



Yeah! Exercise and Eat Right



Fitness Icon Jake Steinfeld addressed Marquez Elementary students, challenging them to get moving and stay fit during Fresh Kids Week (see story p. 15). Agreeing to participate, with gusto: (left to right) first graders Mechal Green and Will Petroyan and kindergarten students Abigail Hanelin, Carolyn Burkholder and Neha Mathews. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

California Incline Update

The Santa Monica City Council approved a contract with MCM Construction on January 27 for construction and replacement of the California Incline Bridge. The bid awarded was almost \$16 million. An additional almost \$3 million will be paid for technical support to Wallace, Roberts & Todd (engineer of record).

The Incline's closure will occur sometime after March 16—the date of the L.A. Marathon. Once the 1930 bridge is demolished and removed, construction can start on the new one. The project was bid as 365 days of work; construction is slated to be completed in the summer of 2016.

The City of Santa Monica will put out dynamic message signs for the duration of the project (three on Highway 101, four in Pacific Palisades and one in Santa Monica) to alert motorists of the closure and best traffic routes.

Santa Monica will pay for a traffic officer at Canyon Elementary School for morning and afternoon school opening and dismissal during the Incline closure.

Councilman Mike Bonin's office will request that the LAPD patrol the area more often during key times, with an emphasis on police visibility. Santa Monica officials are also checking to see if its police department can extend its patrols along Seventh Street and Ocean into the Canyon to add to enforcement visibility.

Los Angeles City Department of Transportation has approved a "no left turn" from Ocean Avenue onto Mabery Road, and physical barriers may also be placed to discourage the turn.

PCH traffic may be worse during the first 90 days, because the Coastal Interceptor Relief Sewer (CIRS) project that was expected to be completed in April will not likely be finished before June 15. The \$10-million clean-water project, which includes installing a new sewer line that will take rainwater runoff from Pacific Palisades to the Hyperion Treatment Center, initially ran into drilling problems in the 900-ft. stretch near the Annenberg Beach House.

Soil subsidence (caving in as soil shifts downward) and the need for compaction was greater than anticipated. The tunneling machine has now been removed, but the actual sewer line needs to be installed and grouting around pipes and below the roadway needs to be put in place.

Santa Monica Canyon and BOCA Neighborhood groups met with representatives from Los Angeles and Santa Monica to review Incline closure details and accommodations. The groups will meet again one week after the closure of the Incline to see if additional guidelines need to be established.

Homeless Counted in Palisades

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Pacific Palisades was divided into 12 areas, and 50 residents participated in the first homeless count conducted here as part of a citywide effort, overseen by the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA).

At 5 a.m. on January 29 at Palisades High School, Councilman Mike Bonin welcomed the residents, plus 30 additional volunteers, and representatives from ACS Security, Palisades Patrol and the Los Angeles Police Department.

"This is one of the biggest turnouts of any area in my district," Bonin said. "For the

first time, every community in District 11 is participating."

Volunteers were told to visually count individuals and families (one adult plus one or more children). Counted as shelters were vans, cars, makeshift tents, cardboard boxes and tarps. The counters were asked to maintain a respectful distance and not to approach individuals.

The final tally for the Palisades was 70 people and 74 shelters.

This reporter traveled with Team 3A, which counted the area embracing Los Liones Gateway Park, Sunset to Gladstone's and the beach from Gladstone's to the Getty. The count totaled 14 individuals (three were women) and 13 shelters.

Team 3A included Bonin's senior deputy Norm Kulla, Assemblymember Richard Bloom's field deputy Tim Harter and logistics organizer Brian Deming, accompanied by ACS Security's Jabarha Henry and Rocky Piscottano.

Harter said that Bloom, the former mayor of Santa Monica, has long advocated having City and State representatives working together to solve the homeless issue, rather than simply applying a band-aid.

"It's time to stop the food and money handouts," Harter said, noting his boss was one of the leaders who pushed for getting the homeless off the street in Santa Monica and into shelters.

On the beach, near Castellammare, one homeless man said he grew up in the Finger Lakes area of New York and had lived in Hawaii, but now considered himself a Californian.

"Look at what they did," he said, pointing to recent graffiti on a stairwell and wall. "I caught them doing it. I guess I'll have to go get some cheap stuff and paint over it."

Another area with a high concentration of homeless encampments was between Chautauqua and Temescal Canyon Road—along PCH and below the bluffs. This

(Continued on Page 18)

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Left: Many of the over 500 students who toured the Children's Rights Camp at Palisades High on January 21 advocated for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by calling President Obama's comment line or emailing messages to the White House. Right: As part of the traveling Children's Rights Camp, STF member Ismael Yanez (right) explains the hazards facing child migrants entering the U.S. on desert trails in Arizona. Clothing of young migrants found on the trails hangs behind Ismael. Photos: Bart Bartholomew

PaliHi Students Urge Treaty Protecting Children's Rights

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Reporter

Child tobacco workers commonly don plastic trash bags as protection from pesticides sprayed on the crops they pick in the Southeast U.S., two Palisades Charter High School students told their peers.

Other teens in four tents on the PaliHi quad shared the stories of child migrants suffering from dehydration in Arizona deserts, the takeover of children's schools in war zones in over 25 countries, and the reality that the only two countries worldwide that haven't ratified a treaty protecting children's rights are South Sudan and the United States.

"A lot of people don't really think about these issues unless it's affecting them, but it's good to think about others," said Leslie Magaña, 16, co-vice president (along with Palisadian Shadi Keyvni) of the organizing group, PaliHi's Human Rights Watch Student Task Force.

The student club organized the January 21 children's rights camp to share what they had learned with their fellow students.

And many of the attending students were inspired as they listened to the presentations and journeyed through the temporary exhibits decorated with quotes, pictures and artifacts.

"If this event hadn't happened, I probably wouldn't have learned anything about the tobacco industry," said Palisadian senior Josh Kirshner, 17, after leaving the child

tobacco worker tent. "I think it's great that they're doing this event, and I hope they keep doing it each year."

English teacher Paul Mittelbach brought his students to the event for the same reason that Kirshner described. "These are stories they don't necessarily hear in class," said Mittelbach, who, like a number of students throughout the day, shared his own family's immigration story outside the child migrant worker tent. His father fled Nazi Germany as a child. The event "tells them about other kids. It's something they can relate to, and the kids who are presenting it are really great, really well informed."

The student docents encouraged their peers both to learn about the issues and to develop their own ideas about them.

"The first step is informing yourself about all of this," said senior Ismael Yanez, 17. "Then you need to formulate an opinion." Yanez has a personal interest in the child migrant issue, because at 12, his mother immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico. He has learned about her hardships and within his family, he is a "bridge to connect the two cultures—how to be an American and not forget your roots."

Club members passed out the phone number of President Obama so students could call his comment line with their views, immediately if desired. Dozens of students made calls throughout the day encouraging Obama to push for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a treaty that consists of 54 articles

outlining children's rights, which range from protecting children from sexual exploitation to upholding children's right to quality health care.

"It's the most widely ratified treaty in the world," club president Crystal Eshrahi, a senior from Beverly Hills, told the touring students. She mentioned that Somalia ratified the treaty the previous day, and "The United States is basically being a hypocrite [espousing human rights while failing to ratify the treaty itself]. We want our country to become what we always say we are."

Thirteen Los Angeles-area schools came together to create the touring exhibits, and PaliHi students put their biggest effort into the child migrant tent. A mural of the Ari-

zona desert was painted, and actual clothing worn by very young child migrants hung in front of it. Plastic bottles lay on the ground to demonstrate how some Americans place the jugs on migration trails so that migrants will have water to drink. However, slashed jugs were also present to show that other Americans, opposed to illegal immigration, commonly vandalize the jugs.

Art teacher Angelica Pereyra, who co-sponsors the HRW Student Task Force chapter with fellow teacher Sandra Martin, said that working with PaliHi students on these issues is incredibly important to her. "I don't think there is any greater cause or any worthier endeavor . . . than to do right by children."

Spelling Bee Returns Feb. 8

The fourth annual Pacific Palisades Spelling Bee will be held on Sunday, February 8, at the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center, 601 Latimer Rd.

All elementary-school children (first through fifth grade) who live or go to school in Pacific Palisades are invited. Second grade is currently full—only 30 students are allowed for each grade, and registration is on a first-come basis.

This is a scored competition rather than a single-elimination event, and participants compete by grade level. In round one, participants write down a list of given words. The top 10 spellers from each grade move

onto round two, where participants spell words out loud. The results from round one and two are tallied to compile an overall score.

First and second grades will compete from 10 a.m. to noon; the remaining grade competitions start at 1 p.m. Trophies will be awarded to the top three spellers in each grade, based on best overall score.

Since there is no official study word list for the spelling bee, organizers encourage children to ask their teachers about appropriate word lists for their grade level. Many spelling lists available on the Internet.

Visit palibee.com to register.

Marquez Classrooms to Be Demolished



These Marquez Elementary classrooms are now empty and will be demolished over the summer.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Last April, parents, students and teachers at Marquez Charter School were notified that the classrooms in the L-shaped building next to the canyon were seismically unsafe and students were transferred to bungalow classrooms.

The nearly 60-year-old school was built partially on landfill, and cracks in the sidewalks and in classrooms nearest the canyon

had become increasingly apparent.

A *Palisades News* reporter spoke to LAUSD District spokesperson Shannon Haber last week. "Our team is working hard and we will update the community," Haber said, noting that there will be a meeting scheduled for April or May.

The L-shaped classroom building will be demolished over the summer when classes are not in session. A campus green space will be established in that space, providing a view of the ocean and moun-

tains. New restrooms will be built to meet current needs.

The gymnasium, kitchen and dining area, offices and kindergarten classrooms will not be affected.

According to an earlier engineering report, the site has had some remediation.

"There is a little portion of the site that is situated on the slide, and the slide is minor," said Christos Chrysiliou, LAUSD Director of Architectural and Engineering Services.

"We're removing the building to avoid further impact or weight on the soil, to stop the movement," he said. "The site should be fine. The engineering report shows the type of fill and the type of soil and there were borings so we know how that land will behave."

He added, "The rest of the school site is safe."

The school, located at 16821 Marquez Ave., has about 545 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.

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Increasing Crime Makes Residents Anxious

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

El Medio resident Elizabeth Stein said, “A number of us were awakened recently at midnight by low hovering Los Angeles Police Department helicopters and an LAPD SWAT team with assault weapons canvassing the El Medio Bluffs looking for ‘bad guys.’”

