

PALISADES NEWS

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Uniting the Community with News, Features and Commentary

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

SPRING
HOMES &
GARDENS



St. Matthew's Town Fair

St. Matthew's 66th Town Fair was celebrated on May 19. Charles Wyruch and Rocco October Weinberg joined Pacific Palisades residents in enjoying rides such as the Roc-O-Plane and Paratrooper, and enjoying strawberry shortcake and the cakewalk. Proceeds raised from the fair benefit St. Paul's, a sister school in Haiti.

Photo: Lesly Hall Photography

Tenants Hold Rent Protest

On Sunday, about 50 tenants who live in a downtown apartment building owned by Pacific Palisades landlord Lisa Ehrlich, staged a protest at the Palisades Farmer's Market.

Organized and assisted by the VyBe chapter of the Los Angeles Tenants Union, the tenants opposed a rent increase for a one-bedroom apartment from \$1,050 to \$1,300. Ehrlich had not raised rents since 2008. Comparable neighborhood one-bedroom apartments rent for \$1,500.

In an earlier story, Ehrlich said one reason for higher rents was because DWP had increased rates for garbage collection (RecycLA). "Fees have tripled," Ehrlich said.

Tenants accused Ehrlich of substandard housing conditions. But Ehrlich said that tenants were being coached to create awareness of the state repeal of the Costa Hawkins legislation. Costa Hawkins, which went into effect in 1995, prohibits cities from capping rent increases for properties built after February of that year. The apartments, built in 1989-90, are not under rent control.

Palisades Chamber Halts Trash Clean-Up

By SUE PASCOE and BILL BRUNS

Important as it is, trash collection and sidewalk cleanup in the Pacific Palisades business district is not a sexy topic to write about, but the subject raised concerns at the latest Palisades Business Improvement District (BID) board meeting on May 2.

"The Chamber of Commerce is out of the trash business," said BID executive director Laurie Sale, "and it's now our job."

Back in 2002, when the business district along Sunset, Monument, Swarthmore, La Cruz, Antioch and Via de la Paz was plagued with overflowing trash bins, unwashed sidewalks and debris-filled gutters, jewelry store owner Saad Mazboudi decided to take action.

As president of the Chamber, Mazboudi joined with Arnie Wishnick, the organization's executive director and a member of

Palisades PRIDE, to bring about a fundraising campaign that would pay Chrysalis to collect the trash and clean sidewalk areas.

Every year through 2017, the Chamber solicited donations through a community-wide mailer and managed to raise about \$30,000 a year (helped by the annual \$7,500 contribution from realtor Michael Edlen) to fund one or two workers for two days a week.

When the Palisades BID came into existence two years ago, every business in the town's main business district (from Carey Street to Via de la Paz) began paying a yearly assessed fee. Some of these funds were earmarked to help expand the services provided by Chrysalis, while other funds went to sidewalk power washing twice a year and tree trimming.

BID was able to hire two additional Chrysalis workers, so that the total amount of

cleaning in the Palisades business district now amounts to three people three times a week.

This spring, the Chamber board voted to transfer its Chrysalis money (nearly \$30,000) to the BID. The Chrysalis contract includes the cost of labor, liability and workers comp, vehicle and gas expense, uniforms, supplies and trash liners.

At the May 2 meeting, BID member and Chamber board member Rick Lemmo (who represents Caruso's Palisades Village project) reiterated that the Chamber would no longer serve as the fundraiser and financial conduit for Chrysalis services.

"Why won't the Chamber keep doing it?" asked David Peterson, who represents PRIDE on the BID board.

"Everything we do has to benefit the Chamber," Lemmo said.

"Doesn't picking up trash benefit the businesses?" Peterson asked.

"If you go to other [community] neighborhoods, the Chamber is not responsible for this," said Chamber representative Nicole Howard.

"The Chamber is not a trash organization," Lemmo said.

"It should be the Chamber's responsibility," Peterson said, but Howard noted that in a block of five businesses, only two might be actual Chamber members (who pay a yearly fee to belong).

BID President Elliot Zorensky said that

without the Chamber's money, the BID will not have enough money late this year to continue the coverage that is currently provided by Chrysalis.

The total BID budget for the coming fiscal year is \$180,000, which includes \$108,000 for cleaning, maintenance and beautification efforts; \$16,158 for communication/marketing; and \$54,100 for management/city fees.

"We don't have \$80,000 in our budget [to pay for Chrysalis a full year]," said Zorensky.

Lemmo reassured BID members that all trash collection and sidewalk cleaning in and around the Caruso complex will be paid for by Caruso.

Luncheon for Town's 90-Year-Olds Will Be Held June 2

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club will host its annual luncheon honoring Palisadians 90 years and older on Saturday, June 2, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the clubhouse, 901 Haverford.

This free celebration will include lunch and entertainment. Bill Bruns, an adviser with the *Palisades News* and former longtime editor of the *Palisadian-Post*, will be guest speaker.

To RSVP and receive an invitation (spouses, family members and caregivers are invited), please call Fay Vahdani at (310) 699-5885.

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Jackson and Austin Geiger (right)

Revere Film Festival Adds Horror Genre

By LAURA ABRUSCATO

Staff Writer

Photos by Lesly Hall Photography

S cary music, mysterious masks, giant toy spiders, random noises and even bewitched typewriters made an appearance in several student movies, prompting the addition of the horror genre at the fourth annual Paul Revere Middle School Film Festival on April 25.

“When we launched our 2018 film festival season we still only included the same original six categories (Animation, Commercial, Documentary, Live Action, Music Video, and PSA),” said Revere parent Susan Fitzer, who organized the festival along with parents Sage Grandy and Debbie Sachs, history teacher Jon Hyman and Assistant Principal Justin Koretz.

“However, when we received all of the live-action submissions we noticed that a large percentage were from the horror

genre,” Fitzer said. “That’s when we decided that it would be fun to add a special horror category this year. And the horror films seemed to be huge audience-pleasers.”

Thirty-three films were screened, each of them one to six minutes in length, and awards were given out to first, second and third-place winners in each category.

Gabriel Groenwold took first in the horror category with *Did You Hear That?* As one judge said, “The filmmakers assigned themselves to make an intense and horrifying thriller, and they have delivered. The entire cast comes through with strong, sympathetic performances. The supporting players are sharply drawn and the special effects are professional.”

Harrison Denman won the animation category for *Charlie’s Story*, where the computer-animated Charlie cleverly steps out of his own world and interacts with other types of animation as he travels through different worlds trying to save his friends

from a computer virus.

In live-action, Morgan Hillenbrand took first for *TEXTCHAINED*. One judge commented, “*TEXTCHAINED* is a well-crafted and evocative drama that takes place between two families, seemingly unaware of the other. Morgan Hillenbrand uses a complex and disarming narrative strategy. Despite the tragic storyline the audience will feel enormous sympathy for the lead character. *TEXTCHAINED* is notable for its clever use of lenses, angles, depth of field, and time-lapse photography.”

First place in the Public Service Announcement category went to Eva Milan Engel for *Stop the Insanity*, her anti-gun violence video inspired by the high school shooting in Parkland, Florida. The movie starts with a quotation from Albert Einstein: “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.” Using video and audio from the shooting that she found on YouTube, Engel edited

together the postings of thoughts and prayers, and then stated that the last step is that nothing changes. “We need common-sense gun laws in America,” Engel said. “I think we need change.”

The music video “Finesse” by Brooklyn Taylor and Jonah Bahari tied for first place with “Runaway Baby” by Emmett Whitaker.

Bahari described making their music video as fun. Sixth-grader Whitaker’s video showed a 4-year-old being chased by her mother in order to have a pull-up put on. He said of the actress, his 4½-year-old neighbor Emily Cudzil, “She’s very cooperative and she’s a great actor.”

Jackson Geiger also worked with a young actor in his winning commercial *HedBanz*. The commercial showed Geiger’s difficulty in trying to play the “What Am I?” guessing game with his 5-year-old brother Austin and ended with the line, “HedBanz is not suitable for children under 7.”

Julia Musumeci explored Ecuador for her winning documentary, *From 0 to 19,437 Feet*. Musumeci, who has family there, showed the diversity of the landscape from the beach to the Amazon rainforest, and interviewed an 11-year-old Quito girl about her life.

A panel of film-industry professionals did the judging and the student filmmakers were able to have their picture taken while they walked the red carpet before the screenings.

“I know the hard work it takes to make a product they’re proud of,” teacher Hyman said of the student filmmakers. “Maybe they’ll catch the filmmaking bug and we’ll be paying to see their movies next time.”

Three veteran filmmakers also came to speak to the Revere students during lunchtime throughout the year: writers Alex Gregory and Sascha Penn and director Jon Turteltaub (*National Treasure*, *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice*).

Principal Tom Iannucci, who made a special appearance in one of the films, said “I am always amazed at the talent of our students. I really have to thank [the organizers] for championing this yearly event. Their dedication and hard work is what makes this such a special place to work and learn.”

Kilbride Named Honorary Fire Chief

Sharon Kilbride, who has been instrumental on the enforcement committee of the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH), was named Honorary Fire Chief at a ceremony during an open house at Fire Station 69 on May 12.

Kilbride personally visits illegal campsites that have been set up in areas designated as “Fire Very High Fire Severity Zone,” and with the help of the PPTFH and LAPD helps transients find help and housing.

Armando Hogan, Deputy Chief and Commander of the West Bureau, in presenting the plaque, recognized Kilbride for her efforts in preventing brush fires.

During the event, the station was open to the public and there were cookies donated by Viktor Benes Bakery, doughnuts from Krispy Kreme, chips and water donated by Ralphs and Vons, and hot dogs and buns thanks to Gelson’s.

Kids had a chance to “drive” the fire truck and have their faces painted. There was also a Jaws of Life demonstration.



West Bureau LAFD Commander Armando Hogan presented a plaque to Sharon Kilbride, who is surrounded by her nieces Ashley, 5, Audrey, 3, and nephew Andrew Kilbride, 7.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Hearing for 549 Muskingum House

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A Los Angeles City Planning Department hearing was held for a proposed second-story addition at 549 Muskingum Ave. (below Sunset) on May 7.

Owner Jill Strauss and builder/developer Gregg Adams were represented by architect Richard Gemingniani.

The applicant requested a Coastal Development Permit to allow a new 1,810-sq.-ft. second-story addition, a new 407-sq.-ft. car garage and a new 526-sq.-ft. first-floor addition to an existing two-story 2,654-sq.-ft. dwelling for a total of 4,997 sq. ft.

Pacific Palisades Community Council Area 4 Representative Rick Mills asked hearing officer Alex Truong: 1.) to consider that most of the home has already been demolished; 2.) to verify that the contractors were licensed and insured; 3.) to ensure that the plans had gone before the Pacific Palisades Civic League; 4.) to listen to neighbors' complaints that the property had been an eyesore with considerable debris; and 5.) to be aware that the property was on the edge of a canyon (Las Pulgas) that has had geological problems and landslides.

Neighbor Shirley Burke said, "My concern is that this house is not a remodel, it's a new building. I would like to make sure the standards for a new home are upheld." She also expressed concern about the geological problems, stating "I want to make sure that this is done correctly."

Another neighbor, Beverly Maguire, said that the home was demolished in 2017. "This is a brand-new home on the rim of Las Pulgas Canyon, which is unstable," she said. "Has a report been submitted about the geology?"

When Truong questioned the applicant, Gemingniani said that an application showing the plans had been submitted to the Civic League and that a full soils reports had been submitted to the City.

The requested action by the applicant was for the director of the Planning Department to consider an exemption from CEQA and to obtain a Coastal Development Permit to allow the remodel of an existing single-family dwelling and the addition of an attached garage and swimming pool located in a single-permit jurisdiction area of the California Coastal Zone.

After the hearing, the *News* contacted Building and Safety Public Information Officer Jeff Napier on May 7 and asked if the



This house on Muskingum is considered a remodel by the City because original framed walls and the foundation are still in place.

applicant had applied for a demolition permit. (Residents can check on permits for any property by going to ladbs.org/services and at the bottom of the page, click on "Check Permit Status.")

Napier replied the next day, "It appears that a permit was issued for replacing termite damage on the first floor. I will have to verify with field staff if any of the existing foundation remains. I will get back to you with our findings."

On May 9, Napier reported, "Inspection staff is reporting that there are existing framed walls still in place and the foundation remains in place as well. A demolition permit is issued when the entire structure

is removed including the foundations.

"If any portion of the building remains, and is used in the construction, then it does not qualify as a new building," Napier continued. "A demolition permit is issued when the entire structure is removed, including the foundations, the sewer is disconnected and the lot is cleared.

"As of yesterday, there are existing walls in place and the foundations that support them, therefore an "add/alter/repair" permit can be utilized," he said.

Neighbors will await whether City Planning allows a Coastal Development Permit—a decision that can always be appealed to the Coastal Commission.

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Photo: Justin Ayers

Photo Students Honored

Palisades High School photography students are being honored by L.A. Public Library staff from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 25 in the Palisades Branch Library. The PaliHi Jazz band will be performing and there will be refreshments. The event is free, and the public is invited.

Annually, photographs taken by students in Rick Steil's class are put on exhibit in the Palisades Library. This year staff from the main library saw the images, contacted Steil and asked if they could document the show for the library's website.

'Fake News' Explored by Panel

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

How to cope with the spread of 'fake news' was the key focal point at a forum hosted by the Palisades Democratic Club on May 8 in the Pacific Palisades Library community room.

More than 80 people squeezed into the room to listen to a panel discussion moderated by Community Council President Maryam Zar. The panelists included Terry McCarthy, a former foreign correspondent and now CEO of the Los Angeles World Affairs Council; Bill Bruns, former editor of the *Palisadian-Post* and now the editorial adviser of the *Palisades News*; and John Harlow, editor-in-chief of the *Post* and former *London Sunday Times* correspondent in Los Angeles.

The three men agreed that "fake news" existed, and then addressed the question why, when and how you spot it. They also clarified that over the past several years, "fake news" has become a popular term used by certain politicians to describe and dismiss news articles and television reports that they simply don't like.

Bruns explained one of the underlying problems is the lack of fact-checkers on the Internet, where so many people now turn for news. "I think people trusted what we published in the *Post* [1993-2013]," he said. "We were rigorous in our reporting and we had a good copy-editing system that caught



(Left to right) Terry McCarthy, John Harlow, Bill Bruns and Maryam Zar.

errors. Same as at the *News*."

He recommended that citizens young and old should read at least one newspaper (print or digital), whether it's the *L.A. Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *N.Y. Times* or the *Washington Post*, because they have first-class reporters who are dedicated to pursuing the facts in a story. "I don't trust stuff that comes over the Internet," he said.

Zar said it seems as though too many newspapers and magazines no longer have as many copy editors and fact checkers. "We're not sure what we're reading is accurate."

Harlow said he felt that news reporting started changing 10-15 years ago, with the growth of the Internet and when in 2005, Steve Colbert coined the word "truthiness," to define those who appeal to raw feelings at the expense of facts.

Colbert said, "Everybody on both sides is acting on the things that move them emotionally the most."

Harlow said, "Fake news is a sustained political narrative."

McCarthy added, "Sustained fake news comes from Russia," created by people who "sit in troll factories in Moscow or Saint Petersburg and jam people's inboxes here in the U.S."

