



Oliver and Sadie Sabin tried Sumo wrestling, while other youth tried out the giant air bubble rollers and bouncers. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

April is Autism Awareness Month. To honor families who have someone affected by an autism spectrum disorder, the third annual “Go Blue or Go Home” event was held on Sunday at the Palisades Recreation Center.

“This is a shout out to the Palisades community who came out to support this event,” said actress Marcia Gay Harden, who spoke to the crowd.

All proceeds from the event went to Autism Speaks, the world’s leading autism science and advocacy organization, which is dedicated to funding research into the causes, prevention, treatments and a cure for autism.

About 1 in 68 children have been identified with an autism spectrum disorder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and autism is five times more common among boys than girls.

Executive director of Autism Speaks Matthew Asner spoke at the event. “The most important thing is an awareness campaign and the need for money and research,” he

said, explaining that kids are often diagnosed around 18 months and it can be a lifetime challenge for families. “I truly believe in the next 15 years we will have answers.”

Executive director of Working with Autism and Yogurt Shoppe co-owner Jennifer Sabin and husband Kevin have hosted the event for three years. “The most significant aspect is to bring awareness to all of the families affected by autism as well as invite all individuals impacted by it to participate in a warm and caring environment,” Jennifer said.

“We feel passionate about drawing awareness to autism and about building community at the same time,” Kevin added.

As well as giant bouncers, face painting and carnival games, there was a silent auction.

The event was sponsored by the Apartment Market Group, Black Ink, Branches, Carly K, Elyse Walker, Friendship Circle, Gerry Blanck Martial Arts, Helen’s Cycles, Jaimie Geller Jewelry, Jonathan & George Salon, Juice Crafters, Kier Design, Liberty Mutual Insurance, Maemae Jewelry, Marc Michel Eyewear, Meche Salon (Guy Riggo), Pacific Palisades Pediatric Dentistry, Palisades News, The Yogurt Shoppe, Wieder Dermatology, Working With Autism and Yogi Girl Yogi Guy.

Visit: [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org).

## Community Input Sought For Bike/Pedestrian Path

The bike path between Santa Monica and Will Rogers beach serves not only bikers, but walkers, joggers, skaters and strollers. At times it is so crowded, it is inherently unsafe for everyone using it. A com-

munity meeting will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 23, in the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real, to discuss adding a pedestrian path.

Input is sought by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the City of Santa Monica about seeking a grant to fund the extension from California Avenue to Will Rogers State Beach. A separate pedestrian path will provide a safer alternative to the thousands who use it annually. At the meeting, the project will be explained and public input will be solicited. If you are unable to attend, but would like to comment, e-mail Abu Yusuf of L.A. County Public Works ([ayusuf@dpw.la-county.gov](mailto:ayusuf@dpw.la-county.gov)) or Judith Meister of the City of Santa Monica ([Judith.meister@smgov.net](mailto:Judith.meister@smgov.net)).

## Veteran Told To ‘Leave’ VA

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Marine veteran Shane Parrish was living in his car on the streets of Los Angeles, after Veterans Administration Police told him to leave the West LA campus on March 13.

“The police said that if they caught me again, they would arrest me for trespassing on VA property,” said Parrish, who had lived in his trailer on the Heroes Golf Course for the past three years.

In January, Secretary Robert A. McDonald and attorneys representing homeless veterans in Los Angeles announced an agreement that dedicates the West Los Angeles VA campus to serving veterans in need, but that did not help Parrish.

On March 13, the veteran was in his home when three police cars with lights and sirens drove up and started banging on the door.

“I was scared, I didn’t know what was happening,” said Parrish, who is currently on disability because he was hit in the head with a pipe in October, while working at the golf course. He said police didn’t tell “me what I did wrong.”

He called a friend, American Legion Post 283 past commander and Palisadian Lou Cozzolino, who negotiated time for Shane to gather a few belongings.

The two men asked the VA policemen what Parrish was being charged with and who had filed a complaint. The police told Parrish and Cozzolino they would need to file a freedom of information request.

The Palisades News called Watch Commander (Lt.) St. Croix and asked the charges, but St. Croix said he couldn’t comment because information would have to come from the public affairs office.

VA public information officer Nikki Baker spoke to the Palisades News on March 31 and promised to investigate. “As far as I know this America and the accused has the right to know what he is being charged with,” she said, but had not responded by April 12.

Parrish was also not told where the trailer had been towed. On April 10, Cozzolino said the watch commander told him it was in a police impound yard and that Parrish was charged daily for storage, and now owes more than \$1,800.

“This is no way to treat a vet,” Cozzolino said.

Parrish, who joined the military in 1972 and was trained as a helicopter machine gunner, was honorably discharged in 1974.

He began attending Glendale Commu-  
(Continued on Page 3)

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# Lawn Be Gone: Replaced With Natural Plants

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

**L**awn Be Gone" might have been a quip from Pacific Palisades resident and comedian Gail Wirth during one of her performances with the Spolin Players improv group. Instead, Wirth actually had her lawn removed last Saturday during a DWP workshop, and will replace it with a low-maintenance natural landscape.

During the three-hour DWP Hands-on-Workshop (HOW) held at Wirth's 1160 Charm Acres Place front yard, participants learned how to install a rain barrel; tear out turf without chemicals; learned how to build healthy soil; and how to capture rain water.

HOWs are led by trained professionals, and those LADWP ratepayers who attend a workshop receive a free garden-coaching session with a garden guru.

Wirth said she had thought about tearing out her lawn for a while, but the final push came when she mentioned it to Leslie Woolley, who chairs a local sustainability committee and encouraged her go forward with the project. (The two were active mothers at Palisades Elementary and have remained friends. Email: wool.rog@verizon.net.)

"I had rain barrels for years already and had just turned off my automatic sprinklers," Wirth said. "I was hand watering from a bucket of water that I put in my shower to catch 'warm-up' water."

She contacted the DWP to see if her lawn was suitable for the HOW program. After describing her lawn watering method, promising to advertise the event and signing an agreement that she was responsible for covering all non-included costs (turf removal, mulch, dumpster, plants and irrigation), Wirth's lawn was selected.

The current \$3 per square foot rebate offered by the DWP to replace qualifying lawns is only available after the project is completed, so those participating must also pay up-front costs.

Wirth estimated that after rebates the cost to replace her lawn will be between \$3,000 and \$4,000, but that is before factoring the water-savings cost.

Charm Acres neighbors, Tracy and David Price, who are co-owners of American Landscape, installed the native-plant landscaping on Wirth's lawn.

Visit: [watershedwisetraining.com/turf-removal/ladwp-turf-removal/](http://watershedwisetraining.com/turf-removal/ladwp-turf-removal/)



More than 55 residents attended a Hands-on-Workshop about lawn removal and replacement held by the DWP at 1160 Charm Acres.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

## Veteran

(Continued from Page 1)

nity college on the GI Bill, but found he could make more money working on the Universal lot as a gardener.

He was 22 in 1976 when he was in a motorcycle accident. His head injuries were so severe, he was in the hospital for a year.

Afterwards, he went back to work, but admits, "I sometimes got a sharp pain in my head."

In 2011, Parrish was on the West L.A. VA and volunteered his time at the Heroes Golf Course and the Japanese Gardens. (The Bandini Foundation bought out the Shared Land Use Agreement from U.S. Vets in 2010.) Bandini board member Scott Morey, also a vet, hired Parrish at \$15 an hour.

"A month later, Ricardo [Bandini Johnson] told me they couldn't pay me that much and took away \$3 an hour," Parrish said. "I was the only vet working there."

Cozzolino said Johnson, who is the Bandini Foundation board president, told Parrish he could buy a trailer and put it on the lot. "Shane was there from early in the morning to the evening and he could provide security," Cozzolino said. "That way he [Johnson] didn't have to give him a raise."

The News called Johnson for clarification, twice, but each time this reporter identified herself, the phone connection went dead. This reporter also went up to the golf course on two different occasions at the end of

March, but was unable to reach Johnson.

The News also tried to find out how many veterans the Heroes Golf Course employs, but VA public affairs officer Baker did not have that information.

As part of the agreement Bandini made with U.S. Vets in 2010, the foundation is to also take care of the Japanese Garden adjacent to the golf course. The Garden was initially designed as a place for veterans to go for solitude, reflection and healing. On a March visit, the Gardens were neglected: dirty water, weeds and no handicapped access.

At that same visit, a company was installing a \$37,000 artificial turf putting area on the golf course. Neither board member Morey nor Cozzolino knew about it because the last Bandini Foundation board meeting was in July 2014. Baker was also not aware of the installation.

Who filed the complaint? Cozzolino and Parrish suspect Johnson. "Ever since Parrish was hit in the head, he was harassed by Johnson because he wasn't working," Cozzolino said. "He unplugged the trailer."

"I plugged it back in," Parrish said. "But then it was unplugged again."

Cozzolino was able to get Parrish a temporary space in the Salvation Army site on the West L.A. VA.

Since Parrish has trouble concentrating, Cozzolino is filling out the forms to try and place Parrish in the CalVet home.

"I call him and remind him to do something and the next day he doesn't remember," Cozzolino said.

## Incline Closes Monday

**T**he California Incline will close Monday, April 20. The Incline-replacement project has been in the planning stages since 2009, when the 1930s-built bridge was deemed seismically unsafe.

Although some traffic contingencies have been made, it is hard to predict the true traffic impact of the closure of this major thoroughfare into Santa Monica.

Despite the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association plea for MCM Construction to work two-shifts for a possible faster completion date, the contractor plans to work from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Saturday, utilizing only one-shift. The Incline replacement is slated to take one year.

Traffic abatement plans include: signs on the 101 Freeway advising motorists to avoid the mountain thoroughfares to PCH; signs to direct southbound motorists wishing to go to Santa Monica to exit on

Moomat Ahiko or Lincoln; and the City of Santa Monica will fund a traffic control officer at Canyon School intersection to help slow southbound PCH motorists exiting at Channel Road who are traveling into Santa Monica.

Santa Monica officials confirmed that the traffic light at the incline will remain working and will stay mostly green to PCH traffic.

The Palisades News asked City of Santa Monica officials if there was a traffic plan for cars driving northbound on PCH that want to make a left-hand turn across southbound PCH lanes into beach parking lots.

During the summer and hot weekends, cars back up through the McClure Tunnel onto the 10 Freeway because of the inability to make a safe turn into the lots. It seems a mostly green light at the Incline will worsen the situation. City officials did not respond by press time.

## Chamber EXPO Is May 17

The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual EXPO from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 17 on the streets of Via de la Paz, Antioch and Swarthmore Avenue (between Sunset and Antioch).

The major sponsor this year is Areté Preparatory Academy (see story on page 3 of the Camps supplement in this issue).

The merchant sponsor is U.S. Bank and Optimus Properties (Via de la Paz Building) is sponsoring Amazing Music. Rodeo Realty is sponsoring the slot car race track.

Additional sponsors are: Vahn Alexander/Berkshire Hathaway Home Services; European Skin & Massage Studio; Rod Aragon/Teles Properties; and RLB Architecture.

The popcorn cart will be sponsored by Gelson's, resident member Jackie Maduff and RLB architecture. Large chocolate chip cookies baked by Chamber member Susan Payne (former Scarlett's Cupcake owner) will be sold (\$2). Palisades license plate frames will also be available (\$12).

The festivities will include live music by Amazing Music and Michael Cladis (one man band); demonstrations by Fancy Feet and Gerry Blanck's martial arts studio; and free information provided at booths that include health, education, financial, home & garden, technology and community organizations.

Call (310) 459-7963.



