



Thanking Our Veterans

Scott Wagenseller, owner of the Palisades News and active in the Naval Reserve, was joined at Palisades Elementary by Dr. Mike Martini, Captain Marygrace Tillman and Major Travis Tillman to explain the importance of Veterans Day. Photo: Alison Burmeister

DWP Poles on Sunset Raise Ire

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Outside the Palisades Branch Library last Wednesday evening, the temperature was hot. But inside it was even hotter, as about 30 residents participated in an angry meeting that focused on the intended pole-top distribution station (PTDS) at 16980 Sunset, across from the western terminus of Marquez Avenue.

The L.A. DWP has already installed two 65-ft.-high poles in the parkway easement along Sunset, in front the former Bernheimer Gardens property and close to an apartment building.

A developer who had acquired the Bernheimer property about three months ago, and had planned to build two homes on the site, was represented by his lawyer, a land-use consultant, two electrical consultants

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TPY Auditions Set For Madagascar

Theatre Palisades Youth will hold two auditions for its winter musical, *Madagascar*. Director Lara Ganz and musical director Caitlin Tortorici will hold the auditions from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Friday, November 18, and from 2 to 5 p.m. on November 19, at the Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd. Youth may choose which day they prefer to audition.

Those auditioning should prepare a one-minute selection from a Broadway musical (not a pop song). Youth, ages 8 to 14, should come in closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing for the dancing portion of the audition. Kids will be asked to do cold readings from the script.

Rehearsals for the show will begin January 18, and will be held from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. Performance dates are February 24, 25 and 26, and March 3, 4 and 5.

Visit: theatrepalisades.org.

Gronich Is 'Citizen of the Year'

By BILL BRUNS
Palisades News Adviser

Daphne Gronich, the indefatigable president of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) for three years running, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Pacific Palisades Community Council.

The Council's Awards Selection Committee reviewed nominations received from throughout the community and voted to present Golden Sparkplug awards to five deserving activists: Sylvia Boyd, Patrick Hart, Amy Lundberg, Karen Stigler and Veslemoey Zwart.

In addition, the committee elected to give the discretionary Pride of the Palisades Award to Bob Benton, a prominent local businessman and volunteer commissioner of the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association.

"We had an unusually impressive list of nominated residents this year," said committee chair George Wolfberg, the PPCC



Daphne Gronich

Photo: Lesly Hall

vice chair and a former Citizen of the Year himself.

The awards will be handed out at the PPCC's annual holiday party on December 8 at Gladstone's on PCH.

First awarded in 1947, the Citizen of the Year Award honors a Palisades resident "who has enriched the fabric of Pacific Palisades through long term and continuing outstanding volunteer service as well as a recent extraordinary accomplishment which has resulted in a substantial benefit to the community at large."

"Daphne Gronich is a worthy descendent of past winners," said Wolfberg, on behalf of the seven-person selection committee. As president of PAPA since 2014, she has faced

the daunting challenge of raising about \$125,000 a year in order for PAPA to stage the town's iconic Fourth of July parade and the evening concert and fireworks display. Gronich must also coordinate the work of about 20 volunteers on her organizing committee, from securing the necessary permits and insurance to staging the pre-parade VIP lunch and recruiting parade entries.

Yet ultimately, she derives deep satisfaction from the time she invests in PAPA. As she told the *News* in June, "The Fourth of July is part of what makes our community such a great place to live."

Gronich, an attorney, was active at Palisades Elementary and now serves on the (Continued on Page 10)

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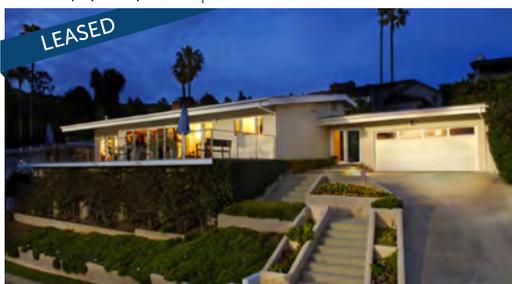
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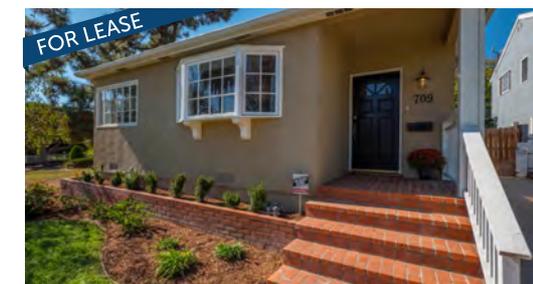
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Meet the New Captains at Fire Station 69

By SUE PASCOE

Editor

Photos by Lesly Hall

With the return of Engine 69, there are now three shifts (A, B and C) and six captains at the Pacific Palisades fire station on Sunset at Carey Street.

Each shift has two captains, and with the exception of Captain Tom Moore, who has been in the Palisades for several years, the rest of the crew are new to our community.



A Platoon captains Tony Valdez and Darryl Mitchell

A Platoon: Captains Darryl Mitchell and Tony Valdez

Darryl Mitchell has worked for the fire department for 33 years. Before moving to Station 69 four months ago, he spent four years in North Hollywood at Station 89.

During his career, he's been assigned to many difficult situations, including the 1992 civil unrest. The riots started in South-Central L.A. and spread across the metropolitan area over a six-day period after a jury acquitted four officers of using excessive force in the arrest and beating of Rodney King. There was widespread looting, assault, arson and killings during the riots and estimates of property damage was more than \$1 billion. Fifty-five people were killed and 2,000 injured.

Mitchell was also on duty when the 1994 Northridge earthquake hit.

A Thousand Oaks resident, he has a daughter Leah, who is in her third year at Cal State Channel Island, studying to be a teacher. He has an 11-year-old son Cy, who plays football and basketball at school.

When he's not at the station, Mitchell builds custom cars and enjoys drag racing.

"I am humbled by the care and support we receive from Palisades residents," he said.

Anthony Valdez has held the rank of firefighter, engineer and now as captain in his 32 years of service with the LAFD. He has served at 15 fire stations and, since making captain, his special duty assignments have been in-service training and the Brush Clearance Unit.

He was present at the First Interstate high-rise fire, the L.A. Library fire, Baldwin Hills fire, the 1992 riots, several deployments to brush-fires outside the City, including around Malibu.

"Become familiar with the 'Ready, Set, Go! Program,'" Valdez said, and explained: "This program utilizes fire-

fighters from the LAFD's Disaster Preparedness Unit to instruct individuals who live in high-risk wildfire areas and the wildland/urban interface how to best prepare themselves and their properties against fire threats."

The program works in a complementary fashion with the federal program Firewise, and other existing state wildland fire public education efforts.

"All work toward the common goal of creating a fire safe environment to live, work and play in," Valdez said.

B Platoon: Captains Robert Bates and Tom Kitahata

Robert Bates was hired by the LAFD in 1987 and has worked at stations all over Los Angeles. Before coming here, he spent seven years at Station 98 in Pacoima.

"I'm glad to be at Fire Station 69," Bates said. "Let residents know that they can stop by if they have any questions regarding fire education or if they just want to say 'Hi,' or meet us."

In 1992, he was called upon to help fight the fires during the riots, and the next year he was assigned to the devastating Malibu brush fire. In 1994, he was on duty when the Northridge earthquake happened. Currently he lives in Orange County in Yorba Linda.

Bates, who lives in Yorba Linda, stresses "It is important for residents to evacuate, when requested to, if a brush fire is threatening their neighborhood."

He also reminds residents to test their smoke detectors monthly and to change the batteries once a year.

Tom Kitahata has been with the LAFD for more than 28 years. He has worked in Hollywood, Echo Park/Rampart, South Central, Westlake district, Van Nuys, East L.A. and Downtown.

"Like many of my fellow firefighters at Station 69, I have participated in the Northridge earthquake aftermath, the civil disturbance of 1992, and the Calabasas and Malibu fires in the '90s," said Kitahata, who was also assigned to



B Platoon captains Robert Bates and Tom Kitahata

fight wildland fires in Northern California, the Sierras, Los Padres, Cleveland and San Bernardino mountains.

Kitahata is also a member of FEMA's California Task Force and One Urban Search and Rescue Team. He was deployed to New York City after the World Trade Center attacks.

In 2005, he was sent to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and a month later to the same area for Hurricane Rita, which was considered a stronger storm than Katrina. He was also sent to Texas after Hurricane Ike in 2008.

Kitahata and his wife Cheryl live in Thousand Oaks and have three children: a son who attends Illinois

Tech, a daughter who's a senior at Westlake High School and an eighth-grade son.

"Whether it be brush fires in our wildland urban interface areas, earthquakes, floods (if it ever rains again), or other disasters, you should have a plan for evacuation, what to take with you, where to go, and who to call," Kitahata said. "Make a point to meet your neighbors and be friends. When the Big One hits, you and your neighbors may be on your own until help arrives."



C Platoon captains Tom Moore and Erik Schneider

C Platoon: Captains Erik Schneider and Tom Moore

Erik Schneider, who joined the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1986, spent most of his career in South L.A. and downtown before coming to Station 69 in August.

Last month he helped fight the Chimney Fire near Lake Nacimiento, which burned 46,344 acres in San Luis Obispo County. Nearly 4,000 personnel were deployed, along with seven air tankers, 16 helicopters, 46 bulldozers and 69 water tenders.

Here in the Palisades, "The thing that surprises me most about the area is that the streets are so tight it really slows our response time," Schneider said. He has also noticed how close residents are to brush interface. "If people live in an area that is close to the brush, they really need to be diligent about brush clearance."

Schneider has resided in Thousand Oaks for the past 25 years.

Tom Moore, who also lives in Thousand Oaks, has been with the LAFD for 36 years. He came to the Palisades in 2014 after working with the Hazardous Material Task Force in San Fernando Valley, and the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force in Hollywood.

Through different assignments, he's been to structure and brush fires, worked during the riots in 1992 and in the aftermath of the Northridge earthquake, and was on the scene after the train crash in Chatsworth that saw 25 fatalities.

Moore and his wife Amy have three children. Kelly works as a nurse in Ventura, Joey is a studio prop master, and Joey is still a student.

When he is not working, Moore likes road and mountain cycling, golf and fishing.

The one piece of advice he'd give Palisades residents is to "call 911 if there is an emergency. Do not call the station directly, which could cause a delay in the proper resource being dispatched."

The Captains invite you to stop by Station 69 and say "Hi."

DRB Debates Shell Station Issues

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

About 40 people crammed into the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce office on November 9 to listen to the Design Review Board (DRB) discuss the proposed new building design for the Shell station at Sunset and Via de la Paz.

L.A. City Planner Kenton Trinh reminded the audience that this was not the place to discuss alcohol permits, and his associate Griselda Gonzales added that the hearing was solely about design and signage.

Saeed Kohanoff purchased the Shell station after selling his Mobil station (on Sunset at Swarthmore) to developer Rick Caruso.

Kohanoff plans to demolish the existing 1,620-sq.-ft. Shell building, which is centered against the alley off Via and houses three service bays and a small store.

He wants to build a 2,750-sq.-ft. convenience store next to the two-story office/restaurant building at 15415 Sunset, owned by Dr. Shaun Malek. (A typical convenience store is about 3,300 sq. ft.)

As proposed by Kohanoff, the eight gas pumps and the canopy will remain in place and there will be 11 parking spaces for customers. There will be no service bays, and one gas station entry on Via will be closed



New Shell owner Saeed Kohanoff wants to build a convenience store, which would be located in the rear of the lot. The new area would be landscaped and the service bays would be gone.

and landscaped.

The project was initially brought to the DRB in June 2015, and the design for a Mediterranean-style convenience store with a tower was presented by architect Richard Finkel a month later. Then the Board suggested that the architectural style did not fit in with the community and suggested perhaps a mid-century modern style.

Last Wednesday, Finkel showed the new renderings, which include a convenience store nestled in the corner next to the build-

ing owned by Malek.

"We've put a building on the lot that is more aesthetically appealing," Finkel said. "You asked me to come up with a different design. This is a one-story building—we took the tower off and gave it a modern aesthetic.

"We've pushed the building down as low as we could," Finkel continued, noting that a parapet of about 5 ft. is needed to hide electrical and refrigeration.

Public comment started with nearby resident Tracy Price, who said the store seemed

out of place and that it needed to be scaled back. Ted Weitz argued against the placement of the store and said that the proposed project violated the spirit of the town's Specific Plan, which requires buildings and uses to be compatible with the surrounding residential community and consistent with the general character of the neighborhood.

Resident Jill Jones argued that the project was too large for the corner, especially with 107 condominiums directly behind the station. Matthew Rodman asked that the DRB ensure that the signage wouldn't include flashing signs or lottery signs that would cheapen the neighborhood.

Malek said his concern was safety, that without a buffer between his property and the station, trucks would not be able to safely turn around in the alley easement behind the station.

John Murdock, Malek's attorney, also argued that the size should be similar in scale and appropriate to the area. He said that in 2007, a car wash and convenience store was rejected by the City at that site. The proposed store was 1,100 sq. ft., but the City objected to its size.

Neill Brower, the attorney for Kohanoff, said that the area between Malek's property and the Shell station was being used by valets from Il Piccolo Ritrovo Trattoria

(Continued on Page 5)

<p>SHOP Small</p> <p>MONTANA VENUE</p> <p>SANTA MONICA</p> <p>Small Business Saturday</p> <p>Saturday, November 28th</p>  <p>Special Sales, Live Music</p> <p>SHOP • DINE • SAVE</p> <p>www.montanaave.com</p> <p>  </p>	<p>SHOP Small</p> <p>MONTANA VENUE</p> <p>SANTA MONICA</p> <p>Small Business Saturday</p> <p>Saturday, November 28th</p>  <p>Special Sales, Live Music</p> <p>SHOP • DINE • SAVE</p> <p>www.montanaave.com</p> <p>  </p>	<p>SHOP Small</p> <p>MONTANA VENUE</p> <p>SANTA MONICA</p> <p>Small Business Saturday</p> <p>Saturday, November 28th</p>  <p>Special Sales, Live Music</p> <p>SHOP • DINE • SAVE</p> <p>www.montanaave.com</p> <p>  </p>
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DRB

(Continued from Page 4)

(one of Malek's tenants). "There is no right of passage on my client's property," he said.

The DRB discussed the project, with architect Donna Vaccarino speaking first. "It's hard when a community gets used to something in a specific way, because they don't like the change," she said. "The size is well within the limits of what could be built." Her problem was the architecture, and she suggested that "simplicity of materials would help the design."

