



Hot Prowls Scare Palisades Homeowners

The LAPD's recent weekly crime report for Pacific Palisades included two "hot prowls" burglary reports.

1.) In the 16000 block of Northfield on December 9, at 12:20 a.m., the suspects (#1 male, 5'11", NFD, #2 male, 5'11", NFD) pried and removed a door to enter victim's home while the victim was sleeping. The suspects took victim's money and fled when the victim woke up.

2.) In the 300 block of Beirut on December 9, at 1:45 a.m., the suspects (#1 male, 6' 170 lbs. NFD, #2 male, 6', 170 lbs. NFD, #3 male, 6', 170 lbs. NFD) pried open a door to enter victim's home while the victim was sleeping. The suspects took money and jewelry, and fled when victim's wife woke up.

"There were two incidents and in one the person did not have an alarm," said Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore. "We think the suspects might have gone door to door" (Continued on Page 5)

Firefighters, Police Honored



L.A. firefighters, police officers and Chrysalis workers were honored at a luncheon at Il Piccolo Ritrovo, hosted by the Palisades Business Improvement District on December 14. Ritrovo owners Tarcisio Mosconi (purple tie) and Nando Silvestri oversaw the event. (See story, page 13.)

Photo: Bart Bartholomew



Left to right: Lizzy Moore, SMC Interim Dean of Institutional Advancement; Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, SMC Superintendent/President; Mitzi Blahd; Harvey Stromberg; and Gita Runkle, Dean of SMC's Emeritus program where Stromberg teaches and Blahd is a student.

Mitzi Blahd Gifts \$1 Million to SMC

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

This grateful student did more than thank her professor on graduation day or cite her school as having changed her life. No, this grateful student, Palisadian Mitzi Blahd, has given \$1 million to the Santa Monica College Foundation honoring retired SMC political science professor Harvey Stromberg.

The gift will provide scholarships in Stromberg's name and fund "living history" short films of eight SMC Emeritus students, produced by the award-winning SMC film production program.

"The scholarships and films will not only provide extremely deserving students an opportunity to expand their world beyond their wildest expectations, but also record for posterity the incredible life stories of some of our Emeritus College students," said Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery, SMC Superintendent/President and Foundation member.

Blahd and Stromberg's friendship began in an unexpected way, which as it turned out, was destined to occur.

"In the 1970s, my husband and I were major travelers," Blahd recalled. "I'd go to

the bank for travelers checks and one day, the bank clerk asked me where I was going this time. I said China, and the clerk asked me if I'd ever heard Harvey Stromberg's lecture on China. As it turned out, we were leaving in two days for our trip, but signed up for his class upon our return."

Blahd and her late husband, Dr. William Blahd, brought slides from their recent trip to China to share with the class. Later, that evening, the three enjoyed pie and coffee at a local café and began a friendship that would last for decades.

"He is such a great teacher . . . that's why he stands out," Blahd says. "His current events class at SMC's Emeritus College is so popular the school has to shut off attendance at 100 students."

Philanthropy started early for Blahd, who remembers her first fundraising effort at age 10. "I baked cookies and invited 25 neighbors to come hear me play Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Flight of the Bumblebee.' I raised \$2.50 and sent it to a children's hospital in Denver. That was the beginning of my philanthropic career and it has never stopped."

Blahd has kept her hometown in mind with her largesse. Her Herculean efforts to-

(Continued on Page 10)

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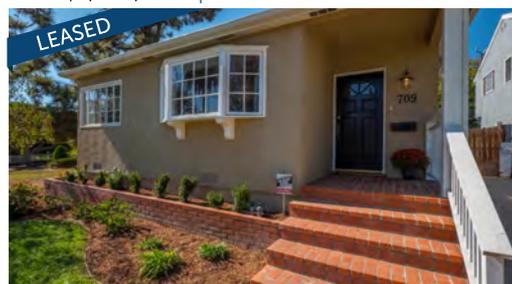
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'Citizen' Dinner Honors Seven Activists

By BILL BRUNS
Palisades News Advisor
Photos by Lesly Hall

We all need to perpetuate the legacy of the volunteers who have lived here," said Daphne Gronich when she received her Citizen of the Year award from the Pacific Palisades Community Council on December 8. "We need more people to say yes, and new volunteers to help carry the torch."

Gronich, an attorney who moved here with her husband, Paul Nagle, in 1997, has been president of the nonprofit parade/concert/fireworks organizing committee (PAPA) for three years—charged with raising nearly \$150,000 a year to pay all the costs—and has said "yes" to various leadership roles at Palisades Elementary, Paul Revere Middle School and the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation.

"I know that we all get back way more than we put in when we spend volunteer time and donate to support the organizations that enrich our lives," said Gronich, speaking to an audience that included numerous past 'Citizen' and Golden Sparkplug honorees at Gladstone's restaurant.

The Citizen award has been handed out since 1947, and the Sparkplug award since 1974. The Community Council also inaugurated the Pride of the Palisades award in 2014, presented this year to longtime businessman Bob Benton.

Sharon Kilbride (the 2015 'Citizen') and Council member Bruce Schwartz introduced the first Sparkplug winner, Patrick Hart. They praised the Google mapping system he devised to monitor homeless encampments in the Palisades and facilitate and coordinate efforts by the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, LAPD, LAFD, Recreation and Parks, and two OPCC outreach workers.

Kilbride added, "Patrick is truly an amazing man and has helped countless homeless individuals [move] into shelter



Citizen of the Year Daphne Gronich with Assemblyman Richard Bloom, State Senator Ben Allen and City Councilman Mike Bonin.

and off the streets."

Hart said his personal involvement with the homeless was inspired by his mother's work supporting Brother Benno's Soup Kitchen in Oceanside, and a brush fire about 10 years ago that started in a homeless encampment below his home on the El Medio bluffs, overlooking Temescal Canyon.

"The fire ignited our dry brush hillside and almost burned down our home and the homes of three of our neighbors," Hart said. So when the Task Force on Homelessness was created in late 2015, he eagerly joined the cause.

"In this task force, I have found a renewed purpose, an opportunity to [help with] rehousing our less fortunate, giving them a new start in life, off the streets . . . SAFE and warm," Hart said.

Sylvia Boyd, introduced by past 'Citizen' George Wolfberg, said that her Sparkplug honor should be shared by "the 26 interest-

ing, inspiring, humorous, informative speakers" who have made her Food for Thought speaker series a popular monthly outing at the Palisades Presbyterian Church.

"My inspiration [for the series] originated while sitting in a pew at Pali Pres, listening to the eulogy of a friend's husband and thinking of all I had missed by being unaware of this exceptional man's life story. How many more incredible life stories would never be heard until it was too late to ask questions and have a dialogue with them?"

Boyd founded the series in November 2014, came up with the title, and volunteered to organize a complimentary lunch before each speaker. "We are serving 50 to 110 guests a month," she said, "and I'm now searching for 10 more interesting lives to complete our third year." Contact: syljonboyd@gmail.com.

Brian Deming, a PPCC Area 3 alternate, introduced Amy Lundberg, who led a community coalition, "Save the Bluffs," that

thwarted a developer's plan to erect a 49-unit apartment building on geologically sketchy land at 16690-17000 Sunset Blvd.

"Our success shows what can happen when a group of committed and talented community members come together to tackle a common problem," said Lundberg, a 28-year resident and retired attorney. "We fought a developer trying to build an unsafe and non-conforming development. He had far more money, more hired consultants and more connections with the City than we did, but our community won!"

She reminded her audience, "The fight against non-conforming development on our coastal bluffs is not over, so I encourage you to join the Pacific Palisades Residents Association (info@palisadesresidents.com) and continue the great work started by Save the Bluffs."

"Thank you for this wonderful honor,"
(Continued on Page 4)



Patrick Hart with his Sparkplug award.



Rustic Canyon activist Veslemoey Zwart.



Brian Deming introduced Sparkplug winner Amy Lundberg.

Citizen

(Continued from Page 3)

said Karen Stigler, a tireless leader of the Palisades Alliance for Seniors the past 18 months, who saluted her fellow co-founders—Esther Brudo, Claude Goodrich, Iris Kaphan, and Steve Lantz. “This award is theirs too.”

Stigler also emphasized, “While we often idealize the Palisades as a perfect place to live, it is not actually so perfect when you age and getting around becomes harder. [We know] that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. I think that if there were more support in place for vulnerable seniors here, we’d all feel more secure.”

In his introduction, Council member Doug McCormick praised Stigler for her “wonderful example of leadership as she led development of the Alliance’s mission—to help Palisades seniors ‘age in place’—and established a twice-monthly speaker program at the Library.”

Area 7 representative Cathy Russell noted that Veslemoey Zwart, chair of the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board, has sparked efforts to raise significant funding for the improvement and repair of deteriorated infrastructure at the city’s recreation center in the canyon, including the historically-landmarked, 95-year-old former Uplifters Clubhouse.

“Randy Young and the Palisades Historical



Bob Benton, Pride of the Palisades honoree.

Society, with architect George Taylor Louden, have given us the first stage of a historical restoration Master Plan to work off,” said Zwart, who has three production companies with her husband, Harald, for making movies and commercials. “We intend to follow this and do it ‘the right way.’” To make a donation, e-mail veslemoey@me.com.

PPCC president emeritus Chris Spitz and a guy named Bill Bruns (who received the Pride of the Palisades award in 2014) introduced Bob Benton. They praised his enthusiasm, dedication and leadership skills as a businessman (his popular sporting goods shop on Swarthmore, founded in 1982, will be part of Caruso’s Palisades Village devel-



Sparkplug winner Sylvia Boyd.

opment) and as a volunteer at the Palisades Recreation Center. He has served as commissioner of the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association since 1989, while also playing a crucial fundraising role for construction and ongoing maintenance of the park’s Field of Dreams complex.

Benton, who is married to realtor Sue Kohl, said that after he moved to Rustic Canyon in 1982, his volunteer spirit was inspired by local activists such as Bob Hamilton (who led a campaign to re-engineer Sunset Boulevard through the canyon and improve traffic safety), Wally Miller (who helped create committees to fight signage/billboard blight in the business district and establish a Design Review Board), Brian Shea (who



Karen Stigler and presenter Doug McCormick.

has co-chaired the Fourth of July Will Rogers Run for 40 years) and Mike Skinner, who masterminded the makeover of the playing fields at the Rec Center.

“Hard work pays off,” Benton said.

Early in the evening, PPCC Chair Maryam Zar made a special presentation to LAPD West Bureau Captain Tina Nieto, thanking her on behalf of the Task Force on Homelessness for supporting a year-round daily bike patrol on Will Rogers Beach and up into the Palisades.

Zar led the Dinner Committee, Peter Culhane chaired the Events Committee and George Wolfberg oversaw the Awards Selection Committee.

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Hot Prowls PaliHi Grad Earns M.D./Ph.D.

(Continued from Page 1)

knocking (or ringing a doorbell) and gained entry because they did not think anyone was at home because no one answered.”

He said that in both cases, the doors were locked. “One door got pried open and they removed a sliding glass door.”

Asked what residents should do to protect themselves, Moore said that at night an alarm might make the difference. “An alarm went off in a house on Mt. Holyoke and the person ran away.”

He was asked if there were any surveillance cameras near the Northfield or Beirut homes that might have captured the suspects.

Moore said no, but noted that some females were caught on nearby cameras. Those women were questioned and released. Those same women earlier had an encounter with Palisades Patrol and had then asked for rides back to Compton. Moore said it was possible the women could have been scouts.

“The detectives do have some leads, but unlike TV shows, it will take time,” Moore said.

“There are four key elements,” he said. “First, make sure your door is locked. Second, set your alarm. Third, use a doorbell replacement like RING. Fourth, make sure it looks like someone is in your house.”

In response to the hot-prowl cases, Moore said: “Additional [LAPD] resources were sent to the Palisades.”

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer

Twelve years after graduating from Palisades High School, Daniel Fox graduated with distinction with an M.D. and a Ph.D. in molecular physiology and biophysics from the University of Iowa in June.

The former PaliHi swimmer completed four years of college and eight years of graduate school with no debt, having had all his tuition covered by scholarships, including a grant for physicians/scientists from the National Institutes of Health.

After completing his residency and fellowship at Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University in St. Louis, Fox will use his dual degrees to see patients as a cardiologist as well as conduct medically related research in the lab. He hopes to work on novel therapies for patients with heart disease.

“There’s a lot of questions yet to be answered, such as why do some patients respond to some therapies and others don’t,” said Fox, whose doctoral research was in endocrinology and metabolism.

Fox found the M.D./Ph.D. dual-degree program was a perfect blend of his interest in clinical medicine and basic science. His current residency includes two years of internal medicine on the hospital floor and in the ICU, after which he will begin a cardiology fellowship program. His initial in-



Palisadian Daniel Fox is a University of Iowa M.D./Ph.D. graduate.

terest in the medical field was sparked by his uncle, Dr. Daniel Reiders, a cardiologist who took him on rounds at a young age.

The son of educators, Fox also teaches part-time, helping students prepare for the MCATS through Kaplan Test Prep and mentoring other candidates for M.D./Ph.D. programs.

“I always love teaching—both my parents have been teachers,” said Fox, the son of Joan Ingle, principal of Palisades Elementary, and Gene Fox, a retired elementary school

teacher. “There’s a lot of misinformation out there about M.D./Ph.D. programs and I’d like to help people through the process.”

Fox has fond memories of his time at PaliHi, and visits his swim coaches, Maggie Nance and Adam Blakis, and other former teachers and swimming teammates when he is back in the Palisades. He also enjoyed playing clarinet in the concert orchestra.

“I had excellent teachers,” Fox recalled, “and a fantastic humanities experience.”

His older sister, Anna Claire Novotny, also a PaliHi grad, lives in upstate New York with her family and helps to run Buttonwood Hollow Farm, specializing in small sustainable livestock and goods.

