

Renewed Concern Over Projects

By SUE PASCOE Editor

ore than a decade ago, developers sought to build on the Revello landslide in the lower Castellammare area. The spectacular views of the ocean on the site near the intersection of Sunset Boulevard and Pacific Coast Highway make this a prime location.

The two projects, when first proposed, were met with massive resident opposition because this property is the site of active and historic landslides. A 1965 landslide at that area destroyed 12 units of an apartment building.

The Landmark (Harridge Development) at 17331-17333 Tramonto Drive is now approved for 53 townhouses with individually attached two-car garages per unit and guest parking (133 parking spaces) with no increase in height, massing or grading. The project was approved initially in 2005 by the California Coastal Commission with 14 pages of conditions that had to be met before, during and after construction.

The Seaview condominium project at 17325 Castellammare will consist of 29 units on 1.06 acres. It is being built by developer G.H. Palmer Associates (Da Vinci developer) and was approved by the Coastal Commission in January 2006 with almost as many conditions.

On page 24 of the 41-page Landmark



Eighty-two units will be built on the Revello landslide in the lower Castellammare area. Excavation is underway.

report is this statement: "The applicant and b) de-water the slide during construction, the City acknowledge that the excavation could reactivate the slide.

"The applicant has been required to a) excavate during the dry season when the level of the saturation of the slide is low, being removed from the hillside, Jeff Nap-

and c) install solder piles and lagging between the excavation and the upper portion of the slide before removing the materials."

With construction underway and dirt

ier, principal inspector with L.A. City Building and Safety, was contacted on January 7 to see if conditions laid out in the Coastal Commission approval were being followed.

Photo: Reece Pascoe

"Any questions regarding Coastal applications are for Department of City Planning," Napier wrote in a January 8 e-mail. "As far as the Inspection questions and issues, I will have to check with my district inspector and get back to you." At press (Continued on Page 18)

Ketaily Retires from LA

By SUE PASCOE Editor

fter more than 34 years with the Los Angeles Fire Department, Captain Mike Ketaily will retire January 31. His last day at Fire Station 69, where he has worked five years, was January 17.

"It's been a good run here," Ketaily said. "I've never worked at a station where the community has been so supportive.

"The door is wide open here and resi-

ride in the Fourth of July parade. At what other station in Los Angeles would you get to do that?"

Most firefighters have a "career" fire, a once-in-a-lifetime event. Ketaily's was the 1992 L.A. riots.

"It went on for four days. There weren't cell phones, so we'd stop at pay phones to let our wives know we were okay. There was no sleep. We responded from fire to fire.

"It was mayhem," said Ketaily, who re-



dents would walk in just to talk. You get to members LAFD working alongside the National Guard and police. "One firefighter was shot. People were rioting and started looting stores. They were getting in the way as we were trying to put out fires."

He was asked about the recent telecast from Ferguson, Missouri. He acknowledged it seemed similar, saying "It was disappointing to watch."

Asked about the strangest call he'd ever responded to in Pacific Palisades, Ketaily said: "A bird stuck in a tree.

"The gentleman who called the station said he had just spent \$5,000 on the bird, a kind of parrot, and said it couldn't fly, and could the firefighters come and get it down from a tree.

"How'd it get in the tree?" Ketaily asked once on site. The man explained that it had been on his outside deck on the street above the tree, but had glided down onto it. Ketaily asked him, "If we put a ladder up this tree, what's to stop the bird from flying off?"

"He doesn't fly," the gentleman assured (Continued on Page 17)

Park Board **Meets Tonight**

The Park Advisory Board will meet tonight, January 21, at 7 p.m. in the small gym at the Palisades Recreation Center at 851 Alma Real. The 2015 board members will be introduced and assigned to subcommittees. The public is invited.

Topics to be addressed include two-hour parking signs in the Alma Real lot, DOT enforcement of parking restrictions and new parking spaces. Also discussed will be interior and exterior park gates, new "no camping" signs and the status of the bocce court/picnic area.

Old business will include reports on maintenance, the ongoing off-leash dog enforcement issues and the Toppel 2013 Palisades Recreation Center maintenance pledge agreement.

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Demolition Stirs Fond Bookstore Memories

By BOB VICKREY Palisades News *Contributor*

Shortly after lunch on January 6, I heard the first loud crash of a crane knocking down the walls of the buildings on North Swarthmore Avenue, directly across the street from my house on Monument. When I walked outside to see which of the former businesses had taken the first hit, I saw the demolished back wall of Village Books.

As a book lover and former publisher's representative, I began to wonder if there's some kind of international conspiracy against bookstores. First, Jeff Bezos turned the business on its head with Amazon.com; then billionaire investor and landlord Charley Munger decided that Dutton's Brentwood Books was an expendable commodity, and now, even the guy operating the crane for the demolition company employed by Caruso Affiliated decided he didn't like bookstores either.

Since then, I've decided the crane operator was innocent of any bookstore conspiracy, but the demolition portion of Caruso's redevelopment project certainly rekindled some great memories of Village Books.

I vividly remember the day in 1997 that I walked past a vacant storefront on Swarthmore, and being caught completely off-guard by a hand-made sign in the window that read: "Wouldn't it be nice if the Palisades had a bookstore?"

Crown Books on Sunset had recently



Village Books was located where the crane operator is at work.

closed, opening the door for Palisadian Katie O'Laughlin, who had practiced law for 15 years but now wanted to fulfill her lifelong dream of owning a bookstore. On July 4 that year, she opened Village Books to an enthusiastic and welcoming community.

From the beginning, Village Books was recognized by customers as the antithesis of a chain-store operation. O'Laughlin employed the motto: "Large Enough to Serve You, Small Enough to Know You," and sure enough, the Palisades suddenly had its own *Cheers* bar, wholly embodying the famous sitcom slogan, "Where everybody knows your name." Village Books became the local hub for book signings, speaking engagements, musical events and book-club gatherings. But it was perhaps, most importantly, a place for people to congregate and meet their neighbors.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

The store hosted events for local authors such as Al Martinez, Alan Eisenstock, Carolyn See, Matt Miller, Kenneth Turan and Giada De Laurentiis, and it hosted touring writers, including Meg Cabot of *Princess Diaries* fame, actor and activist Mike Farrell, Arianna Huffington, Elizabeth Gilbert and Pulitzer award-winning biographer, A. Scott Berg, a Palisades High grad.

Almost four years after the store's closure, former customers still approach me in the village and express their sadness about the loss of Village Books.

The harsh realities of the rise of e-com-

Village Design Guidelines Presented at PPCC

The Pacific Palisades Community Council will meet tomorrow (January 22) at 7 p.m. in the Palisades Branch Library community room. On the agenda is the Design Review Board (DRB), a seven-member board appointed by Councilmember Mike Bonin and his predecessor Bill Rosendahl, that will discuss proposed design guidelines for the Palisades commercial areas.

The guidelines cover topics such as landscaping, signage, surface materials and sustainability. They were written in 1997, but never adopted by the Department of City Planning, and the DRB would like to have them adopted by the City.

Depending on when the Design Guidelines are finalized and adopted, they may or may not be in effect prior to the Department of City Planning's review of Caruso Affiliated's Village redevelopment plans. merce and the decline of brick-and-mortar stores began to take its toll on independent bookstores around the country early this century. At a critical financial juncture in 2008, Palisadian actor Tom Hanks, an avid reader and regular customer of the store, volunteered to do a fundraiser in an effort to help keep the doors open. Hanks signed books, DVDs and memorabilia on one of the coldest and stormiest December nights in memory, as customers stood in long lines that stretched down Swarthmore toward Sunset in their attempt to save the store.

The following year, a charitable group of local residents created Palisades Village Book Friends that would provide financial assistance for community literary events in an attempt to stabilize the store's cash flow. Nevertheless, despite all the efforts and goodwill of community supporters, Village Books ultimately suffered the same fate as many other stores nationwide, and closed its doors in July 2011.

When the long-abandoned building was leveled two weeks ago, I was reminded that a nostalgic treasure was buried under the rubble: the colorful, well-worn floor mural near the front window that was emblematic of the store's unique signature style. The image of famous writers seated around a table, including Samuel Beckett, James Joyce, William Butler Yeats and Maya Angelou, was painted by Westside artist Gary Palmer. Katie had mentioned how much her father would have enjoyed sitting at that table, so utilizing a picture of her late father (Michael O'Laughlin, the longtime mayor of Niagara Falls), Palmer was able to give "Mayor Mike" a seat alongside the renowned writers.

The sound of the wrecking crane that day was a sad, yet somehow fond reminder of a gathering place in our village that once served as a true literary oasis. Village Books leaves a lasting legacy and did more than its share in elevating the quality of life for legions of Palisadians.

Bob Vickrey is a longtime Palisadian whose columns appear in the Houston Chronicle and Waco Tribune-Herald. He is also a regular contributor to the Boryana Books website.

Pacific Palisades Rain Report

The rainfall on January 10 and 11 totaled 1.42 inches bringing the season total to 5.74 inches, according to local rainmeister Carol Leacock, who has an official Los Angeles County rain gauge at her home on Bienveneda Avenue.

Last year at this time the Palisades had 5.69 inches of rain. Normal to date is 5.87 inches. "So far, so good," said assistant rainmeister Ted Mackie.

Unofficial City Roadblock



This fallen tree blocked most of Via de la Paz north of Sunset for almost a week before City workers removed it on January 10. Palisades Beautiful, a local nonprofit, will plant a free replacement tree. Pick up a flyer at the library, visit palisadesbeautiful.org or call Barbara Marinacci, (310) 459-0190 or Marjorie Friedlander, (310) 459-7145. Photo: Reece Pascoe

Page 3

Palisadian Wins Coveted Math Prize

By LAUREL BUSBY Staff Writer

ost people don't realize that math was essential in convicting one of the men who assaulted truck driver Reginald Denny during the 1992 L.A. riots.