With numerous burglaries and car break-ins in the area, Stein decided to gauge interest in a Neighborhood Watch program.

“We thought we would get it started, get block captains in place and hold a meeting to launch the effort,” said Stein, who lined up Mercer Hall. LAPD, Palisades Patrol and the Palisades High School police were invited to speak at the January 20 meeting.

More than 80 people attended, but LAPD bowed out at the last minute and the school police who patrol the El Medio Bluffs area were not able to attend.

“Officer Michael Moore apologized via email for not attending the meeting and he promised to attend a future meeting to be scheduled for the first week of February,” said Stein, who has been badgered by a few residents because there was only one security company, Palisades Patrol, present on

January 20. “Neither Palisades Patrol nor any other patrol company will be present at that meeting. We did ask one resident of El Medio Bluffs (who opted out of the Neighborhood Watch) to do an investigation of security companies and get back to us with comprehensive information and he elected not to do this.”

Scott Wagenseller, the CEO of Palisades Patrol and on the American Legion National Executive board for security, had only been scheduled to speak 15 minutes, but instead answered residents questions about crime for almost an hour.

“Is there a particular group responsible for the increase in the crimes?” one person asked. Wagenseller, who also serves as Commanding Officer of Navy Security Forces for Navy Air Weapons Station China Lake, said that crimes from the outside have increased, but there is not one group that seems to be responsible.

Another resident wanted to know if there was a particular type or style of house that seems to be targeted more often. “There is no rhyme or reason; the rundown home with the worst landscaping is as likely to be hit as a new one,” Wagenseller said. He emphasized that people need to lock doors and windows, including second-story windows. Ladders should not be left against the

house and garage doors should be closed.

He said if a residence has a side gate, it should have a deadbolt lock on it and ideally the fence should be higher than 8 feet tall. “Do not put your garbage cans in front of the fence; it makes it easier for someone to hop over into your yard,” Wagenseller said, noting that if the gate could be flat, with no handles, which can serve as toe-holds, it would be better.

One person asked, “If we put a lock on a gate, wouldn’t it hinder a police or security company from entering, too?”

“Our clients have lock boxes, so we can access,” Wagenseller said, noting that private patrol officers cannot go on non-client properties.

The room most likely hit during a home burglary is the bedroom. “The master closet will be the first,” he said. “A burglar is looking for guns, cash and jewelry. He wants to get in and out fast.”

Someone asked about computers and flat-screen televisions. Wagenseller said those are not what burglars are targeting. They want something that can be instantly translated into cash.

He warned, “We’re seeing safes pulled out of homes because they were not affixed to the house or the ground.”

One resident wanted to know if there

was a particular time of day or night that robberies happen. “We’re seeing activity day and night,” said Wagenseller, who warned people about the “knock and rob.”

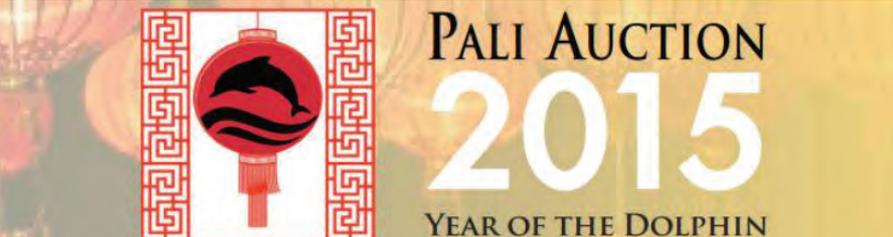
A burglar will knock on the door and if a resident doesn’t respond will break in. Wagenseller advised that if you are home that you should answer the door—not necessarily opening it, but at least shouting through the door so the criminal knows someone is in the residence.

Wagenseller told a story about two well-dressed men who came up to a home, carrying guns. They were captured on a security camera and left before attempting to enter, but it is a warning to residents that there are “bad guys” visiting the Palisades.

Dogs are a good deterrent, Wagenseller told the audience, but noted that a trained security dog can cost between \$20,000 and \$60,000.

He also advised people who have security companies to remember to set their alarms. If your alarm system seems too complicated, consider replacing it with a simpler one, so that you will use it.

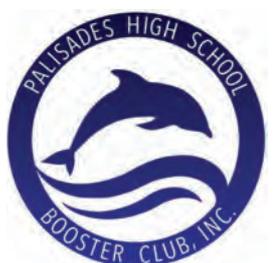
Stein said that a burglar had ripped off a security systems box and did that mean a security company couldn’t respond? “Even if the box is pulled out, our system is already alerted,” Wagenseller said.



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Heard About Town

Fixing the City

Regarding “Meter Maid Humbug” (Heard About Town, January 7). Do you think giving checks to the City, so that meter maids don’t issue tickets on Christmas Eve, is a solution to fixing street? WRONG. The City would take the checks, still write you a citation and not fix the roads.

Grandparents Are Super

I work at Palisades Elementary and it’s so fun to watch how much joy grandparents bring to the kids. One mom said she let her child choose whom she wanted to walk her to school, her mom or her grandma, and the child always chose grandma. I sometimes think grandparents forget how important their role is in helping raise children.

School Bus Query

There are school buses that travel along Sunset and they stop to let students out, with the STOP sign out and flashing red lights. Do you have to stop on both sides of Sunset or just the lane behind the bus?

(Editor’s note: According to the California Department of Motor Vehicle handbook: When the bus flashes red lights, you must stop from either direction until the children are safely across the street and the lights stop flashing. The law requires you remain stopped as long as the red lights are flashing (CVC §22454). If you fail to stop, you may be fined up to \$1,000 and your driving privilege could be suspended for one year. If the school bus is on the other side of a divided or multilane highway—two or more lanes in each direction—you do not need to stop.)

Juice Crafters Award

I’m so glad that Juice Crafters on Antioch won the Chamber of Commerce award for Best New Business last Thursday night. I stop there every day on the way to work. My new favorite is the Solar Cup.

(Editor’s note: The award is given annually to a new stable business that has been in business more than a year and less than three and provides a needed service to the community.)

Crosswalk Needed

Caruso’s construction on Swarthmore has forced closure of the sidewalk along Monument between Albright and Swarthmore. In order to avoid walking on Monument itself, shoppers and residents in the Alphabet streets must cross Monument at Benton’s corner. Can the City paint a temporary crosswalk here until construction is completed in 2017?

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Losing a Fantastic Fire Captain

By STACY KASSIN, RN

When I read the front page article about Mike Ketaily retiring from LAFD (Palisades News, January 7), I was immediately happy for him, yet sad that our community is losing such a fantastic fire captain.

Over the past year, I’ve had the pleasure of getting to spend time with Captain Ketaily and the firefighters of Station 69 while serving as their Honorary Fire Chief.

A medical emergency caused us to meet on January 24, 2014 at Gelson’s. Captain Ketaily, with his crew of firefighters and paramedics, immediately took control of a stressful situation.

Mike’s unbelievably calm demeanor put me at ease. He called me to see how I was doing a few days later, and invited my family and me to Station 69 to talk and connect. He immediately struck me as a fireman who was all about our community and its residents. His warm smile, sense of humor and strong leadership were immediately apparent.

After spending time with Captain Ketaily and the firefighters of Station 69, I learned that these heroes do more than put out fires. Their talents far exceeded my limited knowledge of what their job entails. They are disciplined, athletic, strong, smart, detail-oriented, resolute, highly trained professionals who risk their lives each day and night.

Most people don’t think about how fire stations never “close.” At every single moment of every day, these amazing human beings are waiting to be summoned.

Any emergency at all that may happen to your family, home, or in my case, community, remember there is a safety net very close by. From the wildfires that flare up, the homeless encampment cooking concerns and injuries

while hiking, to medical emergencies such as choking, chest pain, anaphylactic allergic reactions and car accidents (the list is truly endless)—we are never alone in these situations.

These fire fighters are mere minutes away if you can dial 911. When there were fires burning in the Highlands last summer, the fire trucks from both Palisades stations and more were there all night, keeping an eye to make sure we could sleep because we knew areas were being watched for flare-ups. Take a moment to think about this. They live at the fire station while on duty, weekends and holidays too, acting as willing guardians to of all of us living here.

Stop by sometime, learn their names, bring them dinner, thank them when you see them training down by the beach in the parking lot, shake their hands; you never know when those hands may be your lifeline.

Captain Mike, congratulations on your retirement! Enjoy your family, relax, teach the young firefighters your knowledge, and please, please, please come visit us in 90272! To the remaining fire fighters at Station 69 and 23 . . . you guys ROCK, and we appreciate your commitment to keep us safe.

(Editor’s note: Stacy Kassin helped administer CPR on a Gelson’s customer until Station 69 paramedics arrived.)

PALISADES NEWS

Founded November 5, 2014

15332 Antioch Street #169
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A bi-monthly newspaper mailed on the first and third Wednesday of each month. 14,000 circulation includes zip code 90272 and Sullivan, Mandeville and Santa Monica Canyons.

Online: palisadesnews.com

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Thought to Ponder

“A man’s reputation is not in his own keeping, but lies at the mercy of the profligacy of others. Calumny requires no proof. The throwing out [of] malicious imputations against any character leaves a stain, which no after-refutation can wipe out.”

— William Hazlitt, English essay and literary criticism writer (1778-1830)



EDITORIAL

Measles Is a Serious Disease

Author Roald Dahl's daughter died of measles complications in 1962. He wrote in 1986: "As the illness took its usual course I can remember reading to her often in bed and not feeling particularly alarmed about it. Then one morning, when she was well on the road to recovery, I was sitting on her bed showing her how to fashion little animals out of colored pipe-cleaners, and when it came to her turn to make one, I noticed that her fingers and her mind were not working together and she couldn't do anything."

"Are you feeling all right?" I asked her.

"I feel all sleepy," she said.

"In an hour, she was unconscious. In twelve hours she was dead."

"The measles had turned into a terrible thing called measles encephalitis and there was nothing the doctors could do to save her."

"That was twenty-four years ago, but even now, if a child with measles happens to develop the same deadly reaction from measles as Olivia did, there would still be nothing the doctors could do to help her. On the other hand, there is today something that parents can do to make sure that this sort of tragedy does not happen to a child of theirs. They can insist that their child is

immunized against measles. I was unable to do that for Olivia in 1962 because in those days a reliable measles vaccine had not been discovered. Today, a good and safe vaccine is available to every family and all you have to do is to ask your doctor to administer it.

"It is not yet generally accepted that measles can be a dangerous illness."

"Believe me, it is. In my opinion parents who now refuse to have their children immunized are putting the lives of those children at risk."

