationed at Haverford Avenue and Temescal Canyon Road, the man refused to let people turn up Haverford (a half block before Sunset). The street allows access to the residential streets below Via de la Paz, which is closed off for the parade, and to Swarthmore down to the bluffs.

According to an eyewitness report from Kyle Heffner of Culver City, who was trying to make his way to a party on Radcliffe around 2 p.m., cars were backed up on Temescal Canyon from Sunset to Palisades High School.

“In the car in front of us, the driver was trying to get through because his dog was



Double posting of City signs cost Will Rogers race organizers extra money.

throwing up. He said he lived near Via las Olas but the guard wasn’t letting anyone through,” Heffner said.

PAPA President Daphne Gronich responded, “Just bad luck. They [traffic guards] were trying to do their job to keep people safe. We will provide ‘briefing’ next year to all DOT folks who are assigned for the holiday so it doesn’t happen, since the City information they received was insufficient and workers frequently don’t know the area.

City National Will Move To Via de La Paz in 2017

City National Bank, currently located at 1012 Swarthmore Ave., will move to 843 Via de la Paz in early 2017. The new 1,500-sq.-ft. location (next to Rodeo Realty) was formerly used for office space.

“City National Bank is committed to serving our clients in Pacific Palisades,” said Scott Witter, executive vice president and division manager of the company’s Core Banking Division. “We are thrilled to sign a new lease that will enable us to continue meeting the financial needs of local small and mid-sized companies, entrepreneurs, professionals and their families in the area.”

City National Bank, which opened in 2011, will remain at Swarthmore Avenue through 2016, providing valet parking to customers during current construction of the Palisades Village.

The Via branch will continue to offer City

National’s full range of financial capabilities, including preferred banking, business banking and wealth management services for individuals and their businesses. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday.

City National Bank, which has \$41.2 billion in assets, has 74 offices in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, Nevada, New York City, Nashville and Atlanta. In addition, the company and its investment affiliates manage or administer \$55.7 billion in client investment assets.

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City Commission Denies Signage Appeal

The *Palisadian-Post*'s appeal to place two large signs above the 881 Alma Real building was denied in a 4-1 vote by the West L.A. Area Planning Commission on July 20.

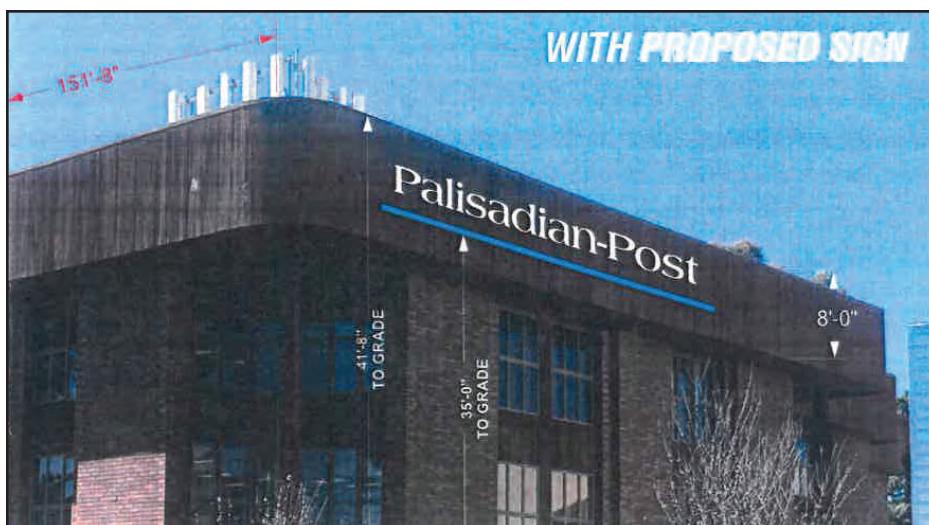
During a three-hour hearing, 14 Palisades residents urged commissioners to uphold the Pacific Palisades Design Review Board's unanimous denial of the signage request in May 2015 and the subsequent City Planning denial.

The *Post* had requested that two large illuminated *Palisadian-Post* signs be placed on top of the building that houses Berkshire Hathaway, Fancy Feet Dance Studio, Gerry Blanck's Martial Arts, Groza Learning Center and ATAM, as well as several doctor and dentist offices.

Attorney Jack Rubens (Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton), representing the *Post*, had asked for approval for a sign above the entrance of the building (owned by Eri S. Kroh), and a second sign on the north corner of the building.

The application stated that "the building signs are modest and would recognize and reflect the important role that the *Palisadian-Post* has played in the history of the Pacific Palisades community and provide community-themed name recognition for the building."

The application explained that the proposed signs were within the applicable building frontage (151.8 linear feet) and that



This proposed sign on the 881 Alma Real was denied.

the signs did not exceed the total sign area of 171.8 sq. ft. The applicant said the allowable sign area would be 187 sq.ft., which the DRB board said was incorrectly figured, because they had failed to take into account the Berkshire Hathaway and the Palisades Village Center signs.

DRB members noted that the requested signage represented a commercial logo/sign for a tenant that occupied a second-floor office (about 2,600 sq. ft. of an 89,000-sq.-ft. building). DRB members also calculated the gross area of the signs as: 27 feet long x 51 inches high=114.75 sq.-ft. for each sign x 2 = 229.5 sq. ft. total area, which would ex-

ceed the allotted area.

In addition, the DRB argued that because the 881 Alma Real building does not sit on the corner, the business district's Specific Plan prohibited a second sign on the north side.

The application was denied and then sent to the Department of City Planning for a final decision. The DRB noted that the application "does not comply with the intent of the Pacific Palisades Specific Plan Signage Guidelines and is in conflict with the character of the Palisades community as cited in Specific Plan Sections: 2 B, C, D & F; Section 5A; Section 13.B 3 and 4."

—SUE PASCOE

Free Programs for Seniors at Library

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.

On Monday, August 8, the topic will be "Living Alone: Identifying the Complexities." Phyllis Press, a psychotherapist and an instructor at Emeritus College, an affiliate of Santa Monica College, will present.

A separate eight-week fall-prevention class is being held by WISE & Healthy Aging at the library. The first session was 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 Knitting Class Offered at Library

A learn how to knit class will be held weekly from 3 to 5 p.m. on Fridays in the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Dr.

Palisades Knitting Circle is for all ages—seven and older. Bring wooden or bamboo U.S. size 7 or 8 needles. Wool will be supplied to get the knitter started.

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Bocce Courts Proposed for Rec Center

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

I want this to be the living room of the park," said Jimmy Dunne, who is spearheading a project at the Palisades Recreation Center that could include three courts for bocce and a re-designed picnic area. "We want to make this a beautiful place so that instead of people saying 'Let's meet at Starbucks,' they say 'Let's meet at the park.'"

The Pacific Palisades resident presented his plans to the Park Advisory Board (PAB) at its quarterly meeting in the small gym on July 20.

"The minute there are courts here, there will be players and leagues," Dunne told the PAB, noting that bocce is one of the fastest growing sports in the world because of its accessibility for all ages and all abilities.

Dunne, an award-winning songwriter and president of the Palisades-based company Inspire Entertainment, first saw bocce played in France when he was biking through Saint-Tropez. "There was every age imaginable gathered in the park playing," he said. "The game seemed such a good vehicle to create a great sense of community."

Back in the United States, Dunne has followed the growth of the sport. "There's a public park in San Rafael in Marin County where 2,200 people play in leagues every

week," he said, and there are courts at the Hillcrest Country Club and even in a Whole Foods store in downtown Los Angeles.

After seeing the game in France, Dunne has tried it and now plays in a league at the local Bel-Air Bay Club.

"What's amazing about bocce is it is one of the oldest games in the world, played back by the early Egyptians," he said. "George Washington was a lover of bocce."

The standard ball diameter is 4.2 inches and the ball weighs about two pounds. "This is a game you can play in 15 minutes, but it takes a lifetime to master," Dunne said.

A small white ball (pallino) is thrown to the opposite end of a court. Each member of a team tries to throw, toss, bounce or roll his/her ball so it lands closest to the pallino. The team that achieves that goal gets one point. The game continues until 12 points have been scored by one team.

