



The Rivera Brothers
See Page 11

The Strange Tale of An Elusive Nursery

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Post 283 News reported in May that a small strip of land along Temescal Canyon Road, across from Palisades High School, had been purchased by Alexis and Ashley Kim from LAUSD for \$330,000 in 2012.

That was just the beginning of a tangled business story that keeps unfolding.

The article in May reported that a tiny nursery was scheduled to open in September on the property, just north of Bowdoin. But the site remains vacant, except for plastic sheeting on the hillside to prevent erosion, graffiti on the perimeter fence and

sand bags to prevent mud from running onto the sidewalk and street.

Initially, the two Kim women reportedly had a verbal agreement with Charles Follette, who had closed his business, the Rose Garden Nursery in Santa Monica, because of Metro construction. Half the Temescal property would be his for plant sales and the other half would be a Zen-like garden with sculptures.

Follette hired local architect Rich Wilken, who drew up plans for the irregular site, which is bounded on one side by the hillside, above which are homes.

“It was difficult getting permits because of zoning, size limitations and other clear-

(Continued on Page 3)



The proposed nursery at 810 Temescal Canyon Road, across from the high school, is on hold pending a grading permit.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Nepal: Through Patty Breech's Eyes

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Arriving home for the holidays can always be challenging, but in Patty Breech's case it was a 15-hour bus ride from Surkhet to Kathmandu, Nepal; a 5-hour plane ride to Abu Dhabi; an 8-hour layover; and then a 17-hour flight to

Los Angeles.

Breech, who graduated from Palisades High School in 2002 and Yale in 2006, works with Maggie Doyne and the BlinkNow Foundation at a children's home/school in Western Nepal.

After working in Boulder as an environmental consultant, Breech switched careers in 2013 and worked as a programmer for

Insights Design. By the spring of 2014, Breech, who can speak Spanish and German, wanted to travel, but also felt the need to do something more meaningful.

A friend told her, “Maggie is building a new school and it's going to be green and she needs help with the Website and social media. She needs a Patty and I can't believe a Patty is available.”

After spending the Fourth of July in the Palisades, Breech left for Nepal. “Surkhet is in Western Nepal: Everest is in the East,” Breech said. “We're in a valley [Kopila] and can see the Himalayan Mountains all around us.”

Breech explained that Doyne, from Mendham, New Jersey, stayed in Nepal after a gap year between high school and college because she saw a five-year-old girl breaking rocks in a riverbed, which could

be sold for gravel. Doyne found out that for \$15 she could put the girl in school, which led to paying for more kids, and eventually opening a children's home for orphans and then a school.

During the civil war in Nepal from 1996 to 2006, Maoist rebels recruited children to fight and kids were sent out of the country by their parents or fled themselves. The United Nations estimates the war orphaned and displaced a million children in Nepal.

“There are 350 kids in the school and 50 in the family home,” Breech said. “We don't charge for any of the kids to go to school: we take those from the lowest socioeconomic ranks.” The children are sponsored by foreign donors for \$360 a year and receive a uniform, books and a free lunch.

“For many it's sometimes their only

(Continued on Page 5)



Patty Breech works in Surkhet, Nepal, at a children's home and school.

Upcoming Council Meetings

The next meeting of the Pacific Palisades Community Council will be held tomorrow at 7 p.m. in the Palisades Branch Library community room. Officials from the Department of Water and Power will speak on its recycled-water use program, and will conduct a question-and-answer period.

At the January 22 meeting, the Design Review Board (DRB), a seven-member board appointed by Councilmember Mike Bonin and his predecessor Bill Rosendahl, will discuss the proposed new design guidelines for the Palisades commercial and Village areas. DRB members review applications for proposed land-use changes in the Village and Marquez Knolls commercial areas.

The Design Guidelines will cover topics such as landscaping, signage, surface materials and sustainability. These guidelines 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.

Members of the DRB are Barbara Kohn (chair), Stuart Muller, Kelly Comras, David Hibbert, Sarah Griffin, Donna Vaccarino and Paul Darrall.

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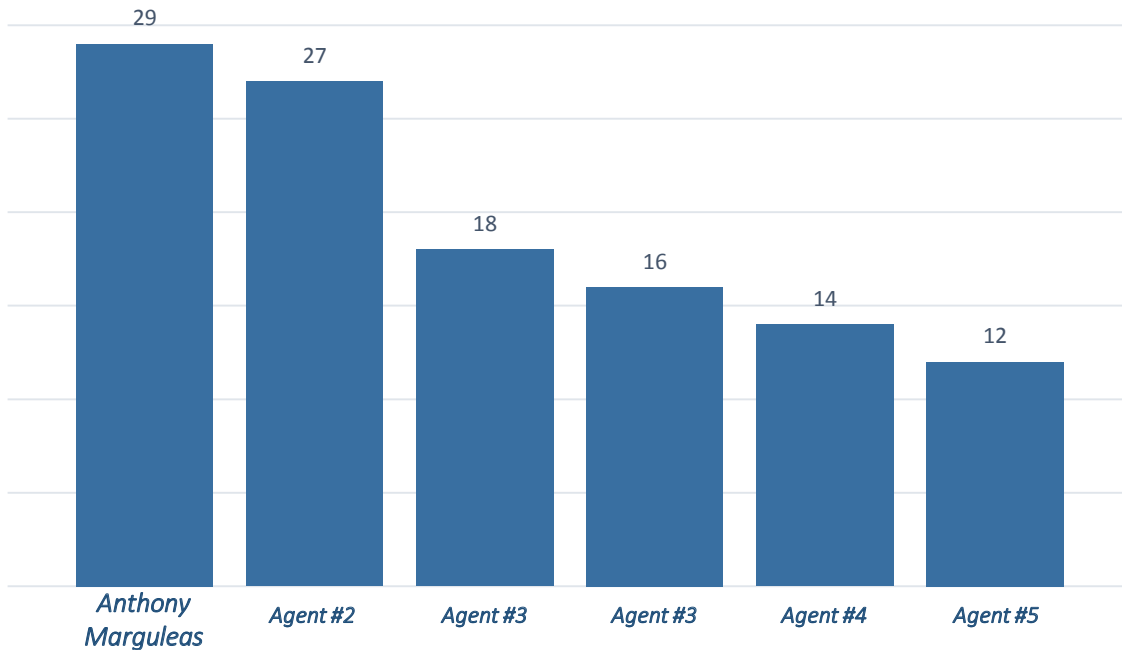
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Business Improvement District Moves Forward

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

With the closing of escrow on Swarthmore and Sunset and with Caruso Affiliated's support, the creation of a Palisades Village Business Improvement District (BID) has now been approved by 50.1 percent of property owners.

Once the BID is in place, mostly likely January 2016, property owners will pay an annual assessment and those funds will be used to spruce up and maintain the business district. This is different from a tax because the money does not go into the City's general fund and the money may only be used for projects in the BID area.

Additionally, the BID must be reappraised every three to five years and government agencies that own property within the BID, such as the DWP and LAUSD, will pay assessments.

Several more steps must be taken in order for the BID to be approved: 1) en-

gineer's report is approved by City Attorney and signed petitions representing the 50.01 percent are submitted to the City Clerk; 2) The City Council Economic Development reviews and recommends the BID to the City Council; 3) After Council approval, ballots will be mailed to property owners, along with a notice of a public meeting and final hearing; and 4) If balloting is positive, City Council accepts the results and passes an Ordinance of Establishment.

Once the BID is established, in place all landlords—even those who do not wish to participate—will be assessed through property tax bills.

The area of the proposed BID is Sunset from Carey to Temescal; Swarthmore, a block north and south of Sunset; La Cruz, Antioch and Via de la Paz, a block north and south of Sunset.

In addition to Caruso Affiliated, major landlords that agreed to support a BID were Elliot Zorensky (UDO), Leland Ford (Ralphs), American Legion (CVS, Post Office) and the Methodist Church (commer-

cial property on Sunset). The Village Green is excluded and not part of the BID.

Palisadian Laurie Sale, who was on the BID Board for the Fashion District downtown, is the committee chair and said: "A BID addresses a multitude of problems, such as helping to maintain and improve: neglected landscaping and tree trimming, overflowing trash receptacles, as well as cleaning of filthy sidewalks, etc. Many of these things are no longer being done with any regularity by the City because of budget shortfalls."

