

PALISADES NEWS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**HOLIDAY
GIFT
GUIDE**



Season of Lights Underway

Santa Claus made an early visit to Pacific Palisades. Crowds jammed Antioch to visit the big man. (See story, Page 3.) Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Help PaliHi Win \$15,000

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Palisades Charter High School could win \$15,000 if enough votes are cast at Bernzomatic.com/grants.

At minimum, the school will receive \$1,500 and a selection of tools for being named one of ten finalists for the Find Your Fire Community Grants program, which recognizes community-minded maker projects that use a hand-held torch. Votes can be cast until December 31.

Donna Mandosa, PaliHi's technology supervisor, applied for a grant to create a go-kart (or STEAMer kart) in the school's STEAM Shop, which resides in the former auto shop that closed in the '80s. Students are itching to get their hands on welding equipment to begin designing and building their own vehicles, according to Bernzomatic's website.

"They want to build a low-rider, and they want to build a food truck—both deeply

(Continued on Page 9)

Construction Resumes for Temescal Nursery

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

A new plant nursery will open in the spring at 810 Temescal Canyon Rd. if all goes according to plan, according to owner Hans Tiedemann.

His slender lot, which is zoned for agricultural use, faces Palisades Charter High School at the intersection of Bowdoin and Temescal. The property, which Tiedemann purchased in September 2013 for \$1.29 million, is 11,877 sq. ft. and runs along Temescal north of Bowdoin, according to the L.A. County Assessor's office.

Two previous owners, Alexis and Ashley Kim, bought the property from the Los Angeles Unified School District for \$330,000 in 2012 and had also originally planned to install a nursery.

For the current owner, delays in obtaining permits have slowed construction, but the project seems to be on track now, Tiedemann said. If there are no further delays, he expects construction to take about four months.

The final result "should be pretty," he said. "The thing I like about that piece of property is as you look up the hill, it's so pretty. Hopefully it will be an attractive continuation of that. That's what we're planning."

The nursery will include a small office with a "nice design" and some parking, Tiedemann said. The retaining wall is configured to be structurally supportive of the hillside slope along the back of the property.

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety issued a permit in September for a 340-ft. wall with a maximum height of 5 feet 6 inches. In March 2013, Building and Safety originally issued a permit, which has

since expired, for a 22-ft.-by-12.75-ft. office building. A revised application was submitted for approval the following year with a 21-sq.-ft. larger footprint and increased height. For this permit, "verifications are still in progress," according to the department's website.

Once the project is finished, Tiedemann does not plan to operate it himself. Instead, he is working to bring a high-end garden center operator to take charge of the en-

terprise.

"I don't have a tenant teed up yet, but I believe there'll be demand for that type of a product," Tiedemann said. "I personally have always liked nurseries myself. Since I was a child, I've always enjoyed trees and plants."

Once construction is complete, and the greenery for sale is added, "hopefully it will be positive for the neighborhood."

Tiedemann chose not to share further personal information.



A nursery at 810 Temescal Canyon Road is under construction.

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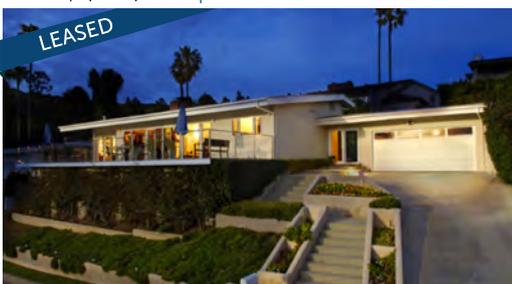
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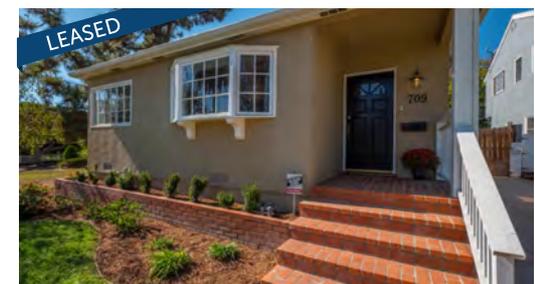
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Santa Pays Visit to the Palisades



This tiny lad was one of many who sat on Santa's lap.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Santa Claus arrived on Antioch Street atop a Station 69 firetruck last Friday evening, after stopping momentarily at the Village Green to point at the pine tree—and magically, the lights came on.

The Oom PaPa Band filled the air with joyful holiday music as Santa, his Mrs. and other dignitaries—including Mr. Palisades Evan Epstein, Miss Palisades Casey Longstreet, Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon and Chamber of Commerce President Adam Glazer—descended to join the annual Ho!Ho!Ho! festivities on Antioch.

It was truly a magical night as lines of young and old waited patiently to whisper hopes, dreams and wishes to Santa.

The youngest visitor, only two months old, stayed in a carrier, and the oldest, a 96-year-old woman in a wheelchair, said she was meeting Santa for the first time. She smiled when she realized she was younger than the immortal luminary.

When one young girl approached the man of mythical legend, she looked up into his eyes. Hers were shining, and the glow of wonder, of all that was possible in the world, was alive that night.

Surprisingly, the lists for Santa weren't as long this year. Although American Girl dolls, Legos, trucks and mermaids were near the top of some lists, many children wanted puppies. Santa looked at them and responded, "A dog is a big responsibility, we'll have to talk that over with your parents."

Several children said they had everything they needed and just wanted peace, and people to be happy. On this December night on Antioch, as the community came

together, everyone was.

Fancy Feet dancers performed, and there was cookie decorating, face painting, picture coloring, a balloon man, hot chocolate and popcorn.

The gathering was sponsored by the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce, Luxe Homecare and Rodeo Realty. Contributing sponsors included Botham Plumbing, Gelson's Market, RLB Architecture, Amazing Music, American Legion Post 283, Michael Edlen, Jody Fine Estates, Metro Capital Builders, Movies in the Park, Nasreen Babu-Khan, Trish Bowe/State Farm, Joan Graves, HiLites Hair Studio, Jackie Maduff, Susan Payne and Tillman Family & Fancy Feet.

Santa held court in a sleigh built by Tim Marschall, owner of TMC General Contractors in Pacific Palisades.



Violet and Joey Curtis visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Record Number Races Turkey Trot

About 1,400 people joined with friends and neighbors for the fourth annual 5/10K Thanksgiving Turkey Trot that started and ended in the Palisades High School football stadium. This year's title sponsor was Banc of California, which plans to open a branch office here in 2017.

Maren Meier, a seventh grader at Corpus Christi School, sang the National Anthem.

The event began in 2013 as a way to bring residents together before they cele-

brated Thanksgiving dinners. Organizers David O'Connell and David and Dawn Houston have been instrumental in growing the race every year since then. Proceeds go to the Hearts of Hope Foundation.

"This is my third year of running the race," Elisa Garrett said. "It's a fun Thanksgiving experience and I know the money goes to Hearts of Hope."

The men's 5K winner (16:30) was Ramin Razavi, a former elite runner, who set a

course record. In 2013, Bob Olds ran 16:48, in 2014 Matt Cohen went 16:50 and in 2015 Cameron Posner ran 16:47.

Razavi recently moved to the Palisades from Boulder, Colorado, to become the new senior pastor at Calvary Christian Church. "I'm excited to be part of these kinds of community events," he said. "It's people coming together for the common good."

Winning the women's 5K race for the third time was Santa Monica High cross-country coach Tania Fischer with a time of 19:10. In 2014, she ran 18:47 and last year 19:05. (Sonali Pondiri won the 2013 race in 20:42).

"It's a great local race," said Fischer, who noted that some of her students had also competed in the Turkey Trot. Melea Comay, who runs for SamoHi, was joined by her older brother Tim, who took first in the 10K in 35:43.

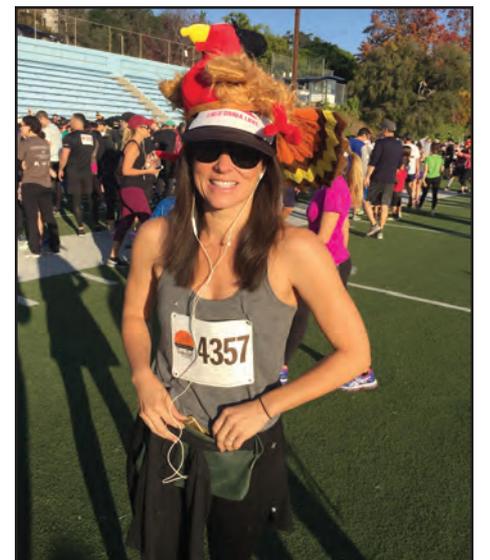
The women's 10K winner is still a bit of a mystery. Online race results showed Kaila Umeck as the winner in 37:28. Second place (40:31) was Chloe Malesky, who lives in Santa Monica and ran for Duke University. Third was Brentwood's Julie Farrugia (43:21), who started racing marathons while in college. The two were sure that one of the Porter girls (Jennie, Molly or Macaulay), Palisadians, had come in first. (5/10K runners all come through the same finish chute, making that determination more difficult).



(Left to right) Henry and Katie Moray, Jennie, Molly and Greg Porter, (front row) Jane (left) and Macaulay Porter ran in the Turkey Trot, wearing festive hats.



David Houston drives a moped to lead the runners on the "turkey" course.



Elisa Garrett has run in the 5K the past three years.

Pole-Top Station Locations Disputed

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power wants to make sure Pacific Palisades has enough electricity for its increased population, larger house sizes (most built without solar), electric vehicles and the need to run computers and charge electronic devices.

Given the vocal opposition to building a new distribution station in the western part of town (because residents don't want one in their back yard or near a school), the DWP needs to install "temporary" 61-ft. pole-top distribution stations.

DWP's frustration in providing long-term electrical reliability is evident in a November 21 letter from L.A. City Deputy Attorney Tina Shim to Attorney Alex Cornelius, who represents Steven Somers, the new property owner at 16980 Sunset Blvd., where the famous Bernheimer Gardens were located in the 1930s and '40s before succumbing to a landslide. The DWP plans to build a pole-top distribution station in the parkway on this property, just east of the western terminus of Marquez Avenue.

"The Pacific Palisades community is facing a critical need for a PTDS and LADWP intends to complete the installation as quickly as possible," Shim wrote. "... [DWP]

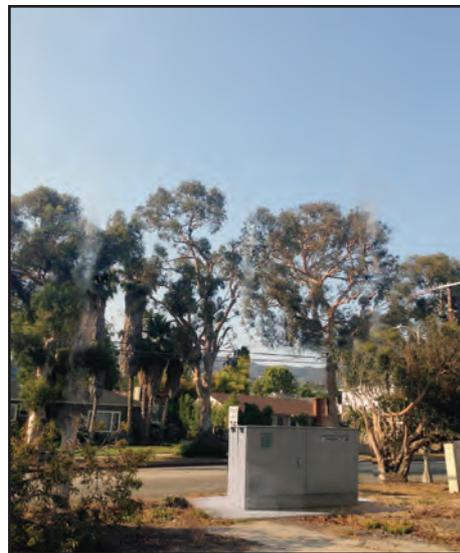


Pole-top distribution station is proposed.

has been working collaboratively with the Office of City Councilman Mike Bonin and the community."

Evidently not all of the community was informed about the PTDS site-selection process.

"Immediately on closing on the property [in October], we got together with the neighbors, with the Pacific Palisades Residents Association, the [adjacent] apartment owner and its tenants," Somers told the News before Thanksgiving. "Everyone who lives here doesn't want to see the poles." He



Pad-mounted transformer is suggested.

hopes to build three homes on the property.

To recap, the electrical substation built in 1935 on Sunset and Via de la Paz, now directly adjacent to a condominium building, is not capable of providing reliable electricity to all of Pacific Palisades. A new distributing station (No. 104) needs to be built. The DWP sought to place the substation on land it owns just west of Marquez Elementary, but was drive away by strenuous neighborhood opposition.

Currently, the only alternative for reliable electricity, according to the DWP, are 61-



Pad-mounted transformer hidden by vegetation.

ft.-PTDS's. The utility has also warned it will need to install additional poles if a new substation is not built.

Initially, one PTDS was supposed to be installed on Marquez Avenue at Ida Street and a second on El Medio, south of Sunset. Neighbors in those locations argued they did not want the large industrial-looking poles. At a March meeting with residents, Councilman Mike Bonin asked for alternative sites.

Some residents recommended Sunset and Temescal, and others cited Sunset near

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western Marquez Avenue as more desirable locations.