Vice Chair David Hibbert, also an architect, pointed out that given the lot size, someone could build up to 25,000 sq. ft. on that site. He recently designed a Whole Foods store in Santa Monica that is 27,000 sq. ft.

An audience member argued that the only reason the Shell store needs so much space is to sell alcohol. Kohanoff answered that the number-one seller in convenience stores is water and energy drinks.

Hibbert commented that Kohanoff had the right to have a store and the proposed store is small compared to what he could build.

Regarding the building and location, Hibbert said: "I think it's positive to put it up against the building. I don't have a problem with the site plan." He noted that the building's location would probably reduce traffic below the condominium building located behind the alley (a Shell easement).

Hibbert's issue was also design, based on Caruso's Palisades Village project. The Specific Plan, which sets the guidelines for the DRB, requires development to be compatible with the commercial areas.

"I think the new Palisades identity will be based on the Caruso project," Hibbert said. "This will be the dominant player in town."

(Caruso's final project designs bypassed the DRB and went directly to the City's Planning Department.)

DRB members Kelly Comras, Sarah Griffin and Stuart Muller agreed with Hibbert's analysis. Finkel was asked to design a storefront that more closely resembled the proposed Caruso designs to make the community appear more cohesive architecturally.

The DRB will hold a special meeting on December 7 to review Finkel's revised design plans and a lighting plan, and to look at sample materials.

Holiday Boutique At Pali Elementary

Palisades Charter Elementary parents will host a holiday boutique from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, November 17 in the school auditorium. A wide variety of vendors, including those who sell clothing, accessories, jewelry, home goods, art, stationary and children's books, will be featured at the one-day event. Proceeds will go to benefit the Palisades Enrichment Program.

Allison Holdorff Polhill To Run for LAUSD Board

Allison Holdorff Polhill announced on November 10 that she has filed papers to run for the Los Angeles Unified School District School Board against incumbent Steve Zimmer in District 4.

The long-time Pacific Palisades resident is the mother of three children, who attended Palisades Elementary, Paul Revere Middle School and Palisades High School.

Holdorff Polhill was co-chair on parent boards at Pali Elementary and Paul Revere, and was responsible for helping guide schools through charter renewals. For the past six years, she was the elected parent member of the Palisades Charter High School Board, and even served as board president. Her mantra has always been "Students First."

After Holdorff Polhill's youngest child graduated from PaliHi last year and she was no longer on the PaliHi board, the Loyola Law School graduate decided she wanted to do something she felt could make a difference. "I have unique depth and breadth of being on these boards," she told the News on Thursday.

Although the five public schools in the Palisades are top-notch, thanks in part to strong parent-teacher partnerships, and there are waiting lists to get in, that is not true in much of LAUSD.



Allison Holdorff Polhill

"I'm running to serve all students," Holdorff Polhill said. "The [LAUSD] Board is not student focused and I want to bring that focus to the board." Steve Zimmer is the current board president.

Holdorff Polhill said she also wants to tackle the budget, noting that LAUSD has \$13 billion in unfunded lifetime health benefits and ran a \$600 million deficit last year.

The election will held March 16, 2017. Visit: allisonforstudents.com or call (310) 804-8424.

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Heard About Town

The Scoop about Ice Cream

I attended the groundbreaking for Caruso Affiliated's Palisades Village and Rick Caruso once again mentioned the ice cream store and how he was going to bring it back. News flash: Sweet Rose Creamery opened on Monument in August 2015, kitty-corner to his development, and it has the best ice cream. In addition to the standard flavors, they have unusual seasonal ones like brown sugar pecan and apple pie. Someone should tell Mr. Caruso we don't need another ice cream store.

Digging on Temescal

Last week I noticed active construction along the south side of Temescal for a long stretch. Is the City laying a new sewer line? Or maybe they're building a bike lane, without having to go through all those public hearings?!

(Editor's note: A Prop O project was begun in 2011 to clean and reuse stormwater runoff in Temescal Canyon Park. After a two-year delay, it has resumed. As part of the project a submersible pump will be installed to take water out of the existing 1.25-million gallon tank (located below the playground), to be used as potable water for irrigation. A new irrigation line will be laid on the east side of Temescal Canyon Road and five trees will be planted. The entire story, "Prop O Project to Resume on Temescal," can be read in the September 4, 2016 issue of the Palisades News.)

Time to Plant a Tree

As we all pick ourselves up and try to recover from this bruising election, consider engaging in the hopeful action of planting a tree in your garden. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power offers free trees at cityplants.org. This is the perfect time of year to plant California natives, and the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is a beautiful choice: drought tolerant, fire resistant, and green all year long. Onward and upward!

Girdles Should Return

In the 1960s, women wore girdles. I remember my mom pulling it up over legs and hips. It squeezed all the fat and gave her a seamless, sleek look (I have no idea where the fat went). I'm just thinking: I'm tired of exercising and trying to get flat abs. Why don't we bring girdles back?

Happy for the Incline

What a relief to finally have the new and improved California Incline back. It's a temporary pain to have to deal with the signal on PCH, but uplifting to once again catch that view of Santa Monica Bay as you begin your descent from Ocean Avenue. And isn't it nice that we no longer have any sewer construction along PCH?

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Palisades Needs a Master Plan

By DONNA VACCARINO
Special to the Palisades News

Congratulations to the Potrero Canyon Park project and its dedicated consortium for their erudite plan, presented at the October 27 Community Council meeting. The plan is so good it demands that the rest of our community projects come up to that elegant standard. Which begs a question regarding Caruso's Palisades Village project on Swarthmore: Has our community actually seen the plans upon which the project is now moving forward? The Community Council and its land-use committee supported the Village Project based on the July 2015 submission. Numerous renditions followed, right up to the hearing and approval by the L.A. Planning Commission and City Council.

Now that the project is moving forward from preliminary design into formal building documents, who is the architect of record? Upon which plan is the project moving forward, and what changes or updates have been made to the plan, which now accommodates a third level of parking? With the increase in parking, has any change occurred that would be allowable under this accommodation and parking increase?

Our community is about to witness the digging of a very large hole; fortunately, we need the dirt for Potrero Park! But, it is important to ask: Will the Caruso Village Project follow carefully the Letter of Determination and conditions that were approved in the Entitlements and Mitigated Negative Declaration earlier this year?

The many conditions included a professional third-party archeologist to monitor the excavation for remnants or artifacts. What photo-documentation was made of the dem-

olition and will be made for the excavation? The MND described this area as historically significant. And, for the buildings that were just demolished, can we please see the Hazard Abatement reports and confirmation letters that are required prior to demolition?

A larger question is how do these two projects (Potrero Canyon and the Village Project) meld together and connect to a larger master plan for the entire village area that addresses traffic, bike and pedestrian flow and safety?

Visitors and friends will be coming here more often. Remember the mantra: shop, dine, drink, see a movie, have ice cream; and hike the Santa Monica Mountains, all the way to the sea! Dolphins can be seen from various vista points along the bluffs that look out to the grand Pacific.

The Palisades Experience. Temescal Canyon Gateway Park, Will Rogers State Historic Park, Los Leones, the Self-Realization Fellowship Center, a myriad of connecting trails to the Backbone Trail and, of course, the Pacific Ocean and our beaches create an emerald necklace around our village.

Nevertheless, we need to brace ourselves for success. This area will be so booming that we will have to sell timed park entry tickets for guided nature walks for a visitor's own safety. Let's face it—our community is going to experience a sizeable spike in visits from out of the area. The sleepy vintage Palisades is about to get a big jolt. It's a destination now for the Palisadian Experience.

So in the end, how does this all pull together? Master Plan, anyone?

(Editor's note: Donna Vaccarino is an architect and serves on the Pacific Palisades Design Review Board, but this Viewpoint reflects her opinions as a private citizen.)

Thought to Ponder

"The way you help heal the world is you start with your own family."

— Mother Teresa

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EDITORIAL

Taking a Look at Campaign Contributions

Ever wonder why some City development projects seem to go through faster than others? Ever wonder why some seem to have Midas touch and others are stalled? In October, the *News* visited ethics.lacity.org and discovered that when you click on 2017 Elections, it allows you to go to Council District 11 and Mike Bonin and view who his contributors are to date.

The maximum that an individual can give to a City politician is \$700. What amazed the *News* was the number of people who live in Culver City, Beverly Hills, Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley that gave to Bonin, a Councilman who doesn't represent them.

One deduces that even if they don't live here, such as five Caruso employees—David Liston (Simi Valley), David Williams (Thousand Oaks), Joel Moskowitz (West Hollywood), Matt Middlebrook (San Francisco), Kelly Masuda (Palos Verdes)—and two with Los Angeles addresses, Jackie Levy and Thomas Veje, they have a high interest in a project in the Palisades—and would contribute to the Councilman who is most closely associated with the project.

Then on October 30, an *L.A. Times* article was published, "A \$72-million Apartment Project. Top Politicians. Unlikely Donors" by David Zahnisher and Emily Alpert Reyes.

More than 100 campaign contributors with a direct or

indirect connection to Samuel Leung, a Torrance-based developer donated more than \$600,000 to support Janice Hahn, Mayor Eric Garcetti and other L.A.-area politicians between 2008 and 2015, as Leung was seeking city approval for the \$72-million development in L.A.'s Harbor Gateway neighborhood.

The reporters found that Victor Blanco, a repairman originally from El Salvador, gave the most: 22 donations totaling \$20,300 since 2008. When asked about the money, Blanco couldn't recall.

Also on the ethics website are the lobbying reports and the money spent.

Looking at Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell, we found the company Helios Group Distressed Real Estate, which is the owner of 16815 Bollinger. About \$7,118 was spent in the first quarter, that ended March 31, 2016, for lobbyists who spoke to city officials in Building and Safety.

To recap: in September 8, 2015, a demolition permit was issued for the garage on the property. Instead, the entire house, including the garage, was torn down.

Neighbors went to L.A. city inspectors and told them the posted notice said it was a remodel. Neighbors told the *Palisades News* that the inspector dismissed their concerns.

Framing started and the new structure soon towered

over existing homes. Residents contacted the city with concerns in late December, but there was no response.

Three weeks later, neighbors saw on a City website that their complaints had been dismissed and the case closed.

Neighbors continued to reach out to the city and went to Councilman Mike Bonin's office. In April, construction stopped with the notice that it was being done without permits or inspections.

Another client of Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell is Palisades Drive, L.P. (1525 Palisades Dr.), owned by Rony Shram. He first appeared before the Pacific Palisades Community Council in November 2014. He wanted to build 33 apartment-style units in the Highlands, but the property has to be rezoned first from mixed-use to residential.

The lobbying firm shows \$8,755 was spent the last quarter of 2014 for entitlements. Over four quarters—and through March 2016, sums of \$2,590, \$6,844, \$7,210 and \$1,239 were spent.

Perfectly legal for an individual or firm to hire lobbyists to help push through projects in the City. Perfectly legal to give \$700 campaign contributions to various city officials.

Is it illegal for a developer to pay individuals to give donations? We don't know, but it certainly seems unethical.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Swag Bag for Me

As an outsider looking in at The Caruso Ground breaking ceremony (the public was invited as advertised in the local papers). But, when you got there . . . It really was only meant for those in attendance such as Rick Caruso affiliates, fellow businessman, and a hand-picked politicians like Mike Bonin. Rick was casually dressed and gave a very nice. "Hi, I'm your friend and community advocate for uplifting change, togetherness and let's make a lot of dough."

Can't blame him. All the men were dressed like Rick and groomed. I guess they want to be just like him. There were about 200 chairs and a roped off section for the chosen Rick Caruso groupies but only about 70 seats were taken. Each seat had a nice canvas bag filled with goodies for the chosen . . . I decided to take a bag since most were going unclaimed, but was told by a 20-year-old woman that you had to be on The Rick list. Oh, well. Rick needs it more than me. I look forward to the new shops and movie theater. Maybe Rick can splurge for free bags of popcorn at the theater grand opening. Or, maybe we need to buy him a bag of popcorn and a coke. Should be interesting. Time and change . . . will tell!!!

Gary Carr

(Editor's note: Gary Carr told the News, "I like Rick Caruso and his project. I'm excited to see the construction and eventually completion. Rick will probably be L.A. Mayor at some point.")

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

(Editor's note: the following two letters were sent to Councilman Mike Bonin and the News. They have been shortened to fit the space, but the complete version can be read on our website.)

No Distribution Station on DWP Lot

I read Michael Lofchie's letter to you, urging an electrical substation next to Marquez Charter School. Please don't believe the false narrative that "a small but vocal group of Marquez neighbors" is the only thing standing between DWP and the lot next to the school. Here are some facts at the "tip of the iceberg."

1. The Coalition of Palisadians to Keep Marquez Charter Safe gathered 500+ signatures in 2012 opposing a substation next to the school. Since then, our ranks have grown.
2. In 2011, DWP's consultants determined the lot has "factually flawed" Grade "F" geology with an "existing landslide."
3. DWP's own documents show distributing stations are a fire risk.
4. LAUSD prohibits placing new schools near such "high risk" facilities.

Everyone wants reliable power. But we must not put generations of public school children, teachers and staff at avoidable risk of harm.

Lastly, Mr. Lofchie's petition should be disregarded. First, signatories apparently relied on a misstatement of fact. DWP did not "buy" the lot. Rather, DWP forcibly took the lot by eminent domain years after the school was built and operational. Second, the petition did not identify its author(s) or sponsor(s); this lack of transparency undermines any legitimacy it purports to have.

Niloofer Shepherd

Put the Station on the DWP Lot

As residents of the Marquez area of Pacific Palisades for the last 20 years, we have participated in the ongoing debate to meet the community's power needs by building a substation on the long established, DWP-owned lot on Marquez Ave.

As a result of some residents' opposition to the location, due to its proximity to homes and the elementary school, two giant, open, electrical grid tower/platforms have been erected.

How did these issues prevent the use of the DWP lot where they would be mitigated with an enclosed structure, but were of no concern for these exposed and unsightly towers at locations next to a school, popular trail heads, and homes? Where is the Environmental Impact Report for this?

The fact is that substations are in place adjacent to schools, homes and businesses all over the city, for example, Brentwood Elementary, and our own substation in Pacific Palisades next to condos on one side and businesses on the other. A safe, grounded, concrete structure is crucial.

The Marquez lot offers more than just a procured, adequate location, it is also an opportunity to improve substations of the future. It can be built with thicker walls, state of the art absorption materials, optimal location and ground level on the lot. Other mitigating elements can be employed, such as berms between the structure and the school/neighbor. EMF can be reduced overall by burying the existing power lines that run the length of the school.