He also recalled how he had become appreciative of the fact-checkers at major publications. When he reported a story for *Time* magazine about killings that happened in Indonesia, he wrote they happened in the summer. The fact-checker contacted him and noted that because half of the island was north of the equator and half

(Continued on Page 8)



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Heard About Town

Missing Sam's Restaurant

I'm wondering if you have any information about the now-closed Sam's by the Beach in Santa Monica Canyon. It was our favorite restaurant. We miss it!

(Editor's note: The restaurant was also one of our reviewer Grace Hiney's favorites. She called the owner to get an update, but he's out of the country.)

Eisenstock's Hang Time

Our Pacific Palisades resident Alan Eisenstock, who wrote *Hang Time*, Elgin Baylor's autobiography, didn't hit the *New York Times* regular non-fiction list in its first week on the market, but did debut at No. 9 on the Sports & Fitness book list.

Chamber 'Pot Shop'?

I saw one of those stickers from the Chamber of Commerce that says to "Shop Local." A kid walking by saw it and asked where the pot shop was—apparently the palm tree on the sticker looks like a marijuana plant to some.

Kudos for Journey On

I just heard Cherise Charleswell speak about Journey On at the Optimist Club breakfast, and I'm embarrassed to say I didn't think that sexual trafficking was a problem in Los Angeles. She explained how trafficking has replaced drugs and guns as the new illegal activity for gangs.

(Editor's note: A Journey On speaker also spoke to the Rotary Club and the News reported on trafficking and the talk. You can read the article: palisadesnews.com/index.php/2018/05/01/journey-out-addresses-palisades-rotary-club-about-how-it-helps-trafficked-women/)

Haphazard Road Work

On Palisades Drive, even though the road was completely resurfaced (up to Calvary), the work was sub-standard. There was little effort to provide an even surface, which means the road is already suffering before the lanes are even painted. We fought for years to get the street repaired, and now this is the result. City workers: Do it right the first time; don't waste taxpayer dollars with shoddy work.

Caruso Flies Over Project

I live on Monument, across from Caruso's Palisades Village development, and on Wednesday I was talking with Michael Gazzano, the project supervisor. While we were talking, a helicopter flew overhead, and he said "Wave! That's Rick returning from Santa Barbara. He always has his pilot fly over the project on Wednesday evenings."

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Garden Volunteers Needed

By BARBARA MARINACCI
Special to the Palisades News

The Temescal Native Garden, located along Temescal Canyon Road just below Bowdoin, was included on the Palisades Garden Club's annual Spring Garden Tour. Although I'm still credited as the community organizer for the Temescal garden, about six months ago I ended my commitment.

Rarely in the past several years did even a single volunteer appear on the designated Saturday, despite various outreach efforts. Palisades High School students can now earn community-service credits in easier ways, and Santa Monica College's Sustainable Works students, who once were excellent workers, no longer are allowed to work outside Santa Monica.

Often when I used to work at the native garden, people would come by and compliment the garden's appearance and thank me. I'd urge them to come to a workday, but none would ever appear. It seems most adults prefer working in their own gardens if they have them, or just not at all—employing others to do the "dirty" work.

Because the Garden Club again wanted to have the Temescal Native Garden on this year's tour, I decided to attempt to remove as many of the worst weeds as possible.

The six months of lack of attention, from my perspective, left a disastrous situation. The overall death rate of the hundreds of native plants we planted there was dismaying. In many areas where we put plants there are just a few stragglers and weeds, or no plants at all. I had initially watered all these plants individually (a gallon each) by hand—daily and then every other day to establish them.

The L.A. Recreation and Park's ever-challenged local maintenance staff can't give ANY attention to the garden except for unloading the two trash cans. (That was the basic understanding when Palisades Beautiful started the garden in 1988. Then RAP's \$65,000 investment in 2013 to remove the lawn and greatly expand the garden area added to our maintenance tasks.)

So, for the time being, I have resumed my solitary commitment to trying to make that 3/4-acre garden area more presentable. I welcome co-volunteers!

The *Palisades News*, which reaches every household in town, could help the cause by periodically encouraging volunteerism in tending various "natural" or plant-featuring environment landscapes in this community. Certainly, all Temescal Canyon Park areas—not just the native garden—need fix-up attentions that RAP can't do. Then there are the park areas around the Palisades and Rustic Canyon Recreation Centers, and the extensive lower Los Leones Canyon parkland (off Sunset) that Randy Young and friends have valiantly attempted to maintain for many years. The famous four Glamazons, who labored there every Thursday morning, are now elderly and mostly disabled.

I've been told by old-timers that the spirit of public volunteerism was quite different two or three decades ago. Nowadays, residents seem to think that Rick Caruso is going to fix everything to make the Palisades Beautiful Again—or SHOULD.

I think it would be terrific if the L.A. Conservation Corps, which helped clean up various abandoned homeless encampments in the Palisades, could be hired to help fix up and maintain our much-used (and abused) parkland areas that are so much in need of attention.

Thought to Ponder

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

— Mahatma Gandhi

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VIEWPOINT

Community Council: Real Fun Entertainment

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A lot of people go to movies for their entertainment, others prefer opera, dance or theater. Me, I just go to the Pacific Palisades Community Council meetings. They're free, they take place twice a month (most months), and the commute to the Palisades Library is easy.

May 10 was a particularly fun meeting with lots of drama. Tempers flared about the nominations presented for the upcoming executive board election, including the positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

One might think the Palisades Council is a democratic institution. That would be vaguely right. Even though this esteemed body has the ear of our City Councilman and regularly sends recommendations "speaking for the community" to various city officials, the election process is so convoluted, it makes the electoral college seem simple.

You say you don't remember voting for the PPCC president last year? You did not, and you also did not vote for the other three positions.

The Community Council (which is not a city-certified Neighborhood Council) is not required to follow the Brown Act, so none of its behind-the-scenes actions are ever made public. And since we in the Palisades are all so busy with our lives, there's no reason we should have to be bothered with whatever this council discusses—even though the members speak for us.

How do you become president of the Community Council if residents can't vote for you?

I'd lie if I said, "It's simple," but stay with me, all good movies have subplots.

First, to be president you have to be a member of the PPCC, which is divided into eight areas. Each area has a representative elected by residents within his or her area. You can run for the Council only in the area in which you live. There's also an at-large representative voted upon by everyone in town (well, a few hundred residents who make the effort to vote).

The Council also consists of a representative from nine different organizations, representing the Chamber of Commerce, Civic Organizations, education, recreation, culture & aesthetics, the Historical Society, service clubs, environment and Residents Association.

So even though there are 23 people on this board, residents are allowed to vote on only two positions—for a candidate in their area and for an at-large candidate.

When it comes time to elect a president, the current president appoints a nominating committee. This committee then considers all the fine board members and decides which one should be president.

This year the committee nominated Lou Kamer, the current at-large representative, for president. They nominated Rick Mills, the Area 4 representative and a former Design Review Board president, for vice president. Chris Spitz, the current chair emeritus, got the nod for secretary, and Richard Cohen, who was PPCC president from 2008-10, for treasurer.

Earlier, Spitz had sent her specifications for the "slate" to the election committee, and it included George Wolfberg for president, Peter Culhane for vice president, herself for secretary and Cohen for treasurer.

When Spitz learned that the nominating committee had differed from her suggested slate, she announced at the May 10 meeting that her intention was to run as a team. "This is not little league," she said. "We only want the most experienced team at bat."

But fear not, someone jumped up and nominated Wolfberg, who is certainly experienced and even served as PPCC chair (2002-04). Another person nominated Culhane, the current Area 2 representative.

But, oh my, what to do, what to do, if the Spitz "slate" is not elected by the Council when it votes on June 14?

Sarah Conner, who represents the Pacific Palisades Residents Association and is a member of the nominating committee, said, "The Community Council has been run by the same team for many years. We added some new people with a different perspective."

She also pointed out the committee nominated

individuals, not a slate.

Area 3 representative Danielle Samulon, who also served on the nominating committee, said: "Lou and Rick have not been on the Council as long as George, but it was a thoughtful process. We selected what we thought was best for the PPCC."

Spitz responded, "I can't tell you I will serve going forward. I am not prepared to undertake this with an inexperienced team."

At this point in the "movie," even though I needed to use the restroom, I didn't want to leave for fear of missing more adults behaving badly. I mean, is this Council representing me, or are they in it for themselves?

Luckily, Barbara Kohn, a past Council president (2012-14) who served as chair emeritus under Spitz (president 2014-16), said: "George was a former chair, but Maryam [Zar, the current president] had never been a member of the PPCC before she became chair." She also mentioned something about nominated candidates trying to hold the Council hostage.

Someone behind me whispered, "Cat fight."

At this point I considered nominating myself, but alas, according to the bylaws, which were recently rewritten, any additional nominations could only be made by Council members. More nominations can be made at the May 24 meeting. Will they? Won't they? The anticipation is killing me.

I urge all residents to come out and see democracy in action—well sort of democracy, but possibly lots of action—when the 23 Council members vote for their next president and the other members of the executive board.

Already, Wolfberg and Culhane have suggested three possible moderators for the debates: Matt Rodman, Howard Robinson and Lindsay Conner.

Afterwards there will be vote counting by the moderator and one other non-voting board member. Wolfberg and Culhane suggest Richard Blumenberg, Susan Payne, Robin Meyers and Andrew Sacks for that role.

Isn't the chair, Zar, responsible for organizing this? Gasp! Ohh, people of the Palisades this is one "movie," I mean election, you don't want to miss.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Administrators Should Observe Teachers

It is not really difficult to solve the problem of teacher tenure (Viewpoint, "Tenure Protects Good Teachers—And Bad," May 2). In my experience as a teacher for more than thirty years, beginning at Paul Revere, then at Emerson when I returned from having my children, and then at University when the ninth grade was transferred to high school, the answer lies in the administrators doing their job of observing the teachers in the classroom.

I was a training teacher for four universities, a mentor teacher for twelve years and department chair, so I speak from experience. There should be a three-year probation period, but without many unannounced observations by competent administrators, probation periods are meaningless.

I mentored new teachers, but the rules established for mentoring precluded reporting to administrators. It was mostly a very rewarding experience, and my mentees were grateful for the help. The few times I was asked to

mentor permanent teachers were difficult. They were upset, sometimes insulted, and set in their ways.

By the time teachers become permanent, it is almost too late. But again it is the administrator's responsibility to address any problems. In my experience only a few were willing to do that.

Ilene Thaler

L.A. Conservation Corps

The article about the teens from the L.A. Conservation Corps and their work to help clear abandoned homeless encampments in Pacific Palisades was very good. It is heartening to see this problem being addressed in constructive ways.

I'd like to suggest that whenever the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) is mentioned, it is described as a local volunteer group. I only recently found that out and was happy to donate to it. I'm sure other Palisades News readers might also want to contribute.

Thank you, and congratulations to the Palisades News staff for their California newspaper awards. So well-deserved.

Gisela Moriarty

Changing Tenure in Public Schools

Thanks for your eloquent Viewpoint calling for a change in the public-school tenure system which protects lousy teachers, even "several math teachers at Palisades High School who have made students' lives hell." But until that utopian change happens, I have a suggestion which might get some tenured teachers fired or, at the very least, should light a fire under this issue.

Some years ago, our daughter Tracey, age 9, reported
(Continued on Page 8)

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.

'Fake News'

(Continued from Page 5)

south of the equator, this would make a difference in the season and she wanted to know the exact location.

McCarthy added an ominous tone when he said, "The Russians have long used propaganda—since the Cold War." He also reminded his audience, "Putin got rid of all opposition newspapers, and he runs all the television stations."

He lamented cable news, whether it be CNN, Fox or CNBC, because their evening shows have become so politically strident, people have begun to equate cynicism in all news. He said that in his quest to find facts,

"I'm watching less and less cable television." Bruns agreed. He said he watches the commentators on all three networks, but it's frustrating. "I wish the 'talking heads' on these shows would go out and do some reporting so we could watch fact-based discussions."

He added, "President Trump thrives in areas where there are no local newspapers, where people receive all of their news through Fox. That's a major challenge in our country."

McCarthy said the Russians started their Internet propaganda with the Crimea and Ukraine, because they wanted to undermine those countries. And now, "It is used as a systematic campaign against us. They have been clever in undermining our system with the Internet and they are doing it systematically."

Zar asked, "What is the best defense against fake news?"

Harlow replied, "It is not an easy answer because people believe what they want to believe." The man who fired into the restaurant involved with "Pizzagate" was queried and he said he felt there was enough truth and saw himself as a potential hero. (Pizzagate revolved around the false claim that certain emails contained coded messages referring to human trafficking and connecting several U.S. restaurants and high-ranking officials of the Democratic Party with an alleged child-sex ring.)

Harlow said that the 40 most popular Facebook stories during the 2016 election were the most unbelievable and people tended to "click" on those stories most frequently.

"We all want to be entertained," McCarthy said. "What is really insidious are the fake URLs." He said that if you go to NBC.com.co, it is a fake site, made to look like NBC.com, which is real.

The panel agreed that corporations such as Facebook and Google need to do more rigorous policing of their content. And people need to check the source of the information they are reading. For example, if you read a political endorsement attributed to the "Maine Examiner," be aware that this so-called newspaper doesn't exist.

Bruns pointed out that fewer correspondents are working for newspapers around the world and recommended websites such as humanrights.org and politifact.com to read international and political news.

Letters

(Continued from Page 7)

that one of her school teachers frequently unleashed insults, abuse and insane rants against individual students and the entire class. I found this hard to believe, but told Tracey, "If you're telling the truth, how'd you like to get this teacher fired?" Eyes gleaming, Tracey, who'd been raised to have a strong sense of justice and to take guff from nobody, eagerly replied, "Okay, Daddy. Let's do it."

I gave Tracey a small tape recorder and showed her how to use it. The following day, she hid it under her desk and flipped it on as soon as the teacher, a music teacher who should have been filling the classroom with melody and beauty, went on a shrill rampage. Tracey returned home and triumphantly presented me with the tape

recording of a toxic tantrum:

"How can you ask such stupid questions? How stupid can you be?" the educator shrilled, like the witch in a Disney movie. "I'm a songwriter. Oh, God. I can't waste my time on morons." And on and on.

A day later, I played the tape for the school's principal. His face mottled. By day's end, the witch was gone. Permanently. Granted, all this happened at the private Village School, not a public school with their shameful tenure system.

The legitimate purpose of tenure is to protect teachers against summary dismissal without just cause, not to protect the incompetent and the unhinged. If enough parents armed their kids with concealed tape recorders against academic monsters, we might see more firings, tenure or no tenure.

Al Ramrus

Distressed by Tenure and Dismissal

I was distressed to read the Viewpoint about tenure for teachers by Sue Pascoe in the *Palisades News* (May 2, page 7). Receiving tenure after only 16 months on the job does seem unrealistic.

Then I read the Letter to the Editor from Aldo Juliano, the PaliHi wrestling coach (on page 8). He stated that he had been coaching the team for seven years. Perhaps he was not a full-time teacher and not eligible for tenure?

When I read the original article about his dismissal, I did feel sympathetic with his situation and thought the coverage was favorable toward him.

In any case, it does not seem fair that someone in his position should be dismissed so easily, while those with tenure after a short time have permanent protection during their teaching career.