"In America, where measles immunization is compulsory, measles like smallpox, has been virtually wiped out."

"Here in Britain, because so many parents refuse, either out of obstinacy or ignorance or fear, to allow their children to be immunized, we still have a hundred thousand cases of measles every year."

Since 1986, the success of the MMR vaccination has reduced this figure to several thousand each year, but unvaccinated children are still at risk, and some do still die of measles.

If Dahl was still alive, he would be shocked to know that thanks to Andrew Wakefield's 1998 report citing the vaccine as a cause of autism (a report that has been

thoroughly debunked), some educated parents in America choose not to immunize their children. By doing so, they ignore the fact that measles can lead to encephalitis, pneumonia, lifelong brain damage and deafness. Maybe these people hope that since everyone else is immunized, their children won't get the disease.

But in a time when one can easily travel to the far reaches of the world, this extremely contagious respiratory disease doesn't know economic, societal or country boundaries.

Dahl concluded back in 1986: "The ideal time to have it done is at 13 months, but it is never too late. All school-children who have not yet had a measles immunization should beg their parents to arrange for them to have one as soon as possible."

"Incidentally, I dedicated two of my books to Olivia, the first was *James and the Giant Peach*. That was when she was still alive. The second was *The BFG*, dedicated to her memory after she had died from measles. You will see her name at the beginning of each of these books. And I know how happy she would be if only she could know that her death had helped to save a good deal of illness and death among other children."

(Note: Roald Dahl was once a resident of Pacific Palisades.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City Took 19 Days To Remove Tree

Regarding "Unofficial City Roadblock" (January 15, *Palisades News*), instead of a week as reported in the caption, the tree had been down 19 days. The City righted their four sawhorses after they were blown down in the wind, but did not put up night blinkers. This was unfortunate as there are no street lights in that area. If you need confirmation as to the length of the downing, the City Sanitation logs for those three weeks would show that the trash trucks needed to do a special route to go around the obstruction.

One night coming home, I saw two lighted City trucks on either side of the street beside its branches and hoped that the tree was under consideration. The trucks were gone in the morning, but the tree was still there.

The tree covered the sidewalk, too. I'm surprised that there wasn't a path worn in the grass by the end. The tree went down on a Monday and was removed in the rain on a Saturday evening.

On a separate matter, the water break on Sunset in front of Atria was still bubbling out on Sunday when I mentioned it to the field deputy for Mike Bonin at the Sunday farmers market (January 18).

I had called the LADWP three days earlier to report. I know Eli at the Shell station had done so, too. The DWP is every bit as quick to respond as the Street Maintenance folks.

Hands-on contact with one's Councilperson is a very nice thing to have!

Nancy Brennan

Mental Health Issues Not a Reagan Legacy

Regarding the January 4 Viewpoint by Sue Pascoe, "Homelessness: Bad Luck? A Right? A Choice?" I tend to agree with the spirit and the conclusion of her article. However, I must take her to task for helping perpetuate the baseless "urban myth" that mental health issues were "swept under the carpet by former president Ronald Reagan."

She may or may not like Ronald Reagan (I do), but the fact is that contrary to popular belief, then-Governor Reagan did not kick people out of mental institutions, nor did he decide to close these institutions in order to "save money."

If one is looking for someone at whom to point one's finger, look no further than the venerated American Civil Liberties Union and the (Democratic-controlled) state legislature.

The ACLU was very forceful in pushing a mental-health patient-rights agenda that culminated in the *O'Connor v. Donaldson* case, in which the Supreme Court of the United States in effect did away with all non-voluntary commitment. At the same time, the California state legislature passed, by an overwhelming (veto-proof) majority, the Lanterman-Petris Short Act, which prohibited forced medication or extended hospital stay without a judicial hearing.

As a result of this act, state mental hospitals were forced to close. They were to be replaced by "community-based mental health facilities." Funding for these facilities was never approved, neither by the federal legislature that had

that responsibility, nor by the California legislature—during or after the governorship of Ronald Reagan.

A more detailed and thorough treatment of this subject can be found at: http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_23422055/another-voice-mental-health-myths. Meanwhile, it would behoove all of us to do some fact checking before we assign blame.

Barry DuRon

Dog Saved by Quick Action of Patrol Officers

I am writing to thank Palisades Patrol and two of its officers, Eric Fine and his partner, the morning of January 18. While I stood on the corner of Sunset and Chautauqua at the light, waiting to cross with my small female Lab, a large German shepherd came bounding out of a house behind us and viciously attacked my dog. All I could do was kick and yell at the dog, trying to get it to back off.

Fortunately, Eric and his partner were in their patrol vehicle, stopped at the red light. They jumped out of their vehicle and came to our rescue, beating the shepherd back with their batons until the owner appeared and removed the dog. I can't even imagine the horror that would have ensued if these two officers had not appeared. My dog was bitten and frightened, but she will be OK.

It's scary to think that this dog lives in our neighborhood and would not hesitate to repeat this behavior when given a chance.

Sue Kohl

(Continued on Page 8)

Letters

(Continued from Page 7)

Transients Can Be Threatening to Workers

My niece worked at the Starbucks in the village. An African-American transient would come in regularly and just stand and stare at the workers. The police were called and reported back that he wanted to “date” one of the blonde workers. There was nothing anyone could do about his presence.

My niece, being the sole blonde worker, would have to watch her every move after being named the object of his desire. She decided to leave.

No one should have to continually feel threatened while trying to earn a living. I’m sure someone else will be the object of his desire, but she was not willing to risk the possible outcome.

Patrons would buy him cups of coffee and food. I don’t mind helping those in need; however, I do not think providing for someone who threatens healthy boundaries should be encouraged or provided for.

Pamela Kearney

Viewpoint on Homelessness Avoids Possible Solutions

Regarding the Viewpoint on homelessness, I agree that it is a growing problem in our community. My wife grew up in the Palisades and we have lived here for many years. The problems are many and growing. I am sure there are many reasons for this, as Sue Pascoe illustrates in her comments.

She does a good job of stating the problem and I admire her efforts to personally investigate what is happening in our community. What I don’t understand is what she proposes should be done about this. We need answers as well as questions. I hope she will follow up on this homeless count with a discussion of how to deal with homelessness in the Palisades. I think this is an issue that the community can get behind.

Also, Pascoe lost me when she made a left-hand turn to take a pot-shot at President Reagan. No basis for her comment was given and I fail to see the relevancy of this attack on a former Palisadian who last served in office over 25 years ago. Certainly there are many politicians in office today, or in the recent past, who could be singled out for criticism for giving less than serious attention to this issue. In my view, such a comment was out of place and unnecessary.

Although I subscribe to the *Palisadian-Post*, I am a fan of the *Palisades News*. It is a good read.

Rick Stack

AYSO Region 69 Coaches/Ref League

You are cordially invited to participate in our new Region 69 Saturday game at Paul Revere every Saturday at 3 p.m. We are now officially sanctioned as an adult team approved by AYSO for Region 69, and are permitted (some exclusions apply; holidays, youth games and permit cancellations).

1. We are supported by Region 69. This game is open to adults only, male and female, and our team is registered with the AYSO affiliate, North America Adult Soccer Association, through whom we have our insurance coverage.

2. Feel free to come out and try the game. If you

decide to sign up, the cost is \$100 total (insurance and registration) through August 31. We intend to allow approximately 30 players to sign up, as it is our experience that no more than two thirds show up on any given Saturday. To date we have about 15 registered players, so space is still available. Preference will be given to AYSO coaches, assistant coaches and referees.

3. As of this season, this is no longer a “pickup” game where anyone can show up and play. Other than a one-time “tryout” game to check us out, all players will have to be registered.

4. Most importantly, this is designed to be a friendly, safe game, and AYSO principles of sportsmanship and fair play will be enforced. We will not tolerate dangerous play, slide-tackling, flagrant fouls, foul language, or trash-talk. We rotate positions on the field, so everyone can relive their youthful prowess as a striker, excel in clearing the ball as a defender, and even take a turn in the goal (just like AYSO)!

5. Although the current players range in age from 20s to 60s, the average age is in the 40/50 range. Skill levels vary dramatically, but our players typically have some prior experience.

It is our desire to create a friendly, local game which is safe, fun and produces a good afternoon workout without injuries. If you are looking for an aggressive super-competitive game where you can show off your Messi-like dribbling skills, this is not your spot. However, if you want a good runaround in a game where teamwork, sportsmanship, and crisp passing is encouraged, come join us.

Coach Don Randolph, Director

Palisades News welcomes all letters, which may be mailed to spascoe@palisadesnews.com. Please include a name, address and telephone number so we may reach you.

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Caruso Affiliated Gains Approval for Luxury Hotel

The Montecito Planning Commission approved a plan by developer Rick Caruso on January 21 to build a new beachfront Miramar hotel that has been closed for more than a decade.

The project was approved 3-2 with conditions. The eight-hour hearing about the estimated \$200-million development revolved around Beach Club memberships, parking, traffic flow and congestion, visual impacts and the numbers of special events planned.

The original Miramar Beach Hotel, established in the late 1880s, had been vacant since 2000. According to the *Pacific Coast Business Times*, the Caruso project will include 170 rooms, including 27 oceanfront suites, two restaurants totaling 258 seats, an oceanfront walkup bar, 8,000-sq.-ft. meeting space with a capacity for 400 people, a 3,000-sq.-ft. spa and 2,000-sq.-ft. fitness center, a sundry shop and salon (1,000 sq.ft.), a 4,000-sq.-ft. private club, a 1,000-sq.-ft. kids club and two swimming pools.

According to the *L.A. Times*, the Montecito commission discussed parking and whether there would be enough to accommodate guests, staff and members of a private beach club.

Caruso Affiliated will be required to closely monitor parking both on-site and

in the surrounding neighborhood, which is often congested with beachgoers. If there is not enough parking, Caruso will not be allowed to increase the number of members of a private beach club at the hotel.

Plans earlier approved included an underground parking garage; the current plan does not. Two years after the project is built, if commissioners still find parking issues, a Caruso spokesperson said operators would try to find up to 50 off-site parking spaces.

Public speakers asked commissioners to weigh the needs of hotel guests with those of neighbors, who worried that visitors would use street spots in lieu of paying a valet parking fee.

Commissioner Michael Phillips made a motion that was approved asking to initially limit club membership to 100 instead of 200 and allowing up to 300 event guests instead of 400—both decisions that could come back for commission review after a certain period.

The majority of commissioners also voted in favor of implementing a key card system to track parking, limiting location and idling of excursion buses transporting guests from Santa Barbara Airport, expanding the parking monitoring area, requiring club members to RSVP for special events and adding more vegetation screening.