The three proposed bocce courts (regulation-size bocce ball courts are about 13 feet by 91 feet) at the Rec Center would be placed where the picnic tables are currently located near the maintenance yard. Those tables would be moved nearer Alma Real and divided into five smaller areas separated by indigenous plants.

The estimated cost of redoing the picnic area, installing three bocce courts, and adding new park furniture and plants is



Rendering of the bocce courts proposed for Palisades Recreation Center.

\$400,000, which also includes maintenance for three years.

Dunne, PAB member Bob Harter and Bill McGregor, a Brentwood architect and developer, pitched the idea of a bocce court before commissioners of the Department of Recreation and Parks in August 2015.

Harter said, "The project in concept was enthusiastically approved and they asked if we could create a template that could be used by other Park Advisory boards who might also be interested introducing the sport in their parks."

Dunne added that the commissioners felt that this project "could be a poster child for other parks."

One PAB member wondered if there would still be room for a bounce house for those who hold a birthday party at the park.

Another PAB member asked if the upper lawn area closest to Alma Real would still be open for kids who play soccer and other recreational activities.

"Yes" was the answer to both questions.

The bocce project has been approved to go forward in "concept by Rec and Parks commissioners," Harter said.

If the money can be raised by Palisades residents, the project could open on May 1, 2017. Rec and Parks does not have the budget to provide any funding.

Funds will be raised and spent by the recently formed nonprofit Your Palisades Park Improvement Corporation, in conjunction with the PAB. This allows funds to be used locally. Contact: Dunne at (310) 529-1400 or email James@InspireEntertainment.com.

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Volunteers Sought at PaliHi

Volunteers are needed to help with pre-registration at Palisades High School from August 8 to 12, on August 15, and on the first day of school, August 16.

On Monday, August 8, seniors will be registered from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1 to 3:30 p.m. August 9, juniors will be registered at the same hours. On August 10, same hours, sophomores will be registered.

Freshman orientation will be August 11, from 9 a.m. to 2:30.

On August 12, volunteers are needed to help process new books in the library from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

On Monday, August 15, volunteers are

needed for newly registered and make-up students from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

A minimum of 10 volunteers is needed per shift.

"Pre-registration has been a success in the past thanks to library volunteers," said PaliHi Librarian Andrea King, who promised that her fellow librarian Sherry Martin would provide coffee and snacks for volunteers. "If you can't make those dates, then sign up for the first day of school—we need help from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m."

Email King telling her your shift preference: aking@palihigh.org.

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. Newcomers are welcome. The class is hosted by the Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles. RSVP to Roberta at (310) 454-9012.

Rookie PaliHi Diver Went to State

By LAURA CARR
Palisades News Intern

Asa Tatro steps onto the light-blue diving springboard at Palisades High's Maggie Gilbert Aquatic Center with a glint of determination in his eye. Without a second thought, Tatro jumps forcefully off the board and catapults himself into the air. He executes a series of masterful twists and turns, and then completes his dive with barely any splash once he hits the water's surface.

Tatro, a rising sophomore from Topanga who also competed on the JV water polo team and the swim/dive team this past school year, only began his diving career in early March, and yet he qualified for the state diving championships in Fresno in May.

The Topanga resident also had no prior experience in gymnastics—a sport that is known for creating excellent divers due to the exceptional body awareness and strength that the sport demands. However, Tatro has taken Parkour classes, something that his coach, Tom Davidson, learned about after the diving season ended.

"I didn't know that he did Parkour, but that explains a lot of his body awareness," Davidson said. "Going forward and training with him this summer that will be to my advantage. He has a bright future."

Tatro, now 15, started diving only 10 weeks before the state CIF championships.

"When I used to start swimming, I would run on the pool deck and then jump onto the swimming blocks and I'd front-flip off it, and my coach would yell at me," Tatro recalled. "He was like, 'You should just go dive,' to get me out of swimming. So I gave it a try, and I ended up going to state."

Tatro said that at his first meet, "I felt very nervous but I remember completing all of my dives and feeling so happy."

Aside from diving being "pretty fun," Tatro also admires the beauty of the sport. "There's ways that you can dive, and you make the movement, but the really good people have a way to make it look so effortless and they fly through the air," he said. "I think it's a really beautiful sport and I really respect it."

Tatro is the first in his family to try diving. His sister, Ocean, a 2013 PaliHi grad, and his mother, Jax Bernes (class of '94), both swam for the Dolphins. His sister, who also played water polo, attends the University of Colorado.

The most difficult part for Tatro has been to learn new dives without having trampolines and other training apparatuses, which are lacking at Pali.

Restricted to only a diving board, "there's not really a good way you can practice a



Asa Tatro tried diving for the first time this spring and qualified for the state meet.

Photo: Lesly Hall

new dive," Tatro said. "You kind of just have to go for it and hope for the best. If you mess up, you can back flop or belly flop, and it can just be so painful."

He added, "I remember the first time I tried a front flip and a half at my old school (Malibu Middle School), I was just messing around, and I landed on my face and my skin started to peel off. If you don't know what you're doing, it can really go wrong."

Tatro's best meet this season was at the Los Angeles City Section Finals, where he qualified for the CIF championships. He came in third behind two senior athletes who had far more experience in the sport than he did.

"I was up against the best people in our

city, and it was just something about that day," Tatro said. "I did really well and I moved on to State. I was really happy."

In Fresno in the 1-meter dive, he faced 23 other divers, including three other freshmen. Although he placed 24th, Tatro gained valuable experience watching the other, older divers compete.

"When I went to State I saw this guy do a double reverse dive—it's two gainers and then you do a reverse dive—and that was the most impressive dive I've ever seen in my life. If I learn how to do that, I could win State."

The judging at the CIF meet was also fairer than what Tatro normally encountered at a City Section dual meet.

Davidson noted, "A normal dual meet is

judged by officials who know nothing about diving. They automatically see the high degree of difficulty and their ears perk up and they'll want to give it a good score. Asa would do an easier dive and he did it very well, but because it doesn't have a high DD they were less inclined to give it a high score."

Davidson, who is also a coach for the Bruin Dive club team at UCLA, added, "Last year, I went up to the state meet and it was more club coaches like myself [judging]. Judging there was a lot more fair, a lot more realistic."

With three more years of high school, Tatro has ample time to improve. Davidson said that if Tatro begins to train more frequently with the Bruin Dive team, "the sky's the limit." The club has a trampoline and other training opportunities that are not available at Palisades High. While Pali's divers train for one hour every day at school, the club team has a diving board with a harness, which minimizes the fear factor that accompanies the idea of defying gravity.

In addition to practice at Pali, Tatro also works out by himself. He says that his goal for the next three years is "just to progress and go to State every year and try to get a better ranking there, and if I do well enough, maybe I can get into college for it, and that would definitely be an achievement for me. So, just trying to get better. Self improvement, that's my goal."

"I am incredibly proud of Asa's accomplishments in dive this year," said his mother, who competed in the 100 butterfly and 200 individual medley at Pali. "It has been such a pleasure to see his growth in so short of a time. I am so grateful to all the coaches at Pali for their dedication and support."



Asa Tatro maintains his focus as he practices a dive at the Maggie Gilbert Aquatic Center at Palisades High School. Tatro gains points from dives that includes twists and somersaults in the tuck and pike positions.

Junior Lifeguards Program Teaches Ocean Safety

By LAURA CARR
Palisades News Intern

If you drive by Tower 15 at Will Rogers State Beach on any given weekday during the month of July or August, you'll notice a large group of beachgoers clad in matching navy swimsuits. The sight is similar to a typical summer beach camp, except for the fact that the young men and women who are on this particular stretch of sand are Junior Lifeguards (JGs).

JGs is a youth program for children ages 9 to 17 that the Los Angeles County Fire Department offers during the summer. JG Director Jeffrey Little said that the program started "at least 50 years ago" but that it fell into obscurity for a while until the program saw a resurgence in the 1980s. The program has grown progressively ever since. This year there are more than 4,000 individuals participating in the program.

Little said, "It was started to equip the community and youth with ocean safety awareness and also to teach up the youth with the hope of them becoming lifeguards. It really exposes them to what lifeguards do."