Mary Ann Shaw



PPDC JUNE 5, 2018 PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

U.S. Senate.....	NO CONSENSUS
U.S. Congress, 33rd District	TED LIEU*
Governor	GAVIN NEWSOM
Lt. Governor.....	ED HERNANDEZ
Secretary of State.....	ALEX PADILLA*
Attorney General.....	DAVE JONES
State Treasurer.....	FIONA MA
State Controller.....	BETTY YEE*
Insurance Commissioner	RICARDO LARA
Bd. of Equalization, District 3.....	CHERYL TURNER
Sup. of Public Instruction	TONY THURMOND
State Senate, 26th District.....	BEN ALLEN*
State Assembly, 50th District.....	RICHARD BLOOM*
L.A. County Assessor.....	JEFFREY PRANG*
L.A. County Supervisor	SHEILA KUEHL*
L.A. County Sheriff	NO ENDORSEMENT

*incumbent

Los Angeles County, Judge of Superior Court (L.A. County Dem Party recommendations)

Office No. 4	Veronica Saucedo
Office No. 16	Patricia (Patti) Hunter
Office No. 20	Wendy Segall
Office No. 60	Tony Cho
Office No. 63	no consensus
Office No. 67	Hon. Maria Lucy Armendariz
Office No. 71	no endorsement
Office No. 113	Javier Perez
Office No. 118	David D. Diamond
Office No. 126	Rene Caldwell Gilbertson
Office No. 146	Hon. Armando Duron

Statewide Ballot Measures

- YES on Proposition 68Bonds for Environment, Parks and Water
- YES on Proposition 69Transportation Funding
- NO on Proposition 70.....Cap-and-Trade Amendment
- YES on Proposition 71Ballot Measure Effective Date
- YES on Proposition 72Taxes for Rainwater Capture Systems

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Ethiq—Vote with Your Wallet

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Trying to figure out which corporations have donated to a specific political candidate involves digging through link after link on the Federal Election Commission's (FEC) site.

What if there were an app, much like a dating app, where instead of finding which man or woman would be compatible, you could learn which business best aligns with your political views?

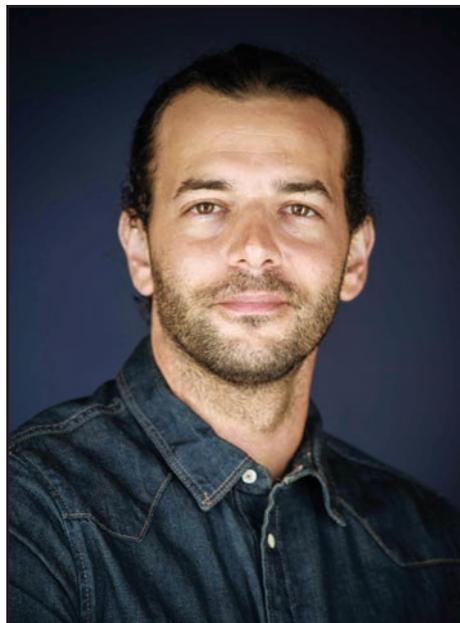
For example, if you are a Democrat and one of the places you do a lot of business contributes to Republican causes (or vice versa) would you continue to patronize them?

Ethiq, an app developed by former Paul Revere world history teacher Darren Bates, reveals which business is giving to which candidate and/or cause.

"This is the most difficult thing I've done," said Bates, who went before the FEC twice. Once was to secure permission to use the data and a second time was for Ethiq to be recognized as journalism-based app.

After you answer simple questions on the app, which is non-partisan and fact-based, it will steer you to the businesses that best align with your values.

Bates, who is also a photographer,



Darren Bates

stopped teaching in 2012. He worked on a Discovery Channel story on airplanes and then traveled around the world with a documentary crew that filmed the tagging of sharks in Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands.

But Sandy Hook in 2012, one of the deadliest mass shootings at any school in U.S. history—20 children and six teachers—was the impetus for steering Bates in

a different direction.

After the shooting, a CNN/ORC poll showed that by a 62-37 margin, people said they would support reinstating the ban on assault weapons. By the same margin, respondents would support a ban on high-capacity ammunition clips that hold more than 10 bullets, and by a 92-8 margin, people favored preventing certain people like felons and those "with mental health problems" from owning guns.

It seemed that the Manchin-Toomey Background Checks Proposal (Senate Bill 649), would be passed. The bill aimed "to protect Second Amendment rights, ensure that all individuals who should be prohibited from buying a firearm are listed in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System and provide a responsible and consistent background check process." It was rejected 54-46.

"How can a piece of legislation that has overwhelming support from the public be voted down?" Bates wondered, and deduced, "It's a rigged game. If we can't entrust our representatives to represent us, what power do we have for leverage?"

Consumer spending was his answer. Most companies donate to various politicians and political entities, so consumers can decide to spend with companies, based on beliefs.

"You follow the money trail," Bates said. "I believe it [political spending] is obfuscated by design.

"Consumers know their money has power, but people are busy. Few people have the time or resources to untangle it."

In 2015, Bates started working full-time on the app, which was unveiled in early May. "The app presents you with the information, and it empowers you to make a more informed purchase," he said.

Currently, he has four categories on the app: gas, grocery, department stores and

fast food. The next part of the app development will deal with airlines, hotels, car rentals and stocks/mutual funds.

Once the products are unveiled, political candidates will be next, so that one can see which politician most closely aligns with a person's particular views.

When you visit the Ethiq app, you have to express an opinion about health care, education or women's issues, for example. Then you will be asked a minimum of three questions (just like a dating app), in order to find a match with different businesses.

If you are at opposite ends of the political spectrum with another person, you will get different results. "I have no skin in the game," Bates said. "I don't recommend one company over another."

But what if someone wants to buy information from him or tries to trace it back to the app user?

"In order to have a clear conscience, the site has to live up to its namesake," said Bates, who with advisors, has taken steps to safeguard the user's privacy. He will not sell personal inventory.

"I've put up the best safeguards I can," Bates said. "This is located on a dedicated server located in the U.S.—it is not on a cloud server."

Bates, who attended Van Nuys High School before going to UC San Diego, said he initially went into teaching because he had some great middle and high school history teachers. He received his teaching degree at Cal State Northridge in 2003.

Civic engagement and transparency are important to him.

Bates went around with a camera crew after the 2014 election and asked people if they voted, and if they didn't, why.

"The number-one answer was, 'I don't know enough about the issues,'" Bates said, noting that Ethiq will automatically make it easier for voters to decide based on what is important to them.

"It's in a company's best interest to stay neutral," he said, "But if money is speech... Vote with your wallet!"

Visit: beta.ethiq.com



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Joani Klein Griggs, 59; Medical Director

Joani Klein Griggs, born August 18, 1958, fought the good fight against pancreatic cancer before losing her battle on May 16, surrounded by her family.

Born Joan Annette Klein, she was the youngest of four children of Pacific Palisades residents Barbara and Robert Klein. She spent her childhood years in the Palisades and attended Corpus Christi and Marymount High School. She attended the University of San Diego on a volleyball scholarship and

received a bachelor's degree in business.

After graduation, she worked various jobs in San Diego that included managing a Pottery Barn and running an oral surgeon's office. She eventually moved north to Santa Monica where Joani managed the Santa Monica Orthopedic Group for a number of years.

After marrying in 1990, she had her only child, Madison Taylor Griggs, in 1993. When Joani's parents retired to Turlock where two of her sisters lived, she decided to join them, so Madison could grow up with an extended family.

Once in Turlock, Joani took a job running an orthopedic office and eventually became the medical director of Specialty Clinics for Emanuel Hospital. She worked for Emanuel until taking a job with Dignity Health in Stockton in 2014.

Coming from an avid volleyball family, Joani loved playing in the City League for many years with family and friends. She was a daily walker and could be found most days before work walking with her little black and white Chihuahua, Cali, and a host of girlfriends.

Joani is preceded in death by her father Robert Klein. She is survived by her daughter, Madison Dacasin (Gabriel) of Okinawa, Japan, her mother, Barbara Klein of Turlock, her oldest sister, Caryl Brewer (Dennis) of Turlock, her older brother Bob Klein



Joani Klein Griggs

(JoAnn) of Pacific Palisades, and her sister Diane Parker (Lee) of Turlock. She will also be missed by her eight nieces and nephews and her many great-nieces and nephews and her dearest friends.

Joani's ashes will be spread in Aptos, California, where the family will have a celebration of life in July. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Covenant Care Hospice, whose services were invaluable to Joani and her family during Joani's last weeks: 125 S. Broadway, Ste. 1A, Turlock, CA, 95380.

Civic League to Meet

The Pacific Palisades Civic League (PPCL), which reviews homes in tract 9300 will meet Tuesday, May 29. Held at 7:30 p.m. in Tauxe Hall at the Community United Methodist Church, 801 Via de la Paz, the public is invited.

The agenda has four homes to review under New Business: 550 Erskine, minor expansion to one-story residence; 549 Muskingum Ave., two-story addition and remodel of existing residence; 15419 Via de las Olas, auxiliary dwelling unit onto existing residence; and 764 Wildomar, new two-story residence.

Old business includes: 16133 Alcima, new two-story residence; and 901 Fiske, resubmittal from 2017, a new two-story residence, currently nearing completion.

Visit: ppcl9300.org

Pooch Contest: Dogs, Canines Photos Needed

Theatre Palisades is holding a contest to find the perfect pooch to be used on a poster for its upcoming musical *Bark!*, which will open August 31.

If you think your canine has the perfect look and would like it to be featured on a poster, please email a photo of your dog (no humans/no jokes about ugly kids looking like dogs/no passing a cat off as a dog) to palipostpooch2018@gmail.com or drop off a photo at the box office, which is open from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

Submissions are due by Friday, June 1, and must include your name, the dog's name, an address and an email. Please note: original photos cannot be returned.

Prizes will include a professional portrait of your dog (it must be available for a photo shoot in Pacific Palisades the week of June 4); a poster signed by the cast members and director; four complimentary tickets to the musical and a 2019 Theatre Palisades subscription.

Pam Sommer, publicist for Theatre Palisades, urges residents, "Enter the face of your best friend, now!"



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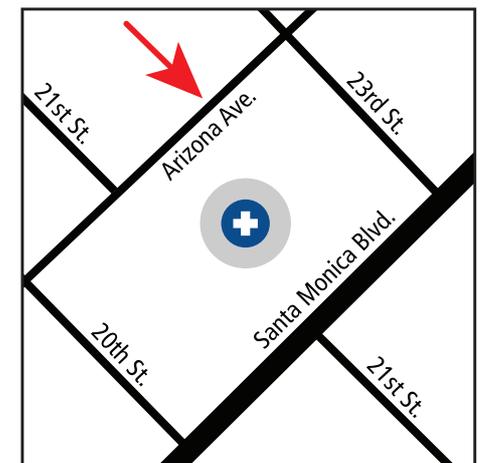
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Mother's Day Lives On: Visit Mi-Lina

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

So, mom did that mom thing on Mother's Day and said, "Isn't that nice. Thank you so much." But somehow you knew she wasn't that thrilled about the gift card (not personal), the lingerie (just what every woman wants, right?) or the strawberries/flower combination that the radio promised all women want.

Mi-Lina Jewelry (located at 970 Monument, next to Pinnocchio's) has a gift that every woman really wants.

Owner Lynn Acorda-Baldo showed off some of the exquisite high-end fashion jewelry to the *News* during a recent visit.

"I love jewelry," she said—and one could tell, the selection is quite lovely.

Although the store has been in the Palisades since 2016, the prior focus was on wholesale jewelry, which Acorda-Baldo ran with a partner. He traveled to different areas around the country selling, while she stayed at the store. "We were so busy with wholesale, we didn't concentrate on retail," she said.



Mi-Lina owner Lynn Acorda-Baldo can assist with finding the perfect piece of jewelry.

Then in July 2017, her partner wanted to get off the road and retire from the jewelry business. "He was tired of traveling, and it's

tough to travel with a million dollars of jewelry," said Acorda-Baldo, who noted that many who sell wholesale are victims of theft.

Acorda-Baldo seized the opportunity to open her own retail business and loves her new store.

Born in the Philippines, she graduated from Philippines Women's University in Manila in 1986 with a degree in business administration.

Her first job was in the movie industry with Columbia Pictures.

"That's how I came here [United States]," said Acorda-Baldo, who attended UCLA and earned a degree in accounting in 1994. She then found a job as controller at a high-end fashion jewelry store in Malibu, managing the office and overseeing the sales staff and the jewelry selection process.

"We had our jewelry made," she said. "We selected the diamonds and the designs, and they were then sent to a factory in Torrance to be finished."

That jewelry was then given to sales representatives to sell to other retailers.

"During the recession [2008-10], jewelry, especially high-end, was really, really affected," Acorda-Baldo said. "A lot of people

(Continued on Page 12)

Senior Homeowners and Financial Issues

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

In our efforts to help seniors remain in their current homes for as long as practical, there are often financial challenges that they or their families must resolve.

With many people living for far more years than they might have planned, financial situations become even more challenging. We recommend that families rely on the expertise of trained and qualified professionals for guidance.

This article's intent is to explore ways to prepare in an organized way for consulting with financial planning professionals. Though written from the perspective of the senior, in many cases it will be the family that benefits from some of the suggestions.

Perhaps the simplest approach to analyzing the financial picture is to break it into three parts: 1.) identify your assets, 2.) figure out your monthly income, and 3.) be sure to account for all monthly expenses.

Be sure you know which government assistance programs are available to apply for that are not already sources of support for you. Having the perspective that this three-part review provides will better equip you to then consult a financial or other expert in working out a plan for continued financial security.

Identification of Assets: Checking accounts, savings accounts, money-market

funds, certificates of deposits, bonds, stocks, partnership shares, IRAs, 401(k)s, pensions, items in safe deposit boxes, investment properties, your own home, vehicles, special collections and hidden valuables. Other assets may include money or other things of value that have been loaned out and not yet paid back or returned. It could be vitally important to identify any records of such financial activities and to take action where appropriate to collect.

Hidden valuables may be in those places you have put them for safe keeping. I have had clients bury cash in a can in the backyard, hidden coin collections in recesses behind cabinets, slipped bearer bonds behind picture frames, and secured valuable bottles of rare wine under the floor boards.

I know of many cases where cash was hidden in books which ended up in library resale boxes. People often hide valuables in back of drawers, in freezers, or pinned inside heavy coats.

Some of these assets could possibly provide for a much longer coverage of expenses later on. Since it is possible to not recall where those excellent hiding places are, it would be considerate and wise for family members to be aware of hidden valuables to assure that they will be found at the time the estate is settled.

Determination of Monthly Income: Current employment, pension, interest and dividends, annuities, rental property in-

come, social security, disability, unemployment, partnership distributions, payments on notes held and other business interests.

Monthly Expenses: Loan payments or rent, property taxes, home insurance, equity loans, utilities, home maintenance, homeowner association fees, food, water, auto payments and maintenance, gas, clothing and shoes, medical supplies and prescriptions, legal fees, monthly memberships, credit card payments, laundry and cleaners, auto insurance, pet food and care, insurance for valuables, life insurance, Medicare and Medicaid insurance, long-term insurance, subscriptions, books, entertainment, travel, barber and hair dressers, etc.

Carefully sorting out insurance issues can be important and it may be prudent to have help in doing so. Insurance matters can be complex and often people do not know all of the policies they have, which overlap or duplicate coverage, or which should have been cancelled or are no longer needed.