UCLA mathematics professors Stan Osher and Leonid Rudin wrote algorithms and created a company that used those algorithms to bring out a tattoo image on the arm of one of the perpetrators. That tattoo allowed him to be identified and subsequently prosecuted. Osher's mathematical work has been used not only for crime scenes, but also for enhancing the look of animated water, which before his breakthrough was incredibly difficult to design.

Creating new advances in mathematics is Osher's passion. "I love it," he said in his UCLA office. "There's nothing like it. When something works, it's like breaking down a door and finding treasures."

Osher, who moved to Pacific Palisades in 1997, particularly likes applied mathematics (math designed to be used in real-world applications). This year, he won the most prestigious award in this field, the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize, which is named after one of history's greatest mathematicians and includes an engraved gold medal and

10,000 euros (around \$12,500).

Winning "felt fantastic, overwhelming," said Osher, who received the award at a presentation in South Korea at the International Congress of Mathematics.

"There are so many great people in my field," he said. "This award is given to one person every four years."

The father of two likes to let the outside world stimulate his ideas. Coming to UCLA in 1976 was ideal for him, Osher said, because the atmosphere is friendly and designed to support innovation. He also tries to foster this atmosphere for his students, who he said are doing much deeper work than he and his fellow students did when he earned his Ph.D. at New York University-most likely because of how fast the Internet allows research to occur and new ideas to be shared.

One recent Ph.D. graduate, Farzin Barekat, described his time with Osher: "Every conversation with him is a moment of enlightenment. His enthusiasm for research radiates and motivates everyone around him.... During my Ph.D., it had become an addiction for me to see Professor Osher every day, not necessarily that I had a question to ask him, but rather because visiting him alone would give me positive energy to do math."

Osher often likes to sing while he works,



Professor Stan Osher teaches at UCLA.

and he has a sense of humor that doesn't lyn-"slums"—and jumped into mathestop. For example, he said he moved to Los Angeles from Brooklyn in 1976 because L.A. was so "shallow and plastic. The whole lifestyle was just perfect for me."

of when he began studying mathematics. He had grown up in a poor area of Brook-

MAJOR REDUCTION!

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

matics during the years following Sputnik, when lots of money was being spent on math and science education.

Lucky for him, he found that he loved A middle-class life was what he dreamed math and academia. "The freedom, the intellectual aspect, being around smart peo-(*Continued on Page 5*)



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Osher

(Continued from Page 4)

ple, the security—all appealed," he said. And then there's the added bonus of how helpful his work has been. As of early November, one of Osher's papers has been cited in other papers 10,500 times.

"This stuff is useful," he said, noting that one of his students won an Academy Award, and one of that student's students worked on the snow in Frozen.

"I feel much better when mathematics gets used," Osher said. "I like the beauty and elegance of it, but the usefulness is an added bonus."

One of his discoveries for enhancing the animation of water stems from simply thinking about water's movement in a different way. For example, animating individual water droplets as they merge was very complicated and taxing for computer programs.

Osher reimagined water droplets as slices of an arch (or other 3D object). As the slices moved toward the center of the arch, they naturally merged. This was much easier to program into computers.

The formula for the arch could then be shifted to a steeper or wider pattern, depending on how the animator wanted the water to move. In addition, the speed of this movement could be adjusted to make the water droplets combine more slowly or quickly, creating the desired effect.



Stan Osher receives the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize from South Korean President Park Geun-hye at the International Congress of Mathematics, held in August of 2014 in Seoul, Korea. Photo: Courtesy of the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize Committee

"This simple little idea is really a big things happen." deal," Osher said. Over the years, his ideas have sprouted from all sorts of sources. "I've always been lucky. Someone crosses your path, makes a comment," and an idea is born. One set of algorithms he worked on allow MRIs to be conducted in oneeighth the time. Many have spread to other mathematicians, allowing them to create new advances. "Something clicks, and these

Osher, who is divorced, has a 9-year-old son, "a computer whiz," and a 26-year-old daughter, who earned her master's degree from Columbia and is now a social worker in Santa Monica. His elder sister, Sondra Jaffe, a retired math professor, was a role model to him. "She talked me into applying to NYU grad school, and the rest is history," he said.

Crafting a Rule Of Life Workshop At St. Matthew's

Dr. Stephen Macchia will host a workshop based on his book, Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to a Well-Ordered Way," at St. Matthew's Parish Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, January 29. The workshop is open to the public.

Macchia will teach attendees how to press the "pause" button; consider more carefully God's unique design for one's life; evaluate one's life in a focused and intentional way; and invest time, talents and resources to line up with the blessings God wants to bring into a person's life.

After serving 11 years on the pastoral staff of Grace Chapel in Lexington, Massachusetts, and an additional 14 years as president of Vision New England, Macchia founded Leadership Transformations in 2003.

He is a pastoral teacher, conference speaker, ministry leader, retreat facilitator, ministry mentor/coach, spiritual director and the author of several books, including Becoming a Healthy Church and Becoming a Healthy Disciple.

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Heard About Town

Parking Meter Revenue

Fifteen parking meters on Swarthmore and Monument that border Caruso's property have been taken out. Since the City argues that meters are a necessary source of revenue, is Caruso paying the lost revenue to the City?

(Editor's note: A City spokesperson responded that the parking meters were removed on December 4, 2014, per the construction contractor's request. Currently the city does not charge any project "lost meter revenue" when parking meters are removed temporarily due to construction. Last Thursday, the project manager notified the City it could reinstall five meters on Swarthmore near Sunset, which should be done by January 15.)

Wood-Burning Fireplaces

It seems like everyone in the Palisades wants to be "green," and then I smell all the smoke coming from wood-burning fireplaces. This is simple pollution. We're not pioneers living on the land who need to burn wood. We've evolved; there is cleaner energy today.

Christmas Tree Toss

Why can't people figure out that they need to cut up their Christmas trees and put them in their green bin? Someone tossed one on LAUSD land below Temescal Canyon Continuation School and another tree was lying near the curb on Chautauqua. Now who's going to take care of your tree? You made your problem somebody else's problem.

Influx of Transients

I own a business and last month two different transients came in who just weren't right in the mind. They were shouting and acting sort of crazy. I called the police and they escorted them out of my business, but there was nothing else they could do. Then the transients came back. They scare my customers. What can I do?

Want Time/Temperature?

If you would like to see the time and temperature sign back on Sunset Boulevard, please send an email to ricklemmo @carusoaffiliated.com or phone Rick Lemmo at (323) 900-8100. If more people take an active part in this, we might get some results.

Deer on the Hill

I was with my grandchild at the new playground near the bottom of Temescal Canyon Road when I looked up on the hill and saw seven deer grazing.

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT Pride and Tolerance

By RABBI ZUSHE CUNIN

any of us spend a lot of time agonizing over what others might be thinking about us. You know the well-known saying: "In my twenties, I thought everyone was talking about me. In my thirties, I realized they weren't talking about me. In my forties I didn't even care!"

In today's society, it can be very hard to just be you—the real you. We often over-internalize other people's opinions of us (real or imagined) to the point of curbing our personality or obsessing over how our well-meaning actions may be taken by others.

But, happiness in life does not come from hiding our true selves in order to fit in. True happiness starts with being comfortable with who you are, even proud of yourself and what you stand for. Individuals belonging to minority religions or cultures often feel torn between observing their minority's practices and fitting into the predominant culture of the masses.

As a Rabbi in the community, I often meet Jews who talk to me about my external appearance and question its appropriateness, given the predominantly secular society in which we live. Others often comment on how proud they are to see me walking around town identifiably Jewish—wearing my Judaism on my sleeve, so to speak. History has proved that hiding who you are does not make others think any better of you. If you have something to hide, then usually it is because you have reason to be ashamed of it.

The great contemporary Jewish thinker Rabbi Jonathan Sacks perhaps put it best when he said, "Non-Jews respect Jews who respect their Judaism. Non-Jews are ashamed by Jews who are ashamed by their Judaism." This of course does not apply to Jews alone. It applies equally to any religious group or any individual form of expression.

When we celebrate who we are, others may not agree with us and that's fine. In fact, that is what America and democracy are all about tolerating and accepting our neighbors for who they are and even loving them for their differences. Tolerance and love are possible when you are comfortable enough with yourself and your own beliefs and values, that those of others do not threaten your own.

This is similar to our internal response to the success of others. Are you happy and proud when you hear about the successes of your friends, or do you find yourself feeling envious or begrudging? Studies show that people who are satisfied with their own lot are able to rejoice in the successes of their friends without the reservations of jealousy or spite.

Being proud of who you are entails knowing who you are. The affliction of our generation is that with so many electronic distractions we spend little time asking ourselves, "Who am I?" and "What can I be proud of?"

If you find these questions difficult to answer, start by making a list of all your virtues. Every morning before you start your day, read the list. These self-affirmations are a great way to remind yourself how good you are. When one is humbly conscious of one's own goodness, he or she will see the goodness in others, too.

Rabbi Zushe Cunin is executive director of the Chabad Jewish Community Center and Campus.

Thought to Ponder

"Write what you need to write, not what is currently popular or what you think will sell."
— English crime writer P.D. James (1920-2014)

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VIEWPOINT

Homelessness: Bad Luck? A Right? A Choice?

By SUE PASCOE Editor

There by the grace of God, go I" is a proverb generally used when people speak of the homeless. We acknowledge that others' misfortune could be ours because our fate is not entirely in our own hands.

