

# PALISADES NEWS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**SCHOOLS  
AND  
ACTIVITIES**

## Honoring the Victims of 9/11



A remembrance was held in Malibu to honor the 2,996 innocent victims killed on September 11, 2001. Photo: Hugh Slavitt

## Council Election Results Closely Scrutinized

By SUE PASCOE and BILL BRUNS

Three newcomers will join six incumbents as Area and At-large representatives on the Pacific Palisades Community Council, following the election in late August.

Thanks to four competitive races and the debut of online voting, a record 1,237 votes were cast, representing about 12 percent of the town's eligible households (one vote per household) and businesses.

According to Election Committee Chair Chris Spitz, only 26 people submitted ballots that were published in the *News* and the *Post*. Everybody else voted online. Overall, 228 ballots/votes were invalidated "because they were duplicate votes from the same household," Spitz said.

Katie Braude, a public education activist and leader for nearly 30 years, ran  
*(Continued on Page 11)*

## BMO/BHO Zoning Debate Continues

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

At last Tuesday's BMO/BHO hearing in West L.A., the City Planning Department presented zoning options for neighborhoods under the Interim Control Ordinance (ICO), which includes Mar Vista, east Venice and Kentwood.

Pacific Palisades is now treated as an ICO, ever since a paragraph was added to the July 14 planning document just before a vote by the City Planning Commission.

Nearly 400 people packed the room, with close to 100 standing and others sitting on the floor during the almost two-hour presentation and hearing.

City Planner Christine Saponara presented the R1 Variation Zones Code that were released to the public on August 11, supplementing the Baseline Mansioniza-

tion Ordinance (BMO).

The Planning Department now recommends the R1V1 option for Pacific Palisades. This means that a 10,000 sq. ft. lot could have a house that is 55 percent of the lot size. If a garage is built in the back of the lot there would be a 400 sq. ft. exemption; built in front there would be a 200 sq. ft. exemption.

By contrast, the 2016 BMO proposed for Los Angeles allows a house that covers 45 percent of a 10,000 sq.-ft. lot, with a 200 ft. garage exemption.

The R1V1 is closest to the existing ordinance (2008 BMO). Currently, on a 10,000 sq. ft. lot, one can build 50 percent, plus 20 percent of that 5,000, with exemptions of 250 sq. ft. for covered porches and breezeways and 400 sq. ft. for a garage.

For those who live on 6,000 to 7,000 sq. ft. lots, the R1V1 will allow building up to 63 percent of your lot—with a 400 sq. ft. exemp-

tion for garages in the rear and 200 sq. ft. for the front. By contrast the proposed BMO is 45 percent of lot size with no exemptions.

For those who live in the hillside areas, R1H1 is proposed and the percentage of the lot that can be built on is based on the Slope Band. For example, up to a 14.99 percent

slope, the residential home can occupy 65 percent of the property. Currently (under the 2008 BMO), it can be up to 50 percent. (Tables can be found at [preservation.LA-City.org](http://preservation.LA-City.org). Contact Sharon Ryan at (213) 978-3304 or email [NeighborhoodConser-](mailto:NeighborhoodConser-)  
*(Continued on Page 15)*



About 400 people from Mar Vista, Kentwood, east Venice and Pacific Palisades listened as L.A. City Planning Department staff discussed proposed zoning changes.

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# Spamalot Will Play at PaliHi

Did you miss *Monty Python's Spamalot* when it was in New York City because of sold-out crowds and long lines?"

Did you miss *Spamalot* when it came to Los Angeles because of sold-out crowds and long lines?

Your luck is about to change, because the musical comedy adapted from the 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* is coming to Palisades High next week. A live orchestra under the direction of Elizabeth Stoyanovich will provide the music for a cast of 43 student performers.

The show will begin at 7 p.m. on September 29 and October 1 at 7 p.m., with a student show at 4 p.m. on September 30 for \$5. The following week the show runs October 6, 7, 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.

The school always puts on a topnotch production, with some of the most interesting new talent in town. This is where Forest Whitaker and Helene York first starred on stage.

*Spamalot* is a parody of the Arthurian legend, with Ethan Egilsson as Knight of Ni and Max Vaupenas as King Arthur. The title of the play was explained by one of the creators, Eric Idle: "It comes from a line in the movie which goes, "We eat ham, and jam, and Spam a lot."

Before the musical begins, a recording announces "let your cellphones and pagers ring willy-nilly," and adds that one should "be aware there are heavily armed knights on stage that may drag you on stage and impale you."

This silly, fun play is being directed by Nancy Fracchiolla, an actress, who for



King Arthur (Max Vaupenas, center) and Patsy (Charlie Hobert, right) meet the Knight of Ni (Ethan Egilsson, left) in the upcoming Palisades High production of *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

Photo: Felix Massey

years directed local youth productions before becoming a drama teacher at Pali. She was also an original cast member and author of *Tony and Tina's Wedding*.

The original 2005 Broadway produc-

tion of *Spamalot* won three Tony Awards, including best musical.

Tickets maybe purchased at the door at Mercer Hall. Students are \$10, general admission is \$17, premium is \$20. The com-

munity is invited to come and have a good laugh, and in the process support the school's theater arts program.

## Pali Patrol App Alerts Residents

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Palisades Patrol has unveiled a new app that alerts residents to breaking news on fires, police activity, traffic accidents and road closures in the Palisades area. The community alert app, which is available at the Apple Store, is free to all residents. One does not have to be a Palisades Patrol client to access it.

Palisades Patrol, which operates under Gates Security, is often first on the scene of an incident in Pacific Palisades. The app will provide alerts and is available to everyone who has a smart phone or tablet device.

"App users will remain anonymous and won't be on an email list," said Kurt Park, chief technology officer.

Often when there is a helicopter circling overhead, or a traffic accident causes road closures, residents call Palisades Patrol, which is based in the Village, to ask what is happening.

"With our 24-hour monitoring and patrol operations in our various patrol communities, this app will help provide community awareness," said Gates Security CEO Scott Wagenseller (*Palisades News* owner). "It will also lessen calls to our office for information in emergency situations."

"The app goes out directly to everyone who has signed up and they will get information immediately," said Wagenseller.

Park said the app will send out an initial alert statement, "Gates Security Community Alert," and information will include time of occurrence, type of incident and location. For example, one posting might read: "11:07 a.m., traffic accident, 300 blk of Toyopa Drive."

Additional information may also be available such as photos and video, estimated time that the incident will affect the area and a narrative: "2 car t/c, firefighters on scene, duration 2 hours."

Wagenseller said the app will be used only for serious breaking news that affects

the quality of life.

"The fire department is constantly rescuing people from our local mountains from hiking and biking accidents. These incidents do not impact our commute or whether an evacuation is necessary and will not be included in our alerts," Wagenseller said.

To add the app, go to the Apple Store and search for Gates Security, create a user name and profile and choose an area (Gates Security covers Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Malibu and Conejo Valley (Agoura Hills to Thousand Oaks)).

Users can select one or all areas to receive notifications and must press "select notification" to receive notifications on the phone or tablet device.

Asked how many alerts residents should expect, Park said: "One weekend was busy and there were three alerts in the Palisades alone. Some weekends there are none."

Call: (310) 454-7741.



### Pop-Up Book Sale Set for Library

Hundreds of nearly new special books, including art and coffee-table books, nonfiction and fiction (including mysteries and thrillers), cookbooks, craft books and biographies will be available at great prices from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Friday, September 23, and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The sale will take place in the Palisades Library community room on Alma Real.

This special pop-up sale will add to the funds raised by the Library Bookstore and quarterly parking-lot sales. Proceeds help the library purchase books, research material and other items for this branch that are not funded through the City.

Visit: [friendsofpalilibrary.org](http://friendsofpalilibrary.org).

# Asilomar Landslide Fixes Ongoing

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Residents were invited to listen to a special presentation about a proposed repair for the top portion of the Asilomar hillside (in the El Medio bluffs neighborhood) on August 24.

Arid Motamed of Fugro Consultants told a crowded gathering in the Palisades Library's meeting room that the first landslide was documented in 1959 and that the geotechnical firm of Ninyo & Moore had done subsequent studies in 2008 and 2013.

Motamed presented colorful slides that displayed retaining-wall options, including a wall with tiebacks; a two-tiered wall with tiebacks; large 10-ft.-diameter concrete poles; a soil-nail wall and deep-soil cement-mixed columns.

Neighbors were queried about which design they would prefer. One person asked, "How are we supposed to know which is best?" Another person wanted to know the cost of each option. (Costs have not yet been determined for each option, but a 2008 geotechnical report prepared by Ninyo and Moore estimated that the cost to remove the landslide and repair the hillside would run about \$26 million.)

And then came a question no one expected: "Have you looked at what the Pal-



Dirt has been removed from the toe of the Asilomar hillside in Palisades Bowl Mobile Home Park.

isades Bowl owner is doing at the bottom of the hill?" The City had not.

The questioner explained that there was grading at the bottom of the Asilomar hillside, the toe had been cut into and dirt had been hauled out.

The Asilomar hill is actually owned by three different entities. The City owns the upper third, roughly down to Puerto del Mar, which was made impassable in 2005 after heavy rains buckled the roadway.

Edward Biggs, owner of the Palisades

Bowl Mobile Park at 16321 Pacific Coast Hwy., owns the bottom part of the hill below the road. The adjacent Tahitian Terrace (also mobile homes) at 16001 PCH is owned by the McDonald family (Azul Paci-

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## DAN URBACH PRESENTS

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# Asilomar

(Continued from Page 4)

fico), which also owns the land below Asilomar nearest Temescal Canyon Road.

Although the City of Los Angeles (through Norm Kulla, former senior counsel to Councilman Bill Rosendahl) had reached out to both owners in earlier years, neither were obligated to work with the City, because mobile home parks are under the jurisdiction of the state.

Asilomar Boulevard, between El Medio and Almar Avenues, is built on a hillside that has two landslides. One starts 90 feet below the surface, extends into the Pacific Ocean, and is considered inactive. The other, 35 feet down, is continually moving.

The City installed inclinometers to measure ground movement on Asilomar in 2000. Five years later, the movement of the hill had sheared off the top of one of the inclinometers. A year later a measurement showed that the ground had moved more than a foot vertically.