New JGs must pass a 100-yard swim test in order to qualify for the program. A C-group swimmer (9 to 11 year olds) must swim a time of 1:50 or under, a B-group swimmer (12-13 year olds) must finish in under 1:40 and the A group-swimmer (14-

17 year olds) needs to finish in under 1:30.

Former JG and Palisadian Jordan Wiliamovsky, who did not make the C-time cut when he first tried out for JGs, will be swimming the 1500-meter freestyle and the open water swim at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this month.

The JG program, which has locations at 12 different beaches across LA County, includes a competition aspect. Each beach has the opportunity to compete against other beaches.

Assistant Director Brian Murphy, who helps organize the competitions, said, "Junior Lifeguard competitions are intended to reflect the skills the kids learn in a typical summer. These skills include ocean swimming, rescue paddle boards, and beach running. Occasionally the JGs will compete in a rescue race, in which one JG is a compliant 'victim' and the other is the 'rescuer.'"

JGs culminates with the Taplin Relays on July 29. "This is a multi-discipline relay consisting of six runners, six paddlers and six swimmers. The event takes about 45 minutes to complete depending on the size of the waves that day," Murphy said. "Like their lifeguard role models who have been competing in the adult version since the 1940s, the JGs negotiate the ocean conditions as efficiently as possible. These skills are taught, drilled and executed every day at Junior Lifeguards to help ensure we produce ocean savvy young



Junior lifeguards are taught all aspects of ocean safety.

Photo: Laura Carr

people, capable of self-reliance in the ocean."

Little described a typical day at Junior Lifeguards as, "comprised of a physical warm-up, the focus on the JG program is swimming in the water, and so that's really the main focus. They'll do at least one water event, they'll be in the water at least 2-3 times minimum. That might be a buoy swim, paddle boarding, surfing.

"We have land-based activities," Little said. "There are some beach games, but we don't do that as much, but like running, calisthenics, pushups, sit-ups, usually there's some type of lesson on life guard operations or a CPR lecture. It's only three hours, so it usually goes very quickly."

Before all of the activities begin the JGs do a safety check of the ocean. "We call it a bottom check," Little said. "JGs and the instructors go and walk in the water and look for holes on the ocean contour and they start looking and feeling for the rip currents and which way the currents are running, getting a gauge on the strength of the swell and the surf. It really gives them the knowledge if they're doing the competition of the kinds of strategies to make."

The instructors also teach the JGs the core values of the Los Angeles County Fire Department: integrity, teamwork, community, commitment, courage and caring. "We build

a lot of our lectures and lessons around those things and doing the right thing," Little said.

The program in Pacific Palisades is based at Will Rogers State Beach. "I would say in the last 10 years, they've seen a lot more growth at Will Rogers," Little said. "We don't do any advertising, it's all word of mouth. That's a testament to the fantastic job that the instructors have done there."

There are two sessions of JGs. The first session runs from June 27 to July 29, while the second begins on August 1 and ends on August 27. This is the third year that JGs has offered an August session.

The A group, led by Chuck Locko and Lance Keene, had 90 kids in this session. Kelci Barnes, Sarah Burris and Sara Gullickson lead a group of 120 B's, and Mara Silka, Cheri Ellington and Lacey Beattie guided a group of 120 C's.

Most JGs say that their favorite part about the program is being around friends. Ava Sahabi, 15, said, "I like the swims and being with my friends. I'm not really a runner or a swimmer, I just do this as a fun summer activity."

Ian Hutchinson, 14, added, "All of my peers doing it are really supportive because they help me through anything if I have any difficulties. There are other junior guards struggling and succeeding at the same things that I am."



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Carolyn See Captured SoCal Heartbeat

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

In her 2000 essay "Waters of Tranquility," Carolyn See observed the quiet, unassuming tranquility enveloping the Self-Realization Fellowship in Pacific Palisades. And there, while circling round and round the lake, the famously secular author painfully accepts the imminent death of her life partner, John Espy. There she can feel the magnificence of life—all life, small and large—poking up in the universe.

"A single human death may be no more than a fall of one flower, one tweaked leaf" she wrote. "There are so many more! And Life itself may be no more than a play toy, a few Burma-Shave signs in the universe. But blazing, amazing, for all that. You can see it at the Lake Shrine. I know I did."

Carolyn See met the end of her magnificent life after a battle with cancer on July 14 in Santa Monica. She was 82.

A Californian in residence and heart and bone, See wrote of her world, Southern California, capturing the hopefulness of dreamers, seekers and the wild hairs who populate the region.

Born January 13, 1934, in Pasadena, See wrote about what she knew, recounting in her 1995 memoir, *Dreaming, Hard Luck and Good Times in America*, her parents' drinking binges and her own wild life. In *Rhine Maidens* she channeled the fraught relationship with her own mother, lacing the novel with her customary comic touch.

The author of over a dozen books, See was a disciplined writer who filled her days writing fiction, but also book reviews (for both the *Los Angeles Times* and *Washington Post*) and teaching.

She committed to writing 1,000 words a day or four double-spaced pages, five days a week; advice she suggested to all would-be writers.

Making A Literary Life: Advice for Writers and Other Dreamers (2002) was, she said, "the hardest thing I ever wrote." In it, she of-



Carolyn See in 1995.

Photo: Marilyn Sanders/Random House

fers information from practical character and plot development tips to dealing with rejection and planning your first trip to New York.

"Getting published is all courtship," she said, "and you're engineering your own failure. Instead of thinking of rejection as a life-blighting event, make it into a dating game."

After high school and finally extracting herself from her dysfunctional family, See pursued her education, earning her undergraduate degree from Cal State L.A. and later a Ph.D. in English at UCLA.

See was married twice, first to Richard See in 1954. The couple had a daughter, Lisa, who is a best-selling novelist. Her second marriage, to Tom Sturak, lasted for a decade and produced daughter Clara.

Her deepest and most enduring relationship was with John Espy, a UCLA English professor, 21 years her senior. He joined See and Lisa See in co-writing two popular novels using the pseudonym Monica Highland.

After she and Espy moved from Topanga Canyon, they lived in Castellammare until See, fearful of losing her sight, moved to Santa Monica to be able to get around by bus. Before she retired in 2004, See created

PASSINGS

George Mitchell, 100; Pilot, Father

George Addis Mitchell, 100, was one of the oldest living American Airlines pilots at the time of his death in June. He had lived in Pacific Palisades since 1966.

Born in Butler, Pennsylvania, on September 29, 1915, Mitchell attended Grove City College as a pre-med major, but switched to chemical engineering. Midway through his fourth year, he had completed his required courses, so he took metallurgy, which helped him land a job at U.S. Steel.

Mitchell took his first flying lesson when he was 23. He flew for fun before World War II, but following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was one of the people responsible for starting the Civil Air Patrol, which augmented the Army Air Force. In 2014, he received a Congressional Gold Medal for that effort.

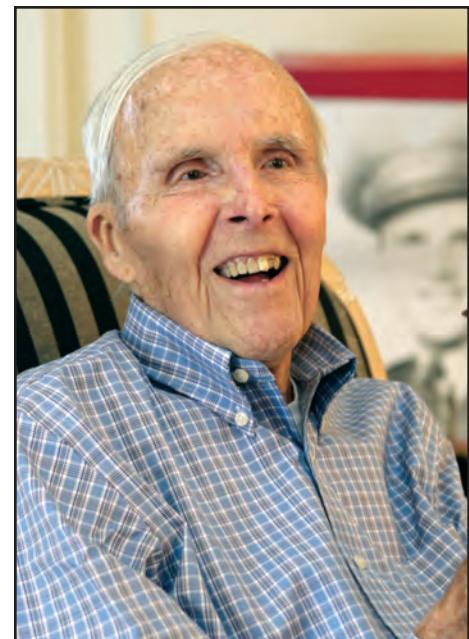
Mitchell had tried to enlist, but U.S. Steel wouldn't release him. "I was working in a critical position in off-grade steel—making sure there was no scrap because of the war effort," Mitchell said in an interview with the *News*.

In 1944, he applied at Pan Am and was accepted, but wasn't given a start time. A buddy told him he should fly for American Airlines instead. He applied and was hired on June 6, 1944—"the day the invasion started."