Unfortunately, the large number of people who live in condominiums and apartments on Haverford were not notified of the PTDS station now under construction. Nor was the owner of 16980 Sunset, residents in the adjacent apartment building, or the people across Sunset.

DWP wrote in its November 21 letter regarding 16980 Sunset that there “was overwhelming support from nearly 250 community members who submitted emails and comment cards citing this location as their preferred site. The next most desired location was at Temescal Canyon and Sunset Boulevard, where the second PTDS is now being built.”

The poles went up at both locations, but the stations were not yet completed when the City realized they were illegal, because they lacked a Coastal Development Permit.

Coastal permit hearings were held October 18 and November 9, and LADWP learned for the first time there wasn’t “overwhelming” support for either location.

A petition opposing the poles has been posted on the Pacific Palisades Residents Association (PPRA) Facebook page, and 239 people had signed it through November 30.

In its defense, DWP wrote: “The outcome of the [March] meeting and locations of the selected sites were also well known in the community and reported in the local media.”

DWP noted that design changes to accommodate community wishes and moving the PTDS from the Marquez location to Sunset put the “project cost to \$780,252 above the costs associated with the original design at Marquez Avenue and Ida Street.”

Somers said, “They did hold meetings in the past, but they didn’t send mailings to the neighbors affected by the new changes. This location [Sunset at Marquez] was decided on by people who don’t live near it.”

Somers asked DWP if pad-mounted transformers could be installed instead. He was told that they were not feasible, even though professional electrical consultants he had hired, disagreed.

According to DWP, a pad-mounted transformer would put the cost at \$1.5 million (the cost for the PTDS on Sunset is already more than \$1.23 million; a new substation was earlier estimated at \$4 million). “[The extra cost of pad-mounts] would be borne unfairly by all customers throughout the city,” the letter stated.

PPRA President Sarah Connor said at the November 9 hearing, “We oppose the issuance of this Coastal Development Permit. The station is a hulking 61-ft. tall industrial blight which is detrimental to the character and visual resources of our neighborhood. We urge the City of Los Angeles to uphold the Coastal Act and deny this Coastal Development Permit.”

Connor also noted that Sunset Boulevard is a designated scenic highway and that accordingly, all new utilities must be put underground to the maximum extent feasible.

“We want to work with DWP to find a solution that everyone would be happy with,” Somers told the *News*. “PTDS are not what the community wants.”

LADWP told Somers, “Although drawings in your letter seem to demonstrate that the entire project could be placed underground, in fact, overhead electrical lines are still necessary because the existing overhead lines will receive the power.

“Therefore, even assuming that the pad-mount transformers could be constructed, new poles similar to the PTDS would have to be constructed for pole-mounted automatic re-closures connected directly to existing overhead distribution circuits. Additionally, LADWP does not have submersible transformers or switchgear required for this project.”

The DWP argued that time is of essence and to change the design would mean it could take up to a year before construction could start on an alternative.

The letter concluded, “LADWP remains committed to working with the Council of office and the community in finding a suitable location for the permanent Distributing Station 104 facility and the additional temporary PTDS’s that will be required until a permanent DS is built, so we can remove the temporary PTDS and achieve long-term reliable electrical service for Pacific Palisades.”

The petition can be found at: change.org/p/protect-sunset-boulevard-s-scenic-highway?recruiter=172453614&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

PPCC Holiday Party To Honor Activists

The Pacific Palisades Community Council will hold its annual holiday party and awards gala 6:30 p.m. this Thursday, December 8 at Gladstone’s restaurant on PCH. The cost is \$85. Reservations are limited because of the size of the room, and on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit: pacpalicc.com.

Honored as Citizen of the Year will be Daphne Gronich, who has served as president of the Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) for three years, while also serving as a leader of the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation.

Also honored with Golden Sparkplug awards will be five deserving activists: Sylvia Boyd, who started Food for Thought; Patrick Hart, who devised a mapping system to help track local homeless to ensure they receive help; Amy Lundberg, who led a community effort to “Save the Bluffs”; Karen Stigler, who helped create the Palisades Alliance for Seniors; and Veslemoey Zwart for her efforts to raise funding for the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center.

In addition, Bob Benton will be given the Pride of the Palisades Award. He is a prominent local businessman and the volunteer commissioner of the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association.

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Heard About Town

Traffic Slowing Method

The City of Los Angeles has figured out a way to slow speeding cars. They don't repair streets, which results in bumps and potholes, thereby forcing people to drive real slow so they don't wreck their cars. Brilliant.

Well-Stated Viewpoint

The November 16 Viewpoint by Gina Ladinsky ("Community Council Needs Transparency") was right on point. Who is she? I jumped for joy when I read it.

Take the Money

I read the Viewpoint that mentioned how the City gives Neighborhood Councils about \$37,000 annually to be used in the community. Why don't we have one, instead of the Community Council, in order to receive this money?

(Editor's note: Pacific Palisades Community Council treasurer Richard Cohen said that the PPCC supports itself with tax-deductible contributions from community members and proceeds from the annual Citizen of the Year dinner. PPCC's leadership believes that the stipend provided to NCs comes with many strings attached that would limit that body's effectiveness. "Fortunately, Pacific Palisades has numerous beautification, civic and recreational organizations that provide a high level of service to the community without the necessity for PPCC to accept City of L.A. funding," Cohen said.)

A Conversation Disrupted

A friend and I were enjoying a cup of coffee on the Village Green, when a woman came over and started screaming how she was going to kill everyone. She then started yelling at a tree. It became obvious that she was homeless and mentally ill, but what do you do? It seems like we should have been able to finish our conversation and not be forced out of the park.

(Editor's note: The Village Green is a privately-owned, community-supported park for the enjoyment of all residents. That means that people who are disruptive can be asked to leave. Palisades Patrol has been supplying free service to the park. They could have been called in this instance.)

Pot Drivers Are a Hazard

I was behind a car on Sunset that was going 20 mph. Cars were swerving around him. I finally passed him, too. The driver was a guy in his 20s, really "relaxed looking," both hands on the steering wheel, totally oblivious to the disruption he was causing. Drinking and driving is a bad idea, being stoned and driving is equally bad.

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

PPCC Board Answers Critic

By MARYAM ZAR, GEORGE WOLFBERG and CHRIS SPITZ

The Palisades News recently published an opinion piece by Gina Ladinsky, one of several candidates for the Community Council's Area 2 first alternate position. Rather than address all of Ms. Ladinsky's numerous charges, we will focus on what appear to be two of her main criticisms: that the PPCC is not a certified Neighborhood Council and therefore need not follow some of the rules applicable to such organizations, and that PPCC misrepresented the community consensus to the City regarding the Caruso Village Project.

Founded in 1973, PPCC is the most broad-based community organization in Pacific Palisades. Its membership includes elected representatives from all residential neighborhoods as well as representatives of important Palisades organizations. It is the only community-wide organization which holds regular public board meetings and regularly posts and distributes its meeting agendas and minutes. The documents relevant to PPCC's process, including meeting agendas, minutes and governing bylaws, are publicly available on our website: pacpalicc.org.

Non-certified councils such as PPCC do not have to follow the Brown Act, but all PPCC board meetings are open to the public and meeting agendas are distributed 72 hours in advance, consistent with PPCC's bylaws. Except in rare emergency situations (when the bylaws authorize action by the Executive Committee), all positions are taken by the full board and no positions are taken without full public discussion.

All policy decisions require a two-thirds vote of board members. PPCC also permits public

comment at each of its board meetings. PPCC is one of the oldest volunteer organizations of its type in the City of Los Angeles and served as a model for the current Neighborhood Council system. PPCC is also an active, accepted founding member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils. PPCC is embraced by DONE (Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) as an effective local governing body for Pacific Palisades, and permissibly uses their platform on Nextdoor Palisades to post important community information. PPCC has been described as the "Gold Standard" of volunteer community organizations (see 2/12/15 meeting minutes), and Councilmember Bonin has publicly praised the organization on numerous occasions.

The issue of whether to become a certified Neighborhood Council has been taken up by past PPCC boards, with board members each time deciding that the community would not be better-served by PPCC becoming an arm of the City. The most recent discussion took place on February 12, 2015. Any board member who wishes to reconsider the issue of whether we should become a certified Neighborhood Council can contact the Chair and discuss putting the matter on the agenda. Members of the public can contact their representative, and through them request that the matter be discussed.

With respect to the community's viewpoint on the Caruso Village Project, PPCC held open public meetings and discussions in which hundreds of community members participated. It waited until a consensus emerged before taking a position in support of the Project. As such, PPCC correctly reflected the majority view of the community, as reflected by a vote of the members of its board.

Thought to Ponder

"The responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have the wider vision."

— George Eliot

PALISADES NEWS

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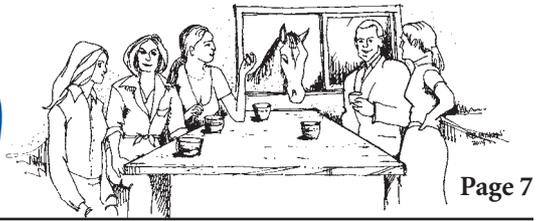
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VIEWPOINT

Keeping Our Planet's Environment Viable

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL

There isn't a day that goes by that I don't worry about the future of our planet.

It doesn't matter if you believe in climate change or not. The bottom line is weather patterns are changing, and we need to adjust and prepare.

I read an article related to climate change at least four or five times a week. And it's downright exhausting. Arctic sea ice is melting at alarming rates, severe weather patterns are happening across the globe, fire season in California starts earlier than it used to, this is the hottest year on record, followed by last year, which was the hottest year on record. And on and on and on.

And water. Oh, my goodness, will there ever be enough water again? The answer, at least in California, seems to be a resounding no.

Save water, save gas, participate in Meatless Monday, recycle, drive less, bring your own bag, drive a hybrid or electric car—there are lots of solutions, but are they enough? Many scientists say we're about to reach the tipping point of no return. I may not live to see it, but my fair-skinned, blue-eyed child will. I'm panicked all the time.

The Day After Tomorrow is feeling more like a

documentary than the action-adventure film it really was when released over a decade ago.

I've been aware of taking care of the earth since before I was a student at UC Berkeley decades ago. I didn't have a car for many years, and got everywhere on my bicycle or public transportation.

I learned about biodiversity while doing a story at a television station I worked for in Santa Rosa. Things were bad then; now, many species are being wiped out at an alarming rate due to habitat destruction, global warming, human activity and more.

When we moved from New York to California when I was seven, my parents traded in their Lincoln Continental for an environmentally-sound Toyota for my mom and a sports car for my dad. Even back then, California led the country in environmental awareness. A few years later, there was gas rationing, and you could only go to the gas station on certain days, depending on whether your license plate was odd or even. Oh, and the lines were long.

In 1970s Benedict Canyon, my mom would save our newspapers, tie them up in bunches with twine, and have someone pick them up from time to time, a rarity back then. Plus, there was the energy crisis, which taught me to turn off lights when I left a room. Then there was

the drought, which taught me to conserve water. These lessons have stayed with me ever since.

People knew there were problems even way back then. DDT anyone? The unregulated polluting of our rivers and lands by corporations almost went unchecked. Though many may not remember, or even knew, it was President Nixon who signed, via executive order, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) into existence in 1970, the same year the first Earth Day celebration was held.

We don't have to look any further than our own town and the No Oil! campaign of the early 1970s, spearheaded by some who still live in the community. Imagine if they had lost. We would all be staring at oil rigs along our coastline, and who knows what else would have happened in terms of pollution.

How far have we come in 46 years, since the creation of the EPA? Certainly we've made progress, right? Yes, in some ways. But the earth is cracking under pressure from its eight million inhabitants. How many more can it endure?

What's next? Every time I now watch a movie like *Mad Max*, I think there is some truth to that dystopian future we will face. I used to think it was a complete fantasy; now I worry that is the direction we are headed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's note: We received several thoughtful letters from members of local Boy Scout Troop 223, who are working on their communication merit badge. We welcome more. We asked Andrew Whiteley, who also wrote a letter about global warming, to explain what is necessary to receive the badge. "The Communications merit badge involves: going to a town hall meeting, writing an email to a newspaper, learning about each other and writing a five-minute speech," he said.)

Loose Dogs and a Movie Theater

I am a Boy Scout in Troop 223, writing to you about Pacific Palisades. I don't read newspapers, but my parents enjoy the *Palisades News*. There are a few things I want to share with you about my experiences in the Palisades.