In May 2015, Biggs received permission from the Coastal Commission to install eight new dewatering wells, a 1,100-ft. keystone wall, and a temporary irrigation system to supplement his existing dewatering system.

Prior to approval, attorney John B. Murdock, who represented residents of Palisades Bowl, wrote in a May 11, 2015 letter to the Commission that additional special conditions should be met before issuing a permit:

“The hillside remediations identified in Permit No 5-08-245 are insufficient to all the development and rehabilitation of the lots at the base of the hillside that have been red tagged. The applicant has currently submitted to Coastal Commission and the HCD, documentation regarding a plan to place ‘Resort Homes’ throughout the park.”

The complete list of conditions can be found in the April 2015 permit (documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2015/5/f10a-5-2015.pdf).

In approving the plan, the Commission wrote: “The work is designed not to address the larger landslide that covers the approximately 17 acres, but to address the sloughing and minor movement that is occurring along the toe of the slope. Staff is recommending approval of the proposed coastal development permit amendment with four special conditions: 1.) require the applicant to maintain all of special conditions imposed with the original Coastal Development Permit No. 5-08-245; 2.) ensure conformance with the geotechnical report recommendations; 3.) ensure the applicant complies with the landscape and irrigation plan; and 4.) indemnifying the Coastal Commission from third-party litigation costs.”

L.A. City Public Information Officer Mary Nemick wrote in a September 6 e-mail to the News, “We have downloaded the plans from the Coastal Commission website and have forwarded the plans to Fugro. At this time we do not know the impact of the construction at the toe of the slope.”

## Big Band Dance To Raise Money for July 4 Parade



The Big Band of Barristers will perform Saturday night. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Gary Greene and his Big Band of Barristers will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, in Mercer Hall at Palisades High School. Tickets are \$10 in advance at Eventbrite or \$15 at the door. Parking on campus is free.

Enjoy an evening of great big-band music and swing dancing as “America’s #1 Legal Band” plays some of the most popular tunes of all time, including “In the Mood,” “Stompin’ at the Savoy,” “Take the ‘A’ Train,” “Moonlight Serenade” and “Chattanooga Choo Choo.”

All proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Palisades Americanism Parade Association to support the annual Fourth of July parade, concert and fireworks.

The State was contacted and Housing & Communication Analyst Alicia Murillo wrote in a September 14 e-mail to the News, “The park has the required permits from both HCD and the Coastal Commission for grading. Plans submitted to HCD were stamped by geological engineer and approved by the Department. An HCD field inspector and supervisor were onsite yesterday (9/13/2016) monitoring work being done.”

In a May 2006 article by Alyson Sena (“City and Residents Agree Asilomar Is Safety Concern”), one Asilomar resident wondered why city and state officials had not made Asilomar a priority, comparing the potential danger of the situation to La Conchita, the seaside community between Santa Barbara and Ventura, where a mudslide occurred in January 2005, killing 10 people and injuring many more.

## ELLEN McCORMICK

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## Heard About Town

### Thank You, Rose Gilbert

Every time I swim in the pool at the high school, I offer up thanks to the generosity of Rose Gilbert, the late English teacher who made it all possible. It's such a lovely pool and she didn't need to donate her money, but she did. What if some other generous souls in the community did the same and helped build a new performing-arts complex at PaliHi?

### Stolen Goods Are Sought

On September 1, I had a loaner car from Mercedes and parked behind the Women's Club. I arrived about 7 a.m. for a meeting and when I came out around 8:45, the car had been opened and all my belonging were gone. I filed a police report and they told me that because the car was new, it was opened with an electronic device.

If you took my personal belongings, please return all the paperwork in the Bottega bag (work papers). Please return the photo of my 95-year-old mother. Do not try to use the Cartier clock because it has been reported stolen and has a serial number. Please leave the items in the Coldwell Banker parking lot, 15101 Sunset. No questions asked.

### Revere's Soccer Fields

The soccer fields at Paul Revere look terrible, like one big dust bowl. There is no grass. What happened?

*(Editor's note: For years, AYSO Region 69 seeded, fertilized and tended the fields in the off-season. For the past year they haven't been allowed to do that.)*

### Holes in the Fences

At construction sites in New York, there are holes in the fences, so you can watch what is going on and see the progress. Why doesn't Caruso cut a few holes in his fences so that we watch his construction? Don't tell me it's a safety issue because it's not.

*(Editor's note: We reached out to Caruso spokesperson Liz Jaeger about the idea, but she had not yet responded by our deadline.)*

### Raccoon Release on Temescal

I was walking my dogs up Temescal Canyon on the east side of the road. About 500 yards ahead of me, I saw two guys, who were dressed like gardeners, jump out of a mini-SUV and pull out a cage. As I got closer, I saw them tip the cage, open it and a raccoon bolted towards the brush. I was so astounded I didn't get a license plate or anything. The men jumped back in their vehicle, did a U-turn on Temescal and headed towards PCH. Nice to know the animal was unharmed, but is this lawful? Are people releasing other critters in Temescal?

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

## ANN CLEAVES



## VIEWPOINT

### Reflections on the Caruso Trees

By ROSANNE MANGIO  
Special to the Palisades News

A dear friend of mine, "Spirit Wind," a Cherokee medicine woman, taught me the "Medicine Ways." She taught me that the natural beings, especially the majestic trees on this Earth, are our "Relatives." That Humanity together with our "Relatives" weave the Fabric of Life.

I wrote to the Caruso people that it was paramount to create a cohesive, balanced project that seamlessly does grace to the existing business district, that by removing the three ficus trees on Sunset they would create a demarcation line dividing one part of the Village from the other.

I said that in my experience, the Grove and the Americana (two Caruso developments) were projects devoid of soul and spirit, that they are carbon copies of what is real. The Palisades Village was home, different and real. It was created by architects and thinkers who knew that simplicity was needed to blend into the neighborhood and environment.

I feel that when the developer removed our two Heritage Ficus trees in front of the Mobil station, the developer spit on what is meaningful to the neighborhood. I felt the sacredness of nature and its living spirit were disregarded.

That saddens me greatly, because this project could have been a jewel. It could have worked in tandem with the natural environment, not against it.

Caruso could have left a "living legacy" in the Palisades that all would have admired, and it would have spoken to the understanding that we are all connected to Mother Earth and her environment. They could have made our

Heritage Ficus trees a central point of their project, instead of ripping them down, discarding and disrespecting them.

I saw the video that Kristen Kelly posted on Nextdoor Palisades. I was in shock, watching as a bulldozer ripped at one of the trees.

I went down to the Village and behind the fence to see what had been done. It was very still. Nothing except silence, and what was left of two magnificent "beings," shattered and ripped apart. I fell to my knees and sobbed. All I could say was that I was so sorry. I went to each one of them and prayed for their forgiveness. These trees were beauty in its highest and purest form, not wanting anything from us, just wanting to give, and this is what we all have done to them.

I feel that Mother Earth is tired of our disrespect, greed and meanness. Humanity is a throwaway society who has learned nothing from past mistakes. If humanity doesn't wake up soon there will be no more hope for us. We have been given many chances to shift our consciousness, and be in gratitude for the jewel we call Earth, our only home.

Some are awake, but too many are asleep and continue to do evil and despicable things to the Earth and the beautiful creatures that share her with us.

So my soul is broken, and my heart is numb with sadness. I keep on shaking my head, not believing what has just happened—but it did. And for me the Soul and the Spirit of the Palisades is no more.

*(Editor's Note: Rosanne Mangio has lived in Pacific Palisades for more than 60 years. Her father, Vince, originally owned the Palisades Barber Shop on Antioch. Mangio worked for L.A. City Recreation and Parks for 31 years.)*

### Thought to Ponder

"Being good is easy, what is difficult is being just."

— Victor Hugo

## PALISADES NEWS

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## EDITORIAL

# Council Election Process Needs Tweaking

Coming in the midst of a bitterly contested Presidential campaign, the Pacific Palisades Community Council election in August reminded us that EVERY VOTE COUNTS. In the race for Area 6 representative, Council member David Kaplan defeated his challenger, Eric Marshall, by exactly one vote: 92-91.

The PPCC election, which is held every two years to fill eight Area representative seats and one At-large seat on the 23-member board, also showed that our town is ready to embrace online voting at the grassroots level. A total of 1,237 voters cast valid ballots (228 ballots were deemed invalid because only one vote is allowed per household)—and only 26 were submitted on ballots published in the *News* and the *Post*.

Thanks largely to a contested race for the At-large seat, in which Lou Kamer defeated Quentin Fleming, the PPCC election easily surpassed the 714 valid votes cast in 2014, when voting was limited to printed ballots. This year, it was easy to vote online with just two or three clicks, the PPCC utilized greater social media outreach and the candidates in the four contested races were able to campaign not only door-to-door, but on the increasingly popular (though sometimes abused) Nextdoor Palisades Internet site.

“We are of course gratified by the greater voter turnout and hope that it was because of increased interest by community members in the work of the Council and the issues we address,” outgoing PPCC President Chris Spitz told the *News*.

We agree that it was encouraging to see the way many

residents became engaged in the election, and we know the Council has gained three talented new representatives—Katie Braude in Area 1 (Castellammare/ Paseo Miramar), Danielle Samulon in Area 3 (the neighborhoods from west Marquez Avenue to Bienvenida) and Kamer, who has emerged as a tireless and innovative community activist the past year.

Still, we believe there are ways the Community Council could improve the election process in 2018.

First, generate greater attention for the election by holding the candidates’ forum on a Thursday night at the beginning of the campaign (not near the end, as happened this year). The forum enables candidates in contested elections to make their pitch in person and then continue their campaigning. Online voting should start the day after the forum and end just two weeks later.

Second, in order to avoid summer vacation issues, consider holding the forum on the second Thursday of September. This would still allow time for the newly elected representatives to be sworn in at the PPCC’s first October meeting, as per tradition.

Third, the PPCC needs to work on educating residents about a key requirement—only one vote per household. And it needs to reassure everybody that in this small town, even though their vote is not private (voters must include their name and address), whom they vote for will remain private.

President Spitz, who headed the election committee, told the *News*: “Voter identity is private; the Committee

members (a former Citizen of the Year, past Council chair and current VP; the Chamber of Commerce president-elect; the current treasurer and a past chair; the chair emeritus; and the current secretary) take their obligations seriously and have not released any voter information to anyone outside of the Committee.”

