

## Part 1 Crime Hits Palisades

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore addressed concerns from El Medio Bluff residents on February 3 about a perceived increase in neighborhood crime.

Moore told his audience at Palisades High School that LAPD cars are sent into areas on the basis of violent crime. “We don’t have a lot of that kind of crime in West Los Angeles,” he said. “Last year in all of the Los Angeles Police Department, our division also had the lowest amount of overall crime.”

The majority of crime in Pacific Palisades is called Part 1, which includes burglary, burglary theft from vehicles (BTFV), theft and robbery. In 2012 there were 368 Part 1 crimes. They decreased to 352 the following year, and increased to 371 in 2014.

Moore said that the biggest difference between the first two years and 2014 was  
*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Jumping for Heart



Palisades Elementary held its annual Jump for Heart on February 13 to raise awareness about heart disease and how physical activity may prevent it. Jumping are second graders (left to right) Akshay Viswanath, Brett Federman, Charlie Speiser, Ronin Dourado and Will Woods.  
Photo: Bart Bartholomew

## Swarthmore Street Closures Set during Remediation

Caruso Affiliated, the prominent real estate development company, started its remediation of the toxic soil on the north side of Swarthmore Avenue last week. Street closures are expected through March.

When Caruso first entered into a purchase agreement with Palisades Properties in 2012, inspectors discovered that the former Emerson-LaMay Cleaners on Swarthmore had for decades poured toxic material into the soil, which now requires cleanup.

Part of the remediation involves relocating a storm drain that runs under the property and into Swarthmore Avenue. The City is overseeing that work and has approved work hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The estimated completion time is six weeks and Swarthmore will be closed daily, reopening at about 4:30 p.m.

Work has started on Swarthmore and will move toward the intersection of Mon-

ument and Albright. Once work reaches that intersection, there will be a full closure at that corner lasting about two weeks.

The environmental remediation work is being supervised by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the haul route was approved by the City of Los Angeles, with community input. The schedule is Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

The trucks, loaded with toxic dirt, will leave the site and go south on Swarthmore, turn right onto Sunset and then left on Temescal Canyon.

DTSC Project Manager Jose Diaz said, “Before a truck is allowed to leave the site, it will be inspected to make sure it is clean, which is normal procedure. The dirt will go either to Waste Management facilities in Simi Valley or Azusa, where it will be treated and then recycled.”

Some of the buildings on the north side of Swarthmore were demolished starting on January 6, in order to prepare for the remediation.

“We salvaged steel, concrete and 20,000 board-feet of wood for recycling and re-use,” said Liz Jaeger, Caruso Affiliated spokesperson. “We are deeply committed to respon-

sible stewardship of our environment.”

During remediation, shops and restaurants on Swarthmore will remain open, and the farmers market will continue on Sundays.

“Thank you to the community for its patience as we begin construction along Swarthmore Avenue,” Jaeger said.

## Wildflowers Return



During the drought over the past years, local wildflowers have suffered. The Big-pod Ceanothus pictured blooming on the Phil Leacock trail is magnificent because of the early January rains. Last year, one would have had to search carefully to find even one blooming shrub. There are five Ceanothus species in the Santa Monica Mountains and this one is the most dominant and earliest blooming on the Palisades trails.  
Photo: James Kenney

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# S-p-e-l-l Artisan, Etiquette and Exuberant

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

For 162 kids in grades one through five, the February 8 Fourth Annual Pacific Palisades Spelling Bee started with a written spelling test of 30 words.

Calvary Christian fifth grader Peter Sims admitted after the test, "They were pretty hard," and one of the words was feign. "I've never heard that word before," he said.

Elli Eisman, a fifth grader at Carlthorp, had also never heard that word, but said she had more trouble spelling "ostentatious." "It was easier this year because they give fourth and fifth graders the same spelling list," she said.

A fifth grader from Corpus Christi, Phillip Trepp, said he also had trouble with "feign" and said he spelled it "fane."

"It was a pretty tough test," he said, "and none of the words were on the Scripps National spelling list I studied."

Each test was scored, with one point given for each correct word and the top 10 in each grade advanced to the oral portion of the test in the auditorium at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center, with about 150 family and friends observing.

Honorary Mayor Jake Steinfeld, who awarded trophies, said: "I don't have a child in this event, but as I watch these kids on stage spelling in front of a large audience, my hands are sweating. These kids have courage."

The Spelling Bee was the brainchild of Leslie Pereira and her son, Benjamin Volokh, who was eight years old at the time. After watching a spelling bee, Benjamin wanted to know if he could enter one. A local bee was not available, so Pereira started one. There are a few modifications that take into account a misspelled word, simply because some words may be easier



Left: Third graders placing were Chaz Plager (third), Violet Affleck (first) and Barrett Eastman (second). Right, fifth graders Angela Lyman (second), Miles Zaud (first) and Annie Vinetz (third) are congratulated by Honorary Mayor Jake Steinfeld. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

for some people to spell than others. The first 113 kids were entered, with fourth and fifth grade combined. The contest continues to be open to all students who attend school or who live in Pacific Palisades.

During the oral portion of the test, the contestants, one at a time, come to the microphone and are asked to spell five words. After each word, they are told whether they spelled the word correctly or not. Each correctly spelled word is worth two points.

"It's such a pleasure to watch kids compete, who are willing to get up on stage, get a word wrong, but come right back," said Eugene Volokh, a UCLA professor, who helps organize the event with his wife and numerous volunteers.

One third grader correctly spelled life-guard, degree, frequency, hatched and detective. A fourth grader had the words requirement, chorus, acrylic, sorbet and isolation. One fifth grader spelled rhythm, moccas-

sins, authority, enterprise and compressor.

In first grade, Asa Stratmann (Canyon) placed first; second went to Lucy Neilson (Corpus) and third to Pearl Abrahams (Palisades Elementary).

In second grade, Lily Williamson (Palisades Elementary), who took third last year as a first grader, captured first place this year. Second went to Alexander Garrett (Corpus Christi) and third to Avery Jones (Crossroads).

Violet Affleck took first in third grade, her third straight year for taking the top prize. Barrett Eastman (Corpus) and Chaz Plager (Pali) went into a spell-off to determine their placing.

When two people are tied, each is asked to spell two additional words in the challenge round until one misses a word. Eastman correctly spelled laundry, cellular, circulating, professional, muscle and curiosity. Plager spelled opera, canteen, com-

panionship, congratulations and exuberant before misspelling foreign. Eastman took second and Plager was third, the same as last year; he finished second in 2013.

Fourth grader Maddie Neilson (Corpus) took first, improving on last year's third-place finish. In 2013 and 2012, she took second. Angelica Martell (Marquez) and Josh Weber (Brauwald Elementary) were tied after the written and oral round and went into a spell-off. Martell correctly spelled permafrost, duplicate, reliably and nationality to take second, the same place as last year. Weber correctly spelled trounce, revolting and spectatorship before missing vehicular.

Fifth grader Miles Zaud (Westside Waldorf) took first, the second year in a row he's won his age group. Second went to Angela Lyman (Pali) and third to Annie Vinetz (Canyon), who placed second in 2013 and 2014.

## Crime

(Continued from Page 1)

the type of crime committed. In 2012, there were 119 BTFVs and 98 burglaries, the following year there were 142 BTFVs and 74 burglaries, but in 2014 it was 96 BTFVs and 129 burglaries.

"I've seen a car window smashed for a baseball cap," Moore said. "I've seen someone smash a window to take four quarters from the center console. The only way to make sure you're not a victim is to leave nothing visible in the car."

He once again urged people to lock their homes saying, "One man, who reported a burglary was asked why he didn't lock his door. He replied, 'I never had to before.'"

Moore noted there is an increasing trend for gang members to turn to burglary. "Gangs are moving away from violence to burglary because they know if they are caught, it means less time in jail," Moore said. "Criminals are now focusing

on homes."

He confirmed that most burglars target the master bedroom, closet or bathroom. The items taken most often are jewelry and cash.

"Don't expect to find your jewelry at a pawn store," Moore said, "because criminals take it to reputable companies and they are melted down. Electronic devices are still stolen if they're small."

He said that safes need to be bolted down to prevent them from being taken from homes.

An audience member said, "I know you have a busy job and you're not going to come here and help us, so we have to be proactive. I have a baseball bat."

Moore said, "If you have a community that doesn't have a homeowners association, then a Neighborhood Watch is essential."

He said detectives are making a big push for security cameras because the videos have been helpful in solving crimes. He also suggested license plate technology readers—cameras at the entrance to certain streets.

The Palisades is divided into seven crime areas and the following numbers of Part 1 crimes have been recorded in the past three subsequent years:

Highlands 10, 11 and 8; Alphabet Streets 40, 61 and 69; Marquez 76, 77 and 88; El Medio Bluffs 71, 77 and 88; Via Bluffs and Huntington 74, 58 and 54; Lower Riviera 88, 68 and 58; and beaches 9, 11 and 18.

This meeting was the second attempt by resident Elizabeth Stein to rally neighbors to organize a Neighborhood Watch program. An earlier attempt had been criticized in the media.

One resident said, "I got so angry when I read it, I called up and volunteered to be a block captain. No one should be critical when someone is trying to do something good."

After the meeting, Stein said there are 17 streets in the El Medio Bluffs area and she now has volunteers for 30 block captains and needs five more. "I think we're going to finally get some traction," she said.

## Northern Trust Parking Moved

Parking on the VA Hospital grounds is not available for the Northern Trust Open at the Riviera Country Club. Today, Thursday and Friday, February 18-20, a shuttle will run from Will Rogers Beach Parking Lot (complimentary parking) to the Riviera.

On Saturday and Sunday, parking is located at The Water Garden in Santa Monica and the shuttle will be \$5 per person. Military personnel and families with a ticket and children under 18 accompanied by a ticketed adult are free.

Parking on streets around The Riviera Country Club is prohibited and fans are asked to consider Metro Bus #2 (goes through Pacific Palisades, visit: metro.net for schedules) or to Lyft, Uber or taxi outside the main gate.

# Presbyterians Name Schaefer Head Pastor

By LAUREL BUSBY  
Staff Writer

Reverend Eric Schaefer's life took a hard turn when he was 10 years old. His mother died of breast cancer, and the experience turned out to be life changing—even more than might be expected from such a tragedy.

His mother, who like his father had not practiced a religion, experienced an awakening as she was dying and "came to faith." In the aftermath of her death, Schaefer grieved, but it was hard to process all of his feelings.

The Presbyterian church near his North Palm Beach home happened to employ teen interns to hang out with kids in the community to support them in whatever way they could.

One of the teens befriended Schaefer and helped him talk about his grief and explore his thoughts and feelings about God.

"I came to faith through the relationship with this youth intern," said Schaefer, 51, who became an associate pastor at Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church in 1994. "It was a very non-threatening way to learn about a God that loves me. It influenced my ministry. You love people and through that is a window to talk about a God that loves us."