Mitchell worked with the Air Transport Command, flying people back and forth between Europe, North Africa and the United States. "We'd take supplies over and bring the wounded back," he said. "We'd

a \$100,000 endowment at UCLA for the study of Southern California literature.

With her passing, the literary world lost a grande dame of Southern California writers but has been left with See's vivid, insightful dissection of her beloved Los Angeles world.



George Mitchell

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

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ing that the captain asked the stewardesses to keep the sugar off the passenger trays so as to use it to make candy after they landed. (There was still rationing in the U.S.)

George and Alicia married on May 25, 1948 and treasured their life together for 55 years until Alicia's death in 2003.

Mitchell built an impressive flying career at American, rising to the position of chief pilot. Even after retiring as a pilot he continued with the company, helping to establish American Airlines Training in the United Kingdom and later serving as an instructor training U.S. Air Force pilots assigned to the KC-135 during the Gulf Wars.

After officially retiring in 2003, Mitchell continued flying a Cessna 310 for Angel Flight out of Santa Monica, working for the volunteer service that helps people living in remote areas reach urban areas for major medical care.

Every year after he turned 75, Mitchell marked his birthday by piloting a plane out of the Santa Monica Airport with a good friend. He did that for 25 years, piloting his last flight on his 100th birthday.

Mitchell is survived by his three children, George, Joni (husband Tom Hiller) and Jennifer, and a grandson, Michael.

He was an active member of Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, serving on the Session and as a Deacon. He passed peacefully at his home in the Riviera neighborhood on June 22, surrounded by family.

A private celebration of life will be held this month.

Joseph Vella, 85: Tailor, Tenor

Joseph Vella was born on March 22, 1931, in Mosta, Malta, and passed away on July 11, comforted by family and friends.

When he was 19, he graduated from technical school as a tailor for the fashion industry. He was selected to sew an outfit for Queen Elizabeth in the early 1950s. Shortly afterwards, he moved to Canada. He taught a sewing class there, which is where met his first wife, Helen. They were married in November 1957.

Joseph's immigration to this country was sponsored by a brother who lived in Michigan. He discovered Pacific Palisades when he and Helen came to California on vacation.

While sitting on Will Rogers beach, he looked up at the bluffs and told his wife, "I want a house on the other side of that hill."

They bought their home on Embury Street on July 11, 1959. Their daughter, Caroline, was born later that year and then attended Corpus Christi School. She remembers that she lived closest to the school of all the students and never had an excuse for being late. She also never had an excuse for the length of her skirt, since her dad was a tailor. "It was always exactly three inches above the knee," she remembers.

Joe's first job in California was in the men's alterations department at Seibu, a Japanese department store located at Wilshire and Fairfax in 1962. He later worked at Caruso Men's Clothing in Santa Monica, Giorgio's in Beverly Hills, J. Hampton Tai-

lors in Downtown L.A., Saks Fifth Avenue on Wilshire, Hagerty's, Robinson's (Century City), and Green Men's Clothing (Topanga). He retired from Nordstroms in Glendale.

He was also self-employed, and his clients included people from the entertainment, sports and medical industries. Joe enjoyed working on commercial sets, making sure the suit on the model outshined the fancy car he or she was standing next to.

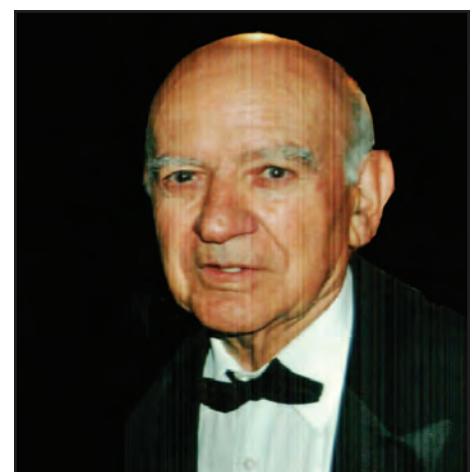
Some may remember the commercial "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature." The lady standing in the forest would create a thunderstorm when she was upset. The dress she was wearing was made by Joe.

He divorced his first wife in 1977. In the late 1980s, Joe fell in love with Ramona Renteria and they married in September 1989. They enjoyed traveling and volunteering at St. Augustine's parish in Culver City together.

Joe had many passions, which included singing in the church choir. He was a tenor in the Corpus Christi Parish Choir. In the 1980s, he joined St. Augustine's Parish Choir and the Marina City Choir.

In addition to singing at Disney Concert Hall, Joe also was in the choir when Pope John Paul II said a mass at Dodger Stadium, on September 16, 1987.

He will also be remembered for the elaborate flower arrangements he made to decorate the church altars at Corpus. One year at Christmas time, Monsignor Cotter took a picture of the beautifully decorated altar



Joseph Vella

and made a calendar for all the parishioners.

Joe loved to cook and took great pride in his Palisades yard. His daughter remembers that "we had the most beautiful yard, full of trees and flowers." She found a newspaper clipping about her dad winning second and third place for his sweet peas in a contest sponsored by the Palisades Woman's Club.

Joe is survived by his wife, Ramona; his daughter, Caroline Fausett (husband Richard) and granddaughter Amanda; and his brothers, Emmanuel and Rene, and sister Joyce.

There will be a viewing on August 5 from 4 to 8 p.m. and rosary from 6:30 to 7 p.m. at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City.

A Funeral Mass is planned on August 6 at 10 a.m. at St. Augustine Parish, 3850 Jasmine Ave., in Culver City. After the service, Joe will be laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery. A reception will follow.

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Rotary Club Honors Outstanding Seniors

The Pacific Palisades Rotary Club honors Palisades High School students with annual scholarships in several categories. At a May meeting, Kevin Rosen and J.P. Hurst received the athletic awards.

Rosen, who began wrestling at Paul Revere, participated four years at PaliHi. He was this year's team captain and qualified for the state meet. He will attend the University of Pennsylvania, but is not sure whether he will continue wrestling. At graduation, he was noted for exceptional achievement, maintaining a GPA of 4.0 or higher.

J.P. Hurst, an outstanding quarterback for Pali, plans to play this fall for Tulane University, a Division I school. He was recognized for honors achievement with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.9.

The Cleveland Community Service Award went to Acasia Tyler, the Poetry prize went to Zaire Armstrong, the Fiction prize was given to Talia D'Amato, and the Scholar of the Year was Nick Christman.

Talia D'Amato, who will attend UC Davis, received an honorable mention in the National Youth Poet Laureate contest, held at the L.A. Public Library in June. She shared part of her short story, "The Journal of a Teenage Rebel Insomniac," with the *News*.

—SUE PASCOE.

Sunday, December 18, 3:08 a.m.

I woke up to the sound of yelling coming from the room next door. The man was screaming at someone who I assumed he was on the phone with, due to the lack of audible responses. He was saying something about his work being a total failure and his wife wanting a divorce and his kids refusing to talk to him. For a second I actually felt bad for him; then I realized that he was screaming into his phone at three o'clock in

the morning in a motel with very thin walls. And suddenly I was a lot less sympathetic.

Unable to fall back asleep, I just laid there, eyes slipping in and out of focus as I stared at the cracks on the ceiling. *What am I doing in a place like this?* I thought. *I can't hide out here forever. I can't survive on a thousand dollars—now nine hundred thirty-nine—and no job. This is L.A.; all the jobs available for kids under eighteen are illegal and unsafe. What the hell was I thinking?*

After about an hour, when the man had stopped yelling and the only things disturbing the silence were the sounds of an occasional distant police siren or passing car, I sat up against the headboard and pulled my laptop out of my bag. I turned it on and opened a blank Word document. And I started to write. Not about me—I'm not a very interesting person—but about other people. I wrote about the soon-to-be-divorced man. I wrote about the homeless man I'd seen that morning, and the one I'd sat next to while waiting for the bus, and the two I'd seen asleep when I got off the bus on this side of town, and the three more I'd walked past on my way to the motel.

I wrote about my friends, and the kid who never dressed for P.E., and the boy who sat next to me in history, and the one who was the only person who had an "A" in my French class.

I wrote about the kid who never did his math homework, and the teacher who never understood what you tried to get him to understand.