First, dogs are a big problem in my neighborhood. I live right next to the Asilomar bluff, and there are many people with their dogs there. Despite there being a highly visible sign indicating that dogs MUST be on a leash, almost every dog owner doesn't use a leash, which leads to animals running loose and chasing kids, stray balls, or wandering around properties. Many dogs have wandered inside my house because they are not on a leash and one of my best friends was bitten by a dog outside our home.

Second, on the positive side, I am excited for the remodel near the old farmers' market. A new movie theater is going to be a great addition to the Palisades because it would be very convenient to have a movie theater there minutes away. I hope there will still be a Benton's or other sporting goods store because we shopped there a lot.

These are a few of my thoughts and opinions. If you

think it is appropriate, I hope you could add this in one of your newspaper editions.

Nick Nissen

Solution for DWP Poles

I am a second-year Boy Scout in Troop 223. I am writing to you about the DWP poles on Sunset Boulevard. Sunset is a scenic boulevard and I am opposed to the DWP poles. I think putting in the ugly poles to replace the trees would ruin the scenic boulevard look.

I have come up with a great idea so that people cannot get into the area to replace the trees with utility poles. That idea is to plant cycas trees around the outside. These plants are very pointy and sharp. The name for cycas tree in Polish is "sagowiec." Because the trees are very sharp, nobody could get into the area to put in the new poles. These plants are from prehistoric times, and I think they have lasted this long because they protect themselves with their really pointy and sharp ends. They would protect the Sunset scenic boulevard. Also, they cannot be removed without a permit.

Nicholas Lombardi

The VA Needs Our Help

As you may know, the Veterans' Administration (VA) has been a place where veterans have gone for many years to seek shelter, food and comfort. Many of the veterans who go there are homeless and have forgotten what it is like to be loved by a family.

Every year, the VA hosts a large Thanksgiving dinner for veterans in need. People across Los Angeles donate food, clothes and toiletries. I volunteered at the VA the day before Thanksgiving, preparing for the big feast. I

noticed the disrepair of the buildings and the surrounding grounds.

I feel that we could do a much better job in helping out the veterans and the administration there at the VA. We could do more volunteering around the campus to help them out. People could help with gardening, cooking, planting, etc. We could also have a big annual fundraiser to help repair the buildings and the overall campus. We could repaint the walls, update the exterior, plant a vegetable garden and invite the veterans to work alongside us in making the VA a better place.

If anyone would be interested in joining forces with me to help make this a reality, then please contact me at olarbalestier@calvarychristian.org. Together, we can make the VA a place to be proud of!

Owen Larbalestier

Coverage of Fire Captains

Your article in the November 16 *Palisades News* about the new firefighter captains was very interesting. The backgrounds you provided of captains Darryl Mitchell, Tony Valdez, Robert Bates, Tom Kitahata, Erik Schneider and Tom Moore were fascinating. They all have lots of experience in firefighting, and I hope they will put it to good use in the LAFD. I valued the backgrounds you provided on them because they increased my trust in the LAFD to save us if there is a fire.

Lawson Lowe

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.

Bonin Fails to Release Electronic Emails

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The *Palisades News*, through attorney Frank Angel, asked for email records from City Planning, Councilman Mike Bonin's office and Tricia Keane (Bonin's planning director) on July 15.

Through the California Public Information Act, the *News* requested emails or other documents related to the City Attorney's Office dismissal of four members of the Pacific Palisades Design Review Board on February 29.

When these four members (Barbara Kohn, Kelly Comras, Stuart Muller and Donna Vaccarino) of the seven-member DRB were dismissed (for disputed reasons) just two days before the board was scheduled to vote on its final recommendations related to Caruso Affiliated's architectural and landscaping plans—the DRB was left without a quorum.

Typically, design plans for commercial buildings in Pacific Palisades must go first to the DRB (the members were appointed by Councilman Bonin), and then to the City Planning Department. Because the DRB was rendered inoperative, Caruso's Palisades Village plans went directly to the City, without local review.

The Planning Department has thus far

produced one email, but neither Bonin nor Keane have complied with the Act's provision that specifies a reply within 10 days (and/or an extension of 14 days).

On August 2, Angel received an email from Beatrice Pacheco, the city's Custodian of Records, who said: "The Department of City Planning has determined it has one email, dated March 1, that might be responsive to your request. . . ." and could not be provided in its native format because "a portion of it needed to be redacted as it was attorney-client privileged." The email was from Lisa Webber and went to Debbie Lawrence, Michelle Levy, Faisal Roble, Tricia Keane and Kakisha Hull. It read:

"Pacific Palisades DRB-URGENT! Again . . . for planning staff . . . don't do a thing until we receive specific instructions from council office . . . conversations are still underway. Just hold tight for now."

Despite repeated email requests to Keane and Bonin's offices, no further DRB-related emails have been produced.

When Angel initially requested the information, he wrote: "Pursuant to Government Code section 6253.9, we request that all responsive writings created in an electronic format be provided in the native format they were created in, including embedded descriptive metadata, with 'from,' 'to,' 'cc,' 'bcc,' 'subject,' 'date sent' and 'time sent'

email metadata fields."

According to the *People's Business: A Guide to the California Public Records Act*: "Electronic records may include 'metadata,' or data about data contained in a record that is not visible in the text. For example, metadata may describe how, when or by whom particular data was collected, and contain information about document authors, other documents, or commentary or notes."

The *News* also requested "all evidence preservation measures be taken immediately to protect the integrity of and preserve all responsive writings."

On July 26, Council District 11 Chief of Staff Chad Molnar wrote:

"Please be advised that this office is gathering relevant documents and the total number of pages is yet to be determined. Some documents in our possession, however, may be exempt from disclosure under the Government Code Section 6255, and therefore withheld either in whole or in part, because disclosure would reveal the Councilmember's deliberative process or privileged and confidential attorney-client communications."

Even though Angel had requested electronic records, Molnar told him that the cost of printed copies was 10 cents a page and a check could be made payable to the City of Los Angeles—but the number of



Councilman Mike Bonin

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

pages was not specified.

On August 18, Angel wrote Tricia Keane: "The *Palisades News* is still awaiting the public records we requested."

(Continued on Page 8)

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Bonin

(Continued from Page 8)

Hard copies of correspondence were offered to the editor of the *News* at the October 13 Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting. The copies were refused because electronic copies had been requested to ensure metadata fields.

Keene spoke to Angel on October 17 and once again offered to deliver 318 hard copies. He declined because “of not wanting to waive the right to have all responsive electronic stored information (ESI) produced in electronic format, including the embedded descriptive metadata, as specified.”

In a subsequent letter to the City, Angel pointed out that more than three months had passed since the first CPRA request and asked that all records be presented by October 25.

Tricia Keene responded on October 25 that “the City currently operates using a Google cloud-based email system. This Google email system does not allow the end user to export electronic versions of emails in any electronic file format.”

Angel, with the advice of a forensic computer expert, replied on October 27, “Actually, you can access the ESI within the scope of our CPRA requests from your and Councilmember Bonin’s devices without creating new files. Since the LA GEECS system (Google Enterprise Email and Collaboration System) integrates the Google cloud service

with internal applications using email, the emails within the scope of our CPRA requests, once downloaded, are stored locally on your and Councilmember Bonin’s devices in electronic formats (a common format is mbox), including the metadata.”

Angel concluded: “My office, for many years, has been requesting electronic public records from myriads of governmental agencies. I must say, I have never experienced similar resistance to compliance with Government Code section 6253.9. This is somewhat puzzling since given the e-discovery needs of a major city such as Los Angeles, LA GEECS was designed to offer search functionality based on content, sender, recipient, date range, and metadata, and the ability to store search results with metadata. In short, in addition to users being able to easily export email messages, the city’s use of Google Apps email technology allows for well-known and easy to employ electronic information retrieval and production tools.”

Deputy City Attorney Kimberly Miera responded that the City would provide a response no later than November 16. As of December 1, nothing had been received.

Bonin spokesman David Graham-Caso was asked on December 1 why electronic versions had not yet been provided.

Angel received an email the following day from Deputy City Attorney Mike Dundas, who told the attorney that “Council District 11 does not have access to, nor does it control the Vault database, which you ref-

erence in your communications. That system is maintained and operated by the City’s Information Technology Agency (ITA), which receives and processes its own CPRA requests.”

Angel was told if he didn’t want paper copies, that he would have to withdraw his request from Council District 11 and make a California Public Record Act request to ITA.

“Please be advised that, because of the large number of CPRA requests received by ITA for searches of the Vault system, there is currently a queue for responses,” Dudas said.

Official County Gauge Measures First Rain

The first measurable rain of the season was 1.03 inches, received on Monday, November 21.

On November 26 and 27, Pacific Palisades received .31 inches as measured by the official Los Angeles County rain gauge, located at Carol Leacock’s home on Bienvenida.

Deputy assistant rainmeister Ted Mackie reports that the current rainfall year, which starts on July 1 is now 1.34 inches. Last year to date was 1.81 inches and normal for this time is 1.66 inches.

The most rain recorded in Pacific Palisades (in the years from 1942 to 2015) was 42.60 inches in 1997-1998. The least recorded rainfall was 4.11 inches in 2006-07.

PaliHi

(Continued from Page 1)

Los Angeles vehicles,” their project description states. “We have new steel tubing and repurposed metal carriages that they want to update with Bernzomatic torches—heating, shaping and transforming the metal into a sturdy go-cart frame. Located in Southern California, many of our students have heard of Burning Man and want to add an art-car flair to the go-kart.”



To vote for Pali, visit the Bernzomatic grant webpage. Scroll down to click on “STEAMER KART,” which is Pali’s project page, and then click vote. The site does not ask for personal information and allows visitors to simply vote.

The three projects that receive the most votes will win \$15,000, \$7,500 and \$5,000 respectively, while the other seven finalists will receive \$1,500 each. TV home rehab expert Nicole Curtis will help “kick start” the project of the top vote-getter. All finalists will receive tools.

Winners will be announced online the week of January 23.

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ALL SERVICES DONE BY APPOINTMENT

Ethel Haydon Memorialized As Keeper of Palisades Stories

(Editor's note: Shirley Haggstrom, a former chair of the Community Council, delivered this tribute at the Temescal Canyon Association annual meeting on November 29.)

By SHIRLEY HAGGSTROM
Special to the Palisades News

In the early 1970s, I volunteered to be a parent driver for my son's elementary class field trip. We turned off Sunset and went clear to the end of Evans Road. There we entered a wilderness area that I now know joins Will Rogers State Historic Park. There was a canopy of magnificent huge oak trees, plants of all kinds, animals, birds, insects, butterflies, a stream, a tree house and Ethel Haydon. It was her backyard, and she enthralled the children with stories of everything that was there, including the animals that come at night, and even threw in a little history.

When our community lost Ethel in mid-October, I told my son I had lost a friend and said, "You may remember her."

"Of course I remember Ethel," he said. "And I got to meet her as an adult. She was a nice lady." And she was. Little did I know that we would become friends and

fellow TCA Board members!

There is not enough time to give a complete biography of Ethel, so I will concentrate on a few of her contributions that have been so important to our community. Ethel was in the forefront of the formation of several groups and she remained with them, adding her expertise year after year. She was the president and founder of the Will Rogers Area Cooperative Association Inc. She and Winston Salser founded the Los Liones Arboretum Foundation from which the Los Leones Gateway Park has risen.

When the Palisades Branch Library received Bicentennial funds to "research, collect, and preserve local histories," Ethel was instrumental in the birth of the Pacific Pal-

isades Historical Society in 1972. She was president from 1973-74 and remained a vital contributing member of our Board. Also that year Ethel was a founding member and treasurer of TCA, which prevented what is now known as Temescal Gateway Park from becoming a golf driving range. When she found she couldn't make it to our Board meetings, she asked if she could be available by telephone.

Ethel was the guardian of our community and disseminator of historical stories and facts for years and years. It is called institutional memory, the importance of which seems to be underestimated these days. Ethel sowed the seeds of TCA and stayed on to tend the young organization



Ethel Haydon

even after it grew into the impressive organization it is today. I am honored to try to carry on in her tradition.

Temescal Canyon Group Holds 44th Annual Meeting

The Temescal Canyon Association, long an active environmental watchdog group in Pacific Palisades, held its 44th annual meeting on November 29 in the historic Temescal dining hall.

The guest speaker was Dr. Seth Riley, a veteran wildlife ecologist with the National Park Service. He gave a PowerPoint presentation

focused on the behavior, ecology and conservation of carnivores (notably mountain lions, bobcats and coyotes) in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

TCA President Gil Dembo reviewed the organization's accomplishments this past year and noted, "We have moved into the 21st century with our new website"

(www.temcanyon.org).