Helping youth, serving the community, and reaching out to others of all beliefs have been mainstays of Schaefer's work in the church, which installed him as its new head pastor in a February 8 service.

Schaefer was previously the minister in charge of youth and families. More than 400 children and teens participate in the current youth programs, which include youth



Rev. Eric Schaefer

groups, a nursery school, ski trips and mission trips to places ranging from Belize to Scotland.

He also leads a special 5:30 p.m. Sunday service called Sunset Crossing that has a light meal and kids' activities in which families with packed Sunday mornings can participate.

"Our service is warm and interactive," said Schaefer, who also leads a 10 a.m. Sunday service. "Hopefully, it's a very inviting environment."

At the weekly youth night, kids play outdoor games like Capture the Flag and indoor games like Pictionary. There is Bible study, and older kids lead the program for the younger group, so everyone has a chance to practice leadership and give back. In these programs, Schaefer said the idea is to have fun, connect and also learn about God.

During his tenure, Schaefer has worked hard to make the varied programs welcoming to everybody of all backgrounds; often children who might be suffering in some way, whether from loss, divorce, alienation or another difficulty, have been attracted to the program.

"It's really a place where kids can come to express hurts, because I'm so in tune with that from my own life," Schaefer said. "This is what I can do for other people."

In his own youth, Schaefer took time to develop his beliefs. He earned a degree in film from Florida State University in 1985. (This background inspires him at times in Sunday services, which may include an occasional film clip.) He explored several jobs: he was a sports reporter; he worked with youth at psychiatric hospitals; he took a position in a religious service organization called Young Life, where he met his wife Kim.

In 1991, Schaefer enrolled in Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, where he learned ancient Greek and Hebrew to read original texts. "I really wanted to learn about Christianity in a way that I could make up my own mind as to what I believed."

Soon after graduating in 1994, he moved to the Palisades to become an associate pastor for the church. The community appealed to Schaefer and his wife, who taught at Calvary Christian School for many years. They have three sons, Tyler, 21, Carter, 18 and Spencer, 12.

Over the years, the 6'3" Schaefer has coached youth basketball at the Pacific Palisades Recreation Center, run the L.A. Marathon several times with his wife, and gone on numerous mission trips, which allow him and others, including those who are not part of the church, to connect to the broader world and also serve and give back.

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# Mayberry Closes Doors

On February 9, a sign went up in the Mayberry café window at 1028 Swarthmore: "Dear Customers, Do Not Despair, Mayberry Is Now Closed for Much Needed (and unexpected) Repairs. See you in 11 Days. PLEASE COME BACK!"

On Saturday, the *Palisades News* received an e-mail from Liz Jaeger, a spokesperson for Caruso Affiliated:

"We were very disappointed to learn that the owners of Mayberry have decided to permanently close their business. Last week, many of the drain pipes in the building failed due to age and lack of maintenance over many years. Although there was an option to repair the plumbing and reopen with financial support from Caruso, the owners decided that the best course of action at this time is to close, given the amount of time left before construction begins on the street next year. We know that Mayberry has become a community asset and will be sorely missed."

BOCA owner Denise Mangimelli noted that Rick Caruso was a frequent visitor to Mayberry, which was also a stop for resident celebrities such as Jennifer Garner, Adam Sandler, Tom Hanks, Jay Mohr, Billy Crystal and Martin Short.

In 2007, Whitney Bridge (now Rapoport), Holly Gratz and Linda West were all waitresses at Terri's (owned by Terri Festa), when they heard the café was for sale. Working moms with corporate experience, they



The Mayberry café. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

made an offer and Mayberry was born.

One of the first changes was to switch to a large selection of organic foods, including buying vegetables and fruit from the Swarthmore Farmers Market. Their menu included salads, sandwiches, wraps, pastas and a popular tortilla soup.

"We are sad to see the restaurant close after many great years in the Palisades," said Whitney Rapoport, co-owner of Mayberry. "We worked closely with Rick Caruso and his team, and are grateful for the tremendous financial and operational support offered to us through this process. However, we have decided that now is the right moment to say farewell to the many wonderful customers who have supported our restaurant over the years."

## SPEAKERS CORNER

### February 19: Sharon Weil, Local Writer

Pacific Palisades resident Sharon Weil will speak tomorrow, February 19, about her debut novel, *Donny and Ursula Save the World*. Weil's book is described as a wacky yet serious romantic mishap adventure about two mismatched lovers who become unexpected heroes protecting the world from an agribusiness.

The event is hosted by the Pacific Palisades Library Association. Weil will talk at 6:30 p.m. in the library's community room, 861 Alma Real. The public is invited and admission is free.

In 1990, Weil was awarded the Women in Film's "Lillian Gish Award" as writer and co-producer of the Best Children's Film, *Sweet 15*.

### February 26: Sylvia Boyd, Tupperware Executive

Sylvia Boyd, whose life has ranged from child film actress to retired Tupperware executive, will speak on "From Screen to Cupboard to Boardroom" at the Palisades Presbyterian Church "Food for Thought" series at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 26, in Janes Hall. The public is invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch beforehand, but attendees must RSVP by calling (310) 454-0366.

Born in Hollywood, Boyd started working in film at age seven. She played the daughter of Bette Davis and Claude Rains in *Mr. Skeffington*, acted with Paul Henreid and Ida Lupino in *In Our Time*, was in *Blood and Sand* with Tyrone Power and Rita Hayworth, and acted in *Humoresque* and *The Great Stagecoach Robbery*.

After graduating from Van Nuys High School in 1950, Boyd attended Cal State Northridge for a year, majoring in drama, before marrying her high school sweetheart, Jon, in 1951. When he enlisted as a Marine during the Korean War, she went with him to Camp Pendleton.

After the war, Boyd began a career in a new company, Tupperware. After she grew her Westchester business to more than \$4.5 million a year, her husband was asked to be a regional vice president. He declined, saying it was Sylvia who had built the business.

In 1983, Boyd was offered a regional VP position in the Midwest; by 1988, she was named California and Arizona regional vice president. She was then sent to Australia to build the market: when she left, sales were up 10 percent. The family moved to Canada, and then Boyd was asked to introduce Tupperware to India. When she retired, she was the president of Tupperware in Canada.



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## Heard About Town

### DWP Watering Policy

In front of the LADWP building at the corner of Sunset and Via de la Paz, a sign reads that they only water on Monday and Friday. The yard is all small gravel. I'm sure they could cut back on the watering. Just how much water does gravel need?

### Spelling Bee Kudos

The annual Palisades Spelling Bee has become a real hometown community event. It made me feel like I was part of Mayberry and waiting for Andy Griffith, Aunt Bea and Opie to come into the auditorium. What a nice time.

### Stop-Sign Enforcement

The corner of Monument and Bashford is traversed by many children on their way to schools in the Village every day. Probably 1 of 10 cars on Monument actually stop. Blaring horns and near-collisions are constant. How about setting up a week or two of continuous traffic enforcement before someone gets seriously injured or worse?

### Ban All Leaf Blowers

Pacific Palisades should strongly consider following Santa Monica's example and ban ALL leaf blowers. The main reason being the noise. Some of these people running leaf blowers are starting them up at 6 a.m. with no regard for the noise laws. The laws are very specific for this type of noise within 500 feet of a residence.

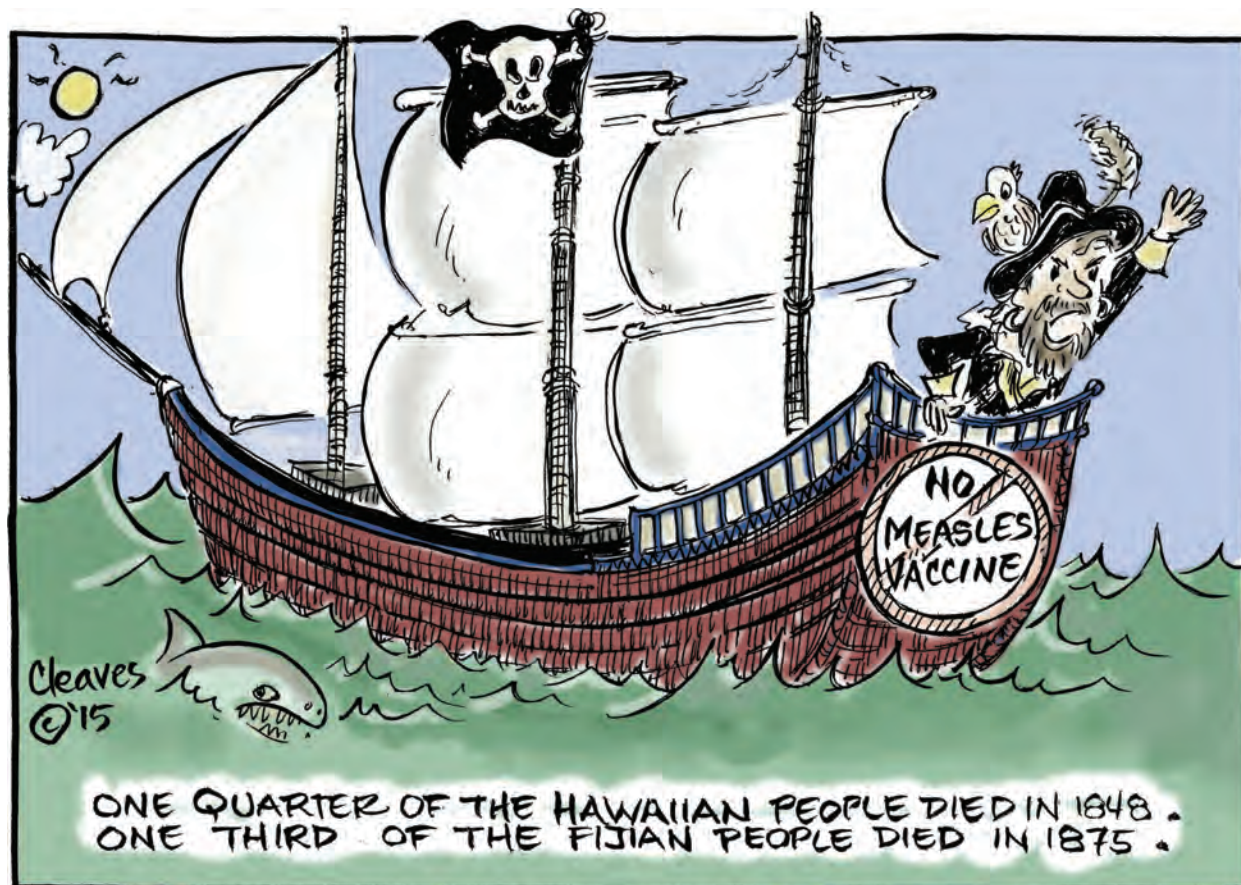
*(Editors note: There is already a loosely-enforced law on the books. L.A. City Municipal Code 112.04 (c) states that "no gas-powered blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at anytime. Both the user of such a blower as well as the individual who contracted for the services of the user, if any, shall be subject to the requirements of and penalty provisions for this ordinance. Violation of the provisions of this subsection shall be punishable as an infraction in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), notwithstanding the graduated fines set forth in L.A.M.C. Section 11.00(m). )*

### Fiber Optics Here

In the November 5 Heard About Town, someone asked "When is Pacific Palisades going to have fiber optics and finally do away with slow-functioning DSL?" Gates Security recently installed a dedicated Time Warner Cable fiber optics broadband service and so did *Palisades News*. The bandwidth is Verizon 7.1 DSL or TWC 100/100 mbps.