Sale acknowledged that "the City of Los Angeles should be paying for the services the BID will provide, but it is a fact that the City doesn't have the money."

The projected annual budget for the Palisades BID is \$148,512. Of that amount, 51 percent or \$75,600 will be used for tree trimming, trash pickup, sidewalk cleaning and possibly landscaping (clean and beautiful programs). Marketing and administrative costs are \$30,000 (20 percent) and the BID establishment fees are \$30,000 (20

percent). A reserve of \$10,000 (seven percent) will be set aside and the city will receive fees of \$2,912.

Steve Gibson of Urban Place Consulting, who has worked on dozens of BIDS, was hired to assist in the process, and to date \$20,000 has been donated by business owners and concerned residents (Wally Miller, Susan Carroll, Elliot Zorensky, Frederick Lee, Dave Licht, American Legion, Dale Van Vlack, Ed Stevens, Denise and Mike Mangimelli, Leland Ford, Albert Davies, Donna Vaccarino, Gil Dembo, Don Scott and P.R.I.D.E.) to fund the project. The proposal to create a BID includes repaying those loans from the first year's assessments.

"The BID is a mechanism for the property owners to take a little more control of their own community and help provide services to enhance our neighborhood," Sale said. "A BID is a single, unified management entity with reliable funding resources. This increases the community's collective clout and its ability to effectively work with the City, County and civic organizations."

Nursery

(Continued from Page 1)

ances," said Wilken, who discovered that the parcel of land was outside Coastal Commission jurisdiction.

The two women agreed to pay Wilken two-thirds for his services and Follette would pay the other third.

"There were about 20 different clearances required by the City before they would issue a building permit," said Wilken, who was able to get approval for a small office (245-sq.-ft.) and bathroom (handicapped), along with a parking site. The space is so limited there was room for only one parking space, and a handicapped space at that.

More onerous was the agricultural zoning restriction, which meant that plants grown there could be sold, but not any landscaping supplies such as mulch, potting soil, fertilizer or pots.

During the permitting process, the City required three sets of plans. One stayed

with the City, one went to the owner (in this case to Follette, who paid for the permits) and one went to the L.A. County Assessor's office.

Unknown to Wilken and Follette, the Kims sold the property to a new owner, for \$1.25 million, in early 2013. They apparently tripled their original investment within about a year.

According to Wilken, the women somehow obtained his plans (for which Follette holds the rights) from the City, which was necessary in order to transfer them to the buyer before escrow could close.

In November 2013, Wilken sent a letter to the City saying "The architect-signed and stamped-copy record sets of plans were or may have been used to improperly obtain replacement Building Department approval stamps, and are now in the possession of parties unknown to me; I remove myself from any association or liability connected with the use of the architectural plans."

Follette has filed a lawsuit against the Kims.

When Wilken drew the original plans, he left four feet in front of the hillside because "you can't have the retaining wall over three feet high against the slope" without a time-consuming approved soils report and grading plans.

In November, it appeared that some of the dirt from the hillside was improperly excavated and then, under orders from the City, pushed back to stabilize the slope until a soils report and revised plans were reviewed and approved.

The initial contractor for the new owner was Harry H. Joh Construction of Paramount, who has been replaced by McLendon Construction of Santa Monica. Engineer David Funk has been hired and the owner has applied to increase the floor area by 21-sq.-ft., and also increase the height of the building. According to L.A. Department of Building and Safety, all permits have now been cleared except for the grading permit.

The News has been unable to locate the current owner for comment.

Prof. Caldwell To Speak Jan. 22

Palisades Presbyterian Church will continue 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 at noon. The public is invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch beforehand, but must RSVP by calling (310) 454-0366.

Professor Caldwell, a longtime Palisadian, received his undergraduate degree in history from Stanford, a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a master's and doctorate from Stanford.

Caldwell has appeared as an expert commentator on radio and television, and has written op-ed pieces for the *L.A. Times* and the *Daily News*.

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OBITUARY

Nancy Evans, 83; Child Actor, Early Resident

Nancy June Robinson Evans, a child actress who grew up in Pacific Palisades and whose mother played an important cultural role in the town's early years, died on November 19 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she had lived since 1958. She was 83.

Nancy, whose parents emigrated from England in 1920, was born in Hollywood on June 10, 1931. Her father, William, was

an aviation engineer and head of tooling at Douglas Aircraft Co. Her mother, was educated at Ripon and Wakefield Diocesan Training College and became an Associate of the Victoria College of Music, London. Nancy was their only child.

Evans' parents moved to Pacific Palisades in 1924, just two years after its founding, and her mother became director of the Methodist Church choir and orchestra, while also giving private instruction in piano and voice.

Daughter Nancy showed early talent as an actress and won her first drama championship at age eight. She loved horses and riding (winning many blue ribbons at the Riviera Country Club), and auditioned for the 1944 film *National Velvet* wearing high-heeled riding boots to make her tall enough to qualify.

She had roles in seven feature films between 1942 and 1945, including an orphan in *Jane Eyre*, Genevieve in *The Sullivans*, Patricia in *The Man Who Walked Alone*, Mary Rickenbacker in *Captain Eddie* and a girl in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. She also had stage roles at the Pasadena Playhouse and, in 1949, played Lady Penelope in *Sight Unseen* at the New Horizons Theatre on Via

de la Paz (now the Palisades YMCA).

After graduating from University High School (where she was on the swim team), Nancy attended John Muir Junior College in Altadena. In 1951, she was chosen as a Princess in the Tournament of Roses parade. She then moved to Stratford, England for two years where she studied acting and Shakespeare.

In 1956, she married Dr. William Evans and they lived in Edinburgh, Scotland before

returning to the U.S. to settle in Albuquerque.

Nancy received her B.A. degree from the University of New Mexico in 1975, and worked as a librarian in the Albuquerque Public School System from 1977 to 1993. A lover of nature, she took great pride in her garden, which she called "an English garden in the desert."

Nancy is survived by her two sons, Scot and Will Evans, and five grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband in 2003.



Nancy June Robinson Evans

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Breech

(Continued from Page 1)

meal," Breech said. "They go to school six days a week, 11 months of the year." October is a break month because of the Nepali festivals. "There are not enough schools for all of the kids and parents need them to work to help support the family. If there were more free schools, more kids could go."

Dal bhat (rice and beans) is the main dish in Nepal and the diet is almost vegan. Cows, just as in India, are considered sacred and bread and cheese are marketed to foreigners. At the home, "we get meat once a week on a Saturday night. Usually someone kills a goat or a bunch of chickens."

The contrast between Pacific Palisades and Surkhet is jarring. "I was just in CVS and a man was irate because a delivery truck was in the driveway. He said it was unsafe," Breech said. "I wanted to tell him 'Do you know how safe it is to live in the Palisades?'"

The home and school are located in a town of about 30,000. "The poverty there is amazing," said Breech, who has traveled widely. "I didn't realize to what extent people were living in poverty."

She described the mud houses, how people cook over an open flame and the lack of running water. "There are still people dying of diarrhea," she said, noting that in order to see a doctor you have to pay up front. "In America, you're treated first and questions about how you will pay are asked later."



Patty Breech holds a two-month-old baby boy whose mother had died. The child was brought to the home and is now thriving.

Breech said the illiteracy rate is more common among women because if a family can afford to send someone to school, it is usually the male.

India, to the south, is considered the rich country by Nepal residents. If you want repairs or replacement parts, they come from India and many migrant workers from Nepal travel to India for work. "The comparison is a little like America and Mexico," she said.

One of the luxuries of being back in the United States is "hot water and washing machines," said Breech, pointing to some lights that were on during the day. "I see everything with new eyes. What do we do with unlimited power? We waste it."

In Nepal, many people have solar panels because there are daily planned outages that occur from one to three times a day because the government cannot supply electricity to the whole country.

"We have a hot water solar thermal system, but not all the time," said Breech, explaining that the best time to shower with hot water is 2 to 3 in the afternoon. She takes short showers out of respect for others who might also want hot water, but also because the hot water might not last. She describes a quick shower where she had just shampooed her hair and then the water went ice cold. "I finished, but you could see my breath."

The home in Nepal has a washing machine, which is used to clean sheets and blankets once a week on Saturday. "You hope the power will stay on, and at a high enough voltage to finish," Breech said.

Clothes are hung on a line to dry and the children wash their own clothes by hand. "It's part of their chores," said Breech, who is going back to Nepal at the end of January. "Throwing clothes in a washer and dryer any old time is a luxury."