Atria Senior Living Will Host Health Fair

Atria Senior Living will host a free health fair from 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, at its facility, 15441 Sunset Blvd. All Palisades residents are invited to attend.

Balance screenings will be provided by Cypress Center's Allison Gallup and Samantha Wood. Atria's Marco Duarte will administer blood pressure checks and Dr. Cheryl Donath of the Santa Monica Foot and Ankle Center will examine feet.

Stephen Kirsch of Kirsch Audiology

will perform hearing tests. A medication review will be done by Gordon Wong of Knolls Pharmacy and memory screening administered by Judith Delaney of Atria's Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group.

Director of Culinary Services Lori Cook will prepare delicious and healthy samples for participants to try. A complimentary resource bag will be provided by Sheridan Care In-Home Health Care.

Please RSVP by February 11 to (310) 573-9545.

PaliHi Booster Club Seeks Items for Auction

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

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New Chamber President: Adam Glazer

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Reporter

Commit to the Palisades. That is the idea new Chamber of Commerce President Adam Glazer wants the community to embrace during his tenure this year. The 29-year-old insurance agent hopes to increase the bond between local businesses and the community by getting business owners and residents to support each other.

"I am excited about this year," said Glazer, who married his wife Leigh Robie at the Bel-Air Bay Club last summer. "I think if we really work at supporting our businesses and helping them grow and getting the community behind them, I think those businesses will be better suited to survive. Other businesses will see that these businesses really take care of their community, and say, 'We have to do that too.'"

He hopes to help local businesses grow in part by encouraging them to respond to the community's needs, while simultaneously asking the community to visit the businesses. The plan to embrace the "Commit to the Palisades" motto has recently been discussed with the Chamber board, and Glazer will roll it out in 2015, hoping that the idea of committing to the Palisades will eventually be well-known by the citizenry.

Window stickers are planned for stores, and he hopes to hold unique events not just in the Village, but in the Highlands and Marquez Knolls business areas. He advocated bringing back a bi-monthly networking breakfast for Chamber members, which he now emcees. Over 400 businesses belong to the Chamber, and he said they range from retail stores to individuals like himself who are interested in working with Palisades customers.

Glazer lives in Brentwood near the farm-

ers market, but his attorney wife grew up in the Palisades and is part of her parents' insurance and legal malpractice law firm, Robie and Matthia. Her father Jim, has passed away, but her mother still lives in the Palisades. The Glazers plan to buy a home in the Palisades as soon as they can.

"I've loved this town since Leigh brought me out here to visit," said Glazer, who grew up in New York before moving to Washington, D.C. where he and his wife met as students at American University. "I don't think they make towns like this anymore. I'm an old soul if you will, and there's just something about people knowing each other. The Palisades is very unique."

His father-in-law actually encouraged him to change professions when Glazer was looking into leaving his job at Enterprise Rent-A-Car, where he worked managing commercial fleets after graduating from college in 2007.

"He said, 'I think you would love the insurance business. You genuinely love helping people. You love business in general, sales, and management.' I looked into it the next day." Within a few weeks, Glazer had left Enterprise and had begun selling personal insurance with Liberty Mutual, where he specializes in auto, home, annuities and life insurance.

Currently, Glazer spends 3 or 4 days each week in his office in El Segundo, and divides the remaining time between his home office and the Chamber, where he tries to be present each Friday. He also encourages people to e-mail him at adam.glazer@LibertyMutual.com.

"I encourage people to reach out to me," he said. "I'm always open to talking to people and hearing new ideas. It starts with the voice of the community. The people are the only way we can right the wrongs and grow the future."



Adam Glazer was installed as the new Chamber of Commerce president last Thursday.

The Riviera—A Prestigious Neighborhood

Contributed by Michael Edlen, Coldwell Banker

The Riviera was created in 1926 as an exclusive community with European charm and Mediterranean-style estates within the area of the then Los Angeles Athletic Club. That club became the famous Riviera Country Club which once hosted horse shows and top-flight polo matches, and now hosts the February Northern Trust Open on the PGA golf tour. This section of the Palisades preserves some of the town's most interesting and historical architecture. Known for gracious and scenic properties while enjoying close proximity to the Palisades Village, Brentwood and Santa Monica, the Riviera endures as one of the most desirable and expensive neighborhoods in Southern California. Most of the street names are Italian in origin, many being inspired by the area of the Amalfi Coast, south of Naples, where "the mountains meet the sea."

The Riviera encompasses about 900 homes on larger lots with mostly wide

streets and deep setbacks. Stretching from Amalfi Drive in the west to San Remo in the east, the Riviera is divided into north and south sections, which are casually referred to as Upper and Lower Riviera, and separated by Sunset Boulevard. In the Upper Riviera, many homes offer views that span from downtown Los Angeles to the ocean. Some streets in the Lower Riviera overlook the country club's golf and tennis courts.

The Riviera is home to everyone from multi-generation money to low-profile celebrity residents (including entertainment industry figures, musicians and professional athletes). Nancy and Ronald Reagan were perhaps the most famous homeowners. They moved to Amalfi Drive in 1953, wanting to be farther from Hollywood, and later made their home on San Onofre until 1980, when Reagan was elected President of the United States. Their former residence sold in 2013 for just over \$5.2 million.

	# SOLD	MEDIAN \$	AVG \$	\$/SQ FT
2014 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31)	21	\$6,800,000	\$6,900,000	\$1,100
2011 (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31)	19	\$3,400,000	\$4,000,000	\$855
% Diff	10% ↑	100% ↑	72% ↑	29% ↑

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Michael Edlen is ranked #52 of all agents in the country with over \$1.5 billion in sales and more than 1,100 transactions. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales since 1987. If you would like to know what your home may be worth today, Michael can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or michael@michaeledlen.com.

U.S. Postal Mail Fraud Crime Alert for Palisades Residents

Members of a household in Rustic Canyon thought it was odd they didn't get their mail for several days. They later learned that someone had placed a hold on their mail (in their name), then picked it up and applied for about a dozen credit cards in the residents' names.

Resident George Wolfberg said that since tampering with mail is a federal crime, the front desk at the West Los Angeles Police Station informed him that this is not investigated by LAPD.

A resident can protect him/herself by

getting a large, locking mailbox and paying attention to whether daily mail delivery has stopped. Mail fraud has been a federal crime since 1872 and now includes any scheme including by telephone or Internet that involves the U.S. Postal Service.

Speaking of Mail . . .

Palisades News comes out the first and third Wednesday of the month. If your paper is late, you can read the entire edition online at palisadesnews.com.

Key Legislators Address Palisades Concerns

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Palisades Democratic Club held their annual meeting at the Woman's Club on Sunday and all Palisades residents were invited to come and ask questions of U.S. Representative Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin, L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and L.A. City Controller Ron Galperin.

Lieu, who was appointed to the oversight and government reform committee, said: "If you're rich and powerful, you can hire your own lobbyist, which means there are a lot of voices drowned out. My first task will be ending vet homelessness." He had a meeting scheduled with the new acting director at the West L.A. VA to see what steps could be taken.

Lieu said he doesn't believe the government should impose taxes on 529 college-savings accounts and will oppose a plan put forth by President Obama. (The president, who faced Democratic and Republican opposition, has now dropped the proposal.)

With the Obama administration's focus on the middle class, Lieu was asked by one resident how he defines the middle class. "For political reasons we don't," he said, noting that 80 to 90 percent of Americans



U.S. Representative Ted Lieu, State Senator Ben Allen, Assembly Member Richard Bloom, L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin addressed constituents and questions at a meeting at the Woman's Club. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

define themselves as middle class.

Lieu also disagrees with the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a proposed regional regulatory and investment treaty. "I oppose it. I oppose fast-tracking it," he said. "To me, outsourcing is not a trade. It will take good American jobs and put them in countries that don't have good labor laws."

New county supervisor Sheila Kuehl asked residents, many of whom have sup-

ported her for years, to use her new email: skuehl@bos.la.gov. She spoke of the difficulty of running a county that could be the eighth largest state and functions as the executive and legislative branch, and also as a quasi-judicial branch.

"We provide health care for one million and mental-health care for a quarter million people," Kuehl said, noting that she is trying to get Public Health, including health serv-

ices and mental health, under one roof.

"It would make sense to have a person be able to have a mental health and physical checkup in the same place," said Kuehl, who is also working to have a nurse go out with a social worker when there is a hotline call about a child two years of age or younger.

Ben Allen was elected last November and will be one of the legislators addressing (Continued on Page 13)



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Legislators

(Continued from Page 12)

voter turnout. Overall in California, turnout was 42 percent. In Los Angeles County it was 31 percent, but in Sierra County it was 73 percent. "It's an embarrassment," he said, noting there are plans to try align the city and state elections.

Allen was asked if he would support "right to die" legislation. "It's the right thing to do," he said. "The legislation that comes through will have to have enough protections for doctors, but this option has to be there for people."

He said that when people who are terminally ill have the option, only about half use it. "The other half become more optimistic because they feel they have some control."

Allen supports removing concrete from the bed of the Los Angeles River but admits, "I only have a small piece of the river [in my district], but I'm supportive of trying to restore habitats."

Richard Bloom, who was re-elected in November, said California has had two balanced budgets and eliminated a wall of debt.

"This improves our credit rating and lowers interest rates on loans we can get," he said, noting that the legislature is also establishing a rainy day fund for the state.

Bloom predicts that Proposition 30 [higher tax on the wealthy to fund schools], which ends in 2018, will be phased out. "Our tax system in California is antiquated,

and restructuring is needed," he said.

Another main issue his constituents face is traffic. "We need to break the log-jam on our streets and provide an alternative."

Councilman Mike Bonin added to the conversation. "We have a bit of traffic in my district," he said. "I've worked to get rail to the airport and it's going to happen. The biggest game changer for Los Angeles, he said, will be when there is public transportation that goes north to south, from the Valley to LAX.

A resident commented that many Palisadians no longer go downtown because of the traffic and even when the Metro light-rail is finished, there is no parking in Santa Monica, which means the train isn't a good option for Palisades residents.

"I'm working on trying to get the bus systems to work with Metro," said Bonin, who also chairs the City transportation committee. One thought is to have the Big Blue Bus run past 10 p.m., so residents could use the rail system in Santa Monica.

Archer School is looking at new construction to modernize its campus, but Bonin has set forth 30 conditions that must be met, including traffic mitigation and no impact on immediate neighbors.