*If you'd like to share something you've "heard about town," please email it to [spascoe@palisadesnews.com](mailto:spascoe@palisadesnews.com)*

## ANN CLEAVES



## VIEWPOINT

# Doggy Politics in the 'Hood

By MARCI SLADE CRESTANI

There is only one thing that scares me more than the sight of an off-leash dog barreling toward me and my dog Sammy as we stroll through the Alphabet streets: hearing the other dog's owner shouting jauntily from a distance of several houses away, "Don't worry! My dog is friendly!"

I am terrified by off-leash friendly dogs because I know my leashed, unfriendly dog Sammy has secret powers over them.

Through some sort of canine telepathy, Sammy has a reliable ability to unlock a friendly dog's deeply repressed subconscious, thereby reminding it of its true feral nature.

And once a friendly dog remembers, "Hey, I could be 'gangsta' if I didn't belong to this goody two-shoes who treats me like I'm human," all hell breaks loose. The friendliest of dogs will unleash their newly awakened, pent-up punk venom on my old pound-dog Sammy.

No, my dog Sammy doesn't want to kill your dog or bite it or draw blood, and in fact, she has never committed any of those sins.

What Sammy really wants to do is snarl, bark, lunge and just generally out-crazy your dog to keep it away from me because—no offense—my dog, Sammy, loves me more than your dog loves you.

She tries to scare the living daylights out of your dog, which in turn, scares the living daylights out of me, because I end up trapped in the middle of the ensuing fracas.

During these brawls, the other dog owner is immobilized in a state of catatonic shock, endlessly repeating, "He's never done this before! My dog's never done this before!" And I want to endlessly repeat back, "I hear this all the time!"

Instead, I start roaring, "NO! NO! NO!" in a commanding James Earl Jones voice, impressing myself but not the dogs. Then I yell to the other dog owner, "Will you PLEASE call your dog?" to jolt him out of his confusion. (Sorry, but it's usually a man.)

Not a single dog owner has ever stormed over, grabbed his dog by the collar and put a leash on it. By now they're scared to wade into the frontlines, but they have no problem leaving me there to handle it by my James Earl Jones self. In reality, though, I am more of a Jane Pearl Jones, and it takes all my muscles to yank and drag Sammy away from her giddily feral unleashed foe.

These commotions typically end with the off-leash dog owner making a snide remark about my dog being unfriendly, implying that's what started it. I tartly reply that none of this would have happened if his dog had been on a leash. Because it's true. I swear my heart gets more exercise from these adrenaline rushes than it does from walking.

*Marci Slade Crestani is a former columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Her new book, Halfway to Dead: After 50, You Just Have to Laugh, is available on Amazon.com.*

## Thought to Ponder

"Life is never fair, and perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not."

— *An Ideal Husband*, Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

## PALISADES NEWS

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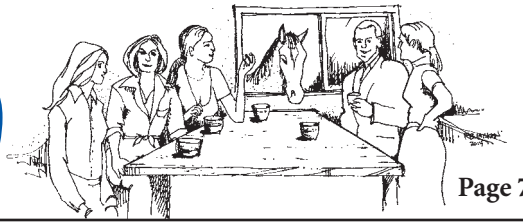
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## VIEWPOINT

# Your Choice Has an Impact

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Once Rick Caruso's Palisades Village opens as anticipated in fall 2017, the infusion of shoppers and visitors should have a positive carry-over impact on businesses elsewhere in the business district. But can our mom-and-pop stores survive until then?

Yes, if you pledge to help out.

When I worked at the other newspaper in town, I was in charge of the annual holiday gift guide, a special supplement that required articles and photos. I always enjoyed going out with the staff photographer to visit various retail stores in the Village, on Marquez Avenue and in the Highlands Plaza, looking for special gifts to suggest for Hanukkah and Christmas.

One year, at the shoe repair across from Ralphs, we found moccasins; at Norris Hardware there was a fancy blender; Pharmaca had a lavender smelling neck pillow; Benton's produced an interesting Frisbee toy; Puzzle Zoo had Legos and Denton's had jewelry; fairy figurines were found at Collections Antiques and Accessories, Palisades T-shirts at Knolls Pharmacy, silverware at Gift Garden Antiques and Converse baby sneakers at PaliSkates.

I looked for a variety of products in different price

ranges, and tried to feature as many different merchants as possible. "Shopping" for items was always a fun day away from the office, my desk and my computer. I loved the challenge of trying to decide which products might appeal to different groups of Palisadians. I also started to know the merchants. My appreciation of the time owners spent at stores, and the customer service they provided, reinforced my belief that I should try to shop as much as possible in the Palisades.

It was always heartening after the gift guide was published to meet readers who went to stores to find various suggested items. I particularly remember the time I recommended the candle snuffers at The Prince's Table. When I re-visited the store close to Christmas, I learned they had sold out their entire stock.

In 2007, I wrote a business story about The Prince's Table because they were moving from north Swarthmore into the courtyard across from CVS, forced out by suddenly rising rents on that block of Swarthmore, where they had been in business since 1985. We didn't know it at the time, but that was the start of the exodus and store closures on Swarthmore.

Last week, I was especially saddened to learn that The Prince's Table, one of my favorite places to find interesting quality gifts, is going to close. The sale sign is

in the window. A clerk told me that December, usually a good month for them, wasn't. "People bought online," she said.

I spoke to several people on Swarthmore who reported that December business was either down or neutral from a year ago, but Will Mangimelli of BOCA Man reported: "We had a great outpouring of support and we thank all of the community that stopped by and supported us."

As our business district undergoes a transformation, let's make a pledge to help keep our existing stores alive.

Sure, you likely can find products cheaper on the Internet—and they can even be delivered to your home, but at what cost to our community?

Here's what you'll miss: chatting with store owners and staff, seeing other neighbors in stores, socializing and avoiding the hassles of driving out of the Palisades and back home again.

If we don't support our local shops, they close. You'll regret not being able to find a last-minute gift, a unique clothing choice or even an antique.

I remember when the town had a kitchen supply and cooking store, a specialty chocolate shop, an office products store, three children's clothing stores, a bookstore and three gift stores. Now, I'll have to add The Prince's Table to my memory bank.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### There Are Solutions for The Homeless Problems

Yes, the homeless problem does call for solutions. There are a group of people, the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, who came together as a result of a Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting in November.

The committee is chaired by the Community Council's Maryam Zar and has various subcommittees from the community at large.

The first effort, and a beginning, was the homeless count on January 29. Kim Clary and Brian Deming stepped up and chaired the count, overseen by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. I would like to encourage community members to join the task force, sit on a committee and help change happen. We need to unify and work together. (Visit: [pacpalihf@gmail.com](mailto:pacpalihf@gmail.com).)

Marge Gold

### Downtown Rally Pays Respect to Charlie Hebdo

I would like to share my profound emotion with *Palisades News* readers after participating at the rally downtown (January 11) to pay respect to the victims of the attack on the Charlie Hebdo satiric publication and the kosher market in Paris.

The speeches, the sentiment of unity was felt by all the people attending. It brought tears to many eyes, especially when the national anthems were sung, while we were all holding hands. There was grief and chagrin, resentment for the horror, the injustice of it all, but also

smiles for being together, sharing the same feelings. The addresses by Tom LaBonge, Culver City Mayor Megan Sahli-Wells (who happens to be French), Rabbi Cooper and Rabbi Diamond, and especially the two Consuls: Axel Cruau (France) and David Siegel (Israel) were overwhelming.

My sign said it all: "I Am Charlie" on one side; "I am Jewish" on the other, and the two small American and French flags symbolized the close affinity of our peoples.

Danielle Avidan

### Marquez Canyon Is Not a Safe Play Area

(The following letter was sent out by Marquez Knolls Activist Haldis Toppel to her e-mail list.)

The Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness under the leadership of local resident Maryam Zar visited the various sites in the Palisades in the wee hours of January 29 to count our homeless population in preparation of future efforts to entice them to accept permanent housing. Marquez Canyon was one of those sites. Homeless were found there. Drug activities are suspected. According to LAPD Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore the area has been put on the "extra patrol list."

Marquez Canyon is fenced on all sides; it is a geologically highly unstable area, where one-third of the once-flat area off Marquez Avenue has already slipped below and one of the main buildings of the Marquez Elementary school is damaged due to shifting grounds, and is scheduled for demolition.

Neighbors are reporting young adults/teenagers regularly scaling the fence and slipping off into the

canyon. Beyond the dangers of a slipping hillside, and the risks of our natural habitat of coyotes, rattlesnakes, and poison ivy, it is a crime of trespassing.

Consider the heightened LAPD patrol in the area, it is just not a good place for our teenagers to be caught in. Please let your kids know to stay out of that area and ask them to get the word out to their friends.

Haldis Toppel

### We Need an Adult Bar In the Palisades

With all the talk about what Rick Caruso will do with the Swarthmore/Sunset makeover, I pray that he will consider the plight of people like myself.

I am a senior citizen, but not some old fogey in lime-green golf pants. I am a gym rat. I read books, lots of them. I watch films with subtitles, lots of them, and I like to discuss these subjects with like-minded folks over a martini or two. I have no interest in the latest apps for hand-held devices, nor any interest in the concerns of the legions of youngsters on the Westside.

Therefore, I plead with Mr. Caruso to include a place where adults can meet over cocktails for conversation without seeing a backwards baseball cap or a pair of flip-flops at the bar.

Phil DiGiacomo

Palisades News welcomes all letters, which may be mailed to [spascoe@palisadesnews.com](mailto:spascoe@palisadesnews.com). Please include a name, address and telephone number so we may reach you. Letters do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Palisades News.

## Homeless Task Force Explains Next Steps

*(Editor's note: This is in response to our January 21 Viewpoint, "Homelessness: Bad Luck? A Right? A Choice?")*

Homelessness is decidedly a complex issue, with myriad facets, that cannot be tackled in one swoop, or even addressed in one article. But Pacific Palisades has formed its first-ever Task Force on Homeless to address the growing problem posed by the increasing number of transients and homeless in this community.