Shortly before the severe flooding in August, a 12-year-old brought her little brother Ravi to the home. "The baby was two months old and weighed about 5 pounds," Breech said. "His mother had died and his sister was raising him, the villagers were concerned and sent her to the city.

"Everyone turned him away," Breech said. "Except us."

When the rains came, the school was opened up to 200 refugees and Doyme, who had been staying with the infant in the hospital, sent Breech to stay with him while she returned to the school to help with relief efforts.

Right now Breech plans to stay in Nepal two years, but "It's hard to imagine leaving because I love it so much." She reflected "We have a very American centric view of things. So many people are living lives we don't even know about."

She is the daughter of Andy and Debbie Breech and her three siblings are Adam, Sarah and James.

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Heard About Town

Food Truck Gift

On Christmas Eve every year, Galvan's on Temescal offers all food for free. Only tips to the wonderful food prep ladies in the truck are allowed. Galvan's also is the best food truck anywhere near the Palisades!

Just Thinking

Here's kind of an easy set of rules to avoid a great deal of unnecessary violence and civil disturbance. The police will do their job but with courtesy and respect, and will issue only lawful orders. Civilians will obey all orders of the police immediately, whether they agree or not.

Caruso Commons?

As a volunteer and member of the Village Green Board, I have been worried about Rick Caruso's plan to call his new green area some version of "Green" . . . e.g. Neighborhood Green. Another idea, to separate it from our beloved Village Green, might be to call it Caruso's Common, or, The Common. How can I get this idea to his people?

Bank Clock Request

Can Caruso Affiliated turn the bank clock back on near the Mobil Station on Sunset Boulevard? I know a lot of people have smart phones and can see the time whenever they want, but I like driving down the street and seeing the time and temperature. This is one of the homey things about our Village.

Meter Maid Humbug

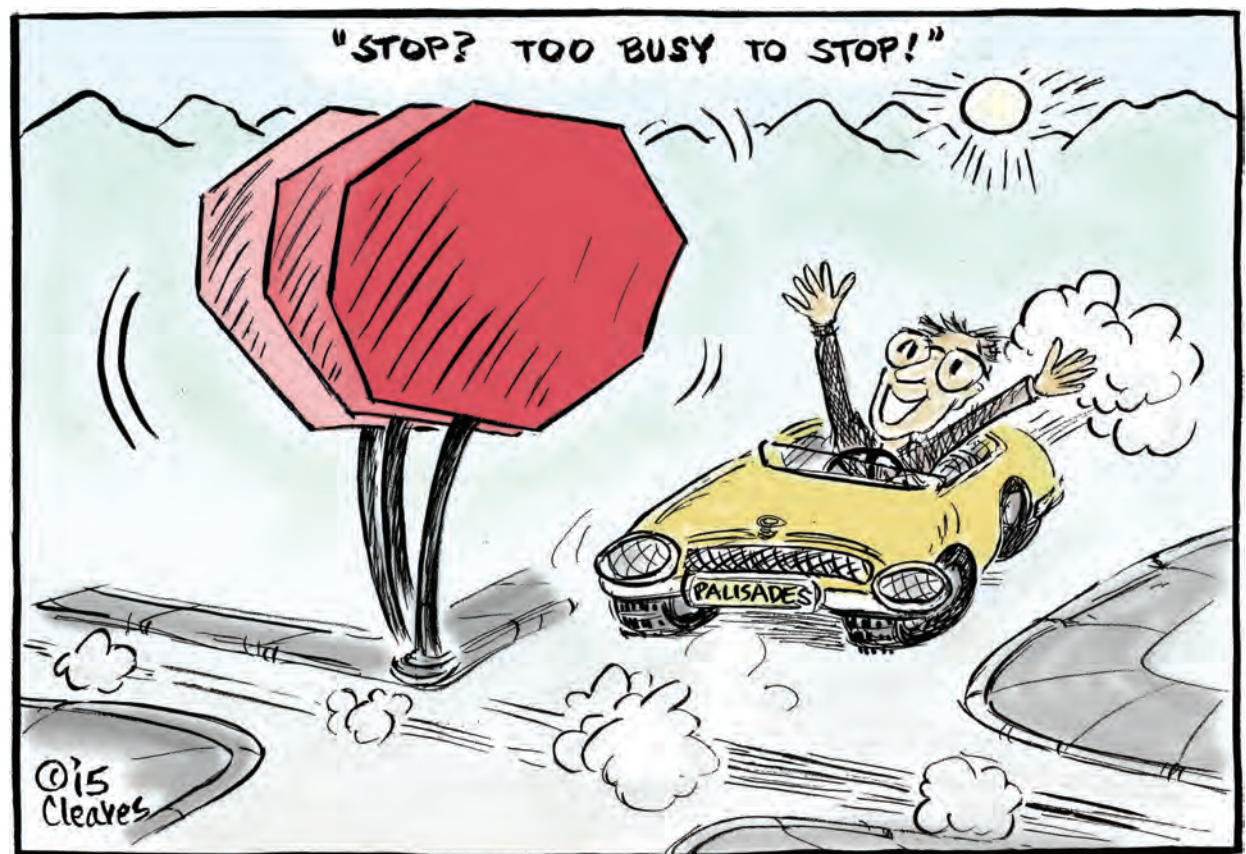
I saw the meter maids giving out tickets on Christmas Eve. Talk about City Hall humbug. If the City is that hard up for cash, maybe we can all write them a check for the ticket amount and give the lady the day off. Then the City can use that money to repair streets that are in really bad need like Radcliffe before Bowdoin, Swarthmore at La Cruz, Chautauqua and Palisades Drive. Wait, the Grinch (I mean the City) already has our money.

Dangerous Crosswalk

As I was walking across Temescal Canyon at the intersection by the high school, a woman driving a silver car sped through from Bowdoin to turn left before the red light. She almost hit me. I'm sure she didn't notice me in the crosswalk or she would have slowed down. If she was running late for an appointment, I hope she didn't go crazy waiting for the light at PCH.

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Remembering Evan . . .

By LORNA BOYD
Special to the Palisades News

My son, Evan, was 25 when he took his life, turning my life upside-down, and my heart inside-out. He had bipolar disorder, which made him feel that his "brain was on fire." He was diagnosed when he was 16, but was doing so well that my family was unaware of his suffering. He was brilliant, handsome and charming. I remember how wonderful he was, but I was consumed by the horrible tragedy of his death.

Evan left many people angry and confused—how could that fantastic guy end his life? We were all incredulous. But he did provide some insight into his "beautiful mind." He left behind his blog, Akumaprime.com, which documented his last years' travels and thoughts—and also his death. We all woke every morning eager to see if Evan had left us a message. The postings ended on his next birthday: "Today I'd be 26."

Now, it has been eight years since Evan died, and I am grateful that his pain is over, even though I miss him every day. I have found support from friends and family, and especially from a group called Survivors After Suicide. There is a stigma surrounding suicide that takes special care, and sharing with others who have experienced the same type of loss is a huge relief.

Even though almost everyone has been touched by suicide in some way, people make judgments and say hurtful things, out of fear and ignorance, and this is difficult. I continue to heal, and volunteer for SAS and NAMI to

better understand bipolar disorder and my grief. While time does bring healing, it is not a direct, uphill journey. I am mostly happy. Then out of the blue, some little event, or song, or movie, or anniversary will catch me off-guard and take me back. The holidays are a difficult time, and this year I wrote:

"I am a small puppy and I am happy and full of fun and energy. And why not? There is this boy who loves me, cuddles and plays with me, and laughs when I wriggle and bark. He feeds me and takes me with him everywhere he goes.

"Then one day, he's gone. I can't find him anywhere. He left before, but he always came back. Not this time. I look for him every day, but he's really gone for good. Someone else feeds me, and others play with me. But it's not the same. They smell different. And I don't sleep with them.

"I finally stopped expecting him to come home, stopped wondering where he went. Or why. But I still think about him, remembering all of the fun we had. It's Christmas, and there's a tree and packages, and I remember new furry toys that squeaked and the food.

"This year, I lie by the fire and rest. I'm getting to be old now, and my memory isn't so great. But I can still smell him—every once in a while I catch his scent on a breeze, or in a musty corner of his old bedroom. I guess I'll always have his smell in my nose. Till the day I die."