Fourth, in a two-person race, the candidate who loses should be allowed to become the Area alternate (who participates in Council meetings and votes when the representative cannot attend). Currently, the PPCC board makes that choice from among those who apply as alternates, a system that allows potential membership manipulation by the board. If a person is willing to become engaged in the community by running for an Area representative seat, he or she should be assured that the runner-up can at least fill the alternate position.

Members of the election committee have already acknowledged that the PPCC election bylaws will need to be amended as the council moves from paper ballots into the digital age. Fortunately this isn’t the U.S. Congress, so we should see results by 2018.

George Wolfberg, a widely respected leader on the PPCC, assured the *News*: “These future amendments will be fashioned with great care. I can speak for myself as co-chair [of the election committee] that any of the proposals developed by the bylaws committee will be discussed in an open and public process and it would be my goal that there be unanimous approval of any and all changes.”

We’ll vote for that!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Brown Act Notification

*(The following letter was sent to L.A. City Department of Public Works information officer Elena Stern.)*

Hi Elena,

I was one of eight people who were emailed by Timothy Tyson regarding the tree removal hearing held last Friday (September 9). The email was sent Tuesday morning (September 6), noticing the meeting for the following Friday at 10 am.

While your posting “technically” did meet the Brown Act per a handwritten time stamp you provided, the posting did not allow for Palisades residents to be notified in a timely manner so that those who wanted to attend could have done so.

It would have helped greatly if the press and the Palisades Community Council had been notified, so they may have given adequate notice to our community. It is highly unlikely that our residents are going to stop by the glass cases at City Hall to read postings each morning.

Please advise me as to how I may receive mailed notices regarding any and all Public Works meetings that involve the Palisades in any regard so that action may taken locally to notify residents.

Also, how would this have been accommodated for last week’s meeting? For example, if the tree removal agenda item was placed on the agenda early Tuesday morning as Mr. Tyson stated, how would a mailed agenda have gotten to anyone, who would have requested one or who would have requested an ADA agenda, in enough time?

I look forward to your response so that I may receive mailed agendas per the Brown Act:

### MAILED AGENDA UPON WRITTEN REQUEST

The legislative body, or its designee, must mail a copy of the agenda or, if requested, the entire agenda packet, to any person who has filed a written request for such materials. These copies shall be mailed at the time the agenda is posted. If requested, these materials must be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. A request for notice is valid for one calendar year and renewal requests must be filed Jan. 1 of each year. The legislative body may establish a fee to recover the cost of providing the service. Failure of the requesting person to receive the agenda does not constitute grounds for invalidation of actions taken at the meeting.

Thanks very much,

Gina Ladinsky

*(Editor’s note: From the center of Pacific Palisades, it is about 19 miles downtown. We agree with Ladinsky that most of us will not drive downtown every morning to see if an agenda has been posted. We believe that notices of hearings regarding this town should be posted in town and sent to the newspapers with plenty of time to disseminate the information.)*

### Palisades PRIDE and Caruso Project

Now that demolition is well underway at the Caruso site, PRIDE would like to announce that our organization has made arrangements with Caruso Affiliated to

ensure the safekeeping and preservation of the PRIDE assets that were previously located on the demolition/construction site. These items include the Brown Iron Benches & Trash Receptacles, The Little Library and all of the Brass Plaques that accompanied many of these items.

PRIDE has also entered into an agreement with Caruso Affiliated to have the names of over 1,100 donors previously located on the Swarthmore sidewalk tiles replicated on a new PRIDE Donor Wall located on the Caruso Property along Monument.

Over the next 12-24 months, PRIDE will continue to work with Councilman Bonin’s Office, The City of Los Angeles and Caruso Affiliated to restore and replace all of the PRIDE assets previously situated on the Caruso Property in locations throughout The Village. Once more detailed drawings and plans of the PRIDE Donor Wall become available and a comprehensive plan is finalized of where all of the other PRIDE assets will be relocated, we will share this information with the entire community.

Please contact PRIDE with any questions you may have about these new and exciting developments at (310) 459-7963 or PalisadesChamber@earthlink.net.

The PRIDE Board  
*(Continued on Page 8)*

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

# Letters

(Continued from Page 7)

## Highlands Hiking Trail Reopened

I really appreciate the excellent investigative article by Sarah Stockman ("Palisades Hikers Illegally Locked Out," August 3). My wife Susan and I often hike from this Highlands trailhead and we were puzzled by the locked gate. I am happy to say that when I drove to the trailhead yesterday (August 6), the gate was unlocked and open. You made a difference!

Marvin Klein

## Thinking about Life Goals

There's a popular Talmudic saying, even quoted on get-well-soon cards: "Every blade of grass has an angel in heaven that strikes it over the head and tells it to grow."

In this short sentence, the sages express that every part of existence (down to the humble blade of grass) has a purpose, and is encouraged to fulfil its purpose for the greater good.

Like the blade of grass, just infinitely more so, you have a purpose and unique mission on earth.

It's possible you're already clear about your life goals and are working towards them. More likely, however, you're not. A Jewish proverb explains, "A person often considers the loss of his money, but rarely the loss of his life." We get caught up in the rat race, in competing and fitting in, without much thought about *why*. Consider the advice the Alter Rebbe (1745-1812), a great Chassidic master, gave a wealthy merchant fallen on hard times:

"You have spoken only about what you need. You have given no thought to what you are needed for."

We are approaching the Jewish New Year—Rosh

Hashanah—a time for introspection. Like the quarterly profit and loss meetings in business, we have an opportunity to assess ourselves, discover our mission, set goals, and start living life with purpose.

If you already know your life mission, use the time to recalibrate. Ask yourself whether you are moving in the direction you desire, or if you've settled for less. If you're on auto pilot, take back the controls and get on the right course.

Twentieth century Jewish leader Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson said your birthday is G-d saying you matter. Rosh Hashanah celebrates the birthday of the world. The world matters, and so does your role in it. Now there's a reason to celebrate!

Rabbi Zushe Cunin

Executive Director, Chabad Jewish Community Campus

## Funding the Homeless Task Force

Our Santa Ynez Canyon Association in the Highlands received a presentation from the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) and was astounded to learn about all that they are doing for our Palisades community.

PPTFH has divided our 90272 zip code into five areas and, using Google Maps, its volunteer team regularly walks the areas, including the hillsides and bluffs, to identify homeless encampments that pose illegal health, beach, and fire hazards to our community.

Then, coordinating with the PPTFH/OPCC Outreach Team, law enforcement and Recreation & Parks they remove the encampments while offering services to the homeless people.

Since January, the number of encampments has gone down from 57 to 35, and 79 homeless people have agreed to engage with the OPCC Outreach Team to talk about services and moving into housing. Seventeen people are now

off our streets and in transitional or permanent housing.

We understand that homelessness is an on-going problem and that we continue to see homeless people on our Village streets, but PPTFH is making a real difference. Our community should be grateful and proud that the task force is taking action to protect our community and work with our homeless people in a compassionate way.

We were shocked to learn that PPTFH needs money and the board members are doing all of the fundraising themselves! We knew about PPTFH but not that they need funding for the OPCC Outreach Team, which is the linchpin to supporting law-enforcement work and providing options for moving people off our streets and into housing. We now understand that if they don't have someplace to go they will remain on our streets, beaches, and hillsides.

Our Board voted to contribute \$540 to PPTFH to support its amazing work. This comes to \$15 per household in our HOA. The PPTFH has raised the funds needed to pay for the outreach team for 2016; however, it still needs to raise \$20,000 to pay for 2017.

We challenge each Pacific Palisades HOA to step up and do their part in supporting PPTFH and not sit back for a free ride. We are all safer because of PPTFH and should not take its work for granted. We have fellow residents out there doing work for us. The least we can do is give them the minimal financial support they need. Come on, HOA board presidents—call PPTFH, schedule a presentation to become informed and make a contribution. If all of the Palisades HOA's give, we can raise the \$20,000 needed for 2017 and maybe even part of 2018!

Natalie Reichman

(Editor's note: Visit [pptfh.org](http://pptfh.org) and click on "donation" for different options. Checks may be made out to OPCC with PPTFH written in the memo line and sent to PPTFH, P.O. Box 331, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.)

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# Ficus Bulldozed: Palisades Village Tree Update

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

The two towering ficus trees in front of the Mobil station on Sunset at Swarthmore were bulldozed down on September 10, one day after a City Public Works hearing downtown at 10 a.m.

Some residents were upset because they felt they had not had adequate notification or posting of the hearing, per the Brown Act. They told the *News* that they received the e-mail notification on September 6 in the afternoon; meetings of this nature must be posted at least 72 hours in advance.

The *News* spoke to Elena Stern in the L.A. Department of Public Works, who said that a paper posting had been done downtown, which satisfies the law. The notification did not have to be posted in Pacific Palisades.

Shortly after the trees came down, Highlands resident Steve Dickey re-posted Palisades Village Landscape Details from Caruso Affiliated's Facebook page on Nextdoor Palisades:

"In addition to our attention to architectural detail, we take tremendous pride in



This is one of the ficus trees that will be replaced.

creating beautiful landscapes at our properties. . . . A big part of this plan includes trees that provide beauty and shade covering for more enjoyable strolling, dining, shopping, and picnics and playtime in the park. In fact, our current landscape plan has us planting more than 110 trees. And we don't plant small trees; we plant healthy 48" or larger boxed trees. The city requires 24" trees. But our plan includes 48", 72",

84" and even 96" boxed mature trees.

"Additionally, we are working with the city and community organizations to see how we can beautify the park at the Palisades Recreation Center. Many residents have asked us to help. Our goal is to identify and plant three dozen or so beautiful trees at this location, as a number of them have died. If you support this initiative, please let us and Mike Bonin's office know. With your support, we can make it happen."

According to the plans approved by the Department of City Planning on April 28 (Caruso Palisades Village document, p. 14): "All significant, non-protected trees on the site proposed for removal shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio."

Currently, Caruso has been given permission to remove 43 trees, which means 86 replacement trees. The document continues: "Note: Any excess replacement trees which are unfeasible to be planted onsite or along the public right-of-way shall be donated to the Urban Forestry Division, so these trees can be planted in nearby public places."