Inarguably, some homeless have lived among us for many years.

As a young mother with children at the Lycée Français in Marquez well over a decade ago, I remember seeing transients in the Village on a regular basis. Some I still recognize today. Many were lawful people, down on their luck, having found themselves on the street with no support structure to help. Many eked out a living panhandling and slept safely under the stars. But things have changed over the years. The element of lawlessness has steadily increased.

On January 29, as one of our first endeavors, we took part in the Citywide Homeless Count, organized by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). This was the first year Pacific Palisades has participated. Under the committee leadership of Palisadians Kim Clary and Brian Deming, we were able to ascertain that we have at least 70 homeless people living in the Palisades and



*This homeless man was asleep on Via de la Paz on Sunday morning at 8:15. The Palisades Task Force proposes to help him and others.*

Photo: Sue Pascoe

approximately 72 makeshift encampments.

Our next step is to take part in the second phase, a surveying process designed to collect qualitative data on the homeless. Our aim is to help as many people transition out of homelessness as we can, and to ensure that those who do choose to make Palisades their homeless home are lawful. We wish to offer services to those who are looking for help.

No part of this process is easy or quick. Surveying will be overseen by LAHSA, per the VI SPDAT pre-screening mentioned in your article and will entail demographic surveys conducted by the West Side Homeless Coalition (WSHC), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and other volunteers. The targeted completion date is February 28.

Our Task Force subcommittee for Out-

reach, headed by Palisadian Courtney Graff, is on top of these developments and we are actively looking for survey volunteers who will be trained by WSHC. The second part of the surveying consists of a more comprehensive "assessment" period, which will continue through the spring.

During the assessment, volunteers will begin to talk to the homeless to determine which are willing to accept services to transition out of homelessness. The Outreach subcommittee is also exploring whether there are Palisadians with expertise in the fields of mental health, law, and job training who can volunteer some of their time to work with the homeless.

The Task Force is also working on unearthing which of the strategies and practices have worked for other locales in addressing homeless problems, and which have not. That subcommittee is headed by Palisadian Doug McCormick, and has already introduced some helpful findings.

We also have a subcommittee dedicated to law enforcement and finding ways in which LAPD and LAFD can help us secure high fire-hazard zones that have multiple makeshift encampments. Our objective is to make sure the makeshift shelters that crop up do not pose a fire or other safety hazard to the community. Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore has been a great help to the task force through this subcommittee headed by Palisadian Bruce Schwartz.

Finally, we have a public relations subcommittee headed by PR pro and Palisa-

dian Michael Soneff.

The Taskforce formed in November 2014 as an autonomous committee of the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), with the assistance and expertise of the Offices of Assemblyman Richard Bloom and Councilman Mike Bonin, and their support through the Vice-Chairship of Stephanie Cohen, senior field representative from the Assemblyman's office, and the Advisory role of Norman Kulla, senior counsel from the Councilman's office. The Task Force Secretary is Palisadian Robin Degtjarewsky. Please email us at [pacpalihtf@gmail.com](mailto:pacpalihtf@gmail.com), or on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PacPaliHTF>.

Maryam Zar

Pacific Palisades Homeless Task Force Chair

## Witnesses Sought for January 30 Accident

We were involved in a car accident on Friday, January 30 between 6:20 and 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Sunset and Chautauqua Boulevards. We were hit by another car as we were making a left turn across Sunset onto Chautauqua, heading west. The other car was going east on Sunset.

We have one witness but would like more of them. It's a busy intersection, so there were lots of cars. In fact, many friends have told us that they saw us by our wrecked car, but didn't witness the actual accident.

Please e-mail [lowebv@gmail.com](mailto:lowebv@gmail.com) or call (310) 459-8188.

Bev Lowe

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# Six Biggest Mistakes Listing Agents Make

Amalfi Estate owner Anthony Marguleas, who was honored with a plaque by the Village Green board for annually supporting the small private park in the town, was asked which are the most common mistakes made by realtors. He provided the following list:

## 1. Not countering all offers.

In a hot seller's market it is common to get multiple offers, but some agents only counter the top two or three. A low offer often can be at the asking price or above, and not as high as other offers, but that

buyer may be willing to pay significantly more. I have seen sellers lose hundreds of thousands of dollars from buyers who were willing to pay much more, but were never given the opportunity to do so.

## 2. Telling a buyer's agent the price is too low and not to bother writing an offer.

Agents ALWAYS want to encourage all offers. First, you have no idea how high that buyer will go—some like to start low. Second, even if the offer is lower than what the seller wants, it is great to have one in hand because it generates further interest.

An offer can also add more urgency for other buyers. The only legal reason a listing agent will refuse to take an offer is if the seller (in writing) instructs the listing agent to entertain offers in a certain price range.

## 3. Not double-checking if property information on the MLS is accurate.

After reviewing hundreds of MLS sheets, we have found major mistakes in 90 percent of properties listed. The most common mistakes are whether there is a view, number of stories, number of parking spots and how much showing time is needed. MLS takes the listing information from public tax records, which lists bedrooms, baths, home and lot size. If a seller added square footage or did remodeling these records are sometimes incorrect.

## 4. Using poor quality pictures.

Many times an agent will take pictures themselves—and before the house has been properly staged. A professional photographer will shoot the picture in the best light. On expensive homes, we sometimes see dark pictures, the home not as clean as it should be and pictures of closets or small bathrooms. You want to emphasize the best features of the home and at different times of day. We also suggest good quality video be incorporated.

## 5. Having too many open houses.

Agents typically want to have open houses because signs are good advertise-

ments. They might also pick up a buyer who doesn't have an agent. The downside is more than a couple open houses sends a message there is something wrong with the property. Larger homes are better suited for private showings since the agent can point out many features that may be missed in an open house.

## 6. Overpricing a property to get the listing.

When a seller overprices their property they will have less buyers interested in their home and the seller will lose valuable marketing time. This in turn causes the listing to lose excitement, with the end result being it takes longer to sell. The key is to price at market value or even a little below to generate as much activity as possible. Some agents let the owner dictate the price because they worry about losing the listing. If your home has been on the market for more than three months, most likely it is overpriced. In almost every case, that property will sell for less than if it had been priced properly the first time.

*Anthony Marguleas founded Amalfi Estates 21 years ago and has reviewed 2,000 contracts. For 12 years he has taught at UCLA to over 1,500 students covering contracts and negotiations. He co-authored California Real Estate Client Strategies and has sold \$600 million in properties. He was selected by The WSJ as one of the top 250 agents in the country out of one million agents. He can be reached at (310) 293-9280, www.amalfiestates.com.*

## Volunteers Sought at Village Green

The monthly Village Green "spruce up" will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, at the triangular park located between Sunset Boulevard, Swarthmore Avenue and Antioch Street.

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.



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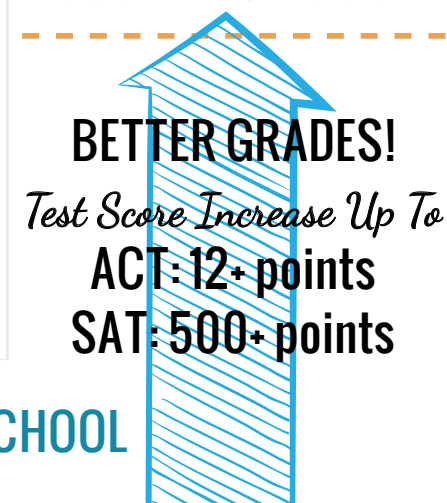
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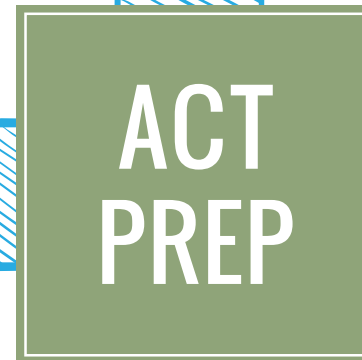
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## Malek: Renovation Completed on Sunset

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

When Shaun Malek purchased the two-story office and retail building at 15415 Sunset in October 2012, the building was 65-percent vacant. The interior and exterior of the 1958 structure (next to the Shell station) were in serious need of repairs and upgrades.

One option would have been to tear the building down, but instead, Malek, chose to fix it up.

"I love history," said Malek who moved to Southern California from Iran in 1980. "We can restore things rather than destroy them."

After stripping the hallways and bathrooms to the studs, and then refinishing, the final result is more like an upscale hotel than an office building that also includes a restaurant, Il Piccolo Ritrovo. Brazilian cherrywood wainscoting lines the upstairs hallways, and is also used in the crown molding.

An Eastern European artist, Elena Plesa, painted three murals on hallway walls, reflecting Malek's desire to honor the Palisades location, close to the sea and



Shaun Malek, owner of the newly renovated 15415 Sunset building. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

mountains. After consulting with the artist, the end result are views of Tuscany and the western beaches of Italy. The third mural, is on three walls and is viewed as you walk down the steps: it gives the impression of overlooking the ocean from a Malibu balcony.

Near the far end of the upstairs, Malek has kept seven photos and a print that came with the building: a 1929 Will Rogers Ranch photo, 1949 Palisades Country Store, a 1955 Malibu Beach scene, a 1967 aerial view of Pacific Palisades and a 1959 shot of a crowded PCH;

plus a 1950 numbered piece from a Paul DeLa Fille painting.

During the renovation, high-speed Internet connections were added to the 10 offices, which range in size from 300 to 2,000 sq. ft. Currently, there is only one vacancy, but Malek said he has two people interested in the downstairs space.

"Palisades in my opinion has been neglected. Tenants need to see a good product," he said. "People who live in the Palisades like being able to walk to work."

The exterior received a new awning, new lighting and new stucco. "I wanted to make

sure the building would not look much different than 50 years ago," Malek said.

Belinda Ballash (B. Ballash, Inc.), who works in home textiles, has been in the building for 20 years. "The new surroundings are nice. The building is beautiful now, it's really lovely," Ballash said. "One of my salesmen from New York wants to meet here because the pizza is so good."

The pizza comes from Il Piccolo Ritrovo, on the ground level, which opened in 2012. "We're excited the building has undergone the renovation," said owner Nando Silvestri, noting that the redo has allowed the restaurant to have a second-floor private room which accommodates 20.

The building is now managed by Triwell Properties, Inc. [(310) 644-6404].

After moving to the United States, Malek received his biology degree from Cal State Northridge and his dental degree from USC in 1987. He has dental offices in Pasadena and Thousand Oaks.

He and his wife, Ronen, have three children: Kevin, 18, who graduated from Palisades High School in 2014, and is now deciding between college acceptances; Kaylin, 15, who attends Stephen Wise; and Cameron, 9, a student at Roscomare Road Elementary in Bel-Air.