As concerned residents, we urge you to halt construction and remove the temporary towers, and complete an EIR for the Marquez lot.

Rick and Gina Wahlgren

Community Council Needs Transparency

By GINA LADINSKY
Special to the Palisades News

For the 30 years that I have enjoyed living in the Palisades, I have considered the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) to be a hardworking group of dedicated and selfless Palisadians, who want to make our town the best possible place to live.

Over the past year, the power held by the PPCC became widely publicized as it consistently sent its approval of Caruso's project to City Hall and our City Councilman, Mike Bonin. The PPCC's Mission Statement claims it will "... be an advocate for the Pacific Palisades to government and private agencies upon those issues where there is broad community agreement."

I doubt that anyone would disagree that Swarthmore needs revitalization, but was I the only Palisadian who had concerns with Caruso's plan as proposed? I went online to Nextdoor Palisades to read the Caruso conversations, and found many other area residents also had concerns. But how would City Hall know about these concerns, since the PPCC informed various officials and departments that we all favored the project?

How was this hardworking group of volunteers allowed to misrepresent the general consensus of the Palisades and mislead City Hall by claiming they speak for all of us?

When the 2016 PPCC Area Representative election rolled around in August, I sat up and paid attention. When a recount was requested for a candidate who lost by one vote, Chris Spitz, the election chair, stated that a recount was not in the bylaws and she refused to order one.

Why would a recount need to be stated in the bylaws? In addition, how can an accurate vote be tallied by two

different voting methods, one online and another by hard-copy ballot? To prevent voter fraud would require the utmost scrutiny, checking and re-checking names and addresses. How would the election committee know it was really a homeowner voting? What documentation was used for verification? Who was the Independent Election Administrator (IEA) as required by all neighborhood councils who are city-certified by Empower LA?

The answer is simple. **PPCC is not a city-certified neighborhood council and is not a member of Empower LA.**

Yes, PPCC uses the Empower LA logo, but it is flying under the radar, enabling PPCC to avoid the many rules and regulations that all other city-certified neighborhood councils must follow. Here is the listing of active councils: <http://empowerla.org/councils>. You won't find PPCC listed.

In addition, there was the PPCC's "non-election" election of alternate representatives in each area. The same candidate who lost the area rep election by only one vote, and who had applied to be an alternate, was not selected.

Another alternate applicant from a different area, who had also run for election as an area rep, and who received many votes of support from her area, was also not selected. I applied as an alternate rep in my area, along with another neighbor. Neither of us was selected as well.

I don't mind not being selected, but I care that the process had no transparency. So, I emailed Spitz and her Three-Chair Committee, who selected the area alternates, to ask for the criteria used to determine the best alternate rep. She responded by email and referred to the bylaws that give the Three-Chair Committee the authority to make the decision.

Next, I emailed Maryam Zar, the new PPCC Chair, and copied Spitz and asked for: 1.) the minutes of the

Three-Chair Committee meeting, and 2.) the public posting location of the agenda 72 hours prior to the meeting. I had hoped this would shed light on the alternate selection process. I sent the email request in mid-October and have not received a reply.

Without minutes and a publicly posted agenda, PPCC is in violation of the Brown Act. Even if the Three-Chair Committee was a closed "executive" meeting, the agenda is required to be posted and minutes are also required.

The advantage of the PPCC not being a city-certified neighborhood council is that it is not held accountable by the city, which has oversight over all certified neighborhood councils.

However, the disadvantages of not being a city-certified neighborhood council far outweigh the advantages. For example, these neighborhood councils each receive public funds of \$37,000 a year to support their activities. Empower LA also has a Leadership Academy to help board members become more effective, while providing many other support services.

We live in possibly the greatest neighborhood in the Los Angeles area, yet our "broad community agreement" is misrepresented by the PPCC, an organization that has failed to step up to the neighborhood-council plate and become city-certified. How can we as homeowners stop the PPCC from continuing to misrepresent the general consensus of our area and to hold elections that violate many basic election guidelines?

By revealing the facts, perhaps this will inspire residents to force the PPCC to become city-certified, or will ask them to stop the pretense of being our voice.

Why doesn't our City Councilman, Mike Bonin, hold the PPCC accountable to become a city-certified entity?

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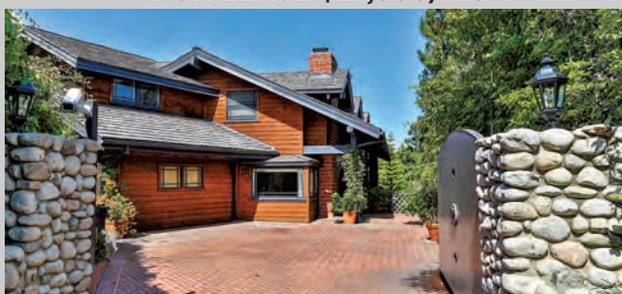
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Tour Rogers Home

How many times have you visited Will Rogers Ranch with your kids while they play soccer or to hike or walk your dog, but have never gone into the house?

Now is your chance not only to visit the home, but also to see rooms that are not normally open to the public. The Will Rogers house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of four homes on the Annual Woman's Club tour on Sunday, November 20.

In a 1927 letter, Will Rogers instructed his architect on the siting and style of the family ranch house, which was to be a simple, board-and-batten, box-like structure, "very plain and ordinary" with a "big wide porch."

The house was built to meld the outside and inside. The large porch that surrounds the house provided ample outdoors living, while windows brought the outside in, providing sunlight and views of the Santa Monica Mountains.

A seven- by nine-foot window replaced French doors at the west end of the house and was a present from Broadway producer Florenz Ziegfeld.

In Will's upstairs study, a desk was placed in front of a large window so that he could look out towards the stable while writing his newspaper columns.

A patio linking the two wings of the house furthered the idea of meshing the outdoors with indoors. It served not only as a place to gather for meals, but also as a place to relax and visit with family and friends.

This white wood-frame building with shingled roofs has 31 rooms and 11 bathrooms. It still contains the family's original all-electric 1930s kitchen appliances.

The house is decorated with the original California craftsman-style furnishings and American Indian textiles and baskets. A selection of author-signed first editions from Will Rogers' collections, normally kept upright on the library shelves, will be open for public viewing.

For the tour, the Great Room and veranda will be decorated with vintage Christmas ornaments maintained over



Will Rogers' house is one of the four featured on the Woman's Club Home Tour.

Photo: Larry Underhill Photography

the years by friends.

Also on this year's home tour is a 1930s Spanish Revival estate once owned by

Eddie Albert; a Cape-Cod style home that overlooks the Riviera Country Club; and a 2015 East Coast traditional.

Home Tour/Boutique November 19-20

The Woman's Club's 30th Annual Home Tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, November 20. Four homes on the tour, including Will Rogers, a historic landmark built in 1927, will be open for viewing. Free parking is available at Palisades High School, where shuttle buses will take visitors from house to house.

Tickets purchased before the event are \$55; those bought the day of the event are \$60. Will-call tickets will be at PaliHi.

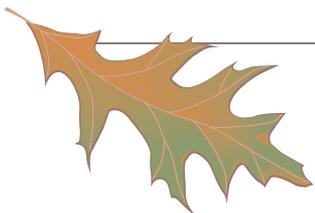
Attend the boutique in Mercer Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 19, and Sunday, November 20, at 15777 Bowdoin Ave. The event is open to the public, and admission is free. A por-

tion of the proceeds from boutique sales will benefit the high school and the Woman's Club.

Michael Edlen is a lead sponsor of the Woman's Club Tour. Proceeds will aid local nonprofit organizations and help repair the historic Woman's Clubhouse.

Visit: ThePPWC.org.

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Citizen

(Continued from Page 1)

PRIDE board at Paul Revere and the school's Charter Council. She is also leads the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation.

The **Pride of the Palisades Award** was created in 2014 to recognize an individual "who has provided extraordinary service to the Palisades community."

Bob Benton has served as PPBA commissioner for more than 20 years, overseeing one of the town's most successful and enduring sports programs from January through June. He played a key role in the local campaign to fund and build the Field of Dreams at the Palisades Recreation Center. He's also chair of the Park Advisory Board.

As a businessman, Benton is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce and owned a family-oriented sporting goods store on Swarthmore from 1982 until this July, when he had to make way for Caruso's Palisades Village construction. He plans to re-open his Sports Shop in the new development.

First presented in 1974, the **Golden Sparkplug Award** "honors the efforts of Palisades residents, property owners or business operators who have ignited ideas and projects resulting in an original contribution that benefits the Pacific Palisades community."

In November 2014, Sylvia Boyd created the monthly Food for Thought speaker series at the Palisades Presbyterian Church, and she has sustained it ever since. A 40-year Palisadian, Sylvia was inspired to launch the series after attending the funeral of a fellow church member who had an amazing life story. This motivated her to offer a way to share the outstanding lives, careers and experiences of Pacific Palisades residents "while they were still on this Earth." Each event (the third Thursday of the month) includes a complementary lunch.

Boyd, a retired international executive for the Tupperware Corporation, has for many years chaired PAPA People, recruiting and organizing dozens of volunteers to handle various tasks on parade day.

Patrick Hart has been a dedicated member of the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness leadership team since it's

founding in late 2014. He devised a satellite mapping system that monitors homeless persons in the Palisades and helps coordinate efforts by the Task Force, OPCC outreach workers, LAPD and LAFD. Hart also populates the map with identities and locations in about 60% of the PPTFH area to facilitate monthly enforcement statistics.

"Patrick's willingness to interact with homeless people and connect with them on an uncommonly human level is both admirable and crucial," said PPCC president Maryam Zar.

Amy Lundberg led a four-year community effort to fight a non-conforming apartment project that, if approved, threatened to create precedent-setting development on the Sunset bluffs overlooking Santa Monica Bay. The neighborhood campaign resulted in supportive decisions by the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission and the California Coastal Commission.

A passionate former lawyer, Lundberg devoted hundreds of hours organizing and educating a community coalition, "Save the Bluffs," which thwarted the developer's plan to erect a 49-unit apartment development on geologically sketchy land at 16690-17000 Sunset Blvd. Amy succeeded despite the demands of full-time employment and child rearing. She also created an informative website (dangerousdevelopment.com).

Karen Stigler, a Princeton graduate who has an MBA from Stanford and a law degree from UCLA, exemplifies Palisadians who happily invest their professional expertise in quality-of-life issues within the community. She has been a tireless leader the past 18 months helping to create and sustain the Palisades Alliance for Seniors, which has filled the void created when the AARP chapter folded in 2008.

Stigler led development of the Alliance's mission to help Palisades seniors age in place in our town by focusing attention on concerns such as such as transportation, health and personal finances. She established an informative, twice-monthly speaker program at the Palisades Library, and helped build a website (www.palisadesalliance.org) that provides important resources for seniors.

"I'm also proud of the Senior Alliance's new partnership with Palisades High, where we have high school students providing our seniors with technology tutoring as com-

munity service," Stigler told the *News*.

Veslemoey Zwart, dynamic chair of the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board, has sparked efforts to raise significant funding for the improvement and repair of deteriorated infrastructure at the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center, including the historically-landmarked, 95-year-old former Uplifters Clubhouse. She has organized annual fundraising galas that have paid for much-needed improvements to the historic stage,

refurbishment of the gym floor and tennis courts, and replacement of deteriorated courtyard doors with historically accurate replicas.

Said Wolfberg, "Veslemoey has strengthened the sense of community in Rustic Canyon and has inspired a shared goal to refurbish the deteriorated park facility."

Visit www.PacPalicc.org for details about the Citizen of the Year celebration and to reserve dinner tickets.

Christy Dennis to Speak At 'Food for Thought'

Former television journalist and current Marquez Knolls activist Christy Dennis will speak at the next "Food for Thought" gathering at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 17, at the Palisades Presbyterian Church, corner of Sunset and El Medio. Lunch is complimentary, but reservations are required.

Dennis' speech, "Uncovering the Erin Brockovich story, and other escapades of a female TV journalist," will recount her 1994 eight-month investigation into allegations of groundwater contamination by Pacific Gas and Electric Company in a remote desert town in San Bernardino County. The company ultimately settled the \$1-billion lawsuit for \$333 million. The real-life story was the basis of the 2000 movie *Erin Brockovich*, starring Julia Roberts.

Dennis began her career as the first paid intern for the ABC affiliate in Fresno upon graduating from Cal State Fresno. Her beats included general assignment, health, agriculture and the environment.

Ironically, Christy was hired in 2000 as a spokesperson for PG&E and later became a manager in corporate communications at the firm's headquarters in San Francisco. Christy left the company in 2007, when she moved to Pacific Palisades. She has been a member of the Pacific Palisades Community Council and the Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association. She serves as president of MKPOA and has been the newsletter editor since 2009.

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DWP Poles

(Continued from Page 1)

and the realtor.

During the public comment period, they told Catalina Hernandez, environmental supervisor for the City of L.A. Department of Public Works, that there hadn't been proper notification for the sudden pole installation.

Attorney Alexandre Cornelius told Hernandez that the City—specifically the Department of Water and Power—was in violation of the Coastal Act, and that Sunset Boulevard is a scenic highway, which means that new utilities must go underground.

"There was no due process," Cornelius said, referring to the pole-top station. "People have been denied their rights."

Realtor Kimberly Ryan said, "I've been representing this property for nine years and I finally had a buyer, and now you've devalued the property."

She said she didn't understand the City's thinking that it was okay to install a 60-ft. PTDS above the Palisades High baseball field, but not okay to place one on DWP-owned property below the lower Marquez Elementary playground.

(There had been an earlier Coastal Commission hearing for the Temescal/Sunset PTDS above PaliHi.)

Electrical consultants in the audience told City officials that there's an alternative to the PTDS on Sunset, that electricity wires could go underground or be put in a pad-



DWP poles in front of the former Bernheimer Garden need a Coastal permit.

mounted transformer.

Bill Herriot, DWP's electrical service manager, responded that staff had told him that underground wiring was not possible at the site.

A resident from Edgewater Towers, which is below and just west of the DWP site, said, "We had no idea it [the PTDS] was happening until the day it went up. You just stick poles in the ground and say we can do this."

Sarah Connor, president of the Pacific Palisades Residents Association, reminded Hernandez, "Councilman Bonin made a promise at the Marquez meeting [in March] that we would all be happy, no matter the cost."

"These poles destroy the views from the scenic highway. They should be placed in a

way that they don't violate the Coastal Act. This will be pursued to the highest levels of the law," Conner promised.