"Archer has better traffic mitigation on Sunset than other schools on that corridor, and schools such as Brentwood should match it," he said.

Bonin also spoke about his motions before the City Council regarding developers. "Folks bust their butts to get conditions

in, but no one is monitoring," he said. "We have a broken system. We're demanding development reform. We need to manage growth in Los Angeles."

He was asked about the increasing homelessness on the Westside. There is a lawsuit that was brought against the City by a Santa Monica lawyer Carol Silva that prohibits the City from cleaning up homeless camps. "It was well-intentioned, but has had a horrible impact," Bonin said. "It focuses policy decision on the right to live on streets rather than to live in homes."

Controller Galperin said his first priority when he took office in 2013 was to upgrade the City's technology. Residents can now visit controlpanel.la, which he describes as a checkbook for the City. He is also working on a reform of procurement practices by the City. "We want to get the best price and the best service," he said.

Of the \$8 billion in City revenue, only 10 percent goes into the general fund. Nine percent goes into special funds that can only be used for specific projects. "There is a special fund account solely for trimming coral trees on San Vicente," Galperin said.

He added, "Of the money that is there for the City, we want to see if it could be put to better use. I am called the watchdog of the City. I don't have enough time to watch everything, but the Web creates a whole army of watchdogs out there to help me.

"If we spend your money, we should be able to explain how it gets spent," Galperin said.

Makinto Brings Music to the Palisades Library

Elementary-aged children and their siblings are invited to a presentation of Makinto's music at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 21, at the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real Dr.



Makinto

Born to a Liberian mother and a German father, Makinto studied classical music as well as traditional and modern African music. He furthered his studies with jazz, blues, gospel, Latin-American and Brazilian music, while living successively in Germany, United States, Liberia, Spain, Canary Islands, Ivory Coast and France.

Makinto started his instrumental career by playing simple wooden flutes, then studied classical piano, guitar, classical C-flute, saxophone, percussions, balaphone and cora. Currently, he lives in Rancho Palos Verdes and performs concerts, shows, school assemblies and library shows as well as leading worship locally and internationally. He is the director of Amahoro International, a Christian nonprofit.

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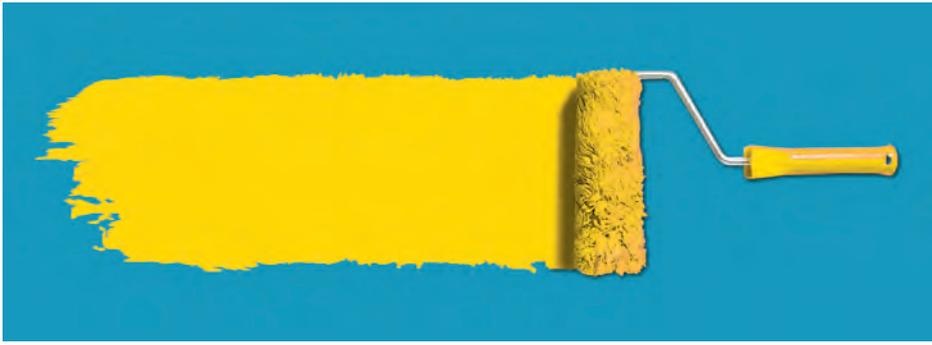
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'Fresh Kids' Week Kicks Off

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

When a pre-kindergarten student scanned a bar code of a Lunchable, she was asked the letter grade that appeared. "It's a D," she said.

CNN Health contributing writer and Marquez parent Amanda Enayati explained why the food got a bad grade. "It has four and half teaspoons of sugar, trans fats, nitrates and is high in saturated fat."

It was Monday, January 26, at Marquez Elementary, and the first day of a weeklong "Fresh Kids" series about eating healthy and exercising.

Enayat helped students use the app, fooducate.com. The next barcode students tried was on a Gatorade bottle. "Another D!" a student said. "It is high in sugar and has artificial color," Enayat said. "Would you eat your paints?" They all agreed it wasn't a good idea and maybe putting "paint" color in food wasn't good either.

The real test came with a Reese's candy bar, which received a C. "But I like this candy," one student said. Enayat told them it had five-and-a-half teaspoons of sugar, saturated fat and TBHQ. "Does TBHQ sound like food?" Enayat asked. "Do you want to eat something that doesn't sound like food?"

The student who really liked the candy bar was conflicted, so Enayat suggested finding candy without additives.

Enayat later explained to the *News* that when she first found the app, her children Rohan (8) and Mira (10), who were then four and five, walked around the supermarket trying it out.

The Marquez series began with Palisades Honorary Mayor and fitness icon Jake Steinfeld, who addressed the pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students in the courtyard before they visited different exhibits in the auditorium.

Joyce Wong Kup, co-president of Friends of Marquez and part of the Fresh Kids organizing team, said that many parents had informally talked about healthy foods and lifestyle.

"If we do it as a school, it becomes eas-



Members of the Marquez Little Dippers class, (left to right) Malia Paresa, Gabriela Henderson-MacLennan, Alex Ennis and Aaron Sands, learn how much sugar is found in foods.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

ier," said Kup, noting that not only your family makes changes, but your children's friends do, too. Everyone is aware. "The idea is to start at this age and then it becomes a lifelong change. Start it right now, so it's what they accept."

Parent Julia Brightman showed the kids different lotions and soaps and helped them become aware of what they put on their skin, and that many of the soaps advertised as antibacterial may actually do harm. "The best is just washing with soap and water."

She recommended a Web site, EWG.org. (Environmental Working Group is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment.) "It's not perfect, but it can be a guide for parents," Brightman said.

Marquez native Heather Wilken helped students realize how much sugar there are

in products, by stacking sugar cubes next to each item.

Parent Meredith Milton led a discussion with students about "What would you do with five extra years?"

For the first time in this country's history, the current generation of children is expected to live five years fewer than their parents because of inactivity.

According to Nike's "Designed to Move" campaign, there's been a massive drop in physical activity among kids in recent years. In the U.S. alone, physical activity has declined 32 percent in a single generation.

After Marquez five-year-old students watched a short video, they were asked what they would do. "Ride my bike," one said. Another asked, "For five years?" "Yes," he replied.

"I like this concept because it's concrete," Milton told the *News*. "This is about getting kids to move their bodies."

Another speaker was parent, blogger and published author Dani Shear, who introduced the topic of eating right and making

healthy choices. Dr. Adrienne Youdim, mother of three and the former director of Cedars-Sinai's department of nutrition, shared some of her family's tricks for snacking healthfully but flavorfully.

There were cooking classes with master gardener Marie Steckmest and chef/writer Kirstin Uhrenholdt ("The Family Cooks") and a fitness assembly led by STAR that included Hoola-Hooping exercises.

Wednesday there was an evening screening of the 2014 documentary *Fed Up*, produced by Katie Couric, former Palisadian Laurie David, who was the Oscar-winning producer of *An Inconvenient Truth*, and director Stephanie Soechtig. The premise of the film is that everything we've been told about food and exercise during the past 30 years was wrong. Laurie David was in attendance.

On Friday, parent Julia Breitman spoke about extending healthy and smart choices to home, and renowned thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Kathy Magliato also addressed students.



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Stryer Focuses on Improving Public Education

By DANIELLE GILLESPIE
Palisades News Contributor

Pacific Palisades resident Mike Stryer is dedicated to improving public education across the state, the city of Los Angeles and right here in the Palisades.

Stryer, 53, spends his workweek advocating for California teachers through his job at the nonprofit organization, Teach Plus, and after work, he volunteers as a school board member at Palisades Charter High School.

He decided to devote part of his spare time to PaliHi because he says he owes a lot to the school. Stryer completed his student teaching there and describes his mentor teachers (Jeanne Saiza, Chris Lee and Audree Clarke) as phenomenal.

“All the teachers are really wonderful with helping a teacher who is getting into the profession,” said Stryer, who went on to teach social studies at Fairfax High School for eight years. “Even after I left Pali, they continued to help develop my teaching.”

Stryer is also grateful for the top-notch education that PaliHi provided his daughter, Leah, who is now a junior at Indiana University.

“I wanted to do something to give in return to strengthen Pali,” said Stryer, who was elected to the school board in September.

Stryer brings a lot of expertise in the education field to the board. For the past two years, he has worked as the vice president of district and union policy for Teach Plus. He works in the downtown Los Angeles office, but the organization is headquartered in Boston, and also has sites in Chicago, Indi-



Mike Stryer is on the Palisades High board and also works for a nonprofit organization, Teach Plus.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

anapolis, Washington, D.C. and Memphis.

“Our focus is elevating the voices of our teachers to improve teacher quality,” said Stryer, who earned his master’s degree in education from Pepperdine University.

Stryer oversees 30 fellowship teachers from the immediate Los Angeles area as they develop educational policies at the state and local level. The fellowship lasts 18 months, and there are monthly meetings where the teachers receive policy training. Teach Plus connects fellowship teachers with school district superintendents and union and state representatives, so they can share their thoughts and suggestions.

“Some of our best teachers are so focused on the classroom that they don’t have the opportunity to engage in policy,” Stryer said. “We provide the training, and get those teachers, who probably wouldn’t be involved in policy, involved.”

He hasn’t had the opportunity to work with any PaliHi teachers through his job yet, but says he plans to invite any teachers interested to apply.

Recently, Stryer successfully helped Los Angeles teachers increase participation in their union, the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA). The fellowship teachers advocated for an online voting system and for new teachers to serve on governing bodies. This action will benefit PaliHi teachers who are members of UTLA.

Stryer is now working with the fellowship teachers on state policy regarding tenure. Currently, teachers are automatically given tenure after 18 months, Stryer explained. The fellowship teachers want educators to have to demonstrate their professional expertise before receiving tenure.

“We want a rigorous evaluation of their performance over a longer period of time,

to really assess them, to make sure they are supposed to be in the classroom,” Stryer said. “We haven’t discussed how that evaluation will work, but it will be a multiple-measured approach with different perspectives on how students achieve.”

He is also assisting the teachers with developing a policy regarding layoffs. Teachers are typically laid off in terms of seniority, and the fellowship teachers would like teachers’ performance factored into the decision.

“It needs to change, but it also needs to be done in a way that it doesn’t target veteran teachers who receive higher pay,” Stryer said, adding that his people are being extra careful to craft a policy to achieve this.

As for his work at PaliHi, Stryer says his focus is on helping the school with its budget.

“I think that Pali is in a strong financial position, so I am looking for opportunities for further strengthening,” said Stryer, who is the board representative on the school’s Budget and Finance Committee.