“As a swimmer, it’s super difficult to be recruited by a Division I team,” said Fox, who was able to get a full-tuition scholarship to a Division III school, the College of New Jersey. There he majored in biochemistry, which he called “lots of fun,” researching immunology and developmental biology as an undergraduate.

Fox received help researching colleges from his stepfather, Jeff Ingle, of IngleDodd Media. “He helped me find schools I could swim at, do research at and could continue to play music.”

Fox met his wife Elizabeth, a resident in pediatrics at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, in medical school. The couple were married in July 2013.

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Heard About Town

See's Candy Coming?

One of the buildings shown on the Rick Caruso billboards along Sunset looks like a See's Candy. Does he plan to have one in his new development? It would be wonderful!

(Editor's note: We checked with Caruso spokesperson Liz Jaeger, who replied: "We love the thinking, but we cannot confirm any new leases for Palisades Village at this time. Stay tuned for tenant announcements in 2017.")

Spirits Lifted by Tree

I love seeing the lit-up Christmas tree every time I drive up Temescal Canyon Road. Whoever puts it up every year, thank you.

Power Outage Woes

I'm curious if you are investigating the power outage in Castellammare last Friday that lasted until Saturday afternoon, and reportedly affected about 1,100 homes. This keeps happening in Pacific Palisades.

(Editor's note: The L.A. DWP has repeatedly warned that the electrical distribution station on Via de la Paz, built in 1937, is not adequate to provide reliable power to this community. Two pole-top distribution stations are currently being erected (on Temescal Canyon Road and on Sunset across from western Marquez Avenue), with more likely, according to the DWP. This is to supply the area west of Temescal Canyon to PCH.)

Upset by Power Outages

These power outages are dangerous for many people. My elderly neighbor has pneumonia and could not use her humidifier as per doctor's orders. We also have to deal with terrible inconveniences when the power goes out for an extended time. We need to come together on this and have a new power distribution station built.

Pot Statement Is Absurd

The December 7 Heard about Town item, "Pot Drivers Are a Hazard," was totally uninformed. Driving slow is dangerous, there is no argument there. However, to infer that the driver was driving while impaired by a specific drug simply because "he was a guy in his 20s, really 'relaxed looking,' both hands on the steering wheel" is completely ridiculous. Had there been a strong odor of marijuana, or a pipe in his hands, or smoke billowing from the car, I would have no issue with what was written, as driving while impaired is never justifiable.

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Volunteering Is a Reward in Itself

By BARBARA GOULD
Special to the Palisades News

We live in a wonderful community, which is made better by all of those who volunteer. You can tell the time of year by what sport your neighbor is coaching. I see dads loading up the car with a bag full of soccer balls along with an ice chest of drinks and snacks. That parent's kids are learning something besides how to play the game; they are growing up with the idea of helping others. What about the dad who leads a Boy Scout troop? Part of becoming an Eagle Scout is planning and executing a community-service project. Local Troop 223 has an unbelievable number of Eagle Scouts, as almost every Scout achieves that honor. And this in face of the current nationwide average of 6 percent of Scouts who achieve that rank. My sons still list Eagle Scout on their resumes.

I met a woman recently who gets children's books from the library and reads to Alzheimer's patients at Atria Senior Living on Sunset. Her husband is one of those patients, but she also has a lifetime of dedication to community/charity volunteering.

Several of my friends volunteer to read to children at the library. Some also work at book fairs.

At my granddaughter's elementary school, a volunteer parent teaches choir while another mother teaches the children dance steps for the shows they put on. You should see the smile on my third-grade granddaughter's face when she talks about singing and dancing.

They say if you want to get something done,

ask a busy person. Sylvia Boyd volunteers at the Discovery Shop, finds speakers for the monthly programs at her church, organizes about 70 volunteers for the Fourth of July parade and serves on the board of her homeowners' association. She was a Golden Sparkplug winner this year for starting and running that speakers series.

Another neighbor couple is active in their church. He is president of the seniors group and she is the secretary. In addition, she plays the piano for programs put on by the students. I'm often identified as the lady who lives across the street from these wonderful people.

It is my firm belief that the actions of a parent teach a child as much as or more than their words. Those of us whose parents volunteered are likely to do so, too. I remember when I was eight and my brother was six. I made some craft items and we set up a table to sell them. We took in a whopping \$7.92, which my mother dutifully sent to the L.A. Children's Hospital at our request. We received a thank-you letter as if we'd sent them thousands of dollars.

Now, my volunteerism includes charitable organizations and currently serving on the board of our homeowners' association.

I've noticed that in any group there are always some who carry more than their fair share of the load. I've never asked them why, but I'll bet their answers would be like mine.

I am convinced that I get more from what I do than the group for which I do it. It gives me great pleasure to do something nice for someone else. My reward is seeing someone else happy because of what I've done.

Thought to Ponder

"The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it."

— Thich Nhat Hanh

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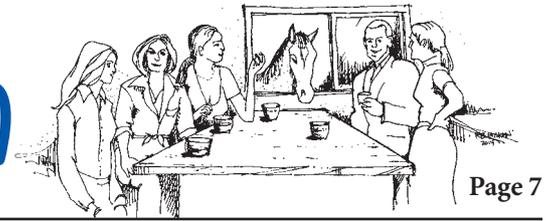
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VIEWPOINT

The Post-Christmas Bus Ride

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Once lived in a fifth-floor walkup apartment, with a bathtub in the kitchen, on the eastside of New York City. Rent was \$180. I had dutifully saved a few dollars a week from my \$90-a-week salary as a receptionist at the Manhattan Theater Club to send Christmas gifts home.

Then, I received a phone call. Unexpectedly, my brother was marrying his long-time girlfriend the beginning of January, and could I come home?

Maybe if I had been alerted earlier, I could have purchased an airplane ticket, but now, even if there was a seat still available, the price was too steep not only for me, but also for my parents, who were both teachers.

I said I didn't think I could attend the wedding.

I went for a walk, past Bloomingdales and then over to Fifth Avenue and the wonderfully festive windows. On the way home, I saw a sign "Go Greyhound, anyway in the United States. Seven days for \$99."

The bus would take one day and 20 hours to reach Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and then I would have to take a four-hour car trip to the church. I calculated two days there and two days back, with three for a wedding. I decided to go.

I left at night, a few days after Christmas, from the Port Authority terminal. The bus was crowded because of the holidays and I felt lucky to have a window seat. My

plan was to lean against it and sleep through the night.

My seatmate was young man from a foreign country, who thought it would be a good opportunity to practice his English. I pretended to fall asleep somewhere in New Jersey and eventually he stopped talking. The window was icy and too cold to lean against. My seatmate was soon snoring lightly, head on my shoulder. At some point, I dozed off in Pennsylvania. When I awoke early the next morning, we were in Cleveland.

On the next bus, my seatmate was a grandma headed to see her son in Illinois. The lady had all sorts of valuable tips for me. "I always bring grapes to eat to quench my thirst. I don't drink water because you don't want to use the restroom." She talked nonstop, rarely stopping to catch her breath.

Since it was the holidays, there was not a spare seat. You were where you were.

The woman didn't approve of her daughter-in-law or the way she was raising the grandchildren and hoped to set her straight during the visit. She wasn't divorced, but had no idea where her spouse was, and didn't care.

When we arrived in Chicago around 5 p.m., it was already dark. By the time I boarded yet another bus, the only open seat was next to a 25-year-old man and his four-year-old son.

I sat down. The kid crawled on my lap. I sang songs to him, we played guessing games, and then somewhere in

Iowa he fell asleep on my lap. I dozed off, too. I wished that I could just lay down, I was so tired of sitting.

About an hour later, everyone was wakened. The bus driver had pulled over to the side of the road and stormed to the back of the bus. "I already told you to put your clothes back on," he shouted, and then pushed a guy to the front of the bus and tossed him outside with his clothes and bag.

As the bus pulled away, I looked at the frozen Iowa cornfields and the guy standing there. I hoped he wouldn't freeze and wondered if the bus driver's action was legal.

The man next to me started talking. He said the boy's mother had left them. He said they were going to San Francisco to start over. They didn't know a "single soul." Then, he asked me if I would go with them. I realized he was serious.

I thanked him for the offer, but told him I was going to my brother's wedding. A few hours later, I lifted the little boy into the man's lap and got off the bus in Omaha, to wait for the bus to South Dakota.

Most New Year's Eves, I think back to the angry woman and hoped she had made peace with her son and wife—and herself—so she didn't end up alone. I think about the man left by the cornfield and hoped his life turned around. I wonder about the little boy and the man and hope they found love and a life with a home. Everything is possible with a New Year. Isn't it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No Power or Telephone?

I live in the El Medio Bluffs area and on Friday, December 2, I had a complete power outage including cell phone, email, landline, texting and electricity for over two hours, from about 3 to 6 p.m. DWP confirmed that a cell tower and power lines were down and affected by strong winds.

I had to pick up my grandson from preschool in Santa Monica, but could not open my garage door by remote or manually. I could not call his parents or anyone to go in my behalf, nor could I advise the school of the problem. My neighbors were in the same dilemma. Both cell phones (Verizon) and landline (TWC) were down due to the power outage. I also could not call any emergency services such as police or the fire department or 911.

This raises an obvious concern: What is the community plan for emergency contacts if such a situation arises again?

Do police and private security services have a policy to cruise through communities to see if there is anybody in need of help? Could activist Lou Kramer and the Community Council develop some type of emergency notification plan, such as a special 911 or red HELP flag waved by a resident or staked along the resident's driveway to notify emergency responders?

I also wonder, have cell towers been affected before in power outages? I will call Verizon to ask if there is any alternative communication method that works during cell outage. I also encourage neighborhood crime-watch groups to figure out a go-to person on their block, but this emergency contact would have to be physical, not a communications system.

Karen Ridgley

Watch for Packages

(Editor's note: We received the following email from Woman's Club President Haldis Toppel and thought the warning was timely.)

This is the time of year when many packages are dropped off at homes. This is also the opportunity for thieves to steal them right off the front porch. LAPD will soon go out with caution notices.

Please be advised that the delivery companies find it to be more cost effective to replace stolen packages than to take the time to return for delivery if the recipient is not home. They will drop off the package if not given instructions otherwise.

Please advise delivery companies to leave the packages with an identified neighbor, behind your back-yard gate, or any other place where they are out of sight from the street and not easily accessible by a thief.

Haldis Toppel

Ryavec Interested in Dog Park

I just want you to know that I emailed Mark Ryavec, who is exploring a run for the District 11 City Council position in March, and let him know about my/our mission to get a dog park here in Pacific Palisades. He responded by calling me within minutes of my sending him an email!

I've been trying to get that kind of response from Councilman Mike Bonin for over a year, to no avail. Mark not only responded, he spent almost two hours one day with me and others, touring seven locations that could potentially become a park.

As we know, Measure A passed and although that put

the green light on the Department of Recreation and Parks to grant us the money for a dog park adjacent to lower Potrero Canyon Park, it is not confirmed and it may take years to accomplish. I don't want to wait that long and with a proactive Councilmember, we may just have a chance. It worked in Westwood this year with the enthusiastic influence of Councilman Paul Koretz; their Recreation Center is getting a dog park! With Mark Ryavec at the helm of our district, we might have a shot at this too (sooner than later).

Leslie Campbell

Opposed to a Special Bike Lane

I am a seventh grader who likes to ride my bike, but I don't think there should be a special bike lane on Temescal Canyon Road. There are already bike lanes in both directions. In addition, hardly any people ride their bike on the road, probably because it's really steep.

However, a lot of people drive their car on Temescal, especially at rush hour, since it is one of the main ways to get in and out of the Palisades. It makes no sense to reduce the number of car lanes in order to increase the width of the two existing bike lanes that are rarely used. I feel badly for the biker who got hurt on the bike lane, but I don't think that should be a reason to make the bike lane bigger.

Will Walker

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.

Coronet Debutante Ball Held

The National Charity League held its 67th annual Coronet Debutante Ball on November 26 in the Beverly Hills Ballroom of the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Nine young ladies made their debut at the traditional black tie ball wearing customary 14k gold lavaliers for the first time. They were presented one by one on the arms of their fathers.

The women were invited to debut based on community-service criteria. This year's class volunteered their time to benefit a number of charities, including Violets' Giving Circle, 9 Dots Community Learning Center, Operation Gratitude, Children's Institute and more.

The young ladies are not only philanthropists, but also serve as leaders in a number of extracurricular activities at their schools. They serve as team captains of various sports teams, founders of clubs and organizations on campus, members of honor roll and tutors for children after school.

The debutantes included Palisadians Siena Coranne Severino and Claire Kathryn Hollingsworth, and Los Angeles residents Lillian Goldsmith, Rowan Brooks Lane, Alanna Beatrice Richman, Lauryn Cate Tauber, Micaela Danielle Cole, Elizabeth Virginia Eicher and Reilly Morgan Pressman.

Severino, the daughter of Heidi and David, is a senior at Palisades Charter High School and is involved in photography,



The 2016 debutantes presented included (left to right) Alanna Beatrice Richman, Reilly Morgan Pressman, Claire Kathryn Hollingsworth, Siena Coranne Severino, Micaela Danielle Cole, Dr. Wendy Chang, Coronet Debutante Ball Director, Elizabeth Virginia Eicher, Lillian Lubin Goldsmith, Rowan Brooks Lane, Lauryn Kate Tauber. Photo: Lee Salem

volleyball and community service. Hollingsworth, the daughter of Amy and John, is a senior at Viewpoint School, where she is an honor student and a member of the yearbook committee and cheer team.

"We were pleased to have such a passionate group of girls debut this year," said Dr. Wendy Chang, Coronet Debutante Ball Director. "We are confident they will continue to give

back to a variety of philanthropic causes and inspire others throughout their lifetime."