# Proposed Shell Mini-mart Discussed

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

**M**obil station owner Saeed Kohanoff is under contract to sell his station (at the corner of Swarthmore and Sunset) to developer Rick Caruso, with escrow to close in mid-2016.

After selling his station last fall, Kohanoff subsequently purchased the Shell station a block away at Via de la Paz. On March 26, he visited the Pacific Palisades Community Council to explain the proposed move of his existing mini-mart to the Shell site.

"Everything will be the same as the Mobil," said Kohanoff, a 30-year Palisades resident. "It will remain a 24-hour operation and I would continue to sell beer and wine from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m., the same as now. But those hours are flexible."

The new design will move Shell's 60-year-old car repair shop and provide 11 parking spaces by eliminating parking space in the alley. The existing number of pumps (8) will remain the same.

"We are proposing a 2,700-sq.-ft. building on a 16,000-sq.-ft. lot," Kohanoff said. "The mart [will] produce less noise and pollution than the existing smog-check station and mechanic bays."

Resident Andrew Frew, who said he spoke for the 107 people who live in the

condominiums directly behind the station, presented a petition from 82 families protesting the mini-mart because of noise concerns and view impairment (nine bedroom windows overlook the gas station).

Frew also questioned Kohanoff's application to the city, which states that the Shell site has been a mini-mart since 1961.

Kohanoff responded that the current Shell station is not a mini-mart, but inside there are snacks, water and sodas for sale.

Via neighbor Sandy Eddy wanted to know whether a traffic impact study had been done.

"We have done the environmental assessment form for the City," said Kohanoff's consultant King Woods. "They have not asked us to file a traffic study with a traffic analysis. If they want us to, we will."

Monument Street resident Ted Weitz wanted to limit the hours of operation to 10 p.m., because Kohanoff was cited four times and had his license suspended, primarily for selling to underage minors.

Weitz found the information from public records, from when the station opened in 1990, but the records do not list dates of infractions or more specific information.

Kohanoff, who was later contacted by *Palisades News*, said that was inaccurate. He said in the 25 years he has owned the sta-

(Continued on Page 4)



Rendering of the proposed new station that would replace the Shell station.

**John Closson,**  
Vice President  
and Regional  
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# Shell Mini-mart

(Continued from Page 4)

tion, once, a cashier sold to an undercover agent because of confusion over a birthday, and Kohanoff fired him. Another time involved a fake ID card from an out-of-state college (also a decoy).

Condominium resident Steven Carroll reminded the PPCC about the car wash the previous Shell owner sought to install in 2007. At the August Community Council meeting that year, there was significant resident opposition and the zoning administrator felt the car wash violated the Brentwood-Palisades specific plan. It was never built.

At-large representative second-alternate Michael Sonoff asked, "Is there a need or an outcry for alcohol at 7 a.m. in the morning?"

"There is a need in this community for a 24-hour mart," Kohanoff replied, noting he otherwise wouldn't have kept the facility open all these years.

Highlands first alternate Diane Bleak wondered if there are a lot of homeless individuals coming into the Mobil station.

"No, just the girl with the long hair who sleeps in her car and comes in and uses the bathroom to wash up," Kohanoff said.

Kohanoff was asked about the number of employees. "It would remain the same as now—at night, one to two people," he said. "The size of the mini-mart would be about

the same as the Mobil station."

He also said he could arrange that no fuel deliveries would be made at night and noted that the new plan allows a 20-ft. buffer zone between the station and nearby condominiums.

Temescal Canyon Association representative Gil Dembo said, "This station could close at 10, because initially Starbucks [in the Highlands, in 2013] wanted to stay open later and they listened to us."

"The hours are negotiable," Woods said. "We will make changes on the application to the deficiencies you have pointed out, parking spaces and the term 'mini-mart.'"

Kohanoff told the *News* this wasn't the first time he had come before the Community Council.

"About 20 years ago, there was concern because teenagers were gathering at the Mobil station. An LAPD sergeant, Steve Cunningham, told the PPCC then that the operation, hours and the fact that we sold beer and wine had nothing to do with kids gathering there."

Kohanoff added, "Maybe I should get out of my deal with Caruso Affiliated, keep the Mobil station and use the Shell station site for a mixed-use development."

The Mobil station corner is a linchpin for Caruso's redevelopment of north Swarthmore and the property along Sunset from Swarthmore east to Denton Jewelers.

# Mindful Approach for Anxiety to be Taught

Psychiatrist Lana Benedek will be teaching a workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 2 on the Mindful Approach for anxiety at the Center for Mindful Living at 11850 Wilshire Blvd. (at the corner of Westgate—between Bundy and Barrington).

"It's a really lovely place and I feel so happy to be teaching there," said Benedek, who taught a mindful parenting workshop at Palisades Elementary on November 3 ["Mindfulness: Helping Parents Get Present" by Laura Abruscato].

In a mindful meditation, having one's mind drift off is not a problem. It's just another opportunity to lovingly bring the mind back to the present moment. That practice is called mindful awareness.

Benedek, who also teaches mindfulness to groups and individuals, feels that groups or guided meditations are a good way to start a meditation practice.

A secularized meditation based on Buddhist practice, mindfulness was brought to mainstream health care in 1979 by Jon Kabat-Zinn, who started what is now known as mindfulness-based stress reduction.

In 1997, he wrote with his wife Myla Kabat-Zinn *Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting*, one of several

books on the subject recommended by Benedek.

She has lived in the Alphabet Streets for six years with her husband Rafael Simon, an environmental technology consultant, and their children Jesse, 5, and Ava, 7. Simon grew up in Pacific Palisades and his mother Sondra Simon still lives here as well.

Visit: [mindfullivingla.org/offerings/workshops/](http://mindfullivingla.org/offerings/workshops/).

## Marquez Elementary Construction Meeting

The Los Angeles Unified School District facilities staff will meet school parents, neighbors and community members at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, at the Marquez Auditorium at Marquez School, 16821 Marquez Ave.

Discussed will be the summer demolition of the 60-year-old L-shaped classroom building that was constructed partially on landfill. The scope of facility improvement and modernization will be addressed as well as the timeline for the project. There will be a question-and-answer session.

Call: Jose de Paz, LAUSD Community Relations at (213) 241-4141.

## PACIFIC PALISADES REPUBLICAN CLUB

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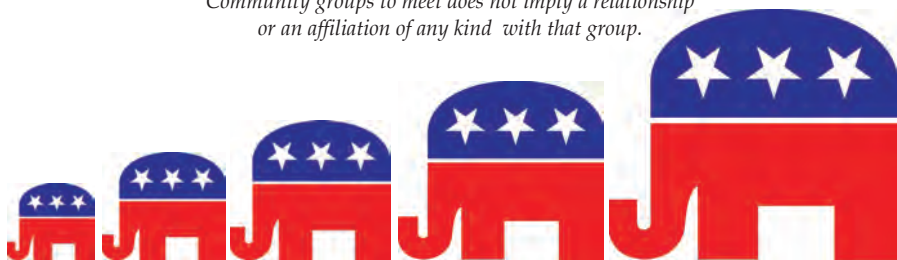
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## Heard About Town

### Not the Fame You Want

An April episode of *Law and Order: SVU* tackled the vaccination debate. At the end of the episode during a trial, a doctor under oath explained the dangers of measles and then mentioned that patient “zero” contacted the measles in the under-vaccinated community of Pacific Palisades.

### YogaWorks Closing

I have been a regular at YogaWorks on Sunset Boulevard for many years. I found out recently that the Palisades studio is closing at the end of May. This is a great loss to the community. If YogaWorks had told us that the fees would have to go up to maintain the studio, I think most of us would have agreed to it. I urge some civic-minded, entrepreneurial yogi to take over the lease and open a new studio. There is a core group that would be ready to join.

### Ugliest Cell Tower

In last paper’s Heard About Town, someone said residents should vote over which cell tower was uglier, the one on Via de la Paz or the one on Sunset. Hands down, it’s the one on Via de la Paz. There’s no attempt to disguise this big ugly brown pole; maybe someone could hang leaves or bird houses from it—something, anything would help.

### Water Helpful Palisadians

Three cheers for all the Palisadian homeowners who have replaced their thirsty lawns with beautiful drought-tolerant plants. Not only are you reducing your water usage, but you’re also helping to limit the air and sound pollution that lawn mowers create. You’re an inspiration to the community!

### Weaker Cell Phone Signal

I have noticed that the AT&T signal has reduced considerably in this area. Has anyone else noticed this? Do all the new towers belong to competitors?

### It All Ends Up in the Ocean

Not to get on the “poop” train, but why can’t dog walkers be more considerate and pick up the dog dung? When they don’t, the fecal matter eventually ends up in the ocean—and then you swim in it. Delightful thought, isn’t it?

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

## ANN CLEAVES



## VIEWPOINT

# Overstuffed and Filled Garages

By MARCI SLADE CRESTANI  
Palisades News Contributor

Why do we box up stuff and save it in our garage? If I encased the entire contents of my garage in amber, I am sure that thousands of years from now, archeologists will come to the erroneous conclusion that people in the twenty-first century built a shrine to themselves by continually packing their life’s stuff in boxes and storing it in a special temple called the garage.

Because very few houses in California have basements, our state’s motto seems to be “Ohhhh, just put it in the garage!” Consequently, our valuable cars are parked outside on the street or in the driveway while our junk lives indoors, protected from the elements. This never fails to astonish any of our houseguests who live east of the Rockies.

However, now that I’m sliding down the backside of life’s bell curve, I have this overwhelming urge to clean out and simplify. So far it’s not going so well.

That’s because I’ve only opened up boxes of good stuff. This is stuff that you just can’t bear to part with yet because you paid a lot of money for it. The subtitle of these boxes should be “Stuff that is too good to give away to poor people,” because that really is what you’re subconsciously thinking as you box it back up again.

So what happens is that you save this good stuff until it is so outdated that it would no longer be universally assessed as good—not due to quality of materials or craftsmanship, but due strictly to style issues or because a

more highly engineered version of it is now the standard.

I’ve been down this road before and here’s what happens:

One day you finally cave and decide to give this stuff to the Salvation Army. As you hand over your box to the donations man, you make piercing eye contact with him while saying emphatically, “This is *really* good stuff”—as if he cares and is going to say, “Oh, wow, in that case, let me call my manager!”

But when your good stuff lands on the shelf of the Salvation Army store, even poor people will say, “Hmmmmm, these polished-brass drawer pulls are exquisite—and obviously very expensive—but I’m looking for something in satin nickel.”

Thanks to designer-friendly Walmart and Target, the style bar is set pretty high in this country compared to other countries. In other words, just because you shop at Salvation Army doesn’t mean you don’t know *passé* merchandise when you see it.

My mother was the queen of shedding stuff. I swear after opening her Christmas presents, I’d catch her assessing the order in which she was going to give them away. It used to make me mad, but I finally realize how cool she was for deciding that there’s no point to keeping things in boxes in the garage—or the basement, in her case—simply because more stuff is *always* headed your way.

*(Editor’s note: This essay was adapted from Marci Slade Crestani’s Halfway to Dead: After 50, You Just Have to Laugh, available through Amazon.)*

### Thought to Ponder

“Cries for help are frequently inaudible.”

— Tom Robbins,  
*Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*

## PALISADES NEWS

Founded November 5, 2014

15332 Antioch Street #169  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
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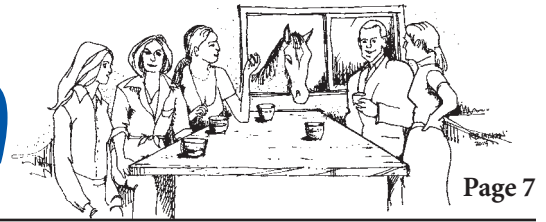
A bi-monthly newspaper mailed on the first and third Wednesday of each month. 14,500 circulation includes zip code 90272 and Sullivan, Mandeville and Santa Monica Canyons.