Other TCA board members include Carol Leacock (vice president), Susan Orenstein (secretary), Patti Post (treasurer), Maria Bane, Richard G. Cohen, Barbara Dembo, Shirley Haggstrom, Jim Kenney, Roseanne Landay, Ted Mackie, Norma Spak, Brenda Theveny, Ron Webster and Roger Woods.

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Merchant Marine Opens on Via

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Dory Forge, owner of Merchant Marine, feels like she's back home with her newest store in Pacific Palisades.

The location at 833 Via de la Paz is a homecoming for Dory and her husband Michael, who previously owned the former Pink Pineapple boutique just a few storefronts away.

Their new store highlights clothing from their pajama line, Lounge Act, and their casual everyday line, Play Clothes.

"They are clothes that can take you from work to the beach, comfortable and looking great," Forge says.

In addition, they sell baby and children's clothes and bedding. They will soon be adding men's and boy's pajamas, vintage apparel and Bleeding Heart Cosmetics, their line of natural makeup.

Frogs, rubber duckies, hearts, seahorses, starfish, pigs and butterflies adorn the pajamas and scalloped boxers. There are also paisley-print pajamas and bedding.

Forge describes the style as both classic and fashion-forward. "It's not out there and not run-of-the-mill," she says. "It's across the board for everyone from a goth to a



Dory Forge, co-owner of Merchant Marine on Via de la Paz.

Photo: Lesly Hall

preppy grandma."

The clothes are made of natural fibers, mostly cotton, as well as rayon and modal (a type of rayon). There is a name for each item, such as the "Tuxedo T," which Forge describes as fancy and comfortable.

In addition to Pink Pineapple, the couple previously owned 10 Creative Cotton stores in the Los Angeles area.

Michael and Dory, currently living in

Bel-Air, met as young teens in Brentwood. They have been married 36 years, and have been in the clothing business together for over 30 years.

They also have four daughters. Haley owns Market St. Candles, which are sold at the store, Brittany is a hair colorist, Scarlet is a style consultant and Francesca attends Louisville High School in Woodland Hills.

"I saw this space and I snapped it up

and feel lucky I got it," Dory says of Merchant Marine's location (next door to Katie O'Neill's Art Studio). "My soul is in the Palisades."

A steady stream of customers have been visiting the shop, many of whom know Dory, or were loyal customers from the Pink Pineapple days.

Forge is excited about the monogramming and vintage wear that will be coming to the store and she will be offering monogramming on all items.

Michael made the store's nautically themed sign, shelves and fixtures.

After Pink Pineapple closed six years ago, the couple semi-retired and relocated to Montecito, with the hopes of opening a restaurant, as had been Michael's dream. He eventually found restaurant space in Newport Beach, and opened the Porthole.

"I got bored," Dory recalls of being retired from retail, "so I opened up a store." The store, which opened in March 2015, was named after its location on Marine Avenue on Balboa Island. They opened a Beverly Hills location on Santa Monica Boulevard in September and the Palisades store just last month.

Merchant Marine is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact: (310) 230-0393.

Thoughts for Potential Elder Caregivers

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

It is estimated that 50 percent of U.S. households are multi-generational, with people caring for either grandchildren or grandparents. If these are not issues in your family at present, it may be useful to keep a copy of this article for future reference.

When health or life circumstances change, living arrangements may need to change, too. Homeowners and their families will want to maintain a suitable degree of independence that also provides a safe environment. An objective assessment of capabilities and current needs is how to begin an appropriate level of care.

This article reviews many of the signs that can be looked for in considering when it is time to make a transition. The ability to perform many of the main activities of daily living is a useful basis to decide when some changes are required, and can also provide guidance in the level of care needed. Those basic activities include: eating, bathing, toileting, dressing, maintaining continence, and mobility.

Secondarily, other activities required

for independent living include: using the phone, managing medications, doing laundry and shopping for groceries.

Since it may be crucial to be proactive, the following could be warning signs. Of course, some of these might simply be a temporary side-effect of medications or a short-term reaction to some emotional situation or lack of sleep. However, because they might be an indication of a growing problem, it would be well for the family member or caregiver to be mindful and mention it to the senior's primary doctor.

Signs might include:

Difficulty in walking, bumping into furniture or walls

Signs of depression or hopelessness

Loss of self-confidence

Increased irritability or mood swings

Incontinence

Lack of appetite or taste

Not caring for plants or pets

Unkempt appearance, mismatched shoes or socks

Trash or laundry left everywhere

Leaving mail unopened or not answering the phone

Lack of focus or comprehension of verbal communication

Repeating what was just said or asking you to repeat yourself

Inappropriate volume of T.V. or radio

Sitting alone in an unlit room

Significant weight loss or gain

Talking about death or suicide

The single most important challenge for prospective caregivers is in clear and open communications—with one's self, other family members, healthcare providers, and of course mainly the individual being cared for! To really understand the senior's situation requires patient questioning and careful listening.

Examples of some questions that may help focus on their basic wellness and thinking include:

Are you getting any exercise?

Are you getting out of the house much?

Are you staying in touch with friends or other family members?

Have you experienced any short-term memory loss?

Have you gotten confused or upset recently? About what?

Is your eyesight or hearing diminished?

Are you still getting to the barber (or beauty) shop?

Have you less interest in keeping the yard or the inside of house in repair?

Are you sleeping any differently than you used to?

Are you keeping up with paying your bills?

Are you keeping up with your passions or hobbies?

There are many levels of transitional actions that can maintain the highest quality of daily living for seniors, but the process should always include open and clear communications with all concerned. Most people have little or no difficulties with activities of daily living even beyond age 85 today.

However, as we have explored in previous articles, it can be most helpful to think through what plans can be put into action well ahead of a time of need. Even the concept of downsizing can be approached well in advance if the homeowners are helped to discuss the benefits of streamlining and decluttering their lives.

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

Germans Unite A Neighborhood

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

One Saturday morning this summer, Tim Meade stopped at the 76 gas station on PCH and Sunset, where he overheard a conversation that would enrich the lives of himself, his daughter and his neighbors.

It didn't seem like much at first. A German man was speaking to the cashier in broken English about his family's rental car, which had broken down. Meade, a fix-it sort of guy, offered to take a look at the car. He soon determined that its computer was defunct, the traction system was down, and it was not safe to drive.

The family of four, including two teenagers, had ended up sleeping on the beach the previous night because they were simply stuck. They had lost the use of their American cell phone due to liquid spilling on it, so Meade offered to call Hertz to see if he could get a new car delivered to them.

No luck. The representative told him that the family had to take a taxi to the airport to get a new car. Meade argued with Hertz

that its car had stranded the family, so Hertz should deliver a new car instead. Hertz promised to call him back, and Meade decided to invite the Brummer family to his Highlands home to await that call.

In the back of his mind, he remembered a German couple who had been killed on the beach and the then-recent attack in Nice, France. In helping stop this type of horrible event, "you have to start somewhere," Meade said, and so he decided "I'm not going to let them wander around here."

Meade, whose 10-year-old daughter Madison was staying at her mother's house at the time, showed the two teenagers the pool and recreation center across the street from his house and offered their mother the use of his guest shower if she'd like. He had a Costco casserole that he threw in the oven for lunch.

"They were all happy," Meade said. "Then I hear this noise. The dad is crying. I told him, 'It's okay. I'm a dad. You had some bad luck. I've got you covered.'"

The teenagers, a 16-year-old girl, Alessa, and a 14-year-old boy, Johan, soon began making friends with both kids and adults



Isabella Brummer, Madison and Tim Meade, Axel Brummer, Alessa Brummer and Johan Brummer in the Highlands.

at the pool. They were also a delight to host. Both sang and played the piano and guitar. They did gymnastics in the backyard.

"It was like *The Sound of Music*," Meade said. "It was those kids."

Getting the car from Hertz proved to be a challenge. The company still insisted that

the family come to the airport, but Meade said it was the height of beach traffic. "I said [to the Germans], 'Forget it, just stay here. I have plenty of room.'"

So they shared a dinner together of home-cooked German food, and the next day
(Continued on Page 13)

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Germans

(Continued from Page 12)

Meade drove the father, Axel Brummer (a financial planner), to the Santa Monica Hertz office to pick up a new car. It wasn't there.

Still stranded, the Brummers shared another dinner with Meade and then spent the night again. By Monday, Meade had invited them to stay for their whole visit. He said, "Save your money, and just stay here."

He loaned them an extra car he had until Hertz finally did drop off a new one, and they toured Los Angeles as had been their original plan—visiting Venice Beach, Hollywood and other tourist areas.

Meanwhile, Meade's neighbors at the Mpool were curious about the new visitors. When the neighbors learned the family had just met Meade, they said, "What are you talking about? That's crazy." And then they decided they wanted to help too. Every hour a different neighbor would pop by with something.

"It galvanized my neighborhood and gave them something to rally around," Meade said. "That's the big story, not me. One lady had a bunch of tomatoes from the garden. Another had a cake. Another said, 'Why don't you send them to our house?'" His daughter, Madison, got to meet them via Facetime first and then in person on Wednesday, and she immediately took to the family too.

As they embraced this European family

in their midst, neighbors who had only known each well enough to share the occasional wave were fast becoming friends. When the week had passed, Meade and his daughter decided to throw a goodbye party to mark the family's last night in Los Angeles, and the teens and Madison developed a concert that they delivered to about 30 attendees over dinner.

One of the neighbors, Dean Catalano, told the *News*, "It was a very touching and incredibly memorable moment, and a lot of fun. What began as a somewhat impulsive act to help someone in need ended up drawing our neighborhood closer together to celebrate this random act of kindness."

And the friendship didn't end when the Brummers returned to their home just outside Berlin. Each week, the Brummers chat with Meade via Facetime, and for spring break, Meade and his daughter plan to visit Berlin and stay with them.

The whole experience is still emotional for Meade to discuss. "There is terrible stuff going on in the world, but that doesn't mean you can't make a teeny-tiny difference," Meade said. He described how the Brummers' visit was like the fable Stone Soup, in which the soup starts with a rock tossed in a pot of boiling water, but as people drop in a few carrots and a potato and more, it eventually becomes something wonderful to share.

"Watching the neighborhood come together, it was like a social, cultural Stone Soup."

PASSINGS

Dan Francis Hazen, Jr., 98; Businessman, War Hero

Dan Hazen was a successful businessman, inventive engineer, accomplished musician, and decorated veteran of World War II. He passed away at his home in Pacific Palisades on the evening of November 5 after several years of failing health due to pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Born July 4, 1918 in Marion, Kansas, Dan was the only child of Bessie Miller and Dan Hazen, Sr.

He learned to play piano and organ, performing in many concerts, and became an amateur radio operator at the age of 10, building his own transmitter and receiver. These two passions he enjoyed all his life.

Dan graduated from the University of Illinois in 1940 with a degree in electrical engineering. He worked at the U of I radio station, hosted a classical music program, and often played piano for the program. He was married to his college sweetheart, Peggy (Dorothy) Chapin from 1940 until her death in 2002.

As a reserve officer in the Army Signal Corps, Dan was called to active duty in 1941 in the 10th Armored Division and served in the European theatre from 1943 to 1945, where he was awarded the Bronze Star for bravery. He landed at Cherbourg and fought in the Battle of the Bulge with General Patton. He left the Army with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Dan joined the Western Union Telegraph Company, retiring in 1971. During his years with Western Union he lived in many cities and came to Los Angeles in 1969 as Vice President for West Coast Operations. Upon leaving Western Union, Dan, a private plane pilot, founded IFR Avionics Inc. at Van Nuys Airport.

A member of the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church, Dan was instrumental in having a pipe organ built and installed in the church.

He was a member of American Legion



Dan Hazen, Jr.

Post 283.

Dan is survived by his long-time companion Jeanne Allen, his daughter Jeanne H. Ballantine (Harden) of Amherst, Massachusetts, and son Robert M. Hazen (Margaret) of Bethesda, Maryland. He is predeceased by his son Dan C. Hazen (Ruth) in 2015. He is also survived by six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. The family gives special thanks to his colleague Calista Lee Brown, his devoted house helper Maria Chun, and his caretakers Danny Licudan and Ernie Anoneo.