A portion of the proceeds from the ball go to National Charity League to benefit its various philanthropies, including Para Los Niños and Upward Bound House. The first Coronet Ball was held in 1949; since then, more than 1,500 women have been presented over the past 67 years.



Optimist member Peter Scolney

Ringling the Bell

On December 16, Pacific Palisades Optimist members rang bells in front of Bank of America, the Post Office, CVS and Ralphs for the Salvation Army.

For more than 40 years, the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club has participated in Kettle Day. Dr. Mike Martini, a charter member of the club, said "All of the service clubs in the Palisades used to participate, even the Woman's Club, but we're the only one doing it now."

The Salvation Army assists more than 4.5 million people between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Visit: onlineredkettle.com.

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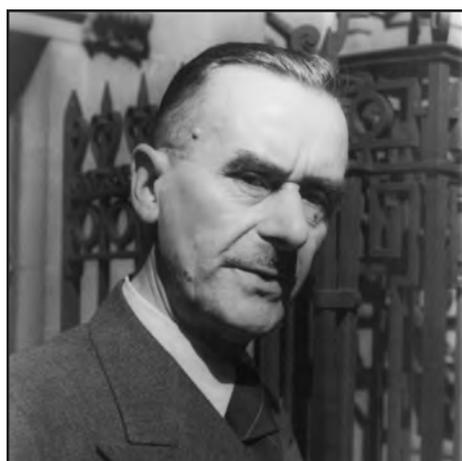
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Thomas Mann's House: Fortunate Purchase

By MITZI BLAHD
Special to the Palisades News

Recently, I read in the *Los Angeles Times* that the Thomas Mann house in the Riviera neighborhood had been purchased by the German government for more than \$13 million. Mann was a German novelist, short-story writer and social critic who won the 1929 Nobel Prize in literature. In 1988, the German government bought Villa Aurora from the estate of Lion and Marta Feuchtwanger, who were early arrivals in 1938 to Pacific Palisades.

This article evoked many happy memories of the Mann home on San Remo, as, on Sunday, August 16, 1998, the Palisades Li-



Thomas Mann in 1937

brary Association held its most successful fundraiser ever at that site. At \$75 per person we had an overflow of people. We had to make shifts at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. to accommodate everyone.

At that time, we were trying to raise money to build our town's new library. I was personal friends of the owners, Jon and Chet Lappen, and they agreed to let us have a program there to honor the famous previous owners of their home, Thomas and Katia Mann.

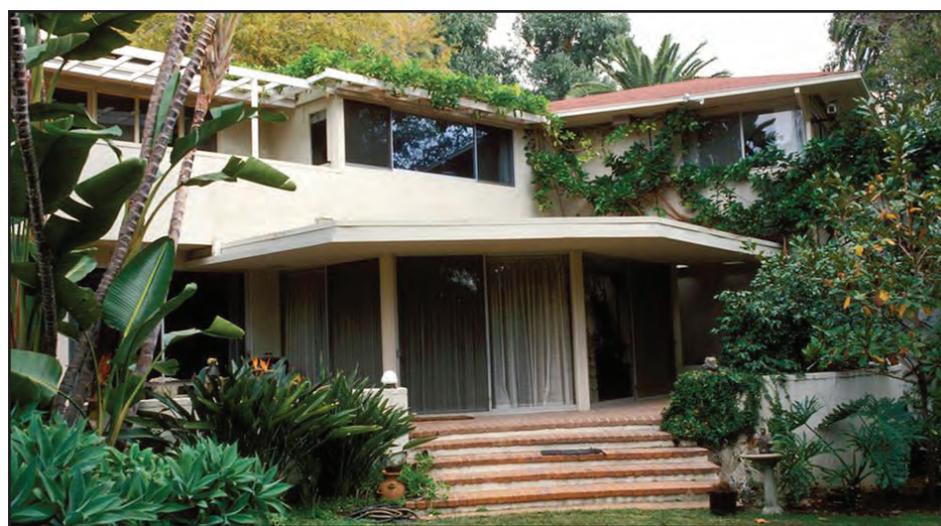
The Manns had fled Germany in 1938 as the threat of war moved closer. Thomas was not Jewish, but his wife Katia was, so he accepted a guest professorship at Princeton. Moving west in 1942, they found an "inexpensive" piece of land in the Palisades on San Remo.

The Manns chose Julius Ralph Davidson as their architect, and named the house "The House of Seven Palms."

In 1952, when the Manns moved to Switzerland, the Lappens purchased the property directly from the couple.

With luck for the fundraiser, I was able to locate the two personal secretaries of Thomas Mann: Konrad Kellen and Hilde Reach.

Kellen was the first to assist Mann, until he went to war 1943. On his return, he was employed at The Rand Corporation. Interesting was the fact that he and his family lived right across the street from Villa Au-



Thomas Mann's home on San Remo Drive was purchased by the German government.

rorra on Paseo Miramar. Right under my nose, and I didn't know it.

After Konrad left Mann's employment, the couple found Reach, who lived in Santa Monica. They were both speakers at the library fundraising event, and were wonderful. They recalled many insights of the Mann household, aside from their duties as secretaries. It was wonderful.

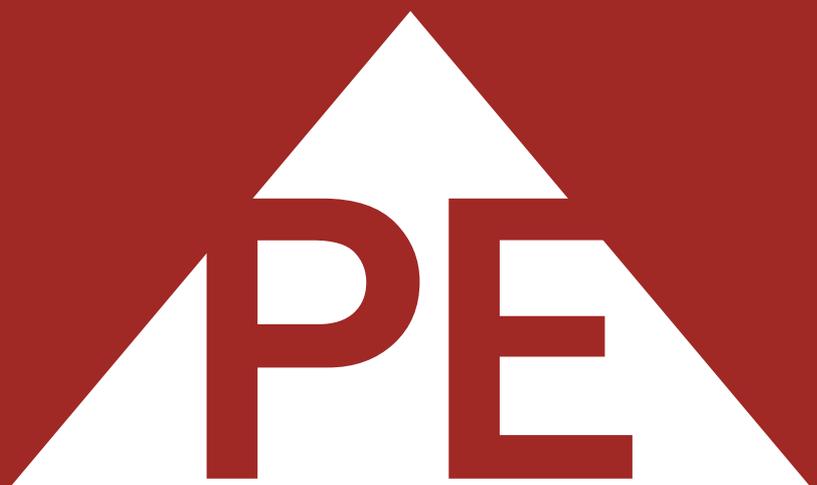
Also among the honored speakers were our very own treasures, Betty Lou and Randy Young, who gave us the historical side of the times. They were perfect in helping make this program the success it proved to be. Like all good events, we had refreshments

and a harpist playing in the garden. I made a few remarks, especially thanking the board members who worked tirelessly to make this "party" the grand success it was. What a day!

My love of history, and being a proud life member of the Pacific Palisades Historical Society, provoked this article. What a wonderful time, what happy memories, and all for the good. We have a first-class library and a community that helped to make it happen.

(P.S. As a personal note: Jon Lappen, who was a native of Los Angeles, told me that her mother was the first white child born on Catalina Island. I found this very interesting, and I believe the family still maintains a home there.)

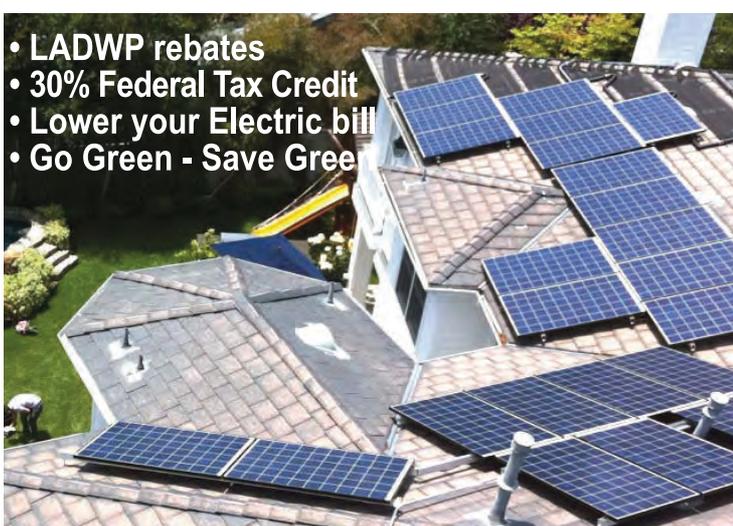
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Blahd

(Continued from Page 1)

ward spearheading a fundraising campaign to build a new public library in Pacific Palisades yielded over \$1 million towards funding a beautiful and highly functional new building that replaced the old one, opening in 2003.

She was honored with a Golden Sparkplug Award from the Community Council in 1999 for leading and working prodigiously to raise the necessary money. Towards that goal, she initiated numerous fundraising library events and galas in the ensuing years.

In 2002 she was named Citizen of the Year for her continuing enthusiasm and hard work on the library.

After Blahd retired from the Friends of the Library board, she continued her support for activities close to her heart. She has sponsored programs for Chamber Music Palisades, the local series founded by Palisadians Susan Greenberg and Dolores Stevens.

A key to Blahd's giving is a personal connection. Two years ago, she donated \$50,000 to the Pacific Palisades Historical Society in honor "of my dear friend, Betty Lou Young," a historian and author who was a Rustic Canyon neighbor. The gift, with no strings attached, has been used for the digital archiving of the old photographs from the Historical Society/Clearwater collection. The collection will be archived at the Huntington Library.



Pacific Palisades resident and philanthropist Mitzi Blahd speaks at an SMC Board of Trustees meeting. Blahd donated \$1 million to the SMC Foundation in Professor Harvey Stromberg's honor.

"I like to give money to the things that people benefit from and give them pleasure," she says.

Half of Blahd's \$1-million gift will go toward establishing the Harvey Stromberg Leadership Scholarship and will provide 10 students with \$500 scholarships annually in perpetuity. Through the Stromberg Scholars for Dale Ride Internships endowment, the gift will provide four \$5,000 internships

annually to send selected SMC students to Washington, D. C. for eight weeks. Blahd will be able to select the committee that chooses the worthy students.

The other half of the gift will fund the "Living History" films.

"We have no doubt that Mitzi's gift will be "the gift that keeps on giving," said Lizzy Moore, SMC Interim Dean of Institutional Advancement.

Donated Goods Sought for Adams Homeless Lunch

Donations are sought for the 32nd Annual Mimi Adams Holiday Party in Santa Monica.

This memorial luncheon for those in need will be held on Saturday, December 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Augustine-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, 1227 Fourth St.

Longtime Palisadian John Adams is carrying on this traditional event in honor of his mother, the late Mimi Adams, a community activist and co-founder of a non-profit for feeding the homeless.

"We are seeking donated items in good condition, new or near-new," Adams said.

"These include sleeping bags, backpacks, blanket, jackets, sweatshirts, sweatpants, warm sweaters, new socks (white cotton preferred), towels, hats, knit gloves, toys and toiletries."

Donated items may be dropped off at any time at The Yogurt Shoppe on Swarthmore Avenue in the Palisades, or on December 23 in the afternoon at St. Augustine. Please call Roger Scadron at (310) 420-0350 to coordinate with the church. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to St. Augustine's (zip code 90401), noting on the memo line: Mimi Adams Holiday Luncheon.

This luncheon, sponsored by the church, serves 300 to 400 homeless individuals and provides them with important personal items in the midst of winter.

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SKINx5 Specializes in Skin Care

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Taking care of skin is a passion for sisters Christine Nell and KarriAnn Erdmann.

The two nurse practitioners, who are co-owners of the new business SKINx5 with Dr. Ava Shamban, began focusing on skin in their teens.

"I suffered from acne, and it really affected me and my self-esteem," said Nell, 41. As a nurse, "I was passionate about focusing on thorough and effective acne treatment."

Erdmann added, "At 35, I still suffer from acne. I have very sensitive skin. If someone looks at me too long, I feel like I bruise. Skin has always always been such a passion. Right now, I feel like my skin is looking top-notch. But it takes a lot of work. You have to really nurture your skin. You can't take it for granted."

Their business, SKINx5 (skin times five), which opened in June at 970 Monument (upstairs), has a particularly focused approach to skin care that is all cosmetic with five specific offerings, Nell said. The idea is to provide quick in-and-out services that offer instant results with no pain or downtime.

The five services are called refresher (exfoliating enzyme masks tailored to various skin types/issues), infuser (infusing microderm abrasion facials), lineless (botox injections), spotless (gentle laser treatments to rejuvenate skin) and firminator (radio

frequency treatments that "lift, tighten and iron out wrinkles").

The infuser, a combination treatment, has quickly become their top seller. "It's a fan favorite," Nell said. It works through "sloughing off dead skin cells and suctioning up clogged pores like blackheads, while also infusing vitamins, peptides, and hyaluronic, salicylic and glycolic acids to brighten, hydrate and clean all at once."

She and Erdmann said that many patients deal with skin issues from aging while also getting clogged pores more stereotypically associated with the teen years.

"A lot of patients are bummed out," Erdmann said. "They say, 'I thought I was supposed to stop breaking out when I get wrinkles,' but with hormones, it's a constant battle. Luckily with its ingredients, the infuser helps with both."

Neither Erdmann nor Nell work regularly in the Palisades, but they trained the nurse practitioners who do. The sisters come to SKINx5 about once a month to do filler injections, a sixth treatment that was added due to Palisadian requests. On most days, they work out of Dr. Shamban's Beverly Hills office, a full-service dermatology center that Nell has co-owned with the doctor for nine years. Dr. Shamban also has a full-service center in Santa Monica.

Dr. Shamban met Nell in 2000, two years after she moved to Los Angeles. Nell, who now lives in Beverly Hills with her husband and two daughters, had moved to L.A. after



Christine Nell (left) and KarriAnn Erdmann, co-owners with Dr. Ava Shamban of SKINx5 at 970 Monument.

Photo courtesy of SKINx5

graduating from the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh, her hometown, and passing her nursing board exam in 1998.