It can be extremely helpful to know if a policy covers hiring an aide, registered nurse, or other professional. We had a client who was going to sell their home because of looming costs due to costly full-time help for one of the senior family members. They were thrilled to discover that there was a fully-paid policy that included life care.

Some people prefer to feel self-sufficient and not use government support systems.

However, if they can be helped to see that they earned the right to such benefits through years of successful living in this country, they may see it is worth the time and effort to apply for assistance. Social Security, veterans' benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare and Medicaid are all potential added resources that will indirectly help seniors remain in place.

There is one additional idea that may have merit for some families' consideration. If elderly parents are not able to make ends meet or engage needed caregivers, their children may be in a position to provide sufficient funds to cover care and living expenses for as long as necessary. If the parents own their home and have other assets of value, the family members could work out a clear written agreement as to who will provide what funds that would be reimbursed from their parents' estate at the time the proceeds are distributed.

These are merely suggested actions to help you gain a fuller understanding of the current situation and perhaps give you a better perspective of alternatives. Hiring an expert in financial counseling is well worth reasonable costs to gain a better understanding of how to manage assets and resources more effectively. It can also save tens of thousands of dollars in your family's estate.

(Michael Edlen is a certified Seniors Real Estate Specialist. Call (310) 230-7373, or email Michael@MichaelEdlen.com)

Mi-Lina

(Continued from Page 11)

were laid off and people could not sell.”

The business she worked for underwent a restructuring and a new business was opened in Santa Monica in 2014. Two years later the business shifted to the Palisades.

Acorda-Baldo is now on her own. “I’m concentrating on retail,” she said, noting that her jewelry is totally different than what is currently offered in other Palisades stores.

“It is simple high-end jewelry, such as diamonds and white gold,” she said. The

lines are clean, and the jewelry, although expensive, can be worn day and night, because of its simplicity.

If a woman can only have one piece of expensive jewelry, what should it be?

“Earrings,” Acorda-Baldo said. “It’s closest to your face and it will be the first thing someone will notice when they look at you.”

If you have a more limited budget, Mi-Lina recommends buying a pendant first. “Some of my clients do that, then buy the matching earrings later.”

And the stone?

“Most woman always want to have diamonds first,” she said. “If you have a red dress,

you probably don’t want to wear emeralds.”

Mi-Lina has a large selection of diamonds, emeralds, rubies and sapphires, but also yellow diamonds. Acorda-Baldo showed the *News* a piece that had white and yellow diamonds set in white gold that was stunning.

“Yellow diamonds are generally more expensive than clear diamonds, but it does depend on the clarity,” said Mi-Lina, who admitted that she is still learning the Palisades market.

She showed an “X” ring, in which 55 baguette diamonds (slender, rectangle-shaped), measuring 3.78 carats, were surrounded by 83 round diamonds, measuring 2.83 carats—forming an X across the finger.

Acorda-Baldo and her husband, Achilles Baldo, live in the Mar Vista area. They have a cat . . . named Jade, of course.

Hot Prowl on Bestor

A little after 10 p.m. on May 17, residents living in the 14900 block of Bestor Street heard glass break in their home when a tool used by a burglar forced open a sliding door. The residents sounded the panic alarm for their security company, Palisades Patrol. The resident also called 911 and was put on hold.

Two officers from the security company arrived at the house within five minutes of the alarm, but the suspect was already gone.

LAPD arrived about 20 minutes later after receiving the 911 call of a hot prowler (an intruder tries to enter a dwelling when the homeowner is at home). Officers from the security company patrolled the area after speaking with their clients but were unable to locate the suspect.

St. Matthew’s Features ‘Opera Night’ on June 8

St. Matthew’s Music Guild will present “Opera Night” with soprano Lauren Eberwein at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 8, at St. Matthew’s Church, 1031 Bienvenida.

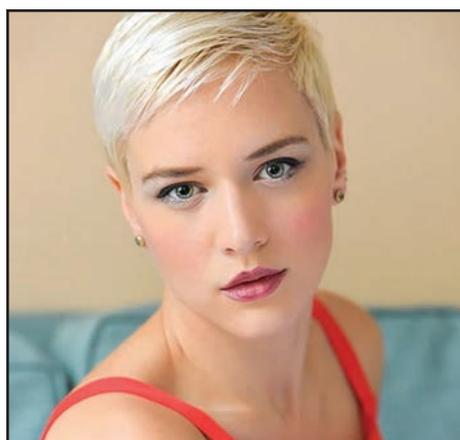
The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew’s and the St. Matthew’s Parish choir will also perform under the baton of Tomasz Golka.

The voice of Lauren Pearl Eberwein, a Canadian-American soprano, has been described as a “robust, dramatic voice” by *Broadway World* and as having a “soulful and engrossing depth of tone” by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. *Classical CD Choice* describes her “an artist of subtle skill.”

Eberwein, a graduate of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, was a member of Opera Philadelphia’s Emerging Artist Program. She is currently a member of the Canadian Opera Company’s Ensemble Studio.

This season, Eberwein sings the roles of Gianetta in *L’elisir d’amore*, Countess Ceperano in *Rigoletto*, and The Cook in *The Nightingale* with Canadian Opera. Last season she sang the role of Wellgunde in *Götterdämmerung* with Canadian Opera at Lincoln Center and recently made her Carnegie Hall debut in Handel’s *Israel in Egypt* with the New York Choral Society.

Since winning first prize at the 2003 Eduardo Mata International Conducting Competition, conductor and composer Tomasz Golka has appeared with orchestras in North and South America and Europe to



Lauren Eberwein

great critical acclaim.

Golka has served as chief conductor of the Colombia National Symphony in Bogotá and music director of the Lubbock Symphony. He is currently music director of the Riverside Philharmonic and interim music director of The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew’s for the 2017-18 season.

The June 8 concert will feature operatic arias, choruses and instrumental music from Verdi’s *La forza del destino*, *La traviata* and *Il trovatore*, Puccini’s *Madame Butterfly* and *Tosca*, Bizet’s *Carmen* and Bernstein’s *West Side Story*.

Admission at the door is \$35. The Music Guild offers discounted season passes. Visit: MusicGuildOnline.org or call (310) 573-7422.

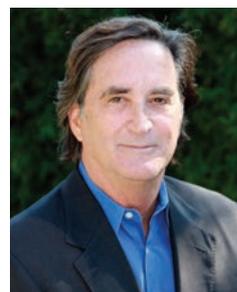


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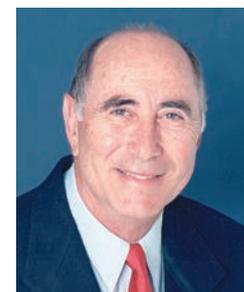
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Swarthmore Donor Tiles Will Return—Along Sunset

When Caruso began constructing its Palisades Village project, the PRIDE donor tiles that had been imbedded in the sidewalks on both sides of Swarthmore (north of Sunset) could not be salvaged.

At the time, Rick Caruso promised PRIDE, a local beautification nonprofit, that once Swarthmore was reopened there would be a place for the tiles. PRIDE has been working closely with Caruso for the past four years to ensure they would be reinstated.

On May 16, Caruso announced, with PRIDE's blessing, that he will replace the original tiles with nearly 1,100 tailor-made bricks that will be engraved with the same names and sentiments as represented on each of the original donor tiles.

These new bricks will be installed in the ground as part of the public sidewalk along Sunset, just east of Swarthmore. PRIDE is excited to announce that it is offering donors an opportunity to purchase a limited number of new bricks (and new messages), donated by Caruso. The money raised will be used for future PRIDE beautification projects.

The original tiles, featuring a dolphin logo, were part of a fundraising campaign led by local businessman and Optimist Club member Wally Miller, and his fellow Optimists Hal Maninger and Charles McGlothlin, who took charge of a fundraising campaign to beautify and upgrade Swarthmore in the mid-1990s.

The ambitious project included resurfacing old street paving, curbs and sidewalks; removing damaging ficus

trees; and enhancing the street with new Chinese flame trees and decorative grates, iron street furniture, new trash receptacles, stone benches and antique-style lampposts adorned with hanging flower baskets.

To help underwrite these major improvements, PRIDE successfully accumulated more than \$500,000 through generous individual donations, a community fundraising event and funds allocated by the City of Los Angeles.

Local individuals and businesses were given the opportunity to purchase personalized tiles and brass plaques to honor their families and loved ones with their donation dollars, which contributed to the renovation project.

When the Palisades Village project began, benches, receptacles and brass plaques from Swarthmore and Monument were stored with the goal of relocating them to specific sites throughout town.

Today, local individuals and businesses can still donate to PRIDE to assist in current and future Palisades beautification projects.

Donation options include general giving as well as the purchasing and naming of benches and trash receptacles and the purchase of a limited number of bricks to be placed on the new donor "Walk of PRIDE" location on Sunset.

Call: (310) 459-7963 or visit: palisadespride.com. For questions related to donor tiles, call PRIDE Vice President John Padden at (310) 256-1152 or email: johnpadden@kw.com.



Gregory Gold (left) and Zachary Kantor.

Two Awarded Eagle Scout

Pacific Palisades Troop 23 held an Eagle Scout Court of Honor at the Palisades Lutheran Church on May 9 for Gregory Charles Gold and Zachary Alan Kantor.

To receive the Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in scouting, candidates must be active in the troop, demonstrate that he lives by the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, present recommendations, earn a minimum of 21 merit badges and complete a community-service project that requires a minimum of 100 hours.

Gold, a junior at Palisades High School, worked on a fencing, landscaping and irrigation project at the corner of Temescal Canyon Road and Pacific Coast Highway.

For his Eagle project, Kantor, a senior at Westmark School, worked at a landscaping and irrigation project at the traffic circle at Sunset and Las Lomas.

Troop 23, which is known for its highly individualist approach to Scouting is run by Scout Master John Wilson, who has been active in Scouting in the Palisades for more than half a century.

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personalize your brick - with a unique message, by honoring or remembering a family member or by simply including your name, family name or business name. **PRIDE is offering a LIMITED NUMBER of Sunset Donor Bricks on a first come, first serve basis.** Proceeds will go toward current and future P.R.I.D.E. beautification projects in our local community. Each brick is \$500 and is a tax-deductible donation.

To secure your own Sunset Donor Brick:

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- Or - Call us at: (310) 459-7963
- Or - Fill out the information below and remit it to us at:

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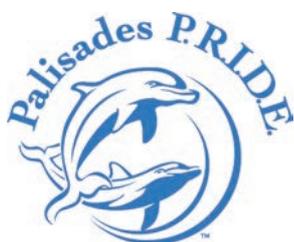
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PaliHi Dominates City Swim Championships

The Palisades High swimmers prevailed once again in the City Section finals on May 11, winning both the boys and girls team titles at the John C. Argue Swim Stadium near the Coliseum.

The Dolphins won five of six relays, and individual swimmers took first in five events. It was Pali's depth, with three and four swimmers finishing in the top eight in numerous events, that earned the championships.

PaliHi girls scored 579 points, comfortably ahead of Granada Hills (266) and San Pedro (250). The Pali boys tallied 561, with Granada Hills second (323) and San Pedro third (251).

The girls started the meet with 52 points earned by Dolphin divers Alexis Kleshick and Maya Salvitti, who finished one-two. The boys began with 37 points, thanks to diver Andrei Kozeluh, who placed third.

As the announcement was being made that Palisades had won both team titles, Coach Maggie Nance saw her kids shouting and jumping with emotion, knowing they had worked hard as a team.

The Dolphins have won so many City championships under Nance that she knew what was about to happen next. "I hate this part," she said, and then smiled as she kicked off her shoes before being tossed into the pool by her swimmers for a celebration dip.

This was the sixth consecutive title for the boys and the ninth straight for the girls. Since 1973, when the City began compiling girls swim records, Pali has won 28 titles, compared to six for Granada Hills.

Boys records go back to 1926, with the notation that in 1943-44 (during World War II) no championships were held. Pali has won 16 titles since the school was founded in 1961, followed by Birmingham with 12.

RELAYS: The Dolphins won the 200-yard medley relay in both the boys (1:40.46) and girls (1:51.45) events. The 200-yard freestyle produced a third for the girls and a first for the boys (1:29.88). The boys and girls both



The Palisades High boys and girls teams both took first at the City Section swim finals.

took first in the 400-yard freestyle relay (3:15.15 and 3:41.77, respectively).

50-YARD FREESTYLE: Sophomores Darby Green and Sydney Brouwer, freshman Maxine Eschger and sophomore Grace Winter took fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth. The winner was El Camino's Isobel Blue (24.24).

Roy Yoo, a senior, won the first of his two events (21.26). Also placing for PaliHi were senior Lucas Lacy and sophomore Marc Pryor, who took fourth and seventh.

100-YARD FREESTYLE: For girls, Green was third, Brouwer was fifth and junior Charlyze Samperio was sixth. The boys took first, second and sixth, led by Yoo (47.59), Lacy (48.87) and senior Sammy Speiser.

200-YARD FREESTYLE: Freshman Na-

thalia Wyss took second (1:56.18) and in the boys event, sophomore Andrew Planting was third (1:48.28).

500-YARD FREESTYLE: Wyss finished second (5:19.06), freshman Chloe Alpin was fourth and sophomore Kira Davis fifth. In the boys race, sophomore Chris Pederson was third (4:55.56) and senior Tevin Pak fourth.

200-YARD IM: Senior Dora Seggelke took second (2:08.26) despite a broken wrist, while teammate Quincy Timmerman was fourth and Alpin fifth. The Pali boys were led by junior Orion Vayanas, who was second (2:00.11), Pak was fourth, sophomore Mark Ishizawa fifth and senior JJ Chang seventh.

100-YARD BUTTERFLY: Seggelke took third and was joined by seniors Elena Saab

and Maxine Graves, who were seventh and eighth.

Senior William Cho took first (52.45), Planting was fourth and sophomore Nick Allen was seventh.

100-YARD BACKSTROKE: Amanda Kim took third, Graves was fifth and freshman Kristina Kobuke was sixth. For the boys, sophomores Marc Pryor and Asa Tatro were seventh and eighth.

100-YARD BREASTSTROKE: Timmerman captured first (1:08.56), Meredith Haaker was third and sophomores Grace Winter and Emily Bunnapradist finished fourth and fifth. Cho captured his second win (59.18) and Chang was third, with Ishizawa fifth and Vayanas sixth.



Sophomore Quincy Timmerman captured the 100-yard breaststroke.



Senior Roy Yoo won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle.

Divers Take First, Second and Third

Palisades High School divers Alexis Kleshik and Maya Salvitti took first and second, respectively in the girls one-meter diving on May 7, while teammate Andrei Kozeluh took third in the boy's event. All qualified for the state meet at Clovis this past weekend.

A diver must complete 11 dives, and judges give points on each dive, with 10 being the highest. The divers are rated on the execution and the difficulty of the dive.

For example, those done in the pike position are deemed more difficult than those in the tuck position. Divers are judged on approach, takeoff (is the diver's body balanced?), flight (height, rotation of twists and somersaults) and entry (the less splash going into the water on the completion of the dive—a rip entry, rates a higher score).

This is Kleshik's second straight City championship, with a score of 519.80 after 11 dives. The junior started diving when she was about 10 years old when she lived in Texas. "I was swimming, but diving just looked more interesting," she said, noting that her favorite dive is a back one-and-half in a pike position.