Chamber of Commerce members will be able to view the building's interior at the March 5 networking breakfast at 7:45 a.m. Prepaid reservations must be received by March 2. Members: \$15, guests \$25.

## City Will Haul Away Bulky Items

Coldwell Banker Realtor Sharon Hays noticed that many Palisadians dump old furniture such as chairs and sofas on the curb and these items sometimes sit there for weeks.

She did some investigation and found that although the City encourages residents to recycle bulky items through charitable organizations and thrift stores, there is another option. The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) will pick up large or bulky household items such as mattresses, couches and other furniture.

To arrange for the removal of these items from the curbside, call (800) 773-2489 Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. at least one day before a regular collection day.

Bulky items are collected on the same day as regular trash collection. It is suggested a resident have an itemized list ready when calling in a request. Or go online to [lacitysan.org/solid\\_resources/refuse\\_services/bulky\\_items.htm](http://lacitysan.org/solid_resources/refuse_services/bulky_items.htm) and fill out a service request form, which takes two days to process. BOS does not collect automotive parts, construction material, commercial waste or cardboard as bulky item collections.

## Home Buyers: TALK To Your Agent

By MICHAEL EDLEN

The most basic mistakes made by buyers can be avoided by working with an experienced realtor. Even so, buyers can at times present significant challenges to their real estate agent, compromising their home purchasing process being reluctant to fully communicate and by not having proper loan approval.

Buyers often resist being asked personal and financial questions before they feel comfortable with their real estate agent. As a consequence, even if the agent has the skills to provide in-depth counseling and makes every effort to understand the prospective buyer's needs, the beginning of the purchase process may suffer simply because of incomplete information.

If the buyer's financial situation and basic lifestyle preferences are not identified clearly enough to enable a more accurate property search, several months can be lost identifying a suitable home.

It is surprising how often agents present offers for potential buyers who are not fully prepared financially, and are inevitably disappointed when they lose out to another buyer who secured pre-approval before making an offer. Many would-be buyers assume that their online research into loans gives them enough assurance to move forward, only to later discover they were not aware of the numerous conditions and hurdles that may arise.

In most areas of the country, prospective buyers are required to meet with a lender to obtain loan pre-approval before they begin to seriously look at properties with an agent. The buyers have to provide a verification of sufficient funds for the down payment, or all-cash purchase, so the lender and agent can know what price level the buyer can afford. This process also enables the buyer to be in a much stronger position once an ideal property is found.

Clients who insist, "Trust me, I know what I can afford," or "Don't worry, we

can always get more funds if we need to" often end up in failed escrows when things do not work out as they had hoped they would.

Buyers who enter into contracts with the expectation that they can get the price down during the escrow process, or delay contingency timing to see if a more suitable house comes on the market, may put both the sale and the relationships involved at risk.

Though it is not always easy for agents to prevent some of these mistakes, an experienced agent is better prepared to ask the right questions and be alert to issues that can and do arise.

*For the past 29 years Michael Edlen has provided real estate counseling services to prospective buyers and sellers and has sold over \$1.5 billion. More tips and information are available on [MichaelEdlen.com](http://MichaelEdlen.com). He can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or [Michael@MichaelEdlen.com](mailto:Michael@MichaelEdlen.com).*

# PGA Tour Players Face the Riviera

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

One hundred and forty-four of the top golfers in the world will begin play tomorrow at the Riviera Country Club vying for first place and \$1,206,000 in the annual Northern Trust Open.

Bubba Watson, who shot 64 in last year's final round to win by two strokes, will be



John Merrick

Photo: California Golf News

back to defend his title, as will runner-up Dustin Johnson.

Also back will be Jason Allred, who took third. His was, perhaps, the most emotional of finishes. The prior year he had only earned \$37,000. With a young family, and a baby on the way, Allred even considered quitting the game to find a "real" job, but he was not sure what he could do.

He last held a PGA Tour card in 2008 and had only limited Tour status, but after the Northern Trust he was invited to the Honda Classic (top-10 finishers usually get into the following week's event) in Palm Beach.

Allred's wife was due with their first baby, but told her husband, "Maybe you can care for our family best by going to play. Play your heart out and take care of us that way."

A few hours before his flight to Florida, his daughter, Lucy Hope was born. Allred stayed the night, then caught an early-morning flight. He shot 75-66, missing the cut by 1.

Phil Mickelson, a Palisades crowd favorite who won the tournament in 2008 and 2009, will not be playing at the Riviera, nor will Tiger Woods.



Bubba Watson

Photo: New York Post



Jason Allred

Photo: Fox Sports

PGA Tour rookie Carlos Sainz Jr., 29, was awarded the 2015 Northern Trust Open Exemption. This provides an opportunity for a young golfer who represents the advancement of diversity in golf and wouldn't otherwise be eligible to compete in the event.

Sainz, who is half Filipino and half Bolivian, said, "Earning my PGA TOUR card was a dream come true, and now knowing I have the opportunity to tee it up at Riviera during my rookie year, it's beyond my expectations. I hope I can take advantage of this exemption by not only playing well, but also by setting an example for juniors who may be inspired by a Chicago kid like me competing in such a storied and revered tournament."

A few residents might want to follow a PGA Tour golfer from California, such as John Merrick the 2013 Northern Trust Open winner. He grew up and still lives in

Long Beach. He attended UCLA, which counts the Riviera as one of its many courses.

Another California native is Brendan Steele, who grew up in Hemet, a town without a golf course or driving range, but graduated from UC Riverside in 2005, and then turned pro.

Charley Hoffman was born and raised in Poway, just north of San Diego. He was the first two-time California State High School champion in 1994 and 1995 and qualified three times as an amateur for the Buick Invitational, the PGA Tour event in San Diego. At the time, he was the youngest golfer, at age 16, to qualify for that tournament.

Rickie Fowler, from Murrietta, won the 2010 PGA Tour Rookie of the Year and has been a contender in several Grand Slam tournaments.




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## Charting the Riviera Golf Course

Looking up the 9th fairway at the Riviera Country Club. The 18th hole is at the far left.

Photo courtesy of The Riviera Country Club

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Expert strategy is one of the key components needed to do well on the historic Riviera golf course, which has been the site of a U.S. Open, two PGA Championships and a U.S. Senior Open.

In 2012, 80 tour pros chose their favorite playing courses and the Pacific Palisades layout was third behind Augusta in Georgia and Hilton Head Island in South Carolina.

The 71-par Riviera was designed by George Thomas, Jr. and completed in 1927.

### TOURNAMENT FACTS

Food trucks available at the Open: are The Grilled Cheese Truck; Baby's Badass Burgers; Border Grill; Jogasaki Burrito; Wise Barbeque; and Cousins Maine Lobster. During the week, families are invited to visit STEM Zone, which includes a mock studio (including teleprompters and a green screen); multiple learning stations, where visitors can learn about the science of golf; and a social media hub, where children can upload unique, user-generated content to their Facebook, YouTube or Twitter feeds.

On Saturday, there will be a complimentary youth clinic at the Riviera driving range. American rock band O.A.R. will perform about 3:30 p.m. and the show will be complimentary for attendees of the tournament that day. PGA Tour player Russell Henley is scheduled to play with the band.

Tickets are available on northerntrustopen.com. (Daily tickets are: Thursday \$28; Friday \$38; Saturday \$48; and Sunday \$38.) Youth, 18 and under, are admitted free when accompanied by a ticketed adult and there is no limit to the number of youth with the adult.

Construction was paid by the Los Angeles Athletic Club, which had a building in downtown, but wanted to add a golf club.

Under the leadership of Club Vice President Frank Garbutt, the 290-acre Santa Monica Canyon site of bramble brushes and sumac trees, home to coyotes, rabbits and squirrels, was chosen.

After drafting 15 different plans, Thomas found one that he liked and, in 1926, construction began. Fill dirt came from the San Fernando Valley and 1,350 tons of white beach sand was imported for the bunkers. The Riviera was the first golf course in the country to install an underground watering system at a cost of \$58,000. Dr. John Morton, a renowned arborist, oversaw the planting of 1,000 trees, including sycamores, acacias, poplars and eucalyptus.

Construction took 15 months and when the golf course was finished, the cost was \$250,000 (when the average cost of a course was about \$70,000). In 1992, under Noboru Watanabe's ownership, a renovation to preserve the contours of the greens and restore the bunkers cost \$1.2-million.

According to *The Riviera Country Club: A Definitive History*, Thomas designed the course with the idea that "the most important thing on the Championship course is terrain, because no matter how skillfully one may layout the holes and diversify them, nevertheless one must get the thrill of nature."

Players may also note what Thomas said about strategy, "The spirit of golf is to dare a hazard, and by negotiating it reap a reward, while he who fears or declines the issue of carry has a longer or harder shot for his second (or his third on long holes); yet the player who avoids the unwise effort gains advantage over one who tries for more than in him lies, or fails the test.

"Wise is the man who knows how to play each hole as he should play it, and skillful the golfer who can place his shots after he knows where they should go. Such a player

is exceedingly hard to defeat on a course with proper strategy."

Former PGA Tour player Johnny Miller said, "Riviera is definitely one of the greatest, no-nonsense golf courses in the world. It requires a player to play every club in his bag and every shot in his game."

In 1994, President Bill Clinton played the Riviera. Although he took a few mulligans on the first tee, he reported a score of 85.

The best overall score in tournament play was 264 by Lanny Wadkins in 1985, and the course record of 61 was set in 1991 by Ted Tryba.

### Riviera Holes of Note

**Hole 1 (503 yards Par 5):** Considered one of the easiest par 5s on the PGA Tour, with a 4.296 stroke average in 2014. There is a 75-ft. drop from tee to fairway and many golfers reach the hole in two.

**Hole 4 (236 yards Par 3):** In 1948, Ben Hogan called it "The greatest par-3 hole in America." The large bunker in front of the green is superb and the sidehill right of the green would be great if the kikuyu grass did-

n't hold every ball hit in its direction rather than releasing it back towards the green."

**Hole 6 (175 yards Par 3):** Considered one of the most famous golf holes in the world because of the bunker square in the middle of the green. Members and guests aren't allowed to use a wedge on the green; PGA Tour golfers are allowed to play the hole however they choose.

**Hole 10 (315 yards Par 4):** Requires players to decide whether to challenge the narrow angled green guarded by bunkers or to lay up down the left side of the fairway. This classic risk/reward hole is a typical Thomas design. Jack Nicklaus said this hole gave more options than any other short par four that he knew of.

**Hole 17 (576 yards Par 5):** An uphill tee shot is required, avoiding a right-side bunker. A second shot must avoid bunkers on the left-side layup area. The green is flanked on the right side by a deep bunker. "The strategy of the golf hole is the thing which gives the short accurate player a chance with the longer hitter who cannot control his distance," said George C. Thomas, Jr.



Bubba Watson blasts his way out of a sand trap on Hole 6.