I wrote about my old neighbors: the ones who smoked too much and yelled at each other in Russian and played poker in the dirt yards of their apartment buildings.

And when I was finally done, I had fifteen pages of stories. Fifteen pages about the lives of people I'd never talked to. People I'd nev-



Zaire Armstrong and Talia D'Amato were given writing awards by Rotary member David Card.

er known. People who'd never known me.

I glanced at the time, then looked over at the window. The curtains were still closed, but I could see sunlight seeping in around the edges. It was almost eleven, so I saved the document, shut off the computer. I slid off the bed and walked to the bathroom, where I stared at my gaunt reflection in the grimy mirror. My skin was pale and there were bags under my bloodshot eyes. I ran a hand through my tangled hair before turning on the faucet and splashing some cold water on my face. I pulled off my sweater and changed into a clean T-shirt, straightened the bed sheets, and picked up my things. And then I stood there, staring at the empty, forsaken little room.

Maybe I was trying to feel some sort of good-bye. Maybe I was too tired to face the outside world yet. But I think I was trying to read all the stories that had ever entered that particular room, only to leave the next morning and never to come back. Never to give another thought to the little room in the run-down motel on the corner of Lone-

liness and Despair.

A half hour later, I was sitting in a diner about twelve blocks from the motel. I was one of three customers, and the only one under sixty. As I stared out the window counting the cars and pedestrians and dogs, I heard the waiter behind me. "Do you know what you'd like to order?"

I looked up and said, "Yes, I'll just have a coffee and a turkey sandwich. Please."

He nodded. "Okay, I will be right out with your coffee."

"Thanks," I said as he turned to go back to the kitchen. I'm not sure he heard me. Then I started counting cars again. There was a man parking his car across the street. He got out and went to put money in the meter, before he realized it was a Sunday and he didn't have to pay for parking. So he walked up to the homeless man sitting on the bench a few feet away and gave him the change.

A mug of coffee was suddenly set in front of me and I said "thanks." The waiter left again and I gazed at the other side of my booth. I imagined a stranger sitting across from me, and in my mind he asked, "What are you doing here?" In my mind I replied, "I'm running away."

"From what?" he asked.

"From my problems." I answered. "From my fears. But they're all in my head and it's extremely hard to run away from your mind without losing it."

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Jumbles: FEIGEN ELUDER FEDORA ACCESS

Examining *The Burdens of Wealth*

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

Burton Fredericksen's book *The Burdens of Wealth* is a Bildungsroman, describing the author's growing up but more intentionally the maturing of J. Paul Getty's eponymous museum.

As Fredericksen begins the chronology of the museum, where he was an employee from its inception, he appropriately keeps the focus on the development of the institution, while he takes himself out of the lead. With an eye on the birth of one man's mission, Fredericksen forgoes a biographical summary of Getty's business life, and includes just enough to remind readers that Getty was a very rich oil man.

"I wrote a long chapter which started with his life, but it was too long and there are already books related to his life," Fredericksen told the *Palisades News*.

Fredericksen was involved with the Getty Museum from the time he was a graduate student in art history at UCLA in the late 1950s, working part-time as a guard at the small museum (Getty's home, known as the Malibu Ranch House), tucked away in the hills of Pacific Palisades.

In 1965, in a surprise promotion, he became the first curator at the age of 31. At the time, Getty was living in London full time and relied on his accountant based in Los Angeles to make the offer, preferably to someone near at hand rather than search for a more qualified candidate.

While the selection process seemed hap-



J. Paul Getty with lioness cub Teresa at his Malibu Ranch House.

Photo courtesy Institutional Archives,
The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles



Envisioned in the early 1980s as a way to bring together the Getty's programs, properly exhibit the collection that had outgrown its previous home in Pacific Palisades, and create an inspiring public setting for the study and enjoyment of the visual arts, the Getty Center was designed by architect Richard Meier, and features the Central Garden created by artist Robert Irwin, as well as sweeping views of Los Angeles and the Pacific coast.

Photo copyright J. Paul Getty Trust

hazard, it illustrated Getty's view of the museum, which at the beginning maintained a decidedly low profile. The enormously wealthy businessman, while knowing little about art, was nevertheless in control and averse to taking the advice of "experts."

"Getty, like most strong-willed people, was prone to trust those who confirmed his view of himself as a skilled connoisseur and man of taste," Fredericksen writes.

Not to downplay his own background, which he describes as minimal, Fredericksen did have a master's degree in studio art, had studied in Munich on a Fulbright fellowship and had worked on compiling an inventory of the pre-19th-century Italian paintings in American museums.

The young curator did not meet Getty until the old man was in his 80s, at which time he was able to form a more accurate portrait of the boss.

"I didn't realize how personable he was, and how nearsighted he was when it came to building his collection," Fredericksen says.

"He was fairly laid back, which made a great contrast with Norton Simon; unlike Simon, he was never somebody who hired and fired."

On his visits to London, Fredericksen was encouraged to lodge at Getty's mansion, Sutton Place. "Getty wanted to talk to me about pictures, and would at times drop

(Continued on Page 25)



The J. Paul Getty Museum, opened in 1974, was modeled after the Villa dei Papiri, the largest and most luxuriously furnished seaside villa that had been found during the early excavations at Herculaneum in Italy in the 1700s.

Photo copyright J. Paul Getty Trust

Wealth

(Continued from Page 24)

business obligations to do so. We would sit down, after dinner and the BBC News, and talk till midnight or later."

During his stays, Fredericksen observed the comings and goings at Sutton Place and enjoyed chats with the butler, who was only too happy to gossip with him about the mistresses who would come and go, and other juicy details, no doubt enlivened somewhat with a tip.

Despite his lack of experience in the art world, Fredericksen made modest purchase recommendations in the \$5,000 range, knowing Getty's famous parsimony full well.

By the end of 1969, Getty set in motion plans for a new building adjacent to the ranch to house his ever-expanding collection of antiquities, European paintings and 18th-century French furniture. In planning for the new museum, he moved from wishing to recreate his Tudor mansion Sutton Place to a Roman villa, no doubt influenced by Federico Zeri, a connoisseur of Italian paintings who played an increasingly active role in Getty's evolution as a collector. The Getty Villa opened in 1974.

Getty's final years as a collector are meticulously recalled, displaying Fredericksen's thorough recollection of paintings considered, the price tag on each and the wins and the losses.

Getty's death in 1976 opened a new and uncharted course for the museum, which was the recipient of stock worth about \$700 million. Suddenly the museum was the wealthiest museum in the world.

The second half of *The Burdens of Wealth* focuses more directly on this very conundrum. With vast resources came a need for a more serious and professional approach to buying art and professionalizing the leadership by appointing a president and CEO to oversee the resources of the heavily endowed institution.

Fredericksen keeps the narrative going, mixing fascinating details about the hunt for good paintings with the drama surrounding the parade of personnel that came and went.

He highlights Harold Williams, the first



Burton Fredericksen in front of the Musée Condé at the Château de Chantilly.

Photo courtesy of the author

president, who took up his duties in 1981 and, as Fredericksen says, "focused on housecleaning, getting lesser art out." As he began to set the direction of the Getty Trust, Williams' plans included an expanded museum that would be part of a larger complex bringing together the trust administration and the new institutes (conservation, research, education).