Other audience members—such as Brian Deming, who lives in the Pacific Garden apartment building adjacent to the site—wanted to know if there was some way that Pacific Palisades residents could be more energy efficient or use alternative sources to keep the poles from having to remain as part of the community's power grid.

"We're now at the point when we have no other options," Herriot said. "We're pretty much done."

He recapped that an additional power station, Distributing Station 104, was supposed to be built in the Palisades in 1970-71. The DWP acquired land off Marquez Avenue, just west of Marquez Elementary, for that purpose. But after the Sylmar earthquake in February 1971, the focus shifted from new construction to repairs citywide.

DS 104 construction was further postponed when the town did not see much growth through the 1980s.

By 2012, however, the DWP knew that a new distribution station was sorely needed to supplement the one at Sunset and Via de la Paz. A department press release noted, "DS 29 is working at its designed capacity and will exceed its capacity within the next six years due to increasing electricity demand in the surrounding community." Most everyone had underestimated how the widespread construction of large, energy-draining houses and the growing popularity of electric cars would make that situation so dire.

When the DWP announced its new intention to build DS 104 on its Marquez

property, parents at Marquez Elementary and nearby residents objected that the station was too close to the school. This forced the DWP and the City Council District 11 office to organize an 11-member task force, largely from the Marquez area, which met and provided recommendations for other sites in the western area of the Palisades.

DWP officials systematically investigated these sites, even pleading to State Parks for a DS station on Los Leones parkland (behind Fire Station 29). This request was rejected.

In January this year, DWP officials attended a Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting and said that to keep electricity reliable in the Marquez and Castellammare areas, it would have to install two PTDS. Each installation features two 60-ft. industrial-sized steel poles, but they would be removed after a permanent distribution station is built.

The DWP proposed placing one pole station at El Medio and Sunset; the second would go on its Marquez property.

Again, certain residents objected to those sites, even though these locations were the most cost-effective. Councilman Mike Bonin held meeting with residents and the DWP at Marquez Elementary in March.

At that meeting, people suggested other sites, including in front of the Bernheimer property (before it was sold to the developer) and on Temescal Canyon Road below Sunset.

This is one of the reasons why several people at last Wednesday's meeting shouted at the DWP officials that they had not been informed about the location switch to 16980 Sunset. Since they had not attended the March meeting, they didn't realize that Bonin had tasked DWP to consider other locations.

Suddenly, the poles went in at Temescal/Sunset—much to the surprise of apartment dwellers across the street on Haverford—and at Bernheimer/Sunset.

DWP officials admitted they had not realized that both stations are in the Coastal Zone, which requires a Coastal Development permit. Once that was known, construction on both projects was halted immediately.

Although the two PTDS stations are "temporary," construction of a new permanent station (on a yet-to-be-decided site) may take at least four years. And Herriot warned that if a new station is not started soon, "We will have to continue to add [PTDS]."

Residents may file an appeal to the Coastal Commission.

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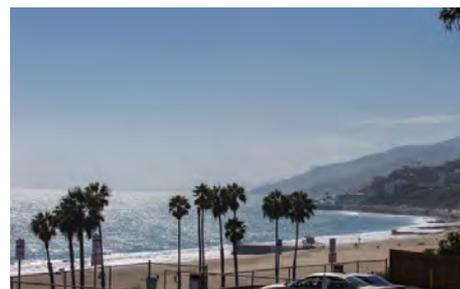
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Vivian's Boutique Celebrates 30 Years

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Stephen Sondheim wrote "I'm Still Here" for the 1971 musical *Follies*, about dealing with the ups and downs in life. That same theme of survivability is the charm of store owner Vivian Foster on Via de la Paz.

"I'm the longest-standing dress shop in the Palisades," said Foster, who opened Vivian's Boutique 30 years ago.

When she arrived in Pacific Palisades as a single mom in 1986, she sold real estate, sold wholesale clothing in a small office behind her current space, and also worked as a cocktail waitress. Her daughter attended Palisades Elementary.

At that time, there were numerous dress shops in the Palisades, including Whispers, Village Store, Julia Ann (a lingerie store) and La Femme.

"I did great clothes for great prices," Foster told the News, and her business model proved successful. Residents loved her selection and soon she found herself concentrating solely on her clothing store.

"I outgrew the space and moved to the courtyard off Sunset, next to the Glendale Bank [now Citibank]. That's where I met Arnie Wishnick, who worked at the bank," Foster said. Wishnick has been executive director of the Chamber of Commerce since 1993.

After more than eight years on Sunset, Foster once again needed more space. "Heidi Henkle, the acupuncturist, took over my space," said Foster, who gave it a special blessing so that Henkle's practice would flourish.

Foster relocated to the 970 Monument building and remained there for 16 years, surviving a boom-and-bust era. "Blockbuster and Kinko's were in that building and more than 100 people a day came to the center," said Foster, whose business thrived.

Initially, parking was free, but after vandalism in the underground parking lot, a gate was set up and people had to pay. "I paid for my clients' parking," Foster said, which cut into her profits. She was also affected when Blockbuster, Kinko's and other tenants moved out and were not replaced.

Still, she loved the location, until her "aunt" Joan Miller,



Vivian Foster is owner of Vivian's Boutique. Photo: Lesly Hall

who owned the 875 Via building, asked if she would return.

Foster, who grew up in West Covina, said she came to the Palisades because of Miller. "She offered me the place in back [in 1986] and wanted me to sell real estate with her." Miller died this past year and Foster said simply, "I lost a mom."

Appreciative of the way she was mentored by Miller, Foster does the same. "Every year I bring in one or two girls (usually customers' daughters), train them and give them work experience," said the grandmother of three girls and a boy.

One reason for Vivian's continuing success is that she carries numerous sizes, from 0 to 20. "In the United States, the average dress size is 12 and the average woman weighs 160 pounds," Foster noted.

Another reason is the cost and timeliness of her merchandise. "My price points are very reasonable," Foster said. "And I do get new things in the store three to four times a week."

Vivian's Boutique is also distinctive because it caters to so many ages. "I'm a normal shopping store," Foster said. "I have customers ages 13 to 90."

A few things have changed in the last 30 years. Women's feet are bigger and Foster now carries size 11 shoes. Trends this year include Army-green jackets and different "funky" jackets, boots and booties (ankle-high boots).

"Leggings are still huge and long, thin, fuzzy sweaters are in," said Foster, who describes her shop as a specialty boutique with low prices. In addition to dresses, skirts, tops, jackets, hats and shoes, she also carries jewelry.

A customer (and friend) Paulette Dubey said, "She sells things that are unique, elegant and one of a kind. People wonder where I get my clothes. It's clothing you don't find other places."

For years, Foster has helped dress women for the annual Woman's Club fashion show. "I love the Woman's Club," she said. "I wish more women would join. It's a great organization of gals."

She's excited about Caruso's Palisades Village, scheduled to open in fall 2018. "I think it's going to be wonderful. We'll have all that parking and the [business] morale will be high.

"I think Caruso has the Midas touch and he'll put us back on the map," Foster said, noting that when she first came to the Palisades, "business was booming and people wanted to be seen. It will be like the old days when Mort's was around."

She invites people to stop by and say "hi."

"I wanted to be a therapist but I have a dress shop instead," said Foster, who lives in Sherman Oaks. During our interview at the shop, several women stopped by to chat with her. "We have group therapy in here daily," she joked. "Kids and dogs are welcome."

Marquez Knolls Street Names

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

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

Earl Lachman and his family developed the area north of Marquez Avenue, building more than 300 homes between 1952 and 1962. The area was named for the Marquez family, which had been a grant holder of the Rancho Boca de Santa Monica.

Earl Lachman's plans were to build a village between Bienvenida and Temescal

Canyon, including high-rise apartment buildings, a golf course, riding stables and a hospital. When financing was not obtained for this development, the streets were extended all the way up the hills and hundreds of new homes were built.

Charmel: Named for Charlotte and Mel Lachman, Earl's brother and his wife.

Donaire: Named for Earl's accountants, Don McClure and Beverly Aire.

Donna Ynez: Donna is old Spanish or Italian title of respect for woman. Ynez is derived from the patron saint of chastity.

Duende: Lachman meant it to mean "little street," though in Spanish it means "elf."

Dulce Santa Ynez: "Sweet Santa Ynez."

El Hito: Named after a Central American

mountain the Lachmans enjoyed. It means "the landmark," but they were told it meant "Little Mister."

El Oro: "The Gold" in Spanish.

Enchanted Way: Chosen because it sounded nice.

Glenhaven: Chosen because it sounded nice.

Glynn: This was probably selected from a list in the city, and was developed years after Lachman's homes were built.

Jacon Way: Named for Jack Conway, a movie director who sold the land to Lachman.

Lachman: Named in the memory of Earl's father.

Linda Terrace: Named for Earl Lachman's daughter Linda.

Luna Vista: "Moon View" in Spanish.

Merivale: Chosen because it sounded nice.

Pequeno: "Little" or "Small" in Spanish.

Tellem: Named for Earl's cousin, Cuz Tellem.

Turquesa: "Turquoise" in Spanish.

Via Floresta: "Way of the Forest" in Spanish.

Via Santa Ynez: "Way of St Agnes" in Spanish.

Vista Grande: "Grand View" in Spanish.

Michael Edlen has been ranked in the top one percent of all agents in the country with over \$1.5 billion in sales and more than 1,250 transactions. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales and historic events for 30 years. Call (310) 230-7373 or visit michael@michaelledlen.com.

Park Board Nixes Parking Request

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

At a special meeting on November 2 at the Palisades Recreation Center, the Park Advisory Board (PAB) denied a request by Seven Arrows Elementary to pay for 22 daytime parking spaces at the park.

The Seven Arrows proposal would have yielded about \$23,000 this year for the Recreation Center, which could have been used for repairs, re-refinishing the gym floors or put towards a new playground.

Seven Arrows, located on nearby La Cruz, leased parking spaces for its staff members in the 881 Alma Real building in prior years, but that option ended this fall.

At the October PAB meeting, Seven Arrows Athletic Director Frank Kirkwood said the school didn't think it would be fair to residents to have teachers park in the neighborhood, so the teachers have been taking a school-financed shuttle bus between lower Temescal Canyon Road and La Cruz.

Seven Arrows proposed paying the standard permit parking at the Rec Center for 22 spaces (at \$2 a day) from 7 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on school days only. (There are 95 public spaces at the park, eight handicapped spaces and three staff spaces.) That money



Seven Arrows School on La Cruz has no staff parking.

would go directly to the City.

The school has budgeted about \$30,000 for staff parking this year, and if the Rec Center were to be available (after paying the permit fee) the remaining \$23,000 would be donated to the park and stay at the park.

"We're trying to be good neighbors," said Seven Arrows board member Todd Sammann. "We would use the money we've allotted [for the shuttle] to be used here. If we don't get the parking, we'll still be fine."

Seven Arrows spends between \$12,000 to \$17,000 annually on permits to use the Rec Center for physical education.

The PAB consists of 13 community members appointed by Park Director Erich Haas. Members are volunteers, and the board follows the Brown Act.

After hearing Seven Arrows' proposal in October, the board notified the community via local newspapers and social media. About 30 people attended the November 2 meeting, and most were against the proposal.

"This is no time to be giving away, for sale or otherwise, public parking," one person commented.

"I'm concerned about the precedent this sets," another said. "I think it opens up a Pandora's Box."

Yet another person pointed out that park patrons often can't find parking right now and that someone should enforce the posted parking restrictions.

Haas told the audience that his staff reports to him that "by 8:15 a.m. the front half of the parking lot is full," yet few people are actually on the park grounds. The gyms don't open until 9 a.m.

"This parking lot is being used by non-park patrons for free parking," Haas said. "They'll park and then walk into that building [881 Alma Real]."

One resident said the teachers should take public transportation. Another woman reminded her that those living on a teacher's salary can't afford homes here and live in distant areas.

One person asked, "How important is that money [\$23,000] to the park? Is there other money in the future?"

The money is important, according to Haas. "I've been turning in job orders for two years to clean the beams." There may be funds in the future if County Measure A passes, but right now there is no guaranteed income source, and no funding source to clean or repair existing problems at this Rec Center.

For example, the windows in the small gym have been broken for years and have not been replaced. The playground is 30 years old and out of compliance.

Someone suggested that Haas, on behalf of the park, approach the American Legion and the Woman's Club for donations. Another person suggested that someone should lead a fundraising campaign for the park.

Before voting on the proposal, the board weighed the audience comments with the 33 emails it had received earlier.

"I would like to advise Erich not to go forward with the motion at this time," said Bob Harter, who was acting as chair in the absence of Mike Skinner.

The board turned down the parking request and \$23,000. "We represent the people," one board member said. "If residents want parking more than improvements, we do what they want."

Bomb Scare in El Medio Area

Palisades Patrol received an email in the late afternoon on November 9 that stated, "In the El Medio Bluffs area, there are multiple explosive devices in various neighborhoods." The email was passed to LAPD, who takes all threats seriously and responded.

K-9s and bomb detection units were dispatched to El Medio by Northfield around 5 p.m.. Bowdoin, El Medio and other surrounding streets were closed off to traffic for about an hour and a half, while police and dogs combed the neighborhood.

LAPD Watch Commander Schubert said that no devices were found and the area was reopened around 6:45 p.m.

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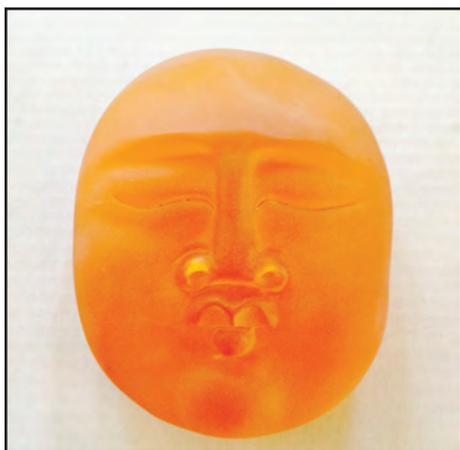
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Sculpted masks by Rosanne Mangio

Mangio's Exhibit Is Open Downtown

"Spirit Illuminated" is the subject for artist Rosanne Mangio's exhibition on view at Metro 417 downtown through December 6.

Sculptor Mangio, a longtime Palisades resident, considers herself a ritual artist.

She started using images of Buddha and Quan Yin, then she moved on to bring out images of "old ones," our ancestors, through the faces of African and Native American elders. She feels that masks are a way that we can re-remember who we are and from where we came.

"In this project, I wanted to show that humanity and spirit are completely and exquisitely connected," Mangio says. "That we illuminate through our face recognition who we really are, and that recognition

gives us all a sense that we are not alone on our journey to the divine."