His main objective is to help PaliHi be able to afford more resources, so that class sizes can be reduced.

“The teachers do a great job with the class sizes they have, but to be able to bring them down would be good,” Stryer said.

As for the little time that Stryer isn’t working on education issues, he likes spending it with his son, Adam, a junior at Brentwood School, and wife, Barri, a child psychiatrist.

“We love hiking in the mountains that we have right in our backyard,” Stryer said.

Want a Free Street Tree?

Palisades Beautiful, a nonprofit local organization, will plant new trees in the parkways in front of homeowners’ houses. Every street in Pacific Palisades has a designated tree and those planted will follow that pattern.

When signing a request form, people promise to follow instructions for a tree’s future care. Palisades Beautiful will arrange

to obtain the tree and plant it. “Get Your Free Tree!” flyers are available at the Palisades Branch Library or the Chamber of Commerce. The form is also available online palisadesbeautiful.org.

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Girls Water Polo in Good Hands

By JACK ROSS
Sports Editor

There are plenty of unknowns surrounding the Palisades girls water polo team, last year's City runners-up to champions Eagle Rock. In league play, for example, an opponent can forfeit the day of the game, which is what happened on January 21, when Fremont canceled a bus ride to the Palisades for a 2:30 p.m. match.

However, there's one apparent and optimistic fact for the Dolphins: if first-year coach Brad Silver's water polo career is any indication, the program is in great hands.

On the job for only a few months, Silver brings more than three decades of experience at the youth, high school, collegiate and international levels. He played on teams that won National Junior Olympics titles and the Maccabiah Games, and appeared in three Final Fours at USC as a player; as a coach, he has guided an assortment of club, high school and college teams. Along the way, he's learned from Water Polo Hall of Fame coaches, taken a three-year hiatus from the sport to live in Abu Dhabi with his family, and even remarkably overcame brain cancer over a two-year period.

Silver's career began in 1978, at the age of nine, with the Fullerton Aquatics Sports Team (FAST), where his coach was legendary goalie Stan Sprague, an American Olympian in the 1960s—and a big influence on Silver's eventual coaching career.

"I've had so many coaches, and learned all the ways I want to coach, and also ways not to coach," Silver said. "Stan helped make me into the person I am today. He's



Senior Mardell Ramirez looks for a shot.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

a wonderful man, and really turned our team into a family. We did team trips together with all of our families, and it created a real bond."

With a background as a national-level swimmer, Silver broke the mold of traditional water polo positioning, taking his place in the pool primarily as a two-meter defender—"typically, they were big and slow; I was small and fast, but I still played anything and everything"—and great results followed. Over his youth career, he won the National Junior Olympics for every age division (Under-10, 12-14 and 16-18), the final two coming during his time with the Trojan Club team based out of USC.



Senior Genesis Carballo is a four-year impact player.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

"That's when the sport really started to expand, moving to different states," Silver said. "Our club was filled with top CIF players from Orange County, schools like Sonora, Sunny Hills, Buena Park, and El Segundo. California teams were always still winning back then, and mostly from Southern California, too."

From there, Silver (naturally) moved to play at USC, where his coach was Jim Sprague, currently in the Water Polo Hall of Fame, who taught Silver the lesson to "coach from the heart first, and the head second." In his first three seasons from 1987-89, Silver and the Trojans lost to Cal in one NCAA final and finished third in two others.

At the time, Silver soaked up all of the wisdom, attending meetings for all positional categories. And as a college junior, his coaching career even got underway, at Marlborough High School in Hancock Park, where he was hired to coach swimming and introduce the all-girls school to water polo.

After graduating, Silver had a fruitful decade as a player and coach. In 1993, he founded the co-ed water polo program at CAMS (California Academy of Math and Science) in Long Beach; by 1996, CAMS was a CIF-championship caliber program, losing to the eventual champions in his final year there. From there, he spent the next three years coaching the boys and girls teams at Peninsula High School, and then three years with the boys squad at Long

Beach Millikan.

Meanwhile, Silver played in the prestigious Maccabiah Games in Israel, his team taking the silver medal in 1993 (losing to the Israeli national team), before taking home gold in 2001. (As if all the playing and coaching wasn't enough, Silver also worked as a Pacific Ocean lifeguard in Huntington Beach the entire decade.)

In 2003, Silver's world was up-ended by brain cancer. He was 33, and his doctors told him he had only two months to live. Undeterred, he waged a two-year battle, marked by surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and clinical trials; and today, Silver has been cancer-free for over 10 years. He notes with humor that the experience allows (and at times, forces) him to remember only what is important and forget what isn't.

Clearly, such a life-changing experience puts the problems Silver currently faces at Pali—a weak league schedule that leaves his team vulnerable against strong Orange County teams in tournaments—into a clear, thoughtful perspective.

As of January 21, Pali's season record was 7-3 (including two wins by forfeits). Going forward, with the City playoffs fast approaching (the First Round on February 13, Quarterfinals on February 18, Semis on February 20 and the Finals on February 26), Silver realizes that the issues facing his team are frustrating, but he focuses on what he can control—being the best coach he can be and creating a team and program cut from his own empowering fabric.



The Palisades High School water polo team beat San Pedro 17-5 last Friday.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

SPEAKERS CORNER

February 9: Winn Winmau, Orchid Hobbyist

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

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

February 12: Michael Ferris, Cinematographer

Award-winning cinematographer and Malibu resident Michael Ferris will speak at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 12, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford. The community is invited.

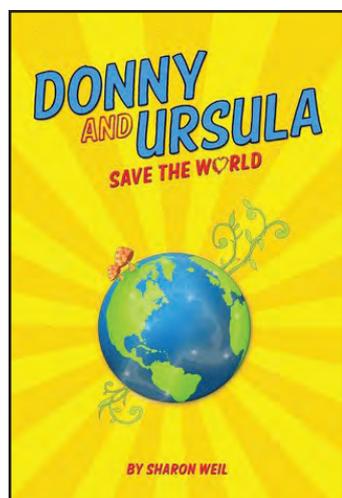
Ferris' career spans more than 40 years and he will share his experiences about the film industry and the people who have helped shape his art. He is known for *Opening Night*, *Forrest Gump*, *Waterworld*, *The Conspiracy Theory*, *The Truman Show* and *The Soloist*.

The California native spent time in the Air Force and completed degrees in psychology and literature, even working for a brief stint on Wall Street. He acquired his first camera in the late 1950s, when he was a captain in the military.

In 1971, Ferris was first assistant cameraman for *The Other Side of the Wind*, Orson Welles' final full-length feature. Ferris credits him with helping realize the humanity of celebrity.

Next, Ferris had a four-year association with John Cassavetes, which Ferris said was the founding moment of his career and helped him perfect the art of cinematography. He later worked with Clint Eastwood, Brian DePalma, John McTiernan, Richard Donner and Ricou Browning. In 2011, Ferris received the Society of Camera Operator's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for his body of work.

February 19: Sharon Weil, Local Writer



Pacific Palisades resident Sharon Weil will speak Thursday, February 19, about her debut novel, *Donny and Ursula Save the World*.

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.

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 evening promises to be filled with humor.

Weil is an award-winning WGA screenwriter, producer and director, whose most recent writing co-producer credit is *Reel Love*, a romantic comedy about a woman who must learn to bass fish in

order to catch her father's attention (Country Music Television). 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*, in 1990. She has also written and performed her own work in one-woman shows.



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Homeless

(Continued from Page 1)

stretch was deemed too dangerous for resident volunteers and the count was done by LAPD and Palisades Patrol.

Palisades Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore said that nine encampments were spotted below Via de las Olas, which is about the average for that area.

"It was densely populated between Chautauqua and Potrero Canyon, about 15 encampments," Moore said. "Nearly all of what we saw was within Caltrans jurisdiction. If Caltrans decides to clean out this area and calls me, I'm happy to be there."

Moore said there had been evidence of cooking fires, but that many were near the high protective wall along PCH. "They [the homeless] have started to realize that if they endanger the community with a fire, they endanger their own existence."

He reminds residents that if they see a camping fire, call the fire department because all of the brush-covered land in the Palisades is considered a "no campfire, no smoking area" because of the high fire risk in dry weather.

Moore commented that the fenced area by the new playground on Temescal Canyon Road is still clear of transients. "The park rangers are doing a good job," he said.

Brian Deming and Kim Clary were co-chairs of the count logistics in the Palisades. "Kim did everything," Deming said. "She was amazing."

He was asked why the count was important and what the next step would be.

"We've been living with the homeless problem for a long time," Deming said. "Now LAHSA can finally quantify the problem here. It puts Pacific Palisades on their map and we can finally get some resources."

Members of LAHSA will try to reach out to those identified as homeless with a VI-SPDAT pre-screen survey. The survey helps assess health and social needs through about a 45-minute interview, and LAHSA then matches each transient with the most appropriate housing intervention available. The goal is to have all of the homeless interviewed by the end of March, Deming said.

Upcoming Council Meetings

All Community Council meetings are held in the Palisades Library community room and open to the public.

A regular meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., on Thursday, February 12. The City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment will make a presentation. This is the agency that oversees certified neighborhood councils.

A regular meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, February 26. A presentation regarding a proposed multi-family development at 17000 Sunset Blvd. will be made by the developer and response by opposing residents will be heard.



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Tony Verna Invented Instant Replay

By BOB VICKREY
Palisades News Contributor

Having lunch with my pal Tony usually entailed requesting a third napkin for our table—one for each of us to use with our meal—and the third to use as a sketch pad so he could show me his latest invention.

He would often rush while eating his lunch so he could begin to doodle on the spare napkin and illustrate what technological ideas he was envisioning for his next project. That restless mind of his is what changed the way we watch television today, with his eventual introduction of instant replay.

Tony Verna died after a short illness in Palm Desert on January 18. The former Palisadian and award-winning producer and director was the mastermind behind numerous inspired advances which helped revolutionize the medium of television.

Verna was born to Italian immigrant parents in Philadelphia on November 26, 1933. He attended West Point for a short time before entering the University of Pennsylvania to study engineering. He eventually worked for several Philadelphia television stations before landing a job at CBS, where he directed national baseball telecasts.

The major milestone in his storied career



Tony Verna

Photo: Joi Ito

happened on December 7, 1963, when the 29-year-old CBS sports director was assigned to handle the annual Army-Navy football game. More than 100,000 fans packed Municipal Stadium in Philadelphia that day to see a Navy team led by its Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Roger Staubach take on Army and quarterback Rollie Stichweh.