But is that proverb accurate in describing transients? After touring the tent sites below Corona Del Mar (before last year's fire), the sites below Via de las Olas and the sites along Temescal Canyon Road, and watching the cleanup of those sites by City and County workers, I notice there are problems not related to fate, but rather choice.

Those doing cleanup generally wear hazmat suits. Since there is no Tuesday garbage pickup in the brush, there is an accumulation of garbage and discarded items. Trucks carrying tons of garbage have to be loaded up and taken out from campsites. Needles are sometimes found at different tents, so cleanup workers must use caution.

At one site, plastic milk cartons were filled with urine because there are no sanitary facilities on the hillsides, and excrement can be found a short distance from many tents. The ashes of cooking fires were found, and at one, what looked like the remains of a cat.

When I visited various sites, most of the people were

chatty and more than willing to discuss whatever was on their minds. Three men offered me beer at 10 a.m. at a Temescal Canyon Park picnic bench. One of the men, when asked how he was doing, replied, "Good when I'm on my meds."

Last fall, while chatting with eight transients near Gladstone's one evening, I learned that earlier in their lives some had been hit on the head—even spending time in the hospital. Yet, another told me about her brain tumor and operations.

A week later, a fight between transients near the intersection of PCH and Sunset sent one to the hospital and might have resulted in his death if a resident had not called the police. No charges were filed.

I went back to Gladstone's to check whether the person beaten was someone I had interviewed. Those eight had disappeared, and the man going through the garbage at Jack-in-the-Box, who said he had lived here 14 years, couldn't recall who was involved in the fight.

Like many transients, some of us have lost jobs, lost a family member or had no money for food. Once in that situation, we reached out to churches/temples or our family, until we could find our way back. It is a more rational choice than pitching a tent in the brush.

There are homes, shelters and apartments for

transients if they choose to go. Since this is America, they are allowed the choice.

The question we might ask is, "When do the rights of a few outweigh the rights of many?"

Recently, in front of the library, a homeless man in a wheelchair started throwing food at people walking by. At the Swarthmore farmers market, a transient wearing a hoodie and boxer shorts was begging for food.

Sanitation, illegal camping, fires that get out of control, drug use and uncontrolled violence are all problems with the homeless.

Mental-health issues, swept under the carpet by former President Ronald Reagan, need to be addressed. Mental illness is real. Transients need to be helped, but not by giving them money when they panhandle.

This is about compassion. You would not allow your dog to live like these people do. Let's stop calling it a right and look into what can make it right for these people—and society.

The Los Angeles County homeless count will take place the last week in January, and volunteers are still sought (spa5homelesscount@lahsa.org). Pacific Palisades volunteers will visit different sites starting at 6 a.m. on January 29.

One person in town asked, "What happens after you count them?" Let's find out.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chautauqua Near PCH Needs Resurfacing

I share concerns about the condition of Chautauqua, coming up from PCH ("Heard About Town," December 17). Ever since the construction truck dumped concrete mix which hardened on the road, it's been a mess that continues to worsen. I have repeatedly contacted Councilmember Mike Bonin's office, and while responsive, his office has been ineffective in getting anyone from the City's maintenance department to repair the street.

It continues to amaze me how well-traveled streets get ignored, yet smaller residential streets throughout Pacific Palisades seem to get yearly makeovers. Something's not working correctly in this city. Actually . . . a lot of things are not.

Keith Olson

Pedestrian Bridge Is Needed for Safety

Great update article ["Potrero Park Opening Pushed Back," December 3] on the progress of Potrero Canyon Trails. I like that Trails name on our Potrero Canyon Community Advisory Committee report better than the Park name.

The trail connecting the mouth of Potrero Canyon to Temescal Canyon Road is 0.61 miles, not 0.25 miles, as reported in the article. Google Earth's measuring tool and my vehicle's odometer agree that the connecting trail is 0.6 of a mile long. The trail is even longer if you add on the walk from trail end to the signal at PCH and Temescal, in order to get to the beach.

While such a trail is good and needed, so is a pedestrian over-crossing from the mouth of Potrero Canyon, over PCH and directly onto the beach.Safer, shorter, faster, bike- and people- (and auto-) friendly, just like the other one in the Palisades and several in Santa Monica. A majority of the Advisory Committee proposed a direct bridge crossing to achieve the number-one goal of safe beach access without interfering with traffic flow: "The Committee's top priority is to ensure a safe crossing of PCH and to prevent further pedestrian deaths."

David Card

PaliHi Wrestling Coach Passes Away

(*The following letter was sent to Palisades High School parents on January 8.*)

It is with a very heavy heart that I share with you news of the passing of P.E. teacher and wrestling coach Mr. (Randy) Aguirre. Some of you are aware that Coach Aguirre had courageously battled cancer for many months. He was admitted to the hospital during this winter break, and passed away last night.

We are fortunate to have been blessed with such a dedicated and inspirational educator and wrestling

coach. Mr. Aguirre began his teaching career at PCHS in 2011 and proved himself a dedicated teacher. He founded Pali's first wrestling team, and with great energy and commitment built a competitive squad of wrestlers. Amazingly, Coach Aguirre took a fledgling program with little financial support and no permanent facility and within three years won the Coliseum League, City Regional Tournament, and the L.A. City Dual Championship.

Information about memorial and funeral services will be shared as soon as it is available. All will have an opportunity to share thoughts and condolences with Mr. Aguirre's family via cards and posters being collected at Pali.

A number of people have asked how they can help. Donations to offset some of the significant expenses (medical, etc.) can be made out to Mr. Aguirre's father, James Aguirre, and dropped off at the main office on campus. Donations can also be mailed directly to James Aguirre, 640 N. Vogue Ave., Covina, CA 91722.

News like this is often upsetting. We encourage you to talk over your feelings with trusted adults or friends. Additionally, several Pali counselors are on campus this week and additional counseling support will be available on campus starting this Monday, January 12.

Pam Magee, Ed.D. Executive Director and Principal

(A prayer service was held January 15 and the funeral on January 17 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Covina, CA.)

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Palisades News January 21, 2015 REAL ESTATE

Chamber Honors Two With Farberow Award

By SUE PASCOE Editor

The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce announced that there was a tie for the Mort Farberow Award between Nicole Howard and Kevin Sabin. They will both be honored at the Chamber's Installation Dinner on January 29 at the Riviera Country Club.

The award was first given in 2003, in Farberow's memory, to honor a local businessperson who supports the Chamber of Commerce, community and children. Farberow, who died in 2002, was the longtime owner of Mort's Deli on Swarthmore, a local delicatessen that welcomed families and kids, serving comfort food at reasonable prices.

"I am touched to be getting this award," said Howard, who chaired fundraisers at Palisades Elementary and worked on the PRIDE board at Paul Revere Middle School and is now volunteering at Palisades High School. "I actually did know Mort from Atocha Hair and Nail (now Black Ink). When I was having my nails done and he came in for haircuts he brought all of us yummy bacon.

"He was a very nice guy and always giving to the community," Howard said. "I actually have been friends with Mort's daughter, Karen, since we were 15 years old."

Nicole Howard was a certified real estate

Men's Wisdom Circle Workshop

Palisadian Kane Phelps will lead a free workshop, "Wisdom Circle," for men over 50 from 7:30 to 9 p.m., on Monday, January 26, at the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, 821 Via de la Paz. Participants will reflect on elderhood, share stories and be part of a supportive community.

Phelps received his bachelor's degree from Middlebury College. After an early career as an actor and producer, he switched careers, earning his master's degree in psychology from Antioch University, and became licensed as a marriage and family therapist. He spent 26 years with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, as a social worker and a supervisor.

For the past two years he has been in private practice in Pacific Palisades. His expertise is in solution-focused therapy influenced by Zen Buddhist philosophy, meditation and mindfulness practices. Call (310) 573-7991 or email kane@kanephelps.com.



Nicole Howard

appraiser before starting her web site devoted to the community: thisweekinthepalisades.com, which survived for almost eight years. She recently passed her state real estate exam and now works for Gibson International. A Chamber board member for more than seven years, she served as president 2012-2013, and is now an advisor. Howard and her husband, David, have two sons, Spencer and Justin, who attend Palisades High School and Paul Revere Middle School.

"This is a humbling award," said Kevin Sabin, the co-owner of The Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave. "I met Mort a few times and it is a great award that signifies the three C's and what Mort represented."

Sabin said that one of the most rewarding aspects of owning a shop in town is seeing the smiles on kids' faces. "I think that's what Mort liked, too: to make people feel happy," he said.

Since opening in February 2011, The Yogurt Shoppe has donated more than \$33,000 to community organizations and nonprofits through its Happy Hour fundraiser program. Between 5 and 7 p.m. weekdays, the owners give 15 percent of net sales back to various groups and nonprofits.

"The most recent recipients were the Pali-Hi wrestling team, marching band, golf team and the Junior Kings Hockey Team," said Sabin, who joined in a partnership with Mitch and Alison Burmeister in March. "We have availability beginning February 22 and welcome anyone local to partner with us to raise money for their cause." (E-mail kevin@theyogurtshoppe.com.)

In addition to upcoming fundraisers for PaliHi boys soccer, BBYO Pacific Palisades and Malibu and the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, The Yogurt Shoppe rewards kids who have good grades.

The first Monday of every week, the first 10 students who prove they have a B+ or better receive a free yogurt. "We want to encourage them to do well in school," said Sabin, who also sponsors the Kids on Bikes entry in the Fourth of July parade. Addi-



Kevin Sabin is the co-owner of The Yogurt Shoppe.

tionally, the store donates to community, school and silent auctions.