Mangio grew up in Pacific Palisades and lives in the house her parents built. Her father Vince owned and operated the Palisades Barbershop on Antioch for 41 years. He sold it to barber Joe Almarez.

Making her career with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, Mangio ran senior citizen centers, an art center and served as director of several Recreation Centers, including Palisades Park and Rustic Canyon.

Mangio has been an artist for 40 years, specializing in jewelry design and sculpture.

The gallery, Metro 417, is located at 417 S. Hill Street, Suite 100. Contact: (213) 620-0095.

Youth Addiction Program At Revere This Thursday

By MELANIE GULLET
Special to the Palisades News

March 18, 1987. Bryan is born. I become a mom! He becomes my life, my joy, my purpose, my future. Becoming the mom of an addict was something that I never would have expected to happen. It is something that I pray never happens to anyone else.

Having my 26-year-old son die from his addiction is the worst thing that could have happened. Others' sons and daughters die every day from addiction. I am glad to see that we are looking for a way to help cure addiction instead of hiding it and being embarrassed by it as we did.

Addiction is a disease. As doctors (Gullet is a dentist, Bryan's stepdad is an oral surgeon), we should have known what to do. But, we didn't. No one does really. Some things work and many things don't. The addict needs to be willing but the addict is sick. My addict did things that my son would never do. My addict and my son were two different people in the same body with the same brain that led him to an accidental overdose.

Someone recently asked me how I could continue to talk about my son's death.

I didn't really know how to answer that because within a few days of Bryan's passing of an accidental heroin overdose in January 2014, I decided to start Bryan's Smile.

I know my son's death was not intentional. He made a mistake and it took his life. I know Bryan is always watching over me and he was by my side that first week.

The idea and the logo and the goal came to me so easily . . . His name is Bryan . . . I am a dentist who practices prevention and loves to make people smile. The thing I missed the most when Bryan became addicted to drugs was his smile. I would give my life to see him smile again.

That is why I had a Bryan's Smile Facebook page and a website developed (bryansmile.com) for our nonprofit. I can always remind myself of Bryan's smile by the pho-



Bryan Dunn

tos that I post.

I tell anyone who may want to hear my story about Bryan. I want them to see his great smile and to know what a great boy he was.

The strange thing is that when I tell Bryan's story, people don't smile. They usually are sad; some cry. But, what I want more than anything is for them to be able to see the smiles of their family and friends for the rest of their lives and not have to worry that a drug has taken that away forever.

That is why I will continue to spread the story of my son Bryan and why I push hard for families to come to our Bryan's Smile Reality Tours. We cannot hide from drugs and pretend they are not in our communities. We cannot say, "Not my child." We need to educate ourselves and children about consequences and about the dangers of saying yes, even just one time.

Our last program of the year is Thursday evening, November 17, in the Paul Revere Middle School Auditorium. Like us, join us, come and help prevent your family from experiencing what our family did. Visit: Bryanssmile.com.

(Editor's note: This interactive two-hour program helps to open communication between parents and children, and shows the consequences of certain choices when drugs and alcohol are involved. Check-in for the program is 5:45 p.m. and the program runs from 6 to 8:15 p.m. The free program is intended for children ages 10-17, who must be accompanied by a parent.)

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Alter Behavior with Hypnoparenting

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Hypnotherapist Lisa Machenberg began using hypnotism with her twin sons when they were babies.

"I hypnotized them to sleep quickly, soundly, calmly, deeply all through the night," said Machenberg, who recently discussed hypnoparenting on *The Steve Harvey Show*.

When her boys, Max and Jake, were four, she hypnotized them so they could stop using diapers at night. She told them, "I have a present for you. You're going to be dry all the night."

She joked, "They're 19 now, and they've never had a problem."

Machenberg, who teaches child hypnosis and other classes at HMI College of Hypnotherapy in Tarzana, works with clients in her Sunset Mesa home and also at HMI. She treats individual clients, but also provides hypnoparenting, which involves working with families using hypnosis to create a "calm and peaceful home."

She said the techniques are not mind control, but are instead done with both the parents' and child's awareness to allow them to choose new behaviors they would like and help their brains implement them. "According to *Scientific American*, hypnosis is as safe as going to a lecture, and everyone can learn it," Machenberg noted.

Typically, parents and their child will visit with Machenberg together. "Usually it's a family systems problem," said Machen-



Hypnotherapist Lisa Machenberg (center) and her daughter, Rayna, discuss hypnoparenting with Steve Harvey on his show.

berg, who works with varied children, including those with special needs. "Nothing is done behind the child's back. Everything is out in the open."

She will first talk with the parents to help them learn "how to separate emotions from their parenting response."

"If you want to teach self-regulation, impulse control and containment, you have to have those skills," said Machenberg, whose husband is Bryan Ney, a Kaiser physician. "You can't teach anyone to self-regulate when you're out of control."

She might use hypnosis with the parents to help them learn a new way of handling their emotions so that they can change their responses to their children. Parents may have experienced challenges during their own childhoods that are now manifesting as they parent their children. These problems might have begun in past generations and been passed down from parent to child.

"I teach the parents how to be a transitional hero, so it doesn't go on for more generations," Machenberg said. Later she added, "You have two opportunities to have a parent-child relationship. Once when you're the child and once when you're the parent. When [a parent] makes a different

choice, it helps repair" both the current and childhood parent-child relationship.

Machenberg, a Connecticut native who has worked for 23 years as a hypnotherapist, says that 12 percent of how the brain works involves logic, reason and willpower, while the remaining 88 percent focuses on what is familiar and known. So when people want to eat healthier, but instead find themselves eating junk food while simultaneously saying, "I shouldn't be eating this," it's because the 88 percent is winning.

With hypnosis, she "reprograms the brain" in ways that the client, whether adult or child, would like. Using words, intent and aromatherapy to "hack into the brain," Machenberg said she might help reprogram someone to healthy eating by saying, "Hey, subconscious, now you only feel good when you eat for the goal of a light and healthy body. Not doing that feels bad . . . We want to get it so it's as habituated as putting on your seatbelt in your car."

After working with the parents for part of the one-hour session, Machenberg will talk to the child about whatever desired improvements s/he may want to make. Machenberg, who also discussed her techniques on *Good Morning America*, is then able to

give the child's brain a new message to help conquer their challenges. She will ask children to pick out a special crystal both to use in the session and to take home with them. A recording will capture the hypnosis session, so the child can use it at home.

Change is generally seen immediately, and the technique includes trigger words selected by the child that can be spoken by the parents at home.

On *The Steve Harvey Show*, Palisades parent Tamar Springer and her 11-year-old son Ariel tried one session with Machenberg to help Ariel better tackle both doing his homework and cleaning his room.

Springer, a psychotherapist who sometimes refers patients to Machenberg for hypnosis, said the session worked. "The hypnoparenting helped me to feel calmer and to separate my emotions from parenting interventions," she noted. "Ariel has been better about getting to his homework. The room still gets messy, but he cleans it with less resistance. We only had one session, but to me it was powerful. I believe that ongoing sessions could be very beneficial."

Typically Machenberg, whose daughter Rayna also joined her on the show to discuss her positive experiences with hypnosis, works with clients for about six weeks with steady improvement each week.

"If it doesn't work in six weeks, it's not going to work," Machenberg said. "Every week it should be better."

More information about Machenberg can be found at thehypnomom.com and hypnosistv.com.

Dead Man Found By Woman's Club

Shortly after 3 p.m. on November 4, a passerby found a dead man, possibly a transient, under a tree in the lower parking lot of the Woman's Club and notified police.

According to LAPD, the man was in his late 30s and there were sleeping pills, pain pills and alcohol found next to the body. The death was most likely an overdose or a suicide. LAPD estimate that the man has been there less than 24 hours.



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PASSINGS

Bonnie Miller, 87, Wife and Mother

Bonnie Joyce Miller was born in Grafton, North Dakota on March 27, 1929 and passed away in her home on November 9 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Seeking adventure, Bonnie moved to Los Angeles with her friend Mariam Miller, where they found jobs working with the telephone company.

In 1950, Bonnie met Mariam's brother, Wallace Charles Miller, and they were married in September 1951. The couple moved to Pacific Palisades in 1960, and have resided in the same house here ever since.

Bonnie was a woman of great faith and was active at Corpus Christi Church. She loved playing tennis and golf, and spending time with her family and friends. She was a devoted and loving wife, mother and "Grandma." She will be missed by her loving family and friends.

She is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, as well as her daughter Lisa, son Jeff, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



Bonnie Joyce Miller

A funeral mass will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 19, at Corpus Christi Church, 880 Toyopa Dr.

Upcoming Holiday Events

YMCA Christmas Tree To Open November 28

The annual YMCA Christmas Tree Lot will open on Monday, November 28, and will remain open through December 23 at Simon Meadow (corner of Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon Road). The sale of trees is a major fundraising event for the Y. Proceeds help support healthy programs for Palisadians of all ages; keep fees affordable; and provide financial assistance to those families going through hard times.

The lot is open Monday through Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Santa Claus Is Coming to Town

Santa Claus will visit Pacific Palisades from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, December 2. He and Mrs. Claus will ride into town on the Station 69 fire truck and join the festivities on Antioch. There will be cookie decorating, music, a face painter, picture coloring, a balloon man and a coffee cart. The entire family is invited to join the fun at the annual Holiday Ho!Ho!Ho!

Santa must leave promptly at 8 p.m. to return to the North Pole to continue overseeing the elves and toy making, and feed the reindeer. If you want to help Santa, you may bring a new unwrapped toy to the event, which will be given to Ocean Park Community Center (Santa Monica shelter).

Call: (310) 459-7963 or visit: palisadeschamber.com.

Holiday Glass Sale in Temescal December 3

A one-of-a-kind glass gifts, jewelry and ornaments sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 3, at Simon Meadow (Sunset Boulevard and Temescal Canyon Road).

Santa Monica College students, under the instruction of Palisadian Terri Bromberg, have crafted unique objects that can be used for gifts for the person who has everything.

Proceeds will help support the Palisades-Malibu YMCA and the SMC Art Department. Christmas trees will also be available at Simon Meadow.

Call (310) 454-5591 or visit ymcala.org/pm.

Temescal Canyon Association Annual Meeting Set for Nov. 29

The Temescal Canyon Association will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 29 in the Temescal Canyon Park Dining Hall. Light refreshments will be served, the public is welcome and parking is free.

The group will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the national parks, and Dr. Seth Riley, a wildlife ecologist with the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, will speak. He will give a status update on the proposed Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing, and address wildlife observations and is-

sues near Topanga State Park. His specialty is mountain lions and coyotes.

Also on the agenda: a rarely seen historic film of Los Leones Canyon, which proved to be the turning point in the fight to keep the area safe from development. Historian Randy Young will offer background stories and give a status update on what is now a state gateway park.

Members will pay tribute to the late Ethel Haydon, a founding member of TCA in 1972 and a dedicated board member.

Visit: temcanyon.org or questions to temcanyonassoc@gmail.com.



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PaliHi Girls Capture Tennis Title



Team Captains Calypso Peraticos (left) and Morgan Novak flank Coach Bud Kling, who has more career victories than any other high school tennis coach.

When the Palisades High girls tennis team reached the L.A. City Section Division I finals against Granada Hills on November 8, they were seeded No. 1, but coach Bud Kling wasn't too confident about their chances.

His concerns were unwarranted, however, as the Dolphins easily prevailed, 5-2, at the Balboa Sports Center in Encino.

"This was one of the most rewarding wins for us because we weren't the favorite this year," Kling said. "They returned their entire team, I replaced seven starters since last year."

This was the sixth straight year that these two teams faced off in the City finals.

First up was Pali's No. 1 player, sophomore Carolina Goldberg, who lost to Granada's Rena Lin, 6-3, 6-2. Lin is one of the top-20 ranked players in Southern California in her age group.

Pali team captain Calypso Peraticos, playing No. 2 singles, beat her opponent 6-1, 6-4. The third match was a doubles showdown, and Alex Hart and Maddy Goore overcame Grenada, 6-4, 7-5.

Freshman Sophia Arvin, who played No. 3 singles, went three sets before losing to her Highlander opponent 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.

But then, Pali's No. 1 double team of Gigi Feingold and Caroline Ross responded with a 7-5, 7-5 victory to

give Pali an insurmountable 4-2 lead.

Kate Harrington and Alex Miller, playing No. 3 doubles, won their match, 6-2, 6-4, to complete PaliHi's fourth straight championship and title.

This is the 17th City title for PaliHi girls and Kling's 41st City title overall. (His boys teams have won 24.)

When Pali won its quarter-final match against Bell at the Palisades Tennis Center, Peraticos, a senior mainstay, told the *News*: "We were expected to come back this year [as champs], but then we lost four starters. At the beginning of the season, everyone was worried. Being undefeated was more important this year."

When Kling left for the Rio Olympics in August, it looked like his team was set. Upon returning, he learned two girls had moved to the East Coast, another had joined a tennis academy, and another decided not to continue playing.

His seemingly easy path to another championship was gone and his team had to be reassembled.

"The girls had to work harder, and I had more demanding practices," Kling said. "The big change for us was going up to Fresno for a tournament the third week of school. We won our division and we came together as a team."

He praised his varsity girls for the way they brought the JV players in. "They were considered part of the team; no one was considered a second-hand player," Kling said. "This team is special. There is unity from top to bottom."

Dolphins Win Playoff Opener, 41-0

Playing at home in the first round of the City Section Division I football playoffs, Palisades High destroyed the Carson Colts, 41-0, on November 10.

For the Dolphins (9-2 overall), this has been a season of firsts. On November 5, the Dolphins beat Venice, 14-7, for their first victory over the Gondoliers in 16 years. This earned them a three-way tie for first in the Western League, and a home-field opener in the playoffs—the first they've had since Coach Tim Hyde came to Pali four years ago.

Palisades parlayed a powerful running attack (more than 400 yards rushing) with a crushing defense as it dominated Carson.

The Dolphins scored their first touchdown with three minutes left in the first quarter after senior Quinn Perry recovered a fumble on Carson's 15 yard line.

Senior tailback Innocent Okoh, who led the City Section in rushing this season, carried the ball three times for nine yards and senior quarterback Jonah Manheim ran for three yards before junior Rayne Camden took it in for the touchdown—his first of three during the game. Jake Taitelman kicked the PAT.

Following the kickoff, Carson failed to make a first down and Pali took over on its own 39. Okoh and Marrio Lofton led a running attack down to Carson's 14 (aided

by a pass to Alex Vaupen) and Manheim then passed to Perry for a touchdown. The PAT was no good.