Moving to L.A. "was my grand plan," Nell said. "I just love the idea of Los Angeles. I

wanted somewhere where it was warm all year. I loved the idea of all sorts of cultures, all sorts of food. It was very exciting to go from the Midwest to Los Angeles."

(Continued on Page 12)

Palisades Highlands Street Names

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

In 1990 Randy and Betty Lou Young published Street Names of Pacific Palisades & Other Tales. This article is based on that book.

The Highlands is the last large-scale development in Pacific Palisades. Located at the top of Santa Ynez Canyon, the area was a focus of several major environmental battles from 1928-80. The huge expanse of mountain acreage south of Mulholland between Topanga and Sepulveda was almost developed into several communities which would have doubled the population of the Palisades in the 1950s. In the 1960s the then-owners came close to getting approval for 11 "villages" with schools and commercial centers, with a projected population of 63,000.

Widespread opposition to the plan led to the formation of the Santa Monica Mountains Regional Park Association with Marvin Braude as chairman. Its goal was to preserve the residential character of the

area and to establish a large park in the mountains west of Sepulveda. During the same period the Pacific Palisades Property Owners' Association was formed to implement a new master plan for the area.

As recently as 1966, developers still had plans that would have resulted in more than 7,000 homes and condominiums, with a population of 21,000 people. By 1972, though, even after Palisades Drive construction was well underway, the state had purchased acreage north and east of the Highlands area, which greatly diminished the possibility of a cross-mountain road.

There was a continuing battle between the PPOA and the developer for several years as the community wanted far less density of development. In 1977 the Coastal Act was passed, and the California Coastal Commission claimed jurisdiction over the Palisades Highlands. A compromise agreement was finally reached with the developer in 1980 which enabled nearly 1,600 homes and condominiums.

Here are the meanings behind most of

the streets in the Highlands.

Avenida de Cortez: "Avenue of Cortez."

Avenida de la Herradura: "Avenue of the Horseshoe."

Avenida de Santa Ynez: "Avenue of St. Agnes."

Calle Deborah: Named for the developer's eldest daughter.

Calle del Estribo: "Street of the Stirrup."

Calle del Jonela: Named for the project consultant's daughter, Jonel.

Calle de Nancy: Named for Nancy Young, wife of the project engineer.

Calle de Palermo: Palermo is one of the developer's names.

Calle de Sarah: Named for Sarah Chastain, the developer's wife.

Calle de Sevilla: "Street of Seville" (a city in Spain).

Calle Arbolada: "Street of Trees."

Calle Jermaine: Named for the developer's youngest daughter.

Calle Patricia: Named for Patricia Cunningham, wife of the project's zoning consultant.

Camino de Yatasto: Yatasto is the name of a famous Argentinian race horse.

Chastain Parkway: Named for Charles Chastain, president of Highlands Properties, the developer.

Cuesta Linda: "Cuesta" is "slope" and Linda was the name of the developer's long-time secretary.

Cumbre Alta: "High Summit."

Cumbre Verde: "Green Mountain."

El Bosque: "Forest" or "Woods."

Michael Lane: Named for a relative of one of the developers.

Monte Alto: "High Mountain."

Monte Grande: "Large Mountain."

Monte Hermoso: "Beautiful Mountain."

Palisades: Refers to its location.

Paseo de Oro: "Walk of Gold."

Piedra Morada: "Purple Stone."

Vereda de la Montura: "Horse Riding Trail."

Via la Costa: "Path of the Coast."

Via Pacifica: "Way of the Pacific."

Michael Edlen can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or michael@michaeledlen.com

Skin Care Shell Store Plan Delayed—Again

(Continued from Page 11)

Nell enrolled in graduate school in nursing at Azusa Pacific University and then became an intern with Dr. Shamban. A year later in 2001, the internship became a job, and in 2002, she graduated from Azusa.

Her sister, now a newlywed in Redondo Beach, had a less direct path to dermatology. Erdmann initially earned a history degree at the University of Wisconsin in Madison and worked doing therapy with autistic children. She eventually earned a combined bachelor's/master's at Azusa Pacific in nursing in 2010. While at Azusa, she tried interning with her sister for Dr. Shamban.

"I loved it," Erdmann said. "I felt really natural with it." She had initially wanted to go to art school, and those artistic instincts are still there. "I look at the face a little differently—in an artistic way."

She and her sister have worked with Dr. Shamban ever since, and they have found both working and opening a business together rewarding.

"We are not only sisters, but we're best friends and great coworkers," Nell said. "We have a mutual respect for one another and for Dr. Shamban. The three of us work well together. We enjoy each other's company, and we are all similarly minded when it comes to business."

SKINxFIVE's website is skinxfive.com, and their phone number is (424) 322-8780.

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The long-debated, often-revised plan for a proposed convenience store at the Shell station on Sunset at Via de la Paz may finally reach a resolution when the local Design Review Board meets in January.

Owner Saeed Kohonoff hopes to demolish the existing service bay (1,900 sq.ft.) on his property and build a 2,748-sq.-ft mini-mart against the adjacent two-story building that features Il Ritrovo restaurant. But his plans have spent 18 months within the Pacific Palisades DRB process.

Initially, in June 2015, architect Richard Finkel of Bundy Finkel Architects (a firm that has designed 18 auto service stations in California and Nevada) proposed a Mediterranean-style convenience store. The seven-member DRB asked him to bring in a mid-century modern design. He complied, and presented new plans in July 2015.

At that meeting, it was suggested that Finkel had not captured the look and to "try again." He was also asked to bring a landscaper to the next meeting and to focus on low-water plants and trees.

The Shell station plans didn't return to the DRB agenda until November 9, 2016. By then, Kohonoff's former Mobil station (which he sold to Caruso Affiliated), had

been leveled to help make way for Caruso's Palisades Village.

At the November meeting, which was intended to be the final review of the Shell design, the board was still not happy with the rendering. DRB vice-chair David Hibbert told Finkel to look at some of Caruso's proposed architecture, noting that because of that project's size, its architectural style will become dominant in the Palisades business district, and any new buildings should reflect that new standard.

During that meeting, the audience was reminded by L.A. City Planner Kenton Trinh that this meeting was not the place to discuss for the sale of alcohol permits (which Kohonoff is seeking) permits, hours of operation and traffic. His associate, Griselda Gonzales, reminded residents the hearing was solely about design and signage.

Finkel gamely returned on December 7 with yet another rendering for the convenience store, which will replace the existing building on the property. About 20 people squeezed into the Chamber of Commerce office for another three-hour meeting that, despite an admonition by Trinh, went beyond design issues to rehash concerns of nearby residents about the size of the store, hours, traffic, safety and alcohol sales.

At the end of the meeting, the DRB asked for another architectural refinement and a fifth meeting was tentatively scheduled

for January.

The News asked City Planner Trinh by email on December 12 if there's a time limitation for projects under discussion by a DRB. He responded, "The Code states that if the applicant agrees to an extension of time, then a second meeting can be held within 30 days. It doesn't necessarily address any subsequent meetings after that, although we do want to make sure that a recommendation is made by the DRB in a timely manner. I recently took over as the Planner for the DRB, so I cannot speak on the first two meetings. At this past meeting, it was revealed the applicant had changed the overall scope of the project, so the DRB declined to make a recommendation and the applicant agreed to an extension of time. At the upcoming meeting (date uncertain), however, the DRB will be asked to make a final recommendation barring any unexpected changes."

Trinh was asked how the scope had changed.

He replied, "The applicant had changed the hours of operation and hours of alcohol sales. While that doesn't affect the design of the project, it was the first time the Planning department was made aware of this change."

In the application, Kohonoff had said he would not seek to keep his mini-mart open 24 hours. He also had reduced the hours he sought to sell alcohol. He said that had been

(Continued on Page 13)

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Shell

(Continued from Page 12)

changed because of a meeting hosted by Councilman Mike Bonin's office with the neighbors. But those neighbors at the December 7 meeting said they had not agreed to anything.

Before he sold his Mobil station property to Caruso, Kohanoff met in 2014 with Chris Spitz and Barbara Kohn, who at the time were Pacific Palisades Community Council president and vice president, and also with Rick Mills, who was chair of the DRB.

Kohanoff told the *News* on December 7 that over coffee at the Highlands Starbucks, he had asked them how a sale and a subsequent move of his convenience store to the Shell site might be received by the town. "They told me it was a good idea," he said.

The *News* contacted Spitz, Kohn and Mills.

"As I recall, Mr. Kohanoff wanted to get a sense of how the community would receive his sale of the Mobil station and we said we believed the community would view it favorably," Spitz replied. "He also told us he would want to buy the Shell station and revive it as a gas station with a mini-mart that sold liquor. We said we thought there would likely be neighborhood opposition to any plan to sell liquor at that location."

Mills said, "I vaguely recall the meeting. It was when I was still on the DRB. My default approach to possible DRB applicants was to

explain the DRB process and how to apply, not get involved in what someone's 'chances' were. I was also working at that time to better coordinate the DRB with the [Community Council] and with Donna Vaccarino's planning group. I know I would have told Mr. Kohanoff that he would be wise to go to the PPCC to get community input."

According to Spitz, Kohanoff did take Mills' advice and appeared before the PPCC. In a December 13 email to the *News* she wrote, "I would also point out that some months after these informal conversations

took place, Mr. Kohanoff submitted his land-use entitlement application to the City and he and his team (including his lawyer and land-use consultant) then publicly presented his plans to the community at least three times in 2015 (twice at PPCC meetings and once at a community meeting organized to discuss his proposed plans)."

Kohanoff told the *News* he feels like he has been a good neighbor all these years and has followed the process. "But if I had known I was going to go through this, I would have never sold [the station] to Caruso."

Firefighters, Police Feted

Firefighters from Stations 69 and 23, members of the L.A. Police Department (including Palisades Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore), Chrysalis workers and two OPCC social workers (Maureen Rivas and Glanda Sherman) were honored at a holiday luncheon at Il Piccolo Ritrovo on December 14.

The celebration at the restaurant on Sunset was hosted by the Pacific Palisades Business Improvement District (BID).

Restaurant owners Tarcisio Mosconi and Nando Silvestri provided endless plates of chicken marsala, tomato/basil-mozzarella salad, pizza, roasted potatoes, and several pastas for 43 guests.

BID Executive Director Laurie Sale said, "We felt that as a community we wanted to thank the police, fire and community workers for all they do."

"We wouldn't be safe without them," she continued. "We're grateful to have them in this community. At this time of year they are often forgotten."

BID and the Chamber of Commerce pay Chrysalis workers to keep the Village business area cleaned twice a week. The three workers and supervisor Rick Stoff also enjoyed the party.

One of the men said that before he was assigned to the Palisades permanently, he had initially filled in for someone who worked here. He told the *News*, "The whole atmosphere here is beautiful. The people are nice and positive."

The OPCC honorees have been working here since January as part of the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness.

Visit: palisadesbid.org



Two residents choose a tree.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

YMCA Christmas Tree Lot Is Open

The annual YMCA Christmas Tree Lot will remain open through December 23 at Simon Meadow (corner of Sunset Blvd. and Temescal Canyon Road). The sale of trees is a major fundraising event for the Y. The lot is open Monday through Friday from 3 to 8 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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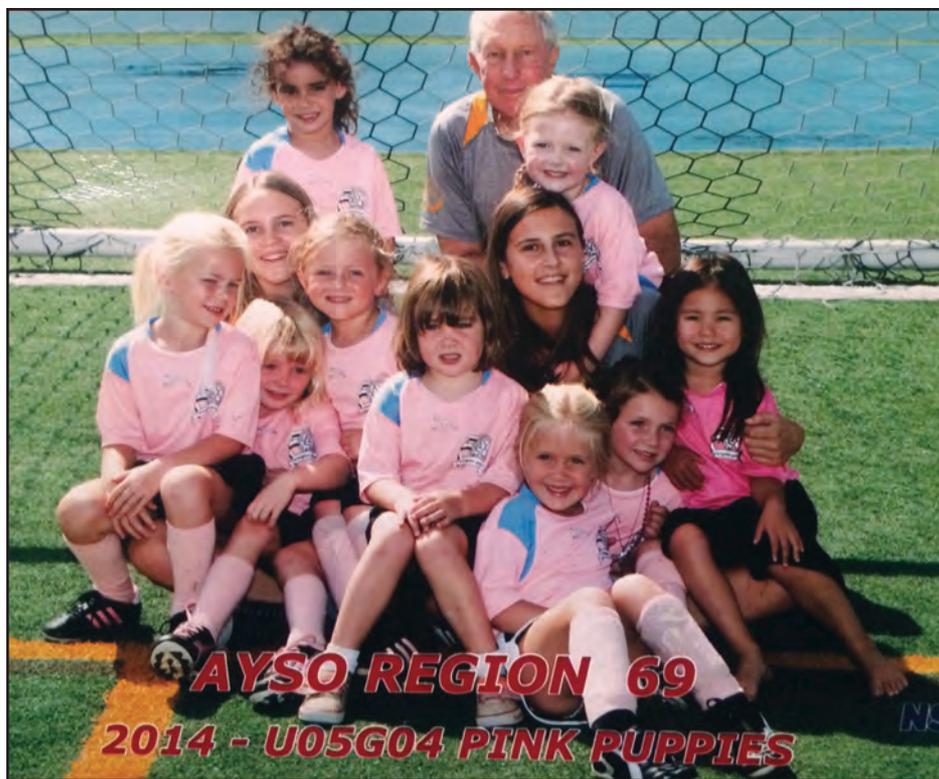
By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

A year ago, Britt Alphonson, a feminist and Marymount High School student, created a gender-switching script to help explain sexism to boys.

"I thought, 'Maybe if I put it in their perspective . . . then maybe they'd understand what women go through and why they are feminists,'" Alphonson, now 17, said. So she wrote a five-minute screenplay, *Sucker-punch Sexism*, for her film class focused on a male high school student who struggles to understand why boys are deemed loud or opinionated when they express their opinions, why they get called "sluts" when girls don't, and why they are mocked as "meninists" for standing up for themselves.