NOTICE TO READERS

The *Palisades News* welcomes submissions of obituary notices for Palisadians, past and present. Notices must be 400 words or less. A photo may be sent for possible inclusion. There is no charge for the notice, nor the photo. For questions, or to submit, please e-mail editor@palisadesnews.com. The desired deadline for submissions is Thursday before the intended publication date (the first and third Wednesday of the month).



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Ryan Albert
Harvard-Westlake



August Bagg
LA County H.S. for the Arts



Finley Ben-Dayan
Windward



Jack Berglas
Palisades H.S.



Sam Beutner
Windward



TROOP 223
Western Los Angeles County Council



Ryan Breitman
Palisades H.S.



Piers Carmichael
Viewpoint



Jack Chase
Oak Park



Preston Cole
Oaks Christian



Ridge Coughlin
Palisades H.S.



Stewart Cox
Pacifica Christian



Will Elander
Palisades H.S.



Jack Goldman
Loyola



Hunter Heisz
Brentwood



Nick Jalali
Brentwood



Andrew McCoy
Palisades H.S.

Troop 223 Honors Thirty-One New Eagle Scouts

Thirty-one Boy Scouts from Palisades Troop 223 were awarded the rank of Eagle Scout during an historic Court of Honor dinner and ceremony at St. Matthew's Parish School's Sprague Center on November 22.

The evening was especially memorable because not only this was the largest Eagle class in the troop's long history, it was the largest Eagle class on record nationally.

Eagle Scout Riley Hubsch convened the Court of Honor, and was joined by four first-year Scouts who read congratulatory citations from President Obama, The U.S. House of Representatives, Senator Dianne Feinstein and Governor Jerry Brown.

The evening's featured speaker was Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Bonin. Captain Jorge R. Rodriguez, Commanding Officer of the Los Angeles Police Department's Newton Division, talked on behalf of one of his police stations which benefited from an Eagle project.

The young men started working towards their Eagle Scout rank in fifth grade, each earning a minimum of 21 badges, attending weekly meetings and monthly camp outs, serving in a leadership position within the troop, and participating in week-long summer camp outs at Emerald Bay on Catalina Island and high-adventure backpacking trips around the country.

Additionally, Eagle Scout candidates must plan and execute a 100-hour service project that benefits an outside community organization. The projects performed this past year included a variety of activities that benefited more than 20 organizations.

YMCA and BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Jack Berglas built plyometric boxes for the Palisades-Malibu YMCA and **Trevor Hylen** constructed wooden bleachers to watch sports at their Simon Meadow sports field in Temescal. "Thank you to Troop 223 and my fellow Eagles for making the past years so memorable," Hylen said.

The Santa Monica YMCA received gardening planter boxes and a trellis for their after-school activities program, thanks to **Jim Follette**. "What makes Troop 223 so great is that before a High Adventure camping trip, hiking 87 miles at altitudes exceeding 11,500 feet, there is a feeling of trepidation and apprehension," Follette said. "Upon completion, after 10 days on the trail, there is

a real feeling of accomplishment, satisfaction, and confidence building that challenges can be met." "Being an Eagle Scout taught me to be self-sufficient," said **Hunter Heisz**, who created two wood podiums for the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Monica debate program.

CHURCHES and SYNAGOGUES

St. Matthew's benefited from three projects. **Jack Goldman** replaced sprinklers with water efficient sprinkler heads.

George Dennis sanded and painted the railing along Lou's Path, which runs from the Parish office to the school administration building. "Boy Scouts has given me many leadership opportunities," Dennis said. "I am sure to use those skills throughout my life."

Chase Prince renovated and restocked the school and Parish Emergency Supply Storage Container. "Troop 223 taught me how to push myself beyond my comfort zone and to achieve things I didn't think I could," Prince said. "I will never forget the skills I learned, friendships I made and the experiences I had."

"Boy Scouts has been a major part of shaping me into the man I'm becoming. I'm forever grateful to Mike Lanning and Troop 223," said **August Bagg**, who rehabilitated two large outdoor play structures at the First Presbyterian Church and Nursery School in Santa Monica.

Jack Chase sanded and varnished the entire circular floor and four double doors of the Duval Music Center at St. Monica Catholic Church.

"My scouting experience was shaped by three main things: growing up, receiving invaluable guidance and wisdom from my elders, and becoming a leader," said **William Elander**, who constructed two redwood benches and four redwood planter boxes for the Palisades Presbyterian Church.

Kehillat Israel of Pacific Palisades received new shelving and an elevated floor in the synagogue's emergency supply shed, thanks to **Ridge Coughlin**. **Joseph Klein** created a movable wooden cart to hold various donated items including food, clothing and toys.

Sean Temple built and painted 10 stage cubes for the P.S. Arts



Children's Theatre Program. St. Paul the Apostle Church received a complete overhaul and restructuring of their emergency preparedness program because **Max Rothman** constructed two sheds and organized and stocked the supplies. "Troop 223 helped me make new friends, learn to camp and survive in the wilderness and make memories that will last a lifetime," Rothman said. "I also appreciate all of the hard work the Assistant Scoutmasters put in, especially Andy Hubsch who leads the seniors."

"Boy Scouts has been a uniquely enriching experience, providing a multitude of opportunities ranging from leadership, to teamwork, to a relationship with the outdoors," said **Ryan Wixen**, who designed and built 12 locking cabinet doors for musical instrument shelves at St. Anne's Church in Santa Monica.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Ryan Albert built a table at the Westside Food Bank and repaired or replaced files and shelves while organizing their office space. He said, "My fondest memory from my High Adventure Pacific Northwest trip was being first awake to enjoy quiet mornings and crackling fires."

Cooper Mojo installed sprinkler irrigation systems for 22 garden boxes used by the Veterans' Hospital of Los Angeles to grow vegetables for the Westside Food Bank.

Reid Whitney built boxes to store flags for the Los Angeles National Cemetery's Memorial Day flag placement.

Harvest Home in Venice received a safer entrance for new moms and babies because **Preston Cole** poured a concrete driveway and parking pad for the house. Fellow Scout **Stewart Cox** removed 900 square feet of dead grass and replaced it with decomposed granite and drought-resistant plants. Cox said, "My favorite Boy Scout memory was climbing to the second highest peak of Philmont Scout Ranch with my hiking crew."

Vision to Learn received three benches for their mobile optometry units constructed by **Sam Beutner**.

Nicholas Song, a longtime member of Troop 223, who finished earning his Eagle in Troop 322 while in boarding school in Exeter,

New Hampshire, by refurbishing and overhauling the book shelves and reading room for the Town of Exeter's used-book lending library.

Finley Ben-Dayan constructed picnic tables for the outdoor recreational area for the Newton Community Police Station's Athletics League, a Children's Community Center.

SCHOOLS

Piers Carmichael designed and built a root-view box and refurbished an outdoor table and chairs for Marquez Elementary's edible garden. **Parker Smith**, who built and reinforced two garden boxes, said: "Troop 223, and especially Mike Lanning are special parts of our community that have helped me grow into a leader and a person for others."

At John Muir Elementary, **Mark Harris** built a gardening table and two vegetable boxes.

Max Tenenbaum, who created and installed a marquee sign for the back of the baseball dugout at Palisades Charter High, said: "My favorite memories are Emerald Bay, wake boarding, and waiting out a lightning storm in an abandoned stable at Philmont Scout Ranch."

Ryan Breitman, who built playground equipment and raised more than \$5,000 for the Palisades Jewish Early Childhood Center, said: "The best part of Scouts was all of the amazing people I got to experience it with."

At Saint Martin of Tours Church and School, **Nicholas Jalali** installed a new electronic irrigation controller activated by a soil moisture sensor and planted drought-resistant plants, while **Johnnie Nutt** designed, built and installed a large sign in front of the church.

Andrew McCoy cleared and replanted a long planter box that provides seating for spectators at the Calvary Christian Church sports field.

Scoutmaster Mike Lanning, in his 64th year of guiding Troop 223, closed the ceremony advising the new Eagle Scouts that the world will always expect more of them and that they will be held to a higher level of service.

Lanning has advanced 750 Eagle Scouts, more than any other Scoutmaster in the country. Visit: troop-223.org



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Arete Academy



Parker Smith
Loyola



Nick Song
Phillips Exeter (NH)



Sean Temple
New Roads



Max Tenebaum
Palisades H.S.



Reid Whitney
Loyola



Ryan Wixen
Harvard-Westlake



Troop-223.org

Girls Seek Water Polo Title

A new coach and new players, but the same aspiration: winning the City Section girls water polo title. Since the program's inception at Palisades High in 2011, the girls team has reached the championship match four times, but has yet to return with a title.

That's about to change this year, according to one of last year's leading scorers, Jackie Au. "It's great this year. We're confident, and the girls are dedicated," she said.

This year's coach is Kirk Lazaruk, who served as the boys assistant water polo coach this fall. Although league play doesn't start until January 9 against Banning (at Banning), he set up off-season training for the girls.

"The enthusiasm of the team has been off the charts," Lazaruk said. With 29 girls on the team, the school will field a varsity and a junior varsity team for the first time.

Since many schools in the City Section lack a competitive water polo team, Lazaruk was asked how he would deal with a scarcity of teams to play.

"We can play as many games as we want against non-league teams, such as Brentwood, and we will enter tournaments," said Lazaruk, who plans to keep his JV team busy, too. The Dolphins will enter tournaments in Burbank and Ayala over the winter break.

Last year, Palisades lost to Eagle Rock in the City finals, 12-9. This was the fourth



Eli Blake looks to pass the ball against Malibu.

straight match-up between the two teams, but Lazaruk is predicting a different result this year.

"We're putting a big emphasis on water polo IQ, teaching the girls the nuances of the game," Lazaruk said. "We will have three to four defensive schemes and seven to eight offensive plays."

"Once you understand the game, you develop a love of the sport. The girls also develop a sisterhood in and out of the water," he said.

With a new coach, comes a new attitude. "We don't allow drama," Lazaruk said.



Coach Kirk Lazaruk listens during a time out.

Photos: Peggy Saab

"There's respect for each other. You can't be catty out of the pool and then be friends in the water."

The first match this year was against Malibu on November 30 at Palisades, which included varsity and JV play. The Dolphins won, 14-5.

Last Friday, the girls defeated El Camino, 11-3. Jackie Au scored 4 goals, Lily Ramos 3, Clara Saab 2 and Leighanne Estabrook

and Ally Stahl one each.

The next home league match is January 18. Looking a few months into the future, Lazaruk said: "We haven't been dominated in girls water polo. We haven't won a championship, but it's because we didn't have enough skill development."

He is taking care of the training; now it's up to the girls to take it from here—and he expects to see a title this year.

Dolphins Lose a Heartbreaker, 13-10

(Editor's note: We try to post games and results in a timely fashion on our Facebook or website. Although this story was posted earlier, the team's success was worthy of a story in print. One of the team's only losses this year was its first game against Sierra Canyon, which won the CIF-SS Division 4 championship Friday by beating Corona del Mar.)

We were one play away from the final four," said Palisades Head Coach Tim Hyde after his football team lost to San Pedro, 13-10, in the City Section Division I quarterfinals on November 18.

The showdown at San Pedro was a tough defensive battle that was in doubt right down to the final minutes.

Ultimately, two turnovers and a fourth-quarter holding penalty cost Pali dearly after the Dolphins shared the Western League title (with Venice and Westchester) and routed Carson, 41-0, in the first round of the playoffs.

On the opening kickoff, junior Cameron Bailey returned the ball to the Dolphins' 41, but they failed to advance and had to punt.

The Pirates also punted, and Pali advanced from its own 31 to San Pedro's 43. Unfortunately, senior Marrio Lofton, the team's second leading rusher this season behind tailback Innocent Okoh, was hit hard and fumbled. The ball was recovered by the Pirates and carried 57 yards for a touchdown. The PAT was good.

Bailey had another long kickoff return, this time to San Pedro's 49, and the Pali running attack—Okoh, Lofton and quarterback Jonah Manheim—drove downfield for a touchdown, with Okoh scoring from the 5-yard line. Jake Taitelman's PAT was good, and game was tied, 7-7, halfway through the first quarter.

After that, the defenses and field-goal kickers took over.

Following the kickoff, San Pedro drove 51 yards and kicked a field goal from the Palisades 14, to move ahead 10-7.

The Dolphins responded with a drive down to San Pedro's 39, but the Pirates intercepted a pass on the 14. The strong Pali defense forced another punt, and the offense took over on San Pedro's 48. Manheim

passed to Quinn Perry who was tackled on the 18, and Okoh helped run the ball down to the 4, but two penalties moved the Dolphins back to 30, and San Pedro took over.