The Dolphins surprised Carson with an onside kick that was misplayed by the Colts, resulting in Pali taking possession at the Colts' 40. Three plays later, 6-2 sophomore quarterback Tommy Beattie passed to Okoh for a 14-yard gain, and then Beattie hit Perry for the TD with five minutes left in the half. The PAT failed.

Leading 19-0, the Dolphins once again tried an onside kick, but Carson gained control on its own 35. The Pali defense forced another punt, and Okoh proceeded to return it 83 yards for a touchdown. Taitelman's PAT was good, and the Dolphins had the game in hand, 26-0, at halftime.

In the third quarter, Carson couldn't move the ball and the Dolphins took over on their own 31. After runs by Okoh and Lofton, Camden broke loose and raced 50 yards for the score.

Pali later scored two points on a safety, and Camden (listed at 6-0, 180) scored his final touchdown. He ended the game with 75 yards on 11 carries.

After the game, senior Okoh said, "We're really happy. We haven't won a playoff game since I've been at the school. We need another one!"



Innocent Okoh manages to dodge through holes opened up by the line. Photo: Drew Vaupen

Okoh, who is small (5-5, 170) but fast and elusive, ran for an impressive 254 yards on 27 carries—his 10th straight game with more than 100 yards rushing.

Said Lofton, also a senior: "This was awesome. This is all about how our team works together." He rushed for 105 yards in 18 carries.

"This was a great team effort," said Perry, a team captain. "This was a big game and

we kept our focus. We're getting better as a team. We want a banner in the gym." (City championship banners are hung in the PaliHi gym, and the Dolphins have never won a football title in school history.)

Coach Hyde said, "We played great football tonight against a legendary team."

The sixth-seeded Dolphins will now travel to play third-seeded San Pedro this Friday. The two teams have identical records: 9-2.

Water Polo Captures 5th Straight Title

The Palisades High boys water polo team defeated Granada Hills, 10-4, to win its fifth straight City Section title on November 12.

Leading up to the finals, the top-seeded Dolphins, under head coach Adam Blakis, doused team after team. In the first round they routed Robert F. Kennedy Community High School 24-2; in the quarterfinals they beat Taft 17-1 and in the semis they defeated Eagle Rock, 18-6.

At halftime of the championship game, PaliHi found itself in an unusual place—ahead by only one point, 3-2, with goals by seniors Isai Elias, Quinn Godfredsen and Lucas Silva. At that point, the game could have gone either way.

Senior Gabby Feizbakhsh later said, “In the first half I didn’t have any goals. Granada kind of got into our heads. The second half we got motivated. It was time to get ahead to realize our hopes and dreams.” He raised his game by scoring two goals.

Captain Isai Elias said, “We weren’t nervous [about the championship]; we just had to compose ourselves and get the win.”

And they did. In the third quarter, Oliver Grant scored two goals and Orson Spence and Silva each added a goal as the Dolphins took a 7-3 lead.

At the start of the fourth quarter, Pali’s senior goalkeeper, Brandon Epp, made a great save to keep the ball on the offensive side of the pool, keeping momentum on Pali’s side.

Feizbakhsh then scored the team’s eighth and ninth goals, Epp made another great save (he had 11 in the game) and Elias closed out the scoring.

After the Dolphins received their medals and the championship trophy, Blakis was happy to take the traditional jump into the pool with his players.

“This was a great win,” Blakis said. When asked about the low scoring in the first half and if he was worried, he answered: “We were struggling with our offense. Our passes were sloppy, but our defense held us. Then we put the pedal to the medal and started scoring.”

He had nothing but praise for the boys and their defensive skills. “I wasn’t worried, I knew our defense would do it for us.”



The Dolphins celebrated in the pool after winning the championship.

Photo: Ben Trask

“I’ve been looking forward to this,” Silva said. “This year’s seniors couldn’t have asked for a better team to play with. We all played our hearts out.”

Feizbakhsh, who has been playing water polo since second grade, said: “This was the culmination of all that work. It was like a last hurrah.”



Angel Echipue took control in the semifinal match against Elizabeth.

Photo courtesy of PaliHi Yearbook

Girls Lose in Heartbreaker

The Palisades High girls volleyball team lost to Granada Hills in four sets in the City Section Division 1 finals at Roybal Learning Center on Saturday.

The 3-1 score reflected the result, not the close battle.

Granada won the first set, 25-20. In the second one, the Dolphins were up 19-6, but Granada came back to win, 25-23. Pali took the third set 25-20, but then lost the deciding fourth set, 25-18.

Since the end of September, the Highlanders hadn’t lost a match and no team had taken them to the fourth set, until Saturday. In Granada’s semi-final match against El Camino Real, they won 25-12, 25-12 and 25-21. (Last year Palisades lost to El Camino 3-2 in the Championship final.)

The Dolphins beat Elizabeth (25-15, 25-11 and 25-23) in the semi-finals to advance. Carlos Gray knew his team would be facing Granada, and told the *News*, “This will take the greatest prep we’ve ever done.”

Gray said the Highlanders roster was

deep with nine seniors. By contrast, the Dolphins lost nine girls last year, and had to readjust positions this year. Only two of the returning players had the same position. Gray, who had three seniors on the team, said he had a lot of talent, but his team lacked consistency and experience.

After destroying Elizabeth in the semi-final game at Palisades on November 8, captain and senior Angel Echipue said, “Saturday we will need to have our best game of the season.”

Her fellow captain, Emma Sims, added, “I know it’s going to be tough and hopefully we’ll win. It’s unbelievable how we have bounced back. We’ve meshed so well.”

Gray was also happy with the girls on the team, praising them after that win, saying this year has been different, and they have had some hard-fought battles along the way, but “we just clicked, it’s really sweet.”

Palisades will advance to regionals on November 16, but brackets and game locations had not been posted at press time.



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Register for Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5/10K

Registration for the fourth annual Banc of California Pacific Palisades Turkey Trot 5/10K is ongoing. The race begins and ends at the Palisades High School football stadium on Thanksgiving Day, November 24.

Street closures in the Asilomar bluffs area and Temescal Canyon Road begin at 6:30 a.m. and the race starts at 8 a.m. Adults (18+) are \$35 for the 5K and \$40 for the 10K, children are \$25 for the 5K and \$30 for the 10K.

Proceeds from the race support Hearts of Hope and the Los Angeles Food Bank. To register visit: paliturkeytrot.com/



Calvary's eighth-grade champions include (from left to right) Preston Barnes, Brady Greene, Jaxon Bell, Max Mirkin, Nathan Clark, Liam Tucker, Shane Bunting, Ryan Lewis, Ryan Smith, Griffin Milner, Cooper Morrow, Greyson Chavez, Henry Kennedy, Earl Brien, Andrew Ennis and Lane Johnson, with Coach Tharen Todd. (Not pictured: Duncan Grimes and Ethan Rubin).



The sixth-grade champions are (left to right) Julian Milner, Kade Kelly, Sean Nguyen, Crew Morrow, Rafferty Shea, Caleb Polaha, Finn Johnson, Paul Kedeshian, Amanda Parks, Aidan Davis, Justin Sikola, Tyler Clouse, Jackson Kennedy, Jensen Bell, Maddox Brien, Goldie Massey, Charlie Widhelm, Dean Mirkin, Duke Massey, with Coach Anthony Windom.

Calvary Teams Win League Titles

It would have been exciting enough to win one Pacific Basin championship in flag football, but Calvary Christian School won two.

On November 4, the sixth-grade team took on Willows at Calvary for the league title. The game was tied at regulation and it

took a double overtime before the Cougars scored a touchdown to win, 18-12.

The same day, the eighth-grade team played Willows at Crossroads School and in a hard-fought battle, won 14-12.

Coach Todd Tharen had had high praise

for his team. "Every player contributed to the success of our undefeated season and championship," he said. "These kids have a lot of heart, a strong work ethic, and are fierce competitors."

Calvary's eighth-grade flag football team

had never won a championship before and it was particularly sweet. "It's a proud day for the Cougars and I'm happy to have coached and watched them develop on and off the field through the past few years,"

Tharen said.



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Closeness, *Esther Pearlman*

Art Association Holds November Juried Show

The Palisades Art Association held its semi-annual juried show on November 5 in the Palisades Library community room.

There were 39 entries in four categories: drawing, mixed media, prints and photography. The curator was Terri Bromberg, a local artist and Santa Monica College art instructor in glass-blowing. The juror was Robin Mitchell, a Santa Monica artist.

In the drawing category, first place went to Shirley Peppers, second to Renee Agarwal and third to Jeanne Allen. Honorable men-

tion went to Allen and Annette Alexakis.

In mixed media, Esther Pearlman was first, Terri Bromberg second and Peppers third. Honorable mention was given to Alexakis, Marlene Sherins, Wanda Norman-Story, Martha Meade and Bruce Sanders.

In the print category, first place went to Bruce Sanders, second to Allen and third to Tracie Garacochea. Agarwal and Sanders received honorable mention.

In photography, Sue Moritt took first, Tracie Garacochea placed second and Allen was third. An additional photo from Allen received honorable mention.

The art will remain in the community room through November 28. PPAA sponsors two annual member shows, in April and November.

Oops!

In the November 2 story "Carly K Fights for Store's Survival," page 4. The address was incorrectly reported as 1017. The correct address is 1013 Swarthmore.

Senior Living Options Discussed at Library

The Palisades Alliance for Seniors program will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, November 28 in the Palisades Branch Library, and will continue a discussion on senior living options. Led by Palisadian Mike Kafka, a longtime executive in the senior housing industry, the meeting will address "Assisted Living Choices, Continuing Care Communities, and the Interface with Adult Children."

The December 5 programming has been changed in response to an unsettling incident that occurred at the "Ballot Measures" program on October 24.

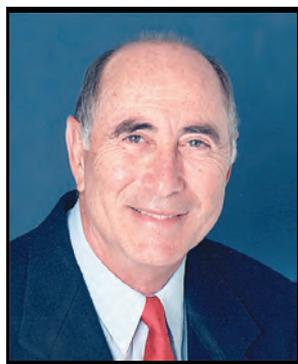
Those present at that meeting should know that the knowledgeable speaker had a serious health mishap, not recognized at the time, that temporarily rendered her unable to provide cogent analysis.

Audience members had a sense that something was wrong, but did not identify the problem or intervene. In response to that disturbing experience, the "Low Tech Solutions" program previously scheduled for that date will be postponed. That program will be replaced by "When Stroke, TIA, or TGA Symptoms Present as Confusion: How to Recognize and Respond." Visit: Palisadesalliance.org.

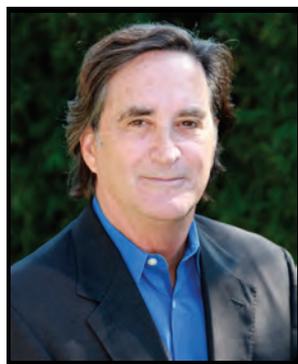
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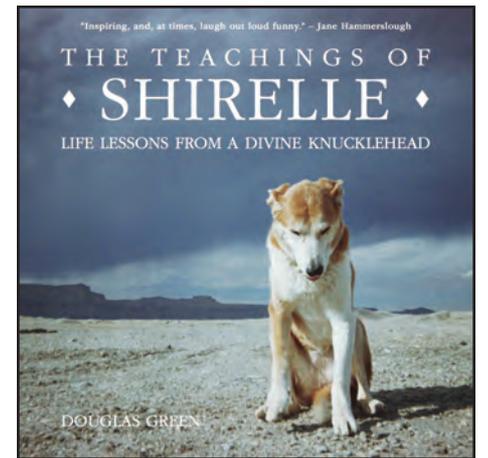
Green to Impart Wisdom In Library Talk Thursday

Douglas Green will speak on *The Teachings of Shirelle: Life Lessons from a Divine Knucklehead*, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 17, in the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real. The public is invited.

Green's talk will center on the humorous, yet serious, look at the psychological, philosophical and spiritual wisdom that he learned—from a ridiculous dog he loved.

A psychotherapist, writer, professor and director, Green lives in Los Angeles. He created and runs AskShirelle.com, a website offering advice to kids, teens, parents and adults, based on the teachings in his book.

He has been a mainstay of Theatre Palisades, having directed *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Desperate Hours* and *Company*, while also performing satirical songs at its



awards shows for fifteen years.

Green's free talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Palisades Library. Call (310) 459-02754 or visit friendsofpalibrary.org.

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Saint Matthew's to Hold Annual Christmas Faire

The 25th annual Saint Matthew's Christmas Faire will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, November 18, in Sprague Auditorium, 1031 Bienvenida Ave.

The theme this year is "Celebrate," based on Corinthians 10:31. Co-chairs Cary Sinnott, Courtney Wyman, Anna Hurst and Channing Grigsby invite the community to shop for items that include sports tickets, hotel getaways, beauty treatments from top estheticians and toys.

The net proceeds from the evening are donated to the church's outreach partners, which include: Angel Interfaith Network (Provide funds for low-income individuals departing County USC Medical Center); Chrysalis (job training); CLARE Foundation drug prevention programs); Episcopal Urban Intern Program; Global Aid Interfaith Alliance (Sponsor a village in Malawi, Africa); Hollygrove/Uplift Family Services (abused children); Jubilee Consortium (Health Project for inner city youth); and the Neighborhood Youth Association (after school program for at-risk youth).

Additional funding will go to Ocean Pacific Community Center (Homeless); the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness; PRISM/Restorative Justice—Support pastoral care for prison inmates at the Twin Towers and youth at Juvenile Hall; Safe Place for Youth (homeless youth); St. Joseph Center and St. Joseph's Center's Bread & Roses Café (housing and food); and Westside Food Bank.

"We hope to welcome friends and neighbors to this celebratory evening that will be the start of a great holiday season for all," Sinnott said.

Visit: stmatthews.com/church/christmasfaire.php

Thanksgiving Week Tennis Camp

A tennis camp will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on November 21, 22, 23 and 25 at the Palisades High School tennis courts. Ron Hightower and Ray Hugill will work with tournament and high school players, ages 12-18. This is a structured, high performance program that will focus on stroke production, forehands, backhands, volleys, serves, overheads and touch shots. The cost is \$170 for four days, or \$45 daily. Email rayhugill10S@gmail.com or hightowertennis@gmail.com to register.



Pumpkin Parade painters were (left to right) Melanie Papadopoulos, Eleanor Gee, Lulu Prestine, Quinn and Maria Quigley.