Alphonson, who is also a soccer coach with her twin sister and fellow creative spirit, Kristiane, liked the result, which she also made into a short movie. She decided to submit the screenplay to a writing contest, the National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Regionally, she won a gold key and moved onto the national awards, where she won a silver medal, and also earned inclusion in the book *The Best Teen Writing of 2016*.

Earning the kudos gave Alphonson "a really incredible feeling; it took me by surprise,"



Britt and Kristiane Alphonson coached the Pink Puppies soccer team.

she said. "I think it really validates a teenager's work, when it's recognized at any kind of level. Just to know that a board of established people were resonating with what you had to say means a lot."

Alphonson and other winners were hon-

ored in Washington, D.C., at the opening reception of Art.Write.Now, an event conducted in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

For Alphonson, who plans to study filmmaking and screenwriting in college, the entire experience with *Suckerpunch Sexism* has been enriching. She met and befriended other young writers, including one who writes occasionally for the *New York Times*. She had also never directed something she had written, and she found that she was a stronger, more passionate director when she worked from her own screenplay. In addition, she felt more satisfied writing this piece because it was meaningful to her.

"I've written a few screenplays in the past, but I didn't feel like there was anything substantial behind them," said Alphonson, who also writes for her school newspaper. "This screenplay felt like it could make a difference with the people who read it. It had a pointed political message. It wasn't just fluff."

Her sister, Kristiane, is also a creative person, who chooses music as her main venue to express herself. She sings and plays both piano and guitar, and she is currently going through the audition process for her college applications while also recording her first EP, which she hopes to finish by February.

The two girls lived in Pacific Palisades with their parents, Lisa Up de Graff and John Alphonson.

"I'm producing myself in my laundry room," Kristiane said. "I bought a cheap mic and a pop filter to block noises." She

has already created a few home recordings and released seven of them on soundcloud.com, where one warm, evocative cover of a Coldplay song has earned her more than 1,110 listens. Her songwriting is also featured on a few of the songs, including her newest release, "I'm Not Her."

Together the two sisters share a long-standing interest in soccer. Both played for about a decade, including time on both AYSO and highly competitive club teams. After they tired of playing, the two still wanted to stay connected to soccer, so two years ago, when they were 15, they chose to coach their own AYSO team of six-year-old girls.

The experience was overwhelming at first, but it was also liberating as it was so different than the stresses of being a serious sophomore in high school. "That first year was my favorite," Kristiane said. "It was fun to be really immature and silly with a bunch of really cute girls."

Each year since then, the two have taken the reins of a new team. They've learned how to put aside personal differences while coaching, become less shy and figured out how "to act as a coach and not just the helper teenager," Kristiane said.

She added that four of the friendships she formed when she was a youngster playing soccer have stayed with her, and she hopes to help her team members develop similar bonds. "We teach basic skills, but most importantly it's the importance of working together and camaraderie," Kristiane said. "We try to facilitate those friendships as much as possible."



Britt Alphonson (left) was honored in Washington, D.C., and was accompanied by her twin, Kristiane.

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Girls Hoops Starts with Intensity

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Palisades High's girls basketball, aiming to contend for another City Section title, has been gaining invaluable experience by competing in three tournaments this past month.

The Dolphins, coached by Torino Johnson, finished fourth in the 13th Annual Palisades Beach Invitational tournament Thanksgiving week.

Playing against some of the top teams in the state, PaliHi started strong, winning its first game against Hueneme, 73-23, with sophomore guard Kayla Williams scoring a team high 18 points.

The Dolphins then achieved a hard-fought victory against Canyon. They were losing at halftime, 35-26, but pulled ahead with a hot third quarter to gain the lead, 51-49, and went on to earn a 64-56 win.

High-scoring senior guard Chelsey Gipson contributed 25 points, including 6 three-pointers, while Williams again had a strong game with 19 points.

Meanwhile, other teams, including Chaminate, the top-ranked team in the state last year, competed in the 16-team tournament.

The eventual runner-up, Fairmont Prep, dealt the Pali girls their first defeat, 65-34, with Gipson again leading her team's scoring with 20 points. Pali lost to Valencia, 60-44, in the battle for third place. Sophomore guard Leily Martin led the team with 11 points.

Harvard-Westlake topped Fairmont Prep



From left to right, Kayla Williams, Chaniya Pickett and Jane Nwaba during practice at Palisades High. In the rear, Lea Toubian and Brooke Messaye are on the baseline.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

in a tight 48-45 game to win the tournament.

For PaliHi, the tournament was an intense beginning to its Western League and post-season aspirations, and coach Johnson expects his team to again be strong competitors.

The "Palisades girls are coming off back-to-back City Open Division championships," Johnson said. "Our players are improving

daily and work hard in the classroom. I have an exceptional coaching staff. Look for our team to be competitive and continue to improve as the season progresses."

Last year, Pali was 12-0 in league play, and was ranked 16th in the state among Division I schools with a 24-9 record overall. In the state playoffs, they lost in the first round

to Chaminate, the eventual open division winner. Among all schools across the state, the Dolphins were ranked 51st, having averaged 65 points, 24 rebounds, 11.7 assists, 19 steals and 3.6 blocks per game.

Two of Pali's three top-scoring guards return this season. Senior Gipson, who has been signed to Loyola Marymount University, averaged 17.6 points last season, while sophomore Williams averaged 11.9 points as a freshman and earned recognition as an All-City player. The other top scorer, Kayla Merrill-Gillett, who averaged 13.7 points, was one of two graduating seniors. She now plays for Cal State Dominguez Hills and is averaging 14.4 points per game.

Senior guard Chaniya Pickett, who averaged 6.3 points last year as an All-League and All-City player, is expected to be one of this year's team leaders along with Williams and Gipson, Johnson said.

The roster is rounded out by senior center Caytlnn Gorden, senior guard Lea Toubian, freshman forward Jane Nwaba, senior guard Kayla Tavakoli, senior center Julia Ide, and sophomore forward Brooke Messaye.

Palisades also competed in the Troy Classic in Fullerton in early December, going 2-2. The Dolphins defeated Troy in their first game 56-52, but lost the next two games, 53-39 to Alemany and 45-39 against Etiwanda. The team finished with a win against West.

Starting Dec. 20, the Dolphins are taking part in the Gahr Varsity Tournament Gold Division. Their first league game will be Jan. 11 at 4:30 p.m. at University High.

Wrestlers Off to a Good Start



Kaila Osorio.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Unlike many high school athletes who will enjoy holiday goodies and not think twice about their playing weight, wrestlers are different. They keep an eye on the scale because if they want to compete in their desired weight class, they know they can't exceed the top weight limit. Before a match, competitors are weighed, and those who fail to stay within their weight class can't compete.

The Palisades High wrestling team is off to a good start this season, and will compete in two tournaments over winter break: the Brute Amat Rumble (December 17) and the Upland Black Watch Tournament (December 27 and 28).

The team's first scheduled home match is January 19 against Diego Rivera.

The Dolphins opened the season by winning a dual match against Carter (Rialto) 36-33 on November 26 and then placed 11th out of 26 teams at the Newbury Park Invitational, beating schools such as El

Camino, Chaminate and Crespi.

The following weekend, at the Golden Legends Tournament, Palisades finished fourth out of 22 teams.

Senior Kaila Osorio, who has been the sole female in the school's wrestling program for all four years, took first in the heavy-weight class at Golden Legends. As the top seed, she received a first-round bye, then pinned her opponent in the second match and won the championship with a 7-1 win in the finals.

Girls only wrestle other females at the City and State level, but Osorio, being the only girl on the team, practices with the guys.

She said she took up wrestling as a freshman because her mom told her she had to do something to put on her college application. "I had friends at different schools who had wrestled and I asked them if they thought I would like it. They said yeah," Osorio told the *Palisades News*.

Also taking first at Golden Legends was
(Continued on Page 19)

Boys Basketball Set to Soar this Year

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Photos by Bart Bartholomew

New head coach Donzell Hayes has high hopes for the Palisades High boys basketball team this year.

“This is a special group,” Hayes said. “I don’t see any limits to these guys. They’re really, really smart. They’re really good friends. I imagine them going pretty far this year. I really do.”

Last year, Hayes, a 1996 PaliHi graduate, became the team’s interim head coach when previous coach Vejas Anaya left just before the season started. The Dolphins finished the year with a 12-17 record.

Hayes, who had previously been an assistant coach for two years, has been impressed by the current team members who both work hard and share a strong camaraderie with each other.

“It’s a bunch of guys who really like each other,” he said. “This team understands that they need each other at every turn of the game. They play like they need each other always.”

In addition, the team has both strong “shooters and a couple of guys down low who don’t mind doing the dirty work,” Hayes said. “They’re not really tall, but they work hard. It’s something the City [Section] doesn’t have a lot of.”

The Dolphins have already played in two tournaments—Maranatha High’s Rose City Classic, in which they went 2-2, and the Jim Nakabara Tournament at University High, in which they reached the finals and lost a tight game against undefeated Uni, 80-76, on December 9.

Pali’s tallest player is 6-5 senior center Diego Malczynski, and the team has four 6-2 players, including standout senior forward Dayne Downey, who has had an exceptional season thus far.

In the Nakabara final against Uni, Downey scored 27 points, collected 14 rebounds and made three assists. He also scored 20 points in the tournament game against Cleveland.

“It’s definitely a breakout season for him,” said Hayes, who noted the whole team has



Coach Donzell Hayes

been strong. “He has emerged into something really special, but it’s hard for me to point to guys when everyone is contributing the way they do.”

The Dolphins lost two starters from last year: forward George Brown and guard Will Johnson, who earned Most Outstanding Player honors in the Western League and first-team All City. In addition, center/forward Angel Villalta graduated.

However, the eight seniors on this year’s squad provide a strong backbone for the team.

Before losing to Uni, the Dolphins had racked up a four-game winning streak over two tournaments. They beat the Renaissance Academy 64-44, triumphed over Cleveland High 69-39, won against View Park 68-57, and raced past North Hollywood, 65-45.

In its season opener on Nov. 29, Pali scored a satisfying win against Crowley, 63-43. However, the team also suffered two losses in the Rose City Classic—a tough 68-65 fight against Cantwell-Sacred Heart and a 60-40 loss to Fairfax, a perennially challenging league opponent.

Typically, the Western League, which also includes Uni, Westchester, Venice, LACES and Hamilton, is “the toughest league,”



Dylan Griffin

Hayes said. “It’s a battle every single night—the worst team in the league or not.” Last year’s Dolphins went 5-7 in league.

During the regular season, Pali plays each league team twice—once at home and once away, and all of the teams tend to perform well in the playoffs, Hayes said.

Pali’s roster includes point guards Anthony Spencer and Nick Kerkorian, guards



Nick Kerkorian

Jackson Chmara, Michael Spencer, Daniel Emein, Jeron Artest and Dylan Griffin, guard/forwards Teddy Suisman, Chris Kurihara and Zack Lynch, and forwards Pierre Kaku, Kevin Eng and Avi Massaban.

The team’s league season starts on January 9 with a home game against University at 5:30 p.m., although the team has one more tournament at Dorsey from December 27-29.

Coach Todd’s Football Clinic Is This Friday Only

Coach Todd Tharen, whose Calvary eighth-team recently won the Pacific Basin championship in flag football, will hold a one-day football holiday clinic from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, December 23 at the Palisades High School football stadium.

At this third holiday football tournament and clinic, each kid will play in a tournament of multiple flag-football games. There were be lots of fun for kids of all ages and ability, kindergarten through seventh grade.

Athletes will be grouped into “Puppy Pound” (kindergarten, first and second

graders); “The Dogs” (third, fourth and some fifth graders); and “Big Dogs” (fifth, sixth and seventh graders). There will be a punt, pass and catch competition and a Palisades “fastest man” race for each grade level.

Coaches from Palisades, Loyola, Harvard-Westlake and Calvary will work with the kids. Registration on the field is 9 to 9:30 a.m., December 23. Cold water refills and Gatorade provided. Mouthpieces and water bottles suggested.

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PaliHi Girls Kick Off Season

Since girls soccer was established at Palisades High School, the team has been a perennial champion in the Western League (Westchester, Venice, Hamilton, University, LACES and Fairfax), and almost always reaches the City Section playoffs. Last year, the Dolphins were seeded fourth in Division 1 with a 12-2-2 record, but were upset in the quarterfinals by San Pedro, 1-0.

This year, teams such as University have adapted a new strategy to try and beat Palisades during league play.

“Everyone parked on the 18-yard line,” said head coach Christian Chambers, after Pali and University tied 0-0 on December 9. He explained that all 11 Uni players stayed on their side of the field, playing defense. “We were on our side only once in the second half. They were well-organized and well-coached.”

Chambers expects to see more of the same style of play when league play resumes on January 11 at home against LACES.

The Dolphins started the season by defeating Brentwood, 1-0, as sophomore Daniela Flores scored the only goal and senior Katie Wilkes played well in goal. They then opened league play by blanking Hamilton, 2-0, with Flores and freshman midfielder Sadie Holt scoring. They also beat Westchester, 6-0. With their fierce defense, the Dolphins have not allowed a goal.

“This is good group of ‘passing’ girls,” Chambers said. “We play well and move the



Goalie Katie Wilkes made a save.

ball well.” His team is young, with only seven seniors on the 24-player roster. The two goalkeepers, Wilkes and Kat Nuckols, are both seniors, and two starters—midfielders Zoe Capanna and Bella Esconbedo—are also seniors.

Wilkes has committed to UC San Diego and Capanna has committed to Hartwick College in New York State.