Residents believe that the Palisades Recreation Center would be a perfect place for additional trees. At a Park Advisory Board meeting in July ("Park Trees Face Grim Future," August 3), Steve Dunlap, a spokesperson for the City's forestry division, explained that the park trees have suffered from the drought and from watering restrictions im-

posed by the DWP. Additionally, Recreation and Parks must now pay its own water bills.

The trees proposed for Caruso's Palisades Village are jacaranda, the Chinese flame, crepe myrtles, ironwood and flowering pears.

The *News* asked Dunlap about the possibility of using any of those trees in the park. He said, "Based more on surviving insect attacks and drought, jacaranda, crepe myrtle, Chinese flame tree, Chinese pistache, and Island ironwood would work. I'm not sure about pears; they get fire blight."

The center island at the park, which was once shaded by stone pine trees until their demise early this year, is supposed to be reconfigured for parking. No trees will be planted there until the project is completed.

## Art Association To Meet Sept. 27

The Pacific Palisades Art Association will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. Guests are welcome, but there is a \$5 fee.

The guest speaker will be Freza Paro, who will lead a discussion about what an artist needs to do to build a successful artist brand in 2016.

Contact: Annette at (310) 459-8370 or e-mail palisadesart@gmail.com.

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# Election

(Continued from Page 1)

unopposed for the Area 1 seat (Castellamare and Paseo Miramar) and will replace Kelly Comras.

In the closely contested Area 3 race to fill an open seat (representing the neighborhoods above and below Sunset, from west Marquez Avenue to Bienvenida), Danielle Samulon, a third-generation Palisadian, defeated attorney Peter Zomber, 120-106.

The third newcomer will be high-tech entrepreneur Lou Kamer, who won the At-large seat (representing residents in every area and business owners) by a 647-545 vote over longtime At-large alternate Quentin Fleming. Current PPCC vice president George Wolfberg previously held this position.

Every vote counted in the Area 6 contest (from Temescal Canyon to Chautauqua, below Sunset), as David Kaplan edged Eric Marshall by one vote, 92-91, to replace longtime representative Stuart Muller, who elected not to defend his seat. Kaplan was Muller's alternate and chair of the Council's Village Project Land Use Committee, which vetted Rick Caruso's development.

Area 5 (the Alphabet streets and the neighborhoods above Bestor) featured another hotly contested race as Sandy Eddy, a past Chamber of Commerce president, took on incumbent Sue Kohl, a local realtor. Eddy, who argued that Kohl had failed to effectively support neighborhood concerns about



Left to right: Richard Cohen, Chris Spitz and George Wolfberg tabulate election results.

Photo: Brian Demming

the Caruso project, lost by a vote of 195-123.

The four unopposed incumbents included Peter Culhane (Area 1, Highlands), Rick Mills (Area 4, north and south of Sunset, from Bienvenida to El Medio), Cathy Russell (Area 7, Santa Monica and Rustic Canyons) and Reza Akef (Area 8, Riviera neighborhoods).

Muller, the current Area 6 representative, asked for a recount in the Kaplan-Marshall contest. He was told by PPCC President Maryam Zar in a September 9 email, "The vote count and results are now final. The

[Election] Committee accurately and impartially counted and recounted the votes multiple times. There is no provision in our bylaws for a recount or audit as requested by Mr. Muller. For these reasons we will not be conducting one."

The new slate of representatives will begin two-year terms on October 13. They will join a board that consists of four officers (president, VP, treasurer and secretary), nine representatives of various community organizations, the chair emeritus and several non-voting advisors.

# Copa De Dillon Soccer Tournament

The third annual Copa De Dillon soccer tournament will be held from 3 to 9 p.m. on September 25 at Palisades High's Stadium by the Sea. Teams and volunteers are sought to play/work this event, which is held in honor and memory of Richard Dillon Henry's birthday.

Dillon, who lived in Rustic Canyon, was an honor student at PaliHi. The 17-year-old's life was tragically lost on July 6, 2007 in a car accident. The son of Harriet Zaretsky and Stephen Henry, and brother to Taylor, was mourned by the community.

In Dillon's honor, his parents started the Dillon Henry Foundation, which gives college scholarships to PaliHi graduating students (Dillonlist.org). The proceeds from this tournament will benefit that foundation.

There will be eight coed teams, with 5 v. 5 play. Each team will play three games, with a trophy awarded to the winner and medals to runner-ups. Preregistration is a \$350 donation to the Dillon Henry Foundation. New this year is the Cornhole Tournament, and each two-person team can register with a \$20 donation.

Volunteers are sought to help with food and merchandise vendors and raffle promotion. To register a team or volunteer, email Daviswiklyl@gmail.com or call (310) 869-3235 or email Harriet@dillonlist.org or call (310) 459-2689.



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## All-Pro Leaving Palisades After 40-Plus Years on Via

By LAURA ABRUSCATO  
Contributing Writer

All-Pro Health and Nutrition, the supplement and vitamin store at 847 Via de la Paz that has been owned by the Berk family for 40 years, has lost its lease and will be relocating.

The current space will close at the end of September, with most items, including hard-to-find books, vitamins, protein powders, kids' supplements, teas and cosmetics, as well as store fixtures and décor, on sale.

City National Bank will utilize some of the space when its branch office moves from Swarthmore later this year.

All-Pro owner Diane Berk was unable to find a new location in the Palisades and is now looking for a storefront in the Brentwood/Santa Monica area.

"The lease was up and it had become prohibitively expensive, nearly triple the amount we were paying," said David Berk, one of Diane's four siblings and the store's accountant.

During the transition, Diane Berk will be offering home delivery and shipping, and will be available for consultations via phone, Skype, FaceTime or in person.

"I'll be a health-food store on wheels," Berk said. "I'll still be able to service people in the Palisades until we have another brick-and-mortar store."

The store was purchased in 1976 by Berk's late father, Jerry Berk, and continues to serve original customers plus second and third generations. It's the exclusive retailer of

Jerry Berk's multi-vitamin Super-Vite, which he referred to as his "sixth child," and his Nature's Bonus Amino Acids.

"Super-Vite supports the central nervous system, helps with the immune system, one's sense of well-being and digestion of food, and is an overall health insurance policy," Berk said. "His amino acids maintain muscle tone, and help with low blood sugar and maintaining a happy mood."

"I admired him tremendously," said Berk, who keeps a sign behind the desk with her father's philosophy: "Health is our only real wealth." She has been running the store since his death in 1997.

Berk, a nutritionist and health coach, plans to create a website to market her father's supplements globally, something she has not been able to do because of her dedication to the store and her clients. She works with private chefs to make changes to a client's eating and is known for helping people get their weight down quickly before a special event or to recover quickly from illness before they need to fly.

"I still visit some of my father's original clients who are in their 90s, who are still healthy, but they don't like the traffic or the Internet and I come and deliver their supplements," Berk said. "We carry on an old-fashioned way of serving our clients."

Her 4-year-old Siberian husky, Lucky, the store mascot, is usually found relaxing on his dog bed outside the store.

To contact Berk, call (310) 926-3672 or e-mail [dianeberk11@gmail.com](mailto:dianeberk11@gmail.com).



Diane Berk, owner of All-Pro Health and Nutrition, in front of the store on Via de la Paz. Photo: Lesly Hall

## Senior Homeowners: Think Safety First

By MICHAEL EDLEN  
Special to the Palisades News

(Editor's note: This is the ninth in a series of articles that answer requests for more informational help with various senior issues.)

Many seniors are victims of accidents in their own homes, and most of these accidents can be prevented with a series of practical considerations and corresponding follow-through actions. Creating a safer environment by eliminating potential hazards is well-worth the efforts it may involve by family members and other caregivers.

The process of maximizing the safety of a senior's home generally requires mostly commonsense steps, and if done comprehensively it may enable them to live independently for many more years. Although every situation will have unique aspects to consider, the following suggestions will help make a senior's home environment as safe as possible.

- Have at least one entry to the home that does not have steps and repair any steps that are uneven or wobbly.
- Be sure all stairs have railings on both

sides that are secure.

- Ramp slopes should be no more than two inches for every foot in length. Eliminate potential trip hazards along walkways.
- Thresholds are best if removed or no greater than half an inch.
- Subscribe to a personal safety response service in case of an emergency.
- Program all phones with emergency one-touch numbers: family members, neighbors, fire department, police and medical professionals.
- Add a side window to your front door or lower the peephole to your height.
- Have sensor-controlled motion detection lights outside.
- Have and practice an emergency escape plan in case of fire or earthquake.
- Be prepared for emergencies and have a backpack for each occupant to grab and go with short notice. Items that may be useful include medications, doctor-signed prescriptions, water, flashlight and batteries, sanitary supplies, long-life food, plastic raincoat or poncho, lightweight blanket, cell-phone charger, etc.
- Have smoke and carbon monoxide de-

tectors properly installed and periodically tested.

- Remove or securely fasten any area rugs. Install low-pile carpeting or expose all hardwood flooring for safer use of a walker.
- Give special attention to the kitchen and all bathrooms that will be used. Add non-slip strips to bathtubs and showers. Put non-skid mats on the bathroom floors. Replace shower doors with curtains. Add a fold-down shower seat. Install a handheld shower head with a 6-foot hose. Add an adapter toilet seat to raise the seat several inches higher than the current toilet. Add safety rails near the toilet and in the tub/shower areas.
- Set the hot water heater temperatures to prevent scalding and clearly label all water faucets "hot" and "cold."
- Replace doorknobs and faucet handles with easy-to-use levers.
- Relocate all appliances, dishes and serving pieces where they are easy to reach.
- Use unbreakable dishes especially for regular daily use.
- Fix or discard anything in the home that is broken and have all small entry holes or gaps closed up to prevent rodents.

- Remove most sharp implements such as razor blades and knives and remove all poisons.
- Put eye-level decals or stickers on glass and screen doors and increase the wattage on all lamps and in most interior areas for better lighting.
- Have a regular schedule to check and clean or replace furnace and air conditioning filters and be sure all rooms have ventilation.
- Have solid chairs in rooms most used in case it is needed while passing from one room to another.
- Remove interior locks on all doors to prevent locking oneself in.
- Remove electric blankets and be sure the thermostat is not set too high or too low.
- Remove all clutter, even if it may take months to give away or toss things not serving a good purpose.

Michael Edlen is one of only a few local agents certified as a Senior Real Estate Specialist®. He has counseled hundreds of seniors about solutions to help them stay in their homes longer if they prefer to. Call: (310) 230-7373 or email [Michael@michaeledlen.com](mailto:Michael@michaeledlen.com).