The Sabins have three children: Frankie(workingw(13) and Oliver (11) who attend Wildwood,Visit: aand Sadie, a fourth grader at Canyon459-0088.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

School. Jennifer is the executive director and founder of Working with Autism (workingwithautism.com).

Visit: a placetomix.com or call (310) 59-0088.

'Colorful' Situations Require Experience

By MICHAEL EDLEN Special to the Palisades News

y team and I professionally approach each listing with the intention to provide the highest level of service we can. We also learn from each experience and continue to refine our processing, improving our systems so potential marketing or escrow issues can be avoided.

Over the years, we have had many colorful situations that have helped us become more sensitive to various types of issues that can become challenges to the real estate sales process. Occasionally, all we can do is keep a sense of humor about a situation, be as patient as possible and make every effort to come up with creative solutions.

Some memorable examples include: escape-artist dogs, an excessive number of pets that created a serious odor problem, beehives in chimneys and attics, attached fixtures that sellers opted to remove without telling anyone, extensive mold growth inside walls or behind cabinetry, and an enormous trash pile left by a seller that required multiple dumpsters to haul away.

We lost two buyers at a property in Rustic Canyon because of a massive oak tree that the buyers wanted to remove but could not because California Oaks are protected. Additionally we were challenged selling a large home near brush area because of the

high cost of insurance.

Inter-spousal conflicts between sellers can also make for rather challenging situations, and the negative energy created by family members in disagreement can be felt by potential buyers.

We are usually fortunate to have back-up buyers under contract when property investigation issues result in escrows being cancelled. One memorable sale had us opening and closing escrow seven times before the seventh back-up buyer closed the deal. We had clearly explained the potential soils issues on the sloped property could cost upwards of half a million dollars to fix, but each buyer had insisted they could handle the obstacles for much less... until they were in escrow and soils experts told them that they should have listened to us in the first place.

Despite our combined total of more than 90 years of real estate experience, it still surprises us how often some new type of issue can arise in a sale or lease transaction. But we are grateful for the occasional extraordinary situation because it helps us become more skilled and understanding.

Michael Edlen has successfully represented over 1,200 clients in 29 years. He has authored nearly 200 articles, participated in numerous problem-solving seminars and workshops, and enjoys the educative process. He can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or michael@ michaeledlen.com.

Anthony Marguleas Donates to Village Green

By SUE PASCOE Editor

t's such a blessing," said board member Bob Gold about Anthony Marguleas' latest \$5,000 donation to the Village Green. "We still have to raise money, but it takes the pressure off."

In addition to various maintenance costs, which have risen to about \$9,000 annually, street lights near the fountain were replaced in 2014 for \$4,200. This year the Village Green board hopes to raise enough money to replace the sidewalk on Antioch.

Marguleas, owner of Amalfi Estates, has donated to the Village Green for the past three years, and before that other causes, including a major contribution to the Fourth of July parade committee.

But he is not comfortable being singled out. "It is not just the act of giving money, but also of good deeds. Ever since my four kids were younger, in the morning I remind them 'to make a difference in the world' today and help someone," Marguleas said. "When I would kiss them goodnight I would ask them what they did to make a difference.

"It's so easy to get caught up with material possessions-having a nice house and

that I sold a certain number of homes, but rather that I made a difference."

Marguleas, a real estate agent who has lived in the Palisades since 1992, originally gave 100 percent of his commission from two home sales to local causes. Now he gives 10 percent of his net proceeds from each sale to a charity of his client's choice.

"I am so fortunate to live in the best town, have a great wife and family, and a job I truly love that I am glad to be able to give back and help others," said Marguleas who credits his parents as being the role model for his philanthropy. "My parents gave financially as well as giving their time by being on charitable boards.'

He grew up in Rancho Mirage, where his father owned Sun World, an agricultural company that marketed red seedless grapes, watermelon and special varieties of fruits and vegetables. His first job was working in the grape fields cleaning up after workers who had picked the grapes.

He attended University of Riverside, where he started his own silk-screening company, and also RELY Safe Rides, which involved volunteers driving people home free of charge if they had been drinking.

"My last year in college I started a charicars—but I did not want my legacy to be table scholarship in my grandparents' and



New Village Green board members George Foley and Betsy Collins with Anthony Marguleas. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

parents' names awarded to students who positive attitude," Marguleas said. "So many do the most service," Marguleas said. "I was also named the Volunteer of the Year for the City of Riverside during college. Whenever I decide to retire I would love to be involved with some charities and do volunteer work because it's my second passion."

When Marguleas was 26 he was diagnosed with a rare cancer, rhabdomyosarcoma, and was given only a 30 percent chance of survival. His parents and an older and twin brother watched while he dwindled to 98 pounds during radiation, chemotherapy and finally a bone-marrow transplant.

"I seemed to always know I was going to be one of the survivors. I have always had a

people are given challenges in life and the real test is how one handles those challenges. As painful as the cancer treatments were, the hardest part was seeing the pain it caused my family as they watched me go through it.

"It sounds odd, but I am thankful and grateful for everything-even cancer. Without it I would never have met my wife [Sue, an oncology nurse], appreciate life as much and gotten as close with my family. Most people in their 20s take life for granted, but I was given a lesson in how important life is and to live every day to the fullest, which was a huge blessing.'



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The annual Palisades High School online silent auction will be held from February 12 through March 1. The Booster Club is seeking donations that may include physical items, gift certificates, services, sports and entertainment tickets. All donations are tax-deductible. If necessary, auction committee members (Daniela Prechter, Lisa Karlin, Becky Goodell, Kandy Ringquist, Lynn Whitaker and Ivy Greene) will create and print gift certificates and even arrange for an item(s) pickup. E-mail: paliboosters@mail.com or visit: palihigh.org.

Marjorie Graham to **Address Re-entering The Workforce**

Majorie Graham, past Woman's Club president who is currently working as an executive recruiter, will speak from 7 to 9 p.m. tomorrow, January 22, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave.

Graham, who specializes in workforce transitions and executive recruitment, will answer questions about re-entering the workforce. The cost is \$10 and the public is invited. Bring copies of your resume and questions. To register, visit: theppwc.org.

Booster Club Seeks Items for Auction Key Legislators Will Speak At Democratic Club Meeting

will speak at the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club's annual meeting at 2 p.m., on Sunday, January 25, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave.

The 2015 executive board candidate slate and proposed by-law modifications will be up for ratification by club members in good standing. Refreshments will be served and parking will be available. The meeting is open to the public with a \$10 suggested donation.

Speaking and answering questions will be State Senator Ben Allen, Assembly member Richard Bloom, L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin, L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and Congressman Ted Lieu.

Ben Allen was elected to the 26th Senate District in November and now serves as chair of the Senate's Committee on elections and constitutional amendments as well as the state legislature's joint committee on the arts. He is an attorney and has degrees from Harvard, Cambridge, and UC Berkeley; and he is also fluent in Spanish. He is a lecturer at UCLA Law School, where he teaches education law and policy, and a senior fellow with the international human

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50th Assembly district in 2012, focuses on fostering economic development and job creation, improving public school funding, providing services for seniors and the disabled, ending homelessness and protecting California's environment. He attended Fairfax High School, UCLA, UC Berkeley and Loyola School of Law. He served as Santa Monica's mayor three times.

Mike Bonin represents the 11th District on the Los Angeles City Council. He is working to promote mass transit and traffic relief, protect the environment, and use technology to make government more efficient.

He is chair of the council's transportation committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and vice chair of the Metro Expo Line Construction Authority.

Longtime California legislator Sheila Kuehl was termed out in 2008, but has returned to government, replacing retiring Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. She defeated Bobby Shriver in November's election.

In 2011, she began work with Planned Parenthood of California, helping to de-



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ey city, state and national legislators rights organization Humanity in Action. velop legislation expanding access to early, **Richard Bloom**, who was elected to the nonsurgical abortions in California; she also continued working with the Williams Institute at the UCLA Law School helping to draft model state codes on marriage, civil unions and domestic partnerships.

Ted Lieu, who was elected to succeed Henry Waxman. He attended Stanford University, where he majored in computer and political science, and received his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center, where he served as editor-in-chief of the law review.

He joined the U.S. Air Force and served domestically and abroad, and continues to serve in the Air Force reserves as a lieutenant colonel. When on active duty at Andersen AFB in Guam, he participated in Operation Pacific Haven, which airlifted thousands of Kurds out of northern Iraq. He served as Chief of Operations Law for the 36th Air Base Wing and received the Air Force Humanitarian Service Medal.

Lieu clerked on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, practiced civil law at Munger, Tolles & Olson and then worked in the private sector before starting his political career on the Torrance City Council.

Visit: palisadesdemclub.org, call: (310) 230-2084 or write: info@palisadesdemclub.org.

Lutheran Preschool **Tour Set For Jan. 28**

Tours will be given at the Palisades Lutheran Preschool at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 28. The school is located at 15905 Sunset Blvd. and enrollment for 2015-2016 is underway. Children should be a minimum of two years, nine months by September, potty trained and be ready for a group experience. RSVP to (310) 459-3425. Visit: palisadeslutheranpreschool.org for

an enrollment application.



Updating Pacific Palisades NFL Players

By JACK ROSS Sports Editor

none of the players in the NFL with a Pacific Palisades connection made the playoffs this season, but they all made individual contributions, including headlines along the way.

Former Loyola and Cal safety Chris Conte, 25, who finished his fourth season with the Chicago Bears while dealing with concussions, back and eye injuries, and sprains of both shoulders, became a national news story when he pronounced an acceptance of the shorter life span that likely comes with a professional football career.