Trailing 10-7 at halftime, Palisades came out and surprised San Pedro with an onside kick, recovering the ball on the Pirates' 41. This time the Dolphins drove down to the 8-yard line, only to be stymied by a holding penalty and San Pedro's tough defense. Pali had to settle for a field goal by Taitelman, tying the game at 10-10.

On San Pedro's next possession, the Pirates advanced to Pali's 23 and kicked what proved to be the winning field goal.

The game went back and forth with neither team being able to score. The Palisades defense was led by Perry, who had five tackles and seven assists, and junior Dakota Hamilton, had four tackles and 11 assists.

The Dolphins had trouble with their passing attack most of the game, but half-way through the fourth quarter, Manheim connected with Bailey for a 40-yard play down to the San Pedro 2. Alas, a holding penalty against the Dolphins brought the ball back



Innocent Okoh scored 21 touchdowns and rushed for 1965 yards this season.

Photo: Drew Vaupen

to the 47, and that ended their scoring hopes. Pali punted and then San Pedro managed to hold onto the ball to end the game 13-10.

"This season had been a hell of a ride," Hyde said. The Dolphins were 9-3 overall and 4-1 in league play. "I suited up 47 and 30 are coming back next year."



Lila Copeland



PaliHi girls won the City Championship and include (left to right) Elisa Kim, Brittany Darrow, Kimia Samandi, Shannon Lee, Ariel Pollack, Sarah Bentley and Lila Copeland.



Brent Smith was the top male finisher for PaliHi at the City Section championship.

Pali Girls Win City Cross-Country Title

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Competing on the hilly 3-mile course at Pierce College, Palisades High's girls team won its fourth consecutive City Section Division 1 cross-country title on November 19. The Dolphins also qualified for the State meet at Fresno on November 26.

Pali freshman Lila Copeland won in 18:45.88, followed by teammate Kimia Samandi (19:03.35). Brittany Darrow (19:16.27) took seventh, Sarah Bentley (19:18.84) was eighth and Elisa Kim (19:24.21) finished ninth in a field of 78 girls.

Copeland, who started the school year at Wildwood in the Southern Section, competed in only her third meet for Palisades. "I'm happy with my time," the 14-year-old said. "I expected to run slower, but I felt really strong today."

"This was tough, but I think the speed work we did during the week helped," Copeland said, noting they had worked on 800- and 1,200-yard sprints on the track.

A graduate of Paul Revere, Copeland was asked the difference between middle and high school cross country. "There's more

pressure here to win and do well," she said. "But, we're all supportive of one another and it helps in our races."

While at Revere, Copeland smashed all running records, including those held by Marissa Williams, who now competes at UC Berkeley. Williams consistently won the City cross-country finals, and as a senior in 2014 ran the course in 16:33.11.

Samandi, who placed tenth (19:48.02) last year as a sophomore, said "Last week I was more nervous, more negative. This week I told myself 'I cannot be negative, I have to be positive and it helped me set a good pace.'" Asked to compare this team to last year's, she said "I love this team—Lila, Sarah, Brit, Elisa, Shannon, Ariel."

"Every year, it's different," Samandi said. "This year we're all strong and this is important for all of us."

Joining Copeland and Samandi at State will be Bentley (freshman), Darrow (sophomore), Kim (freshman), Lee (senior) and Ariel Pollack (senior).

The PaliHi girls also won the team title in both the junior varsity and freshman/sophomore divisions. Palisades runners placed fourth, sixth and twelfth in the JV

division, and second, fourth, fifth and eighth in fresh/soph.

Assistant coach Gwendolen Twist said she ran with the girls during practices. "I would get in the middle of them and we would chat. If someone was tired, I could find out if they were getting enough sleep or the proper nutrition."

She praised head coach Bob Macias, who devised the training routes that took his runners over different terrains around the Palisades. "Bob is good," Twist said. "The boys just had a bad race."

At the beginning of the season, the *Daily News* had picked Pali's boys team to repeat as City champions, but they finished third behind Granada Hills and El Camino Real (the top two teams qualified for State). Sophomore Brent Smith was Pali's top finisher, missing fourth place by just .08 hundredths of a second with a time of 15:33.25. The winner was El Camino junior Justin Hazell in 14:57.87.

"I went a minute faster than last week. It was so hot last week [in the City prelims]," Smith said. "[Today] I went out too hard in the beginning and died in the end."

He was hoping the entire team would qualify for State. "I'd rather go as a team,"

Smith said. "I love this team, I wouldn't trade it for anything."

He noted how they had put in a lot of miles this fall. "The training was way more physically demanding."

"We didn't peak at the right time with the boys," Macias said. "We didn't run well today."

In addition to Smith, Ben Hamer was eighth (15:43.46) and Jakob Pollack was eleventh (16:56.79). Smith and Hamer, a junior, ran as individuals at State.

Pali's JV boys took fourth and the fresh/soph team was fifth.

At the State meet on November 26, the Pali girls team took 16th overall, but first among L.A. City Section teams. The individual winner was Olivia O'Keefe, a junior from Davis, who ran 17:28.9 in a field of 199 girls.

Pali's Copeland finished 29th in 18:25. Samandi ran 19:28.2 (95th), Bentley went 19:28.8 (98th) and Brittany Darrow ran 19:56 (123rd).

In the boys division, the winner was Luis Grijalva-Armijo (14:50.1). Hazell, the City winner, finished fourth (15:10.7). For Pali, Ben Hamer ran 16:22 (79th) and Brent Smith went 16:36.2 (102nd).



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Hitting the Ice for Stroke Awareness: Men's Hockey Team Raises \$9,000

(Editor's note: This article appeared November 16 in the SUNY at Fredonia newspaper, The Leader, in western New York. It is reprinted with permission by the author.)

By CURTIS HENRY
Sports Editor

The last time that the Fredonia Blue Devils played the Potsdam Bears in January, Rick Rivera was in attendance. His wife, Dana, was in attendance as well. The two were there as parents paying support to their kids, which is nothing out of the ordinary in the world of sports.

What is out of the ordinary is that the two had flown in from their home in [Pacific Palisades] Los Angeles within 24 hours of the puck drop. More extraordinary is the fact that it was only the second time they were in such a scenario, watching their sons compete as opponents rather than as teammates. At the time, the younger of the two, Luke, was a freshman here at Fredonia. The eldest brother, Jake, was a senior at Potsdam. Each was donning the number 23.

The brothers had essentially grown up on the ice; Jake began playing hockey at age 5, Luke at age 3. In their combined four decades playing the sport, this was only their second time matched up against one another in a competitive setting.

Faced with the moral dilemma of neutrality, their father never plans to reveal who he was rooting for on that night in January.

"We showed up and sat at center ice," said Rick Rivera. "I sat with the left foot on one side, right foot on one side, and watched.

"As for who I was cheering for on the inside, well, I'm probably best off taking that one to the grave," he concluded with a chuckle. That meeting between the brothers Rivera ended up with Luke's side winning to even the series between brothers at 1-1.

Fast forward to Friday night. The Rivera clan was back in town for another meeting



Palisadian Dana Rivera, a stroke survivor and Danny Kubear, a 5-time stroke survivor from Fredo, New York, dropped the puck to start the match.

between Fredonia and Potsdam. This game only featured one of their sons—Jake having graduated last year—but the game was still just as significant to the family.

The end result of Friday night's game was a 4-1 victory for Fredonia, but the story of Friday transcends all action on the ice.

Friday was stroke awareness night for the Blue Devils, the first event of its kind to take place in the Steele Hall ice arena. The fundraiser was thought of and driven by none other than Luke Rivera, who was instrumental in orchestrating the event.

Similar to the annual "Pink the Rink" game, the game featured unique jerseys for the Blue Devils. These in particular were red and white with a digital camo pattern, the camo to pay homage to Veterans Day, which coincided with Friday's game. The jerseys were a group effort in designing, headed by Marcus Ortiz, Hunter Long and Luke Rivera.

"A majority of this was Luke's doing," said head coach Jeff Meredith. "Of course he had a lot of help with this, but it was

driven almost entirely by the players, and Luke has been the most instrumental."

The thought of having a stroke awareness game was of personal accord to Luke after Dana suffered multiple strokes on June 29, 2009.

"I know people affected by this, mainly my mom, and you just don't see the exposure to [strokes and stroke awareness] like you do with breast cancer and other stuff like that," said Luke Rivera.

Two strokes within one hour left half of Dana's body entirely paralyzed. The strokes came as a shock to the family, who never imagined such a health lapse occurring to someone who maintains a physical standard as high as Dana's.

"It was really unexpected," said Luke Rivera. "My mom has always been sort of a health nut, and she's always been in good shape. She prides herself in it."

The stroke was an apparent result of a patent foramen ovale (PFO), or a hole in Dana's heart. As many as 20 percent of Americans carry this trait, but most go un-

aware of the condition. In rare cases, however, a PFO can cause a stroke by allowing clots into the bloodstream of the body. After the strokes and her diagnosis, Dana underwent surgery to correct the problem and has been spreading awareness of the issue ever since.

Due to her physical conditioning and work ethic, Dana's recovery from the stroke was remarkable.

"I really dodged a bullet in a lot of ways because I was in good shape," said Dana Rivera. "It took me about four and a half months to recover from the paralysis, and it was about a year before I said, 'Wow, I really feel like I'm me again.' I was lucky. For everyone, it's different."

For the human body to overcome something like paralysis to one side, a lot of re-learning has to take place. This occurs through the brain's neuroplasticity, or its ability for each hemisphere of the brain to learn the duties of the other. In extreme cases, such as Dana's, all facets and actions of everyday life need to be re-learned by the opposite side of the brain.

"I made it known that I wanted to wear high-heels and wedges again," said Dana Rivera. "I wasn't going to stop pushing myself until I was able to do that."

Although hard times fell on the Riveras in the immediate aftermath of Dana's strokes, the family had a positive outlook in the months following.

"Because of Dana's desire and determination, it wasn't really a change in the house," said Rick Rivera. "It was just a goal she had to achieve, and she worked relentlessly to achieve it."

"When Dana had the stroke and started her recovery, it definitely set a greater standard of capability for Rick and the kids," said Sam Bachner, Dana's father. "It gave the whole family a certain degree of pride. Dana, in particular, has since made it her mission to go to a number of different hos-

(Continued on Page 19)



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Rivera

(Continued from Page 18)

pitals and facilities to work and talk to people and spread awareness about this issue that she cares about, and it's really beyond the norm."

As of game time on Friday, donations toward the stroke awareness event approached \$8,600. Donations came in a variety of forms, ranging from a GoFundMe page to sales of stroke awareness bracelets. A good majority of that was orchestrated by none other than Dana's mother and Luke's grandmother, Arlene Bachner.

"My grandma has actually been really important with regard to how much money she's raised," said Luke Rivera. In total, he estimated that \$7,000 of the \$8,600 raised before Friday was facilitated by his grandmother and her contacts all over Los Angeles.

"It's a good cause, and it's important to the family," said Bachner of her contributions.

In addition to the jerseys and donations, a ceremonial puck drop took place moments before the game. Dana was granted the opportunity to walk out onto the ice and take part in it. When she first heard of this being the plan, she was no less than ecstatic.

"Really, it meant a lot to me because my son organized and orchestrated the whole event," said Dana Rivera. "I'm a proud mom."

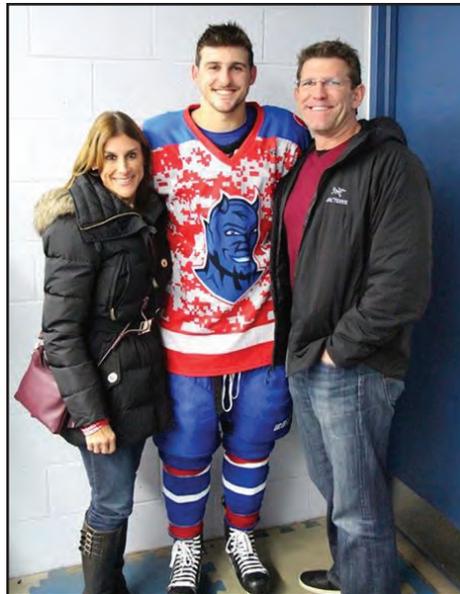
"I just thought about how at events you usually have someone do the opening pitch

or coin toss. I thought, 'Why not do a puck drop?' and we went with it," said Luke Rivera.

In addition to the GoFundMe page, ticket sales, bracelet sales and other donations, Friday's game featured a silent auction and a 50-50 raffle. The totals in money raised peaked at more than \$9,000.