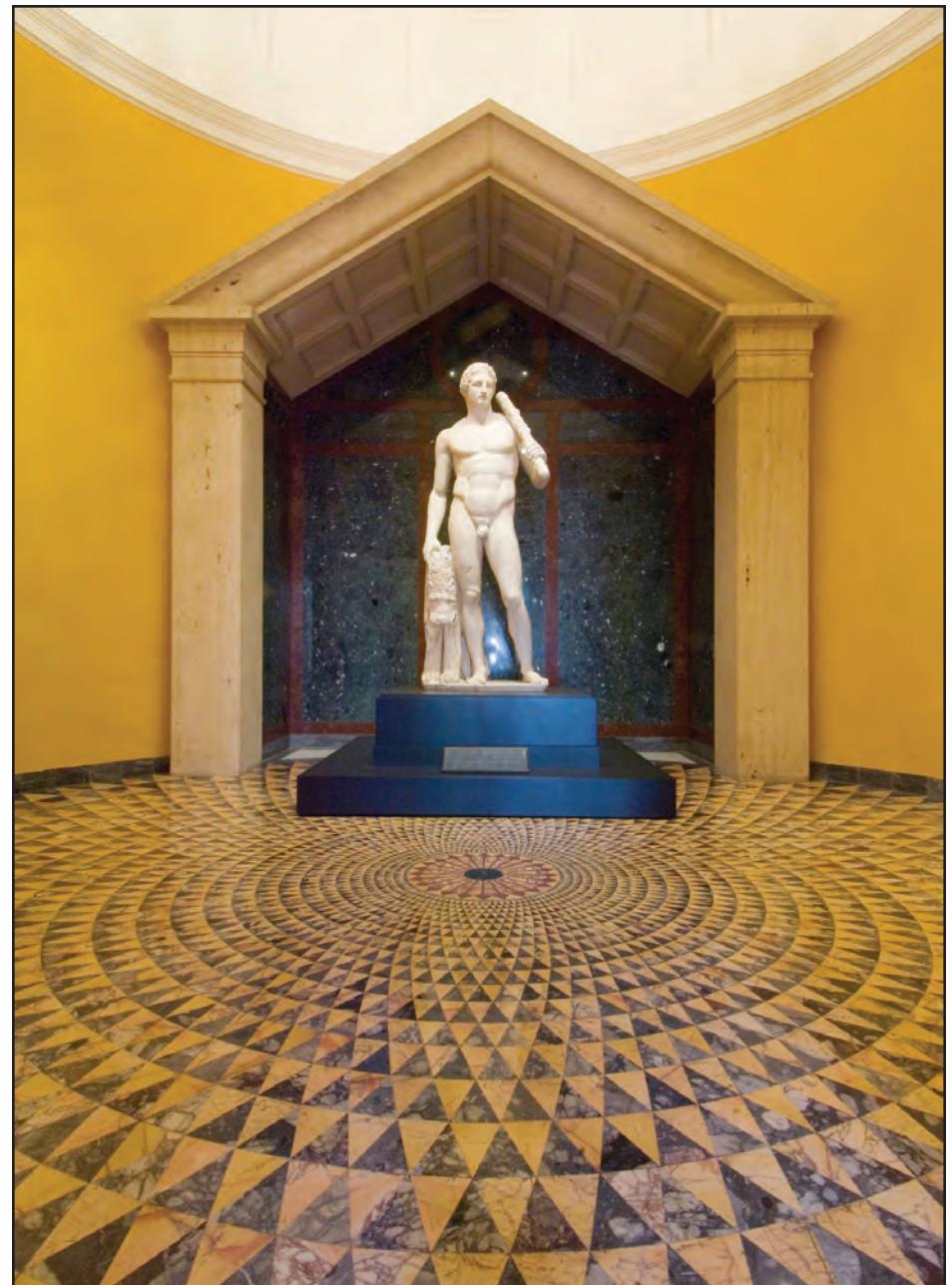
Williams oversaw the completion of the Getty Center on 16 acres in the hills behind Brentwood, which despite its vastly bloated budget and years of construction, was his dream come true.

Fredericksen says that for the most part, he relied on his memory and talking to colleagues in writing the book. "I also went through the archives to see if there was anything I missed.

"But I could not have written a book had it not been for Munitz," he adds, referring to Barry Munitz, president and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust from 1997 to 2006.

With the Munitz years, Fredericksen began to take notes, quantifying the man's despotic and vindictive management style. Munitz's leadership became increasingly questionable as the Trust was embroiled in numerous controversies relating to the provenance of various antiquities and Munitz's expense accounts. As the net tightened in the midst of an investigation by the California Attorney General, Munitz resigned and was forced to forgo his severance package of more than \$2 million.

Fredericksen devotes a chapter to Mu-



Found in 1790 near the ruins of the villa of the Roman emperor Hadrian at Tivoli outside Rome, this statue was one of numerous copies of Greek sculpture commissioned by Hadrian, who loved Greek culture. One of J. Paul Getty's most prized acquisitions, the statue gets its name from Lord Lansdowne, who once owned the Herakles and displayed it in his home in London.

Photo copyright J. Paul Getty Trust

nitz, who, he says, almost destroyed the institution.

Throughout the Getty saga, Fredericksen adheres to a steady telling of events as he saw them—calling out missteps and poor choices on the part of the players—but also refrains from sensationalism or scurrilous gossip.

He loves the Getty, for which he contin-

ues to do research, and thinks of his job as the greatest.

"What a thrill to buy fantastic paintings and bring them to California. In so many ways, California is the frontier and most wonderful part of the world."

The Burdens of Wealth is available through Archway Publishing in hardcover, softcover and E-book formats.

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(Continued from Page 1)

The Department of Recreation and Parks would maintain and operate the facility, but taxes and ownership would not necessarily be the Department's problem.

From the very beginning of construction, Headland Properties went against the Coastal Commission agreement.

June Miller, formerly June Perez, who lived in Pacific Palisades for 20 years and was an active member of the Temescal Canyon Association (TCA) board, kept tabs on the construction, including the bathroom and parking lot.

"My father was a real estate developer," Miller told the *News*. "I loved the Highlands, so I loved driving the streets and . . . observing what was happening."

One day in 1992 she noticed that a metal gate was being built around the facility. Concerned that the gate would cut off public access, she made a formal complaint.

"I was the one who took [this issue] to the Coastal Commission . . . but that was only the beginning," Miller said. "Going through the Coastal Commission was easy. They swung their magic wand and said they must come down, but [the gate] didn't come down."

After many phone calls and Coastal Commission threats, the gate around the property was taken down.

"They took the gate down, but they left the pylons up. I was positive they had intentions to put the gate back up," Miller said.

She was right. The gate was later reconstructed, although the property remained open to the public, allowing a short uphill hike to a ridge that offers a dramatic view of the Pacific coastline.

After the completion of the bathroom and parking lot, the deed to the land was offered to the Department of Recreation and Parks, but officials chose not to accept it.

The reasoning behind this refusal is unclear, but it meant that Headland remained the owner of the facility. Headland was none too happy about this and tried to turn the area into a more lucrative investment by extending the size of the property and planting non-native grass and palm trees.

The Coastal Commission caught onto



Photo: Sarah Stockman

their plan and issued a Cease and Desist Order in 2001. It took until 2004 for Headland to admit defeat, undo their work and pay the Coastal Commission's fine.

It seems that Headland gave up on the property or, more likely, decided to get rid of it because they stopped paying their property taxes. The County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector seized the property and sold it at public auction in October 2013 to Henri Levy for \$350,000.

Levy, who could not be reached for comment before our press deadline, owns at least 10 properties in the Los Angeles area, according to public records. He transferred the property in January 2014 to 1205-1207 Wooster Street, LLC, a company owned by him.

The site remained opened to the public under Wooster Street, LLC, ownership until this past January when a heavy padlock was placed on the fence gate. In July, a "For Sale" sign was zip-tied to the property.

Realtor Marc Krief of Sunset Loans & Virtual Real Estate is attempting to sell the property for residential use. If he succeeds, it would prove very profitable for Mr. Levy. Homes in The Enclave, which abuts the property, are selling for upwards of \$4 million. The property is not currently listed on any sites, and Mr. Krief did not respond to queries about the listing price. The only indication that the lot is for sale is the sign on the gate, which states: "Sale Pending."

There are at least three troubling aspects

about this situation, according to Gil Dembo, president of the TCA. The first is that nowhere in the Coastal Commission agreement with Headland Properties does it say that the facility can be closed to the public.

The second is that it is currently owned by Wooster Street, LLC, which is a private company. According to the agreement, the property should not have been auctioned and instead should have gone to the Department of Recreation and Parks or to a non-profit approved by the Coastal Commission.

The third issue is that the property cannot be sold as a residential property. The property is currently a recreational property, according to the Coastal Commission. In order to have the property changed to a residential property, there would have to be an amendment to the current Coastal Commission agreement.

The TCA found out about the closing of the restroom and parking facility three weeks ago.

"[The TCA] is just an environmental group that's trying to keep an eye on the community because the community works when people keep their eyes open on what's going on," Dembo said.