Her family moved to California four years ago, and PaliHi is her third high school.

In addition to training at the Maggie Gilbert Aquatics Center, she also trains at UCLA, where she dives off the three-meter board and the tower.



Maya Salvitti showed nearly perfect form with her dive.



Alexis Kleshik took first in the City Finals.

"In a club competition, I scraped my hand on a board," she said, showing the *News* the almost-healed scabs on her hands. "I changed my gainer one-and-half pike to the tuck position for this meet."

She wasn't happy with her performance at the state meet last year, but she attributed a lot of it to nerves. This year she will face 27 other divers and with her City diving score, she goes in ranked sixth. Rami Edvalson, a freshman from Archbishop Mitty is ranked first with 557.15.

Ranked eighth in state, freshman teammate Maya Salvitti, will participate in her first state meet, by virtue of taking second in the City Finals.

"I used to do gymnastics," said Salvitti, who attended Revere Middle School. Her favorite event was bars. "The twisting I did there has really helped me with diving."

She said she heard about diving from a friend and decided to give it a try. Salvitti was asked about the hardest transition for a gymnast switching to diving.

"Definitely going in head first is strange for a gymnast," she said.

The first time Salvitti dove from the tower she said "It was pretty scary, but kind of exciting."

"The tower is fun, because I don't have to worry about the timing on the board," Salvitti said.

Taking third at City Finals was PaliHi sophomore Andrei Kozeluh, with 426 points, which was high enough to set a new PaliHi record.

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Boys Volleyball Captures Championship

It only took three sets for the Palisades High School boys volleyball team to repeat as CIF Los Angeles City Section Champions by defeating Chatsworth at Birmingham High School on May 19.

The Dolphins won the first set 25-11. In the second set, Chatsworth went ahead with an early lead, but PaliHi tied them at 15-15. The game went back and forth, 20-20, 21-21, 22-22, 24-24—with the Dolphins finally winning 33-31, after having been at set point seven times. The third set was a 25-18 win for Pali.

Watching the athleticism of the PaliHi players, the easy flow between teammates with unspoken communication about where they needed to be to play most effectively, the hard slams and gentle taps of the ball that set their opponents flying to areas of the court only to be fooled when the ball went a different direction; the digs, the jousts; . . . It was fun watching a good team play, and an overall victory for the Dolphins was never in doubt.

"I knew that they [Chatsworth] had an extremely talented team," Coach Carlos Gray said after the game. "I knew we would have our hands full." PaliHi had faced the Chancellors in the quarter finals of the Dos Pueblos Invitational Tournament in March, beating them 1-0.



The Palisades High volleyball team won the CIF L.A. City Championship on Saturday.

"We made some adjustments with our blocking, and what hitters were going where," Gray said.

"We felt confident going into this game," said senior Jeff Stuart, a 6'0" libero. "The last game was too close." He was referring to the semi-final game against El Camino on May 15, when the Dolphins lost the first two sets (28-26 and 27-25), before coming back to win the last three (25-17, 25-10, 15-9).

"We trusted ourselves and played our game today," Jeff said.

"We definitely prepared for this game,"

said twin brother Scott Stuart, 6'0" an outside hitter. "It's an amazing program, and I'm glad I got to play for my school."

"This is one of the smartest teams I've ever played with," Jeff said. "The volleyball IQ for the game is high."

According to MaxPreps, the Dolphins are ranked 11th in California and 15th nationally. Overall this season they were 33-2

and 12-0 in league.

One of the Dolphin's losses this season was in the championship finals in the Dos Pueblos tournament in March against Alemany.

PaliHi's Akhil Tangutur, a 6'3" junior outside hitter, and Miles Partain, 6'2" junior setter/opposite hitter, were among the eight players named to the all-tournament team.

The team's other loss was in the semifinal of the Karch Kiraly Tournament of Champions against the top-seeded Corona Del Mar in April, where Pali took third. Partain and Tangutur were once again selected to the all-tournament team.

PaliHi defeated La Costa Canyon 25-21, 25-17 to win the Redondo Varsity Classic in late April. Tangutur was selected as the tournament's most valuable player, and Partain and Justin Howard, a 6'6" junior middle blocker, made the all-tournament team.

With this championship win, the Dolphins won a spot in the regional tournament, which started May 22.

"We won the Redondo tournament, which may give us enough push to get a middle ranking and a home game," Gray said. (Rankings were not released before press time.)

Last year the boys were seeded 8th and lost to the top-ranked Corona del Mar in the first round. Loyola won the SoCal Division 1 championship in 2017 by beating Corona del Mar.

YMCA/Optimist Track Meet June 3

The 46th Annual Optimist/YMCA Track Meet is now open for registration. The meet will run from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 3, at Palisades High School, check-in starts at 10:30 a.m.

Children and teens, ages 3-15, will have the opportunity to compete in sprints, runs, long jump and shot put. Individuals may participate in as many events as they would like in their age division.

The cost is \$20 per participant if registered by June 2. One may register at the YMCA, at 821 Via de la Paz or online at apm.activecommunities.com/ymcala/Activity_Search/139717. Registration the day of the meet is \$40. Call (310) 454-5591.

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Westside Dancers to Perform at SMC

Photos by Todd Lechtick

Westside Ballet of Santa Monica dancers will perform a classical and contemporary ballet repertoire at 1 and 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 27, at the Broad Stage, 1310 11th St., in Santa Monica.

The Showcase will feature *Paquita*, one of the most celebrated examples of 19th-century classicism dance. Pacific Palisades resident Mirabelle Weinbach will be dancing the starring role as well as performing in a fea-



Mirabelle Weinbach will dance Paquita.

tured role in Sophie Monet's *Handel Dances*.

Weinbach, a sophomore at Brentwood School, has danced with Westside Ballet for eight years. During her summers, she has trained with Boston Ballet School, Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle and the School of American Ballet in New York, where she will be returning this year.

When she's not dancing, she loves reading and hopes to study journalism and writing after pursuing a dancing career.

In her biography, Weinbach, who was a semi-finalist in the L.A. Spotlight Awards in March, writes, "Ballet is so special because all it takes is your body and the music to move someone and make them feel something. The idea that we can use our bodies to evoke an emotion in another person without any words—it's amazing, and there's nothing else in this world quite like it. That feeling of transforming music into movement is so special, and it's why I love ballet so much."

Partnering with her is guest artist Robert Mulvey, a professional principal dancer who has performed with Washington Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet and Barak Ballet.

Stefan Goy, a sophomore at Palisades Charter High School, is an exceptional Ukrainian dancer and will be performing in *Etude Classique*, *Stars and Stripes* and *Grease*.

Palisades residents or those who attend school in the Palisades who will also perform are sixth graders Chloe Butler (Cross-



Dancing at the Broad are (back row, left to right) Marius Popo, Olivia Polite and Stefan Goy; (front row) Brooke Freyer (left) and Mirabelle Weinbach.

roads) and Brooke Freyer (Corpus Christi School), seventh graders Sofia Davies and Zoe Mack (Paul Revere Middle School), eighth grader Daniella Zhou (Revere), Palisades High freshman Sidney Brody and sophomore Olivia Polite.

The program will include excerpts from *Coppélia* and *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as Westside Ballet's interpretation of *Fête de Carnivale*, showcasing the school's youngest ballerinas.

Resident choreographer Sophie Monat

will revive her contemporary ballet, *Handel Dances*. Mario Nugara's *Stars and Stripes* will highlight the flourishing boys' program, and SMC's acclaimed choreographer, Jae Young Lee, will present her newly choreographed 'Entangled Somewhere . . .,' with music by J.S. Bach. The showcase will conclude with Michele Bachar Mendicelli's jazz premiere of *Grease* as a homage to the 40th anniversary of the 1978 movie.

Tickets are \$35. Call (800) 595-4849 or visit westsideballetcompany.org.

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Recommendations for CA Primary Ballot - June 5, 2018

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Lieutenant Governor	David R. Hernandez	Assessor John "Lower Taxes" Loew
Secretary of State	Mark P. Meuser	Sheriff Jim McDonnell
Controller	Konstantinos Roditis	Supervisor 3rd District Eric Preven
State Treasurer	Jack M. Guerrero	
Attorney General	Steven C. Bailey	PROPOSITIONS
Insurance Commissioner	Steve Poizner	# 68: Authorizes Bonds Funding Parks, Natural Resources Protection, Climate Adaptation, Water Quality and Supply and Flood Protection Recommendation: No
Board of Equalization District # 3	G. Rick Marshall	# 69: Requires that Certain New Transportation Revenues Be Used For Transportation Purposes. <i>Legislative Constitutional Amendment</i> Recommendation: No
U.S. Senator	James Bradley	# 70: Requires Legislative Supermajority Vote Approving Use of Cap and Trade Reserve Fund. <i>Legislative Constitutional Amendment</i> Recommendation: Yes
United States Representative	Kenneth Weston Wright	# 71: Sets Effective Date for Ballot Measures. <i>Legislative Constitutional Amendment</i> Recommendation: Yes
State Senator	Mark Mathew Herd	# 72: Permits Legislature to Exclude Newly constructed Pain-capture Systems from property-Tax Reassessment Requirement. <i>Constitutional Amendment</i> Recommendation: Yes
State Assembly	No recommendation	
JUDICIAL- Superior Court		
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Aberfan—Child at Disaster Site



Aberfan—Surviving Children

Photojournalist Rapoport's Film Commemorates Tragedy

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Contributing Writer
Photos by I.C. Rapoport

The sons and daughters of coal miners were the victims of a tragic mining-related accident on October 21, 1966 in Aberfan, a small village in South Wales.

Man-made mountains of coal-mining waste (known as tips) surrounded the town. On that day, the largest tip became unstable and piles of waste mixed with water to form an avalanche, burying the town's primary school where children and teachers were starting their day.

Although the townspeople rushed to help

and save whomever they could, there was little they could do. The coal miners made the one-mile ride up the elevator from the mines to find the tragedy that awaited them.

The catastrophe made international headlines: 116 children and 28 adults dead. Photojournalist Chuck Rapoport saw another story: the one that would continue in the disaster's aftermath.

Watching the television coverage at home in New York where he lived with his wife Mary and 4-month old son, he wanted to take his camera to Aberfan after the other journalists had left. As he told his editor at *Life* magazine, he wanted to document a town with no children.

Although he faced difficulties at first, the "Yank," as the locals called Rapoport, eventually came to be accepted during the five weeks he documented the town. He arrived eight days after the tragedy and stayed in a single room above the town pub.

One local man, Dai George, who hated the "journeys" (journalists), accepted him only after he explained he was "a poet with a camera."

"You're in the land of poets," George said after Rapoport recited a Dylan Thomas poem he had learned as a student at Ohio University.

Jim Hicks, *Life's* London bureau chief, accompanied Rapoport to Aberfan for part of the time. Their work resulted in "Aberfan: Stirrings of New Life," a 10-page photo essay published in January 1967. Rapoport also published a book: *Aberfan:*

The Days After: A Journey in Pictures, and his photos have been exhibited at the National Library of Wales.

Rapoport photographed the first child born after the disaster as well as the first wedding, to show life continuing after the disaster.

In one case, his photo even led to a marriage and new life. He photographed John Collins, who had lost his wife, children and his home. An American woman, moved by the photo, reached out to Collins, and they eventually married. Their daughter Bernice later contacted Rapoport to inquire about getting a copy of the photo that was such

an important part of her family history.

After working in photojournalism for *Life*, *Paris Match* and other publications, Rapoport moved to Pacific Palisades in the 1970s and became a screenwriter.

Fifty years after the disaster, he made a short film about his experiences, assisted by his wife Mary and their sons, Caleb and Benjamin.

Sorrow and a Stirring of New Life, which contains more than 100 images Rapoport shot for *Life*, includes the photographer narrating what he was thinking and feeling at the time. The film screened in Wales in 2016,

(Continued on Page 19)



Photojournalist Chuck Rapoport.

Photo: Lesly Hall Photography



Aberfan—Man in Pub

Rapoport

(Continued from Page 18)

and Rapoport was there for the opening.

“When shown at the premiere in Wales, for the 50th anniversary of the disaster, there was not a dry eye in the house,” Rapoport recalls. “When I got up to speak at its conclusion . . . I couldn’t contain myself and openly wept.

“Many wept at the images they were seeing, and what they recalled (there were a number of survivors and folks who lived through that awful time). But I was emotionally overcome by where I was standing, who was there, and that we had all been given life to be together at that moment.”

Shortly after that, Rapoport was honored with a membership in the National Union of UK Journalists. His 28-minute film also played at the 2017 ReelHeART International Film Festival in Toronto, where it was nominated for best documentary short.

As described on the film festival’s website: “*Sorrow and a Stirring of New Life* is Chuck’s melancholy, yet uplifting journey through his photographs fifty years later, which poetically captures the sadness of loss and resilience of the heart.”



Aberfan—Mother Watching for Child



Chuck Rapoport and LIFE correspondent Jim Hicks in Aberfan, Wales



Aberfan—Boys Over Cemetery







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Angel City Chorale on America's Got Talent

By BERNICE FOX
Special to the Palisades News

When the Angel City Chorale sings, it's to bring joy to the audience and to themselves through music. It's not often they sing to be judged. But the chorale faced the judges when they did an on-camera audition to air later for the upcoming 13th season of the NBC hit *America's Got Talent*.

The chorale and a variety of other acts performed before a packed house at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium March 12. Seated in front of the audience were the show's four judges: Simon Cowell, Heidi Klum, Mel B and Howie Mandel.

That was a surprise to Harry Eden, a chorale member who lives in Pacific Palisades. "I didn't know this was a judgment, that they were making a decision on us," he says. "I thought we were just there to perform a song."

On any given day, there are about 150 to 160 voices in the Angel City Chorale. And right now, six are Palisadians: Eden, Norman Helgeson, Kathy Jackson, Marian Niles, Cheryl Robinson and Adam Wolman. Five of them were part of that on-camera audition. Only Jackson wasn't available.

Maybe because he didn't know about the judging part, Eden wasn't nervous, although he says he wouldn't have been nervous in any case. "I've been singing for a long time. My expectations were: a new experience."

Niles also wasn't nervous. "I was excited because it was a whole new experience and



The Angel City Chorale auditioned on March 12 at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium for America's Got Talent.

we were going to be in front of a live audience and it was being taped for television. So, it was exciting. But I wasn't particularly nervous."

While Eden and Niles didn't have extra nerves, Sue Fink sure did. The West Los Angeles resident is the founder and artistic director of the ACC.

"I was like a deer in the headlights," Fink says. But that didn't last. "Once it got going, I was having a blast. Once I got going, it was just like 'hey, this is cool!'"

While her nerves were still active before the performance, Fink met with the show's host, the multi-talented Tyra Banks, who lives in Pacific Palisades.

"I still don't know what happened backstage with Tyra Banks," says Fink. "I know I had a five-minute conversation with her, and she seemed very nice. But I just remember a tall person and me being up to maybe her chest. That's all I remember about that."

Memorable for Marian Niles is the hurry-up-and-wait aspect of most things Holly-

wood, including the March 12 audition.

"I think the thing that impressed me the most was how much waiting there is when you are doing this kind of thing. It just goes on and on and on. We had a two-and-a-half-minute little deal that we were singing and we were there for nine hours."