"As far as after football, who knows," Conte told WBBM News radio in Chicago in December. "My life will revolve around football to some point, but I'd rather have the experience of playing and, who knows, die 10, 15 years earlier than not be able to play in the NFL and live a long life. It's something I've wanted to do with my life and I wanted to accomplish. And I pretty much set my whole life up to accomplish that goal. So I don't really look toward my life after football because I'll figure things out when I get there and see how I am."

Conte totaled 43 tackles and three interceptions on the year, missed four games



Chris Conte has played four seasons with the Chicago Bears. The Bears finished with a record of 5-11 and did not make the playoffs. Photo: Brian Cassella, Chicago Tribune

due to injuries, and was unable to continue in seven of 12 other games. His Bears finished 5-11.

"As long as I outlive my parents, then we'll be all right," Conte said. "Doing what I love outweighs risks despite injuries I have amounted this year."

Meanwhile, in Washington, D.C., former

Sherman Oaks Notre Dame and UCLA kicker Kai Forbath completed an impressive third season with the Redskins (4-12), making 24 of 27 kicks, including a 49yarder against Philadelphia.

Forbath's season highlight was likely the 40-yard overtime game-winner he made in Washington's shocking 20-17 Monday Night Football win over Dallas on October 27.

In Cleveland, offensive tackle Mitchell Schwartz (Palisades High and Cal) started every game for the AFC-surprise Browns, and has now started all 48 games of his three-year career. After a 7-3 start, Cleveland ended the season with a five-game losing streak.

Finally, in New York, Mitchell's brother, Geoff, saw time at guard in only two games for the Giants, before being carted off with an ankle injury in Week 13, after recovering from toe surgery earlier in the season.

The Palisades and Oregon alum did, however, gain attention when his online comments went viral, after making light of Detroit defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh's claim he stepped on prone Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers because his foot was frozen.

Said Schwartz on Twitter: "Mr. Official, my hands were frozen, otherwise I wouldn't have held that guy. Totally using that next season."

The 6-6, 340-pound lineman also made news in New York for not eating on Saturday of his Yom Kippur fast: "Yom Kippur, everyone's in services and you're all hungry together," Schwartz told ESPN. "Everyone's just miserable, but that is the point. You want to feel that way."



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Palisades News January 21, 2015

PaliHi Winter Sports Roundup

Boys Basketball

By JACK ROSS Sports Editor

The Palisades boys basketball team took six losses against nine wins during its non-conference season but not all defeats are created equal, according to Dolphins head coach Vejas Anaya.

"Really, two of the six losses were legit," Anaya said. "The others were marred by something controllable, like turnovers, an inability to rebound or hustle plays. We've had a lot of guys growing up on the court."

With league play now underway, Pali can look back on several pre-season highlights, including a 59-53 win on December 6 over El Camino Real, last season's Division I City Section champions.

Offensively, 6-3 senior Joe Robinson, 6-1 junior Will Johnson and 5-9 junior Shane Williams are all capable of scoring 20 points or more on any given night—as Robinson did with 29 in the Dolphins' tough 48-46 loss to Mater Dei Catholic on January 10, or Johnson's career-high 25 with Williams adding 20 in a 70-67 win over Highland on December 30.

Other Pali strengths include the return of impact players Tucker Steil and Ishmael

Harris for the rest of 2015, and a deep frontcourt rotation that draws upon seniors Shomari Dunham, Polo Chevalier and Michael Fry, juniors Christian Hodge, George Brown and Nick Bell, and sophomore Ron Artest III (five of whom are taller than 6-5).

"I expect us to keep defining what we do well and increase our consistency," Anaya said on the eve of Western League play. "And I'm looking forward to surprising some people and being in a 3-horse race with Westchester and Fairfax."

Given that Fairfax (14-0 as of January 11) is currently considered to be among the 10 best teams in the nation, and Westchester is an *L.A. Times* regional Top-20 team, the Dolphins find themselves—as usual—in one of the state's toughest basketball leagues.

Pali opened league play last week with a 62-41 win over Hamilton on January 12, before falling at home to Westchester, 58-45 on January 14.

The Dolphins play at Fairfax on Wednesday, January 28, and at home in their season finale on February 13. Their return game against Westchester is on January 30 at 6:30 p.m.



game against Westchester is on January 30 *Even though Palisades lost to Westchester 58-45, they put up a valiant fight.* at 6:30 p.m. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Girls Basketball

After a tough beginning to its season, the Palisades girls' basketball team was hitting its stride going into league play.

On January 10, the Dolphins won the Fairfax Tournament, beating host Fairfax, 75-51, behind 32 points from sophomore Chelsey Gipson, who was tournament MVP. Senior Bianca King and sophomore Chaniya Pickett also were named to the All-Tournament team. Junior Kayla Merrill-Gillett, averaging nearly 19 points a game, was also a key non-league contributor.

The win gave Pali (7-10 as of January 11) its fifth victory in six games, improving on a difficult start to the season when they lost seven straight after beating Palos Verdes in their November 22 opener, 54-22.

The Dolphins' upcoming home games include Venice today (January 21) at 4:30 p.m., Fairfax on January 28 and Westchester on January 30.

Girls Water Polo

The Palisades girls water polo team is off to a fast 6-3 start under new coach Brad Silver, a former Division II coach who also played for six years on the U.S. Junior National Team.

"Our league isn't that strong," said Silver, noting the Orange County area schools where he grew up had Frosh/Soph and JV teams, allowing girls ample opportunities to play and grow. City Section, meanwhile, only offers varsity teams. In fact, a January Pali league game was cancelled because the opposing school didn't have enough players.

Girls Soccer

After suffering a 6-0 loss at El Camino Real in the opening game of Coach Christian Chambers' tenure, the Palisades girls soccer team began playing downhill. The Dolphins won four straight games against Venice, Fairfax, Hamilton and Santa Mon-

Given the games ahead (Venice, LACES, Venice, San Pedro and Banning), Silver decided to take 20 of his girls to the Ayala Tournament near Riverside before Christmas in hopes of playing as many competitive games as possible, where the Dolphins went 2-3.

Pali plays today at home against George Washington Prep (though anyone interested in attending should call PaliHi to confirm), with a January 23-24 tournament in Orange County afterwards. Last year, the Dolphins took second in the City Playoffs, losing to Eagle Rock 14-7.

ica by a combined 18-2 margin.

Today, Pali plays LACES at home at 2:30 p.m. Fairfax (January 28), Hamilton (January 30), and Westchester (February 4) all visit Palisades for 2:30 p.m. kickoffs in the weeks ahead.

Boys Soccer

With just two goals conceded on the season, and a three-game winning streak to close out 2014, the Palisades boys soccer team looks to be firing on all cylinders.

Head coach Dave Suarez and the Dolphins fell in the season-opener at Harvard-Westlake, 2-1, on December 3, but bounced back with victories over Venice, Fairfax and Hamilton, by a total score of 8-0—before opening the New Year with a 7-1 triumph over Westchester.

Led by senior captains in defender David Grinsfelder and midfielder Kavian Kashani, Pali has scored by committee thus far, with Kashani, seniors Victor Morales, Barron Chavez and Joob Sanchez and juniors Chad Johnson and Nicholas DeRobbio all finding goal this season.

The Dolphins play at LACES today at 2:30 p.m. and return to the Stadium by the Sea on Monday to face Venice at 2:30 p.m, with Pali's final two games against University on February 6 and LACES on February 11, both at 2:30 p.m.

Artists Honored in Annual PPAA Show

By DANIELLE GILLESPIE Palisades News *Contributor*

Pacific Palisades resident Jeanne Allen has spent the past 60 years creating art, and her lifelong passion and dedication has paid off. The 85-year-old recently placed first in the Pacific Palisades Art Association's drawing and print contests

Palisades Art Association's drawing and print contests as part of its annual juried art show. "I am really happy that I won" Allen told *Palisades*

"I am really happy that I won," Allen told *Palisades News.* "It makes me feel encouraged."

Allen shared the spotlight with Pacific Palisades resident Frank Damon, who received first place in the photography competition, and East Los Angeles resident Silvia Gallini, who earned first in the mixed-media contest.

The PPAA hosts a judged show every November and May for its members. This November, 17 artists submitted their work, which was displayed at the Palisades Branch Library community room and judged in one of four categories: drawing, mixed media, photography and print.

Terri Bromberg, a PPAA member who teaches glassblowing at Santa Monica College, curated the show; she selected Robin Mitchell, another SMC art instructor, as the judge.

Mitchell critiqued the work based on the artists' interpretation and clarity of theme, creativity, originality, quality of artistic composition and overall design.

Allen, who moved to Pacific Palisades in 1963 with her late husband John, won in the drawing category for her depiction of birds.

"My bird drawing was done with ink and brush on Strathmore paper to show how real birds can be executed in a drawn-stylized interpretation," said Allen, who



Silvia Gallini received first in the mixed-media for this harpy eagle, created with acrylic, pastel and charcoal.

also received an honorable mention for her drawing of a vase, where she drew dots in a pointillism style to create a graphic picture.

In the print contest, Allen created her winning abstract monoprint by painting on paper and then pressing another sheet of paper on top of it. Unlike other types of printing techniques such as silkscreen, a monoprint is a single print that cannot be replicated.

The monoprint represents Allen's true passion, which are abstracts. She's most interested in a style of abstract painting known as color field, where the color is the focal point of the picture. Since 2011, she has produced more than 150 color-field paintings and has had three solo shows.

"These paintings seem to be in my thoughts and in my head," Allen said. "Ideas just waiting to be applied to canvas."