Online: [palisadesnews.com](http://palisadesnews.com)

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## EDITORIAL

### L.A. Ranks High in Unsolved Hit-and-Runs

According to several news accounts, Los Angeles ranks first among above all major cities in the United States in hit-and-run accidents. Is enough being done to locate these drivers?

Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore sent out the following notice via e-mail to residents of Pacific Palisades. "On Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at approximately 7:35 a.m., a motorcyclist was riding westbound on Sunset Boulevard at Kenter Avenue. The motorcyclist was splitting between lanes one and two when he collided with the passenger side of a white moving van. The motorcyclist lost control and collided with the roadway and sustained fatal injuries.

"The driver of the vehicle continued on westbound Sunset Boulevard, failing to stop and render aid. The Los Angeles City Fire Department responded to the scene and provided immediate medical attention.

"Anyone with information related to this collision should contact West Traffic Detectives (213) 473-0234 or West Traffic Division (213) 473-0222. Tipsters may remain anonymous by calling 'Crime Stoppers' at (800) 222-TIPS (8477)."

On Sunday March 21, the *L.A. Times* identified the motorcyclist as Ehsan Fazel, 36, of Woodland Hills.

Some Pacific Palisades residents may still wonder about Erin Galligan, 30, who was riding her bicycle on PCH back to Venice, after working in Pacific Palisades in July 2012. She was struck at 11 p.m. by a 1999

Chevrolet Silverado 1500 extra cab truck. According to KCBS-2 television, the impact was so severe that police had to search the area to find her body. The driver sped away without stopping, disappearing into traffic on eastbound I-10 and was never found.

Even closer to home, it took a \$100,000 cash reward to track down Pacific Palisades postal worker Marguerite Dao Vuong, 67, after the December 2013 hit-and-run crash that killed 23-year-old resident David Pregerson.

A 2013 *USA Today* report called "Los Angeles the ground zero for hit-and-run crashes." In Simone Wilson's story ("L.A.'s Bloody Hit-and-Run Epidemic") in *L.A. Weekly* in 2012, she reported 20,000 such incidents in the city each year.

Wilson also reported that in 2009, the most recent year for which complete statistics were available, 48 percent of crashes in the city were hit-and-runs and 4,000 resulted in injuries or death.

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck countered her claim, saying it was an unfair comparison because the annual "vehicle miles traveled" (VMT) by motorists in sprawling L.A. must be compared with the annual VMT in the five other cities.

LAPD then reported, based on that comparison, L.A. has better statistics than New York, Chicago and Houston. *Palisades News* feels Beck should not worry so much about how the city is ranked, but rather take the position that any unsolved hit-and-run is one too many.

Wilson spoke to Jeri Dye Lynch of Van Nuys, whose

son, 16-year-old cross-country star Conor Lynch was killed when struck by a car while jogging in the San Fernando Valley: the driver sped away. "But there's nobody there to help," Jeri Dye Lynch said. "They [L.A. City and police] just accept it as part of living in an urban environment."

The 18-year-old driver who hit Conor Lynch did no jail time because she eventually turned herself in.

Police say the first few days after a hit-and-run are crucial, because those driving the car almost immediately patch up incriminating car damage.

Starting in February, Los Angeles City Councilmen Mitchell Englander and Joe Buscaino introduced a citywide alert system that uses Nixle, Twitter and Facebook to broadcast to local communities in the event of a fatal hit-and-run incident.

"When somebody hits somebody on the side of a road and leaves them there to die . . . it's inhumane, and it's a crime," Englander said.

It's a first step, but the City must do more. All auto body repair shops must be put in a database and alerts should go out about vehicles that have come in for repair—and then offer the shop's owner a reward of \$5,000. Relatives and friends of hit-and-run drivers must be encouraged to do the right thing by calling the police.

And, although some of those committing hit-and-runs may never be caught, let us hope their conscience never allows them peace; that they live in a self-made hell.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More Thoughtful Road Repair Schedule Sought

With the ever increasing delays in completing the road work on PCH, soon to be coupled with the closure of the California Incline, am I the only bloke that won't be surprised if the repairs on Chautauqua Boulevard up from PCH also begin concurrently?

It seems to me that this blimey mess is compounded by the unwillingness of these road repairs to be completed at nighttime under lights, which would not only allow the work to be finished on schedule but also provide minimal disruptions and loss of economic capacities. Having been raised and educated in the UK I can state that anyone in London responsible for a similar bloody boondoggle would find himself out of a job. . . and have you seen London's traffic?

Dennis Katz

M.S. Structural Engineering, East Hampton MC  
Ph.D. Civil Engineering, Oxford University

### House Building Restriction Suggestions

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent by the Pacific Palisades Civic League to Councilman Mike Bonin about the possible new building restrictions for Pacific Palisades.)

At our March 23, 2015 meeting, the Pacific Palisades Civic League (PPCL) voted on specific elements of the recently passed Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) that our organization supports or opposes. We also discussed

other measures that we think should be included in any ordinance affecting Tract 9300. We understand that any new restrictions for the Palisades will be made within a 12 to 18 month time frame.

We voted to support the following changes to both the BMO and BHO:

A. Keep intact the percentages for the base area that are currently in the BMO and BHO. We oppose reducing the area of those properties under 7,500-sq.-ft. to 45 percent in a R1 Zone.

B. Preserve the area exemption for (1) the first 400 sq. ft. of garage area, (2) basements that comply with the City's requirements, and (3) the first 250 sq.ft. of first floor porches or second floor covered spaces. We agree with the current exemption for trellises.

C. Eliminate the Green Building bonus since the California Green Code mandates green construction.

D. We support the continuation of the following 20-percent bonus methods:

1. Proportional Stories Method. Second floor to be a maximum of 75 percent of the area of the first floor and garage.
2. Front Façade Step-back Method. Twenty-five percent of the building width shall be stepped back 20 percent of the building depth.
3. Thirty-Percent Side Yard Setback. The sum of both side yard setbacks to be 30 percent of the width of the lot.

E. We suggest that the following items be incorporated in any proposed ordinance for properties within Tract 9300:

1. Include those properties that are within the Coastal

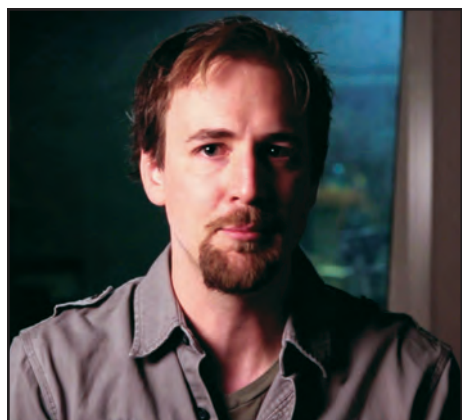
Zone, but not on the water, under the jurisdiction of the BMO or BHO.

2. Include the exterior walls for the floor area calculations (gross floor area).
3. Covered porches on the second floor, open a minimum on two sides and supported by columns, to be counted as half area.
4. Establish a maximum height of 28 feet as determined by the average of the four setback intersections.
5. Establish a height envelope at the side yard setback to give some relief to adjacent neighbors. The City currently allows a height of 33 or 36 feet at the setback lines. The PPCL's envelope starts at 22 feet from the average existing grade at the side yard setback and continues up at a slope of 8 vertical to 12 horizontal to the maximum building height of 28 feet.
6. Require a seven-and-half-foot setback from the building perimeter setback to the edge of any roof decks above the second floor.

While the proposed ordinance may be necessary in areas without homeowner association restrictions, the PPCL has been enforcing our design guidelines for the past 25 years. There are several architects and designers on our Board, and we would like to be given the opportunity to participate in the process of determining what is suitable for the Palisades—specifically Tract 9300.

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





KUSC-FM host Brian Lauritzen

## St. Matthew's Guild Presents 'Violin-fest'

St. Matthews Music Guild offers "Violin-fest—a Celebration of the Violin" at 8 p.m. on Friday, April 24 at St. Matthew's Church, 1031 Bienvenida Ave. Featured are the combined string sections of The Chamber Orchestra at St. Matthew's and the Salasina Music Society.

The program will feature four violin soloists: Yi-Huan Zhao, St. Matthew's concertmaster, Alexander Kalman, assistant concertmaster, and the co-founders and

artistic directors of Salastina Music Society, Kevin Kumar and Maia Jasper. All four will be featured in Antonio Vivaldi's "Concerto for Four Violins and Orchestra."

Also at the concert will be KUSC-FM host Brian Lauritzen, who will introduce "Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a" by Dmitri Shostakovich. The composer produced his "Eighth String Quartet" in 1960 and authorized an arrangement for string orchestra by Russian violinist Rudolf Barshai. At

the time of the completion, the work was entitled "Chamber Symphony, Op. 110a" and filled with Shostakovich's signature musical figure—the notes D, E-flat, C, and B which, in the German notation, is D-S-C-H, for D. S. Hostakovich.

Jasper and Kumar will perform composer Benedikt Brydren's piece "Autobahn," written for a violin duo. Brydren studied violin and piano at the Richard Strauss Academy of Music in Munich. He now scores music for motion pictures and television.

Rounding out the program will be Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg's "Holberg Suite," a work in five movements based on 18th century dance forms.

Tickets are \$35 at the door or online at [musicguildonline.org](http://musicguildonline.org). Call (310) 573-7422.

## Larsen Is Next 'Food For Thought' Speaker

Chuck Larsen, who currently advises television network producers and has stories about "All the famous people who have met me," will speak at the monthly "Food for Thought" series on Thursday, April 23, after the free luncheon at 11:30 a.m. in the Palisades Presbyterian Church's community room, Janes Hall.

A 28-year Palisades resident, Larsen, who was born in Howell, Michigan, a small farming community between Lansing and Detroit, started his television career as a reporter/anchorman at an ABC affiliate in Indianapolis in the 1970s.

Larsen was hired to start up a television distribution company in New York in the 1980s. In 1997, he formed his own consulting company October Moon TV, which

works with all of the major studios including Warner Bros., 20th Fox Television, CBS TV Distribution Group, Sony, NBC and Disney ABC Distribution as participant consultants on the sales and marketing of client projects. Prior to October Moon, he was president of worldwide distribution for MTM Entertainment.

Over the years he has had the opportunity to work with a variety of people from Richard Nixon to David Letterman to Buzz Aldrin to Charlie Sheen.

Larsen promises to tell many stories about his years in show business.

Call (310) 454-0366 to make reservations for the complimentary luncheon, so that the appropriate amount of food can be prepared.



Chuck Larsen will speak at the next Food for Thought series.

## Rain Report

The April 7 shower brought in .37 of an inch of rain, per an official Los Angeles County rain gauge, located at Carol Leacock's home on Bienvenida Avenue.

Deputy assistant rainmeister Ted Mackie said normal to date is 15.31 inches. Season total is 7.96 inches of rain, compared to 6.13 inches last year at this time. "Our local rainfall has been about normal for the past few years, but sadly not so for the Sierra snowpack," Mackie said.

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# A Tale of Two Tunnels

Near Channel Road in Santa Monica Canyon are two tunnels that can safely take residents under Pacific Coast Highway to Will Rogers Beach.

The smaller tunnel, below Ocean Avenue, floods with every rainfall and even when there has not been rain in weeks, the steps down into the tunnel are wet and the curb near the entry of the tunnel has running water.

Canyon residents Sharon Kilbride and George Wolfberg spoke to Caltrans representative David Sedacca about the tunnel. After the last rain, it was flooded to the depth of three feet and residents would have had to backstroke just to reach the beach.