Because they were being judged, the questions were: Would the judges send the Angel City Chorale home, ending their chance at the eventual \$1 million prize? Or

would Simon Cowell and the others keep the chorale in contention and bring them back for a second round? And there's the question: which song did the chorale sing?

No spoilers here.

The Angel City Chorale's performance audition will air on NBC sometime early in the new season of *America's Got Talent*, perhaps even on the night of the season premiere, Tuesday, May 29. As of press time, the airdate had not yet been revealed to the chorale.



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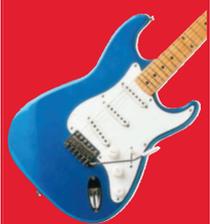
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Art Association to Hold Annual Sale

The Palisades Art Association will hold its annual art show and sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 3 on the Palisades Village Green (corner of Sunset and Swarthmore).

Artists featured will include Renee Agarwal, Annette Alexakis, Terri Bromberg, Judith Carr, Martha Meade and Wanda Norman-Storey.



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Is Amazon Books the New Caruso Model?

By BOB VICKREY
Palisades News Columnist

Now let me get this straight: the corporate giant that virtually transformed modern bookselling into an online industry and drove hundreds of independent bookstores out of business—including our own Village Books—is now opening its own bookstore in the new Palisades Village?

The irony of this recent announcement is hardly laced with subtlety. Amazon owner and founder Jeff Bezos once suggested that brick-and-mortar bookstores were practically passé now that customers could find any book they wanted online with a simple click of a button. And as we know, he turned out to be absolutely correct. His company essentially now owns a substantial segment of the retail book business.

It's no secret that retail stores (of all kinds) are now struggling mightily, and announcements regarding the closings of major brand stores appear regularly in business-page headlines. There were a record number of retail closures in 2017, and the trend is expected to continue, as many customers have adopted online ordering as their preferred method of shopping.

These dramatic retail trends make Caruso's Palisades Village project even more

intriguing, as his team searches for viable stores that can somehow buck the online ordering phenomenon and entice customers to return to a retail center, which in the company's words "is hoping to redefine the shopping and lifestyle experience."

Caruso's earlier ventures, such as The Grove and The Americana at Brand, have been extremely successful during the same period in which we've witnessed the failure of countless malls across the country—including nearby Westside Pavilion. He has learned from their mistakes and seems to understand that what had worked well for one generation may not be viable for the next.

The Amazon Bookstore "experiment"—and that's about all it is right now—appears to be more of a branding tool that will keep the Amazon name on the minds of potential (and returning) online customers. But the store is also designed to offer shoppers the opportunity to discover and sample the latest book releases available.

Walking along an almost deserted Santa Monica Promenade recently, I was taken aback when I spotted a small retail space with admiring customers clustered around a shiny new red Tesla Model "S" parked just inside the front door. I realized that this store represented the very definition of the advertising term "branding."

The Caruso team has hinted that it fa-



Bob Vickrey

vors its tenants occupying smaller retail spaces than in past years, as well as maintaining lower inventories. Perhaps that philosophy is what led the company to pursue Amazon, which generally stocks fewer book titles than most traditional independent stores, as well as the few remaining Barnes and Noble stores.

After recently visiting the new Amazon store in Century City, I feel compelled to add my disclaimer here. As a longtime book lover—and an admitted partisan of independent bookshops that have always proudly demonstrated their unconventional individuality—I was left predictably underwhelmed by my experience there.

Amazon is definitely not your father's bookstore. From the moment you enter, you can feel the corporate fingerprints everywhere you turn. You are greeted with Amazon's product line of Kindle tablets, Echo Dot variations, high-tech wristwatches and even coffeemakers. Had I mistakenly entered a Brookstone store by mistake?

The store's books are all face-out and evenly spaced on each manicured shelf.

The atmosphere there is slick and cool—some might even say sterile. The space felt more like a showroom than a functioning bookstore.

But don't get me wrong; despite my own biased feelings about Amazon's high-tech look, I remain skeptical about an independent bookstore's chances of survival in this competitive online environment, although there have been occasional exceptions.

Diesel Books in the Brentwood Country Mart is a veritable anomaly. The savvy owners of Diesel understood the excellent location of the Country Mart, which is at a unique nexus in West L.A. Its location borders the city of Santa Monica and a well-heeled Brentwood community—and yet is close enough for Palisadians to make an easy visit. All three communities have a highly educated population and their household incomes rank among the highest in California.

Even though I still harbor some misgivings about the selection of an Amazon Bookstore's presence in our town center, I'll gradually acquiesce to the sentiments of several of my book-loving friends who seem encouraged that we'll soon have a bookstore again.

Local resident Kevin Kelly, who once worked in the Lakers' advertising department, perhaps best summed up the attitude of several people I spoke with. He said, "Even though I'd much prefer having an independent bookstore here, if Amazon is our only choice, I'll take it. I've always been a book enthusiast and feel like we really need a bookstore here in town."

Those of us of a certain age recognize by now that times continually change, and eventually, so must our attitudes. But be patient with us, because we may be guilty of moving at a tortoise-like pace in conceding to some of those changes.

Bob Vickrey is a longtime Palisadian and a regular columnist for the News. He also writes for the Houston Chronicle and the Waco Tribune-Herald.

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Just a week ago, my friend Barbara and I were happy to be dining once again at Locanda del Lago, on the Santa Monica Promenade.

In case you do not know this delightful Italian restaurant, it was started by West Hooker-Poletti in 1991 and still provides us with outstanding food thanks to West, who was born and raised in Bellagio along Lake Como in Northern Italy.

The restaurant has outdoor tables for warm pleasant days or evening dining, as well as indoor bar/dining seating and a delightful dining room that makes you feel as if you have been transported to Italy as you view walls filled with colorful scenes from Bellagio. Here, happily, you can hear your dining partner as you discuss the menu.

The two-sided menu offers a side devoted solely to cocktails, wines and beers. This happily gives diners many choices with selections of artisanal cocktails (even low-calorie ones), imported and domestic beers, sparkling wines and a large array of wines by the glass or bottle, along with a listing of six non-alcoholic beverages.

Appetizers and small plates start off the menu. We selected Vitello Tonnato, a house specialty from Bellagio, as a shared starter, with its free-range veal (\$15). The roasted and chilled bits of veal along with Genoa tuna-caper aioli and micro greens were delightful and perfect to share.

Other selections included steamed mussels with grilled



crostini (\$14) and Italian Chef Daniele's housemade burrata with his signature burrata cheese served with a choice of Prosciutto di Parma (\$16) or vine-ripened tomatoes (\$15).

There is also an appealing Antipasto Misto, featuring a variety of cheeses and cured meats that you may order as three selections (\$15) or five (\$22). And of course, we also very much enjoyed the delicious homemade focaccia bread. In addition, there are soups and salads along with six thin-crust pizzas, three of which are vegetarian.

While the risottos and pastas all sounded entrancing, especially the seafood risotto with black mussels, Manila clams, tiger shrimp and jumbo prawn in a seafood broth (\$29), the lobster risotto was recommended by Caesar, our waiter. And he was right! Topped with delicious scallops and chunks of perfect lobster, all with superb rice, this was an outstanding meal (\$38).

Three other crustacean specialties included a lobster panzanella with a chilled one-pound lobster (\$32), a one-pound lobster pizza (\$34), and a Dungeness crab tagliolini pasta (\$36).

Barbara selected one of the seven main course items, an osso buco all-natural Niman Ranch veal shank. The delicious shank came with a saffron-Parmesan risotto and a gremolata garnish made of minced parsley, lemon peel and garlic (\$39).

Additional dishes included the Euro burger and French

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(Answers on Page 9)

fries (\$18), the roasted whitefish with roasted artichoke and grilled asparagus (\$26) and a roasted half all-natural chicken with lemon sauce and Parmesan-roasted potatoes (\$25).

Desserts include the housemade Italian gelati, sorbetti, flourless chocolate cake, tart lime pie and tiramisù of ladyfingers, espresso, vanilla-mascarpone cream with cappuccino sauce. Prices for dessert vary from \$10 to \$12.

We enjoyed every bite of the tart lime pie with pistachio ice cream. My cup of decaf coffee was quite perfect.

Hours are Monday through Thursday 11:45 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Friday 11:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. Weekends the restaurant opens for Brunch at 10:45.

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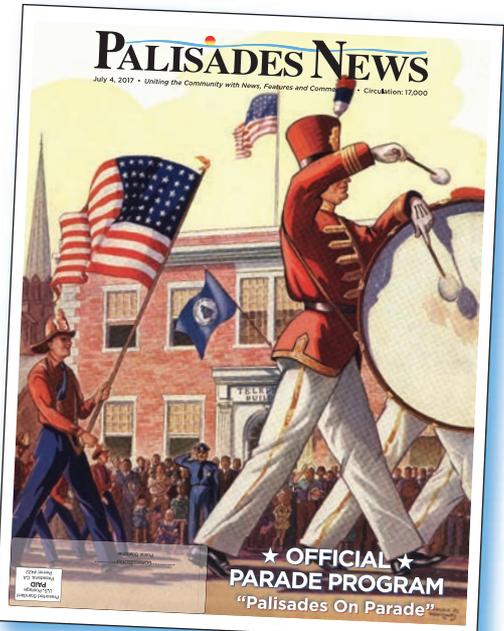
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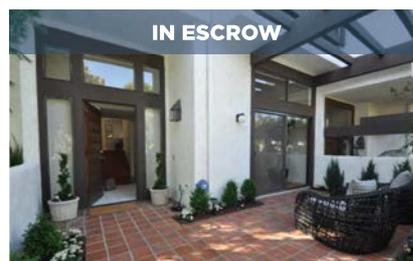


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PALISADES NEWS

SPECIAL SECTION • MAY 23, 2018



Spring

HOMES & GARDENS

Photo: Lesly Hall Photography

Thieves Target Catalytic Converters

The catalytic converters from at least six Prius cars were stolen in the Alphabet streets neighborhood between 5 p.m. on May 9 and 11 a.m. on May 10.

One victimized Prius owner wrote on Nextdoor Palisades, “When you start your vehicle, instead of normally hearing no sound at all, it sounds like a race car without a muffler.”

A security guy had been hired specifically to patrol the Alphabet streets, but was unaware of the thefts, which occurred on Embury, Kagawa, Hartzell, Iliff, with two on Galloway.

Residents were urged to file a report with the West L.A. police station on Butler, which could be done over the phone.

A June 2016 KPCC story, “How to Keep Your Car’s Catalytic Converter from Being Stolen,” stated: “The effortless and swift manner in which these parts can be acquired are also a reason why these models are singled out—the suspects taken into custody were able to cut them from the cars in less than 90 seconds.”

According to a 2016 *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* article (“L.A. County Catalytic Converter Thefts Spiking, Thieves Moving Away from Enforcement Crackdown”), police action in the Devonshire Division from March through October 2015 resulted in



Priuses parked on streets are easy targets for catalytic converter thieves.

the arrests of “10 bands of thieves, some four people in each, as well as the take-down of a scrap dealer in Pacoima who was selling the stolen devices to an extraction company in Texas.”

There were 300 parts thefts in the first three months of 2015 alone, but they slowed. “However, by mid-October and throughout November, residents of Silverlake, Echo Park, Glassell Park and Eagle Rock reported a rash of thefts, according to social

media posts, bloggers and chat rooms.”

The story quoted LAPD Detective Carmine Sasso saying, “Over the past couple of years, everyone is experiencing spikes in catalytic-converter thefts. You have people who deal in these things that go from location to location and then they leave. It is transitory.”

The targeted vehicles were parked on residential streets, where crews had easy access. Platinum, palladium, rhodium

and gold are the most common metals found in these devices.

According to the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* story, organized crews with walkie-talkies operate as a team: the thief stealing the catalytic converter with a battery-powered saw and a mechanic’s creeper (to slide underneath the parked car) and those who watch the street to warn the thief.

The story noted that Priuses were the new targets and replacements can cost \$2,400 per car, including parts and labor.

In the KPCC report, three tips for car owners were offered:

1. Park the car in a well-lit area (or use motion-detection lights if parking in a driveway).

2. Purchase a catalytic-converter lock if you have to park on the street—most are a metal webbing to secure the converter to the car, or you can have it welded to the car frame.

3. Etch the license plate number on the catalytic converter, so police can identify the victims and successfully apprehend the criminals.

Catalytic converters “[have] become very popular because of the value, relative ease to steal, and their lack of identifying markings—that’s why we recommend the license plate numbers,” LAPD Lt. Mark Day told KPCC.

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'The Art of Coloring Wood'

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

A decade ago, Marci Crestani took up woodworking. It wasn't easy. She enrolled in a woodworking program at Cerritos College, but she struggled with her ability to visualize projects in three dimensions, which made designing and building pieces challenging.

"I was the worst one in the class—hands down," said Crestani, 63, who noted that she was also intimidated by the unfamiliar, large, and loud machinery. Plus, she was one of only a few women in the program at that time.

But the Palisadian kept at because the teacher was funny, but also because a teaching aide took her under his wing. He told her, "You can do this. Don't worry. It's not that difficult. You're overthinking things and you're too scared."

She worked through her fears and still takes independent lab classes at the school, which now has a large number of female students and provides her and other students with "an incredible sense of community."

In fact, Crestani, a Chicago native whose husband, Bob, is an entertainment executive, has since created a prize-winning piece that took the People's Choice Award at the Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit, and another project, a table that seems to channel the spirit of a fragile deer, was chosen to illustrate the cover of the book, *The Art of Coloring Wood*, which she recently co-wrote with one of her teachers, Brian Miller.

The two took on a subject that most people, even skilled woodworkers, often know little about. In fact, the last book on the subject was published about 30 years ago and didn't give any formulas for making dye preparations.

Coloring wood means using chemicals and dyes instead of stains to finish wood. Dyes dissolve in water and become one with the water and eventually the wood, which allows light to penetrate the wood and illuminate the grain in unique ways. Stains are more like a salad dressing with little particles that always stay separate, so the pigments sit on top of the grain and don't allow light to penetrate it.

Using chemicals and dyes instead of stains, "you can



Crestani's Creek Walk won the People's Choice Award at the 2014 Yosemite Renaissance Art Exhibit. Photo: Bob Crestani



Marci Crestani and Brian Miller, co-authors of *The Art of Coloring Wood*, with their book and some of the many samples they colored to illustrate it.

Photo: Bob Crestani

achieve depth of color, but with great clarity," Miller said. "You don't sacrifice the grain of the wood."

To explain the subject and show how dyeing can enhance woodworkers' projects, the two spent many days together at Crestani's Alphabet Street home, coloring six types of wood (alder, cherry, maple, mahogany, oak, and walnut) with various chemicals and natural dyes. The book is full of photos of how the various coloring agents look on the wood samples, which may range from a light or gray hue on maple to a deep reddish brown on mahogany.

These variations occur in part because of how a compound in the wood, tannic acid, reacts with the dyes. Maple has no tannic acid so unless tannic acid is added, the wood doesn't react with the dye. While oak, which has a high level of tannic acid, will have a much deeper color change.

"The thing I find interesting," Crestani said, "is that chemicals need an organic substance, tannic acid, in order to do their magic."

"Otherwise they just deposit their own color to the wood," said Miller, noting how slight such coloring can be.

Crestani added, "Plant and insect and organic things that you use to color wood need chemicals to fix them to the wood. There's a mutual dependency. If you're doing chemicals, it helps if there's an organic thing, and the natural dyes need the chemicals too."