Lorna Boyd is a native Californian who lives in Sherman Oaks, with her three dogs. She has been divorced and widowed, and has wonderful parents, Sylvia and Jon Boyd, who live in Pacific Palisades.

Thought to Ponder

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."
— Alvin Toffler, author and futurist

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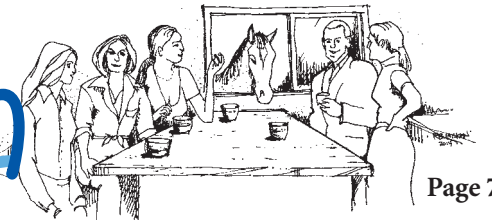
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EDITORIAL

Barn Raising, Palisades-Style

Throughout our country's early history, neighbors had to depend on one another to survive. It took men, lots of men, to raise the walls on a barn after framing and rafters were completed. Women, lots of women, prepared food and everyone worked together. Not only was it a day of work to help neighbors, but also one that bolstered the sense of community.

This list, which provided food for 175 men working on a barn, was found in *This Old Barn* by Ken Wysocky: 115 lemon pies, 500 fat cakes (doughnuts), 15 large cakes, 3 gallons applesauce, 3 gallons rice pudding, 3 gallons cornstarch pudding, 16 chickens, 50 pounds roast beef, 300 light rolls, 16 loaves bread, pickled red beets and pickled eggs, cucumber pickles, 6 pounds dried prunes (stewed), 1 large crock stewed raisins, 5-gallon stone jar white potatoes and the same amount of sweet potatoes.

When construction eventually starts on north Swarthmore, no one plans to show up with a hammer or a lemon pie to help Caruso Affiliated, but we know this block-long street is a vital part of our community

and we want to offer input.

Pacific Palisades needs a Swarthmore "barn raising," whereby residents join together to advocate for specific goals that will benefit the community.

The community has already agreed that something needed to be done on Swarthmore. The dilapidated empty buildings were not only an embarrassing eyesore, they were undermining the business district's well-being. Enter Rick Caruso on a white horse with promises, ready to save us from disaster by bringing in an influx of new businesses.

He offered an ambitious reconstruction plan that seems perfect to many residents, but to others is a cross between Disneyland and something out of *The Stepford Wives*. In the middle are those who have qualms about Caruso's vision, but they know something bold needed to be done, and Caruso was willing to step up and gamble that the Palisades can become a shopping destination.

Given that, let us band together as a community and agree that even though we may disagree about various elements of Caruso's plan, we need to work together,

find ways to compromise on divisive issues (e.g., a bar opened past midnight, building mass and heights, traffic flow and even the proposed Bay Theatre marquee), and ultimately present a united front with Caruso Affiliated and Councilman Mike Bonin's office.

Chris Spitz, president of the Pacific Palisades Community Council, has answered this challenge by establishing an ad hoc committee to work with the Caruso Affiliated representatives. As we reported in our December 17 issue, this committee will review, vet and analyze relevant documents, plans and applications. It will hold public meetings and "will update the PPCC board and make recommendations," Spitz said.

One person shouting what he wants or doesn't want will have little effect on Caruso's ultimate plans, just like one person trying to raise a barn is fruitless. Let's work through the Community Council's ad hoc committee before various issues are addressed by the Design Review Board and the PPCC board. The committee's next meeting is tentatively set for February 10. Visit the Council's website, pp90272.org, for updates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thoughts for Caruso's Proposed Development

First, I want to both thank and congratulate the staff of *Palisades News* for turning out an informative, serious and well-written paper.

Second, I may be one of the few naysayers, but I am not enthusiastic about Mr. Caruso's plans for the Palisades because I do not think the plan will prove to be economically viable. In order to make a profit—and do not ever forget that Caruso is a businessman for whom the bottom line is critical—the rents will have to be high and thus the stores that he rents to will have to charge above-market rates for their merchandise. Who will shop in the new Palisades if the same goods are available more cheaply online?

- The new parking garage will not have enough spaces to accommodate the anticipated (wrongly, I think) flood of shoppers.

- Five movie theaters? When movie attendance is declining? And, by the way, will adults want to sit in a theater full of teens, or watch the movies that appeal to them?

- Another grocery hardly seems necessary. Do we really want to attract more traffic to the Palisades where Sunset is our only major artery? That plan was broached in Brentwood a few years ago and rejected because of crowding and lack of parking. We have a smaller area than Brentwood.

- The *News* makes it sound like remediation of the soil is something Mr. Caruso is doing out of the goodness of his heart. It is not. It's the law.

- The Palisades is a small community which probably

will not, over time, be able to support a shopping area as large as Caruso plans.

Yes, we need a new Swarthmore, but a much more modest one than Mr. Caruso envisions. Meanwhile, the existing parking is fast disappearing and the few remaining businesses are in peril. Remember, dreams can go up in smoke.

Betsy Handler

Blockbusters Won't Be Coming to Swarthmore

After attending Mr. Caruso's meeting and learning about his vision to revitalize the current "eyesore" known as Swarthmore, I am quite pleased with his attention to detail and response to the comments of us Palisadians.

However, as was stated in the *L.A. Times* article about the project, Mr. Caruso has always been skeptical of the economic viability of having a movie theater, and he is correct.

Having worked in the film distribution industry for over 40 years, I think that the folks who support a theater on Swarthmore are living in fairytale land, and here's why. Having small theaters that only seat 40-50 per screen will eliminate any first-run movies and "blockbusters."

These smaller screens are for operators such as Laemmle, and will offer nothing more than second-run movies, independent films, documentaries and foreign films with subtitles. So for the mothers hoping to "send their kids" to the movies on a Saturday afternoon instead of having to haul them to the Promenade in Santa Monica, they are in for a shock.

With smart phones and X-Boxes, few if any kids are going to be begging their mom to let them go see some

independent Dutch film about the advancements in tulip bulb technology.

So sign up for Berlitz or order Rosetta Stone DVDs, because a French film with English subtitles is coming to a theater near you soon.

Dennis Katz

Open Letter to Pacific Palisades Home Burglars

To the thieves who entered my home on Northfield and stole my jewelry, you should know: to you these objects represented only something that could be turned into quick cash and probably for only a small portion of their monetary value.

To me they were treasured mementos valued for their connection to the people and times of my life. There was a gold heart-shaped locket from Italy given to me by my grandmother in 1962 following a trip to her country of birth. There was my 1969 class ring from Samo High, paid for with my earnings at a senior care home. In 1970, the first gift from my husband-to-be was a gold ring with a fire opal.

You took an old Four Roses Whiskey bottle filled with loose change and a lapel pin made up of bowling league scoring pins, two of the few things of my father's that I had retained since his death in 1967. When my mother died in 2009, I inherited a pair of gold Greek key hoop earrings and an English gold coin ring. I felt close to her when I wore them. I will not have that feeling again.

You should know that when you rob someone, you are also stealing an irreplaceable part of their lives and for that you should be ashamed.

Julie McCormick

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Benton Named Business Person of 2014

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Pacific Palisades Rotary Club has named Bob Benton as its Business Person of the Year, in recognition of his demonstrated leadership in the community, his character and his dedication to “Service Above Self,” the Rotary motto.

Benton, a resident since 1982, will receive a \$500 donation to the charity of his choice and a one-year honorary membership to the Rotary Club. He will be honored at a breakfast meeting tomorrow morning and also at the Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner on January 29.

For the past 33 years, Benton’s Sports Shop has been a retail mainstay on north Swarthmore, thriving in a 2,200-sq.-ft. by adapting to community needs and offering a “shop local” alternative to major chain stores and online shopping.

“We’re a generalist store—a Jack-of-all-trades, master-of-none type place,” Benton said. “We can’t be deep in any one item, so I cherry-pick [product] lines.”

In 2015, he’s looking forward to carrying popular Under Armour sports clothing, athletic shoes and accessories.

After graduating from Loyola High School and Santa Clara College, Benton worked for Union Bank, and then as a controller for Music Plus—but “I wasn’t an owner,” he said. With that in mind, the Manhattan Beach resident started looking for a retail opportunity and found Smith’s

Sporting Goods in Pacific Palisades.

Benton remembers that when he bought the store from Milt Smith in 1982, “The only things left on the shelves were grey sweat pants and track shoes. The industry had gone by him.” Adidas stripes were painted on the ceiling, which Benton has just repainted as a reminder of the store’s origins.

The store, which is now one of the most complete sporting goods stores in any small town, continues to evolve.