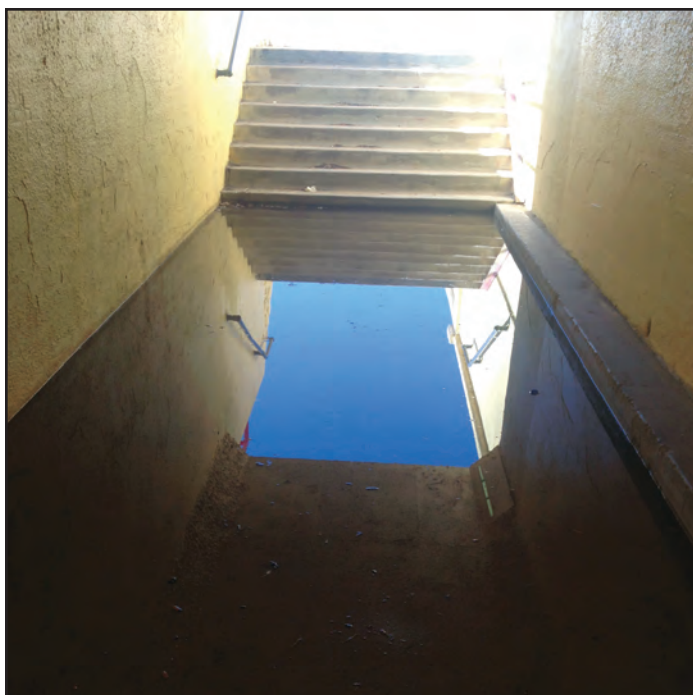
"The tunnel is constantly flooding and it's not even on rainy days," Kilbride told the *News*.

Caltrans installed a sump pump last year, but will look at it again, making necessary repairs. The bigger problem is that the house situated just above the tunnel does not have drains that feed into the street drains, which means all the water pours down from eaves directly onto the stairs and land below. This also causes debris and sludge to go down the steps into the pump. There also appears to be a constant flow of water from 101 Ocean (the high-rise on the hill in Santa Monica) towards the tunnel.

Sedacca also examined a crack in the ceiling of the second tunnel, the Roosevelt Tunnel, which provides a safe way to access the beach from Chautauqua under PCH. Kilbride noticed a crack in the ceiling that allows water to pour down into the tunnel, flooding it whenever it rains.

Sedacca told the Santa Monica Canyon residents that the leak was coming from a cement box above that has concrete missing and that his agency will work with the Department of Beaches and Harbors to repair it.

Kilbride is aware of the tunnel issues, because she weekly sweeps and sanitizes them.



The Roosevelt Tunnel, is one of two pedestrian tunnels under PCH. Both tunnels become inaccessible after it rains. Photo: Sharon Kilbride

"Neither the City nor Caltrans will clean them," she said. "We painted it last year." Many homeless are in the area, but Kilbride said, "I gave them a broom and now they're helping to clean. They seem to enjoy it."

Also, some people run across PCH from Patrick's Roadhouse and the Chevron gas station instead of taking one of the two pedestrian tunnels to access the beach. Kilbride and Wolfberg asked Sedacca if signage could be installed that would discourage that behavior and instead steer people to the tunnels. Wolfberg is following up with Sedacca, who is looking at remedies.

"There are many challenges, but everyone seems to be on the same page," Kilbride said.

# Atria Offers Free Events For Residents

Atria Park of Pacific Palisades, located just west of the Shell station at 15441 Sunset, invites all Palisades residents to participate at its upcoming April events. Please RSVP to (310) 573-9545 or visit atria-pacificpalisades.com.

Tomorrow, April 16, at 3 p.m., Frank Sinatra impersonator Jimmy Brewster will perform. As one resident said, if you didn't know better you'd think it was 'Ol' Blue Eyes' himself."

An hour later, at 4 p.m., Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom Hashoah, Stacey Orbach will share her father's survival through five concentration camps: the only member of his family who lived to tell the story.

Guitarist and singer Joey Aaron, will perform at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, April 21, singing all the favorite songs from the past. Atria residents named Aaron as one of the most amazing performers at the Atria.

Pacific Palisades residents are invited to Atria's "Raindrops and Roses Social" at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23. Pianist Kate Samuels will play as residents sing along to the songs from *The Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins*.

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# Floating Doctors Help Those in Need

By DON SCOTT  
Special to the Palisades News

Imagine having a toothache so bad that the throb keeps you up all night but you live many days from the nearest dentist and removal is the only option. In Bocas del Toro, Panama, babies are almost always born at home so a portable sonogram is in high demand. In this part of the world, medical help is far away and villages are connected only by footpaths.

Panama is a growing tourist destination with beautiful beaches, an historic canal, rain forests and jungles. But I didn't come to see the sights. I came to help Floating Doctors deliver medical care to isolated communities. I was part of a team of seven doctors, two dentists, and a veterinarian supported by nurses and students, and we were going into the jungle.

Floating Doctors has its roots in Pacific Palisades. Dr. Ben LaBrot grew up in Topanga Canyon where his parents, George and Paula, still live. I first heard about Ben's work when he gave a presentation to the local Optimist Club several years ago. Last month, I decided to see for myself what the organization was about.

My brother, who speaks Spanish, and I along with other volunteers were warmly welcomed at the airport by three members of the staff, then went to a short orientation where we met the other volunteers. The next day, we loaded supplies onto a covered launch for a one-hour ride to a small port, where we transferred to two vans.

With supplies stowed on the vans' roofs, we traveled another hour on a state highway and then to the end of a rutted dirt road. We carried our supplies across a



Medical volunteers with Floating Doctors help Panama natives.

Photo: Don Scott

small river using a swinging foot bridge which led to a village where we set up hammocks and bathed in the river before turning in.

Roosters crow early here, but the line of patients had already formed by the time we awoke. We saw more than 90 people the first day and 120 the next. Many spoke only an Indian dialect, and most had walked a long way.

I was teamed with a nurse from the UCLA Medical Center. She spoke Spanish and patiently taught me to take blood pressure and pulse rates, before each patient saw a doctor.

Toward the end of the second day, a group of men, women and children arrived at our camp after walking two days to reach us. We simply could not turn them away, so we worked through dinner and donned

headlamps when the sun went down. The last tooth was pulled just before 10 p.m. that night. A 60-year-old dentist from New Jersey remarked, "In all my years of practice I never thought I would extract teeth with chickens running around my feet."

Floating Doctors is well respected throughout the world and attracts a steady flow of about 20 volunteers at any point in time for most of the year. The program has been here for over four years and is now part of the community. A recent monetary gift has allowed the development of a 100-acre eco-resort which will open by the end of this year. Profits from the resort will be used to establish three permanent land-based medical operations with supplies and a full-time emergency medical technician. Sugary drinks have caused a serious tooth decay problem so the dental program will be expanded with the addition of a much-needed portable drill.

During the time I was there, we treated worms, violent stomach cramps, pregnancies, infections, syphilis and tooth decay. I was moved by the selfless energy the volunteers give to help others. Some devote a lifetime and others give weeks and even months each year.

If you're looking for a posh resort with all the trimmings, Floating Doctors is not for you. A visit may not be for everyone, but I guarantee it will change your life forever.

There is a campaign to raise \$4,000 to buy a portable dental drill. All donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$2,000. Make your check payable to Floating Doctors a 501(c)3 and leave it at the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce office, 15330 Antioch St., along with a name and return address.

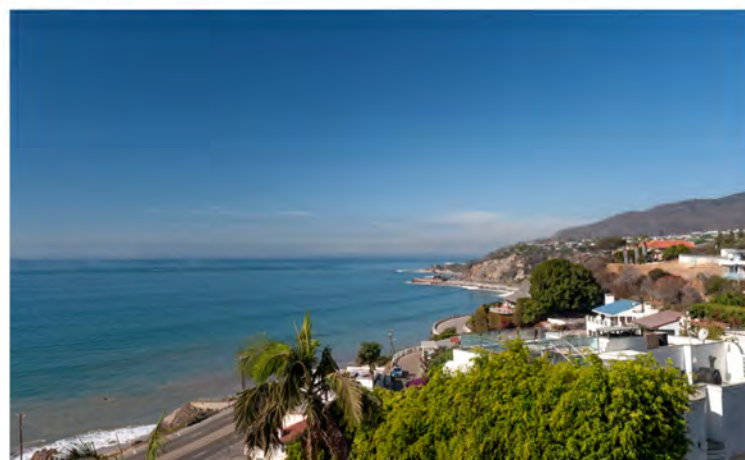
Visit: [floatingdoctors.com](http://floatingdoctors.com).

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## Mayberry's Three Owners Say Goodbye

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

It is difficult to say goodbye, but worse is not having that opportunity. Mayberry owners Whitney Rapoport, Holly Gratz and Linda West did not have the chance to tell customers goodbye when their restaurant Mayberry closed unexpectedly on February 14.

They had planned to stay open until sometime in 2016, when Caruso Affiliated is scheduled to tear down buildings on the side of Swarthmore where the restaurant is located.

"We knew we were going to close," Gratz said.

"But we were going to wind it down and have a celebration with our customers," Rapoport added. "We thought up until the eleventh hour we'd be back."

They had just finished restocking the pantries when plumbing pipes broke February 8.

"The building was old and has had recurring problems because it was never maintained properly," Gratz said, noting they have not had a lease for almost three and half years because members of Palisades Partners, their former landlords, were suing each other. Mayberry owners could have been evicted with only 30 days notice, which also made business planning difficult.

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

The 1950s building was on a concrete slab and there was no way to get to the pipes without ripping into the concrete. Unfortunately, the electrical wires were also in the slab. With no building plans available, the contractor did not know where wires were located.

The estimated cost of repair was \$35,000 for a business that would only be open a year at most.

"We ran as many scenarios as we could with the contractor, Caruso and insurance," Gratz said.

"Caruso bought a mess made by the previous owners and tried to be beyond fair," Rapoport said, explaining there were also other factors in the decision. "It is winter and business generally slower: we knew the street would be impacted because of the storm drain construction.

"We witnessed 31 Flavors and the bookstore going into a [financial] hole as they tried to hang on," she said.

"If we closed, we could pay all of vendors and the taxes, and break even," Gratz said.

The three women started as waitresses,



Mayberry café closed unexpectedly in early February.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

but when owner Terri Festa decided to sell, they purchased the successful restaurant, making only minor changes, such as upgrading the coffee, tweaking items such as adding a multigrain bread to the menu and, after a time, changing the name from Terri's to Mayberry to reflect the small-town feel of Pacific Palisades.

Many of their 15 employees have found other jobs. "Busser" Rene is now working at the upscale pizzeria Mozza in Hollywood. Waitress Colleen is working at Beech Street, but Rapoport, Gratz and West are still looking. During this interview, West was out of town.

"We were going to use this year to give ourselves a plan," Gratz said.

The former owners are also going through the emotional turmoil of missing their customers. In the eight years they've owned the business, they've watched children grow up, go to college—and then come back just for the tortilla soup.

"People followed our lives, they knew when we were on vacations. They were hugely excited for our success," said Gratz who has three children, Maxwell, Odynn and Wyatt. Omelets on the menu were named after the women's children.

"We were part of people's lives. Someone loaned me a book, but I don't have a way of getting it back," said Rapoport, who grew up in the Palisades and is the mother of two sons, Shen and August. "Many of the customers have known me since I was little."

"We didn't have a Facebook page, we couldn't give people a hug and say goodbye," Gratz said. "But, we want to tell all our customers that we didn't want it to end this way."