Outraged that this is happening, the TCA is fighting to get the facility reopened, including sending a letter to Councilman Mike Bonin that is CC'd to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Mayor's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Pacific Palisades Community Council.

"We think there was possible fraud involved because the city sold a property that was restricted for recreational use," Dembo said. "There could be repercussions . . . [and] the city might have to purchase [the land] back."

Councilman Bonin's office is currently looking into the issue, according to his communications director, David Graham-Caso.

The Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club is also investigating the closure of the restroom and parking lot. Their concern is that if a house is built on the property, access to the Temescal Ridge Trail could be cut off.

"The history of trails in the Santa Monica Mountains NRA [National Recreation Area] is rampant with stories of developers buying land and blocking off adjacent trailheads to keep hikers far away from the houses," Mary Ann Webster, chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, said.

Palisades News reported the closure of the property to the California Coastal Commission. As of July 21 they were investigating the issue.

The sale of the property is on hold, pending the Coastal Commission's findings.

"We are doing our due diligence with the Coastal [Commission] . . . and extending escrow until we know the final legal use," realtor Krief said.

When asked whether his client (Levy) would be reopening the facility, Krief responded that he neither had the keys to the property nor was in charge of making the decisions.

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Free Senior Exercise Class

Residents 50 years or older are invited to participate in a free exercise class from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Fridays, August 5, 12, 19 and 26 and September 2, 9, 16 and 23, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave.

Sponsored by the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, in cooperation with the Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles, routines will include gentle range-of-motion exercises that are suitable for every fitness level. Research shows that a basic four-week program is safe for sedentary older individuals with arthritis and that exercising actually relieves symptoms. Reservations are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.

Contact: Danny Vasquez (818) 984-1380, ext.108.

Health Class Addresses Teen Issues

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

A potential change in the health class graduation requirement inspired some intense public comment at the May 17 Palisades Charter High School board meeting.

Health teacher Susan Ackerman spoke for two minutes about the importance of her class, which teaches skills to combat suicide, depression, sexual assault, relationship violence, obesity, food disorders, anxiety/stress, child abuse, chronic disease, HIV/AIDS, drunk driving, and tobacco use.

"In closing, are the potential competing factors in PCHS's academic program worth their lives?" Ackerman asked. The leading causes of deaths for adolescents are all behavior-related: accidents, suicide and homicide. In addition, she said half of HIV infections occur in people under 25, while the United States has the highest teen birth rate among industrial nations. "Thank goodness these are all addressed in my health class."

Assistant Principal Jeff Hartman discussed Pali's graduation requirements during his presentation and cited potential changes the school could consider. For example, currently Pali requires six semester English courses and two semester

electives to graduate, while the University of California and California State University A-G entrance requirements necessitate four years of college preparatory English without naming specific classes.

If Pali's requirements were adjusted to match the university requirements, then the school could offer a more varied menu of English classes, including more than two electives, while still preparing students for college.

In addition, one semester of health and two semesters of applied technology are required by Pali, but not the UC/CSU systems. Hartman said that for health, about 430-450 students each year pay to take an online version of the course, while about 470 take Ackerman's course.

Ackerman said later in an interview that about a decade ago the school had a second health teacher, Kelly Loftus, who has since become a dean of students. A new teacher was not hired to teach health at that time, so the online course became an option. Ackerman also noted that the California Education Code requires teaching a number of subjects taught in her class, such as sex education.

Currently, students may pay \$144 for the one-semester class through Brigham Young University's online high school and can then free up their schedules to take an



Susan Ackerman teaches the health class at Palisades High School, which allows students access to a sympathetic ear about complex problems.

extra year-long academic class. Students who take Ackerman's health class have about 10 options of single semester courses to pair it with, but most electives are year-long, according to Hartman.

Principal Pam Magee said during a meeting break that the administration is concerned that this is creating a two-tier system where students who pay for the online course get an academic advantage over their classmates who take Ackerman's popular class.

Board member Ellen Pfahler mentioned that one of her children took the online class, while another took Ackerman's class, which Pfahler found to be much more beneficial. "I don't know if kids would choose [health as an elective], but I think they need it," Pfahler said.

Student Calia Hunter, 10th grade, said the course had taught her "a lot of valuable things about how to take care of myself physically, mentally, and emotionally."

She learned to look at her classes "through a different filter," which has improved her focus and enhanced her interest in her classes. She said she also is able to view her emotions in a new way and see others' perspectives more easily, which has enhanced her friendships and family relationships.

Another student fought through tears to express how essential the course was for her. Before joining the course, she suffered from an eating disorder and depression. "I took out all my anger and sadness on my arms," she said, adding that Ackerman had helped her find a therapist. "I'm so much better. I would be nowhere without this class."

Principal Magee said that changes, if any, in graduation requirements would most likely take place before the 2017-18 school year.

Youth Summer Writing Contest Is Underway

The Friends of the Palisades Library are now receiving entries for their annual Children's Creative Writing Contest.

This year's theme, in keeping with the LA Library's citywide theme and the upcoming Olympics, is "Dream the Possible Dream." Local residents entering grades 1 through 12 are invited to submit original stories, poems and essays.

Winners in five age categories will be awarded gift certificates to Diesel Books: first place, \$100; second place \$50, third place \$25. All participants will receive gift cards. Winning entries will be performed by actors at the awards ceremony this fall and posted to YouTube.

The deadline for submission is Tuesday, September 6. Entry forms are available at the Palisades Library information desk on Alma Real, and online at friendsofpalilibrary.org.

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'The Georgian' on My Mind

By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

I doubt if Ray Charles had the Georgian Hotel in Santa Monica on his mind when he recorded his classic hit song in 1960, but I found myself humming his famous tune as our monthly lunch group made its way through the canyon to our destination on Ocean Avenue.

When we began our lunch club venture last year, our intention was to visit some of the most famous Los Angeles restaurants, but somewhere along the way, legendary Southern California hotels became an integral part of our itinerary. We've visited the Polo Lounge at the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Bel-Air Hotel, the Chateau Marmont, and most recently, the Culver Hotel, which all occupy splendid chapters of Los Angeles history.

The Georgian opened its doors in 1931 when Santa Monica was a little-known beach community, and the colorful Art Deco hotel became a seaside getaway for Hollywood A-listers. It became one of L.A.'s first speakeasies during Prohibition and hosted the famous and the infamous, such as Gable and Lombard, Fatty Arbuckle, and Bugsy Siegel, who enjoyed martinis and jazz on the hotel veranda.

The ornate lobby features arched doorways, marble floors, and a crown-molded ceiling. The hotel underwent a major renovation in 2000, and added lavish amenities to the 84 rooms and 28 suites.

As we settled into our seats on the veranda overlooking Palisades Park and hundreds of tourists parading by us on the sidewalk, Josh informed us that he had left his wallet at home. Despite the raised eyebrows among his fellow diners, we decided to allow him to eat with us anyway. We trusted that he would pay us back, but nevertheless, we drew up a hastily written I.O.U. on a napkin, and had him initial several key clauses that we felt solidified the contract. If that didn't work out, we would volunteer his dish-washing services at our next destination.

No Book Donations In August/September

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: Friendsofpalilibrary.org.



The distinctive color of The Georgian makes it easy to notice.

Photo: Barry Stein

Barry ordered the grilled chicken ciabatta sandwich, while Josh decided on the roasted salmon filet. I ordered the seared Ahi tuna tower with won tons, and if you've read our previous lunch club columns, you already know what Arnie ordered. (Hint: It comes wrapped inside a bun.)

During lunch, we shared our memories about the colorful life of Muhammad Ali and the ever-evolving perception by historians of his true cultural significance.

Josh told us the story of meeting Cassius Clay in New York shortly after the young boxer had returned with his gold medal from the 1960 Olympics. At the time, Josh was book editor of *Newsweek* magazine and accompanied sportswriter and broadcaster Dick Schaap to a local tavern where he was introduced to the brash and dashing young champion.

Clay was receiving significant attention from the excited patrons of the pub as he

Join the Origami Club

The Palisades Branch library is hosting an origami club, led by Travis Taft. The group will meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 27, September 17, October 22 and November 19. The group meets in the community room, 861 Alma Real.