“Our team is coming together,” said Wilkes, who is also a captain. “We have one

of the most talented teams PaliHi has ever had.” During the club season, Wilkes plays for Eagles ECNL (Elite Clubs National League) and had a shut-out game against the number one team in the Southwest Conference before going on break to play high school soccer.

Wilkes said that all the players were on club teams and the dedication that the girls had towards the sport was evident. “We lost key center backs last year, but the younger players have stepped up and played key roles. Our juniors are really strong,” she said. “I’m excited about this year. Everyone is coachable.”

Assistant coach Gary Truman said, “It’s a good little team in quality and numbers.”

Chambers also praised the girls’ scholastic ability, noting that this team has one of the highest GPAs of any soccer team in the state.

He moved to the United States from England in 2002 after serving as a head coach in the Dorset Football Association; he received his first coaching certification from the English Football Association in 1995.

In addition to his NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) coaching certificate, Chambers has his “E” and “B” coaching licenses, and works as a club soccer coach for Santa Monica United. He has a master’s degree in physical education and sports educa-



PaliHi soccer players (top) Meghan Jones, (middle) India Holland and Sammy Truman at the stadium before a team photo.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

tion from the University of Bedfordshire.

Pali’s varsity and JV teams will play El Camino Real on January 3. The Dolphins will then host Cleveland on January 5 and Santa Monica High on January 9, both at 2:30 p.m. at home

L.A. Golf Academy Offers Winter Camp for Juniors

A winter golf camp for juniors, ages 7 to 15, will be held Monday through Friday, December 19 through January 6 (except for December 25 and January 1). Kids may attend half-day or full-day sessions and on a daily basis.

The camp is taught by Marine veteran and PGA Teaching Professional Carlos Rodriguez of the L.A. Golf Academy at the nine-hole, three-par golf course on the

West L.A. VA Campus. Students will play golf and learn all aspects of the game, including rules and golf etiquette.

The full-day session is from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$100 a day (no green fees). The half-day session is either 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or from 1 to 4 p.m., \$50 a day (no green fees).

To register, call (310) 230-2052 or visit LAGolfAcademy@gmail.com. LA

Palisades High Aquatic Center Holiday Hours

Brooke King, director of the Maggie Gilbert Aquatic Center at Palisades High, has released the holiday swim hours from December 19 through January 9. Upon entering the pool, go to the office to sign in or to pay. Any closures due to mechanical or environmental issues will be posted to the pool’s Facebook page. The pool will be closed December 24, 25 and 26, and on January 1.

Public Lap Swim (Competition pool)	Public Swim (Small Pool)
Monday through Thursday: 5:45 to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. (Six lanes available starting December 19).	Monday through Thursday: 5:45 to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 8 p.m.
Friday: 7 to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m.	Friday: 7 to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.
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Tiger Woods to Play Riviera

Pro golfer Tiger Woods has not played a tournament at the Riviera Country Club since 2006, but that will change this coming February.

TGR Live, Woods' charitable event company, which supports the fundraising efforts of the Tiger Woods Foundation, will host the Genesis Open, formerly known as the Northern Trust Open.

On December 13, Woods said he will play in the 2017 Genesis Open, held February 13-19 in Pacific Palisades.

He told reporters, "I'm very excited to come back to Riviera and compete in the Genesis Open. This is where it all started for me—my first PGA Tour event."

According to *Golf Digest*, Woods' last official PGA Tour event was the 2015 Wyndham Championship in August. He returned to competitive golf at the HeroWorld Challenge, held in the Bahamas December 1-4, shooting four under par in the 18-player field.

Tickets to the 2017 Genesis Open are on sale and start as low as \$15. Now through December 25, purchase any ticket and have the opportunity to purchase \$15 in food and beverage credit for only \$10. Visit: tigerwoodsfoundation.org/events/open/tickets.



Hamzah Alsaudi (right) who took first in the 195-weight class at the Golden Legends Tournament, practices with Dolphin captain Carlos Velado, who wrestles heavyweight.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Wrestling

(Continued from Page 16)

junior Hamzah Alsaudi, who dominated his first two matches, winning with pins. His final match went into overtime and he won, 3-1.

He went to state for the first time last year. "My goal is to place at State and then become a state champ," said Alsaudi, who went to State for the first time last year. He's currently ranked in the top 20 in the 195-weight class in the state.

Second-year head coach Steve Cifonelli said, "I also brought a B-team to the Golden Legends tournament and five wrestlers medaled." He was proud of those kids and the veterans in his program.

"Many [B-team members] were brand new, they didn't have wrestling shoes, they didn't know how to put on the head gear when they started," Cifonelli said. "A couple of these kids weren't wrestlers four months ago. But, this isn't about a coach's ego, but about the rest of the team and how they helped the new kids."

Cifonelli has about 40 students out for a sport that started at PaliHi in 2011 with P.E. teacher Randy Aguirre as head coach. The school initially wasn't much interested in the program, and Aguirre started it without mats, without practice space and with many kids who had never wrestled before. Paul Revere has a wrestling program that now feeds about five kids a year into the high school team.

Two years into the program, Aguirre was diagnosed with glioblastoma, a grade-4 brain tumor, and assist coach Aldo Juliano stepped in when Aguirre died in January 2015.

"It was awful, I didn't plan on that," Juliano said. "We fought it tooth and nail, and just when I thought he was coming around, it [the tumor] came back."

Juliano now serves as head of wrestling operations and assists Cifonelli, who wrestled at Cortland High School in Cortland,

New York, and received a full scholarship to Temple University in the sport.

After graduating with a degree in physical education and health, Cifonelli taught first at Glassboro, New Jersey and then at Burlington.

He has three daughters, one of whom attended the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, one who attended Cal State Long Beach and one who eventually went to F.I.T. (Fashion Institute of Technology) in New York.

"I followed my daughters out here," said Cifonelli, who spent three years teaching in Watts. He was laid off when his school's newest teachers were cut in 2010, but ended up substituting and eventually connecting with Revere and its wrestling program—and then PaliHi, where he now now works as a P.E. teacher.

He was asked about Osorio, the team's lone female.

"She's won the last two tournaments and has earned the team's respect," he said. "One of the easiest Division I scholarships is in girls wrestling and the quality of the sport is increasing."

Osorio plans to attend a community college and then a four-year school before acquiring her master's degree and becoming a social worker.

For most of the winter break, wrestlers will spend two-and-a-half hours working out each day. In January, 5:30 a.m. workouts twice a week will also be available in addition to regular practices.

Four PaliHi wrestlers reached the State tournament last year Hamzah Alsaudi (195), Marcelo Maya (160), Kevin Rosen (152) who graduated and is attending the University of Pennsylvania and Jake Adler (145) who is not wrestling this year for personal reasons. Cifonelli thinks four or five individuals will probably qualify this year.

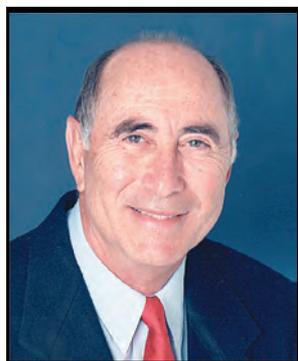
This is a program that is maturing. Initially, banners were hung in the wrestling room for those athletes who qualified for State, but "now there will only be banners for those who medal," Cifonelli said.

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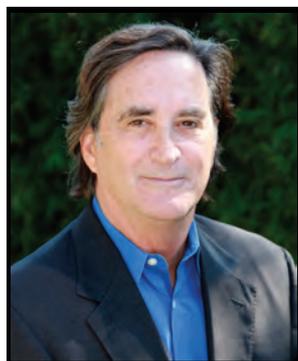
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PASSINGS

PaliHi Sketches Produce Hearty Laughs



Patricia Moore Scoales

Patricia M. Scoales, 90; Social Worker, Artist, Palisades Resident

Patricia Moore Scoales was born January 22, 1926, in Long Beach, California, where she grew up. She passed away at her home in Pacific Palisades on November 2, 2016, after a two-year illness.

Patricia attended Columbia and Claremont Colleges, before receiving her bachelor's degree in art history from UCLA. While attending UCLA, she met her future husband William, who was majoring in experimental psychology. They both graduated in June 1958 and were married the same year.

Patricia worked as a social worker and artist. The couple and their young son, Nicholas Michael, moved to the Palisades in 1963. They lived in Malibu from 1975 to 1984, before moving back here.

William said that his wife loved knowledge, the arts, family and trees. He remembers most her infectious laugh, which will long be heard. Her favorite saying, he said, was "You might as well laugh!"

Patricia is survived by her husband, who is thankful for his magical 58 years with her. She was predeceased by her son and was laid to rest next to him in Westlake Village.

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Donald Trump as the Grinch, "Jingle Bells" while eating habanero peppers, and a carolers' cult all vied for laughs at Palisades High's "Friday Night Live" on December 9.

The take-off on the long-running sketch comedy series *Saturday Night Live* follows the format of the popular television show even before the actors take the stage. With a similar writing, rehearsal and technical schedule, the students under the direction of teacher Nancy Cassaro-Fracchiolla create a lively, funny show complete with newscasters doing "Weekend Update."

"It's one of the favorite things I do" at Pali, said Cassaro-Fracchiolla, who also teaches drama and directs the school's musicals and dramas. "I think the students are really phenomenal. I love working with them."

Each school year, the dedicated after-school club members produce about five shows, which they perform twice, at 7 and 9 p.m., always on a Friday night. This gives them a chance to see what works with a live audience and what needs tweaking.

Cassaro-Fracchiolla, a 25-year veteran of acting/directing, pushed to add a second show last year when the teens were at first resistant. She told them, "I want you to have the experience of seeing what worked and what didn't, and then turning around and doing it again... Don't expect you're going to get the same exact laugh. Every audience is different."

The students have now embraced the concept, and more than 30 teens threw themselves into the production of their recent holiday effort in Mercer Hall.

The initial sketch, "The Trump Who Stole Christmas," written by and starring Llewyn St. John, was a hit even before a word was spoken as the bright orange Grinchy figure wearing a "Make America Great Again" cap had the audience at the get-go. Lines like "I'll take all these gifts to the top of Trump Tower—my biggest erection, my source of true power" also caused huge laughs in the crowd, as did the appearance of little Hillary Lou.

Afterwards, the troupe performed eight



Llewyn St. John as the Trump/Grinch.

more sketches, including one called "Cookies for Santa" (written by Ryan Loyola and Anika Shorr), which was also ripped from recent news. Because of Proposition 64's marijuana legalization in California, the skit's two 20-somethings played by Shorr and Sam Korobkin felt free to make some marijuana-laced Christmas cookies, which an 8-year-old (Scotty Holland) left for Santa (August Hartwell). Santa consumes them and soon exhibits some classic signs of being high. He feels buzzed, gets the munchies and even realizes he has no idea how his reindeer fly. "It's really freaking me out!" he laments.

Another fun moment was a video directed by Hartwell that consisted of students trying to sing Christmas carols after eating habanero peppers. Some were close to tears, most sang in a somewhat tortured manner, although one boy (Charlie Hobert) seemed to have no trouble at all belting out the tunes.

Musical guest Taylor Schonbuch provided a warm break from the jokes with melodious versions of "Happy Christmas" and "Last Christmas," featuring accompaniment from keyboardist Trevor Meseroll and guitarist Gabe Galef, plus backup singing by Molly Lovett.

Every sketch had numerous funny moments, including a piece titled "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" (written by

Nicole Levi and Pierre Thibodeaux) where-in a child (Alyssa Velky) sees mommy (Alex Holdom) not only kissing daddy (Harrison Larkin) in his Santa suit, but also another man. There was "So You Think You Can Carol" (also by Levi and Thibodeaux), which featured a cult of carolers who sing "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Savior" and say of their leader: "He leads us, and thus we are led."

In addition, there was "Uncle Ricky" (written by Sam Zahn) about a magic-performing previously unknown uncle (Declan Wells); "Hanukkah Dinner" by Max Vaupen with a doctor (Zahn) who doesn't want to perform CPR due to a guest's cold sore; "The Harvard Interview" by Jakob Pollack, with an interviewer making snide muttered comments about the interviewee's answers (featuring Madison Levitt and Julia Ward), and "The Roasting Chestnut" by St. John about a guy (St. John) dressed as a huge chestnut who roasts some party guests with his insults.

The show ended with "Weekend Update," featuring serious and sharp newscasters played by the club's presidents, Vaupen and St. John, both of whom co-wrote the piece with Jake Procino. The segment got a huge cheer from the audience right at the start, and their jokes were spot-on, including one ribbing the school's iPad program.

The next "Friday Night Live" will likely be held near the end of February with another in the spring.

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Terri Bromberg: Dancing with Glass

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer
Photos by Bart Bartholomew

On a recent Saturday afternoon, Terri Bromberg hosted a glassblowing open house and sale in the art department at Santa Monica College.

With warm temperatures outside, the room that houses the furnace felt as hot as being inside an oven, perhaps because the furnace reaches 2,400 degrees.

Bromberg, a 31-year resident of Pacific Palisades, began glassblowing at SMC 15 years ago. Now she is an associate professor at the school, where for 12 years she has been teaching a variety of classes, including glass fusion, stone carving and 3D design and sculpture.

“This is the only teaching facility in the Los Angeles area that includes glass classes,” she told the *Palisades News*. Her classes, which fill up on the first day of registration, include about 30 students who range in age from high school and college kids to seniors.

Bromberg’s class meets twice a week, plus an additional three hours of lab time per student per semester.

Owing to high gas prices, many private studios in L.A. have closed, yet the San Francisco Bay area still boasts a thriving glass artist community.

The demands of glassblowing, a centuries-old art form, are more challenging than many other art forms.

The first step is to take glass from the furnace and begin blowing. Glass starts moving at 1,000 degrees, and can be reheated by putting it back in the fire, which allows the artist to alter the shape, and add colors and layers.