Photo courtesy of PGA Tour

## PASSINGS

# Arthur L. Alarcon, 89, Senior Circuit Judge

Senior Circuit Judge Arthur Alarcon of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit died in his home in Pacific Palisades on January 28.

Alarcon was born in Los Angeles on August 14, 1925, the son of a baker. He served in the Army during World War II and received the Combat Infantry Badge, four Battle Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He attended college on the GI Bill, graduating from the University of Southern California in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Two years later, he graduated from the USC School of Law, where he was editor of the law review.

Alarcon served as a deputy district attorney in Los Angeles County from 1952 to 1961, a legal advisor and clemency and extraditions secretary to the governor of California from 1961 to 1962, and an executive assistant to the governor from 1962 to 1964.

He was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court by Governor Edmund Brown, Sr., serving from 1964 to 1978. He was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown, Jr. as an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal for the Second Appellate District in Los Angeles from 1978 to 1979.

Nominated by President Carter, he came to the Ninth Circuit Bench in 1979, the first judge of Hispanic descent to sit on the court. He served as an active judge until taking senior status in 1992.

Over his career, Alarcon started to question the efficacy of capital punishment. In 2011, he co-authored an article, "Executing the Will of the Voters? A Roadmap to Mend or End the California Legislature's Multi-Billion Dollar Death Penalty Debate." He also published "Remedies for California's Death Row Deadlock."

Alarcon co-authored three books with Judge Charles W. Fricke: *California Criminal: Law, California Criminal Procedure* and *California Criminal Evidence*.

Alarcon served as an adjunct professor at USC, Loyola Law School and Southwestern.

He also served on many boards including Las Familias del Pueblo, Jardin de la Infancia, the Mexican-American Scholarship Foundation Assisting Careers in Law, the Council of Mexican-American Affairs, Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club, Performing Arts Council for the Los Angeles Music Center and the Junior League of Los Angeles.

"Judge Alarcon was an old-school gen-

tleman. He had an easy laugh, a modest demeanor, a kind word for everyone, and was unfailingly gracious to everyone, whether you were a judge or the janitor," said Circuit Judge Barry G. Silverman. "Judge Alarcon also happened to be very smart and blessed with an innate sense of fairness and good judgment. I admired him greatly, both on and off the bench."

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Sandra; two sons, L.A. Superior Court Judge Greg Alarcon (Helen) and attorney Lance Alarcon (Scott); a daughter, Dr. Jan Alarcon; grandchildren Laura, Melody and Pauline; great-grandson Vincent; and two sisters, Maria Alarcon and Angelina Glomb.

Funeral services were held on February 6 and arrangements are being made for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Judge Alarcon's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project, (855) 488-3997, or online at [woundedwarriorproject.org](http://woundedwarriorproject.org) or mail Wounded Warrior Project, In Honor of Hon. Arthur L. Alarcon, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675 or to LACBA Veterans Assistance Project <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/VA>.

## Fashion Show To Be Held March 3

The Woman's Club will hold its annual fashion show, luncheon and wine-bar event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, at the Clubhouse, 901 Haverford Ave.

Members and guests will model fashions from local stores: Vivian's Boutique, BOCA Woman, BOCA Man and Denise Carolyn. There will be raffle prizes, a silent auction and gift bags for attendees. Tickets (\$65 per person) are available online at [theppwc.org](http://theppwc.org) or call (310) 454-9012.

## Chamber Mixer At Matthew's Café

The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce will host a mixer from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., tomorrow, February 19, at Matthew's Garden Café, 859 Swarthmore Ave. Sponsored by Westside Family Health Center and Perennial Financial Service, the mixer will have a raffle, wine tasting and appetizers. Chamber members are free; non-members are \$25. Call: (310) 459-7963.

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# Rodeo Wins Beautification Award

By ROBERTA DONOHUE  
Special to the Palisades News

In 1946, Paul Weaver came to the Palisades and bought a small office building at 839 Via de la Paz. He opened a second newspaper in town and called it the *Palisades Post*. (The other newspaper, owned by Zola Clearwater, was called *The Palisadian*.) He later sold both the building and his business to the Brown brothers in 1956, and they called the merged paper the *Palisadian-Post*.

The Brown brothers' dream was to expand out the back door and build their own printing plant. The presses started to roll, and each year the Browns upgraded their printing equipment.

I was hired in 1972, two years after they had purchased the Community Goss Web newspaper press. We printed the town's history right here in Pacific Palisades every Wednesday, and were the only manufacturing business in this community.

The newspaper was sold to the Small Newspaper Group in 1981 and shortly afterwards I was offered the job as publisher, which I held until 2013.

When the newspaper was sold in December 2012, the Goss Web was one of the presses that went silent when the new owner stopped commercial and newspaper printing in-house.

Rodeo Realty founder and president Syd Leibovitch bought the former *Palisadian-Post* building in September 2013 and embarked on an extensive renovation. He had a vision to transform this industrial building into a state-of-the-art facility for his agents, so they would be surrounded by elegant charm.

The entire inside of the building was demolished and removed, except the old freight elevator that was used to haul heavy rolls of newsprint from the top storage



Rodeo Realty received its award at the January 29 Chamber of Commerce installation dinner held at the Rivera Country Club.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

## Purim Festival to Be Held March 4

A Purim in the Circus will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, at the Chabad Jewish Community Center and Campus 17315 Sunset Blvd. (at Los Lions Drive).

There will be a circus-themed dinner and dessert, a moon bounce, face painting and activities for children as well as a Purim costume masquerade. The prepaid cost is \$45 (family) or \$15 (adult) and \$10 (child, ages 3 to 11). At the door: \$55 (family); \$18 (adult); \$12 (child).

Call (310) 454-7783 or e-mail [info@chabadpalisades.com](mailto:info@chabadpalisades.com).

floor down to the press room.

As the days of construction went by, I would stop in to see the progress, and shed a few tears. After all, I did spend 41 years of my career there. But when the final sign went up, the beautiful front windows were exposed and flowers planted, I had to admit—she was a beauty. After taking a tour of the office, I called the décor “industrial elegance.”

Every year, the Chamber of Commerce gives its beautification award. It was unan-

imous that the beautification award to a business that has renovated and/or beautified its exterior and/or grounds, contributing to the overall beautification of the community. The Chamber board agreed unanimously that the 2015 award should go to Rodeo Realty for transforming an old building into a magnificent vital office space that will function as a new business and continue to contribute to the overall beauty and success of our community. She is now the star on Via!

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# Chabad Honors Brunelle, Pollak Optimist Club Seeks Grant Applicants

The eighth annual “In Celebration of the Jewish Woman” luncheon and auction will be held Thursday, February 26, at the Luxe Hotel, 11461 Sunset. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. and concludes by 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70 in advance, \$90 at the door.

The event will honor two exceptional local women, Joyce Brunelle and Julia Pollak, who have shown leadership and service to community; each will receive the Woman of Valor Award.

Brunelle graduated from Whittier College and then a master’s degree in communications from USC. For her master’s thesis, she interviewed then-Prime Minister of Israel Golda Meir.

As host of the show *Profiles* on the Jewish Television Network, Brunelle also interviewed other prominent Jewish figures. She has also served as the financial chair of the Southern California Democratic Party.

Currently, Brunelle is president and co-founder of award-winning Suntricity, Inc., a company that designs and installs solar electrical systems for residential and commercial spaces. She is also immediate past president of the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce, where she continues to encourage local businesses to work together.

Brunelle and her husband, Michael, are proud parents and grandparents; they have lived in Pacific Palisades since 1998.



Joyce Brunelle

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Honoree Pollak is a doctoral fellow at the Pardee RAND Graduate School and assistant policy analyst at the RAND Corporation. Her recent work addresses topics in defense acquisition and military manpower.

Born and raised in South Africa, she graduated from Harvard University where she studied economics and public debt. She enrolled in the Navy as a drilling reservist, and received the Navy Club of the United States Military Excellence Award in 2011 (given to the top recruit in each class of 1,000) as well as the Blue Jacket of the Year Award in 2014 for her excellence in service to our country.

Pollak and her husband, Joel, are par-



Julia Pollak with husband Joel and daughter Maya.

ents of daughter Maya, a student at the Palisades Jewish Early Childhood Center.

All proceeds from the upcoming auction will support the new Women’s Spirit Center at the Chabad Jewish Community Center and Campus in Pacific Palisades, a place for spiritual wisdom, meditation, rejuvenation and friendship for women of all ages and backgrounds.

To purchase a ticket for the luncheon, host a table, donate a gift certificate or prize item to the auction, or to provide sponsorship for the event, visit: [Chabad-Palisades.com/WomensLuncheon](http://Chabad-Palisades.com/WomensLuncheon) or call (310) 454-7783.

## Optimist Club Seeks Grant Applicants

Pacific Palisades Optimist Club, whose motto is “Friends of Youth” and whose goal is “Bring Out the Best in Kids,” will once again make annual grants to youth organizations based in Pacific Palisade or those that provide services that benefit youth in this community.

Grants may be used for funding of a specific event, for equipment, a facility or service, and must be spent this year. Grants are not given to organizations that request continuing financial support. The application must be received no later than March 31.

Award decisions will be made within two months, and grant recipients will be notified and, if possible, receive their awards at the weekly Tuesday breakfast meeting of the Palisades Optimists.

Interested organizations, schools and clubs may send queries to grant committee chairman Bill Skinner ([ibeel@aol.com](mailto:ibeel@aol.com)) or call (310) 459-8286 to receive an application and grant guidelines.

Applications are also available at the Chamber of Commerce at 15330 Antioch Street. They may be returned to the Chamber or mailed to Grants Committee Chairman, Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades, P.O. Box 211, Pacific Palisades 90272.

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The cast of Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood is all set to entertain.

## Theatre Palisades Youth To Present Spring Musical

Theatre Palisades Youth will perform its spring musical, *Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood*, Friday, Saturday and Sundays starting March 6 and concluding March 15 at the Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

Director Dorothy Dillingham Blue, a perennial TPY favorite, will guide 22 talented youth in a humorous 1950s-era musical version of the fairy tale "Little Red Riding Hood."

Produced by Jody Crabtree and April O'Sullivan, with musical director DJ Brady, the story tells the quest of three characters: Wise Prince Jason, Strong Prince Justin and Loud Prince Frank, who all want to win Red Riding Hood's hand in marriage.

The show is perfect for all ages and provides delightful family fare. Tickets are \$14 and can be purchased online at [theatrepalisades.com](http://theatrepalisades.com) or at the box office. Call (310) 454-1970.

## Renee Agarwal Demonstrates 'Sgraffito'

Pacific Palisades resident Renee Agarwal will demonstrate using sgraffito at the Pacific Palisades Art Association meeting at 7 p.m. on February 24 at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. The public is invited.