# Pacific Coast Highway Has New Traffic Lights

## Palisades Bowl

At the quarterly meeting of the Pacific Coast Highway Task Force on August 17 in Malibu, it was announced that Caltrans has awarded a contract to replace the blinking pedestrian crossing light at Palisades Bowl Mobile Home Park at 16321 PCH.

Many motorists ignore the light, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross five lanes of traffic to gain access to the beach from the park. Instead they must navigate a non-existent shoulder of PCH for about a quarter of a mile to cross at Temescal Canyon Road.

The current blinking light will be re-

placed with a pedestrian-activated signal. According to Caltrans, the contractor has ordered factory-built materials for the project and delivery is expected in about seven weeks with installation to follow.

## Beach Parking Lot

A traffic signal is being proposed for 1050 Palisades Beach Road in Santa Monica at Parking Lot 3. The signal would provide a left-turn signal and U-turn capabilities to northbound cars on Pacific Coast Highway. The next step is a traffic study, which will be conducted this fall.



Caltrans will replace this blinking pedestrian light with a safer one at 16521 PCH.



Kelly Comras

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

# Comras to Speak about Ruth Shellhorn

Palisadian Kelly Comras, a landscape architect, will survey Ruth Shellhorn's career and her extraordinary achievements in a lecture based on her book, *Ruth Shellhorn* (University of Georgia Press) on Monday, October 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Palisades Woman's Club on Haverford.

The Palisades Garden Club event is free, no reservation is required, but there is limited seating. A reception and book signing will follow the program.

Shellhorn (1909-2006) developed the

landscaping design concepts for Bullock's department stores and for Disneyland. News writer Libby Motika detailed the book in her May 4 News story, "Comras Highlights Landscape Architect Shellhorn."

Comras will also speak at 1:30 p.m. on

Saturday, October 22, at the Virginia Robinson Gardens, 1008 Elden Way, Beverly Hills. There will be a reception prior to the talk and a book signing after the program. Advanced tickets can be purchased by calling (310) 550-2068.

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# BMO/BHO

(Continued from Page 1)

vation@LACity.org.)

Palisadians who live in the flats but are in the Coastal area, which includes lower Marquez, as well as portions of Community Council area 6, are in the RE zone, which would fall under the proposed BMO/BHO.

After the presentation, the public was allowed to comment on which zoning they felt best fit their neighborhood.

Hearing moderator Phyllis Nathanson first listened to people from Kentwood, Mar Vista and East Venice. Themes, similar to those that have been expressed in the Palisades, emerged. Some people decried oversized houses and the loss of natural light, while others maintained they have a right to build as large a home as is allowed under current zoning.

There were many people who wanted tighter restrictions, and those who wanted to maintain the current restrictions.

One person said that with kids coming back home to live because of the expense of apartments and elderly parents moving in because they need care, "I have to be given the freedom to decide what I need. There's no common sense with these codes."

Yet others decried developers. One person said, "There should be a consideration between owners who have lived there for a long



Alphabet Street residents are arguing over zoning that allows larger house sizes.

Photo: Sawyer Pascoe

time and who want to remodel, and developers who construct something on spec that occupies every square inch of the lot."

About 20 Palisades residents spoke, including those who live in the upper Chautauqua neighborhood.

"Our homes are low. There are many one-story houses that don't impede the view," Ann Kerr said. "We would request to be excluded." Neighbors Michael Jackson and Hillary Henson chimed in to agree with her.

Bestor resident Jack Allen said, "We're against any change. We would like to stay R1. If these zone variations change, the mansionization will continue on."

By contrast, Civic League president Rich-

ard Blumenberg said, "I support the R1V1; it is closest to the guidelines that we currently support," referring to his board's purview of most residential neighborhoods on the flat areas from Chautauqua to western Marquez Avenue (excepting the Huntington).

"I support reasonable restriction," said Reza Akef, a member of the Community Council, "but restriction of the 20-ft. plane does not work with our properties. This envelope does not apply to us. Grading is an issue." (Encroachment plane—the building mass above 20 feet in height must angle inward from front and side yards.)

Gabe Witherall said, "The Palisades has been overrun by very large houses; it has

become a developer-driven area."

Tammy McCauly, who lives in the Riviera neighborhood, said at one time the requirement was that 40 percent of the lot had to be green. "I think this is developer driven. There are massive houses on lots that can't support them."

Community Council representative Sue Kohl supported the R1V1 for the Alphabet neighborhood, as did Terrence Smiglia.

The Planning Department is looking for continuing feedback and will process emails with individual opinions through September 25. Send to neighborhoodconservation@lacity.org.

New Zone maps will be drawn up and planning recommendations will go to PLUM, mostly likely November 10. If approved, the recommendations will then go before the full City Council.

When Planning Department representatives attended the Community Council meeting on September 8, many board members expressed the view that current zoning is fine in Pacific Palisades—and isn't the key issue.

Representative Gil Dembo spoke for a majority present when he told the planners, "It's not construction, it's enforcement [of the building codes]. You're not following through."

Senior Planner Ezra Gale told Dembo, "Contact us and we will talk you through the process, so an inspector will go out and verify that the builder is following the plans." His email: Ezra.gale@lacity.org.

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# Update: Will Rogers Horse Concession

Last December 16, the *Palisades News* ran a story about the Will Rogers State Historic Park equestrian lessons and trail-riding concession bids by three companies: Westside Riding School, Ride On and Jigsaw Farms (“Will Rogers Horse Concession Contested”).

The 10-year concession contract included a minimum payment of \$60,000 a year. Utilities cost about \$8,000 and the contract included \$300,000 for facility improvements paid by the concessionaire.

## Needed: New Blood

Dr. Mike Martini, who has organized blood drives in Pacific Palisades for many years, is calling for “new blood.” Some of the regulars who have given for years have passed away or are on medications that prevent them from giving them blood.

So, roll up your sleeves and bring your “new” blood to the American Legion Hall, 15427 La Cruz Dr., between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 9 to donate through Providence St. John’s Medical Center.

Blood donations can be made every eight weeks (56 days). Those donating will receive a coupon for a pint of Baskin-Robbins ice cream. Call for an appointment, (310) 829-8886, or e-mail [sherryarroyo@providence.org](mailto:sherryarroyo@providence.org).

The three companies received points in individual categories. When those points were totaled (100 being the highest), Jigsaw received 89, Westside 85 and Ride On 80.

Although Jigsaw won the concession, the other two applicants filed a protest contending that the company was not well-vetted and lacked the requisite experience.

On July 19, Administrative Law Judge Jonathan Lew announced after briefs were filed that Westside would remain the concessionaire until another bid process is announced.

Jigsaw’s claims on a number of counts were disavowed and the court found the State to have awarded Jigsaw points that were not sustained. Judge Lew held that “[t]he Department improperly awarded small-business preference points to Jigsaw”

and that “[t]he Department’s awarding of a small-business preference points to Jigsaw constituted an abuse of its discretion.”

Westside was represented by Jonathan Shardlow of Gresham Savage. In a press release he wrote: “We are very grateful to the Department for acknowledging that it improperly determined that Jigsaw should be awarded the contract. The school very much looks forward to continuing to serve the public that frequents this beautiful, historic park, and in maintaining an excellent relationship with the Department.”

Westside initially operated under a two-year concession contract, but has been on a month-to-month status since 2008. In 2015, the Department awarded the contract to Jigsaw after its Request for Proposals bid scored the most points.



Cooper North and Daisy the Horse are under the supervision of Dorte Lindegaard Wolf.

Photo: Wendy Price Anderson

Shardlow noted that Jigsaw failed to substantiate that it had five years of experience owning, managing or operating a business of similar type, size and scope as the concession.

The protest filed by Ride On was denied.

## Marquez Knolls Annual Block Party

The annual Marquez Knolls block party will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 24 at the business block on Marquez Avenue. All Palisades residents are welcome.

This family event will include Whirlie the Clown, Danny the Balloon Artist, and the Spiderman Bounce House. Kids will also be able to climb aboard an LAFD fire truck and shake hands with an LAPD officer.

Greg Alper’s Quartet and the Alper Young Musicians Jazz Band will provide music, and ACS Security will offer free hotdogs, water and soda. Free raffle prizes will be donated by local merchants and businesses.

Contact: MKPOA President Christy Dennis at (310) 454-2824.

## Wine, Wellness At Woman’s Club

The Pacific Palisades Woman’s Club will host a wine and wellness evening on Saturday, September 24, at 901 Haverford Ave.

Socializing and wine starts at 5 p.m. A wellness workshop with guest speaker and exercise physiologist Toni Branner begins at 5:30, followed by a private Q&A at 6:30.

Call: (310) 454-9012 or email

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# Kaila Elsayegh, 9, Competes in Kids World Golf Championship

By SARAH STOCKMAN  
Palisades News Reporter

**K**aila Elsayegh, already a youth golf champion at age 9, competed in the U.S. Kids Golf World Championship at Pinehurst, North Carolina August 4-6. The Palisadian placed 22nd in her age group out of 102 competitors.

This year's tournament, which has been held every year since 2000, brought together over 1,450 boys and girls, aged 12 and under, from 47 states and 51 countries. They each played three rounds over three days.

Kaila made her debut in the tournament a year ago, finishing 19th in the Girls Age 8 division.

This year she had a lot of fun, although round two proved to be more difficult than anticipated.

"The first day I did really well," Kaila said. "And the second day the heavens opened up."

Despite the torrential downpour, the players had to keep playing. Kaila, a Southern California athlete, is unused to playing in such conditions and so her



Kaila Elsayegh

game suffered.

She had played exceptionally well in round one, finishing with a nine-hole score

of +2 over par. But she ended her waterlogged second round at +8. She rallied to finish +3 in round three, ending +13 for the tournament.

Megan Meng from New Jersey won Kaila's age group with a final score of -1 under par for 27 holes.

Kaila was disappointed with her total score. "Top 20 would have been good, but top 10 would have been better," she said. She believes that if she hadn't been discommodulated by the rain she would have made it into the top 10 or even the top 5.

Her father, Dr. Ashraf Elsayegh, understands her frustration, but still thinks she did really well. "She's disappointed, but it's pretty amazing," he said.