“If the glass is hot enough, it blows very easily. If you see people turning purple from blowing too hard, they needed more



Artist Terry Bromberg blowing glass.

heat. They’re blowing at the wrong time,” Bromberg said.

“Sometimes we refer to it as an art sport, because depending on the weather, it can be over 100 degrees in the studio when you’re working,” she said. “You have to be physically fit because of the heat.”

“You’re standing in front of a furnace of molten glass that’s 2,400 degrees. You’re working in front of glory holes that are over 2,000 degrees when you reheat your glass. And on the other side of the room are the annealers that are sitting at 950 degrees. Everything out there is heating up the studio. We have fans going and exhaust fans to help, but still it’s a very physical, hot, sweaty art sport.”

Bromberg encourages her students to drink a lot of water and sports drinks to stay hydrated.

Beginners as well as advanced students have the same assignments, which are making a cylinder, a bowl and a plate. But first, they have to learn the basics, which includes how to blow a bubble and put a neck on it.

“There’s a progression of skills, so the cylinder is opening the bubble a certain amount, and the bowl is controlling it in a different way and the plate is spinning it out with centrifugal force and getting a totally different shape. The fourth assignment is a narrow neck. That takes a different skill set,” Bromberg said.

Each assignment builds on previous skills, and the final is a mixed-media glass project.

Even though beginning and advanced students have the same assignments, their results may be different. Whereas a beginner is just learning how to make the proper shape, an advanced student can bring other, more complicated elements into the piece, such as color and glass cane. Cups are another popular item, and advanced students use glass cane to create colored lines.

(Continued on Page 23)



Bromberg surrounded by her glass wares.



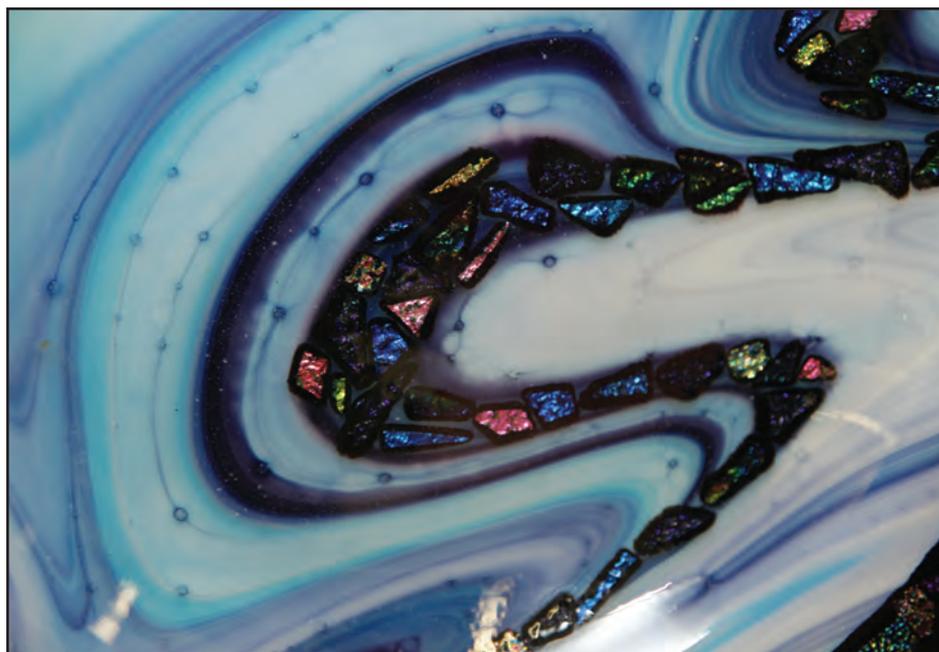
An intricate vase created by Bromberg.



Bromberg’s fused-glass jewelry.



Student Jourdan Giron works on her project.



Detail of one of Bromberg's plates.



Palisadian Dorothy Miyake sells her Christmas ornaments at the SMC open house.

Glass

(Continued from Page 22)

Working with glass can be challenging, and flexibility is necessary, as things don't always go according to plan and ideas must then be altered midstream. Bromberg notes that "having a conversation with the glass" helps during the shaping process.

She describes glassblowing as something that is physically all-encompassing.

"It's more than just hands-on, it's the whole body into it as far as moving back and forth and working with the glass. It's a dance. You dance with the glass. We call the work area in the studio the dance floor."

The annealing process cools the glass down, and prevents the glass from breaking. Every glass item, large or small, blown or fused, must be annealed.

"They're gorgeous to look at when it's done," Bromberg says about glass pieces. "The colors can be rich and enticing, and the fact that you're working with transparent and opaques gives you a visual depth to some of the work that you can't get" in other art forms, such as ceramics.

During the open house, Santa Monica Canyon resident and SMC art student Susan Haskell was surrounded by her original fused-glass jewelry. Haskell started Bromberg on her glassblowing adventure years ago.

Haskell is the art teacher at Canyon Elementary School, where her grandson currently attends, and where her children were also students. Both Bromberg and Haskell consider themselves lifelong learners, and are continually taking classes.

Haskell demonstrated how to make a piece of fused-glass peppermint candy with a clear, twisted wrapper using a small flame to heat and melt the glass. Sticks called mandrills add color, in this case the peppermint stripes, and the whole piece was nearly complete in about 10 minutes.

Fused glass is a different process than glassblowing; the glass is heated at a lower temperature, which creates a different look and dimension. Haskell and Bromberg's works incorporate stunning colors.

Bromberg often creates her fused-glass insect jewelry after teaching on Fridays. She works with handmade sheets of glass as well as dichroic glass, which was developed by the aerospace industry for the space shuttle, and has a metallic tint. It comes in myriad colors, patterns and textures.

Bromberg's background includes ceram-

ics, graphic design, drawing and painting (including ambitious murals on the back wall of CVS and along a high retaining wall on Los Lions Drive). Though she enjoys these different artistic forms of expression, she finds glass the most exciting medium to work with. She likes to be hands-on and physical, something that sitting at her computer doesn't fulfill.

"I did ceramics for many years before I got into glass. It's kind of an easy transition."

Bromberg takes lab time for herself every week, and makes a wide array of items including large, intricate plates and vases as well as little pumpkins and basic cups.

I've always wondered what would happen if you inhaled while blowing glass, but both Bromberg and Haskell assured me that the pipe would get blocked and you wouldn't get hurt at all.

During the open house, Bromberg had vases, jewelry, Christmas tree ornaments, pumpkins, plates, pins and more for sale. Her work can also be seen at the Pacific Palisades Art Association's shows on the Village Green, and at Simon Meadow in October and December.

Despite being a physically taxing art, which often leaves the creator on the sweaty side, Bromberg loves glassblowing.

"It's a lot of fun," she says. "It's a challenge."

Visit her website at: www.bromberg-projects.com



Bromberg heating glass.

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Troupe Reenacts *Christmas Carol*

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A radio play re-enactment of the 1939 Campbell's Soup production of *A Christmas Carol* was presented by the Theatre Palisades Actors Troupe (TPAT) on December 14 at Pierson Playhouse.

About 50 Palisades residents took advantage of the free hot mulled wine and cookies before the hour-long show that included sound effects.

The tradition of presenting a radio show began two years ago with a reading of *It's a Wonderful Life*, by members of TPAT, who wanted additional opportunities to perform while also celebrating the season. They repeated the show last December.

This year the talented group chose the Dickens classic, about which one critic wrote: "The 1939 Mercury Theatre production of *A Christmas Carol* is quite simply one of the finest adaptations of the story ever, in any medium. If you haven't heard it, give yourself a wonderful Christmas gift this Yuletide."

Indeed, this was a truly lovely present to the Palisades community: the story in a condensed form flowed with the gifted actors' voices.

In the original radio show, the script was credited to Mercury's chief radio scribe Howard Koch, as it "gracefully adapts Dickens' text, as well as artfully inventing some dialogue and business that opens up the first scene a bit from the prose story's largely descriptive beginning."

Orson Welles narrated the story, and Lionel Barrymore played Ebenezer Scrooge.

Barrymore wrote in an article in the *Washington Post* in 1936: "One of the reasons why I enjoy playing the role of Scrooge each Christmas season over the Columbia network is the fact that I believe in ghosts. Although Scrooge was confronted with three ghosts: namely, the ghost of Christmas Past—his memory; the ghost of Christmas Present—his intuition; and the ghost of Christmas Future—his imagination, people today may have as many as seven or eight ghosts haunting them. It all depends upon their experiences, for in the innermost



Cast and crew of the Theatre Palisades Actors Troupe are, front row, left to right: Manfred Hofer, Martha Hunter, Maria O'Connor, Ava Dixon (on stool), Wendy Taubin, Valerie Ruel, Steve DeLuca, Julia Whitcombe, Margott Rifembark and Sherry Coon. Back row, left to right: Mitch Feinstein, Sue Hardie, Charmaine Glennon, Mark Fields Davidson, Stephen Holland, Andrew Frew and Mary Allwright.

recesses of every human mind there are the memories of the past, the intuitions of the present and the imagination of the future.

"It is foolish to harbor awesome thoughts about ghosts for they are in reality man's conscience and therefore his best friend. If man refuses to accept them as such, they will force themselves upon him anyway as they did upon Scrooge when he had closed his eyes and heart to the spirit of Christmas season [sic] and the joy of living."

Fifteen members of TPAT played 30 roles, including Steve Holland as Scrooge/Lionel Barrymore and Manfred Hofer as Orson Welles/Marley's Ghost. The actors were nicely cast and the performances were superb.

Gifted performers also included Mitch Feinstein,

Steve DeLuca (Bob Cratchit), Mark Davidson, Sherry Coon, Julia Whitcombe (Ghost of Christmas Past), Wendy Taubin, Mary Allwright (Ghost of Christmas Present), Valerie Ruel, Charmaine Glennon, Sue Hardie, Margott Rifembark, Martha Hunter and Ava Dixon (Tiny Tim).

The chief Foley artist was Maria O'Connor, who produced footsteps, coal being shoveled in a stove, coins falling and eerie wind sounds.

All those attending received a raffle ticket, and at the end of the show three lucky audience members received free tickets to any upcoming Theatre Palisades show and one person received a free season subscription.

All residents are urged to put a reminder about this free TPAT performance on their calendar next December.



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Angel City Chorale Delivers Joy

By JESSIE LEVINE
Special to the Palisades News

Conductor Sue Fink and the Angel City Chorale (ACC) have had a busy and productive 2016, culminating in their joyous holiday concert and sing-along on December 3-4 at the Wilshire United Methodist Church.

Earlier this year, the Los Angeles-based chorale's moving rendition of Toto's "Africa" went viral, with more than 3.6 million views to date. ACC also had the distinct honor to collaborate with renowned composer Christopher Tin, performing in London with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. This holiday concert tied a festive bow on ACC's eventful year.

The chorale is composed of more than 160 singers and is led by Fink, its founder and conductor. Members include five Pacific Palisades residents: Marian Niles, Harry Eden, Cheryl Robinson, Julia Chang and Adam Wolman.

For the annual holiday concert, singers from all walks of life joined together at the Wilshire United Methodist Church, dressed in formal black. Lit by the festive red glow of the church lights, Fink took a commanding position at the front of the choir. A wave of quiet formality fell over the audience.

With vivacity and spunk, Fink remarked: "So quiet!" And the layer of separation between the singers and the hushed audience was effectively penetrated.

She raised her baton and members of the chorale filtered onto the stage from the wings in the opening song, "Christmas Day" by Gustav Holst. The cavernous church filled with song.

The world premiere of "The Feast of Snow," by Philip White, featured a harmonious introduction from the string section, with Adam Wolman on bass. The voice of the soloist, soprano Lindsay Schwartz, was crystal clear over the string ensemble.

The fourth and fifth numbers began the *Hanukkah Cantata* by David Ludwig, a trio of beautiful songs sung in both Hebrew



Pacific Palisades residents who are members of the Angel City Chorale are (left to right) Marian Niles, Harry Eden, Cheryl Robinson, Julia Chang and Adam Wolman.

and English, followed by the first sing-along number, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." The lines between performers and audience continued to blur as Fink enthusiastically conducted different sections of the crowd in song.

The standout in the first act, and perhaps the show, was "Gaudete!"—a ladies-only number with words and music from Piaa Cantiones, circa 1582. The energy was palpable as the light, twinkling feminine voices layered atop the resounding bass of the

drums. This stellar number was followed by "Huron Carol," Canada's oldest Christmas carol, sung by the men of the group. The final number of the first act was "A World of Joy," in which the group demonstrated its range by performing first in the style of traditional African music, followed by Irish folk tune.

After intermission, a soulful Pentatonix arrangement of "Mary Did You Know" enlivened the crowd, and prepared them for the sing-along to "We Three Kings of Orient Are."

Fink paused the performance to acknowledge the recent passing of Margaret Day, an advisor to ACC, then dedicated "Agnus Dei" to her. The strong and full-bodied voice of Tom O'Neill filled the church and the audience was noticeably awed.

The standout of the second act was a stunning gospel performance of "Go Tell It on the Mountain," in which the horn section and the soloists particularly shone. The exultant, swaying piece of music was performed beautifully, and the audience responded accordingly. The final act was "Silent Night" and the chorus exited as it entered: through the wings and aisles of the church, enveloping the crowd in beautiful music.

Fink closed with remarks about "celebrating diversity" and "finding joy in collaboration." The final message of the performance is that music is something that brings people together in joy and triumph: a message that won't be soon forgotten.

ACC was established in 1993 at the world-famous McCabe's Guitar Shop with 18 singers. New singers are admitted to the chorale by audition, and practices are held once a week with higher frequency as concerts approach. Annual concerts occur the first week of June and the first week of December, in addition to other scheduled shows and traveling. Right now, the next scheduled show is in June.

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Singing the Roadhouse Blues at Barney's

By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

Say it ain't so, West Hollywood! We're told the venerable Barney's Beanery restaurant is going to be displaced soon by a new upscale hotel.