“When I opened, Russell sweats were hard to get and I sold them in 10-15 different colors and people would drive here to get them,” Benton said. “We were high-fashion compared to the prior store.”

In the late 1970s and early ‘80s, tennis rackets and clothing were a mainstay in the store. “The City had just built new tennis courts at the park and the oversized rackets had been introduced,” Benton said. “I even had a stringer working at the store.”

In the late 1980s, Benton considered opening a second sporting goods store in Westlake Village, but family issues dictated staying in the Palisades. He opened a children’s store on Sunset instead. “It was a fad; everyone was opening kids’ stores.” His lasted two years, but he still carries dance-related clothing for girls and T-shirts and shorts for boys.

Currently, the store is considered one of the primo places to buy volleyball-related gear. “There’s a lot of volleyball in the Palisades,” Benton said, noting that seven of his eight kids played the sport. “And beach volleyball is big.”

Asked to name his target audience, Benton answered: “Our specialty is families. We sell basketballs, playground balls and footballs,” plus swimming-related gear, such as goggles, paddles and suits.

“People in the Palisades are fit. Parents run and work out, and we have the gear for them and their kids. We have mountains on one side and an ocean on the other. We



Rotary honoree Bob Benton

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

redevelop both sides of north Swarthmore, Benton has been queried nonstop about the future of his store. He remains uncommitted. At a recent holiday party, he wore a yellow sticky on his lapel that read: “What about those Dodgers?”

It seems as if Benton and all the current Swarthmore business owners have four choices: 1) they can find a new space and relocate now; 2) they can wait until construction starts on south Swarthmore and rent a space at a new location; 3) negotiate for a new space once construction is complete in 2017; or 4) retire.

Although Benton is still considering his options (his wife, Sue Kohl, is a successful real estate agent in town), he’s relieved that Caruso’s development is finally underway after years of closed storefronts on Swarthmore.

“Palisades Partners did such a poor job managing the properties with the vacancies and letting them become rundown, that it needed serious attention,” Benton said. “There’s no one I would rather have do this project than Caruso. I know he will get it done.”

Benton has been involved with the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association for 28 years, first as a board member, then as commissioner since 1989.

take care of the people who live here.”

Benton said the store’s biggest months are May through September. “We have everything that someone needs for the beach or for camp: rash guards, board shorts, sunscreen, flip-flops, hats, boogie boards, sunglasses.”

Of course, ever since Rick Caruso has closed escrow and announced his plans to

The Alphabets—Town’s First Housing Tract

Contributed by Michael Edlen, Coldwell Banker

The Pacific Palisades Association was founded in 1921 by the Methodist Episcopal Church under the leadership of Reverend Charles Scott. He envisioned a community that ultimately could accommodate more than 20,000 people, considering the area’s advantages of moderate year-round climate and great variety of scenic views.

The first tract was laid out in a conventional rectangular plan between Bestor and what is now Sunset Boulevard from Chautauqua to Via de la Paz. It consisted mostly of dense, flat lots (varying from 5,200 to 7,200 square feet) on generally narrow streets. The streets were named after Methodist bishops of the 19th and

20th centuries and designated in alphabetical order, thus giving it the nickname “the Alphabet Streets.”

From its beginning with about 100 homes by the mid-1920s, this neighborhood today has more than 880 homes and maintains its popularity due, in part, to its proximity to the Village shops, restaurants, several schools and Sunday farmers market. Long considered a neighborhood for “starter” families and originally offering bungalow homes with less than 1,000 square feet, the Alphabet Streets now have homes selling for \$1,500,000 to \$6,000,000, including many newly built two- and three-level homes.

	# SOLD	MEDIAN \$	AVG \$	\$/SQ FT
2014 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 1)	32	\$2,197,500	\$2,385,000	\$985
2011 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 1)	39	\$1,335,000	\$1,748,000	\$671
% Diff	18% ↓	65% ↑	36% ↑	47% ↑

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Michael Edlen is ranked #52 of all agents in the country with over \$1.5 billion in sales and more than 1,100 transactions. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales since 1987, and can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or michael@michaelledlen.com.

Correction!

In the December 17 story “Grossman to Open Kumon Center,” the e-mail to contact Grossman about placement tests and classes was incorrect. Contact information: kumon.com/pacific-palisades-ca or call (310) 526-5445.

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YMCA Introduces Four New Fitness Classes

All residents are invited to a special launch of new Palisades-Malibu YMCA fitness classes from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 10, at 821 Via de la Paz.

Free classes will be offered in short sample timeslots, along with prizes and healthy snacks. During the day, a Lorna Jane active-wear trunk show will be held: get 10 percent

off all purchases, and Lorna Jane will also donate 10 percent to the YMCA.

Join the Y in January, and your joining fee will be based on the day, which means if you join on January 10, you pay only a \$10 joining fee.

New classes include "Group Power," "Toned, Fit & Ripped," "HIIT: High Intensity Interval Training" and "Super You."

"Group Power" is a high-rep weight-training workout, using an adjustable barbell, weight plates and body weight. The class is ideal for new exercisers because of the simplicity of the class; men and women; athletes looking for a training edge; time-pressed because one hour, twice a week delivers fast results and serious weight trainers who want to challenge muscles in a different way. Group Power is offered exclusively at Los Angeles YMCAs, and coordinates with Mossa Home Workouts on Xbox One.

"Toned, Fit & Ripped" is a challenging boot camp led by Coach Ray. "HIIT" in-

cludes cardio/strength sets that alternate 45 to 60 seconds of hard aerobic effort alternated with 10 to 15 seconds of recovery.

"Super You" is a 12-week program that targets long-term success in fitness, health and fat loss. Every enrolled member has weekly check-ins facilitated by a trainer. There are motivational sessions on emotional eating, recipes, planning ahead, pushing through plateaus, setting priorities and managing time to include physical activity.

Visit: ymcala.org/palisades-malibu or call: (310) 454-5591

Theatre Palisades to Present *The Diary of Anne Frank*

Theatre Palisades will present *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from January 16 to February 22 at the Pierson Playhouse.

Playing Anne Frank is Sigi Gradwohl, whose grandfather, Peter Neuhaus, attended the Montessori School in Amsterdam with Anne. His family, whose father held a Swiss passport, fled to Switzerland soon after the Nazis invaded Holland.

The Frank family hid from the Nazis for two years in a building's secret annex. There, Anne wrote almost daily in her diary. Hers is the story of fear, and love, as a young girl comes of age in a tiny hiding place. Tragically, the family was betrayed, and Anne, her sister and their mother perished shortly before Allied forces overran the death

camp. Only Anne's father survived.

The Diary of Anne Frank has sold more than 25 million copies in 50 translations worldwide. The diary has been dramatized by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett.

Gradwohl often visits her grandparents, now in their late 70s and mid 80s, and still living in Zurich. She has listened to her grandfather's stories about Amsterdam and the atmosphere of the chilling Nazi times.

In an earlier interview, Gradwohl said: "My goal is to inspire the audience with Anne's glowing sense of life, of love, compassion, humor and trust in the goodness of people despite the tragedies of life."

Tickets are adults \$20, seniors and students \$18. Visit: theatrepalisades.com or call (310) 454-1970.




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Rivera Brothers Live, Breathe Hockey

By JACK ROSS
Sports Editor

Palisades is well known for the athletic accomplishments of many natives and residents, across the world of sports. Not traditionally among those, however, is ice hockey.

Enter Jake, Luke and Nick Rivera who grew up in the Palisades, at their family's home on Aderno. And each has been playing hockey since childhood.

Currently, Jake, 23, is a junior for SUNY Potsdam in Division III NCAA; Luke, 20, plays for the Hartford Jr. Wolfpack of the Eastern Hockey League; and Nick, 18, plays for the Omaha Lancers of the United States Hockey League.

They, of course, have plenty in common: all three attended Marquez, Paul Revere and Palisades High, before pursuing the sport at prep schools around the country; all play forward with a similar build, determination and self-described grittiness; all exhibit an easy-going disposition, and all have a driving passion for their sport.

And, according to Luke, they each bring a fundamental characteristic to the hockey rink:

"We like to piss off other people on the ice," the second-oldest Rivera said, laughing, though his brothers agree that they play a grinding style, trying to maximize their talents. They are Los Angeles Kings fans, and try to emulate Stanley Cup winner Dustin Brown, whose number 23 they're each donning this season. "We're all about the little things, getting the most out of what we have."