## Multiple Offer Strategies for Sellers

By MICHAEL EDLEN  
Special to the Palisades News

Multiple offers occur when a seller receives more than one purchase offer at the same time, or before a counter offer is presented to a potential buyer and another offer is received. This has occurred frequently since 2012, and has resulted in an environment that is increasingly frustrating to well-qualified buyers who repeatedly are outbid in their attempts to buy a home.

Here are some suggestions based on participation in hundreds of multiple-offer negotiations, which have proven effective for close to 100 clients.

### Tips for Sellers

- Carefully select an optimal list price that will almost assure receiving more than one offer, yet is not so low that it could result in either leaving money on the table or in creating a hostile environment due to too many bidders.
- Have pre-inspections done so buyers will know in advance the current condition of the property.
- Design a time schedule and procedures for offer presentation so all potential buyers know the protocol.
- Follow the set guidelines. For example, if you stipulate showings of the property are to begin on Tuesday, do not be swayed by someone who claims to have

all cash and begs to see it on Saturday.

- Be sure your agent's office manager is fully involved in the process to assure fairness to all parties.
- Be careful to observe all the small details that may prove almost as important as the final contract price.
- Be considerate of all agents and their clients. You may not know in advance when something being communicated could harm your sale later on.
- Do not be greedy or push for every possible concession—you may regret it later.
- Be sure your agent does everything ethically possible to have at least one or two back-up buyers in contract in case the winning buyer cancels their escrow during the contingency period or tries to renegotiate the contract.
- Make sure your agent is prepared to deal with appraisal challenges in case the buyer is obtaining a loan and the contract price is much higher than recent comparable sales.
- Select an agent with experience in creating and managing multiple offers.

Michael Edlen has been involved in hundreds of multiple-offer negotiations since 1987, including several that had 20-35 offers. He and his team have carefully developed strategies for multiple offers when working with both buyers and sellers. More tips and information are available at [MichaelEdlen.com](http://MichaelEdlen.com). Call: (310) 230-7373 or e-mail [michaeledlen.com](mailto:michaeledlen.com).



# Palisades March Home Prices

By ANTHONY MARGULEAS  
Special to the Palisades News

Currently there are 70 homes on the market in Pacific Palisades. The least expensive is \$995,000 on Bienvenida and the most expensive is \$25 million on San Remo.

Of those listed, the median price is more than \$4 million and the average sale price over \$6 million. There are 18 home sellers seeking back-up offers, and 29 offers that are currently pending, which means that all the contingencies have been removed.

Twenty-five homes sold in March 25, which was down 20 percent from a year ago. The average days on market before all contingencies were removed was 61 days.

The lowest-price home sold was on Notteargenta for \$1,675,000 and the highest-price was on Corsica for \$10,995,000, which was full asking price.

The median price for a sale was \$3,475,000 and the average price was \$4,338,558. The average size of the homes sold was 4,693-sq.-ft. with the average cost at \$924.40 per square foot. Average lot size was 11,194-sq.-ft. The average sales price compared to list price was 97.60 percent.

The least expensive condo was at 501 Palisades Dr. and sold for \$265,000. The most expensive condo was on Haverford Ave. and sold for \$1.6 million.

There were 15 homes available to be leased in March and the average number of days on market was 39. This market has been very strong. Of those leased, the least expensive was at 1029 Via De La Paz for \$3,400 and the most expensive was on Alma Real for \$11,150.

There are currently 40 active leases on the market with the most expensive on Via La Costa at \$45,000 per month.

We are still seeing a lot off-market "pock-

et sales" as buyers are desperately trying to find more properties that may not yet be in the MLS (multiple listing service) or the owner wants to sell it quietly.

Partly because of the lack of closed "public" sales combined with prices continuing to appreciate, there are less comparable homes for appraisers to use. Given that, appraisers are having a harder time getting homes to appraise at the escrow value.

It is important for buyers NOT to remove an appraisal contingency, especially if you are putting a lower down payment since the lender will require you to come up with the difference if the property were not to appraise.

*Anthony Marguleas founded Amalfi Estates 21 years ago and for 12 years has taught more than 1,500 students at UCLA covering contracts and negotiations. He co-authored California Real Estate Client Strategies and published 150 articles. He has sold \$650 million in properties and was selected by The WSJ as one of the top 250 agents in the country out of one million agents. Call (310) 293-9280 or visit: amalfiestates.com.*

## Presbyterian Sunset Crossing Spring Fling

Residents are invited to the Presbyterian Church Sunset Crossing Spring Fling from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 19.

The In-N-Out Burger Truck will be in the parking lot at 15821 Sunset Boulevard. The dinner, which includes burgers, chips and sodas, is \$5. There will be live music from Kai Brown and his band, and for the kids, a train and a moon bounce.

## Graduation/Sports Announcements

If you have a student graduating from college, the News would like to hear about it. Please tell us about your graduate's high school, college and graduation dates, degree, major and upcoming plans. We welcome a photo (min. 500KB resolution.) Email: L.Rosenthal@palisadesnews.com.

If your child is a college athlete, please keep us abreast of the sport, the team and any awards. Email: sports@palisadesnews.com.

## In the Heights Opens

Palisades High School theater department presents its spring musical, *In the Heights*, winner of multiple Tony Awards in 2008. The show will be presented at 7 p.m. on April 23, 24, 25 and May 1 and 2, with 2 p.m. matinees on April 25 and May 2. Performances are in Mercer Hall and tickets are available at the box office.

## Pop-Up Book Sale Set for Library

Hundreds of nearly new special books, including art and coffee table books; non-fiction and fiction (including mysteries and thrillers); cookbooks, biographies and craft books, will be available at great prices from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25. The sale will take place in the library community room, at 861 Alma Real Dr.

This special pop-up sale will add to the funds raised by the Library Bookstore and quarterly parking lot sales. Proceeds help the library purchase books, research material and other items for this branch that are not funded through the City.

Visit: friendsofpalibrary.org.

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## PASSINGS

# Muriel McNutt: Bridge Player, Sierra Club Member

Muriel McNutt, a native Angeleno and longtime resident of Pacific Palisades, passed away on March 3 at the age of 88.

Muriel enjoyed a very full life with a zest for living. Her contagious laugh and a talent for the creative arts, in the form of ceramics, knitting and basket weaving, were well known and enjoyed throughout the Westside. Her creative journey led her to take pottery lessons in diverse styles, including American Indian, under the direction

of Lucy Lewis, as well as lessons in Bath, England, which she incorporated into her unique style of pottery. Her dedication to ceramics included digging for her own clay that she required for her beautiful creations.

Muriel's endless curiosity about all things foreign, along with her creative spirit, were realized in world travel, which took her to faraway places: traveling on the Orient Express, a trip down the Nile and visits to Pakistan, the Swiss Alps, South

Africa and Asia. These journeys fed her adventurous and creative spirit and, to the delight of her friends and family, resulted in many travel tales and endless laughs.

Muriel was an active bridge player, a member of the Sierra Club and of the Santa Monica Unitarian Church. She was a founding member of the "Drunk for Lunch Bunch" which included a close-knit group of friends from the Palisades, and a longtime member of the "Vine Street Gang" that included lifetime friendships stemming from the 1950s.

Muriel touched many lives and brought

joy wherever she went. She will be truly missed and will always be in the hearts of those who loved her. Her spirit lives on in her beautiful works of art that will be treasured forever.

Muriel is survived by her three children, Deborah, Blaine and Clark, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Plans for a memorial service at Santa Monica Unitarian Church are pending. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Muriel's name to the Sierra Club Los Angeles, 3435 Wilshire Blvd., #660, Los Angeles, CA 90010.



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## Stopping Preventable Breast Cancer Deaths

The Valley Breast Cancer Foundation is clear of its mission: to stop the premature and preventable deaths of women from breast cancer. On Saturday, May 9, at 6 p.m. a fundraiser will be held at Casa Nostra Italian Restaurant at 829 West 9th Street in downtown Los Angeles. There is free parking and the cost of the five-course dinner and the concert is \$125. Performing are singer/songwriter Keith Chagall, renowned cellist Evgeny Tonkha and concert pianist Yuliya Barsky. For tickets: visit: [valleybreastcare.org](http://valleybreastcare.org).

Located on the campus of Valley Presbyterian Hospital in the San Fernando Valley, the Foundation offers mammograms, breast ultrasounds scans, breast biopsies and cancer treatment to those who may have lost insurance, or to the underinsured, or those who have suffered cuts in health care reimbursements.

Because of bureaucratic obstacles, women sometimes wait far too long before seeing a medical professional, which means there can be/is a delay in diagnosis and a

lack of timely treatment. The *Los Angeles Times* featured an article written by Palisadian Dr. Thomas Lomis, who wrote "The failure of our medical system to ensure that all women realize the benefits of advances in breast cancer prevention and treatment is bewildering."

At the Valley Presbyterian Hospital, the Foundation provides pre- and post-treatment support services, which also include positive image counseling.

A 1992 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, who also completed a clinical surgical oncology fellowship at the John Wayne Cancer Institute, Lomis argues that all women are entitled to timely diagnosis and treatment.

Lomis, who has lived in Pacific Palisades since 1997 with wife Debra and three daughters, Jessica, Elisabeth and Marissa, said "Through your support, you can personally have an impact in the fight to prevent the suffering and premature deaths associated with this all too prevalent disease."

## Dr. Robert Kaufman to Speak On President Obama's Policy

The Pacific Palisades Republican Club will host Dr. Robert J. Kaufman, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. at 15905 Sunset Blvd. at the Palisades Lutheran Church.

Kaufman will be the first lecturer in the Club's 2015 Speaker Series. The event is free and parking is available behind the church.

A professor of public policy at Pepperdine University School, Kaufman will speak on "President Obama's Middle East Policy." He is a political scientist specializing in

American foreign policy, national security, international relations and various aspects of American politics.

He is a frequent writer for scholarly journals as well as popular publications, including *The Weekly Standard*, *Policy Review*, *The Washington Times* and other major city newspapers. He is the author of several books, including *In Defense of the Bush Doctrine* and *Arms Control During the Penuclear Era*. He is currently doing research for a biography of President Ronald Reagan.



# Heineman Striving for Triple-A Ball

By TYLER KECKEIEN  
Sports Editor

**T**yler Heineman thought he under-achieved in his third minor league season last summer.

The catcher batted .358 and played solid defense in his first season in Single-A. He backed up those impressive numbers by hitting .286 with 13 home runs and 71 RBIs the following year in Double-A.

The Pacific Palisades prodigy was on the fast-track to the "The Big Show" with no setbacks in sight.

But Heineman finally hit the "rookie wall" in 2014 as he hit only .242 with one home run and 25 RBI's. Heineman took those numbers to heart.

After having a productive off-season by performing countless fundamental drills, Heineman is now optimistic he can perform back to his standards this upcoming year.

"I felt I had a great off-season working out at Pepperdine University [with current MLB players] John Moscot and Tyler Skaggs, and a few of my former teammates who live in the Palisades," said Heineman, who was drafted in the eighth round by the Houston Astros in 2012. "To get to the next step, I felt I needed tweak a few things in my game."

The former Windward High School product refined his swing by getting back to the basics.



Palisadian Tyler Heineman, working towards Major League Baseball, is a catcher for the Corpus Christi Hooks at the Double-A level.

Photo: Courtesy of MiLB.com

"Every day I was in the cage hitting with consistency and just making minor adjustments," Heineman said. "For this season, I made it a goal to have more quality at-bats."

Heineman did not want to deviate too much from his simple hitting approach, however.

"Nothing major was changed with my swing," he said. "I need to be more consistent with my at-bats and keep the same approach from one game to the next. I changed my approach so many times last season and that made me think way too

much."