Halloween Window Painting Contest Winners Announced

The annual window painting contest sponsored by the Palisades Woman's Club was held the last week of October. Winners were announced on November 1.

The contest, now more than 50 years old, originally was started by the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce. Now the Woman's Club encourages youth to paint local store windows for Halloween. All entrants received participation certificates, and the top two winners received a certificate for a pizza party.

Once the windows were painted, following the theme "Pumpkins on Parade," a photo was emailed to PPCW and all entries were judged by members of the Club.

Winning in the third grade and younger category was "The Pumpkin Pie Window" at Vivian's Boutique, at 875 Via de la Paz. The masterpiece was completed by Amelia Halpin, 6, Vanessa Masterson, 7, and Sienna Nocas, 7, under the adult supervision of Jessica Masterson.

In the fourth grade and up category, the "Pumpkin Parade" at Beech Street, 863 Swarthmore Ave., took top prize. It was painted by Girls Scout Troop 12865 members Eleanor Gee, Melanie Papadopoulos, Lulu Prestine, Maria and Quinn Quigley under the adult supervision of Claudia Romero.



Pumpkin Pie was painted by (left to right) Amelia Halpin, Vanessa Masterson and Sienna Nocas.

Event organizer Nancy Niles said, "The windows were festive and carried out the theme. All the participants are to be commended for their artistic effort and for keeping this wonderful holiday tradition alive."

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‘The Box Project’: Uncommon Threads

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

All photos by Bruce M. White for
The Cotsen Collection, ©Lloyd Cotsen, 2016

The history of fiber goes back centuries, and some of the earliest known examples are linen, cotton and hemp.

Lloyd Cotsen, the former CEO and chairman of the board of the Neutrogena Corporation, has had a fascination with textiles going back many decades. His collection contains 4,500 pieces (all are fragments), and for years he has donated thousands of items to museums across the country.

Early this century, Cotsen and the late Mary Hunt Kahlenberg, his textile curator of many years, decided to reach out to artists who worked in textiles. The results can now be seen in “The Box Project: Uncommon Threads,” currently on view at UCLA’s Fowler Museum.

It was a circuitous route from inception to exhibition. Because of Kahlenberg’s death in 2011, Lyssa C. Stapleton, curator of Cotsen’s various collections for 20 years, became an integral part in putting the exhibition together. She co-curated the exhibit with Bruce W. Pepich, director of the Racine Art Museum, where the exhibit is headed next.

Kahlenberg asked five separate groups to participate, starting with North American fiber artists, followed by Japanese artists. Stapleton worked with Kahlenberg on the third group, mostly European artists, while the next group included artists who knew about the project and asked to be involved. Pepich brought in the last group of four artists after Kahlenberg’s death, and volunteered to curate them.

“Mary was fundamental in putting this collection together, in deciding which artists,” Stapleton told the *Palisades News*. He was key in deciding how the boxes would be exhibited.

“We decided what we wanted was to make it a much more artist-centric exhibition, where the visitors got to experience both how these artists responded to the challenge of the Box Project and also what they do in their usual studio work,” Stapleton said.

But it was Cotsen, himself, who came up with the initial idea.



Gyöngy Laky, *This Way and That*, (2013)



Shigeki Fukumoto, *Double Refraction: Turquoise*, (2005)

“Lloyd had this idea that he would like to invite contemporary artists to make commissioned works for his collection, but that morphed into the idea that it would be very interesting to see how contemporary fiber artists addressed challenges based on constraints and dimensionality,” Stapleton said.

The only limitation was that each artist had to create something that would fit in a clamshell box that was made to house each individual piece of The Cotsen Collection’s entire textile collection. Each one is handmade, with handwoven textile from Japan and American-made handwoven paper. Artists were given two choices: either the square box (14 x 14 x 2 ½ inches high) or the rectangular one (23 x 14 x 2 ½ inches high).

“In terms of the sizes of the boxes, Lloyd put his hands out and said, ‘One is going to be about this big, and the other is going to be about this big,’” Stapleton said, when asked how the sizes were chosen.

“The intent of the project was to pose a challenge. That was the fundamental, central theme of the commissioned project from the very beginning,” she said.

“I don’t know what Lloyd was envisioning. He kind of said, ‘Here’s your box. Make something to go inside of it.’”

Other than that, the artists had complete autonomy, including using whatever materials they wished within the fiber world. There were no deadlines.

The meaning of fiber was expanded to include many materials, such as buttons, copper wire, gold leaf, beads, silk, acrylic, stainless steel, spools of thread and wood.

Three dozen artists from around the world participated in “The Box Project,” including U.S.-based artists James Bassler (Palm Springs), Virginia Davis (Berkeley), Helena Hernmarck (Connecticut), Mary Bero (Wisconsin), John Garrett (New Mexico) and Gerhardt Knodel (Michigan). Entries also came from Japan, Chile, Germany, Estonia, Finland and England.

“A lot of these artists are weavers, so they fundamentally



James Bassler, *Boxed Blocks*, (2004)



Kyoko Nitta, *Index*, (2005)



Gere Kavanaugh, untitled, (2010)

work in two dimensions," Stapleton said. "The idea of making a textile that was three dimensional was very challenging. How do you fill the space inside that box?"

"The artists interpreted that in different ways. Some of them made work that was integral to the box. It cannot be removed from the box. Others perceived the box as a space in which the art lived until it was brought out to be displayed.

"We were sort of surprised by that when we got boxes back from artists. It made us say, 'Oh, we never thought to tell them to do one thing or the other.' We decided

we didn't care, we liked that the artist perceived it in different ways," Stapleton said.

There is a lot of diversity in the Fowler show. Though it's hard to pick a standout, Japanese artist Shigeki Fukumoto's *Double Refraction: Lapis Lazuli* is simply stunning. It is divided into five sections, and is made with linen and gold leaf, with illustrious blues and other colors made by an ancient Japanese dyeing method. It resembles five ancient scrolls in a box.

Los Angeles-based artist Gere Kavanaugh's untitled piece features dozens of spools of thread and wide-ruled elementary school paper with a story written on it in childlike writing.

Another particularly striking piece is Virginia Davis' *Bounded by a Nutshell*, made with holographic paper. In the artist's note, Berkeley-based Davis states that the title of her piece comes from Hamlet: "I could be bounded by a nutshell and count myself a king of infinite space."

Maquettes (small models) and handwritten letters help the viewer to understand how the artists planned their contributions to the project.

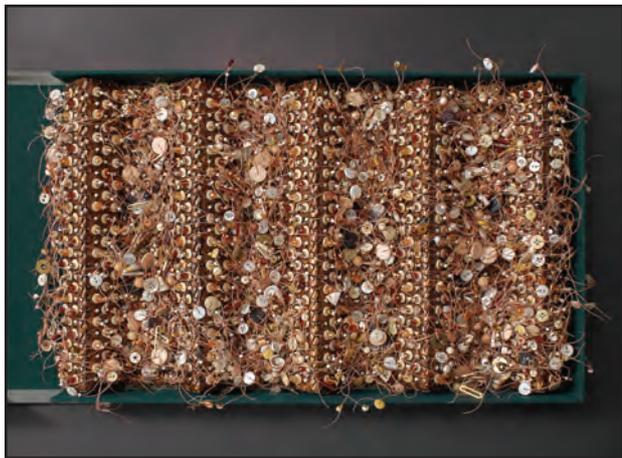
The exhibit also features 22 larger works on loan from 15 of the participating artists.

As a special treat for school groups, the Fowler brings out a "Bento Box," which is filled with textile samples used in pieces in the exhibit. The children get to touch the various materials, including raw silk and bamboo, and

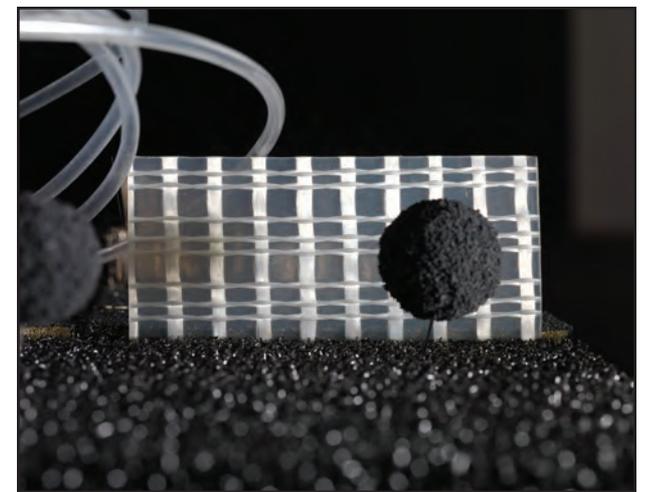
learn more about what went into creating the different works that make up "The Box Project."

Stapleton hopes viewers leave with a greater understanding of the artists' creative process, and that they "get an opportunity to think about the engineering behind the projects, how and why these artists may have chosen materials that they worked with and how they strategized working within the parameters of the box."

"The Box Project" is on view through January 15, 2017. For more information, visit fowler.ucla.edu



John Garrett, untitled, 2004



Zane Berzina, Topography, (2009-10)



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PaliHi Grad Wins Major Design Award

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Johnny Fracchiolla, 22, won the 2016 D&AD (formerly British Design and Art Direction) Yellow Pencil Award given to promising young graphic designers.

D&AD, a British-based group celebrating design and art direction, awards its New Blood Awards to students, recent graduates and designers under 24.

Fracchiolla, who graduated from the Pratt Institute in May with a BFA in communications design with an emphasis in graphic design, traveled to London this summer for the award ceremony.

A native of Pacific Palisades, Fracchiolla attended Pali Elementary, Paul Revere and Palisades High, and is currently living in Brooklyn, where Pratt is located.

To enter the design competition, Fracchiolla and Pratt classmates Andrew Diemer and Niccoló Debole asked themselves ‘What is bravery these days?’ and created the satirical web store designiswork.com.

The site uses humor to discuss ethical employment practices in the design field.

“Young designers feel they have to participate in unpaid internships, and that you’re getting paid in experience,” Fracchiolla said. “You’re making work that you should be compensated for. You’re paying to go to school, you shouldn’t have to give



Johnny Fracchiolla (left) won the D&AD Yellow Pencil Award for up-and-coming designers along with friends Andrew Diemer (center) and Niccoló Debole for their satirical web store designiswork.com.

it away for free.

“The web store gets the message out but makes it easier to digest through humor,” he said. For example, one T-shirt on the web store states: “I paid my interns and all I got was a more diverse group of talent who felt valued and invested in my business.”

The three friends wanted to focus on

unpaid internships as a way to bring the subject into the conversation in the design industry using a lighthearted approach.

Pratt School paid for their flight to London to accept the award and the friends did some travel around Europe afterward.

Fracchiolla is the son of Nancy Fracchiolla, the drama teacher at Palisades High,

and Chris Fracchiolla, the pastor at Magnolia Park United Methodist Church in Burbank. His younger sister Alice is studying history at UCLA.

He originally became interested in sculpture at PaliHi and entered Pratt to study that discipline. During his foundation year at the school, he became interested in design and typography. “I still love sculpture,” he said. “I do it on my own time.”

For Fracchiolla, one of the challenges of attending the Pratt Institute was its location in New York. “I knew I wasn’t necessarily a city person. I wanted to take it on as a challenge,” he said. “I’ve grown to love it. I’ve learned a different side of myself.”

He continues to backpack and rock-climb, going from solo backpacking trips in the San Bernardino Mountains to hiking in woody East Coast locales like Virginia’s Appalachian Trail.

Fracchiolla is currently freelancing while looking for a full-time design position. He recently designed a campaign logo for Allison Holdorff Polhill, a Palisadian who is running for a seat on the LAUSD school board.

JUMBLE SOLUTION

Jumbles: SWEPT WIPER INVOKE TANGLE
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L.A. Urged to Fix General Plan

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Why are there so many homeless in Los Angeles? Campaign Director for the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, Jill Stewart, and former City Planner Dick Platkin, speculate that the way the City does business with some developers could be a reason. The two spoke at the Pacific Palisades Residents Association 58th Annual Meeting on October 24 at the Woman's Club.

"Since 2000, the City has allowed 22,000 affordable units to be destroyed," Stewart said, and added, "Los Angeles now has a glut of luxury condominiums."

Stewart said that 95 percent of the development is done correctly, but "about five

percent of developers are not following the rules. There is spot zoning." That kind of zoning is a provision in a general plan which benefits a single parcel of land by creating a zone just for that parcel and is different from surrounding parcels in the area.

Platkin, who worked more than 20 years in the Planning Department said he learned early on that one doesn't deny a project. Everything is approved, but with conditions. When he asked the audience of about 30 who polices planning conditions, "No one!" was the loud response.

"That's right," he said and joked, "I'm working with an advanced class, here."

He went onto say, "The Grove had pages and pages of conditions that were not followed. It's only when private citizens go to court are they enforced."

Former Mayor Dick Riordan supports the Neighborhood Initiative and told Stewart, "I'm for development, but I'm opposed to stupid development." She said that Riordan is worried about the loss of land used for light industrial uses and the loss of affordable housing.

"There is no place for the working class in the City," Stewart said, noting that by bowing to developers, the City Council, by default, is promoting a high density, high luxury City plan. That means working people must live outside of the city.

"There has been a demolition of affordable housing and no systematic construction of affordable housing," Platkin said. "If you look at the city, it's a wild wild west—anything goes."

Stewart said, "We know exactly what has been built, now we're working on what has been torn down." That vacancy rate for luxury apartments is 12 percent. The city-wide vacancy rate is three percent.

The audience was asked if they knew who provided the environmental impact reports for projects.

"Developers," was the response.

Once again the audience was congratulated for understanding the current system. If the Initiative passes in the general election in March 2017, developers will be banned from writing their own environmental impact reports—an obvious conflict of interest. Stewart and Platkin said that those documents often contain lies, most often in the traffic portion—which underestimates the effect of development in a neighborhood.

The two point out that L.A.'s General Plan is 20 years old, broken and doesn't address who and how the 100-year-old sewers or the exploding water mains will be fixed. The City has not overseen a plan for City parks and has also decimated the City planning department.

The proposed initiative would ask that city officials prove that each community has enough water, good roads and safety services to handle changes along transit lines and other streets being planned by City Hall.

The Initiative asks that the City Council do its job by creating a General Plan that includes updated Community plans with infrastructure limitations and community wants. (In 2005, the City Council,

under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Council President Alex Padilla, voted quietly not to have to write a General Plan.)

It would promote a two-year moratorium on spot zoning, which bends the rules to approve mega-projects that destroy neighborhood character and displaces residents. It does not stop development that adheres to zoning.