Frank Damon, who has lived in the Palisades for 40 years, won first with his photo entitled "Pillar of Strength," which is of the 4th Street Bridge over the Los Angeles River in downtown.

"I just love bridges; I find them majestic and regal," Damon said. "I named the photo 'Pillar of Strength' because I think that bridges represent strength."

Damon, a retired attorney, has had an interest in photography his entire life, but he officially took up the hobby about 15 years ago. At that time, he bought himself a digital camera and learned Adobe Photoshop.

"I just developed a passion for it, and I am always learning," said Damon, who has attended photography classes at Santa Monica College and workshops around the country.

Damon joined PPAA 10 years ago; his wife, Linda, is also a member and enjoys painting with watercolors and acrylics.

Silvia Gallini took first place in mixed media for her close-up of a harpy eagle. She used acrylic, pastel and charcoal on paper to create the eagle.

"There is such infinite wisdom in a harpy eagle's face, and I wanted to capture it," Gallini said of her inspiration (*Continued on Page 15*)



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SPECIALIZING IN PACIFIC PALISADES, MALIBU, SANTA MONICA

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Frank Damon earned first in photography for his picture entitled "Pillar of Strength."

for the piece.

Gallini, who also took third place in the drawing category for her portrait of a woman, began her pursuit of art nine years ago, when she first moved to Los Angeles from Varese, Italy to study film directing. When she picked up the UCLA Extension course catalog, the page fell open to a figure drawing class. The class description said that beginners with no experience were welcome.

"It was a dream of mine that I had given up on," Gallini

said of learning to draw and paint. She was 25 years old at the time, and she figured that because she had not studied art in high school or college that it was too late.

She decided to sign up for the class, and there she met her mentor, Joe Blaustein, a 91-year-old who lived in Pacific Palisades for 20 years and now resides in Topanga Canyon.

"He blessed me from the beginning," Gallini said. "He saw something in those horrible first drawings of mine and encouraged me to continue class after class and month after month."

Gallini, who went on to earn her master's degree in fine arts from the American Film Institute, is now working on her first documentary, *The Dog and the Duck*, about Blaustein's career as an artist. The film will be released this spring.

She became a member of the PPAA a few weeks before the judged show. PPAA member Judy Carr, whom she met at the Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles in Westwood, where she teaches, encouraged Gallini to join. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Art Association, and she sells her artwork on Etsy in her store, Sottobosco.

"I would love to do a solo show," Gallini said. "That's my next big goal."

The other winners include:

Mixed media: Laura Kuper (second place), Elizabeth Anisi (third place), Esther Pearlman, Claire Travis and Wanda Norman Storey (honorable mentions).

Photography: Mary Cohen (second place and honorable mention) and Tracie Garacochea (third place and honorable mention).

Drawing: Annette Alexakis (second place) and Starrie Ming (honorable mention).

Print: Claire Travis (second place), Tracie Garacochea (third place) and Liz Hooker (honorable mention).

The PPAA, which is open to all ages, meets on the



Jeanne Allen placed first in the print contest for this abstract design.

fourth Tuesday of every month (with the exception of December, June, July and August) at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club. Members gather for lectures and demonstrations on oil painting, sculpting, watercolor, photography and animation.

Membership is \$50, and those interested do not have to live in Pacific Palisades to join. Contact: palisadesart @gmail.com.

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Tesserae Baroque Ensemble/ **Choir to Perform Here Friday**

present Tesserae Baroque Ensem- rich Buxtehude. ble and Choir at 8 p.m. on Friday, January 23 at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 has received critical acclaim for its inno-Bienveneda Ave. The concert will feature vative programming and historically incantatas and concertos from the German Baroque with music by J.S. Bach, Tele- music from the late Renaissance and early

Tesserae is an L.A.-based ensemble that formed performances. Specializing in

Professor Dan Caldwell To Speak January 22

Palisades Presbyterian Church will con- macy at Tufts University, and a master's detinue its "Food for Thought" speaker series on Thursday, January 22 at 11:30 a.m. in Janes Hall, off El Medio at Sunset.

Dan Caldwell, a Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Pepperdine University's Seaver College, will speak. The public is invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch beforehand, but attendees must RSVP by calling (310) 454-0366.

Professor Caldwell, a longtime Palisadian and 36-year member of the Pepperdine faculty, received his undergraduate degree in history from Stanford, a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplo-

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gree and doctorate from Stanford.

He is the author or co-author of 10 books, including Vortex of Conflict: U.S. Policy Toward Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq (2011), Seeking Security in an Insecure World (2011), The Politics of Arms Control Treaty Ratification (1992) and The Dynamics of Domestic Politics and Arms Control: The SALT II Treaty Ratification Debate (1991).

He served three years of active duty as an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve and held positions at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey and the Executive Office of the President in Washington, D.C.

he St. Matthew's Music Guild will mann, Johann Christoph Bach and Diet- Baroque periods, Tesserae combines instruments from various concert fami--violin, viol, brass and woodwind.

The concert will include Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 6; the Concerto for Recorder by Telemann with recorder virtuoso Alexandra Opsahl, and Johann Christoph Bach's wedding cantata Meine Freundin, du bist Schön.

Opsahl, also music director, studied recorder at the Royal Academy of Music in London, winning the 2003 Moeck Recorder Solo Competition while still a student. Graduating with first class honors, she continued her early-music studies at the Schola Cantorum in Basel, where she studied cornetto with Bruce Dickey.

Opsahl has performed with the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Apollo's Fire, Magnificat and Musica Angelica. She has performed at Wigmore Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, and the Royal Albert Hall, and has recorded and filmed productions of L'Incoronazione di Poppea with both the Glyndebourne Opera and Oslo Opera.

Tickets are \$35 and available at the door or online: MusicGuildOnline.org. Call (310) 573-7422.

Woman's Club To **Hold Wine Tasting** And Art Fundraiser

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club will host its first Wine Tasting with a Splash of Art! Fundraiser from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, at the Clubhouse, 901 Haverford. The community is invited.

Donelan Family Wines, Skinner Vineyards, Pali Wine Company, Tierray Vino and Toucan Wines will be pouring their two favorite wines, and representatives will be available to discuss their products.

Local restaurants will be serving signature appetizer-size dishes for guests to enjoy.

A select gallery of local art will be available for sale, with artists Elena Avanesova, Marina Soutyrine, Elisabeth Anisiomow, Alla Images and Alexander Chistov represented.

A native of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, who studied in Thailand, Avanesova's designs are printed on silk. Souteyrine specializes in the historic form of ribbon embroidery art. Anisiomow is an eight-year-old Palisadian, whose work has been widely displayed. Alla Images creates contemporary works on paper and canvas in mixed media. Chistov's current collection of oil paintings captures locations around Southern California.

Additional wines will be represented in a silent auction and raffle. Jazz music by Larry Cohn and the Canyon Bistro All Stars will be played during the event. The cost is \$55 per person. Visit: theppwc.org.

IRMA WENDELL WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY **100TH BIRTHDAY!**

WITH LOVE FROM YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS



Born January 21, 1915, Iowa-raised and Strong in Spirit, Living in Los Angeles since 1939, and in Pacific Palisades since 2012, you have always surprised us with your energy and drive, your devotion to your family and your unconditional love.

We Love You!

With awe and affection, your Daughter Karin Holmes, Grandson Jeffrey Holmes, Grandson David Holmes and wife Stephanie, and your Great-Grandchildren Andrew and Elsa and all the nieces & nephews and cousins and friends who are coming from all around the country to celebrate you.

KATY KREITLER

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Ketaily

(*Continued from Page 1*)

him. The ladder went up the tree and as soon as the firefighter got close to the bird, it flew away. "Headed northbound towards PCH." Ketaily said.

Station 69 is considered one of the "slower" stations because firefighters are usually awakened only once or so after midnight. "I worked plenty of stations where you never got a chance to get in your bed," Ketaily said.

Eighty percent of Palisades calls are medical, ranging from heart attacks to accidents on PCH.

"When the public is truly in need and we can help them, it is most rewarding," he said, noting that he'll also miss the camaraderie at the station when he retires.

"Another interesting aspect of working here are the stranded hikers," Ketaily said. "We work with Air Ops in the Valley and get to train and do rescue runs."

Once a quarter, the firefighters have a four-hour training, and Ketaily usually had them on the trails hiking. In his off time, he liked to ride trail bikes. The knowledge he gained from the topography proved helpful in more easily locating stranded hikers.

The Pacific Palisades location, although



beautiful, can present a challenge to firefighters and back-up crews.

Ketaily recalled the fire in Potrero Canyon that occurred shortly after the engine company was shut down by the City in 2011.

He had called back-up, immediately and when 69 arrived, the fire had already split into two directions. He had his force work on the area nearest the homes off Alma Real, but had no resources for the fire that was racing towards Hampden Place.

"Construction workers hopped a fence with shovels and blankets and helped put it out," Ketaily said. Then the wind changed direction and other fire trucks finally arrived. "The workers were high-fiving each other for putting it out and they earned it."

Anyone working for the LAFD in this area needs to call extra resources early. "There's construction and traffic, making it hard to get here fast," Ketaily said.

"One of the main issues continues to be the homeless cooking fires," he said, noting that this has become an increasing area of concern for firefighters.

A Tahitian Terrace resident alerted Station 69 to smoke on the hillside across from them. Behind the fence near the playground at PCH and Temescal Canyon Road, firefighters found seven encampments, complete with two dogs that charged them.

"Someone was cooking shish kebabs," Ketaily said. "If the fire had gotten away, it would have gone straight up Temescal Canyon to the multi-million-dollar homes on Mt. Holyoke."