With those adjustments fixed, Heineman is confident he can be promoted to Triple-A within the first few months of the season. But the 5-11, 195-pound prospect does not want to get ahead of himself regarding the evaluation process.

"I can't be focusing on results too much, instead I just need to focus on the process in hand. I can only control so much and that starts with me doing my part."

Heineman is aware more conflicts might occur, but he is ready if those setbacks were

to occur.

"When you struggle as a minor league player, it's hard to not quit, given the horrible conditions we travel in," he said. "It's all mental. I just need to move on to the next game and learn from my mistakes. That starts by being your own coach and not feeling sorry for yourself."

Despite this being his third season in Double-A, playing with the Corpus Christi Hooks in Texas, Heineman is not concerned he will be overlooked by the Houston organization. He feels he has progressed tremendously since his playing days at UCLA, when the Bruins reached the College World Series.

"I'm more advanced defensively as my blocking and receiving fundamentals have sharpened," he said. "The coaches see my potential as a defensive specialist who can make the pitcher the best he can be."

That improvement can potentially make him invaluable to the club. "I take pride with my fundamentals as defense does not take days off compared to hitting," Heineman said. "I have the quick feet and throwing release to make me an asset instead of a liability."

Heineman's younger brother Scott, who played at Crespi, is a junior at the University of Oregon. He plays outfield, third and pitches, and is hitting .271 after 34 games. The Ducks play at USC April 17, 18 and 19.

## PaliHi Baseball Weathers Early-Season Struggles



Sophomore Will Bucksbaum pitches for PaliHi.

Photo: Courtesy of Jennifer Ward

**M**ichael Voelkel, the head baseball coach at Palisades High, is optimistic about his team's potential, despite a 7-8 season record.

"We still have all the pieces to possibly make a run for the City Section trophy," he said. "The players are right on the cusp of reaching their potential, but they first need to be aware of their roles on the team and not try to do too much."

Pitcher Jed Moscot, who made second team All-City last season, and short stop Harrison Hart are two of the experienced players to whom the coach is alluding.

"They are trying to play for three or four players at the same time," Voelkel said. "Our experienced players need to slow the game down and try not to hit the 'five-run home run.'"

PaliHi was in a pickle when the season began, after umpires in the Western League went on strike due to payment issues. Instead of playing six home games to begin the season, Pali played those "home" games on the road, as far away as Oxnard, Ventura and even Santa Barbara

against superior opponents.

The Dolphins lost five of their first six games, the lone win coming against San Fernando in late February.

Voelkel said the traveling was a "challenge" for his players, but he's confident the early-season obstacles will pay dividends towards the end of the season and into the playoffs.

"The tough competition should prepare us against teams we face in the playoffs," said Voelkel, who has coached the varsity team since 2007. "The speed of the game will actually slow down for our players."

Ultimately, Voelkel believes the tough competition will determine his team's fate. "If we get challenged, we naturally should get better," he said. "If we don't, then it was not our taking to begin with."

Pali might have hit its stride already, having gone 6-3 in a recent stretch. The Dolphins were 2-2 in the Lions Tournament in San Diego during the school's spring break, and are 3-1 in Western League action. PaliHi's next home game is April 22 against Venice High School at 3 p.m.



## AYSO Fall Registration Underway

AYSO Region 69 Registration has already begun. The deadline for Returning Player Priority Registration will end on April 15, today.

Sibling Registration will take place on Saturday, April 18th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Paul Revere Middle School.

New Player Priority Registration will occur next week at the same location from 3 to 5 p.m.

Visit: [ayso69.org](http://ayso69.org).

Photo: Courtesy of Janet Anderson



## Optimist-YMCA 43rd Annual Track Meet

The Optimist-YMCA 43rd Annual Track meet will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, at the Palisades High School stadium. Registration opens at 11 a.m. The meet is open for ages 3 to 15, from beginners to those who belong to track clubs.

The registration fee is \$35 and includes a t-shirt and the opportunity to compete in a variety of events such as running, long jump and shot put. The event draws hundreds of participants each year, so advance registration at the YMCA at 821 Via de la Paz is recommended.

Contact: Stephen Hale at (310) 454-5591, ext. 1506 or e-mail [stephenhale@ymcala.org](mailto:stephenhale@ymcala.org).

## PPBA Tightly Competitive: Several Teams Tied for First

Competition has been fierce in all three divisions Pinto (7-8 year old), Mustang (9-10 year old) and Bronco (11-12 year old) since the baseball season opened on March 15.

At the beginning of April, the Red Sox in the Mustang division ranked first in the standings at 5-1. With the same record in the Bronco Division, the Cubs and Orioles both share the top spot. In the Pinto Division, the Dodgers and Tigers were tied for first with a 5-1 record.

The Phillies and Tigers in the Mustang

division are both tied for second place with a 6-2 showing. In the Bronco league, the Cardinals, Dodgers, and Tigers are all currently tied for second with a 3-3 record.

In the Pony division of six teams, Palisades is currently in fourth place with a 3-6 record. Santa Monica is leading that league with an 8-1 record.

Playoffs start on May 16 and closing ceremonies and all-star games are on June 6.

Check out PPBA's website, [www.ppba.net](http://www.ppba.net), for the complete standings of all age groups.

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# Morris Twins Win Peace Awards

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Palisadian twins Avery and Alexandra Morris, and their Bard College Conservatory of Music classmates Rylan Gajek-Leonard and Daniel Zlatkin, won a Davis Project for Peace Award. The four will receive a \$10,000 grant to fund their project "Sounds of Social Change."

Launched last year, Sounds of Social Change is a student-initiated, Bard Trustee Leader Scholar project aimed at teaching and

mentoring young musicians living in poverty-stricken conditions throughout the world.

Last summer, the four students spent a week working with the Orquesta Sinfónica Infantil y Juvenil de Siloé and Fundación Sidoc in Cali, Colombia, to teach and collaborate with young musicians.

By teaching children how to play musical instruments and organizing performances within the community, the orchestra helps youngsters achieve personal goals and self-confidence, as well as showing them how to collaborate with peers.

Currently, there are 115 children enrolled in this program in the Siloé barrio of Cali. The Davis grant will help fund the Fundación's first ever music and listening library, giving students access to world-class recordings. For more information, visit: [soundsofsocialchange.com](http://soundsofsocialchange.com).

Alexandra is now a violist at Bard College of music, and studies with Ira Weller of the Metropolitan Opera. She was a violinist in the conservatory-level American Youth Symphony and performed at LACMA and Disney Concert Hall. She and Avery were the first winners of the Palisades Symphony Concerto Competition in 2013.

Avery, who plays a 1985 Grubaugh violin on loan from a private foundation, is majoring in violin performance and mathematics at Bard. She is a student of Weigang



Alexandra (left) and Avery Morris playing with young musicians of the Orquesta Sinfónica Infantil y Juvenil de Siloé.

Photo: Courtesy of Bard College

## Triple Music Treat Happens April 25

The Santa Monica Oceanaires, the award-winning Paul Revere Middle School Madrigals and the newly formed Palisades High School Barbershop Club will offer a unique concert at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 at the Revere auditorium, 1450 Allenford Ave.

The program, "Radio Days Goes West," will feature some of the best voices (young and old) on the Westside. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids (10 and under), and can be purchased online at [online@oceanaires.org](http://online@oceanaires.org) or [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com), or the day of the event at the Revere box office.

Li of the Shanghai String Quartet, and has performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, as a first violinist in the American Youth Symphony, and the Colburn School's Zipper Hall. She has attended the Heifetz Institute, Bowdoin International Music Festival and Luzerne Music Festival, and will be participating in the Pablo Casals Festival in Prades, France this summer.

Avery and Alexandra attended Crossroads School, and are the daughters of Jef-

frey Morris and Patricia Kovic.

Projects for Peace is funded by the Davis family to honor Kathryn W. Davis, who died in April 2013 at the age of 106. A life-long internationalist and philanthropist who earned a doctorate from the University of Geneva, she was the mother of Shelby M.C. Davis, who funds the Davis UWC Scholars Program currently involving 90 American colleges and universities. Visit: [davisprojectsforpeace.org](http://davisprojectsforpeace.org) or [bard.edu](http://bard.edu).

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## Two Guests to Speak At PAB Meeting

The Palisades Park Advisory Board (PAB) will hold its quarterly meeting on Wednesday, April 22 at 7 p.m. in the small gym at the park, 851 Alma Real Dr.

Park Rangers Captain Albert Torres will speak about enforcement of parking regulations and the newly installed “No Camping” signs.

Principal park services attendant Brenda Aguirre will speak about pay tennis permit operations and changes that will take place starting June 1.

Old business discussed will be the proposed change of parking from four hours to two hours; status report on the Bocce court; an update on the proposed Universally Accessible Playground; and information about the user agreement for the tennis concession, currently held by Steve Belamy’s Atonal Sports and Entertainment.

Other old business will include a report on the off-leash dog enforcement issue and a proposed location for a storage container for the 5K/10K Will Rogers Race organizers. The Race Committee has agreed to assume responsibility for all maintenance of the container, including removal of graffiti, and will make an annual donation of \$500 to the Pacific Palisades Recreation Center as directed by Park management.

The public is invited to attend and provide feedback.



# Palisades Ark of Hope

Peter G. Kreitler single-handedly constructed this ark out of 7,000 corks.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

By PETER GWILLIM KREITLER  
Special to the Palisades News

I built an ark in my garage because of a simple question a couple of years ago. Bartenders were playing “make a basket” with used tequila and wine corks. “Are you throwing the corks away?” I inquired. “If you are, would you save them for me?” “What do you plan to do with them?”

asked Mauricio, a bartender at the Bel-Air Bay Club.

“I have no clue,” I said.

Last summer, while gleaning beach debris at Will Rogers Beach as I have done since 2012, I reached down and retrieved half of a plastic toy dinosaur. I said to my wife Katy, “A second photo exhibition.” (My 2014 exhibit, held at Bergamot Station, was titled “No Es Basura”—This Is Not Trash—and showcased John Reiff Williams’ photographs of items I had collected for two years.)

“Extinction” opens to the public from 5 to 9 p.m. on April 17 and from 2 to 7 p.m. on April 18 at EarthWE Gallery in Bergamot Station in Santa Monica. The exhibit runs through May 30.

On display will be Williams’ photographs of the found objects from Cape Cod and California beaches and commentary about human-caused extinction possibilities and the ark I constructed from wine corks.

To offset the ominous theme of “Extinction,” I thought about Jürgen Moltmann’s *Theology of Hope*. The only time I know of in recorded history that the world was threatened with extinction was when the Biblical character Noah perceived a great flood on the horizon and built an ark for family and friends, and gathered two of every kind of animal that he knew of. This gave everyone hope amidst impending disaster.

I had recently read *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, *Nature’s Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson*, *Stung: On Jellyfish Blooms and the Future of the Ocean* and *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*. These books contained sobering and challenging facts, and there was an impetus to present a balance to what I was reading and what would be presented in the 35-photographs exhibition.

Why not build an Ark of Hope? I contacted longtime friend Steve Curran, former Commodore of the California Yacht Club, and asked if he knew a boat builder. He recommended Ken Lange, owner of

Marine International, who took six feet, three inches of a fiberglass hull of a West Wight Potter 15 and flipped it to make a double-ended ark.

Last October, I started sorting the 7,000 corks I had been collecting. Two months later, I began to strategically glue them onto the hull, using epoxy. Immediately I encountered a problem: it took too long for the epoxy to set. I figured it would take me two years to build the ark, so I shifted to hot-glue guns. I used four in the process and about 200 sticks of 10-inch glue.