The golf season is winding down, although Kaila still has at least three high-profile tournaments to play.

On August 15 at the Angeles National Golf Course in Sunland, she played in the Western Regional Semifinals for the Drive, Chip, and Putt Championship. She placed third with a total score of 127 in the three categories, only two points behind the second place finisher. Only the top two scorers

advance to the next round, but Kaila was satisfied with her performance because the two girls ahead of her were 11 and 12 years old.

Kaila will also play two tournaments in hopes of again qualifying for the 2017 U.S. Kids Golf World Championship. She competed in Palm Springs September 9 and 10 and took fourth. She had a tough first round finishing with a 40, but came back in her second round with a 36, which left her eight strokes behind the winner. On November 5-6 she'll play at the Monterey Open. She is currently the defending age-group champion in both events.

In October, Kaila turns 10, which means she'll be changing age groups. "Once you turn 10, you play 18 holes in the regional tournaments," she said. "And you play longer distances." She has started training for the longer courses by going to the gym and jogging, along with practicing three hours a day at the Mountain Gate Country Club.

Kaila began 4th grade at the Village School this month. (See our previous feature, "Elsayegh Golfs at International Level," July 20).

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## Bud Kling: 40 City Tennis Titles

By SARAH STOCKMAN  
Palisades News Reporter  
Photos by Lesly Hall

**B**ud Kling, the boys and girls coach at Palisades High, is a perfectionist. Paperwork must be handed in on time, the off-seasons are filled with extensive exercises, players must show up for every practice, and matches are played to a certain caliber.

Kling certainly gets results. He is easily the winningest coach in PaliHi history with 40 City Section team championships under his belt. He is also just 67 wins away from having the most career match wins of any high school coach in the nation. To date he has 1,094 wins and 120 losses.

Kling, a longtime resident of Pacific Palisades, doesn't get too excited about the fact that he's so close to setting a record. He credits his success to having talented players over the years.

"I have to admit it would be kind of an honor to break it. It would be something to know you've won more matches than anyone else in tennis history," Kling said. "I've been blessed to have very good teams and players."

Kling grew up in Los Angeles and New Orleans, and played football, basketball and tennis. He began his career at PaliHi in January 1978 as a substitute teacher. Prior that, he had been substitute teaching and coaching football at University High School.

"When I got out of UCLA there were really very few jobs available," Kling said. "In those days there was a glut of teachers."

Although he enjoyed teaching at Uni, he immediately fell for PaliHi.

"I lasted three or four days [as a substitute] and knew I wanted to be at Pali," Kling said. "It was completely different."

In September that year, he was hired to teach Health and coach the JV football team at Pali. He took over the boys tennis team in 1979 when Bud Ware, who had coached the team since 1963, retired.

Kling has coached the boys team every year since then and started coaching the girls team in 1984. He stopped coaching the girls in 2008 when he retired from teaching at Pali, but continued coaching the boys.

He stopped coaching the girls, not because he didn't



PaliHi freshmen *Caleigh Crossman, Polina Zotenko and Alyssa Velky* with coach Bud Kling.

enjoy it, but because their season is in the fall and the boys are a spring sport.

"You're working intensively over the summer to get everything ready for the fall," Kling said. "With the boys you have all of summer and fall to get ready, so it's a lot easier. The girls are scattered all over the country over the summer and they have to come back right away."

This means it's harder to get paperwork in on time, hold tryouts, and know that the girls are in shape.

Kling returned to coaching the girls team in 2015, although he's unsure how long he'll continue.

"After a few years my assistant coach [Sean Passan] asked me if I would come back for a year," Kling said. "That year has turned into two years, and I can see it going for a year or two more, but it's a year-by-year thing."

Kling sticks to a simple philosophy when it comes to coaching: play smart and have fun.

"Play smart [and] play a game that you feel comfortable with and that creates a losing atmosphere for your opponent," he said. "Seek out challenges and tough opponents."

Kling's 37th season is underway, with 12 players on his varsity team and 11 JV players, who are coached by Sam Megowan, in his second year at Pali.

Last year varsity team went 22-3 and made it to the State Regionals, but Kling lost three seniors from that team and four other players.

"One of them is doing something different, two are moving away, and one girl moved to a tennis academy



*Caleigh Crossman*

in Orange County," Kling said.

"Our City CIF championship is usually the highlight of the season. With those four girls we were close to being a lock. Now we're an underdog," the coach said. "But that's okay, we like being the underdog."

Kling said he still enjoys coaching and does not have any immediate plans to retire.

"One of the main things I enjoy about doing this is when I bump into people who are in their 40s and 50s," he said. "Their kids are going through Pali and I'm coaching their kids or grandkids."

Kling and his wife, Cheryl, have lived in the same house above Sunset since 1982. Their daughter Ryan lives in Mar Vista and son Alex lives in Hollywood, both of whom Kling coached.

The Dolphins' next home match will be September 26 against Fairfax, 2:30 p.m. at the Palisades Recreation Center.



Palisades High tennis coach Bud Kling.

# Pali Crushes Granada in 'Bowl' Game

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

The Palisades High Dolphins scored their first touchdown with four minutes left in the first quarter, and then hit their stride, pounding out one TD after another as they beat Granada Hills, 56-17, to capture the 11th annual Charter Bowl trophy.

"We love playing the Charter Bowl as a team," Coach Tim Hyde said. "It is a 'Trophy Game' and the team works hard during practice to focus on keeping that trophy here at Palisades."

The trophy stays with the winning school until the next season. Pali has defeated its charter-school foe seven times.

In preseason, Hyde said he had three strong running backs and predicted the Dolphins' strength would be on the ground.

His team lost its opener, 36-0, to Sierra Canyon, one of the top 30 teams in the state. Penalties and an injury to senior quarterback Gabe Galef kept Pali from showcasing its running game.

The Dolphins bounced back to defeat Sylmar 21-7, as the defense took center stage, forcing six turnovers.

Then on September 9, Pali's running game proved unstoppable against Granada Hills. It was a thing of beauty to watch Innocent Okoh, Marrio Lofton and Stone Maderer find holes as they dodged through players to rack up yardage. Okoh had two touchdowns and Lofton one.

"We are still developing the offensive line," Hyde said afterwards. "A lot of hard work over the last month paid off for that one game."

Additionally, Pali's defense put so much pressure on quarterback Ernesto Guevara that he had little time to



Wide receiver Cameron Bailey scored a touchdown for the Dolphins.

Photo: Drew Vaupen



Running back Innocent Okoh evades Granada Hill players with help from Stone Maderer.

Photo: Drew Vaupen

pass or run, and often the play never made it past the line of scrimmage.

"Their quarterback is a very talented player and last year our defense let him have a great game against us," Hyde said. "The kids were very hungry to not let him do that again. The defensive unit executed the game plan to near perfection."

Leading 7-0, the Dolphins scored 35 points in the second quarter, and led 49-17 after three quarters.

With quarterback Galef out for a few games with an injured MCL, Jonah Manheim has stepped up and is keeping the offense running smoothly, scoring one

touchdown. Pierre Kaku stepped in as the number two and also scored a touchdown, too. In addition to kicking eight PATS, Jake Taitelman scored a TD, too. Also scoring were Cameron Baily and Dakotah Hamilton.

After a bye week, Palisades has been "fine tuning and focusing on the details" while "getting healthy," said Hyde, as the team prepares to go on the road this Friday against Huntington Park (3-1).

The Dolphins play at home on September 30 against Chatsworth, then open Western League play at home against University on October 7.

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# Water Polo Seeks Tough Foes

PaliHi's water polo coach Adam Blakis has started the season by challenging his players with two tough tournament and a non-league match against powerful Santa Monica.

At the Conejo Classic in Thousand Oaks on September 9-10, the Dolphins came away with three wins and two losses. They defeated Rio Mesa 14-7, Moorpark 15-12 and Notre Dame 12-9, but lost to Crescenta Valley 13-3 and a rematch with Moorpark, 12-7.

"The second time we played them, we only had an hour rest and they had three," Blakis said. "We were exhausted."

Crespi won the tournament and Moorpark took third.

"Beating Moorpark, a CIF Division 2 team, was huge," Blakis said. "We are playing a new style of motion offense that really came together as the tournament moved forward. It involves the whole team, and on the first day, every one of our players scored."

During the tournament, Quinn Godfredsen scored 17 goals, with a shooting percentage of .586. Teammate Gabriel Feizbakhsh hit the net 15 times (out of 30 attempts). Blakis also signaled out Lucas Silva for his exceptional defense. Alternating in goal were senior Brandon Epp and junior Michail Melnik.



Center, left to right, wearing blue caps, Orson Spence, Gabriel Feizbakhsh and Theo Trask mounted a solid defense to aid goalie Michail Melnik (far left).

Photo: Ben Trask

Next up, Palisades lost a competitive match to Santa Monica, 10-6, on September 14. Godfredsen was the leading scorer with four goals and Feizbakhsh and Silva each scored once. Epp was in the goal.

Pali's JV team beat Samo, 12-5. Four players had two goals each, four players had one and all 20 members of the team played. The varsity Dolphins played in the Malibu tournament last Tuesday against

Agoura JV, followed by Hueneme, with victories in both matches. Final games were on Saturday, after the News had gone to press. League play starts with a home match against San Pedro on September 26.

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# Dolphins Run Well at Invitational

Palisades High School head coach Bob Macias was in the process of sending 70 members of his cross-country teams off on different runs around the Palisades last Wednesday, when he spoke to the *News*.

Some of the runners were headed up Bi-veneda, others to Will Rogers. The last group took off towards the beach with plans to loop back up Chautauqua and into town.

“We’ve been practicing on hills this year,” Macias said—and maybe that has already paid off.

The Dolphins competed in the Seaside

Cross Country Invitational in Ventura on September 9, and the boys finished second overall in a field of 40 teams and the girls placed 16th overall.

“We certainly did well,” Macias said. “We opened up some eyes at Seaside.”

Brent Smith placed third in the sophomore race with a time of 15:31.5 on the three-mile course against 329 runners. Ben Hamer took first in the junior race with the second-fastest time of the meet (14:52.3) and teammate Jake Greanias was 12th (15:36.8) among 262 runners. Jakob Pollack was sixth in the senior division (15:01.3)

with 201 runners. The top freshman runner was Alec Stewart (31 out of 298).