Sgraffito is the process of creating incised lines in art. Agarwal will bring samples of her artwork in various media that demonstrate how sgraffito creates highlights and textures. She will also bring various tools used for creating these effects, and will do a short demonstration in watercolor.

Agarwal grew up in the Palisades, attended local schools and earned a bachelor's degree in art from UCLA in 1974. Since then, she has taught art classes to children, teens and adults. She lived in San Diego and the Santa Cruz Mountains, where she owned and directed Montessori schools.

A member of the PPAA and Aquarelle Watercolor Painters, Agarwal does commissioned artwork, specializing in portraits.

"I love creating art in all media," she said. "Painting vibrant watercolors on location, en plein air, is a fascinating challenge. I especially love painting at sunrise and sunset."

Visit [reneearts.com](http://reneearts.com) or [portraits-by-renee.com](http://portraits-by-renee.com).



"Lone Palm by Night" by Renee Agarwal

## Rustic Canyon Bridge Club Results

The Rustic Canyon duplicate bridge club meets from 6:15 to 9 p.m. every Wednesday at Rustic Canyon Park. No master points are awarded; instead the game is friendly and residents are invited to join. Call Russ Sherman at (310) 454-2989 or e-mail [russmetal@aol.com](mailto:russmetal@aol.com).

Last week's north-south first-place winners were Russ Sherman and Tanya Flanzbaum; Butch Lebel and Carol Serling took second.

The east-west first-place winners were Ann and Lou Dachs; second place went to Fran and Stan Blaustein.

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# 'Be Happy' Benefit Aids Charity League

The Los Angeles Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) held its annual benefit luncheon and fashion show on February 1, at the Upper Bel-Air Bay Club.

The NCL is a mother-daughter membership nonprofit organization devoted to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. NCL mother and daughter members volunteered a cumulative total of 1,325,272 hands-on hours directly with not-for-profit philanthropic organizations in their communities in 2013-2014.

NCL president Madelyn Bailey welcomed everyone to the beginning of the 90th year of the organization's founding. "So many times philanthropy is just another item to check off on your high school list. It is rewarding to see so many girls and moms not only working hard but enjoying what they are doing. This is truly the meaning of Be Happy," she said.

Happy L.A.'s Dawn Baker provided clothing for the 18 girls modeling in the Modelette Fashion Show, many of whom live in the Palisades. Baker, before opening her store in the Highlands Plaza in 2007, worked as a costume stylist for *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, winning an Emmy nom-

ination for her work.

"I put Natalie Bishop in a Cotton Citizen long-sleeve T-shirt under a Paige denim black dress and accessorized the outfit with a Paul Rosen necklace," Baker said. Bishop is a sophomore at Palisades High School, where she takes honors classes, and also dances at Fancy Feet.

Baker put Palisadian Ava Adams in a Heartloom long-sleeve dress with Mint & Rose black-leather platform espadrilles and Bloom Necklaces. Adams attends Marymount High School, writes for the school newspaper and is in the environmental and community service club. Outside of school she is taking German and French.

"I dressed Lauryn Tauber in a navy and black Heartloom cap-sleeve dress," Baker said. Tauber attends Marlborough School, where she is on the Head of School's List and the Honor Roll. She is also co-founder and president of the school's Singer-Songwriter Club.

Palisadian Samantha Speer, who wore a Chloe Oliver-printed camisole top and Hudson skinny jeans and attends Oaks Christian High School and is a Top Ten Scholar. She is the manager of the Oaks Christian Comedy Sportz team and sings



Left to right: Models Natalie Bishop, Elizabeth Eicher, Ava Adams, Micaela Cole, (happy L.A. owner Dawn Baker), Jessica Romoff, Lauryn Tauber, Siena Severino, Samantha Speer and Sophie Bendetti wore clothing from happy L.A.

in the women's advanced choir.

NCL is a sponsorship organization, and a mother hoping to join an NCL chapter

should secure a sponsor and apply to the Chapter in the fall of her daughter's sixth-grade year.

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## Explore the Autry's American West Art

By DANIELLE GILLESPIE  
Palisades News Contributor

For those who have a passion for art and a fascination with the American West, the Autry's latest exhibit is well worth the drive to Griffith Park.

Until March 8, the Autry will have on display the work of 79 contemporary Western artists from across the nation as part of its 18th annual Masters of the American West Fine Art Exhibition and Sale.

"Each one of these paintings and sculptures are real jewels," said John Geraghty, Autry trustee and special advisor to Masters. "We work with these artists all year and each one of these pieces represent the top level of their work."

The museum receives about 100 applications from artists interested in participating in the show. Geraghty along with chief curator Amy Scott and Masters committee chairman and collector Jay Grodin then select the artists who will be featured. Once chosen, the artists decide what artwork they will exhibit. Those with the most exemplary work are honored with awards.

Geraghty, who has collected art for 45 years, said the group tries to bring in five to six new artists each year and rotate artists who have been in the show before, so that there is variety. The current exhibit is divided into sections, from landscapes and wildlife to historical pieces.

"No matter where you look, you will see something exceptional," Geraghty said.

Geraghty is especially pleased to have

artist Howard Terpning featured once again in the show. Terpning's work is already in the museum's permanent collection, and he's considered one of the best painters of the American West.

His oil painting, "The Patrol," is prominently displayed at the front of the exhibit hall. The painting depicts officers and non-commissioned officers looking at a map in hopes of finding their adversary.

"I read an account by a man who described his experiences while serving as a cavalry officer in the West during the latter part of the nineteenth century. He wrote that there were occasions when searching for Sioux war parties on the Great Plains was like looking for a needle in a haystack... this painting is my attempt at telling such a story," Terpning wrote in the Masters catalog.

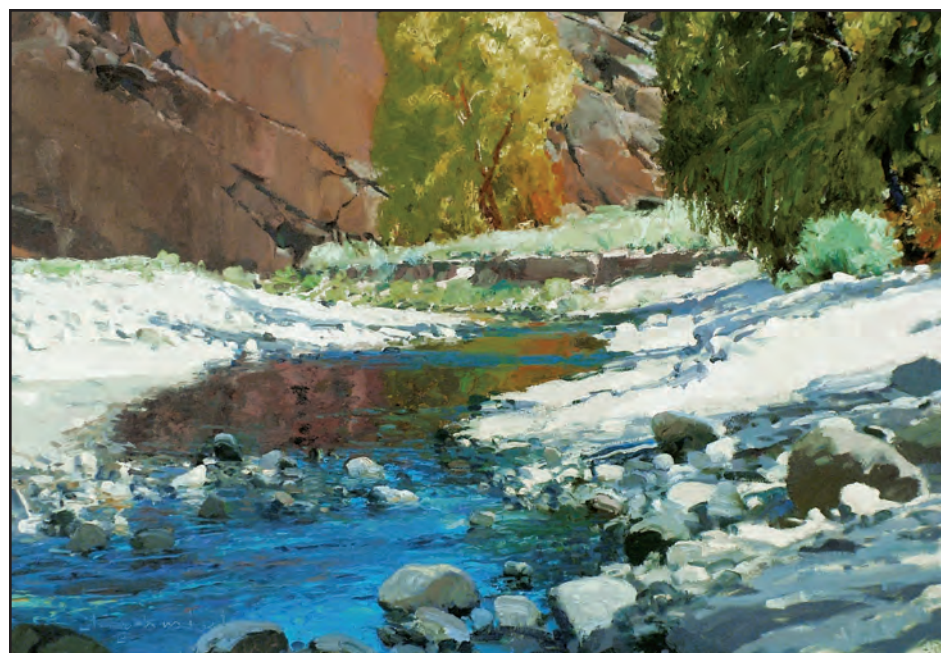
Scott, the museum curator, explained that Terpning's work is so exceptional because he's such a great storyteller.

"He draws you into the painting and holds you at the center of the action," she said, noting that he often paints a figure looking directly at the audience, so they too feel a part of the scene.

Scott also pointed to artist Morgan Weistling as an excellent storyteller.

"His paintings reflect his sense of humor and focus on family life," Scott said. "He injects his own colorful interpretation of what he imagines life was like."

Weistling's oil painting, "The Snake Oil Salesman," is of an animated traveling salesman trying to sell snake oil to an exuberant crowd of townspeople. Typical in the 1800s,



Artist Len Chmiel's oil painting, "Danger! Ankle Deep," features a deceptively enticing creek in the desert surrounded by quicksand.



Artist Kim Wiggins's oil painting depicts the 300-year-old "Viva la fiesta" celebration in Santa Fe that pays tribute to the Spanish colonists' peaceful resettlement of the city in 1692. The colonists founded the city in 1610, but the Pueblo Indians had driven them out in 1680.

the salesman is fraudulently claiming that the snake oil will help with joint pain.

Scott also praised George Carlson as an excellent landscape artist, saying his paintings have a three-dimensional quality. He applauded Dustin Van Wechel for his wildlife paintings, which brilliantly capture both the landscape and animals interacting.

Pacific Palisades resident Jim Rea and his wife Jodie are huge supporters of the Masters show. They first heard about it at a local art gallery 15 years ago, and after viewing the exhibit, they fell in love with a watercolor of Carmel Mission's gate by artist Sonya Terpning. They bought the painting, and returned the next year to buy more artwork. They later became sponsors of the event and now serve as trustees on the Autry board.

"We like doing this together," Rea said. "A lot of the museum staff, the collectors and artists have become our dear friends."

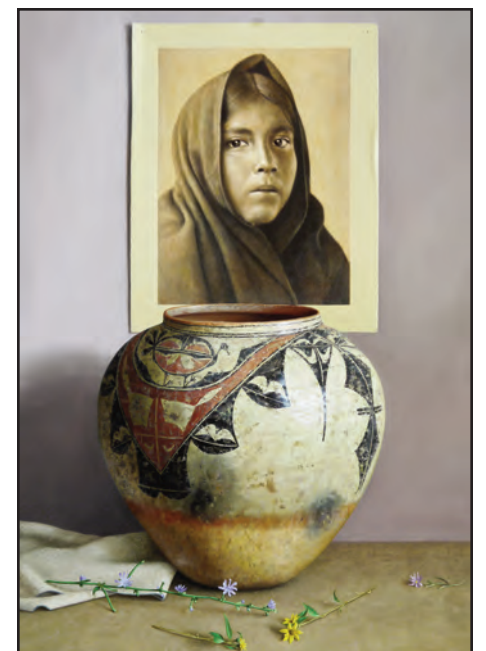
The Reas have about 120 pieces in their home. Their collection includes works from artists Logan Maxwell Hagege, Tammy Garcia, Kim Wiggins and Z.S. Liang, all of whom are all featured in this year's show.

The Autry already held the major sale with an auction and drawing on January 30 and 31, but there are still paintings left that haven't been sold, said Maren Dougherty, Autry's director of communications and marketing. Any artwork that does not have a red dot next to it has not sold. Those interested in buying the artwork can request to do so at the visitors' services desk near the entryway of the museum. The Autry

receives a portion of the proceeds from the sale to help support its educational programs and collections.