Director Verna had already alerted play-by-play announcer Lindsey Nelson that he had devised a method to replay the tape of

a game-changing play sometime during the contest. Nelson replied, "You're going to do what?"

When Verna's technical director finally punched up Rollie Stichweh's touchdown dive in the fourth quarter, he shouted in Nelson's ear, "This is it!" Nelson then cautioned the television audience, "This is not live, ladies and gentlemen. Army did not score again."

Media critics dubbed the achievement "The day televised football changed forever." *Entertainment Weekly* listed it as "One of the 100 greatest moments in television history." *Sports Illustrated* included it among television's "20 Great Tipping Points." Although the CBS network tried to take credit for Verna's astonishing innovation, Bill McPhail, the vice-president of CBS Sports, always referred to it as "Tony's baby."

The multi Emmy Award-winner had a remarkable record in the sports world as he produced and/or directed five Super Bowls, 12 Kentucky Derbies, several NBA Championships and Stanley Cups, the 1960 Rome Olympics, and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

By the early 1960s, Tony had directed so many games in Green Bay that he had become good friends with Coach Vince Lombardi. He would fly in the day before the game and Lombardi would pick him up at the airport and they would go directly to the best Italian restaurant in town. This is such a simple story, but it points out the difference in that era, and today's NFL. Can you envision New England Coach Bill Belichick picking up the CBS Sports director at Logan Airport in Boston and going to dinner with him?

Tony Verna's accomplishments have often been relegated to the niche of sports producer and director, but his career spanned a considerably wider scope, including work in the entertainment field and his cutting-edge development in technological innovation.

He produced and directed Bob Geldof's initial "Live Aid" concert in 1985, which was the first musical fundraiser of its type to address the issue of world poverty. The follow-

ing year he created the biggest single satellite hookup in the history of television with an event called, "Prayer for World Peace," which featured Pope John Paul II. The extraordinarily complicated task of producing a show that reached 16 countries and connected five continents represented a major triumph in the use of new technology.

To say that Verna lived a colorful and enchanted life would indeed be a mild understatement. I often encouraged him to tell me stories about Grace Kelly, Duke Ellington, Edward R. Murrow and Joe DiMaggio, and he always gladly complied with a tale seemingly better than the one before.

When Tony began telling me about all the new projects he had been working on during our last meeting, I could sense the same excitement that young director likely had when he once dreamed of finding a more exciting way to broadcast games into American living rooms and enhancing the viewing experience for millions of sports fans. That ingenious mind of his was never still. Tony Verna was constantly planning the next big thing.

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.

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.

To prepare for the tournament, the L.A. Golf Academy Golf Development Program for Juniors holds classes Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and Friday from 4 to 5 p.m. Call (310) 230-2052 or visit LAGolfAcademy@gmail.com.



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Wine Tasting Event Is Successful



Wine-tasting event organizer Tameron Keyes (right) tastes Tierray Vino wines poured by Caren Rideau. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

A Saturday afternoon event at the Woman's Club, attended by more than 100 people, was a perfect low-key opportunity not only to greet neighbors, but also to taste a variety of wines, bid on silent auction items and try delectable snacks prepared by local eateries.

This was the first wine tasting hosted by the Woman's Club and helped raise money to refurbish the venerable clubhouse on the corner of Haverford and Radcliffe.

Woman's Club member Tameron Keyes, a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch, was the lead organizer for the event.

"Every penny we've raised in the past, we've given to local nonprofits," she said. "But we haven't taken care of our clubhouse and now we find ourselves in a position where we have to do this so that we can continue to make this space available to everyone who wants to use it."

The clubhouse, built in 1951 (with a 1956 addition) was owned by the Woman's Club. A different club, the Junior Women, held an annual home tour and donated proceeds to local nonprofits. When the two clubs merged in 2012, members recognized that the building would need to be renovated.

At an estimated cost of \$1.5 million, construction began last fall and included fixing the front roof, gutters and updating the restrooms, making them handicapped accessible. The next step of the three-year process will be to upgrade the kitchen, plumbing and electricity. This puts members of the Woman's Club in the position of raising money for renovation rather donation.

"We're pleased with the turnout," Keyes said at the wine tasting. "I've never taken the lead on organizing an event because of my job, but I love wine, so I said okay, I can do it."

She visited and e-mailed every group that has benefitted from prior Junior Women's Club grants and invited them to come. "We hit up a lot of people," Keyes said.

She also called local restaurateurs; and



Doug Timewell, owner of Toucan Vineyards, attended Palisades High. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

TASTE donated meatballs, Sam's By the Beach supplied pumpkin lasagna and Matthew's Café contributed bruschetta. "These restaurants were really generous," Keyes said.

Initially, Keyes thought it would be easy to secure vineyards, but after calling several and receiving no response, she learned "Vineyards at small wine tastings participate because of relationships." She put out the word to everyone in the club and the result was five vineyards that "all have some sort of Palisades connection."

Jean Aroeste was trying a Skinner Vineyard Syrah wine. "I strictly drink red wine," she said. "This is awfully good." Mike Skinner is chair of the Palisades Park Advisory Board and his family belongs to Corpus Christi Church. The Vineyard is located in Fair Play in the Sierra foothills.

Doug Timewell, owner of Toucan Vineyards, attended Palisades High. The school's chief business officer and former Chamber of Commerce president Greg Wood met Timewell at an Optimist wine tasting and the two have stayed in touch. Timewell was pouring Zinfandel and Petit Sirah.

(Continued on Page 22)

Allied Artists Host Plein-Air Paint-Out

A plein-air paint-out will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 14, at the Paramount Ranch in Agoura, 2903 Cornell Rd.

A paint out is a great way to meet other artists and discover new sites for inspiration. All levels of artists are welcome. Located in the Santa Monica Mountains, the Paramount Ranch is a former movie location, and provides old frontier buildings, beautiful mountains, oak groves and winding creek beds. There will be an oil painting

demo at 9:30 a.m.

Bring your own art supplies, water, lunch, sunscreen and repellent, hat and walking shoes. Meet in the parking lot. Rain cancels the paint-out.

Contact Bruce Trentham, (818) 397-1576 or bmtrentham@charter.net or Annie Hoffman, (310) 339-8396 or annieart2@me.com.

Members are also sought for Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains and seashore. Members receive a newsletter and invitations to exhibits. Artists create representational artworks that depict the Santa Monica Mountains, its coastal areas and the icons associated with these mountains, which may exhibit at the associations art shows. Members are invited to display their works on the website allied-artists.com/.

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Wine Tasting

(Continued from Page 21)

"We have property in San Luis Obispo," Timewell said. "We don't do this [making wine] for the money, but for the passion."

Also pouring was Pali Wines. The company was named after owner Tim Perr's hometown, Pacific Palisades. He co-founded the company in 2005 with Scott Knight, specializing in Pinot Noir. They now have tasting rooms in Lompoc and in the "Funk Zone" in Santa Barbara.

Tierray Vino agreed to come to the Woman's Club winetasting because Caren Rideau was the designer for one of the homes on the home tour this year. "My partner has been making wines from the Santa Ynez Valley for 25 years," Rideau said.

Also represented was the Donelan Family Wines, whom one of the Woman's Club members connected with a wine/food pairing event at Sam's By the Beach. The Donelan Winery is located in Sonoma County and the company produces Syrah, Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

Larry Cohen and the Canyon Bistro, with Bob Leatherbarrow on drums, Larry Cohen on keyboard, Ken Wilds on bass and vocalist Leslie Smith, provided just the right ambience on a nearly perfect day as sun streamed through the large bay windows, providing views of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Elena Avanesova, Marina Soutyrine, Elisabeth Anisiomow, Alla Images and Alexander Chistov were among the artists showcased, with their work available for sale.

Visit: theppwc.org.



In addition to the wine tasting, there were numerous items to bid on, a jazz band and art for sale.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Speaker on Patterned Orchids Need a Special Valentine? Try a Singing Quartet

The Malibu Orchid Society will host Miki Batchman, co-owner of Casa de las Orquideas, who will speak on "Patterned and Peloric Cymbidiums." The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. All are invited.

Casa de las Orquideas is a small family-

owned orchid nursery in Solana Beach, specializing in cool-growing cymbidiums and zygopetalum hybrids. It was founded in 1976 by the award-winning cymbidium hybridizer Loren Batchman and was passed down to Karl and Miki Batchman in 2011. Miki is involved with the lab work at the nursery, which is known for its high-color unusual cymbidiums suitable for outdoor growing.

Following the lecture, there will be a raffle table and an opportunity to purchase these unusual cymbidiums.

The Malibu Orchid Society, a nonprofit founded 52 years ago, has been meeting at the Woman's Club for the past 20 years. In addition to holding an annual orchid auction in April, MOS hosts expert orchid speakers on many facets of growing orchids in Southern California and displays member-grown orchids at each monthly meeting.

Visit: malibuorchidsociety.org/

If you want to give a Valentine that won't be easily forgotten, try a singing Valentine. The Santa Monica Oceanaires will send a quartet to your doorstep, place of business or another location of your choice to serenade a loved one.

Members of the group have entertained Southern California for more than 25 years with barbershop harmony.

Valentine song delivery is available Friday or Saturday, February 13 or 14. Your lucky Valentine will receive two love songs, a Valentine balloon and a card. The cost is \$50. You can request Palisadian Allen Hansen's group by asking for Sound Stage or Pastor Wally Mees's group by asking for Big and Tall.

Visit: SingingValentinesLA.com or oceanaires.org or call (323) 247-SING.

Mysterious Book Club

The Palisades Branch Library will host a Mysterious Book Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17. This month's book is *How the Light Gets In*, by Louise Penny. New members are invited.

Most of Chief Inspector Armand Gamache's best agents have left the Homicide Department, his old friend and Lieutenant Jean-Guy Beauvoir hasn't spoken to him in months, and then he receives a message from Myrna Landers that a longtime friend has failed to arrive for Christmas in the village of Three Pines. Gamache soon discovers the missing woman was once one of the most famous people not just in North America, but in the world, and now goes unrecognized by virtually everyone except the mad, brilliant poet Ruth Zardo.



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Getty's Central Garden: An Artist's Creation Preserved

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Palisades News Contributor
Photos by Libby Motika

Twenty years ago, two years before the Getty Center opened, Robert Irwin's artistic vision for the Central Garden was already finding form and horticultural compatibility. Irwin approached the landscape design through the eyes of an artist and created what Central Garden supervisor Michael Dehart calls a piece of art, a living sculpture.

Because of this distinction as art, the structure and feeling of the garden has been maintained and nurtured, while taking into account that the garden has a life of its own as plants change in size and appearance with each season.