On the girls side, freshman Sarah Bentley was 10th out of 215 with a time of 19:22.7. The fastest sophomore was Brittany Darrow (25 out of 225). Junior Kimia Samandi was ninth (18:55.9) in a field of 196. Senior Shannon Lee was 37th (19:59).

“Our depth is where we are strong on our boys team,” said Macias, who also praised his girls team.

He and Coach Paul Foxson, who runs the track program at Paul Revere Middle School, discuss runners. “We have a good core of freshman boys and girls this year,” Macias said.

This past weekend, the Dolphins participated in the Woodbridge Invitational (no results by presstime), and on September 24 they will compete in an invitational meet at Griffith Park. The first league meet is October 6 against Fairfax at Kenneth Hahn Park.

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# Chamber Polo Tourney To Be Held at Will Rogers

The 24th Annual Chamber of Commerce Polo Tournament will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 25 at Will Rogers State Historic Park and is free to the public. Parking is \$12.

There will be food trucks for everyone, a silent auction, free tours of the Will Rogers ranch house (11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.). For the kids there will be face painting, pony rides and Whirlie the Clown.

This year the committee has added a champagne and coffee bar, sponsored by Hornburg Santa Monica. Savor the treats while looking over the Land Rover or Jaguar that Hornburg will have on display before the games begin.

Throwing in the ball before each match will be Chamber President Adam Glazer, Steve Ghysels of Wells Fargo Private Bank, Mr. Palisades Evan Epstein and Miss Palisades Casey Longstreet.

The major sponsor of the event is Wells Fargo The Private Bank and silver sponsor is Hornburg Jaguar. Teams will be sponsored by ADT; Amalfi Estates; Perennial Financial Services; Pacific Palisades Lions Club; and RLB Architecture.

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Horses can gallop at break-neck speed during a polo match. Photo: Tom Hofer

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## Sanborn Makes a Journey of Spirit

By LAUREL BUSBY  
Staff Writer

For 15 years, Carol Sanborn imagined taking a pilgrimage to northern Spain. She sought to walk the same route as travelers since the Middle Ages who traversed hundreds of miles over several weeks to reach the legendary burial place of apostle St. James in Santiago.

Until this spring, Sanborn, the director of pastoral ministry at Corpus Christi Church, had too many responsibilities to take six weeks off to make the journey, which she first read about in Shirley MacLaine's book, *The Camino: A Journey of the Spirit*.

However, "the history, the spirituality, the challenge and the quiet" of the Camino called to Sanborn. The 62-year-old Palisadian kept a scallop shell, the symbol for the trail and the fisherman St. James, hanging from her kitchen window to inspire her.

This year, the timing was finally right. "Everybody who needed something faded into the distance, and so this spot opened up," Sanborn said. Her husband, Scott, and grown children, Jessica, 29, Eric, 27 and Ander, 24, agreed to meet her in Spain after her walk ended, so she packed her backpack and off she went.

Since the Ninth century, the pilgrimage has been taken by kings, queens, noblemen and commoners, including Charlemagne



Carol Sanborn in Muxía, Spain, on a windy day with the Atlantic Ocean behind her.

and St. Francis. Sanborn strove to make the journey, which she began in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, France, in a traditional manner without booking a room or a tour, but instead "having total faith that there would be a bed somewhere, that people would help me out." And they did.

Along the trail, which is partially a rocky dirt path through the Pyrenees with only oc-



A tunnel on Carol Sanborn's 620-mile odyssey along the Camino de Santiago.

Photo: Carol Sanborn

casional hostels miles apart, Sanborn made new friends, including a woman who had lost her son to suicide, a young Dane whose hiking shoes hurt her feet so badly that she had to complete the trip in Birkenstocks, and a man whose marriage had fallen apart.

Sanborn felt connected not only to these current pilgrims but also to the many travelers who had come before them. "You certainly felt like you weren't alone," she said. "You have a real sense that you're walking the same path of over a thousand years of history. Sometimes you have that sense that I can't even imagine all the other people who put their foot here. What was their story? It was very, very powerful."

Along the way, Sanborn shed pounds from her backpack, which began the walk packed with 34 pounds, including her sleeping bag. "I do not need all this stuff," she realized and eventually let go of about 11 pounds of items. "That is so metaphoric for life."

Carrying the pack, though, never bothered her. "You just get used to it. It's just what you do." And her body held up well, with not even a blister during the 620-mile journey, which started with a 16-mile hike on the first day.

Sanborn mostly stayed at hostels, called albergues in Spanish, which could house as many as 80 people in bunk beds in one room, but usually held between 20 to 40 pilgrims. The cost was only 8-10 euros per night, and the hungry travelers who ate about 8,000 calories a day also often enjoyed a three-course pilgrim's meal in the evening for 8 euros. Sandwiches might cost 1-3 euros, while breakfast was 2 euros.

"It's the cheapest vacation in the world,"

said Sanborn, who each day never spent more than 30-35 euros on food and lodging.

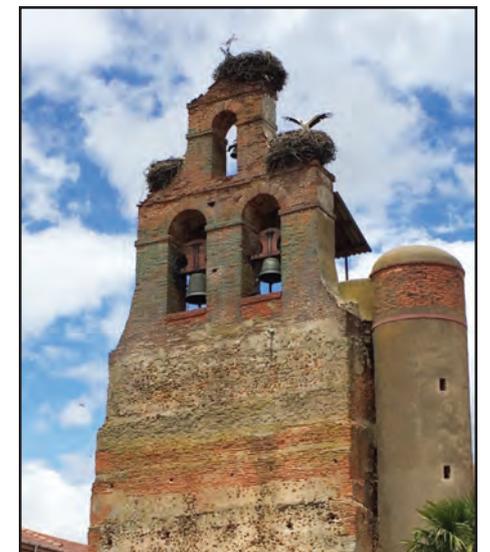
One night, the only albergue was full, and to find a bed, she and a new friend caught a ride with a traveling lottery salesman to the next town about 10 miles away. Then in the morning, Sanborn walked 10 miles back to the first town, so she could walk the whole route. "I didn't want to miss an inch of it," she said.

As Sanborn walked, sometimes alone and sometimes with new friends, she met people of all religions and from countries all over the world, including Korea, Japan, China, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Iraq and the many countries of Europe. "It just was so amazing to find out how much we all had in common," Sanborn said. "It was also a very humbling experience to start out alone and find yourself



Mass at the Cathedral de Santiago in Spain with 13 bishops and priests and thousands of peregrines (pilgrims).

Photo: Carol Sanborn



Atop an old building, it's nesting season for the storks.

Photo: Carol Sanborn

in this international community.”

Some were purists, who traveled in the traditional way that Sanborn cherished, while others had a travel agent book the entire trip with taxis to hotels each evening. Others did the journey as an athletic event, working to do large numbers of miles each day, while some took tour buses and dropped into the trip for a few miles at the most scenic parts.

“Some of the purists were kind of judgmental about it,” Sanborn said. “As time went on, we suspended judgment and realized that everybody had their journey.”

Even scientist and writer Stephen Hawking has done part of the Camino in his wheelchair, while actors Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez took to the trail when creating a fictional movie about it, *The Way*.

One thing Sanborn noticed that the planners did miss was some of the journey’s spontaneity, which might include a festive event at the albergue or the joy of a communal dinner. For her, “it was an exercise in suspending expectation. You woke up each morning being totally open to what might happen that day, whether it would be rain, whether it would be a mountain, whether it would be someone you met who slowed you down, because they needed a little bit more.”

Along the way, Sanborn encountered people with jobs ranging from a high school biology teacher to a retired cattle-hoof trimmer. The journey was an equalizer. When a pilgrim arrived at the albergue for the night, “it didn’t matter whether you



One muddy day and a new walking friend, a retired cattle hoof trimmer from Minnesota.

Photo: Carol Sanborn

were a bank president or a busboy or a student or a senior partner in some law firm, you were given a receipt, got a bunk bed, maybe it had a window, maybe not. We were all treated the same.”

Although anyone can make the trek, Sanborn, who has climbed Mt. Whitney and done the three-day Avon walk twice, found it surprisingly challenging, especially through the Pyrenees. They traversed mountain ridges and climbed over boulders, on a road that was not paved for the “vast majority of the time.”

“Once or twice a day you would see a marker of someone who died—sometimes in 2014 or 2013,” Sanborn said. “You can understand how easy it would be for something to go wrong.”

The Spaniards who live along the trail try to help. Some put out baskets of fruit with invitations to help yourself. One woman made fresh tortillas and stood in front of her house handing them out. “The people who live along the Camino see themselves as having a responsibility to be hospitable,” Sanborn said.

Eventually, she walked into Santiago, where the cathedral has a section set aside for pilgrims. She sat in the front row for the ceremony, which features a huge incense lamp that is swung back and forth through the cathedral to cleanse the church because traditionally the arriving pilgrims smelled so bad from their travels.

“It just gave me goosebumps,” Sanborn said of witnessing the ritual that she had read about and seen in videos. She thought, “I cannot believe that I’m here . . . I just can’t believe that I’m actually doing this.”

She even went further than the destination of the cathedral in Santiago to visit Muxía and Finisterre, Spain’s westernmost point, and she received certificates commemorating all three journeys. During their travels, pilgrims carry a passport-type document where they get stamps from



Carol Sanborn drinks from the wine fountain at a monastery.



Sometimes sheep were fellow travelers on the Camino de Santiago. Photo: Carol Sanborn

each stop to receive a certificate at the end.

The certificates are treasured mementos, and the memories have infused Sanborn’s life since she returned. “People cooperate and people care and people share and people are just totally present,” she said. “They’re not worried about what’s going to happen tomorrow and what happened yesterday. It was just amazing.”

Sanborn will discuss her journey at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 30, at Corpus Christi Church, 880 Toyopa Drive. She will also present in October, date to be decided.

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# Hilarity Prevails at the Getty Villa

By LIBBY MOTIKA  
Palisades News Contributor

Mayhem has been untethered this summer at the Getty Villa. Cowbells, pratfalls, unscripted asides, acrobatics and music embellish a sliver of a plot in *Haunted House Party*, a Roman comedy loosely based on Plautus' *Mostellaria* (or *Haunted House*), now on the Getty's outdoor stage through October 1.

It has been six years since Getty audiences have enjoyed a comedy, and considering the generally fretful times we live in, this is a most welcome respite.