The developers there are making singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell appear prophetic when recalling lyrics from her 1970 hit "Big Yellow Taxi:"

"They've paved Paradise and put up a parking lot
With a pink hotel, a boutique, and swinging hot spot"

Plans call for the 89-year-old landmark to be disassembled and eventually restored on the same property during the construction of the five-story boutique hotel. But many longtime customers are skeptical that their favorite haunt will someday return as the same unconventional homey spot that it is today.

A recent *Los Angeles Times* story regarding the controversial addition of yet another hotel cited citizen concerns about traffic congestion and parking in the already dense corridor along Santa Monica Boule-

vard. (Sound familiar, Palisadians?)

Our monthly lunch club decided that we'd better make a trip there before the construction crews dismantled our booth.

The *Times*' story categorized Barney's as a "famous greasy spoon," but we remained undaunted by that label as we pursued our mission of unearthing our city's restaurant history like the true dining anthropologists we have become.

And indeed, there is history aplenty at Barney's since its opening in 1927, which was built along the newly constructed Route 66. Many Hollywood stars have paid a visit to the old roadhouse in intervening years. Marlon Brando, Rita Hayworth, and Jack Nicholson were among those who called this unique watering hole their hangout.

Rock stars Janis Joplin and Jim Morrison were known to enjoy some late-night revelry there. In fact, after Joplin's untimely death in 1970, a longtime customer was quoted as saying "it was really Barney's coffee that killed her."

I had remembered how noisy Barney's can be during its busy dinners, and in my younger years, I would likely have described the place as a fun and rowdy meeting spot. But these days, I find that its raucous atmosphere



Barney's Beanery in West Hollywood may soon be gone.

Photo: Barry Stein

sometimes offers all the charm and ambiance of Terminal Six at LAX. However, we found the lunch crowd considerably less rowdy and actually sedate by its nighttime standards.

Since the extensive menu there rivals the page count of *War and Peace*, in order to better understand all of our lunch options, we intelligently employed the techniques learned from the speed-reading course we had taken at night school. I also stayed up late the night before studying the online menu. (We take our job seriously.)

Among the one thousand menu items offered, I had read that actress Marilyn Monroe had been fond of Barney's famous "Classic Chili" back in the day, so Norma Jean's favorite was a good enough endorsement for me. Our pal Arnie, who was formerly known as "the burger king," has recently broken away from his old ordering patterns and decided on the chicken tostada.

Barry chose the "Italian Chopped Wrap" and Josh ordered the New England clam chowder. It took all four of us to open the wrapper of Josh's oyster crackers and after an extended wrestling match with the stubborn package we needed a long nap.

Our gracious server Whitney was a good sport and tolerated our silliness. The attractive Arkansas native posed for pictures with us at the pool table while the gentleman at

an adjacent booth awaited his photo-op with her. We decided that she knew the routine at Barney's well and had dealt with much more challenging groups than our own.

We topped off our lunch with a slice of the house favorite "Warm Apple Pie" with melted cheddar and ice cream—accompanied by four straws.

Before our sated group waddled out to the parking lot, we toured the various nooks and crannies of the old roadhouse for the last time and studied the collection of eccentric memorabilia mounted on the walls and ceiling that celebrates memorable West Hollywood history.

There is little doubt that many longtime Barney's customers will be sharing the sentiments of Joni's poignant song lyrics in coming months:

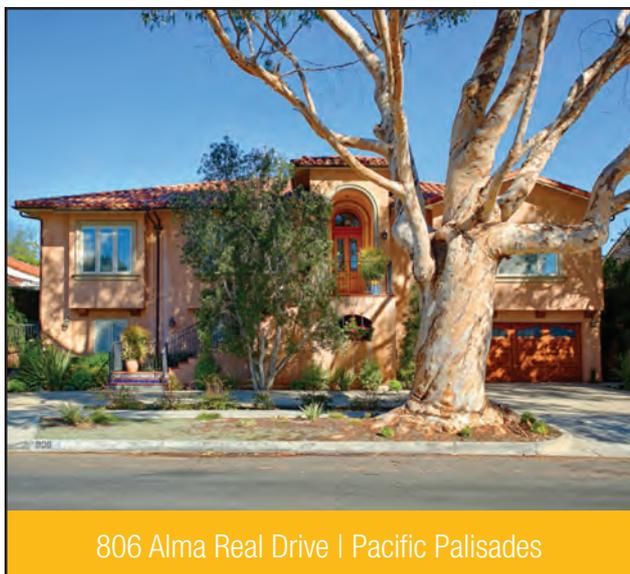
"Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
'til its gone
They've paved Paradise and put up a parking lot."

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



Members of the lunch club (left to right), Bob Vickrey, Barry Stein, Josh Greenfeld and Arnie Wishnick, pose with their waitress, Whitney.

Photo: Barry Stein



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Rodman Crafts String Instruments

By JESSIE LEVINE
Special to the Palisades News

The art of violin-making has its centuries-long history rooted firmly in Cremona, Italy; the small Italian city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the Holy Grail of building string instruments, including violins, violas, cellos and mandolins. But for one American violin-maker who trained and lived in Cremona for 14 years, Pacific Palisades also holds a very special significance to her musical career.

Rebecca Rodman, acclaimed violinist, violist, builder of instruments and founder of the Fondazione Maestro, began her prolific musical career at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1967, where she earned a degree in music, specifically violin performance.

After graduating, Rebecca began teaching violin. She moved to Pacific Palisades in 1974 and quickly became concertmaster for the Palisades Symphony, while also playing in the Santa Barbara Symphony, Pasadena Symphony and Hollywood Bowl Symphony.

By 1999, the talented musician and teacher found that what she truly wanted to do was to build the instruments she so loved to play. While Pacific Palisades had proved to be a nurturing community in which to live, flourish, and play music for Rebecca, the obvious location for her new undertaking was Cremona, Italy.

“Cremona is known for craftsmen who make violins, violas, cellos, string instruments, and bows, mandolin, everything. I knew quite a bit about the making of an instrument from having taken my instruments to violin shops where I was located, and seeing their workshops, and I just thought it was such a cool thing to be doing,” Rebecca explains. This Italian city, so rich with the history of the famed violin-making family dynasties of Amati, Stradivari and Guarneri, had drawn Rebecca to it, like many other aspiring violin-makers across centuries.

In Cremona, Rebecca found a willing teacher; an Australian woman named Lyn

Hungerford who had more than 20 years of experience in violin-building and a desire to pass her trade onto a worthy apprentice.

Rebecca embarked upon her training crash course with her new teacher, as the two set out to build a viola that Rebecca had commissioned. From here, the art of building instruments wormed its way into Rebecca’s heart, and plans changed rapidly, as she “was only planning to stay two to three years, and ended up staying 14. It was a fantastic medieval city, a city of music.”

After three years of working with Lyn, Rebecca was not yet finished with her work in Cremona. It was in this time that she founded what some would consider to be her magnum opus: the Fondazione Maestro. The foundation initially allowed Rebecca to extend her stay in musical Cremona, as it was of great interest to the mayor of the city and its community at the time. Today, the foundation is still very much pulsating with Rebecca’s “passion of supporting emerging artists and youth, and using this idea that if I could make really good sounding instruments that young people could use in competitions, that this would be a really worthwhile thing for me to do in my life. And that is still my goal. That’s what the foundation does: I lend these instruments free of charge—there are about 23 of them out in the world right now, mostly in the States, and they’re remarkable sounding instruments, particularly my last viola. So I’m really encouraged to keep going and see where it takes me.”

Currently Rebecca Rodman lives and works in the Puget Sound area but is planning to move back to Pacific Palisades, her “North Star,” to be closer to her family, continue building and playing instruments as well as working on the Fondazione Maestro, and perhaps seek an apprentice of her own to join her on the workbench. Her son, daughter-in-law and granddaughter live in the Palisades.

Accident Claims Life

On December 6, a Mercedes Benz was traveling east on Sunset and was in the process of turning left onto El Medio when it was struck by a motorcycle traveling west. Upon impact the rider flew westbound 50 to 100 feet. According to West Traffic detectives, the case was still under investigation a week later.

According to the L.A. County Coroner’s office, the motorcyclist was David Crist, 32, who died at the hospital of injuries related to the crash.

Crist, born January 10, 1984, was a graduate of Crossroads High School and Brown University. He was also an Eagle Scout and served as a senior patrol leader with Troop 223 in the Palisades. He was the son of Palisadians Lowell and Jane Crist.



Rebecca Rodman has mastered the art of violin making.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

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THANK YOU!

Scott Wagenseller, Owner and Publisher

Rain Report

A fast-moving storm dropped 1.67 inches of rain on Pacific Palisades December 15-16, according to the official county rain gauge, located at Carol Leacock’s home on Bienvenida. Deputy Rainmeister Ted Mackie said this brings the year’s total (since July 1) to 3.01 inches. Normal this time of year is 3.18 inches.

The most rain recorded in the Palisades since 1942 was 42.60 inches in 1997-98. The driest year was 4.11 inches in 2006-07.

Washington's Christmas River Crossing

By JEFF LANTOS
Special to the Palisades News

This year will mark the 240th anniversary of the most famous river crossing in American history. At sunset, on a snowy Christmas night in 1776, George Washington assembled his cold, hungry, dwindling and dispirited army on the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River about nine miles above Trenton, New Jersey.

For the next ten hours, watercraft ferried across that fast-flowing, ice-choked river 2,400 men, 90 horses and 18 pieces of artillery. By 4 a.m., Washington was leading them through a blizzard toward Trenton, and by noon this ragtag fighting force had won its first victory and had changed the course of the war.

"Seldom has so much been done with such slender means," wrote historian John Fiske.

Seventy-five years later, in 1851, a German painter named Emanuel Leutze gave us his colossal 12-by-20-foot version of Washington's trip across the river, and it's probably safe to say that this dramatic masterpiece has defined the event for most Americans.

Never mind that nearly everything in the Leutze painting is wrong: the boats, the flag, the uniforms, the light, the ice; even the river is more Rhine than Delaware. Additionally, Washington and the flag-bearing James Monroe are too old. But hey, a painter (in Dusseldorf, no less) is entitled to take artistic license.

More problematic is the historians who've also gotten the story wrong. John Marshall got it wrong in 1805; so did Washington Irving in 1860, Douglas Southall Freeman in 1951 and David McCullough in 2005. In fact, the crossing, says Princeton Professor Kemble Widmer, is "the least understood and most erroneously reported event of the entire eight years of the American Revolution."

Why? Because there's so little evidence detailing exactly how Washington moved his fighting force, the horses and 400 tons of heavy equipment from one side of the river to the other.

For the longest time, the only documents historians could get their hands on were a few letters from Washington in which he discussed the need to round up a fleet of Durham boats, which were essentially really long and really wide canoes. Each Durham could carry 30 to 35 men. But they could carry neither a cannon nor a horse. The cannons were too wide, and a horse can't jump into a boat without breaking a leg. Had there been time enough to somehow harness, raise, swing and lower a horse into a Durham, there was not enough smooth space to stand. Professor Widmer quotes one expert saying that horses so confined would either "jump overboard or kick the boat apart."

That meant Washington had to have included in his battle plan another means of transport. And somewhere there had to be a letter spelling out the specifics.



The well-known painting Washington Crossing the Delaware (1851) by Emanuel Leutze, contains several inaccuracies.

For more than 100 years scholars burrowed into the archives but came up empty. Then, on January 12, 1880, a Bucks County, Pennsylvania, historian named William W. H. Davis revealed to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania that while sifting through a local private collection he had found the tell-tale letter. Though Davis had misread the date on the letter (it was December 19, not December 10), he told his audience that it was now certain that prior to the crossing Washington had ordered General Nathanael Greene to have at the ready sixteen Durhams and four flats—50-foot-long rafts (or ferries) with low sides and hinged ramps fore and aft.

Onto these ferries horses could walk and cannon and ammunition wagons could be rolled. The ferries had the advantage of being tethered to a thick hemp rope that either ran above the river or was embedded in rock cribs below the surface of the water. Such tethering meant that however rough the current or however jarring the blocks of ice, the ferries would make a direct traverse from one landing to another.

The long-missing letter was quoted again in an 1892 book, but being in private hands, it remained unavailable to most researchers and was soon forgotten.

Lathrop Harper, a New York bookseller, subsequently bought the letter and labeled it "Washington's orders, issued through General Greene, for procuring boats and floats to ferry the American Army across the Delaware."

In 1916, Harper sold the letter to lawyer and book collector Alfred Chapin, who later donated it to Williams College, his alma mater. Though the archivists at Williams made no secret of having the letter, and though it's listed in their 1939 catalogue under the title "the order for the boats to cross the Delaware," most historians remained unaware of its existence.

Then, in July 1984, *Connoisseur* magazine did a piece on Williams College, and published a picture of the letter. But few scholars read *Connoisseur*, and the article

created nary a ripple in academic circles.

Six years later, says Professor Widmer, a history buff spotted that July issue in a recycling pile and rifled through it. Intrigued by the contents of the Greene letter, he took

the article to Harry Kels Swan, an historian at the Washington Crossing State Park in New Jersey. Swan was also intrigued, and he took the magazine to the editors of the Nathanael Greene papers, who after seeing the document, pronounced it "an unknown letter." They tracked down the original at Williams College and confirmed its authenticity.

Since then historians have finally caught up with this 240-year-old story. Both David Hackett-Fischer (2005) and Ron Chernow (2010) include the ferries in their chapters on the crossing. In 2013, William Welsh wrote that Washington may have utilized five ferries: the four that he ordered and the one already parked outside McConkey's Tavern where the troops crossed. Presumably we'll read no more accounts of men lugging cannon and urging horses into Durham boats.

The surfacing of the elusive Greene letter has given us a more accurate version of the crossing and a better understanding of how a crafty and courageous commander pulled off a feat few thought possible.

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