As I noted earlier, the 12-foot 6-inch by 5-foot-wide ark was built in my garage. Katy gave permission as long as she could park her car. The ark is the same size as my car. I placed every single cork and appreciated the Zen of the experience—a meditative process of about five to ten hours a day.

The symbolism of the logos on the corks has been incorporated into the overall message. On the Zuccardi Family wine cork is printed a fingerprint. No two humans are alike and no two natural corks are alike.

The flying horse myth logically represents wisdom and this cork is on the front of the captain’s quarters. We need our world leaders—our captains—to be wise in the face of today’s challenges.

The rooster on tequila and wine corks reminds us of the importance of the wake-up call to all of us, who are literally in the same boat.

The “Extinction” exhibit balances stern words from the scientific community and Williams’ photographs with the Ark of Hope in the middle.

We are all complicit in “trashing the planet.” I hope this exhibit will help develop the intergenerational dialogue needed to stem the tide moving in the direction of the “Sixth Extinction.” We all need to believe that everyone can do something to make a difference.

The Earth WE Gallery is located at 2525 Michigan Ave., within Bergamot Station.

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# Garden Tour Offers Water-Wise Ideas

By LIBBY MOTIKA  
Palisades News Contributor

Photos by Tom Hofer

This year's Pacific Palisades Garden Tour offers creative, colorful and innovative ideas for garden designs with an eye for water conservation. Incorporating inventive hardscape materials and design ideas, complemented by expanded plant lists, the gardens are exciting and inspiring.

The tour on Sunday, April 26, includes six residential gardens and the Pacific Palisades Native Plant Garden on Temescal Canyon Road. The homes will be open from noon until 4 p.m., rain or shine. The Native Garden will be open from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Tickets, \$30, are available at the following locations in Pacific Palisades: Lavender Blue, 1032 Swarthmore (next to Maison Giraud); Gift Garden Antiques, 15266 Antioch (next to Noah's Bagels); and the Sunday Farmer's Market on April 19.

In West Los Angeles, tickets will be sold at Yamaguchi Nursery, 1905 Sawtelle Blvd.; Merrihew's Nursery, 1526 Ocean Park Blvd.; and Marina Garden Center, 13198 Mindanao Way.

Tickets may be purchased by mail from Deanne Vandermoot, 1330 Monaco Dr., Pacific Palisades 90272.

Proceeds will benefit community education and beautification and public school student gardens.

There will be cookie sales and complimentary bottled water on the tour.

For more details, visit [paccpalgarden-club.org](http://paccpalgarden-club.org).



*At the edge of the swimming pool, the visitor can see a broad selection of plants.*

## 344 CLIFFWOOD AVENUE

The mid-century design of this home by architects Wally Benton and Donald Park blends perfectly with the Chris Rosmini landscape design.

The site provides the canvas for a spectacular garden, where the elements of texture, color and seasonal blooms all come together for year-round enjoyment.

The front garden has a large camphora tree under which are planted assorted bulbs, grevillea and species geraniums. The side driveway is flanked by a beautiful Japanese maple and oak leaf hydrangea.

As you enter the back garden, a feast of colors and sights invites you to wander in and around the landscape. There is something for everyone to enjoy in this garden.

Sally Holmes roses bloom on an iron arbor, and the large pergola draped with wisteria, when in full flower, is memorable.

There are a number of areas to just stop and gaze at this flower-filled garden. These include two koi ponds, an oval swimming pool and paths softened by a variety of plants, hundreds of bulbs, roses, grasses, a thriving rhododendron and yellow clivia.



*This pond with its dripping fountain perched on a plinth matches a similar pond in the front yard.*

## 719 AMALFI DRIVE

When landscape designer Jay Griffith learned that the late Eddie Albert's Mediterranean-style estate on Amalfi was for sale in 2006, he got the word out to his clients, hoping that one of them would buy the John Byers gem. Failing in this effort and acting as his own self-proclaimed preservationist, Griffiths bought it himself and created a new landscape that matches the Spanish sensibility of the home.

From the street, a low pittosporum hedge leads up to the gate and opens onto a courtyard. Running the width of the house, this long horizontal patio is anchored by a quiet pond on one side and large blue agave dramatically centered in a Corten steel planter on the other.

Mature jacaranda, sycamore and palms fit the California tradition, providing color, texture and shade. From the back colonnade, 5,000 square feet of lawn stretches to

the edge of the property, with a panoramic view of Rustic Canyon.

Two rough-hewn pavilions are strategically placed, one north, the other south, and, as seen from the colonnade on the back of the house, help to create a long, continuous S-curve, embracing the view from the Will Rogers polo fields to the Pacific Ocean.

Round the south side of the house, a second courtyard has been created from the car turnaround area, where a patterned pavement provides a nice anchor for the blue date palm, and sundry "found" treasures of an inveterate collector. Griffith emphasizes that his design is a landscape as distinct from a garden, which is made up of areas of plants—the herb, flower or water garden, vignettes that have been hand wrought over time. What has been created here is a landscape, "A painterly gesture that is all about a sense of place."





*The stone fireplace with a rough-hewn wooden mantle and hearth provides a perfect setting for outdoor dining.*

### 258 16TH STREET

The East Coast feel of the owner's Provincetown, Massachusetts home has been successfully transported to this Santa Monica location by landscape designer Ted Weiant.

A grassy berm in the front yard is outlined by a low serpentine stone wall, which defines the front area of the yard and brings your eye to the climbing iceberg roses twining around twin palm trees planted on the parkway. A small toyon grows between the trees, screening the garden from the street. The sound of water gently flowing from the magnificent specimen granite boulder fountain adds to the tranquil environment.

The front garden fence bordering the sidewalk supports an espaliered Fuji apple. Other interesting shade plants in the front garden include Ligularia gigantea and a variegated Ligularia maculata, birch and sycamore trees. A climbing rose over the

porch brings your eye to two small seahorses attached to the shutters for a touch of whimsy.

As you make your way to the back garden, there are blueberry bushes, a guava tree and Tibetan rhododendron.

The path to the back garden has a lovely Woods Davey rock sculpture in addition to another water feature.

The first of three focal points in the back garden is the stone fireplace with a wooden hearth and mantle.

Next is the large Aleppo pine, which spreads over the yard providing a dramatic centerpiece. A stone bench surrounds the tree and succulents fill in the planted areas. The pair of Restoration Hardware chandeliers offers light and adds drama to the scene.

The third area of interest is the rough-hewn concrete wall at the end of the pool, supporting stone containers planted with an array of succulent potted plants.

### 1670 SAN REMO DRIVE

Entering the large exterior courtyard with jacaranda trees and azaleas, you continue into the interior courtyard of this mid-century house built by Carl Maston, an influential Southern California architect known for his stark, no-frills modern buildings.

A large, narrow swimming pool is framed on one end by two Redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*) trees silhouetted against a warm gold-toned wall. The seating and dining areas, located on the opposite end of the pool, are surrounded by sycamore trees, camellias, ferns, bamboo, succulents and large decorative pots of lush clivia.

A path on the south side of the home leads to a commanding view of Sullivan Canyon. The back patio is softened by a grass swath, jacaranda, ginkgo, cercis and a variety of succulents.

The terraced hillside, planted with specimen agaves and aloes, presents a textured drought-tolerant alternative. The bright yellows of the Mexican Marigold and or-

ange blooms of the Lotus shrub enliven the palette. Railroad ties support the downward descent, and halfway down a seating area invites peaceful contemplation. Pebbled paths continue down the planted, tiered hillside. There are no handrails, but beautiful vistas delight from the top levels of the garden.

The homeowner is a dedicated gardener who enjoys spending many hours planting and caring for the garden, which results in this perfectly harmonious California landscape.



*Mexican Marigold and Lotus fabaeae line a terraced path.*

### 1244 MONUMENT

A visit to the Mendez house is a treasure hunt. The house hangs onto a hill behind a thick adobe wall, obscuring the intimacy that unfolds on the other side. The curbside is planted in soft blues and grays compatible with the succulent palette, but the visitor must round the corner and mount the stairs to see the sunny side of the Southwest.

Sacred Grounds landscape team, Bruce Izmirian and Jerry Martin, designed mini environments to fit the foundation of pocket patios that define the growing areas on all sides of the house.

The official entry zone resembles a shaded patio in Santa Fe. With large, sturdy wooden beams above and Saltillo tile pavers underfoot, the space comes alive with a brick-red wall anchoring a vertical succulent garden. On another wall, a sky-blue niche houses a Talavera ceramic pot, planted with vertical flowing jade plant.

The entry patio overlooks a secret garden below, which is circumscribed by a vibrant,

chrome-yellow wall. Bougainvillea spills over one corner; a large, rusted-iron grid featuring primitive pictographs anchors another. The vegetation is confined to small pocket groupings.

At the back of the house, a panoramic view opens out over a eucalyptus stand below. The redwood deck supports a large teak picnic table and colorful iron chairs. The handmade wooden railing on the deck is just one of many custom-made railings that front the many small decks. A variety of aloes, agaves and lavenders dominate the plant list. The landscapers go far and wide collecting the plant materials, and in this case, they relied on the rich selection in San Diego County.

The hillside is planted with agave, lantana, hopseed, Mexican feather grass and Pride of Madeira.



*The front porch entry features a vertical succulent garden, surrounded by classic Southwestern design elements: the dried red chili peppers hanging from the exposed viga beams, Saltillo pavers and Talavera ceramic pots.*



*This stone Roman column is protected by four rusted iron snakes spouting water into a pond that forms the apex of the path lined with boxwood and rose bushes.*

### 629 AMALFI DRIVE

To provide privacy from the street, wide borders of rosemary, iceberg roses, lavender and succulents were planted and provide a rich tapestry of green and white. The plants are joined by mounds of westringia and raphiolepis across the wide front garden.

Box hedges define the interior garden closest to the house. This area features olive trees and roses, a large, classical concrete fountain and a seating area.

A path along the north side of the house leads to the back garden overlooking Rustic Canyon. A loggia with climbing wisteria on the large columns shelters the seating and dining areas and a pizza oven.

Three large oak trees add interest to the back garden and raphiolepis, iceberg roses and star jasmine provide continuity with the front garden.





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## Annual Orchid Auction Features Unusual Selections

The Malibu Orchid Society (MOS) will hold its annual orchid auction at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, April 21, at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, 601 Haverford Ave. The orchids may be previewed at 6:30 p.m. Residents are welcome and attendance is free. Light refreshments will be served.

Orchid expert Doug Overstreet will conduct the auction and provide culture tips on all plants auctioned.

The auction will also feature a miscellaneous plant table that will include succulents, cacti and other unusual plants from various donors, members and residents.

The MOS auction committee has solicited donation of orchids from most of the important growers and hybridizers in Southern California and from international vendors who exhibited at the recent Santa Barbara International Orchid Show.

MOS members will also contribute to the auction divisions of their specimen plants, which include a large selection of unique and unusual orchids for both beginners and the advanced orchid grower.

Proceeds from the auction will enable the Society to feature speakers for its monthly meetings on various orchid topics, such as how to grow various species; pest control; and orchids in their various native habitats.

Visit: [malibuorchidsociety.org/](http://malibuorchidsociety.org/)



## Atria Offers Spa Day

Atria Park of Pacific Palisades, located just west of the Shell station at 15441 Sunset, invites all Palisades residents to participate in Spa Day from 1 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. RSVP by April 21 to (310) 573-9545.

Bring in a new toy or book to donate to Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and get a spa treatment in return (only new and unopened toys and books, please; call Atria for a suggested list). In exchange, reserve a spa treatment of your choice, including a massage, manicure or makeover.

Visit [atria-pacificpalisades.com](http://atria-pacificpalisades.com).