The Initiative has developer support. One told Stewart, "I don't ask for changes, I don't ask for variances, but I get grief, I get slowed down in the system."

Developer Reza Akef also complained to the two that he was frustrated with planning, that he would go and wait and wait, and then come face to face with City Planners who had no idea about this area.

The two were asked by the audience how the campaign was going and learned the Initiative is being opposed by four billionaire developers, The Lowy family of Australia (Westfield—Century City and the Village at Westfield Topanga), Kahn (real estate development company based in Miami), Eli Broad and the Lowes Hotel corporation.

"We have 400 small donors from around the city," Stewart said, noting that they have wide support from residents. "Everywhere I go around the City, people have the same problems."

Visit: 2preservela.org

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration Is November 21

In keeping with a long-standing Pacific Palisades tradition, clergy from eight religious institutions in the Palisades will participate in a Thanksgiving service at 7 p.m. Monday, November 21 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 1031 Bienvenida. All residents are invited.

Each clergy member contributes a scrip-

ture reading, a blessing or a song that transcends denominational differences to reflect the overarching theme of gratitude for our free will, freedom and cohesive national unity. As our nation comes together after the election, it is a time for healing and a time to celebrate our differences.

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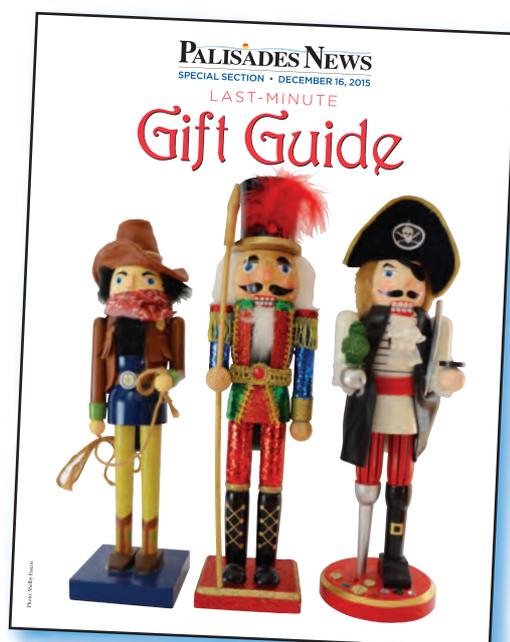
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Historical Society to Meet November 22

The Pacific Palisades Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

The evening will center on "Activism in Pacific Palisades: 1922-2000," detailing how volunteers impacted the development of this community. The program will include video-taped oral interviews and images from the society's extensive newspaper and photo archive.

The event is free and the public is welcome. Refreshments will follow. There is free parking available. Visit: pacificpalisadeshistory.org. Questions can be directed to board@pacificpalisadeshistory.org.

Final 2016 Book Sale: December 3

The Friends of the Palisades Branch Library will hold its last parking-lot book sale of the year from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 3 at the library, 851 Alma Real.

Hundreds of nearly new art books, coffee-table books, craft and hobby volumes, fiction and nonfiction books, DVDs and CDs will be sold. As an added convenience to shoppers, credit cards are now accepted, as well as cash and checks.

Proceeds help purchase books, research materials and other items the branch library would not otherwise be able to afford.

In case of rain, the sale will be postponed until the following Saturday, December 10. Visit: friendsofpalilibrary.org.

Allergist's Wife Needs a Benadryl

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

Playwright Charles Busch, known for cinematic parodies in which he plays the nobly suffering or conniving leading lady, takes a stab at sit-com in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, now on stage at the Pierson Playhouse through December 11.

While Busch is an accomplished actor and screenwriter, and applauded for his multiple female impersonations and appearances in drag roles in early plays, his talent is hidden in this comedy. It's difficult to figure out where he is going, and the theme, if there is a theme, is opaque.

The wife referenced in the play's title is Marjorie Taub (Lauren Leitner), who is suffering an extreme malaise—ostensibly distraught over the death of her longtime therapist. We find her in the opening scene, curled up on the sofa mid-morning, wrapped in a fluffy robe, mukluks on her feet.

The scene is a co-op in Upper West Side Manhattan, where she lives with her husband Ira, a pleasant enough retired allergist (Phil Bartolf), who gives his time to the underserved. The couple has two grown daughters.

Exhibiting an overwhelming existential inadequacy, Marjorie finds her life, so far, pale in comparison to the great philosophers and artists she admires: men like Kierkegaard



Lois Bostwick, Kim Kensington and Lauren Leitner in a scene from *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* at the Pierson Playhouse.

Photo: Joy Daunis

and Nietzsche, and most especially Herman Hesse. "Curious, yes, profound, no," she laments. "We're just Russian peasants from the shtetl; I'm a fraud, a cultural poseur." In one of many dramatic fiats, she sums up her life as such: "Perdu, the utter loss of my soul."

Her mother, Frieda Tuchman (Lois Bostwick), lives down the hall. Cut from the broadest Jewish shtick, she's a nagging, silly woman, whom Marjorie accuses of killing

her capacity to dream. "You're a knife, a destroyer," she rants.

"Marjorie, you're bored," Frieda rejoins.

Probably so, that is until Marjorie's girlhood friend Lee (Kim Kensington) shows up and upends the comfortable, if completely dysfunctional, family dynamic. Lee, who is bigger than life, with a vigorous imagination and playfulness, spiked with a mysterious biography, kicks the plot into gear.

If we could just sit back and enjoy these harried New Yorkers flinging one-liners back and forth, yielding wall-to-wall laughs, that would be an enjoyable evening.

But Busch is no Neil Simon, and the soufflé of clichés, Jewish angst and way too much info on bodily functions collapses, exposing just flecks of a plot.

Under the direction of Ria Parody Erlich, the Theatre Palisades cast, to the person, does a superb job navigating the currents of this meandering comedy. It may be faint praise, but one ultimately grows fond of Marjorie and her confusing world. Her husband has his professional laurels to reassure him; her mother is more than absorbed in the state of her bowels, but Marjorie is marooned, figuring out who she is at this stage in her life.

In Hesse's *Siddhartha*, Marjorie's all-time favorite novel, the young man Siddhartha leaves his family for a contemplative life. As he seeks wisdom, he finds nothing. He concludes that seeking means having a goal. But finding means being free, being open, and having no goal. Maybe that's what Marjorie and we learn at the conclusion of the play. The mysteries of life are just that, mysteries.

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd. Tickets: (310) 454-1970 or www.theatrepalisades.org.

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Chinois Offers a Memorable Outing

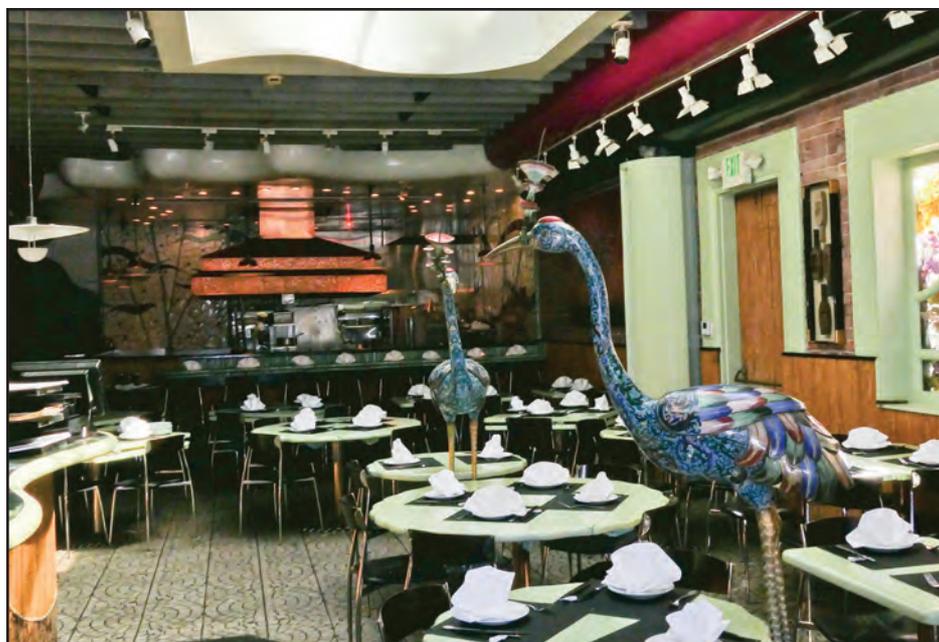
By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

In the interest of serving mankind and reporting on our monthly lunch club adventures by touring Southern California's most legendary restaurants, we have occasionally sacrificed food quality for a stroll down memory lane.

We decided it was time to replace some of those palate-numbing experiences by eating at a place that has become synonymous with elegant dining—Chinois on Main in Santa Monica—which became an L.A. institution shortly after opening its doors in 1983. Wolfgang Puck's sequel to his landmark Spago restaurant provided his introduction to "Asian-fusion" and was praised by critics as innovative and imaginative.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not one of those Westside food snobs. My dining habits range from chowing down on local take-out as I sit behind my TV tray to eating while standing over the kitchen sink. My lack of sophistication regarding food runs so deep that I discovered recently that arugula was not an African country bordering Namibia.

I'm hoping our lunch group doesn't come off sounding like a bunch of martyrs about our recent outings, but several of the meals we've been served in some of the most famous restaurants in town had about



The interior of Chinois on Main.

Photo: Barry Stein

as much flavor as I'd expect to find in marinated balsa wood.

We knew a visit to Chinois could make us forget any memories of those less-than-memorable meals. Chinois has won just about every culinary prize imaginable and has often been awarded the distinction of "Best Restaurant in L.A."

Barry Stein and I have both said that our meals there rank with the best we've ever

eaten. Arnie Wishnick surprised us when he revealed he'd never eaten there, so the choice for us this trip was easy. Josh Greenfeld invoked the Fifth Amendment when asked about Chinois, so we took that as a "yes."

Before our trip, I was able to secure a second mortgage on my Palisades home in hopes of meeting my first downpayment toward our upcoming lunch there. The bank also allowed me to offer my stylish Dodge Minivan as collateral. After personally delivering the loan documents to the Chinois maître d', we were allowed to make a reservation for four.

Having lunch at a place that offers healthy fare turned out to be timely because our friend Arnie had suffered a health setback since our last outing. As part of his new regimen, the doctor had strongly encouraged better eating habits, so it was fortuitous that at this classy joint we were not given the choice of burger and fries.

The servers at Chinois traditionally recommend ordering several entrees and sharing the dishes with tablemates. Three of us decided on that option while Arnie chose the Chinois Chicken Salad to keep his cardiologist happy.

As our orders began to arrive at the table,

we fought over Barry's tasty order of "Sizzling Calamari Salad." Even though he has always had an aversion to crab, I talked him into trying Chinois' soft-shelled version, which has always been one of my favorites. Barry thinks crab is seafood's tasteless answer to tofu, and considers it only a "place holder" for real food. He finally relented and begrudgingly said it passed his taste test.

The barbecued baby spare ribs with sweet and sour teriyaki sauce were terrific, but I broke my own longstanding rule about eating them in public. I've declared that any restaurant that offers finger food doused with barbecue sauce should be required to offer shower facilities for its customers.

Although I've never been comfortable eating a fish that is staring back at me from the plate while I'm jabbing a fork into its side, I made a one-time exception for Chinois' "Whole Sizzling Catfish" entrée with ginger and ponzu sauce. We ordered vegetable fried rice with the dish and by the time we finished off the poor fish, his empty stare of quiet resignation was secondary to my satisfied contentment.

After becoming quickly seduced by the elegant cuisine of upscale bistros like Chinois and Spago, we began to later reminisce about previous outings at L.A. landmark restaurants. We fondly recalled those red vinyl booths and the flocked wallpaper at Musso and Frank's Grill, and that mouth-watering lobster salad from the Polo Lounge.

We occasionally acted like out-of-town tourists when we visited several of the city's vintage hotels like the Chateau Marmont and the Hollywood Roosevelt. We marveled at their classic architecture and style—including their dark, mysterious lobbies and winding corridors with marble floors and decorative tiles.

It appears that it is time now to return to our original scheduled programming.

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

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Marble-topped tables and Italian-bistro chairs, along with large dish-towel-type napkins, add to the relaxing vibe. But it is the menu that really catches your interest, with its many offerings that are perfect to share.

Sample the bread balloon to start. This is a pita (Middle Eastern flat bread) cooked in the wood-burning oven and looking large when it arrives with its five dipping sauces. However, when you poke a hole in the bread, it collapses so that you can take a piece and apply the various sauces: warm curried lentils, charred green onions, Persian cucumbers flavored with fruity sumac, hummus, and an eggplant salad with tomatoes, Maui onions and chickpeas.

From the "For the Table" selections, we tried the wood-roasted broccoli with its garlic aioli and Vella Dry



Jack cheese (\$11). Somewhat spicy, this broccoli was indeed perfect. Other offerings vary from warm olives (\$9) and spicy fries (\$9) to albacore tuna crudo (\$13).

Our shared "Salad" was Fattoush with pieces of crispy toasted pita bread and cucumbers with dried sumac berries (\$9). It was delicious. There were four offerings "From the Oven," including our selection of wood-roasted beets. With micro greens (such as the versatile shiso), mint yogurt and aromatic zaatar, this plate was served with tiny bowls of an olive-oil dressing and another with olive oil flavored with lemon.

From the "Large Plates" offerings we shared the wood-grilled wild sea bass with its artichoke panzanella (an Italian bread salad) and a horseradish-flavored yogurt. Naturally, the sea bass (\$34) was excellent and went beautifully with its accompaniments. Several other large plates are priced from \$24 to \$28. A wood-grilled whole fish is \$36, a grass-fed lamb shank is \$31 and the coffee-rubbed N.Y. strip steak is \$42.

Do not forget the menu supplement for artisan "Salumi and Small Batch/Rare Cheeses from Around the World." I found these to be exceptional the last time I dined at FIG.

This time, however, we shared a delicious wood-fired strawberry dessert. Strawberries strewn with little

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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Today's Guest JUMBLERS are Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker creators of DUSTIN

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HELEN AND ED'S ATTEMPT TO CONVINCE DUSTIN TO GET A JOB---

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

(Answers on Page 26)

pie-crust bits and with vanilla ice cream were superb and made a great finish to a fascinating dinner. Even the decaf coffee was freshly made and hot.

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The lunch menu includes soups and salads, pizzas and sandwiches such as the FIG Burger with fries for \$17, or the grilled local fish sandwich with cabbage slaw and fries for \$18. There is even a wood-grilled vegetable wrap for \$16.

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— GRACE HINEY

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