The 4-1 victory over Potsdam capped off a perfect event for the Blue Devils and the entire Rivera family.

"There's no secret about who I'm cheering for tonight," said Rick Rivera prior to Friday's game. It's safe to say that he, along with most other Blue Devils, left Steele Hall on Friday night entirely satisfied.



Dana and Rick Rivera with son Luke, who plays for the Fredonia Blue Devils.



Gold Medal players Maddie Mussleman (left) Rachel Fattal and coach Adam Krikorian spoke to students at Village School. Photo: Chris Gonyaw

Gold Medalists Visit Village School

U.S. Women's Water Polo Coach Adam Krikorian and players Maddie Mussleman and Rachel Fattal visited Village School on November 28 to share their story of winning gold medals at the Rio Olympics this summer.

The players described their passion for water polo, how they came to play in the Olympics, and their memories of the Rio Games. Their coach told Village students to be courageous and learn from mistakes, because mistakes are a true opportunity for growth.

When women's water polo was added to the Olympic program in 2000, the U.S. team

took silver; in 2004 at Athens it was bronze, in Beijing it was silver, and in London the Americans won their first gold.

In Rio, the women beat Hungary in the semifinals, 14-10, and played Italy for the gold medal. For the fifth time in six games, the U.S. never trailed, dominating the Italians and winning, 12-5. Its strategy was described as "find offense from everyone, and shut the other team down on defense." Eight players scored at least one goal.

Village School also invited the Palisades High girls water polo team and their coach, Kirk Lazurak, to meet the players.

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mation is contained in colorful notebooks located in each corner of the garden, illustrating the plant, its Tongva name and practical uses.

The conditions and microclimate in the walled-in space adjacent to the San Fernando Valley limited the garden's range from San Diego north to the Golden Gate. Rain-forest plants of the northwest would not do well under these conditions.

Designed by landscape architect Matthew Kennedy, the ethnobotanical garden spreads out around a pond fed by the cascading falls at the base of a granite outcrop. In selecting the plants, garden caretaker and Cahuilla/Apache Nicholas Hummingbird advised the museum on the proper species for each zone. As manager of the Hahamongna native plant nursery in Pasadena, Hummingbird knows indigenous plants and where to locate them.

For example, when the garden was being installed, mesquite trees from Chile were indicated on the plant list. Hummingbird counseled against that species, confirming instead that the honey mesquite was the indigenous species for this area.

"Four or five months ago, Nick called from Joshua Tree and told me he'd found honey mesquite," Greenberg recalls, em-



Descriptive guide manuals inform visitors about the native plants, providing a color illustration, the Native American name and the medicinal and culinary uses.



The fresh water pond sustains a number of plants, including the Arrowhead (wapato), whose fleshy tubers were an important ancestral food; the Basket rush (juncus textilis), used for basket weaving, and the Narrow-Leaf Cattail, whose tough, flexible leaves were used in traditional house-thatching, clothing and baskets.

phasizing that the plant community at the Autry is 100 percent native to the area.

Early in the garden's planning stages five years ago, Greenberg said they came up with the idea of having a medicine cabinet to demonstrate the medicinal properties of certain plants. They envisioned a box, which you could open up and see a bottle of aspirin and next to it willow, whose bark contains salicylic acid, the active ingredient in aspirin.

Our interactive consultants began to question the name, 'medicine cabinet,' as being too commercial and not respectful to the native remedy," Greenberg recalls.

Instead, planners settled on three demonstration cabinets in the garden. On the door of each box, an ailment is presented along with an effective remedy. Coughs are relieved by Yerba Santa tea; athlete's foot is soothed by preparing a talc powder from the leaves of the Creosote bush. To complete the display, the particular native shrub prescribed grows at the side of each demonstration box. In a playful game for children, you open the door and see a three-dimensional model of affliction: a congested lung cavity or a fungus-infected foot.

The Autry space is remarkably tranquil. Seating areas located in various areas of the garden offer restful pause. The sound of the waterfall blocks out the freeway din, and the fragrances and seasonal color keep the

senses refreshed.

Inside the galleries, visitors can learn how these plants were used in Indian everyday activities. One display case identifies the plant materials, primarily sumac, deer grass and juncus, used to fabricate utilitarian baskets. Various baskets were shaped to serve specific



This exhibition display case features Tongva objects used for everyday activities. Lower foreground: Steatite (soapstone) bowl, 1500s-1800s, courtesy James W. Calkins Collection; Center foreground: Abalone container for asphalt (pre-concrete), courtesy, Burnham Chappelle American Collection. Foreground right: Tongva basket bowl, late 1800s, donated to the Southwest Museum of the American Indian by Miss Ethel R. Shorb. Center: Basket made from sumac, deer grass and juncus.

functions. A scoop-shaped basket was designed to gather acorns and seeds; a winnowing tray to separate grains from chaff.

A major part of the Autry educational mission focuses on the cultural aspects of the garden. "We are trying to tie together the connection between us and the natural world, and warn about the stress we are putting on our environment," Hummingbird says. "There are 6,717 plant species in California; 1,295 are endemic (found only in one place.) Four hundred species have already gone extinct, destroyed by human impact."

The Autry Native Garden showcases what a large palette exists in the California Native catalog, the beautiful textures and fragrances. Visitors will see familiar plants, such as the native rose, grape and cherry, and make connections. At every point in the year, something is going to be flowering. The garden is the center of a vibrant living cosmos attracting local and migrating birds, insects, dragonflies and us human beings.

The Autry's collection of more than 500,000 pieces of art and artifacts includes the Southwest Museum of American Indian Collection. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact: TheAutry.org.



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Alper's Young Musicians To Play in Jazz Forum

Alper's Young Musicians Big Band of talented 9- to- 16-year-olds will perform at the Jazz Forum Sunday, December 11, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the community room at the Christian Institute, 1308 Second Street in Santa Monica. Enter through the alley between Second and Ocean, on the south side of Arizona. Entry and parking are free.

This swingin' 12-piece ensemble performs classic Big-Band repertoire (Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Glenn Miller, Cab Calloway) and newer tunes by Joe Zawinul, Brian Setzer, Miles Davis, Henry Mancini and Horace Silver.

The instrumentation is two trumpets, four saxophones, two clarinets and flute.

The group is particularly thrilled now that a dad has also joined the group. "What a wonderful experience for a young player to be in a band with his dad," says Director Gregory Alper. "It's inspiring to see young musicians passionate about jazz."

Founder of the Alper Music School Pacific Palisades, Greg has enjoyed a four-decade career performing, recording, composing for film and teaching young musicians. He composed the music for the original Warcraft video game, and earlier spent years in the New York studio and gig scene. He cut one of the seminal jazz-fusion albums, *Fat Doggie*, in the late 1970s, which was recently re-mastered at Abbey Road Studios in London.

Alper also leads the annual Children's Music Workshop Honors Orchestra Jazz Band in concert at Schoenberg Hall at UCLA. The televised event has garnered three Emmys.

In addition to leading the jazz ensemble, Gregory Alper Music School offers private instruction on saxophone, clarinet, flute, guitar, piano, bass, improvisation and composition. Contact: (310) 454-0160 or alper@alpermusic.com.

A Christmas Carol Set For Pierson December 14

Shut off your computer or television, and come get in the holiday mood by spending an hour at Pierson Playhouse on Wednesday evening, December 14.

The Theatre Palisades Actors' Troupe will perform their third annual Christmas radio show. This year they will be doing Campbell's Soup's 1939 rendition of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The original show was performed with Orson Welles and featured Lionel Barrymore as Scrooge.

The show has classic-radio sound effects and is appropriate for the entire family. Holiday refreshments will be available at 7 p.m. in the lobby and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free and there's a raffle. Audience members are asked to bring canned goods for the Westside Food Bank. The Pierson is located at 941 Temescal Canyon Rd. Call (310) 454-1070 or visit theatrepalisades.com.

FREE: Stroke Support Group

for Survivors, Caregivers & Families meets every Thursday (1-2:30pm) at the Presbyterian Church
Stroke/TBI Survivors (Ages 18 & older) every other Monday, 2pm at University Synagogue

Contact Facilitator: Dana Rivera
(310) 428 4822 • danasusanrivera@gmail.com



St. Matthew's December Concert to Feature Bach

St. Matthew's Music Guild will present its annual holiday concert featuring music by Bach at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 9, at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienvenida Ave.

The program will feature Los Angeles violinist Peter Kent in Bach's *Violin Concerto in E major*. Kent, in demand as an orchestral and chamber musician and also active in the television and film industry, was concertmaster of St. Matthew's Chamber Orchestra during its early years in the late 1980s and '90s. He and his wife, harpist Amy Shulman, concertize and record as the duo ensemble "51 Strings."

Flutists Nancy Gilman Marfisi and Eileen Holt will be joined by the orchestra's present concertmaster, Yi-Huan Zhao, in Bach's charming and tuneful *Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G major*.

Rounding out the program, the 35-member Choir of St. Matthew's Parish and soloists will present Bach's glorious *Magnificat in D major*. Scored for five-part choir and large orchestra, including trumpets, organ and timpani, the *Magnificat* is one of Bach's most festive creations.

The concert concludes with a traditional sing-along of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*.

Admission at the door is \$35. The Music Guild offers discounted season passes, good for all concerts, for as little as \$150.

Visit: MusicGuildOnline.org or call: (310) 573-7421, ext. 19.



Violinist Peter Kent will perform Bach's Violin Concerto in E Major.

Rotary Ranked Third

CNBC has released their list of the "Top 10 Charities Changing the World" in 2016. This year The Rotary Foundation is ranked number 3, rising from number 5 in 2015. It is recognized for projects in the areas of focus and commitment to polio eradication.

Charities on this list must be large, global, with budgets exceeding \$100 million and net assets of at least \$65 million. These charities are all doing exceptional work both at home and abroad all while maintaining top-notch financial management and transparency standards.

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Gilbert-Lurie to Speak At Food for Thought

Leslie Gilbert-Lurie, a writer, lawyer and philanthropist whose highly acclaimed memoir, *Bending Toward the Sun*, was published in 2009, will be the Food for Thought speaker at 12 noon on Tuesday, December 13, at the Palisades Presbyterian Church, corner of Sunset and El Medio.

Lunch at 11:30 a.m. is complimentary, but reservations are necessary. Call (310) 454-0366 or email syljonboyd@gmail.com.

Leslie and her mother, a Holocaust survivor, will tell the story of her survival in Poland during World War II.

While working on her next book, Gilbert-Lurie currently co-chairs Human Rights Watch's Los Angeles Committee and is a founding board member and past president of the Alliance for Children's Rights.

She is also a board member of the Skirball Cultural Center and Facing History and Ourselves, a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy. For the past year, she has served on the editorial board of the Chronicle of Social Change.

Gilbert-Lurie also recently served as vice chair of the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Welfare, which led to widespread child-welfare reform in the county.

From 1997 to 2011, she was on the Los



Leslie Gilbert-Lurie

Angeles County Board of Education, where she served three terms as board president.

Her early career was at NBC, where she spent nearly a decade as an executive, overseeing NBC Productions, comedy, writing television episodes, and co-founding an in-house production company, Lurie-Horwitz productions. After she left NBC, she consulted for USA Network and Disney Television.

Gilbert-Lurie is a graduate of UCLA and UCLA School of Law. She worked briefly at the law firm of Manatt, Phelps, Rothenberg and Tunney and served as a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Law Clerk.



Village School students Ben Shaheen (left) and Mason Rufeh took first place in a Westside chess tournament.

Village Students Win Chess Tourney

Village School third-grader Mason Rufeh and fourth-grader Ben Shaheen proved they had all the right moves on October 30, when each finished first in a chess tournament in Westwood. Both boys were undefeated at their grade level during the day-long competition.

Students from 14 elementary schools participated, including Saint Paul, Westwood Charter, Canyon Charter, Village, John Thomas Dye, Brawerman, Curtis, El Marino Language, Seven Arrows, Citizens of the World, New West, Mayfield, Turning Point and Brentwood.

The tournament is organized and held twice a year by Women's FIDE (Fédération Internationale des Échecs) Master, Ivona Jezerska.

"We have the tournaments as an extension of the work I do teaching chess/critical thinking at Saint Paul as part of their curriculum during the school day, and in other after-school enrichment programs on the Westside," said Jezerska, who started playing chess when she was 11 in her native Poland. At age 14, she moved from her family's hometown of Cieszyn to Warsaw to repre-

sent a Polish chess club, Polonia Warszawa.