## 700 Temescal Canyon Road

The N/E/X/T/Garden demonstrates how sustainably nurtured drought-tolerant plants from California (and from similar climates around the world) can not only beautify our home gardens while reducing water usage but also nurture wildlife by providing sustenance and shelter while avoiding pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and petrochemicals.

So far, there are more than 700 plant specimens representing over 100 plant varieties (at different stages of maturity), so you can examine many trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals that might be welcome additions to your own garden.

From the Pacific Coast Highway, ascend Temescal Canyon Road to the top (north-east) corner of Temescal Canyon Park, before the light at Bowdoin and on the right, across from and below the stadium at Palisades Charter High School. Docent tours available from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the tour day. No ticket is required.

The improvement of the (N/E/X/T/Garden), under the direction of local volunteers Michael Terry and Barbara Marinacci for the past five years, is sponsored by the Pacific Palisades Garden Club and Palisades Beautiful for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

## Tomato Plants to be Given Away At Village Green on Earth Day

The Village Green Board, who maintain the triangular private park (at the corner of Sunset and Swarthmore), will celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 26, by once again handing out free tomato plants to visitors, young and old.

The tomato give-away begins at 9 a.m. and will last until all the plants are taken to be planted in home gardens (or front yards).

Members encourage parents to plant with their children and to grow food the family can eat. There are two varieties this year: Early Girl and cherry tomatoes. Don't have a green thumb? Don't worry! Village Green board member Betsy Collins, who grew all these tomatoes, will be on hand to offer planting instructions and growing advice.

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# Palisades Art Association Announces Winners

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

The Pacific Palisades Art Association announced the winners from its spring juried show, held in the Palisades Library community room on April 4. The show was judged by Yumi Kiyose, who received her master of fine arts degree from Otis/Parsons Art Institute. Her work has been exhibited in Japan, Canada and throughout the United States.

In judging this show of more than 60 entries, Kiyose said "It was not easy to make a decision because the artwork ranged from realistic to abstract to contemporary. My selections were based on technique, design, creativity and unique individuality."

"I chose each of the first-place awards because the art pieces have great movement, convey powerful meaning and they were well executed," Kiyose said.

Rosie Bromberg, 23, took first in painting on canvas with her work *Recumbent Yellow*. She grew up in Pacific Palisades and began studying art at Palisades High School. She attended the University of Puget Sound and Pratt Institute with an emphasis in painting.

Working primarily in oils and mixed media with a concentration on the female form and anatomy, Bromberg previously

received third place in the category of mixed media in the 2014 Palisades Art Association show. She lives and works in Los Angeles, showing and selling her work. (Visit: [rosiebromberg.com](http://rosiebromberg.com).)

Second place went to Marlene Sherins for *Radiance*, and third place was awarded to Rose Carcich for *Bienvenido*.

First place winner for painting under glass was Jane Wykoff for her water color painting *Not Zen Calligraphy*.

Wykoff has studied watercolor painting for 15 years; this is her third win in five years PPAA juried shows. Before moving to Pacific Palisades six years ago, she lived 40 years in Claremont, where she had a graphic design studio and her husband worked as a professor of economics.

Currently, she is studying with artist Catherine Tirr and has a studio on Palisades Drive. "Most of my paintings are on Yupo, a synthetic, nonabsorbent paper which makes the pigment challenging to control but gives it a fluid, expressive effect," Wykoff said. "My work is mostly abstract, inspired by landscape elements, particularly rocks and water." (Visit: [janewykoff.com](http://janewykoff.com))

Second in this category went to Shirley Peppers for *Pink Tulips #1*, and third went to Marilyn Hamilton for *Drogon*.

In the sculpture category, Terri Bromberg took first place for her alabaster sculpture *Dreaming*. Bromberg is an associate professor in the art department at Santa Monica College, teaching glass, 3-D design and sculpture.

To create this piece of art, Bromberg started with a hammer and chisel, then a rasp and file, finally using sandpaper before polishing the piece with oil and waxing it.

Bromberg has studied glass working techniques at the Pilchuck Glass School, The Studio in Corning, New York, Palomar College and the Bay Area Glass Institute. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from UCLA, and her masters degree in Manchester, England. Her art glass, which has won numerous awards in juried competitions, can be found in private collection throughout the United States. (Visit: [brombergprojects.com](http://brombergprojects.com))

Taking second place was Tracei Garcochea for *Untitled* and third was Ruth Dewar for *I Found You*.

The next meeting of the PPAA is Tues-



Above: Rosie Bromberg won first for *Recumbent Yellow*. Below: Terri Bromberg won first with her alabaster sculpture *Dreaming*.

Photos: Shelby Pascoe



Jane Wykoff took first in painting under glass with *Not Zen Calligraphy*.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe



day, April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. Guest speaker will be Martha Fritz, who studied art at Skidmore College and was a graduate teaching assistant for figure modeling and 3D design at the University of Pennsylvania.

She is the president of Creations Fine Art & Design and her civic projects have in-

cluded the remodel of sculpture in Beverly Hills and participation in public sculpture projects in and around Los Angeles and Santa Monica. Private sculpture projects have included sets at Opera Delaware and participation in a large commission for the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia. Contact: [palisadesart@gmail.com](mailto:palisadesart@gmail.com).

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# DINING WITH GRACE

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**T**ivoli Café has been a dining staple in the heart of the Palisades for more than a quarter of a century. The reason is simple: good food with an extensive menu for breakfast, lunch or dinner, and furthermore, a large array of excellent wines and beer on tap.

My friend and I loved every bite of the hard to resist “garlic knot” rolls served with a tiny dipping pot of olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

After making our dinner selection, these little rolls were followed by a basket of scrumptious homemade bread, which went perfectly with the small portion of the Tivoli salad. This salad, with romaine, fresh arugula, endive, radicchio and sliced tomato all tossed in a tasty house vinaigrette dressing, was fresh and a perfect start to our dinner.

The Tivoli salad, the house salad and a Caesar salad are served in full or half portions, while more than a dozen other salads are full portions only.

Some salads, such as the crab cake (\$13.99) or the scallops and spinach (\$17.99), would make a perfect main course. There are also kale salads: one with chicken, another with shrimp, another with scallops and one with Caesar dressing.

I had the superb slow-cooked roasted lamb shank (\$29.99), while my friend had the tilapia filet (\$23.99), sautéed with a white wine lemon caper sauce. Both



entrées were beautifully presented with mashed potatoes and an array of fresh vegetables, including carrots, broccoli heads and slices of zucchini, each cooked to perfection.

Before my friend ate every bite of the tilapia, I was given a taste and loved it. I thoroughly enjoyed the succulent lamb shank and gravy, which had been cooked for more than eight hours. Servings are large—too much food for my small appetite—but I looked forward to having a terrific lunch the next day.

Specials included the wild king salmon filet (\$26.99) and filet mignon in a port wine sauce (\$29.99). Mary’s organic free-range chicken breast is available every day (\$18.99).

And, do not overlook the more than a dozen pastas. They are terrific and vary in price from \$12.99 to \$17.99, with available add-ons such as diced grilled chicken breast, sautéed shrimp or scallops.

We were treated to a small dessert tasting plate with a mini cannoli (crispy fried pastry shell with a sweet ricotta whipped cream filling), a petite light and airy tiramisu and cheesecake. These were beautifully presented on a chocolate-painted plate to accent each delicious bite. Desserts are \$7.99.

Tivoli offers a wide array of panini sandwiches, wraps, burgers, pizzas and calzone. Weekday hours are from 11

## JUMBLE

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

VEAWE

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

How about, He wanted to... “SEIZE-HER” SALAD? We did that last year. What if we ask our Facebook fans?



WE COULDN'T COME UP WITH A NEW SALAD PUN... IF YOU HAVE A GOOD ONE —

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

(Answers on page 14)

a.m., while on Saturday and Sunday breakfast/brunch starts at 8 a.m. and is served until 3 p.m. The brunch menu offers everything from granola and oatmeal to eggs Benedict and smoked salmon Benedict, as well as a spinach frittata, pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs and build your own omelets.

Not only is the food excellent, but the restaurant offers a heated outdoor patio, making dining possible at any hour. A glass of refreshing Spanish sangria made with red wine, fruit juices and soda water is a new item.

Owner Sohail Fatoorechi considers the needs of Palisadians, thus the early-weekend breakfast menu, organic foods and now, sangria. He deserves kudos.

— GRACE HINEY

Malibu Orchid Society

## Orchid Auction

Tuesday April 21, 2015

Preview: 6:30 PM

Auction: 7:00 PM

Pacific Palisades Women's Club  
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[www.malibuorchidsociety.org](http://www.malibuorchidsociety.org)



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# Perfect Wedding Filled with Laughs

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

This is an excellent Theatre Palisades production that is only going to get better with every performance.

I particularly love farces: the physical comedy, the necessary timing and the visual takes, and *Perfect Wedding*, by Robin Hawdon under the direction of Sherman Wayne, doesn't disappoint.

People laughing loudly in an audience can be annoying, but then I realized it was me. Anyone who has ever put on a wedding, knows something usually goes wrong, but this perhaps is the biggest wedding bloopers of all times: the bridegroom, Bill (Nicholas Dostal) wakes up the morning of his impending wedding with a naked woman, Judy (Holly Sidell), in the bridal suite.

Judy is not his fiancé and his betrothed, Rachel (Marisa Van Den Borre), is set to arrive at any moment to prepare for the wedding. How do you explain a naked woman in a bed? Ask your best friend Tom (Nick Thompson), to pretend the naked girl is his girlfriend, or ask the hotel maid Julie (Maria O'Connor) for assistance?

By the time the bride's mother Daphne (Martha Hunter) makes an entrance, the situation is totally and completely out of control—and frantically funny.

Everyone is well-cast, but O'Connor has to be commended for a nearly flawless per-



*Perfect Wedding* actors (left to right) Holly Sidell, Nicholas Dostal, Nick Thompson, Marisa Van Den Borre, Martha Hunter (behind) and Maria O'Connor. Photo: Joy Daunis

formance. Her timing was impeccable and her physical gestures perfect. Also on top of her game was Hunter, who with a simple entrance, elicited laughs.

The set design of a boutique hotel in Santa Barbara by Sherman Wayne was beautifully done. For a gorgeous, drop-dead wedding dress, costumer designer June Lisandrello has crafted an exquisite creation.

If you have never gone to a community

theater show, try this one. The talent that Theatre Palisades attracts is top-notch (Amy Adams starred here at the beginning of her career), but the prices are low (\$20 for adults and seniors/students \$18) and the fun factor high.

The show will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through May 17. Call (310) 454-1970 or visit theatrepalisades.org.

## Playwrights Festival Continues on Tuesdays

The sixth annual Theatre Palisades Playwrights Festival continues at the Pierson Playhouse. There will be wine, snacks and a question-and-answer period after each performance. Admission is \$5 at the door. Call: (310) 454-1970.

On Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m., *Re-prieves*, by David Reuben, explores complicated and fragile family relationships during a time of crisis.


On Tuesday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m., *Six about Sex (Plus Jogging)*, by Palisadian Jim McGinn, addresses virginity, sexual harassment, seduction, adultery and paternity.

## TP Youth Auditions

Theatre Palisades Youth summer workshop auditions for *Bugsy Malone Jr.* will be held Friday, April 24 from 4 to 6:30 p.m., and on April 25 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Road.

Youth are asked to prepare a one-minute musical theater song. Since the show is set in the 1930s, no pop songs. Boys and girls, ages 8 to 14, will learn a short dance combination. No open-toed shoes.

Attendance is required for the workshop, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. July 6 through July 23. Performances are July 24, 25, 26, 30, 31 and August 1 and 2. Visit: theatrepalisades.org.



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