Some of the chemicals can be a little intimidating to novices, so the book explicitly lays out the safety requirements. For example, certain chemicals, such as ammonium hydroxide and potassium dichromate, require special handling, such as gloves, eye protection and respirators.

Natural dyes, such as logwood extract—from the heartwood of a tree—and cochineal, which comes from an insect, also often use chemicals called mordants to bind the color to the wood. So even with natural dyes, chemicals, most commonly ferrous sulfate, alum and potassium dichromate, are frequently used.

However, there is a dye option for people who want to avoid any toxic substances. Synthetic dyes, which can be used on children's toys or food dishes, are non-toxic.

The downside is they aren't as light fast, so they aren't ideal for outdoor applications. Chemicals also produce

more color variations, lend an aged look to the wood, and provide more clarity than dyes.

Regardless of the wood-coloring choice, generally a clear coat finish will be applied, so the color will be sealed under the finish.

For Crestani, who has two sons, John, 30, and Nick, 27, and one grandchild, the process of working with Miller on the project was fascinating. She learned about the history of dyes, which have been used throughout the world for centuries and were often closely guarded secrets, some of which Miller has been able to ferret out.

For example, Charles and Henry Greene of the Arts and Crafts movement often used ferrous sulfate and potassium dichromate to color their houses, including the Blacker house, which Miller helped restore in Pasadena. He discovered their preference by sending a sliver of wood in for testing and then experimenting with the chemicals that were uncovered.

Throughout their process, Crestani gained more experience with coloring wood.

"It's actually not hard to do, but it can be intimidating," said Crestani, who moved to Pacific Palisades 26 years ago. "You feel like you've just made this beautiful thing, and you can wreck it so easily."

"It's taken however many months to make something and you can just wreck it in an hour," she said. "You really have to learn about the application."



Crestani used potassium dichromate to give an old-world patina to her contemporary walnut table. Photo: Marc Carter

Revival Roots Offers Backyard Veggies

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Staff Writer

One sunny morning in February I sat in my kitchen waiting for the doorbell to ring. Any minute Palisadian Reed Newman would arrive to tell me about his vegetable garden growing company Revival Roots.

Normally when I interview someone we meet at a neutral location like Starbucks. However, I had taken Newman up on his offer on NextDoor for free garden consultations since I was curious how his company worked.

There was potentially one small hiccup: I live with my parents so I had to ask permission to invite him over. Luckily they didn't have any problems. "Ask him about replacing sprinklers," my mom told me. "Tell him to bring us some free plants," my dad added.

And so I found myself waiting one Tuesday morning for Newman's arrival.

Newman, 24, grew up in West Los Angeles and Santa Monica Canyon with his twin older siblings and his parents Jeanne and Gary, who are in the entertainment industry.

"We grew up in West Los Angeles and moved to Santa Monica Canyon about six years ago," Newman said.



Reed Newman works in a client's vegetable bed.

Photo courtesy of Reed Newman

He attended Windward High School before heading to Cornell University to attend the school of agriculture and life sciences.

His interest in plants started when he was 11 years old: his parents purchased a working vineyard in the Santa Ynez Valley they named Jorian Hill.

"Almost every weekend, we would drive up north and enjoy the outdoors and the beautiful natural landscape," Newman

said. "I would always procrastinate on my homework, and instead work in the vineyard learning how to grow grapes for wine production."

Newman graduated in 2016 with a degree in environmental science. Within months of graduation he had his business up and running. "I started it [Revival Roots] at the end of that summer," Newman said. "It's going well. I've received a lot of interest in it."

He initially started the company because he thinks it's important that everyone have access to their own fresh vegetables. "I wanted to help people with their gardens," he said.

Essentially Newman is a gardener who specializes in vegetable gardens. Once a homeowner contacts him, he goes to their house, finds the best place to grow a garden, builds the beds, plants the plants, takes care of them as they grow and sometimes even harvests them for the homeowner.

"My goal is to make it [the gardening experience] meaningful," Newman said. "Even with just one bed you'll still get a meaningful harvest."

Newman builds the six-by-three-foot planters in his home workshop. "I can build the beds within a couple of days," he said. "Installation takes two days."

Each bed gets a special kind of soil and a drip irrigation system. "I install drip irrigation . . . [that] allows the water to be perfectly targeted to where you plant," Newman said. "I also use a soil blend that retains water really well."

After the beds are built, the sprinklers put in and the soil placed, Newman plants a variety of seasonal vegetables.

Newman also provides weekly maintenance for around 80 percent of the gardens. *(Continued on Page 5)*



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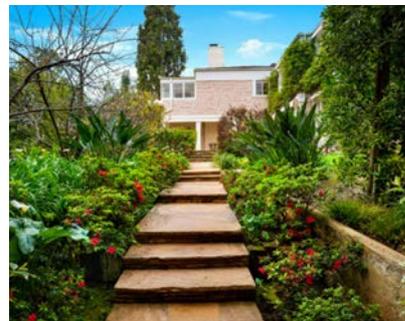
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5 BEDS | 5.5 BATH
5,345 SQ. FT. | 18,667 SQ. FT. LOT

Revival Roots

(Continued from Page 4)

The remaining gardens receive seasonal maintenance every three months.

Along with planting and tending to gardens, Newman is also in regular contact with his clients. “Every couple of weeks I’ll send each client an email,” Newman said. “I always welcome my clients to contact me.”

Newman arrived promptly at 10 a.m. and after talking for a bit we headed into the front garden for my consultation.

I grew up with vegetable beds in our front yard alongside our driveway. Over the years we’ve grown all manner of vegetables and fruits—some more successfully than others. We used to grow corn and people would bring their children and grandchildren to see it. It was normal to walk outside in the morning, half awake, to find a grandmother explaining corn to her grandson.

Newman and I looked at the dormant beds in my parent’s front yard. The thin wire trellis bridging the two beds looked forlorn without its summer green beans. Newman took a handful of soil and rubbed it between his fingers. He pronounced it adequate. “I would dig down eight inches and remove soil,” he said. “Then I would put in what I use.”

When I inquired whether we should get a drip water system rather than the system of sprinkler heads currently in place he shook his head. “They’re well-spaced out so



Left and above: A Revival Roots harvest and a thriving vegetable garden.

Photos courtesy of Reed Newman

Right: Reed Newman Photo: Matthew Stockman

it’s not necessary,” he said. The only potential issue with sprinkler heads is that they can overly saturate the plants and cause mold to grow on them.

Newman said if a homeowner already has vegetable gardens like these he wouldn’t do much besides mix in some new soil. He’s happy to just plant and maintain the garden.

We then headed into the backyard to simulate a more “normal” situation—what Newman would do if a client didn’t have beds already built.

The first thing he did was pull out his phone and open his Sun Surveyor application. The app predicts how the sun (and moon) will move in one area based on the location and time of year. He pointed his phone all over the backyard and decided that

one of the far corners was perfect because his app told him it would get enough sun.

“It needs to get at least five hours,” he said. Some client’s yards are not compatible for garden growing if they don’t get enough sunlight.

Next would be a decision about how many beds to install. Newman says that his clients usually have between one and four beds, but some have six or seven. Each bed, including the building of them, the soil, and sprinkler installation, costs \$1,195.

We then discussed what kinds of plants to grow. He had a list of spring and summer vegetables but if there was something I wanted to grow that wasn’t on the list he would be happy to get it for me. “I’ll do my best to source any vegetable,” he said.

“Everything I use is certified organic.”

The plants he sells are at cost and there’s an additional \$200 a month for regular maintenance and \$300 for seasonal maintenance.

After my consultation I asked Newman about future plans for Revival Roots. He hopes to continue to expand his business, but not just to homeowners in the Palisades.

“Eventually we want to be able to make vegetable growing more affordable,” he said.

The goal is to create do it yourself vegetable garden growing kits so that people can have gardens even if they don’t have yards. Newman says this product is still four to six months out, but he’s excited for its potential.

Newman always gives free consultations to potential clients. For more information, visit www.revivalroots.com.

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Delicious Self-Designed Cakes to Order

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

What to select from home baker Louise Sandy, who offers 22 different flavors for her custom cakes?

Hmmm, will it be a Funfetti (buttery vanilla cake speckled with multi-colored sprinkles, topped with vanilla buttercream and more sprinkles) or a White Chocolate Mocha (layers of espresso cake filled with white chocolate buttercream) or an Irish Car Bomb (Guinness chocolate cake, filled with Bailey's buttercream frosting and coated with Jameson's Irish whiskey ganache) or a Margarita (lime and Triple Sec cake, soaked in tequila and lime syrup, filled with homemade bitter orange curd and covered in lime buttercream)?

"Kids often seem to request funfetti," said Sandy, who bakes the cakes in her Pacific Palisades kitchen. "Adults prefer salted caramel or tiramisù."

Once the flavor is selected, then the design process starts. "All of my cakes are unique designs created by me," said Sandy.

If a customer provides her with a specific cake she will recreate it, giving credit to the original designer. She has designed everything from birthday cakes and Halloween cakes to wedding cakes.

"I think the most unusual cake I've made was a Beetlejuice cake for a Halloween party. I sculpted an almost life-size head, on top of two more tiers representing his checked shirt and the graveyard scene below, all lit up with green LED lights."

A self-taught baker, Sandy is from the United Kingdom. "The first thing I ever baked was a Victoria Sandwich Cake, a traditional English vanilla sponge cake layered with jam and whipped cream," she said, noting she was about 10 years old at the time. "My mother always made a cake for tea on Sundays, and she was very good about letting me loose in the kitchen, as long as I cleaned up afterwards."

Sandy, who moved to the Palisades about two years ago, initially came to the West Coast with her husband, Julian, and two



A "Beetlejuice" cake was designed for Halloween.

children in 2004.

"He was working for an international advertising agency in London and they asked him to spend a month working over here to get to know the American market," Sandy said. "His counterpart in the Newport office was to do the same in London. Since both families had small children, and the idea of the dads being away for a month didn't go down too well, we decided to swap houses as well."

The Sandy family liked it so well in California they didn't want to leave. "The American office offered my husband a permanent job and we jumped at the chance," she said.

At the Fire Station 69 Open House on May 12, Sandy wowed everyone with free

brownies and gingerbread cookies, frosted red and shaped like fire hydrants.

She was invited by Captain Bates, whose wife had ordered some cupcakes for him about a month ago.

"I hand-delivered, but had to park a couple of streets away," Sandy said. "Just as I was walking up to the fire station, with the box of cupcakes in my hands, I tripped over a raised paving stone and went flying, cupcakes and all!"

"Luckily it was mostly my pride that was hurt, so I dusted myself off, called and said I was going to have to go home and get more cupcakes (luckily, I always bake more than I need, just in case). By the time I got back to the fire station, Captain Bates had heard the story of what had happened, and we got chatting, and he suggested that I provide some cupcakes and brownies for their Service Day."

Sandy, who runs the bakery from her home, benefitted from the California Cottage Food Act, passed in 2013, that made it legal for home-based bakers to work out of their own kitchens.

"The Act was authored by L.A. Assemblyman Mike Gatto, in response to the L.A. health department closing down a 'backyard' bread baker who had been supplying delicious, but illegal, loaves to a group of local restaurants," Sandy said. "With the support of Cristina Oatfield at the Sustainable Economies Law Center in Sacramento, Gatto got the bill in front of the State Legislature." The Cottage Food Act allows home pro-



One lucky birthday girl had a "Little Mermaid" cake.



Louise Sandy

duction of "potentially non-hazardous foods" like baked goods without cream or custard fillings, dry baking mixes, breads, candies, preserves, fruit pies, etc. that do not need to be refrigerated or kept hot.

Sandy and her husband have two children: Jack, who just completed his freshman year at Arizona State University, and daughter Charlie (Charlotte), who will graduate from Palisades High School in June.

Visit: louisesandy.com or call (949) 338-0242.

Check out the Palisades News Online!



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And if you have missed an issue or are looking for an old article, check our website: Palisadesnews.com. You'll find all our past editions there.

www.palisadesnews.com

Boyd's 'Palisades-Swedish' Auburn

While working for years in various parts of the world for Tupperware, including Indiana, Ohio, Australia, Canada and India, Sylvia and Jon Boyd lived in Westchester and Pacific Palisades between relocations.

"While off work, Jon spent all his time off building a gorgeous Gatsby-style car—a 1936 Auburn," said Sylvia, his wife of 67 years.

The project began in 1976 when John bought a kit that consisted of different parts from different Auburn cars. "All the parts arrived on a flatbed with an engine in the middle and all the parts laid on top," Sylvia said.

Jon assembled the pieces into the classic Auburn twice, spending more than a year on the first one.

He then took the car apart so that it could be sent away for a paint job. When it was returned to him, it was once again all in pieces. This time it took Jon only four months to reassemble the car because the engine had been left intact for the painting process.

Thousands of Palisades residents saw the car, because Jon—a Marine who served in the Korean War—drove it in countless Fourth of July parades. He also entered it in numerous car shows, earning 16 trophies, many of them for first place.

In early 2016, Boyd decided the time was



Jon Boyd with the 1936 Auburn that he built from a kit.

right to sell the car. A fellow in Texas purchased it and said his plan was to have fun with it for year, drive it all over town and sell it the following year.

"Seems like that's exactly what he did," Sylvia said, because in January this year, the Boyds received a strange Facebook "Messenger" communicate.

It read: "Do you know a Jon Boyd who built a 1936 Auburn?" Signed Leif Arskog. Sylvia responded, "Yes, that's my husband."

Arskog continued to communicate with Sylvia, telling her that he was enjoying Jon's car in Stockholm, Sweden.

Jon is not on Facebook or any social

media, and Sylvia was not sure how Arskog figured out that she was the Auburn owner's wife. "Maybe my name was also on the pink slip," she said.

Arskog had lots of questions, so Sylvia told him that the Boyds were taking their annual family trip in September and would be boarding a ship in Stockholm, that would take them on a 15-day cruise in the Baltic Sea.

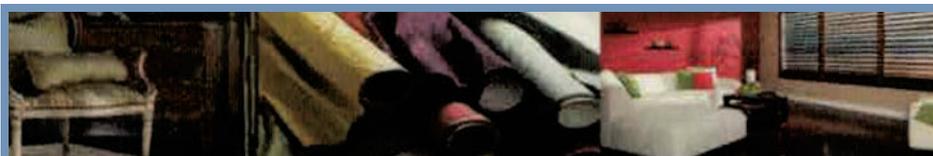
Arskog quickly offered to meet the family at the dock and take them to lunch. He told Sylvia that he lots of questions for Jon about how he built the car and revealed that he had reupholstered it with new leather and installed a new dashboard.

The Boyds, who placed three of his trophies from the car shows in the car when they sold it to the man in Texas, are planning to bring a few more for its Swedish owner.

"Jon is so eager to see his beloved Auburn like brand new again," Sylvia said. "We are certainly looking forward to it and so are the kids."

The Boyds have two children, Lorna and Leslie, and two grandchildren (a third is deceased).

Sylvia has headed PAPA People (the many volunteers who help with the town's Fourth of July parade and fireworks show) for 12 years. Her daughter Lorna is shadowing her this year to take over the role.