Dehart, a certified horticulturist offered to give me a tour of the garden in mid-January, the month of anticipation before the February explosion.

Irwin and nurseryman Jim Duggan worked together for two years before the garden was installed. From the start, the project was unusual, as Irwin was neither a landscape designer nor a gardener, but a painter and a sculptor. Duggan helped develop the design, collected the plants and trees that appeared on Irwin's plant list and nurtured them in his nursery in Encinitas to determine which varieties would be suitable and sustainable, but more importantly which would fit into Irwin's focus on texture, color and form.

"The garden started out with 350 species," Dehart says. "This has been reduced by the nature of plants growing and taking up more space."

Keeping Irwin's design intact, Dehart has refined the scheme, keeping the plants that have been successful and building upon them. The structural pieces, including the trees and large bushes, anchor the outline of the garden. The seasonal plants—poppies in spring, dahlias in summer and dogwood in winter—are replanted annually.

A Getty veteran, Dehart served as chief supervisor of the Getty Villa garden before major reconstruction closed the museum in 1997. In the intervening nine

years (the Villa reopened in 2006), Dehart assumed responsibilities at the Central Garden.

Dehart oversees the public areas at the top of the hill, including some 250 containers. His staff of 24 includes five workers for the Central Garden, four for the "top of the hill," three who specialize in trees, and two who focus on irrigation.

With water efficiency a top priority in drought-stricken California, the Getty has turned off the decorative water elements and switched out certain turf areas with decomposed granite, but the water in the stream and waterfall continues to flow, being integral to Irwin's vision.

Part of the challenge is to keep the plants nourished and free from pests. In the early days when the garden was getting established, Dehart says they relied on fertigation (the application of fertilizers through an irrigation system), but now the goal is to "hold" the balance of nutrients.

"Now that the garden is established, we apply a light fertilizer by hand every three months," Dehart says pointing out that except for the Central Garden, all the plants are in containers, as those planting areas on patios and in courtyards are built on top of other structures.

As for pests, Dehart has been very lucky. "We get wildlife. We discovered a coyote den under one of the bridges, tipped off when we smelled 'wet dog.' When we went in, we disturbed the den and the mother went somewhere else and we secured the entrance to prevent further nesting."

The bunny story is even better. Dehart had a contract with a pest-control company but didn't have to use it. "The barn owls took care of our problem. One owl eats five small mammals per night, and seven per night when feeding babies." The deer are another story, he says. "They devoured all the acacias."

Dehart is a zealot when it comes to "keeping the Getty garden green. There are absolutely no pesticides and we pick snails by hand. We stay on top of where they collect." Every year, the Getty releases 5,000 ladybugs in the Central Garden and at the Villa to feast on aphids that like the jacarandas and azaleas during the spring months.



Getty Center Garden Supervisor Michael Dehart

Perhaps the most labor-intensive activity each and every day goes unnoticed. "Yesterday's footprints on the decomposed granite walkway at the top of the garden have to be removed every night," Dehart says. "It takes 32 man-hours a week, which almost equals one full-time employee."

The footprints are a testament to the popularity of Irwin's sculpture in the form of a garden.

Over the last 17 years, nature has taken over, just as Irwin had imagined as he expressed in the poetic epithet carved in stone: "Ever Present, Never Twice the Same, Ever Changing, Never Less than Whole," Robert Irwin, 1997.



Left: Mirror plant, or the looking-glass plant, is a native of New Zealand. Right: The purple flower is called Oxalis Garnet and is a native of South Africa.

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Sweethearts Page



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This charming café is now in its 25th year of providing locals with excellent Italian food. Owners Alesandro (Alex) Ercoli and partner Gianpietro Silardi work hard to provide the latest and tastiest fresh specialties.

The salad and antipasto menu varies from a simple bruschetta for \$7 and a Mista mixed salad of chopped butter lettuce with radicchio, shaved carrots and sliced tomatoes for \$9 to prosciutto topped with fresh buffalo mozzarella \$19.

I found the pomodori and cipollini—sliced fresh tomatoes topped with thinly sliced onions, basil and anchovies (\$12)—to be excellent. Anchovies added just the right touch.

My daughter ordered the pepperoni (roasted red and yellow bell peppers), topped with extra-virgin olive oil, Kalamata olives, fresh burrata cheese and fresh parsley (\$14) and found it to be exceptional. I, too, found it delicious and thoroughly enjoyed my taste.

A nice feature at the restaurant is the large assortment of choices, giving those with different appetites a small dish, or a bowl of soup, or a simple pasta, rather than having to order an entrée.

Soups vary from a simple fresh vegetable broth (\$10), to Zuppa di Pesce in Guazetto with Manila clams, black mussels, calamari, shrimp, crab claw and fish in a lightly spicy tomato sauce. (This \$30 dish is a favorite of mine.)

More than a dozen pastas are listed, and several are gluten-free. On the menu is the Caffé Delfini's famous zinguine pasta made entirely of fresh zucchini. I enjoyed a small dish of it with marinara sauce. It is known to be a standout, and I can now see why.

The pastas are mostly in the \$15.50 to \$18 price range with the exception of those with seafood such as Manila clams, black mussels, etc. These are \$23 or \$24.

The pasta special of the evening was homemade ravioli with garlic-enhanced buttery spinach. It was so scrumptious that I did not want to share (except for one bite for my daughter).

Branzino Mediterraneo was stellar. It was one of the three "fish of the day" offerings. This Mediterranean striped bass was baked to perfection with white wine and a touch of rosemary and garlic. With the fish came roasted rosemary potatoes and spinach sautéed with garlic and a touch of red chili flake (\$37).

Other Secondi selections include a boneless, skinless and seasoned breast of free range chicken with a touch of garlic and rosemary (\$25), three natural veal dishes including medallions of veal sautéed with a Marsala sauce (\$32), and a sliced New York steak with balsamic sauce on a bed of arugula with sautéed ripini and roasted potatoes (\$38).

Our shared dessert of tiramisu (\$7) was outstanding: light, delicious and topped with fresh whipped cream. The coffee also was excellent.

There is something on this menu that will satisfy any appetite, and the setting is charming, low-key and cozy. Armchairs and linen-clad tables with candles, single



flowers and soft background music make conversation possible.

Wine and beer are available. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 5:30 to 10 p.m. On Friday and Saturday the restaurant is open until 10:30 p.m. and Sunday hours are 5 to 9:30 p.m.

For private parties or large gatherings there is a separate room that can accommodate 36 diners. Catering is available at the restaurant or in your home, along with delivery service and take-out. Valet parking is \$7.

Palisades Symphony to Perform Beethoven Concert February 15

The Palisades Symphony will perform at 7:30 p.m. on February 15 at the Palisades Lutheran Church, 15905 Sunset Blvd. Under the direction of Joel Lish, the concert features pianist Yolanda Klappert, who will perform Beethoven's *Third Piano*

Concerto in C Minor. Also on the program is Beethoven's *Symphony No. 7 in A Major*.

This free concert is made possible by donors to the Palisades Symphony Orchestra. Parking is in the Lutheran church lot whose entrance is from El Medio.

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theatre palisades PRESENTS

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THEATRE REVIEW

Diary of Anne Frank Is a Must-See

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The *Diary of Anne Frank* is one of the best shows that Theatre Palisades has produced in recent history. It plays Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through February 22. This is a top-caliber production.

There were three reasons I initially did not want to go: I've read the book; I've seen the play; and the subject is too depressing.

The reasons to see the show start with the woman who plays Anne Frank—Sigi Gradwohl. She is Anne: determined and outspoken, at the verge of transforming into a young woman. She is a role model for all young women of any generation.

In an April 1944 entry, Frank wrote: "I finally realized that I must do my schoolwork to keep from being ignorant, to get on in life, to become a journalist. . . And if I don't have the talent to write books or newspaper articles, I can always write for myself. But I want to achieve more than that. I can't imagine living like Mother, Mrs. van Daan and all the women who go about their work and are then forgotten. I need to have something besides a husband and children to devote myself to!"

Frank was the epitome of someone who never backed down, never "knew her place," and Gradwohl plays her perfectly.

I had forgotten that the play, written by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett and

given its initial premiere on Broadway in 1955, promises hope. In a time of ISIS and other horrors, *Diary*, which won a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, reminds us of history. After World War II, it was estimated that only 5,000 of the 107,000 Jews deported from the Netherlands between 1942 and 1944 survived.

Yet, through Anne's voice we hear: "In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever-approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again."

In 1999, *Time* magazine named Frank among the heroes of the 20th century. With a diary kept in a secret attic, she braved the Nazis and lent a searing voice to the fight for human dignity.

The lighting transforms you to a place that doesn't seem real, which is exactly what is needed to portray the existence these people had for almost two years.

The Pierson Playhouse stage is small, but this is perfect for the set constructed by Sherman Wayne. This production is impeccable.

The sound design that must include Anne's thoughts as she writes in her diary,



Anne Frank (Sigi Gradwohl) and her sister Margot (Courtney Long) share a happy moment while Mrs. Frank (Sabra Miller) busies herself making dinner. Photo: Joy Daunis

combined with an actor's voice onstage, is seamless.

The actors, an ensemble cast, blend together and are well cast. Accolades must go to director Sabrina Lloyd, who skillfully orchestrated the staging and was able to get

exactly the right emotion from each actor.

The Pierson Playhouse is located at 941 Temescal Canyon Rd. Call (310) 454-1970 or visit theatrepalisades.org for tickets (General admission \$20. Seniors and students \$18.).

Optimist Club Seeks 2015 Grant Applicants

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

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

Awards 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 club president George La Brot (georgelabrot@aol.com) to receive an application and grant guidelines.

"We Optimists basically see ourselves as merely conduits for funds for community

projects," La Brot said.

Optimist Club members volunteer every Fourth of July at the Will Rogers 5/10K Run. They take care of day-of-race registrations, hand out water to runners during the race and pass out T-shirts at the end.

For their efforts, the club receives proceeds from race registration fees, which it then donates to youth organizations.

Last October, a check for \$10,000 was presented by race committee organizer, and Optimist, Chuck McGlothlin for the Optimist Youth Home and a second check for \$30,000 to be used for the foundation grants for the 2014-2015 donation program and high school scholarships.

Among the 2013-2014 recipients were the Girl Scouts (\$1,000), the Chamber of Commerce Teen Contest (\$1,000), Palisades Elementary (\$1,500), Paul Revere Middle School (\$6,000), Palisades Charter High School Booster Club (\$4,000) and the Palisades Charter High School Special Education department (\$3,000).



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