In 1998, Ketaily started teaching fire technology part-time at Oxnard College, and now that he has cleaned out his locker at 69, he will become the department chair, teach-



Fire Station 69 Captain Mike Ketaily is retiring from LAFD.

ther of three grown children. His oldest in the same field in San Francisco.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

ing four classes Monday through Friday. son, Tim, was just hired by LAFD in June. "I like working with young people and His daughter, Kylie, works in San Diego feel like I can have an impact," said the fa- in public relations, and his son Jim works

Super Cereal Bowl Sunday

breakfast daily from 7 to 10 a.m. at its "cereal bar" at 873 Swarthmore Ave. There will be flavored yogurt, granola options, oatmeal,

The Yogurt Shoppe will start selling fresh fruit and assortment of milk shakes. A soft-opening will be held on Super

Bowl Sunday, February 1, from 7:30 to 9 more than 20 cereals, along with regular and a.m., and all breakfast will be free. Visit: aplacetomix.com or call: (310) 459-0088.



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Landmark

(*Continued from Page 1*)

time, the News still had not heard back.

place for L.A. City Planning or resources for oversight, which has led Councilman Mike Bonin to introduce a motion to correct the oversight (see story below). Bonin was first alerted to the problem through a January 6 L.A. Times story "In L.A. Conditions Placed on Developers Go Unheeded."

The *Times* story reported, "In the Fairfax area, the Grove was supposed to include a 500-square-foot employment office, but last year—more than a decade after the mall opened—the planning department found that there was no evidence of the jobs program and recruiting office that had been promised.

"Associate Zoning Administrator David Weintraub said that since then, the developer had created a jobs website and provided space at its concierge desk for job seekers, to

meet the requirements. Caruso Affiliated sent a statement to the *Times* saying it was confident that it was 'satisfying the hundreds of conditions outlined ... for the property."

The *L.A. Times* also reported there was There is not a monitoring department in a provision for a 3,000-square-foot senior center promised at the Grove, but the City Planning Department said an existing community room on the second floor of the Historic Farmer's Market met that requirement. (It is up a flight of stairs and inaccessible for people in wheelchairs).

> Additionally, The Times reported on developer G.H. Palmer, who was required to install a ventilation system of higherstrength of air filters at the 526-unit Da Vinci apartment building (the site of a recent fire) along the 110 freeway. The developer did not install the equipment until after the newspaper began asking city officials about the requirement.

> According to the story, more than five years ago, then-Controller Laura Chick wondered who made sure developers adhered to restrictions. Her finding was "No one."

Palisadians Invited to Make Baby Blankets for Needy

baby blankets for the Westside Family Health Center.

"We have been so fortunate in many ways-friendships, health and opportunities," said organizer Cecilia Peck. "With this project we can extend 'blessings' for health, warmth and security to young families as a tangible example that the larger community cares. And besides ... 'every baby needs a blanket."

Friends and friends of friends, old and new are invited to meet 5 to 8 p.m., January

Gather to knit, crochet, sew or craft 23, February 6 and 20, to craft blankets and socialize. No experience is needed.

> All residents are invited to donate yarn or fleece for the blankets, make a donation to the Westside Family Health Center in support of their prenatal classes and pediatric program, or take part and invite friends.

The location is a home in the Highlands. Call (310) 463-1047 for more information.

IUMBLE SOLUTION

Jumbles: KNIFE GLINT TATTLE TROPH Answer: His diet and exercise program succeeded. He k weight because he didn't — TAKE IT LIGHTLY TROPHY d. He lost

Family is why **Bonin: Developers Need** we do it all. **To Follow 'Conditions'**

The News initially contacted Council- response to an L.A. Times story ("In L.A. man Mike Bonin's office on January conditions at the construction site of the Landmark and Seaview condominiums were being followed.

That same day, Councilman Bonin, in

Gardens of **Burma Speaker**

The Pacific Palisades Garden Club will host Burma native Winn Winmau, an orchid hobbyist, who will speak about the Gardens of Burma at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 9, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. The public is invited.

The Gardens of Burma, the National Kandawgyi Gardens (formerly the National Botanical Gardens) is located south of Pvin Oo Lwin (formerly Maymyo) in Myanmar. Founded by Alex Roger in 1915, it was modeled after the Kew Gardens of England and covers 240 acres.

The garden, which has more than 300 orchid species, cooperates with the United Kingdom Botanic Gardens Conservation International to conserve indigenous orchids.

The Garden Club, a nonprofit, founded in 1944, uses funds generated from donations and its Spring Garden Tour to pay speakers, make grants to local public school horticulture programs, plant trees and support community beautification.

Visit: pacpalgardenclub.org.

Conditions Placed on Developer Go Un-7, seeking assistance to determine if heeded"), introduced a motion to the City Council (January 7) seeking funding to enforce promised conditions made by developers in order to have a project approved.

Bonin made a second motion two days later to create, and maintain, a publicly accessible and searchable development conditions database, so that residents could more easily monitor a project.

He acknowledged in his January 9 motion "In many cases, those conditions are secured after prolonged negotiations involving neighborhood residents, business interests, city officials and others. They represent a good faith agreement between differing interests to shape projects so that they are more friendly and compatible with communities.

"Too often, by the time a project is built or a new venture opens for business, city officials have retired, neighborhood leaders have moved on and business owners and operators may have changed hands. Too often, no one even remembers the required conditions that need to be monitored and enforced."

In his January 7 motion, he instructs the Planning Department to propose a method by which inspections fees related to enforcing condition compliance can be collected by the City.

One proposal was to have developers pay more to fund enforcement. Local contractor and Pacific Palisades Community Council Area 8 Representative Reza Akef doesn't think it is fair to ask all developers to pay just because there are some who are less than scrupulous and are not following the specified conditions they initially agreed to.

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SDOTIGHT

Palisades News January 21, 2015



Mounds found on this parcel of land in Guatemala are being excavated to reveal a Mayan spiritual center.

Photo: Peter Kreitler

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A Mayan Tomb Revealed in Guatemala

By PETER KREITLER Special to the Palisades News

n the 1890s, Palisadian John Mack III's great-uncles settled in Guatemala to seek their fortune by growing coffee. Their business indeed grew to become the largest producer in the country, but the family's descendants were responsible for a discovery with much more significance.

In the 1970s, while digging at the family's 350-acre plantation at San Andres Semetebaj above majestic Lake Atitlan, a worker broke through the earth and fell into a Mayan tomb. Today the seven mounds surrounding a plaza are beginning to reveal a Mayan spiritual center dating back to 800 BSc.

But this is only the beginning! In 2007, the Mack family donated their land to the University of the Valley of Guatemala (UVG), enlisted Dr. John Ricks, head of the Department of Archeology at Stanford University, and gained the support of local Guatemalan scientists at UVG to create a new approach to archeology—by fostering a working partnership with the local community.

Community archeology is designed to empower the local Mayans of San Andreas Semetebaj while creating an opportunity for folks like us to become eco-tourists who honor the tradition of the Mayan culture and learn first-hand about their civilization.

John Mack and his brother Carter, along with their wives Nicole and Maggie, hosted 23 of us to witness the dream becoming a reality that is emboldening the local population to reclaim their traditions as the site is carefully and thoughtfully being uncovered.

We listened and learned from experts: Dr. Marion Hatch revealed the significance of Mayan pottery and Dr. Thomas Barrientos illustrated what the various mounds on the Mack property are beginning to reveal. We marveled at the agricultural complex on UVG's Altiplano campus, and the special lab designed to study the unintended consequences of modern technology, such as pollution, trash and water-quality degra-



The Mack family once owned a 350-acre plantation at San Andres Semetebaj above Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Photo: Peter Kreitler



Palisadians Nicole and John Mack with a Mayan guide.

dation, that dramatically affect the lives of people who have lived in harmony with the land for centuries. It has been tect that whi

Mayan ancestors in their early twenties, who through the scholarship program have been able to attend UVG, spoke of the importance of education transfer back to the villages from whence they came.

We helped build energy-efficient safe stoves in the homes of the poorest, under the guidance of Texan Steve Miller and his wonderful local team from HELPS International (helpsintl.org.) We witnessed the impact of the Mack vision of using the land to create revenue and opportunity for those living contiguous to the site, which has been confirmed as one of the oldest Mayan sites in the highlands of Guatemala. As we left the homes where a new stove was functioning and smoke no longer filled the living quarters, the smiles of gratitude melted our hearts.

In a moment of reflection, John Mack expressed the debt he and his brother feel towards the people of Guatemala, as well as an appreciation of the pristine environment he once knew as a boy, that is now Photo: Peter Kreitler

It has been said that we humans will protect that which we love. John and Carter, and their immediate families, are putting into action that belief system—a timely reminder to all of us to find our places that we love, and then find ways to put our feelings into action.

During our trip, the bonds established enabled us to see the humor in a rough and wild boat ride across Lake Atitlan for one and half hours, and a follow-up bus ride where we had to get out and walk to our destination—all taken in stride with no complaints. We gained a deep appreciation for the leadership of Maria Marta Gabrielle; the hospitality of John Whitbeck, Rachel "Bird" Anderson and siblings Maria Dolores and Roberto Moreno; and the generosity of our hosts, the Macks.

To learn more about the Mack family project in Guatemala, visit: https://usfuvg. org/san-andres-semetebaj.

(The Rev. Canon Peter Kreitler, an author and environmental educator, has lived in Pacific Palisades since 1974.)

Navigating Parenthood Class Offered at Chabad

(JLI) will present a six-week course on "The Art of Parenting," from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, January 22 through February 26 at the Chabad of Pacific Palisades. The course will be conducted by Rabbi Yekusiel Kalmensohn.