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www.malibuorchidsociety.org



Bonnie Savage Celebrates 100 Years

By SARAH STOCKMAN
Staff Writer

On May 9, longtime Palisadian Margaret “Bonnie” Savage celebrated her 100th birthday. She has lived in her two-bedroom, one-bathroom home in the 1000 block of Hartzell Street since 1947.

Born in 1918 to Paul and Margaret Horick in Illinois, Bonnie had a younger brother, Paul, who passed away in 2013.

In 1944 Savage joined the United States Naval Reserve and served with the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services). She was one of almost 90,000 women who volunteered to serve the Navy while their brothers, fathers and husbands were overseas fighting in World War II.

“I went in, I’m just guessing, the beginning of 1944,” Savage told the *News*, “and I worked until the end of the war.”

Her job was to help repair airplanes used during training exercises.

“After I enlisted I went to what they called boot camp and then they sent me to Indiana,” she recalled. “There was an older mother that would train us when we were beginning to learn what they do.”

Savage said that she and the other women she worked with were taught how to fix just about everything on these planes. “We’d get assigned to different parts of the plane—the wings, the engine.”

After the war, Savage moved briefly to St. Louis to help her aunt after her uncle passed away unexpectedly. “They had a place where golfers would stop to eat on the ninth hole,” she said, and she knew that the combination of waitressing/cooking and working for a close relative wasn’t how she wanted to spend her life.

In 1947 Savage was invited to California by Joe (Josephine), a friend from the WAVES. “During the service we called her ‘mom’ because she was older,” Savage said.

Joe and her husband took Savage on a tour of California and introduced her to her future husband Alan Savage, an architect who lived in Pacific Palisades. Soon they were married and living in marital bliss.



Bonnie Savage in the WAVES.

At the time, the Palisades was mostly open space with homes scattered here and there. Savage remembers walking across a large field to get to Hughes Market (now Ralphs) on Sunset.

“Our street here was the biggest street in the area,” she said.

Alan died in 1968 at the age of 50, leaving Savage alone. The couple did not have any children. However, a year later she opened a daycare center at her house for local young children, and this was a success for 20 years.

Savage retired in 1988 at the age of 70. She then dedicated herself to working in her garden and helping her neighbors with their children and grandchildren.

Cheryl Kanan has been Savage’s neighbor since Kanan and her husband Dan moved in across the street in 1963. The two women became close after Kanan’s mother died soon after Savage’s husband. They have nurtured a close, mother-daughter relationship.

Kanan says that Savage has been embraced by her neighbors, who all periodically check up on her. “She became grandma to all the children in the neighborhood,” said Kanan, who finds Savage amaz-



Bonnie Savage waters pumpkin seeds in her garden on Hartzell, joined by two neighborhood kids, Jake and Kobe Kanan.

ing and is grateful for their friendship.

“She’s my mentor and my hero.”

Savage laughed and shook her head. “I don’t think so.”

The kindly lady celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by her friends and

neighbors of all ages. “I’m still going,” she said. “Although I don’t know how well.”

When asked the secret to her longevity, Savage paused a moment and then answered: “Just living, with all the neighbors’ help.”



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Taft's Origami: Artistic, Scientific And Meditative

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

In Japanese, ori means to fold while gami means paper, so origami literally means paper folding.

The art, which can be simple enough for a child to enjoy or complex enough to entrance scientists, also pervades cultures all over the world, according to expert Travis Taft.

"People think of it as a strictly Asian art, but it has a rich history across the world," said Taft, 33, who grew up in Pacific Palisades. "Japan is definitely a critical part of paper-folding history, but there is more European influence than people realize."

For the next six months, Taft will share his expertise at the Palisades Library in a free 1 p.m. Saturday class that adjusts based on the people who happen to attend. Attendees, including children and adults, can create pieces that might be fun home decorations, peruse origami books with a variety of ideas, or learn about the history of the art.

The drop-in class, which began meeting in January, has widely varying attendance, but in each group, Taft guides attendees through creating pieces that interest them.

He has a range of books to tempt and intrigue people who drop by the classes, and he treasures the chance to chat about the varied people who have delved into origami's intricacies, including MIT professor Erik Demaine, Friedrich Froebel (the German who invented kindergarten), NASA scientist Robert Lang, who used the art in folding solar panels and lens, and varied artists, including Akira Yoshizawa, who incorporates water for wet folding, which allows curved pieces.

Taft, who also designs his own pieces including ones used in a *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie scene that unfortunately was cut from the final film, also noted that the art form has a long history in meditation and Buddhism.

"Origami is my form of meditation," he said. "When you figure out a hard step, the feeling of multiple folds going into place



Travis Taft and origami students Hannah Benharash, Kai Simi-Ottinger, Nicole Nguyen and Sabrina Hall at his monthly Palisades Library class. Photo: Lesly Hall Photography

is a powerful, visceral feeling."

The world of origami has intrigued Taft since he was a small boy, who could not yet read but whose family had a subscription to the children's magazine *Jack and Jill*. One issue included instructions on making a jumping frog out of an index card. Taft became entranced by these frogs, which hop when their backs are pushed, and his business cards even feature instructions on how to transform the cards into jumping frogs.

Due to his intrigue with paper folding, his parents, Peter Taft and Diana Todd, bought him a book illustrating more origami pieces, and his knowledge expanded so that even though he didn't know how to read English, he could soon read origami instructions.

"It is its own language," said Taft, who grew up with his siblings, Julia and Tyler. "Even if origami artists don't speak each other's language, we speak that language."

Origami has played another important role in Taft's life in an unexpected way. After graduating from Wildwood School in 2004, he enrolled in St. John's College. The following summer, while surfing at Will Rogers State Beach, he suffered a severe injury that permanently damaged the spinal cord in his neck.

"It was a one-in-a-million freak accident," said Taft, who said a lifeguard his family knew was able to pull him to safety.

However, he now requires a wheelchair and the nerve damage affected his ability to use his hands. Paper folding turned out to be an ideal therapy, and Taft, who is now enrolled in graduate school to become a



One of Taft's original creations (above) and Taft's recreation of Satoshi Kamiya's unicorn (below).



therapist, said origami is one of the many types of art therapy.

"Origami is especially good for that field," Taft said, noting that for him, "paper folding has been really good for getting that dexterity back."

Origami needs minimal cleanup and is inexpensive, while it also provides very direct feedback, including a bump of endorphins when a fold is done well.

In addition, "it's fun, so you don't get frustrated that you're working," Taft said.

His remaining origami classes will meet May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27 and November 24.



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Tips for Planting Low-Fuel Vegetation

The 2017 California wildfire season was called the most destructive in the state's history. Statewide, the 9,133 fires burned almost 1.4 million acres, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Those fires included five of the 20 most destructive wildland-urban interface fires in state history that destroyed 8,470 structures and damaged 810. Forty-three people were killed.

The Ventura/Santa Barbara fire, which started last December 4 and was officially declared contained on January 12, led the *L.A. Daily News* to list plants that are better fire-resistant choices around homes that border on wilderness areas.

According to Cal Fire, "A fire-safe landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard," and noted some plants are more fire resistant.

The northern border of Pacific Palisades borders on thick brush parkland and fire

officials warn that embers can travel up to a mile in front of a fire in windy conditions, so consideration to planting materials should be paramount to residents.

When choosing trees for a yard, steer away from pine, eucalyptus, juniper and melaleuca, which are deemed problem trees: they can be highly flammable because of peeling bark and the presence of volatile oils and resins.

Instead, experts recommend oak, western redbud, birch or pittosporum, all of which are fire-resistant.

Calvin Soueid, who works at Arboriculture in Australia, described how live trees can burn. "Most trees' center is comprised completely of dead wood, so once the fire gets through the outer trunk the inside of the tree is incredibly flammable."

Even though a tree may be wet, he noted, "with enough heat and fire nearby, the wood will dry out and catch alight just like anything else."

Soueid said the final factor is the species. "The bark is a major factor in whether or not a tree will easily catch alight. The Melaleuca quinquenervia is the Australian Paperbark tree. Its bark is a thick, dense paper-like bark, which means there is less oxygen within the bark and when it does catch alight it burns a lot quicker (think wood vs. paper)."

Other plants to avoid planting are pampas, jubata and crimson fountain grass, because these non-native grasses create a fire hazard with excessive build-up of dry leaves and flowering stalks. Instead of grasses, use agave or ice plants.

Cal Fire recommends choosing fire-resistant plants that are also drought-tolerant such as French lavender, red monkey flower, California fuchsia, sage, California lilac, society garlic, ornamental strawberry, yellow ice plant, coreopsis and California redbud.

According to S.A.F.E. Landscapes, South-

ern California Guidebook: "Defensible Space can reduce the risk of structural damage in a wildfire. This space is the area surrounding a structure where plants are maintained in a way that decreases the fire hazard and provides an opportunity for firefighters to safely defend your home. Vegetation that does not ignite easily should be planted in the defensible space."

Yards are divided into different zones and depending on the zone, certain plants are recommended. Zone 1 (within 30 feet of the house) recommendations include a lawn, vegetable gardens, ice plant, agapanthus, oleander, daylily, pyracantha, star jasmine, periwinkle, redbud, morning glory and potato vine.

In Zone 2 (more than 30 feet from the house) the recommended low-fuel plants include yarrow, coreopsis, lantana, lavender, sage and yucca.

Visit: ucanr.edu/sites/safelandscapes/files/93415.pdf



Roofs with wood shingles are still found in Pacific Palisades.

The Right Roof Is Important

According to Cal Fire, roofs and exterior structures should be constructed of non-combustible or fire-resistant materials such as tile, slate, sheet iron, aluminum, brick, concrete tile or stone, specifically in high-fire hazard zones, such as Pacific Palisades.

If a resident has not upgraded to a Class A roof, this should be a homeowner's first priority. California laws passed in the late 1990s require all new homes and all roof replacements in very high-fire hazard severity

zones to be Class A.

Unfortunately, there are still homes in the Palisades that have wood shingles.

Another problem some residents face is "roof edge" issues. Roofs that have many angles and intersections can accumulate debris, such as pine needles or leaves. This debris can be readily ignited by embers. Experts say it is important to keep your roof and gutters clean of debris to avoid ember ignition during a wildfire.

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Decorate Your Home for the Fourth

What could your home have in common with the Huntington Palisades residence of Bill and Cindy Simon?

It could be selected as the winner of the Fourth of July Patriotic Home Decorating Contest, sponsored by realtor Joan Sather at Sotheby's International Realty.

Sather, a Pacific Palisades resident who has sponsored the contest for the past eight years, advises homeowners: "It is time to get out the red, white & blue, for the judges

are coming!"

All homes in Pacific Palisades are eligible. Yes, that means those people who live in the Highlands, Castellammare and the Riviera. Even if you can't keep up with the Simons—who yarn-bombed three trees with red, white and blue squares, put flags and patriotic bunting on the fence, added a homemade Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty by the front gate, and had Lady Liberty hold a flag proclaiming "I heart America"—you can still make your place look festive.

Cindy, a longtime resident, usually decorates for the Fourth, but not to the extent she did last year. "Usually I'll put up something," she told the *News* after winning. "But this year I went all out."

The winner of the contest automatically becomes a judge the following year, so Simon will join Sather, Palisades Honorary Mayors Janet and Billy Crystal and maybe one or two additional mystery judges.

It is easy to enter the contest: 1.) decorate the front of your home in red, white and blue or American flags or any other patriotic symbol or any combination of bunting, flags or statues; 2.) take a photo (cellphone photos are fine); 3. go to palisades4th.com and click on Home Decorating Contest and upload it or go to the Palisades Americanism Parade Association Facebook page.

Photos must be submitted by July 1. Pre-



Cece Webb, Kevin Nealon and Joan Sather present the winning ribbon for her Fourth of July Patriotic Home Decorating contest to Cindy Simon in 2017. Photo: Matthew Stockman

liminary judging of the submitted photos will take place July 2.

Then be on the lookout for red-white-and-blue-decorated golf carts cruising your neighborhood on Tuesday, July 3.

"Make your plans now to join the contest," Sather said. "We love to knock on the doors of WINNERS!"

The top prize is a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol as well as an opportunity to judge the 2019 contest.

The Simons also received gift certificates and coupons for Palisades Gas and Wash, Naturella, The Massage Place, Regal Cleaners, Gorus Yoga, Rosie's Nails, Pharmaca, Fahi's Skin and Wax Bar, isarose Flowers, Black Ink and the ATAM learning center.

The top 10 finalists will also receive prizes from local businesses and recognition certificates.

Visit: palisades4th.com, joansather.com, or email joan@joansather.com.

Past Home Decorating Winners

- 2008: Hoffman family (Via de la Paz)
- 2009: No contest held
- 2010: Mercer family (Toyopa)
- 2011: Almaraz family (Sunset)
- 2012: Hassett family (De Pauw)
- 2013: Mercer family (Toyopa)
- 2014: John Riley, Bev Lowe (Kagawa)
- 2015: Sutton family (Galloway)
- 2016: Hassett family (DePauw)
- 2017: Simon Family (Toyopa)
- 2018: ???



Pacific Palisades Garden Club would like to thank the Palisades Community for their support in making this year's Garden Tour a success.

Please come visit us at our meetings. Check out our website: www.pacpalgardenclub.org for dates and speakers.

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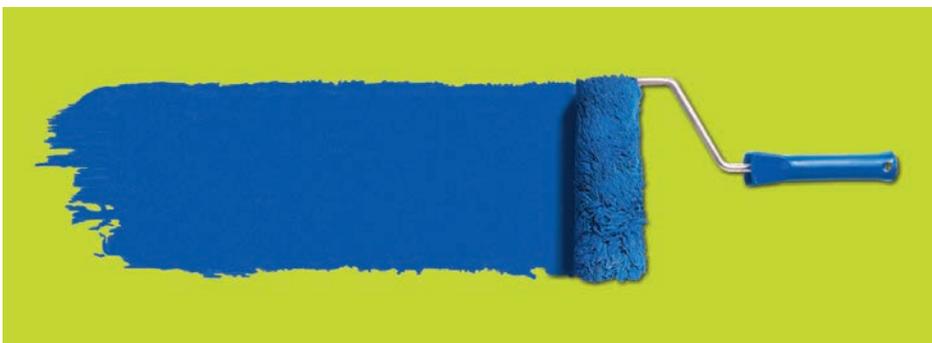
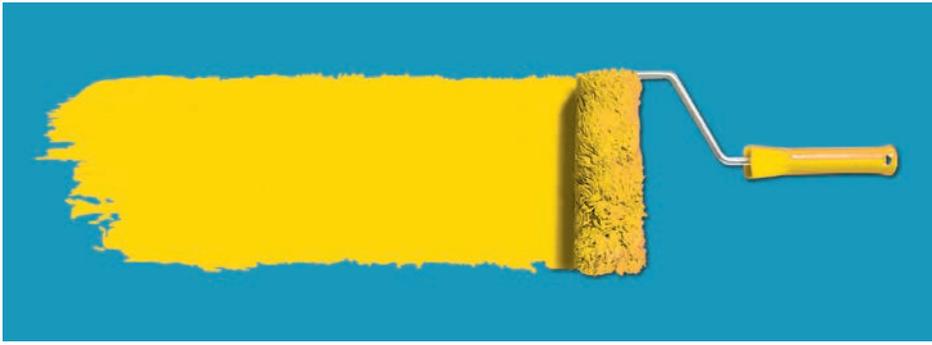
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