In 1980, Jezerska immigrated to the U.S. and became a member of the U.S. chess team, which played in Greece in 1984 and in Dubai in 1986. She was a top contender in several U.S. women's chess championships.

In the late 1990's, Jezerska developed "Chess for Success," a comprehensive chess learning program to improve academic skills and self-esteem for Southern California children.

In addition to after-school classes and private lessons, each summer Jezerska holds a chess camp that involves intensive playing, practice tournaments, and problem solving. Beginners learn all the basics and advanced players move to the next level.

"I played chess every day in my local chess club and loved going to tournaments to test my skills with chess players from other places," Jezerska said. "In the tournaments I direct, kids are grouped by grade, and trophies are awarded. A good time is had by all—especially by me. I've loved chess all of my life and never tire of teaching it to eager students."

Visit: chess4successla.com.

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Pacific Palisades Optimists Serve Youth

More than \$200,000 was raised at the 2016 Mentor Awards Gala to benefit the treatment and education programs for at-risk youth served by Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services (OYHFS).

OYHFS is one of the region's largest education and treatment centers for juvenile offenders and at-risk children. It operates residential care facilities for 85 boys on its main campus, four group homes for boys and girls, a charter school, multifaceted mental health programs for community youth and adults, after care services and a foster care and adoption agency. It gives those kids a second chance.

The Optimist home started in 1906, when Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Strickland took in an orphaned nephew to their farm just outside the northern city limits of Los Angeles (still a main site of a home). Another boy—a ward of the court—arrived in the same year. By 1908 there were 13 boys living on the farm. The Stricklands supported the home by selling dairy products and chickens.

At the same time, Judge Curtis Wilbur, the presiding judge in Los Angeles Juvenile Court, was handling juvenile cases in Superior Court. His only option for placing delinquent or orphaned boys was in reform school. In 1914, he helped start Strickland Home for Boys.



Billy and Kathleen Snyder attended the Optimist Mentor Awards Gala in October.

In the late 1920s, the Home and local Optimist Clubs began discussing working together, and with the Optimist Club financial support the name was changed to Optimist Boys' Home and Ranch, Inc. It became a registered nonprofit in 1934.

In 1972, the Home began a major capital project: to fund its own high school to provide classrooms and vocational training for

its youngsters who were victims of divorce, abuse and neglect. Two years later, the first Group Home was developed.

In 1991, the Haldeman Youth Counseling Center was opened and a year later a new Foster Family Agency program was started to individually place abused children, who range in age from newborns to 21 years old in foster homes.

An Independent Living program was initiated in 1996 to help graduates of the Home, while continuing his/her education.

To accommodate the growing number of kids, a 23,000-square-foot "Youth Learning Center" was built, and in 2005 opened with the name The Everychild Youth Learning Center, after the foundation that gave the lead gift.

In 2012, Optimist partnered with LA County to offer a specialized program for victims of sexual trafficking. Additionally, Whole Foster Family Care became part of the foster program, which allowed pregnant or parenting teens to join the homes.

The Pacific Palisades Optimist Club has been crucial in helping to raise funds. In October, a sheet containing 54 needed items and the cost to acquire them, such as art supplies for the art therapy program, board games, textbooks for a student for a year and 30 duffel bags for resident to use on home passes, were passed around at an

Optimist meeting. Individual members made donations totaling \$11,300 to fund the needed items.

Member Stu Kaiser matched that amount, and a total of \$22,600 was given to help kids in the homes and school.

At the Gala held at the California Club on October 20, three of Optimist's major supporters were honored: Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, L.A. County Sheriff Jim McDonnell and Optimist Youth Homes' advisory board member and volunteer Susie Parker. More than 250 guests, including members of the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club celebrated Knabe, McDonnell and Parker at the dinner and auction.

During the event, Optimist formally announced the upcoming acquisition of Pacific Lodge Youth Services in Woodland Hills which will further advance the impact the agency has on the County's most vulnerable children.

The Pacific Palisades Optimist Club meets Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at Aldersgate, 925 Haverford Ave.

Visit: oyhfs.org or optimist.org/Club.

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Palisades Cares Toy Drive Ends Dec. 16

The annual Holiday Spirit Toy Drive runs from December 1 to 16. Palisades Cares, a local nonprofit, has organized this toy drive for more than 10 years.

New unwrapped toys and books for children and teenagers may be placed in the decorated boxes at CVS, the Palisades-Malibu YMCA and Regal Cleaners (corner of Via and Antioch). If your organization wishes to be a sponsor, contribute toys to the drive or be a drop-off site, please contact Palisades Cares.

"Thanks to Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Rotary Club of Pacific Palisades and the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce for supporting this activity with donations of toys," said PC's Marie Steckmest.

Toys such as sporting equipment, puzzles, stuffed animals, skateboards, dolls, arts and craft kits, play dough, remote-control cars, board games, Legos or other blocks, musical toys, electronic toys as well as gift cards are just some suggestions.

This year's toys will be donated to children that are tutored by School on Wheels at Vittorio's annual Christmas luncheon and others will be given to Head Start families as part of the One Voice Holiday Food Giveaway. These gifts may be the only presents the children will receive this year.

Contact Palisades Cares at info@palisadescares.org, visit its Facebook page or palisadescares.org.

Toys Sought for Military Kids

The fourth annual Toy Drive will be held from November 21 through December 15. Toys and gifts are needed for infants through 15-year-olds for children of active military personnel.

Please bring a new unwrapped toy to American Legion Post 283, 15247 La Cruz Dr. in Pacific Palisades or to Santa Monica College—at the Police Department, 1718

Pearl St., or the Veterans Resource Center Room 135 in the Liberal Arts Building.

The toys will be distributed to the youth during a party at the Torrance National Guard Armory in December. The drive is being held by the Santa Monica College Student Veterans and Post 283 Auxiliary. Contact Martha Romano romano_martha@smc.edu.

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BOOK REVIEW

Fierstein Pens *Happily Married*

By BARBARA GOULD
Special to the Palisades News

Palisadian Wendy Fierstein wrote a 186-page book on how to have a happy marriage for a lifetime, which was published by Balboa Press and released in September.

Titled *You Can Live Happily Married for a Lifetime: Modern Applications of Proven, Timeless Wisdom to Create a Lasting, Successful Relationship*, the book is the culmination of 30 years of study in communication, psychology, neurolinguistic programming and Qigong. Fierstein also studied mediation through the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

While there are numerous books on this topic, Fierstein's book is written in easy-to-understand language with examples from her years of couples mediation.

She points out, for instance, that when one spouse is feeling attacked verbally, that spouse's reaction can escalate to an argument, or calm the situation down.

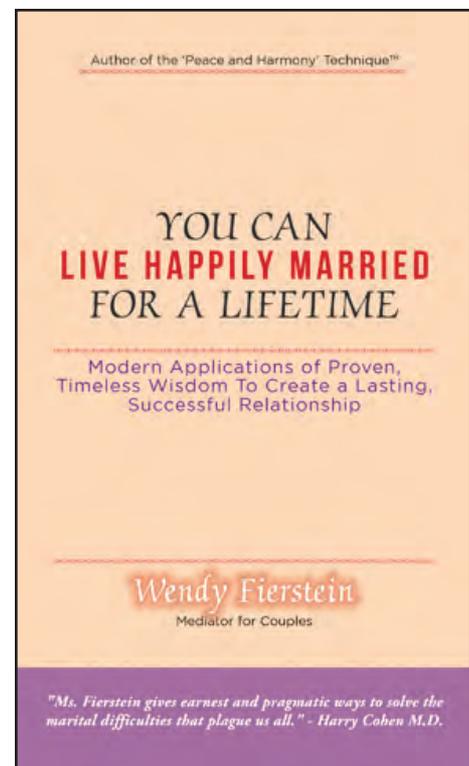
Many of us know the old "story" about the husband who has a terrible day at the office. He comes home and begins complaining and screaming at his wife over some imagined fault of hers. She, in turn, yells at the kids, who then proceed to kick the dog.

Fierstein suggests saying, "If there's something bothering you, we can talk about it if you want, but please don't take your frustrations out on me."

Anger, also known as "an adult temper tantrum," makes it impossible to accomplish anything positive. When we're angry we tend to speak first and think later. It's best to diffuse the anger before speaking. And recognize that when you hurt your spouse, you also hurt yourself.

"Taking your frustrations out on your spouse has consequences: it chips away at your relationship," Fierstein writes.

The book covers marriages that are fairly new as well as those that have lasted for decades. Everyone can find themselves in



these pages. As I was reading the chapter that covers the emotional differences between men and women, I went "oops," realizing that I was sometimes guilty of "nagging," as men call it. I was trying to get my husband to live a healthier lifestyle. I, selfishly, want him around for a long time. Of course, my approach was not working. Fierstein's book will help me, along with others who read it, to recognize little things we don't even realize we do.

Yes, "You Can Live Happily Married for a Lifetime."

Fierstein and her husband have been married since 1982. She told the *News*, "One woman emailed me after reading the book and said, 'I wished I had read this book before I got divorced.'" Yet another man told her "This book should be required reading."

The book is available at Amazon.com (and the Diesel bookstore in the Brentwood Country Mart). The trade paperback is \$13.99 and Kindle is \$3.99.

Visit: WendyFierstein.com.

Wishing you and your families
Happy Holidays and
A Prosperous 2017!



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When you enter, you pass by the small bar and the wall of wine before you enter the back of the restaurant with its array of booths and tables, all with a view of the nicely lit garden outside the glass window. It gives you an interesting perspective away from bustling PCH, on the mountain side of the highway just before you reach the Malibu pier.



feathery frisée, garlic and a warm white-wine bacon dressing.

There is a quintet of pizzas (\$17 to \$19), even gluten free for an extra \$3. Pastas may also be gluten-free for an extra \$2.

The array of entrée selections is outstanding, varying from an assortment of pastas to braised Wagu short ribs with garlic mashed potatoes and sautéed spinach (\$36), grilled filet mignon (\$44), pan-seared wild salmon (\$32), and pan-roasted Jidori chicken (\$30). There is even chicken parmesan with spaghetti, olive oil and garlic (\$26).

Enjoy your drink or glass of wine while you study the extensive menu, starting with snacks such as a flatbread with butternut squash, caramelized onions and goat cheese, or fried calamari with marinara sauce and fresh lemon. Starters vary from the soup of the day to Ahi tuna tartar, sauteed Prince Edward Island mussels, warm octopus, and a fascinating variety of salads.

V's chopped salad was our choice (to be shared). This flavorful salad with bits of salami, artichoke, chickpeas, black olives, tomatoes and mozzarella tossed with a white balsamic vinaigrette was outstanding (\$13). Several other starters were priced at \$14 or \$15. Each sounded compelling, with a variety of ingredients to make it special such as the warm wild mushroom salad with

Every single dish here has individual unique flavor, making food decisions difficult. Remember, I told you to sip your cocktail or glass of wine while selecting your food! The extensive variety is why you need more than a moment to make your choice.

Seafood linguine was my choice and it was superb with its array of shrimp and mussels in an excellent light pink sauce with fresh tomatoes, all seasoned with fresh basil and aromatic wild baby arugula (\$34). Given the generous portions, I took some home to enjoy the next day. My sister's pan-seared diver scallops were equally delicious with citrus reduction and creamy sweet-pea risotto (\$39).

Naturally we had to share a delightful triple berry crumble with vanilla gelato for dessert. This mixture of

JUMBLE

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

CARTK
 ○○○○

WHOSN
 ○○○○

CIPTEO
 ○○○○

SAMUFO
 ○○○○

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
 by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

I have some swell news for you George. You got the part! Are you pulling my leg?

Get your paper, George!

TELEPHONE

WHEN GEORGE REEVES GOT THE ROLE OF CLARK KENT ON TV, HE SAID _____

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

○○○○, ○○○○○, ○○○

(Answers on Page 24)

fresh fruits topped with a crumbly pastry mixture that is then baked and served with the scrumptious gelato, or ice cream, made a fine finish to our dinner. Homemade desserts here vary from a vanilla bean crème brûlée with freshly baked cookies, to a spiced apple pie with vanilla gelato and a caramel drizzle, to a Dutch-chocolate peanut-butter pie with mascarpone whipped cream and candied walnuts. Desserts are \$10.

There is parking at the restaurant; the hours are Sunday through Thursday 5 to 9:30 pm., and Friday and Saturday 5 to 10 p.m. Brunch on Saturday and Sunday is from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

— GRACE HINEY

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Meet Me Under The Fig Tree

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