"As parents we are constantly being bombarded with various educational approaches and methods," said JLI's Rabbi Zalman Abraham. "How do you strike a balance between discipline and freedom?"

JLI designed the course to help parents navigate child-rearing. From questions about how children and parents relate to each other, to how to help a child cultivate a healthy self-esteem, "The Art of Parenting" provides a solid foundation anchored

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute in the eternal wisdom of Jewish thought and practice.

> "Empires and civilizations have come and gone, but the Jewish people have survived," says Kalmensohn. "This course taps into the great Jewish parenting success story that is our people's survival, against all odds, over the course of thousands of years."

The program is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple or other house of worship.

Call (310) 454-7783 or visit: Chabad-Palisades.com.

Diary of Anne Frank Currently Playing at Theatre Palisades

days, Saturdays and Sundays through February 22 at the Pierson Playhouse. Anne Frank is played by Sigi Gradwohl, tended the Montesorri School in Amster- call (310) 454-1970.

The Diary of Anne Frank is playing Fri- dam with Anne. The play is directed by Sabrina Lloyd, and Sherman Wayne and Nona Hale are coproducing.

Tickets are adults \$20, seniors and stuwhose grandfather Peter Neuhaus at- dents \$18. Visit: theatrepalisades.com or

OBITUARY Patricia Findlater; PaliHi Alumna

Patricia Findlater, a graduating member of the Palisades High School class of 1965, died in Brentwood on December 9.

Born on July 20, 1947, Patricia was the daughter of Helen and John Findlater. After graduating from USC, she was signed as a model by the Nina Blanchard Agency. Later she became a real estate agent and met her husband, John Mortensen, at the Jon Douglas firm. They married in 1986.

She is survived by her brother, John (wife Victoria); sister Sally Griffith (husband Robert); nieces Kristen Horgan, Sarah and Whitney Griffith, and Linden Findlater; and a great-niece, Charlotte Horgan.

A ceremony was held on January 5 at the Westwood Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, the family requested that a charitable donation be sent to the Westside German Shepherd Rescue of Los Angeles (sheprescue.org).

Upcoming Library Events

Saturday, January 24 at 11 a.m.: "Mak- story time. ing Time for Meditation" with Doug Frankel. At 2 p.m.: "Women and Investing" with G. Andrews, who will speak on (310) 459-2754. the following topics: How to select investments; why be proactive instead of reactive; estate and college educational planning; a forecast of the economy, interest rates and the stock market.

Monday, January 26 at 6 p.m.: College application workshop with college counselor Rebecca Joseph.

Tuesday, January 27 at 4 p.m.: BARK: Therapy Dogs reading program.

Wednesday, January 28, 6-6:30: Mindfulness meditation.

All events are free. The Palisades Branch Library is located at 861 Alma Real. Call

Woman's Club Weekly Events

The Woman's Club hosts events that members and non-members are welcome to attend

Yoga with Alison Burmeister, 9:45 to 11 a.m., every Monday (suggested donation \$15 per class).

Tai Chi with Mary Dean, 10 to 11:30 Thursday, January 29, 4 p.m.: Family a.m., every Thursday (this class is free).

Woman's Club





Doug Suisman to Speak on Los Angeles Boulevard

anta Monica Canyon resident Doug that link L.A.'s urban core to the Pacific Suisman will speak on his book, Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-Rays of the Body Public (ORO), at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 31, at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Presented by the Society of Architectural Historians/Southern California Chapter, Suisman, an urban designer, will discuss the history and significance of the boulevards

Lillian's Pink Is Plant of the Month

The Grow Native Nursery, located on the L.A. Veterans Administration's grounds, 100 Davis Ave., is selling Lillian's Pink heuchera in gallons and four-inch pots at 20 percent off during January.

This drought-tolerant, shade-loving plant that only needs water about twice a month in the summer, once established, and is one of only 30 California native plants to be included on the UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars list.

On Saturday, February 14 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. there will be a free workshop on plant pairings at the Veteran's Garden, as well as an illustrated discussion of color and texture plant pairings in a variety of styles. Please RSVP to (424) 234-0481 or gnnwestla@rsabg.org.

Coast. A book sale and signing will follow.

Suisman's book was first published by the Los Angeles Forum in 1989 with a limited run of 1,500 copies.

Los Angeles Times architecture critic Christopher Hawthorne wrote: "On another afternoon, I drove the length of Atlantic with Douglas Suisman, an architect and urban-design consultant who works in Santa Monica. His concise and shamefully underappreciated 1989 study of the history and design of the boulevards—Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-Rays of the Body Public-remains the most important take on this gigantic subject."

In the book Suisman wrote, "The boulevards establish the city's overall physical structure, which will come as a surprise to the millions of honest people who have been misled into thinking that Los Angeles is a city organized by its freeways; Los Angeles is a city whose freeways have been organized by its boulevards."

Suisman, who has an undergraduate degree from Yale and a master's degree from Columbia, argued that along the public thoroughfares, the City is a vibrant and engaging tapestry.

In reviewing the new edition for The Architecture Paper, Greg Goldin noted, "In the ensuing 25 years since Boulevard was published, Los Angeles has caught up to Suis-



It's Not Too Early to Think About Valentine's Day.

(Trust us, it is NOT too early!)

Get a special message to your loved one (and maybe get kissed early as well).

> The Palisades News will publish a "SWEETHEARTS" page in the February 4 issue.

Only \$25 (includes message & color logo) **Deadline: January 26** Call for Details: Jeff - (310) 573-0150 Grace - (310) 454-7383

Romeo: Forever Sweetheart —

All My Love. Juliet

SAMPLE AD:

Or email: Jeffridgway@palisadesnews.com



"Los Angeles Boulevard: Eight X-rays of the Body Public"

of its boulevards, in part due to the arrival of Mexican, Central American, Korean, and Middle-Eastern immigrants who depend on the proximity of neighborhood shops and public transportation, and in part to a growing realization among Angelenos that the freeways don't actually lead to anything in particular—you must get off them to take advantage of all the city has to offer, which is right there, on the boulevards."

The internationally recognized Suisman, in partnership with RAND Corporation, designed The Arc, an acclaimed plan for a

BBF #0

REVIEW

Graphic: Courtesy Doug Suisman

man. The city has experienced a renaissance Palestinian state which won the top master plan and Future Project of the Year awards at the 2010 World Architecture Festival. His current iQuilt cultural district plan for downtown Hartford has won an AIA Honor Award and two major grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Suisman recently revamped the look of the La Brea Tar Pits, and more locally, donated his time to the Canyon School campus renovation, and was the genesis for last summer's start of the Palisades High School beautification project.

Visit: suisman.com.



DINING WITH GRACE

ining at Saddle

Peak Lodge is

unlike dining

at any other Los Angeles

area restaurant. The

atmosphere is utterly

enchanting with its

fireplace, an array of

old books on the high

shelves, old-school oil

paintings and a hunting

lodge display of antlers

magnificent stone



Grace Hiney has been reviewing the local restaurant scene for more than 42 years.

on the walls. Soft lighting, low background music and large comfy wicker armchairs add to the romantic ambiance. First-class table settings include white linens and elegant silverware, matched by first-rate service.

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, the Lodge is now open on Monday and Tuesday nights and is offering a special three-course dinner with a starter, main course, three sides and a dessert for only \$30 per person during January. In February, the price will go up to \$35 and then be available the entire anniversary year.

Customers may choose from either the special menu or the regular menu. The main menu offers seven selections of pan-roasted or grilled dishes ranging in price from \$26 to \$46, with the exception of the 18-ounce Durham Ranch bison rib eye steak for \$64.

My friend ordered off the special menu and I from the

SADDLE PEAK LODGE 419 Cold Canyon Rd., Calabasas • (818) 222-3888

regular menu. He had a choice of portobello mushroom soup or an apple salad with blue cheese and endive. Then he could select from the buffalo short ribs, buttermilk fried chicken or pan-seared trout, served with mashed potatoes, sautéed wild greens, and garlic broccolini.

The lady apple salad with endives, St. Augur blue cheese and candied pecans (\$12) from the regular menu was my starter, followed by the simple beurre blanc preparation of Mediterranean sea bass (\$34). My sides were the buttermilk biscuits with honey butter (\$9), and balsamic cipollini onions (\$8).

But before our selections arrived Chef Chris Kufek treated us to a tasty little duck confit flavored with a touch of brandied cherries and olives, served on a small crisp, followed by a bit of smoked salmon on a tiny potato blini. Each was a terrific taste treat. Even the warm, freshly made rolls with butter and sea salt were exceptional.

After my friend finished the delicious portobello mushroom soup, my friend enjoyed the succulent slow-cooked buffalo short ribs that were literally falling-off-the-bone tender and tasty, he said.

Meanwhile I thoroughly enjoyed the simply prepared beurre blanc Mediterranean sea bass. The balsamicflavored cipollini onions were the perfect accompaniment, as were bites of the scrumptious buttermilk biscuits with honey butter.

The (\$30) Saddle Peak Supper menu offers a dessert plate of cookies and brownies (each delicious). From the main menu I ordered the banana huckleberry bread



pudding made with bits of croissant bread crumbs. Desserts from this menu are \$10 and good to the last bite, especially paired with freshly made hot coffee.

Hours are Monday through Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m. with the exception of Saturday evenings when the Lodge remains open until 10 p.m. Wine, beer and cocktails, are also available. On Sundays brunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Valet parking is \$4.

With its beautiful location north of Malibu and the excellent food and service, it well deserves its number 20 placement on the new *Zagat* list of the 50 Best Restaurants in L.A.



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