As with all the Getty presentations, historical context helps to place this play in theater history and demonstrate how timeless it is.

*Mostellaria* was written around 200 B.C., during or after the Second Punic War, when Hannibal had crossed the Alps into Italy. Rome was a military power and unlike Greece, not predisposed to cultural pursuits, except for the religious festivals intended to propitiate the gods; and where public entertainment, including comedic plays, were presented.

The Villa's play, *Haunted House Party*, is based on a Greek model and set in Athens. The actors, all slaves most likely captured from the war, played stock characters that audiences would have recognized. Because no public permanent theaters were allowed in Rome at the time, these were itinerant troupes whose rag-tag players were only as successful as they were pleasing to the audiences. They talked directly to the audience of varied social classes, feeding them on with spur-of-the-moment slapstick and



*Haunted House Party* players, from left: Rick Batalla (slave boy/Simo), Misty Cotton (Delphium), Matt Walker (Tranio/director/adaptor), Matthew Patrick Davis (Callidamates), Tyler Kind (Troupe Crew), Joey Kean (Philematium), and Nicholas Cutro (Philoaches).

Photo: Craig Schwartz

bawdy jokes.

To bring all this to the contemporary audience is a challenge eagerly met by the Troubadour Theater Company, under the direction of Matt Walker.

"These plays are dead as a nail if you read them," Walker said at the recent press introduction. "We are reviving them and making people laugh at them."

The Troubies evoke the idea of a traveling company, arriving in town with all their

tricks and props in a sort of circus cart. The cart becomes an integral part of the otherwise minimal set on the Villa stage.

As the players poured onto the stage,

Getty Museum Director Tim Potts tried his best to preserve decorum, while the actors playfully teased him, twittering among

(Continued on Page 24)

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## Hilarity

(Continued from Page 25)

themselves and gently hectoring him.

Other actors mingled with audience members while others flexed their skillful bodies in acrobatic tricks.

The plot, in a nutshell, features a sort of *Risky Business* trope. When the father, Callidamates, is out of town on business, his son, Philolaches, throws a bacchanal, borrows a large sum of money to buy the slave girl he loves, and is caught short when he learns of his father's premature return. But luckily at the last minute, the conniving slave Tranio uses his inventive schemes to save the day. As with all Roman comedies, all's well that ends well.

Walker and the Troubies treat the work like a sitcom and their genius is adapting pop songs to be germane to the story.

Examples abound, so when Callidamates returns and learns the truth, The Doors' "The End" is evoked. And, for good measure, because this is what keeps us laughing, the lyrics continue: "This is the end, my only friend, the end when Donald Trump is president."

In another, Callidamates is wooed to forgiveness towards the end of the play. Now the song is "My Way," evoking the Sinatra elegy. "Now, the song is near the final curtain . . . he did it his way."

The finale does come, but not without myriad and hilarious "interruptions." The players take time to josh with an audience member who arrives late. When Tranio is ordered to buy up all the prostitutes in town, he's cautioned not to forget that one, pointing to someone in the audience.

References are topical: the father spent three years in Egypt, where it was constantly "Arab Spring, every night in an Arab B&B."

When the banker comes to collect, she shouts "You owe me money!" and then re-



Haunted House Party actors, from left: Nicholas Cutro (Philolaches) and Joey Kean (Philematium). Photo: Craig Schwartz

ferring to the Getty, she adds: "There is no shortage of money here, but they could have put in more elevators . . . I could have been married and divorced coming up the stairs!"

For all the tomfoolery, the success of the play relies on this superb company. The Troubadour Theater Company members are all exceptional theater professionals, skilled in acting, music, comedy and physicality.

Known for their adaptations of classic and modern content, they previously presented *Oedipus the King*, *Mama* (with music from Elvis) and "ABBAMemnon" (with music from ABBA) for the Villa's Theater Lab.

The Troubies' presentation of *Haunted House Party* is their first in the Villa's outdoor theatre.

Performances continue Thursdays through Saturdays, 8 p.m. at the Getty Villa Outdoor Classical Theater. For tickets, call (310) 440-7300 or visit: [getty.edu/museum/programs/performance/outdoor\\_theater\\_16.html](http://getty.edu/museum/programs/performance/outdoor_theater_16.html).



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In addition, there is an outdoor patio with heaters for chilly nighttime dining. And, as you arrive, check out the daily specials written on the blackboard at the patio entrance.

Listed the night we dined was fresh Barramundi fish from Australia with a lemon caper sauce (\$29.90), and a special pappardelle pasta with sausage and shiitake mushrooms in a white-wine sauce with shaved Parmesan (\$22.99). Both were excellent.

Of course, while sipping our glasses of wine we surveyed the extensive menu before ordering and deciding which of the dozen-and-a-half salads we wanted to share.

There were also many pastas along with entrees such as Mary's Free Range Organic Chicken and a Wild King Salmon filet. Then, for those who prefer a burger or sandwich, or a wrap, there are those offerings too, as well as popular pizzas and calzone.

Tivoli's beef comes from Harris Ranch, which prides itself on offering all-natural and local meat, as well as



Shelton's free-range turkey. Happily, while studying the menu we were served a basket of delicious warm bread and garlic-bread nuggets with a small dish of fine olive oil with a touch of balsamic vinegar for dipping the bread.

My friend and I shared the pear salad of organic mixed greens, with candied walnuts, sliced pear and crumbled blue cheese, topped with a delightful cranberry dressing (\$14.99). Other salads come in half or full portions varying in price. The house salad is \$6.99 for the half and \$9.99 for the full, while the Mista salad is \$8.99 for half and \$12.99 for the full salad.

Many of salads, such as the shrimp and spinach salad (\$21.99) could be a main dish. There is also a trio of Kale chicken, shrimp or Caesar salads. Enhancements include grilled chicken breast, grilled shrimp, smoked salmon, goat cheese and avocado.

The sausage and mushroom salad was delightfully tasty and generously portioned so that my friend could enjoy the take-home leftover for lunch the next day. The lemon caper topping on my excellent fresh fish added a superb flavor. With it came a large portion of delicious mashed potatoes, carrots, zucchini and broccoli, making the plate a very large portion. So, I also went home with leftovers.

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers on Page 9)

A taste of dessert is always the meal finish I desire. We were not disappointed by the rich, flourless chocolate cake with its beautiful chocolaty flavor, and the tasty lemon pine nuts.

There are daily specials and on Monday and Tuesday night, diners get their second glass of wine for \$2, if they order main course entrees. On Wednesday nights, from 5 to 9 p.m., pastas include a free salad.

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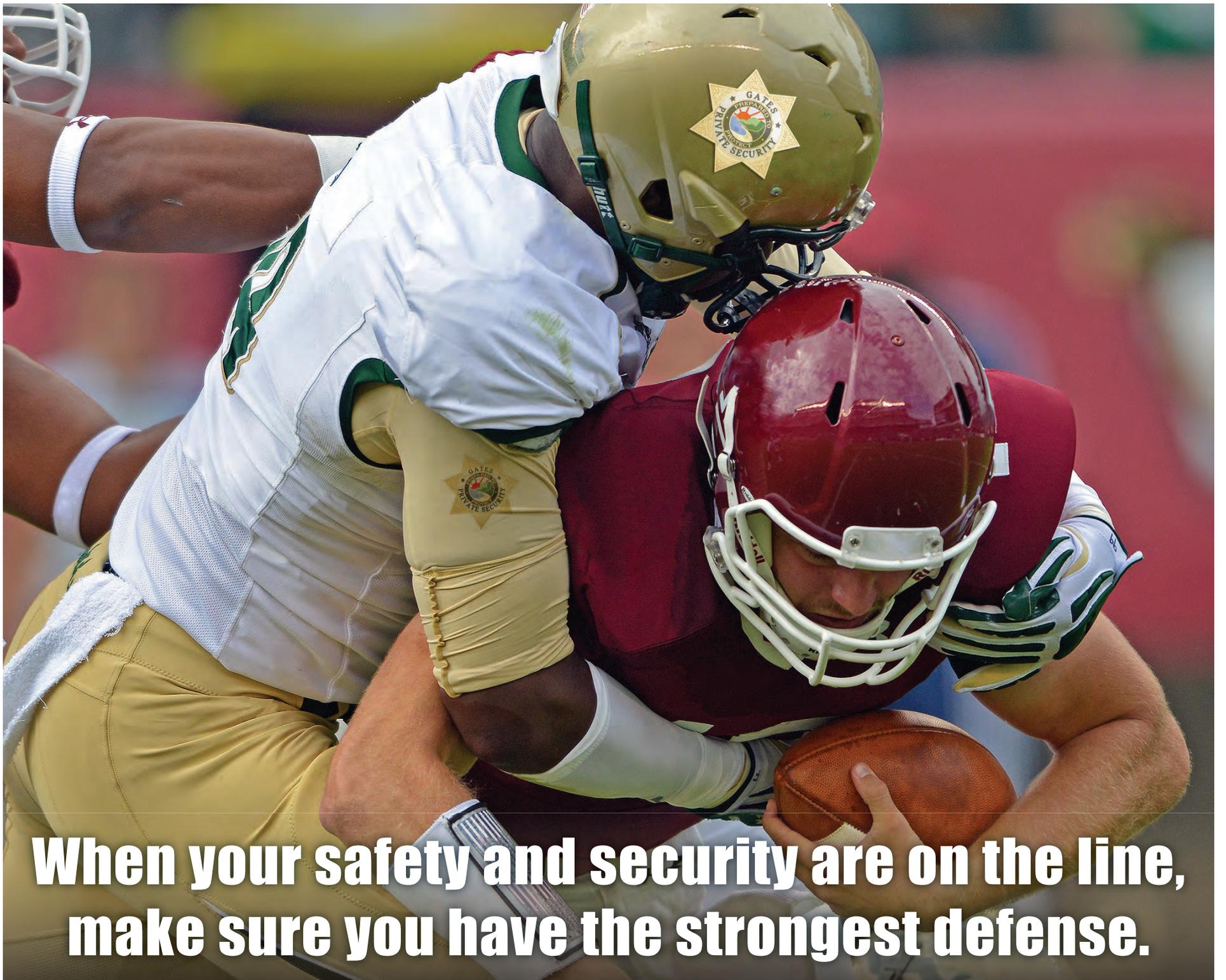
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 - Richard W.

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