Taft will teach the basics of this art that involves folding paper in a variety of ways to make intricate designs. He has been folding for nearly 25 years and teaches private lessons, attends national and local origami conventions and has said "I can fold nearly any design you give me instructions for." He adds "Attentive folding is very much a meditative act."

Visit: travistaft.com

atmosphere that now exists. I admitted that I had been repeatedly drawn to the CNN website several times a day just to discover what newsworthy quote Candidate Trump had uttered since last checking in. Our normally opinionated group was unusually timid about speculating on the ultimate outcome of the fall election. This ambivalence certainly represented a first for us.

After lunch, we toured the lobby and adjacent rooms as Barry busily snapped pictures of the grand old hotel's charm and beauty. The historic photos that adorned the hallway walls recalled earlier times in the once-sleepy little town of Santa Monica.

We decided to hustle Josh to the car before hotel management discovered he had left his wallet at home. They might become suspicious that we had shorted them on the bill.

Besides, Arnie had to return to work at the Palisades Chamber of Commerce office, and we faced the always-daunting task of navigating our way through the village at the exact time local schools were being dismissed.

Bob Vickrey is a longtime Palisadian whose 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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Bentons Is 'In'; Caruso Construction Starts

Caruso Affiliated announced on July 28 that Bentons The Sports Shop has signed a "letter of intent" to return to Swarthmore when Palisades Village opens in the summer of 2018.

"We are incredibly excited to have Bob on board as our first tenant," said Rick Caruso, CEO and founder of Caruso Affiliated. "We are creating a place that reflects the heart and soul of the Palisades, and Bentons captures the very essence of what

we are bringing back to the community."

Caruso noted that his company is having conversations with other displaced tenants on Swarthmore and "we are hoping they will rejoin." Additional tenants will be announced this summer/fall.

With storm-drain construction resuming, an 8-foot fence along Monument went up on July 18 and street parking along Monument, Swarthmore and a portion of Sunset (near the Mobil station) was taken

away. The outdoor parking was also closed.

A Caruso press release noted that "As of early August, Swarthmore will be closed to vehicular traffic starting 100 feet past the alley to Monument. Caruso plans to begin demolition of all buildings on the north side of the street in late August."

A July 15 letter from Caruso Affiliated to some Palisades residents revealed the following timetable:

Duration of Work: August 2016 through

summer 2018.

Hours of Operation: Per LAMC, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and national holidays.

Type of Work: July through October—fencing, demolition, storm-drain relocation. November through March 2017—site excavation and grading. April through December 2017—parking structure construction. January through August 2018—building construction.

Meanwhile, during storm-drain construction, one lane of westbound Sunset Boulevard (in front of Mobil) will be closed from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday.

Said one *Palisades News* reader in a Heard About Town posting, "I was just stuck in one lane on Sunset during the day headed west. It was a bad backup. Did anyone ask Caruso if they could work at night, so as not to disrupt traffic during the day?"

David Kaplan, head of the Community Council's Village Land Use Committee, who served as the liaison between Caruso and the PPCC, responded: "Noise and lights at night? Seems implausible. It's hard to imagine immediate neighborhood people want that."

The construction zone on Sunset, from the pedestrian crossing to Swarthmore, has no residential housing in its vicinity.

Visit: palisadesvillageca.com.

Senator Boxer to be Honored

Senator Barbara Boxer will receive the Froehlich Award for political courage from the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club on Monday, August 22, at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica. All are invited.

The reception starts at 6 p.m. and the awards ceremony at 7 p.m. The cost is \$125 per person for the reception, a light dinner and a wine and beer bar. The VIP ticket (\$250) also includes a VIP reception, photos with honorees, a signed copy of Senator Boxer's memoir *The Art of Tough: Fearlessly Facing Politics and Life*, free parking and reserved seating at the awards ceremony.

Boxer, 75, who has been a Senator since 1993, and was in the House of Representa-

tives from 1983-93, announced in January 2015 that she would not be seeking reelection this year. She is the ranking member of the Environment & Public Works committee, vice chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and a member of the Foreign Relations committee.

Comedian Paula Poundstone will emcee the awards ceremony. Dr. Paul Song and actor/author Mike Farrell will receive the Berke Award for Human Rights, given in memory of former club president Bob Berke.

Song is a physician, progressive activist and biotechnology executive. The Los Angeles resident serves as co-chairman of the Campaign for a Healthy California.

Farrell, who is best known for his role as Captain B.J. Hunnicutt on the television series *M*A*S*H*, has been a social activist for years including serving as co-chair of the Human Rights Watch California committee and president of Death Penalty Focus. He also serves on the advisory board of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

The evening's proceeds will fund the 2016 Westside Democratic Headquarters and support Democratic candidates and causes in the November election.

The event is not tax deductible. To purchase a ticket(s) visit palidems.org or send a check to P.O. Box 343, Pacific Palisades 90272 or call (310) 230-2084 or email info@palisadesdemclub.org.

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Divino in Brentwood Village has been a favorite dining spot for lunch or dinner on weekdays, or for brunch on Saturday and Sunday.

It was the place I decided to take my visiting Irish great-nephew (yes, my sister lived in Ireland for more than 50 years, until her death two months ago).

Unlike my sister's other grandchildren, who are all into horses—breeding, racing, riding—this young man is a dessert chef and an expert in food. He seemed very happy with my dining selection!

Of course, a warm greeting from owner Goran Milic always starts the evening off well, as does the setting, with its white-linen clad tables and simple black-and-white photos adorning one wall. These photos are of Goran and his young friends enjoying the seaside in his homeland of Montenegro.

The atmosphere is so pleasing that you can actually hear what your dining partner is saying.

We sipped a glass of white wine and studied the menu while hearing about the specials of the day. Richard very much enjoyed nibbles of the crusty bread dipped in good olive oil with a touch of balsamic vinegar.

Everything on this elegant Italian menu sounds so compelling that it is hard to make a selection. Eventually, Richard decided to begin with the capesante of pan-seared scallops served on a bed of wild mushrooms, while



I splurged on the crostini di prosciutto of toasted bread topped with excellent prosciutto and melted mozzarella and sprinkled with fresh sage. Scrumptious and delicious, but a bit much for me. Richard was delighted to help finish it off. The appetizers are all priced from \$16 to \$19.

The eight pasta dishes each sounded enticing, but linguine with fresh clams, mussels, calamari and shrimp all in a zesty tomato sauce was (happily) my selection. It was an excellent dish filled with fine flavor and good fresh seafood. Another

pasta that intrigued me was the ravioli filled with ricotta cheese and spinach, topped with a fresh zucchini sauce. The pastas are all priced between \$22 and \$24.

Richard very much enjoyed the risotto with pungent porcini mushrooms, which was delectably creamy and tasty (\$25). There was also a non-dairy risotto with seasoned vegetables (\$24).

And, for the other entrée dishes: there's a boneless whole-roasted chicken with herbs and balsamic sauce (\$33), grilled boneless chicken breast with tomato, capers and olives (\$31), a veal medallion (\$38), baked whitefish surrounded by clams, calamari and shrimp in a wine sauce (\$34), and a market price sliced prime rib-eye steak.

If you are in the mood for pizza, they have a variety to choose from in the \$16 to \$18 price range. When I took some of my grandchildren there for dinner, they

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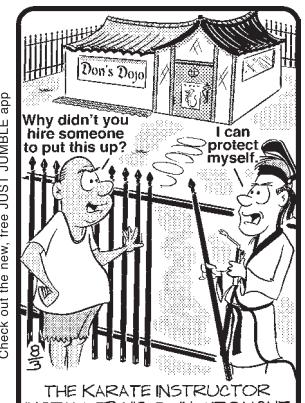
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(Answers on Page 23)

all loved the pizza.

Naturally, Richard and I had to share a dessert of tiramisù, the light, airy mélange of ladyfingers dipped in a coffee-marsala mixture and layered with mascarpone and grated chocolate. Delicious! And with it, of course, coffee.

Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. weekdays and the same hours for Saturday and Sunday brunch. Dinner is from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. nightly. Valet parking is \$7. I was impressed that the valet locks your car while he runs around to park another, or to retrieve another.

In addition to wines and beers there are cocktails. This is a very happy spot at any hour

— GRACE HINEY



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