For the Riveras, hockey has been a way of life for quite some time. The sport dictates a disciplined workout schedule, social life sacrifices and a year-round commit-



(Left to right) Jake, Nicky and Luke Rivera all play forward.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

ment, as early as age 10. By middle school, all three boys took the sport seriously—and for each, there was never a question as to whether or not they wanted to pursue hockey into college, and beyond.

The three play on either semi-pro or college teams in towns where the culture that surrounds hockey is practically the polar opposite of the Palisades.

Nick notes that the only other thing going on in Omaha besides the Lancers is the College World Series. Wenatchee, Washington, where he played in the National American Hockey League before graduating from the local high school, placed a similarly high priority on the town's hockey.

"The emphasis on hockey in Potsdam is huge," said Jake, adding the team typically draws more than 1,000 fans a game. "Everyone mostly cares about the hockey program; you'll get people chiming in as you walk on campus. It's a cool experience, to be kind of a big fish in a small pond. And then, you come back to L.A. and quickly remember, it's not that big of a deal. [This] is an experience I wouldn't have gotten without hockey."

The brothers' beginnings in the sport can be traced back to 1996, when Jake accompanied his father Rick to a Kings game at the Great Western Forum, invited by NHL legend Kirk Muller. After passing through the visiting locker room after the game, Jake told his father as they left the arena: "This is what I want to do."

After hearing his son continually ask to play over the next two weeks, Rick found the Iceoplex in Simi Valley (where the Kings then practiced) and signed up Jake for a youth program for five-year-olds. On days when Jake wasn't practicing, he

begged his parents to take him to the rink for open ice "stick time."

At age four, Luke started skating with his older brother, with Nick joining in not long after. And over the next decade or so, the boys spent much of their time as "rink rats" for the Junior Kings at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo (the current Kings' practice facility).

In spite of practically no one else playing hockey in their childhood orbit besides a friend or two, and coming from a family that also knew next to nothing about the sport, the brothers and their support system quickly picked it up.

Today, their grandparents, Sam and Arleen Bachner, have three TV monitors set up at their home in the Riviera neighborhood and watch every game, up to three at a time, and attend a handful of games every year; Arleen even has a personalized No. 23

jersey for each grandson. She and Sam add a wise word or a text from time to time:

"Stop fighting and stay out of the box," Luke said, again smiling. "They're not huge on X's and O's but they're great support."

Ditto their parents, Rick and Dana. Dad, a former football player at Menlo College in Northern California, has never skated, but has picked up some nuances of the sport.

"After a bad game, they're always the first phone call I make walking out the rink," Jake said. "It's something I do after almost every game I've ever played, because I know they're watching. I'll see what they have to say, and they always help."

As for what comes next, Jake, the oldest, will complete his junior and senior years at SUNY Potsdam and then try out for pro teams; if the right option doesn't present itself on the rink, he'll pursue a career in business, his college major.

Luke, meanwhile, is about to start four years of hockey at SUNY Fredonia in New York; Nick will spend 2015 and potentially 2016 in Omaha, depending on the types of college offers he gets in the meantime.

For each, it's been a wild ride, but one that has allowed some overlap on the ice with each other occasionally (in addition to keeping in close touch throughout their respective seasons). Nick and Luke played together for a few months last year for Wenatchee, and next year, Jake and Luke will face each other during their SUNYAC league season, the first time any of the three will have played on opposing sides in their careers.

Indeed, they all have journeyed a long ways since shooting on the goal in their family's driveway years ago. More than likely, in this coastal California town, they were the only brothers in the neighborhood who did.



Jake Rivera is a junior at SUNY Potsdam.



Luke Rivera is with the Hartford Jr. Wolfpack.



Nick Rivera skates with the Omaha Lancers.

Caruso's Santa Barbara Project Delayed by Planning Commission

Caruso Affiliated was handed a setback on December 15 when the Montecito Planning Commission failed to sign-off on the long-debated Miramar Beach Resort and Bungalow project set to be built on a 16-acre oceanfront property in Montecito. The hearing has been continued to January 21.

Reasons cited for the delay were concerns over emergency medical services response, parking availability, traffic flow, water usage and drainage and landscaping, related to tree removal and proposed plantings.

According to a December 16 *Santa Barbara News-Press* story, developer Rick Caruso said: "I can't afford to be in limbo" for much longer. The article continued: "If you don't like it, then vote it down," fumed the developer,

who said he might revive a previously approved—and larger version of the hotel—rather than deal with any more delays. The delays put a glitch in Mr. Caruso's financing window as well as his construction timetable which is to break ground in June of 2015 and open a five-star luxury resort in the summer of 2017."

Caruso had two previous plans (2008 and 2011) approved by County Board of Supervisors, but didn't go forward for different financial reasons. This third application scales the number of rooms from 186 to 170 and tailored the exterior into one that has been described as "Montecito-friendly, Cottage-style aesthetic" and has received an endorsement from homeowners of the Montecito Association.

The former hotel, which had been a mainstay in Montecito for more than 100 years, had fallen into a state of disrepair. The longtime owners sold it in the late 1990s to New York developer Ian Schrager, but the planned large-scale renovation never materialized. Beanie Babies founder Ty Warner bought the property from Schrager in 2005, then sold to Caruso in 2007.

In 2008, Caruso received planning approval for the resort, but the economic downturn saw the project put on hold.

In 2013, the existing buildings were razed in the anticipation that the \$200-million project would move forward. According to newspaper reports, the company had hoped to tear down and rebuild at the same time, but deliberations over a hotel tax rebate program delayed the construction.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kurek

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

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(Answers next issue)

CPR Class Offered This Saturday

The Palisades Optimist Club is conducting a CPR class this Saturday, January 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Palisades. Instruction will be given by a certified Red Cross teacher. A certificate, good for two years, will be given at the conclusion of the class. Training will include CPR, choking and AED (automatic external defibrillator) procedures. The cost is \$15 per person and attendance is limited. Call Bill Skinner at (310) 459-8286 for reservations.

PALISADES NEWS

NEXT ISSUE: WED., JANUARY 21

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Ringling the Bell for Those in Need

For more than 40 years, the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club has participated in Kettle Day, ringing bells for one day in front of various Palisades locations, and offering thanks when passersby put spare change or folding money in the red container.

On December 19, Optimists rang in front of Bank of America (\$793.69), Post Office (\$793.22), CVS (\$683.31) and Ralphs (\$373.97), raising \$2,700, with an additional \$300 pledged.

In front of the Post Office, a group of 10-15 Corpus Christi students stopped, and all put money in the kettle.

Other service organizations participating in the fundraiser were the Santa Monica

Elks (\$133), Kiwanis (\$6,240), Lions (\$2,017), Rotary (\$6,972) and Jaycees (\$83).

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

Member Rich Wilken said, "Once when I was ringing the bell, someone put \$5 in my pocket and told me, 'You need it more than they do.'"

The Red Kettle dates back to 1891, when Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee wanted to find a way to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute. In his sailor days in Liverpool, he remembered a large iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passersby tossed in a coin to help the poor.

The next day, McFee placed a similar pot at the foot of Market Street and placed a sign, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had money to feed the needy at Christmas. The idea spread across the nation and today the Salvation Army assists more than 4.5 million people between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Salvation Army also helps pay utilities, shelters families who have lost their homes and feeds the hungry. To participate in an online kettle, visit: onlinedredkettle.com.



Left to right: Jean Sharp, Bob Curran, Don Tsuchiyama, Frank DaVanzo, and Wally Mees and Alan Hanson. All are members of the Santa Monica Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus and Mees, Hanson and Sharp are Palisades Optimists. Photo: Julie DaVanzo

Mysterious Book Club Meets Jan. 20

The Palisades Branch Library will host a Mysterious Book Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20. This month's book is *Ordinary Heroes* by Scott Turow.

The main character, Stewart Dubinsky, discovers after his father's death, a packet of

World War II letters to a former fiancée, and learns of his father's court-martial and imprisonment. He is plunged into the mystery of his family's secret history and driven to uncover the truth about the distant man who always refused to talk about the war.

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Le Lycée Students Serenade Customers

Although the North Swarthmore Avenue was bleak during December, the sidewalk in front of the French eatery Maison Giraud was filled with the sweet and joyful voices of the Le Lycée Français de Los Angeles Choir.