The museum, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for students, \$4 for children ages 3-12 and free for children under 3 years old.

Contact: (323) 667-2000 or theautry.org



Artist William Acheff's oil painting, "Wildflower," is of a 1907 photograph of a young Indian woman and a large Trios (Zia Pueblo) storage jar from the 1800s.

# Hollywood Legacy of the Jewish Émigrés

By LIBBY MOTIKA  
Palisades News Contributor

The Skirball Cultural Center has created an exhibition that focuses on the German-speaking actors, directors, writers and composers—many of them Jewish—who fled Nazi persecution in Europe and went on to shape Hollywood's "Golden Age."

"Light and Noir: Exiles and Émigrés in Hollywood, 1933-1950," pays tribute to their lives and work, revealing the ways that the émigré experience left a mark on American movie-making.

The exhibition demonstrates the émigrés' productivity with a selection of film footage, drawings, props, costumes, posters, photographs and memorabilia. The filmmakers experimented with a number of genres that reflected their life experiences, including the exile film, the anti-Nazi film, film noir and comedy.

"By the 1920s, the film industry in Germany was thriving, and Berlin was the center," says Skirball curator Doris Berger, who organized the exhibition. "The first studio was founded in 1910." There were great producers who built the foundation for the industry to grow, which, ironically, benefitted Hollywood as the economic and political situation in Weimar Germany led various filmmakers and performers to leave the country.

Ernst Lubitsch, born in Berlin to a Jewish family, moved to Hollywood as early as 1923; the Hungarian-born Michael Curtiz in 1926. By 1933, the Nazi state had taken control of the film industry and Jews and foreigners were officially excluded from employment in the German film industry. Some 1,500 directors, producers, actors and other film professionals, including Marlene Dietrich, Peter Lorre and Fritz Lang, emigrated in the years after the Nazis came to power.

The earlier pioneers, such as Carl Laemmle and Paul Kohner, played an important role providing generous assistance to the German-speaking exiles by helping them find work and offering monetary support.



Poster for *Sunset Boulevard* (1950).

Courtesy of the Margaret Herrick Library, Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

Laemmle, who founded Universal Studios in 1915, helped some 1,500 people find employment. Kohner, a native of Bohemia in Austria-Hungary, came to Hollywood in

1920 and became head of Universal's European division. In 1938 he opened the Paul Kohner Talent Agency and managed the careers of many stars, including Marlene Diet-

rich, Greta Garbo, Liv Ullmann and Ingmar Bergman. In the same year he founded the European Film Fund, which collected money from Europeans in Hollywood for film people now "under the race creed."

As curator Berger was planning the scope of the exhibition, she narrowed her focus to a period of time (1933-1950) that was particularly robust creatively, and was dominated by Jewish émigrés, many who continue to have relevance and/or relatives in the German community in Los Angeles. "I noticed that there are many interesting people who are in some way related to these people, and I thought of the wonderful possibilities to tell their stories," Berger says.

One important institution, the Villa Aurora in Pacific Palisades, which from 1943 to 1987 was home to émigré German-Jewish novelist Lion Feuchtwanger and wife Marta, provided a place for socializing among L.A.'s émigré artists, writers and composers, including Bertolt Brecht, Thomas Mann, Fritz Lang and Charlie Chaplin. The Villa lent the Feuchtwangers' living room furniture for the Skirball exhibition to help recreate the salon atmosphere.

Throughout the run of the exhibition, the Skirball has hosted in-gallery afternoon salons, which included biographer Donna Rifkind talking about émigré writer Salka Viertel (who lived in Santa Monica Canyon); film historian Vincent Brook talking about émigré directors Fritz Lang, Ernst Lubitsch, Billy Wilder and Robert Siodmak, and their descendants; and émigré composers, such as Erich Wolfgang Korngold and Arnold Schoenberg, with musicologist Neal Brostoff as host.

As early as 1934, Warner Bros. had been trying to make anti-Nazi films, which were routinely rejected by the film industry's Production Code Administration, which demanded the "fair" portrayal of people and countries, including Nazi Germany. PCA director Joseph Breen, a Nazi sympathizer, allowed the German consul to submit critiques of American movies.

"Finally Warner Bros. found a loophole by making movies based on real events

(Continued on Page 21)

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# Émigrés

(Continued from Page 20)

such as the discovery of an American Nazi spy ring in 1938," Berger says. The 1939 spy thriller *Confessions of a Nazi Spy*, directed by Anatole Litvak, was the first blatantly anti-Nazi film. It starred Edward G. Robinson, Francis Lederer, George Sanders and a large cast of German actors, including some who had emigrated from their country after the rise of Adolf Hitler.

Anti-Nazi films presented an unusual opportunity for German-speaking émigré actors, who were in demand because of their German accents. Martin Kosleck played Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels five times in his U.S. career.



Christmas card from Carl Laemmle, December 18, 1938.

Courtesy of the collection of Rosemary Laemmle Hill

In *Casablanca*, produced in 1942, most of the cast and crew were émigrés from Europe who came to the U.S. before 1933. Director Michael Curtiz and composer Max Steiner were joined by exiles Paul Henreid and Peter Lorre. The foreign accents added a realistic touch to the plot as the story fol-

lows the characters' struggles to obtain transit papers and visas allowing departure from Casablanca, Morocco to the U.S.A.

"The guiding principle in this exhibition is the duality to everything," Berger says. "Just as in life, there is a positive and negative approach to the political film genre. Comedy and film noir present distinct genres but in different moods. *Ninotchka* and *A Foreign Affair* are comedic but each is multi-layered."

*Ninotchka*, a 1939 film made for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer by Lubitsch, starring Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas, was one of the first American movies, under the cover of a satirical, light romance, to depict the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin as being rigid and gray when compared to the free and sunny Parisian society of prewar years.

*A Foreign Affair*, a 1948 romantic comedy film directed by Wilder and starring Jean Arthur, Marlene Dietrich and John Lund, concerns a U.S. Army captain in occupied Berlin who is torn between an ex-Nazi cafe singer and the U.S. congresswoman investigating her. Though a comedy, there was a cynical, serious tone to the overall project.

Film noir aesthetics, too, were employed by the Jewish émigrés, many of whom had been directly involved in the German Expressionist movement, which was a direct reaction against realism. Its practitioners used extreme distortions in expression to



Ed Ruscha, "51% Angel/49% Devil," 1984. "The Noir Effect" is a related exhibition that considers the noir phenomenon not only in film, but also in graphic novels, fashion, advertising, photography and contemporary art. Courtesy of LACMA Graphic Arts Council

show an inner emotional reality rather than what is on the surface. Fritz Lang and Michael Curtiz brought a dramatically shadowed lighting style and a psychologically expressive approach to visual composition. The exhibition evokes these noir elements in films such as *Sunset Boulevard* (1950) and *Double Indemnity* (1944) that feature common themes: the femme fatale, the antihero and moral codes.

By 1950, in the shadow of the Cold War, the American political climate grew increasingly hostile to anyone suspected of having Communist sympathies. The House Un-American Activities (HUAC) ironically put an end to the careers of many exiles, including Bertolt Brecht and composer Hanns Eisler, who had once been welcomed, but were exiled again.

"Light and Noir" continues through March 1 at the Skirball, 2701 N. Sepulveda.

## L.A. Golf Academy Hosts Youth Golf Tournament

A golf tournament for youth ages 5 to 14 will be held Saturday, February 28, at the Heroes Golf Course, at the VA Campus, 11301 Wilshire Blvd. Registration is 10 a.m. and play begins at 11 a.m.

The entry fee of \$40 includes green fees, refreshments, lunch, raffle and awards ceremony. There are three age divisions for boys and girls.

Prizes include a bike from Helen's, Perfect Day Surf Camp and L.A. Golf Academy Summer Camp certificates and more.

Proceeds will benefit the Heroes Golf Course and local veterans.

Call (310) 473-0710 or visit LAGolfAcademy@gmail.com.

## Primary Election Set For March 3

If you are tired of voting in different months for city, state and national elections, your vote in the upcoming March 3 election could change that. In addition to voting for the Los Angeles Community College District candidates, there are two City of Los Angeles measures: the first would align the City election dates in June and November to the same dates as federal and state elections by changing the City charter; the second would also align LAUSD School board elections with federal and state elections.

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# DINING WITH GRACE

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For diners seeking a special meal, Locanda's "The Bite of the Beast" ("Morso della Bestia") dinner series on the last Thursday of each month is for you.

This communal meal not only provides excellent food, but also gives diners the opportunity to meet fellow gourmands with interesting activities. My son-in-law and I met fellow surfboarders (his interest), a retired aircraft engineer with many new activities (my interest), and even someone who was raised in Australia, of special interest to both of us because Australian friends and family are coming to visit this summer.



pairing. We found the house wine to be fine, however, I am not a wine aficionado.

House-made cannelloni with venison belly and a juniper-berry filling constituted the Primo course. With a succulent béchamel sauce, the baked au gratin cannelloni was also superb.

The Piatto di Mezzo course consisted of faro grain, cooked risotto style, making it creamy and tasty, especially with a combination of venison shank and Italian red lentils.

Secondo, or main course, consisted of a cinnamon-Barolo braised venison shoulder. The richness of the Barolo red wine gave a fine distinction to the venison, which went well with the polenta, a staple of Northern Italy.

However, it is the food that is powerfully irresistible. In January, the dinner series featured all-natural Kansas venison served in five tantalizing courses. Venison is lean and juicy with subtle hints of earthy game. It is also lower in fat, cholesterol and calories than beef, pork or lamb.

The Antipasto course consisted of a roasted venison loin with a honey-vinegar marinade and a baby-frisée salad and pickled vegetables. Each bite was delicious.

Each guest was given a choice of free-flowing house wine (\$18 during the dinner) or a premium wine

The fifth course was, naturally, dessert. This was a Granny Smith apple strudel with a caramel sauce. It was a sweet and a fine ending, especially with my cup of coffee.

This five-course menu is \$55 per person and the house wine (\$18). Taxes and gratuity are not included.

In February, the "Morso della Bestia" dinner is wild boar (cinghiale); in March it is suckling pig (porchetta).

## JUMBLE

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

JYEON

PGARH

PRUBAL

TICILA

Ans: \_\_\_\_\_

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

2/18

HE COMPLAINED ABOUT HOW FULL HE WAS, AND HIS WIFE WANTED HIM TO STOP HIS ---

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

(Answer on Page 14)

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Locanda del Lago was established by West Hooker in 1991. West, who was born and raised in Bellagio near Lake Como in Northern Italy, has brought his dishes guided by Italian traditions and the changing seasons for Westsiders to enjoy.

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The restaurant is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. There is full bar service along with an outstanding collection of wines.

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