Forty students, ages 9 to 11, dressed in school uniforms, performed a 20-minute concert to lucky diners.

Under the direction of Vincent Walter Jacob, they started the performance with a special arrangement of "Le Barbier de Belleville" (a French song from Serge Reggiani) that included the famous opera's themes in-between verses.

They then sang a Christmas medley of "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman." The students transitioned to Hanukah tunes, before switching to French and "Vois Sur Ton Chemin" from the movie *The Chorus*.

The fourth- to sixth-graders concluded with "Best Day of My Life," and applause came from shoppers up and down the street, including from outside diners at nearby Mayberry Café.

"Choir students are from fourth and fifth grade, but every year some sixth-graders ask if they can join," Jacob said. "They are always welcome."

Jacob, who has been teaching at Le Lycée since 2010, began his teaching career in



Le Lycée Français choir conductor Vincent Jacob conducted an outdoor concert in front of Maison Giraud French eatery on Swarthmore.

France before moving to Los Angeles with his wife Fanny, who is the school's sixth-through ninth-grade music appreciation.

"We really try to make a great mix between traditional French, American and modern music," said Jacob, who in addition to teaching second through fifth grade music appreciation classes, also is the band and choir director. "Students have choir practice every Tuesday for 75 minutes and

we are looking to develop the choir over the next few years and receive more exposure."

Alain Giraud is the owner and chef of Maison Giraud, and his wife Catherine, owner of the adjacent Lavender Blue. The couple's children attended Le Lycée Français. "I asked Monsieur Giraud if he would like to have us sing this year as a souvenir from the past," Jacob said. "He and his wife were very happy to have us."

Blood Drive Set for Jan. 18

The Palisades Optimist Club is sponsoring a community blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Sunday, January 18, in the American Legion Hall, 15247 La Cruz.

Sign up online: redcrossblood.org (sponsor code is Post283) or call (310) 454-0527. Please eat a well-balanced meal before donating and bring picture identification.

All participants will receive a discounted ticket offer to an Anaheim Ducks home game at the Honda Center and to an L.A. Kings game at the Staples Center.



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Palisades Treasure Genovese Turns 100

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor

Every morning around 8, “Charlie” shows up at Phyllis Genovese’s front door, ready to settle in on the couch by the front window. Genovese’s longtime friend and former employee Alcie Wilbur drops off the irresistibly winning poodle to spend the day with Phyllis.

Belying her 99 years, Genovese is no pushover for Charlie. She sternly tells him to “knock it off” when he barks.

Now 8 years old, Charlie was the unofficial mascot of The Palisades Letter Shop that Genovese founded and ran for 51 years until she sold it in 1998.

The shop, which closed for good in 2013, anchored a swath of sidewalk on Via de la Paz and served as a vibrant town meeting place crackling with local news and gossip.

She started her business modestly in 1947 with a typewriter, a 1940’s version of a copying machine and an addressograph. As Phyllis moved from typewriter to computers and sophisticated copying machines, she outlived her local competitors: Kinko’s, T.O.P.S. and PIPS.

A small figure, with an open smile, Phyllis possesses astonishing confidence and optimism, which run like a thread through her ten decades.

She and her younger sister, Geneva, grew up in south Chicago. Their father died young but their mother supported the family by working at the Mandel Brothers department store through the Depression.

Phyllis attended junior college for two years, but her dream of becoming a physical education teacher was interrupted by the need to work. At 26, she came to Los Angeles at the urging of friends and fellow Midwesterners Jim and Ethel Meyer.

As Douglas was ramping up wartime production, Phyllis easily found work. “I would look at the blueprints, then run over to the storage bins in the parts department to find what was called for,” she says. It was the first of her many odd jobs.

Employed by the Santa Monica Police Department, her task was to escort the female prisoners from the booking area on the first floor, down three floors of stairs to the cells. Phyllis, five-foot tall, was often



Phyllis Genovese turns 100 on January 15.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

dwarfed by her charges.

“After a couple of years, the police captain said to me, ‘You’re knocking my budget to hell,’ since he had to send an escort with me because he was afraid I’d be tripped by one of the prisoners.”

At the same time, Phyllis was pumping gas at the station on Entrada in Santa Monica Canyon.

Phyllis lived with the Meyers in various neighborhoods in Pacific Palisades. She found work with a realtor and insurance firm in the community, and also did typing work for an attorney and a few realtors—at night.

One morning while having coffee with business associates and “looking like I hadn’t had any sleep for endless nights,” two of her friends suggested she open her own secretarial shop.

Starting modestly, Phyllis rented an office upstairs in the Business Block building for \$100 a month. She relocated to Via de la Paz in 1950.

The same year she opened her office, she was elected president of the Santa Monica Bay Business and Professional Women’s Club, which was the beginning of her many leadership positions. She was honored with a Palisades Citizen of the Year award in 1952.

The post-war Palisades community was small, and immediately Genovese’s shop became the information center. In 1949, the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce was established and she became its first treasurer; her office was its headquarters until 1985. In 1972, she was elected the first female president of the Chamber.

Always an independent woman, Phyllis bought her house on Mount Holyoke in

1954. She invited her mother to come out to live with her, which she did until her death. “All members of my family lived with me at one time or another. I have a wonderful family. Couldn’t exchange family for love or money,” she asserts.

As for a “love life,” Phyllis says, “I was always too athletic, not too romantically inclined.” There was a young soldier whom she went with for a while during the war.

“His name was Charles Boyer and he didn’t have a car, so I’d drive him. My friend Ethel thought he looked like someone but she couldn’t put her finger on it. One day, he asked me to take him to a house in Bel-Air. I stayed in the car and watched while he knocked on the door. I saw a man open the door and shake his head. Charles re-



In 1972, Genovese became the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce’s first female president. Photo: Courtesy the Chamber of Commerce

turned to the car and I asked him what was going on. He told me the man who turned him away was his father, Charles Boyer, the French actor, whom I’d never heard of. Charles wanted to get married, but I turned him down.”

Marriage did sneak into Phyllis’ life years later. Again, the connection with her future husband, Sherman Keely, came by way of friends.

“After his wife Alice passed away, Sherm and I got acquainted at the Saturday night poker parties I hosted, and we started going out. On one occasion, he suggested that we go to Arizona to visit my cousin. While there, he asked her how she’d like a new cousin.” Soon after, at 74, Phyllis married Sherm and they were together for 11 years until his death.

Still wiry and agile at 99, Phyllis eschews the thought of exercise. “Who needs exercise?” she says. “I have seven stairs up to the house and four more up to the living room.” She still gets around, although now, to her dismay, she has to rely on friends to drive her places. Alas, that little lady who drove a car for 87 years was grounded this year. “I’ve lost my driving privileges,” she says.

Friends take her to the Santa Monica Women’s Club on Mondays for bridge; Tuesdays once a month, she plays bridge at the Palisades Recreation Center, and Wednesday nights, she goes to dinner with friends, often at Tivoli. “But when sis comes from Las Vegas, we go the Golden Bull.”

Looking optimistically to her 100th birthday on January 15, Phyllis is not at all disturbed by the march of time. “All my friends keep me happy,” she says. “My sis says that ‘attitude’ is the secret to a long, joyful life.”

Deer Stuck Between Fence and Garage

Two homeowners in the 600 block of Radcliffe were surprised when they walked outside towards their garage on a late morning in December. A small deer was stuck between the fence and the garage. Apparently, the animal had leaped, but when it came down, instead of landing in a yard and bounding off, it was trapped: it couldn't go forwards, it couldn't go back.

Betsy and Thom Collins, who have lived on the edge of Temescal Canyon since 1971, said they had never seen an animal stuck like that. They called the City's Animal Rescue, which was delayed in responding because the crew was at a "bird" emergency.

Upon arrival, the eight-member team, one of whom was a veterinarian, advised everyone to stay clear of the deer for fear of scaring it to death. Animals that are preyed on, like deer or rabbits, have a mechanism, much like a "heart attack," which allows them to die without feeling any pain when attacked by a predator.

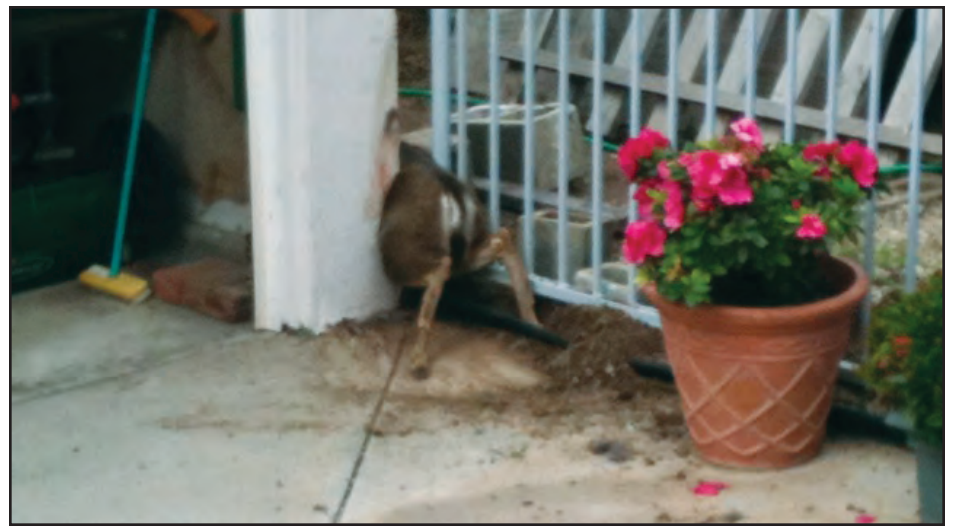
The members of the City crew, who had cameras on their helmets, strategized, and then one quietly approached the deer,

throwing a blanket over its head. Another looped a rope over the fence pole, and two men pulled the newly installed fence away from the garage—moving it just enough so the animal was able to clear its hips.

Within minutes the deer was seen bounding down Temescal Canyon. Its flanks were bloody, but the animal rescue coordinator explained it would be much like a scraped knee and would heal easily. The coordinator said they record their rescues and operations and use them for training purposes.

"They were calm, professional and well-equipped in their treatment of this young deer," Betsy Collins said. "Having had battles with every canyon animal versus my vegetable garden over the years, I usually don't have a soft heart for them." (Two years ago, they set a Have a Heart trap and caught 27 squirrels that were then relocated in the mountains.)

"But to see this deer suffer so, I was thrilled that the team that arrived took so much care to really rescue this animal," Collins said. "They were so professional and respectful that I will never forget their efforts."



A deer was stuck in the narrow space between the fence and garage.

Photo: Betsy Collins

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MUSIC REVIEW

Symphony and Chorale Perform Holiday Program

By TOM HOFER
Special to the Palisades News

The United Methodist Church was filled to capacity on December 14 as the Palisades Symphony, joined by the Brentwood Palisades Chorale and vocal soloists, performed Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass* and John Rutter's 1990 *Magnificat*.

The two works properly rang in the holiday season, filled as they were with a mix of reverence and joyous fanfare and traditional and modern composition.

Volunteers Sought for Village Green Workday

The monthly Village Green "spruce up" will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 17, at the triangular park located between Sunset Blvd., Swarthmore Ave. and Antioch St.

Residents who have never volunteered before are welcome to join the "regular" Village Green crew. Those participating are asked to bring clippers and gloves. High School students can receive community service hours.

The evening's celebration began with the *Magnificat*, confidently conducted by Brentwood Palisades Chorale director Susan Rosenstein, who had her hands full with the seemingly large choir, as it occasionally threatened to overwhelm the orchestra.

Rutter's work is a cinematic landscape of melodies and textures, encompassing the wide range of emotions expounded by the accompanying sacred text, and the Palisades Symphony performed it beautifully. From the inspiring opening "Magnificat" to the neo-bluesy and multi-rhythmic "Fecit Potentiam" and the tender, pastoral feel of "Esurientes", the orchestra took the rapt audience on a journey from thematic exuberance to solemnity and back.

The chorale, as well, did a spectacular job of traversing Rutter's musical landscape with well-blended and confident voices. Soprano soloist Deborah Mayhan, featured on "Et Misericordia," "Esurientes" and the final "Gloria Patri," has a wonderful instrument in her voice, contributing tender and light passages to the work—yet also full and strong.

After an intermission, symphony music director Joel Lish took the podium to con-



Soprano Deborah Maynan (left) awaits a cue from Joel Lish (center) as he conducts the Palisades Symphony and the Brentwood Palisades Chorale.

Photo: Tom Hofer

duct the more formal and restrained *Lord Nelson Mass*.

In contrast to the near-effervescence of the *Magnificat*, the *Mass* felt a bit heavy, as though facing a main course after just having had dessert. The chorale and orchestra performed once more at an elevated level, under Lish's seasoned baton.

Highlights of this performance included the lovely voices of soprano Mayhan, again, as well as Jessica Boardman's rich and colorful, but occasionally tentative mezzo. They were joined by baritone Eric Castro and tenor Gabriel Pazos, for whom I felt Herr Haydn could have written a few more dynamic solo passages.

Mayhan and Castro shared a moving duet in the "Qui Tollis," in which their sustained notes floated lightly over the orchestra's muscular pulsing. Ms. Boardman again delighted the audience in the lovely, brief "Agnus Dei," accompanied by Mayhan, and followed immediately by the "Dona Nobis."

This final movement, a lively, almost bouncy exclamation point to the *Mass*, brought the evening full circle, with uplifting passages performed by a beautiful blend of chorale and orchestra, leaving us lucky listeners to pour out into the chilly Palisades night with an internal warmth that was in no small part due to the soul-stirring concert we had just witnessed.

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V's Restaurant owner Vassil Pertchinkov has done a great job with his restaurant, which is now well into its second year. There is a small bar to the right when you enter, and dining to your left. When seated in a cozy booth in the dining room there is an enchanting view of trees and lights outside the rear window. But, it is the intriguing menu that really captures your attention.

My friend and I started with a marvelous flatbread adorned with mushrooms. A crisp, thin crust topped with chanterelle, Portobello, crimini and shiitake mushrooms with Fontina cheese and white truffle oil was so compelling we wanted to devour it all (but sensibly took some home so we could enjoy the rest of our dinner).

Succulent pan-seared Maine sea scallops were beautifully presented with a delicious caprese salad accented with asparagus spears and fresh tomatoes.

Half of a pan-roasted organic chicken with a tarragon juice was tender, moist and flavorful. The preserved lemon mashed potatoes were equally delicious as were the Brussels sprouts enhanced with pancetta.

Mahi Mahi was the fish of the day. Crusted with a zesty pesto it was served

with sautéed spinach and mushrooms—a perfect accent for the excellent fresh fish.

And for dessert, what could be more compelling than a slice of rich chocolate peanut butter pie with mascarpone and walnuts? It was excellent and made a great holiday finish to our dinner along with a cup of freshly made coffee.

The menu changes with each season, accenting fresh products that inspire the chef. The simple one page menu offers snacks such as the grilled flat breads (\$13 each). Starters include the soup of the day served with grilled crostini for \$10. The pan-seared Maine scallops top this section at \$18 while the V's chopped salad and the spring mix salad with goat cheese and slivered almonds are only \$13.

Tuscan kale and red quinoa salad with shaved Brussels sprouts, dried cherries, sliced almonds and a lemon olive oil dressing is \$14, as is the butter lettuce with Belgian endive, blue cheese, candied walnuts and pink lady apple all topped with a honey apple cider vinaigrette. Other salads include ahi tuna and smoked trout.

Pizzas and pastas vary from my favorite Margherita (\$16) to La Quercia prosciutto (\$19) with several others in the \$17-\$18



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

price category such as the organic spinach pizza. Pastas include linguini with shrimp, fresh peas, white wine, basil and garlic in a light tomato sauce, or a Bolognese with porcini mushroom-flavored house-made papardelle, or a tagliatelle with pancetta, fresh spinach and a parmesan cream sauce. These are priced from \$24 to \$26. Gluten-free pizzas and pasta are available for \$2 extra.

The octet of entrees include the fish or risotto of the day at market price, or the pan-roasted organic chicken (\$28), grilled salmon (\$30), roasted Sonoma County duck (\$30), grilled lamb chops (\$38), grilled filet mignon (\$42) and braised beef short ribs with Israeli couscous (\$32).

The menu is enticing with lots of inter-

Wine Tasting And Splash of 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 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, and artists will discuss their creations.

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

esting items that are fragrant with special herbs, enhancing the flavor of each dish.

V's is open Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. (the restaurant takes a break from 3 to 5 p.m. on weekdays). Saturday and Sunday hours are 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.



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