

Tight Squeeze



With Palisadian Steve Conforti's help, General Motors is allowing its 2015 Z06 Supercharged Corvette, to serve as a pace car at the Will Rogers 5/10K Race. The car made its debut at the annual Palisades High School alumni picnic on Saturday. Race director Brian Shea looks out the window to help driver and alumni organizer Rich Wilken navigate the car on the campus. Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Legion Gives \$20,000 To PAPA for Parade

American Legion Post 283 has donated \$20,000 to Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA), greatly helping the nonprofit group stage its traditional events on July 4.

Outgoing Commander Scott Wagenseller said, "Since the American Legion started the parade [1948], it's only right that we ensure its continued success and are pleased to support the community's celebration of Americanism."

PAPA president Daphne Gronich thanked the Legion and said, "They are stepping up in a big way to enable us to make the parade, concert and fireworks possible for the entire community."

Sponsors at the \$5,000 level include Nancy and Donald DeBrier, UCLA Health and Rick Caruso Affiliated (on behalf of the Swarthmore Merchants Association). Also making large donations are Chase Bank, the Pacific Palisades Optimist Club, realtor Joan Sather, the Masonic Lodge and *Palisades News*.

One easy way to support the \$150,000 fundraising effort is to add a \$5, \$10 or \$20

coupon to your shopping cart at Gelson's. This amount is added to your bill and donated to PAPA. Another way to donate is by credit card at Palisadesparade.com, or send a check payable to PAPA and mail to P.O. Box 1776, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

You can also support the parade and the music program at Palisades High by attending the Big Band Fundraiser on June 27 (see Page 12).

In remembrance of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, six parade marshals have been selected this year.

They include WWII and WWII-era veterans who have made a significant contribution to this town. Read more about Hal Vieau, Bill Branch, Judge Harry Pregerson, Dick Littlestone, Dr. Mike Martini and Hal Maninger in the parade program on July 1.

Finally, neighborhood floats are sought for the parade. The theme is "Palisades Parade: Pride! Passion! Patriotism!" submitted by Suntricity owner Joyce Brunelle. If you are considering making a float, please contact info@palisadesparade.org by June 21.

Radio Personality Handel Is Grand Marshal

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The highly entertaining KFI radio host Bill Handel will be Grand Marshal of the 67th Annual Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade.

"I'm thrilled to death," he said about the honor.

Those who listen to Handel's broadcast know he has an edge and might wonder about the verity of that statement, but he was unabashedly enthusiastic when he spoke to the *Palisades News*.

"I'm seriously excited about this," said Handel, whose wife Marjorie will be on hand, as well as one of his daughters (the other had already made other plans). "My daughter Barbara will be coming and asked

if her boyfriend could come, too." Handel is considering letting him ride, but only with a sign on the car designating the kid as "boyfriend."

Although Handel has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2009, a Humanitarian of the Year award from Whittier Law School (2009) and a Distinguished Alumni Award (2008) from Cal State Northridge, was named Major Market Personality of the Year at the 2005 NAB Marconi Radio Awards, and is a three-time winner of the local news/talk/sports Personality of the Year award by *Radio and Records* (2005, 2007 and 2008), this is the first time he's been a parade grand marshal. "It's a big honor," he said.

Handel has never made it to the Palisades on Independence Day because his mother's

birthday is that day, and he usually celebrates by taking her to lunch. "I have absolutely no problem dumping my mother for the Fourth of July parade," he said. "And I get a free lunch." (VIPs are treated to a luncheon prior to the parade.)

In addition to his Monday through Friday, 6 to 10 a.m. show on KFI 640, in which he addresses current topics, Handel also hosts a Saturday morning show, "Handel on the Law." On the show he gives "marginal" legal advice to people who have legal issues. Many people call him to see if a case has merit or if they can sue, and Handel's no-nonsense comments such as "You have absolutely no case" often elicit chuckles from listeners. If a lawyer is needed, Handel provides the resources. He will often explain a complicated court case on his show as a way of helping listeners more clearly understand the law.

His entry into the competitive morning drive show came in a roundabout way. Once he finished law school at Whittier in 1979, he became one of the first surrogacy lawyers, and a leading expert on surrogate parenting. In 1980, the first surrogacy case hit the media, and Handel was asked to speak on several shows, including *60 Minutes*, *Nightline*, *48 Hours*, *Today* and *Crossfire*.

"I did a lot of interviews," he said. "And then the Whitehead story exploded."



Bill Handel will be Grand Marshal for the Fourth of July parade.

A surrogate mother, Mary Beth Whitehead, did not want to give up "Baby M," who had been contracted and paid for by the Stern family. This was the first custody case to result in an American court ruling on the validity of surrogacy. Handel continued to be sought after as a media guest, and after he was well received on an appearance on the Michael Jackson radio show, he found himself hosting his own radio show.

(Continued on Page 4)

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Optimist Club Awards \$30,000

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The Pacific Palisades Optimist Club has begun awarding \$30,000 in grants to 18 community organizations and schools. The money represents the proceeds earned last year by the Palisades Will Rogers 5/10K Run Foundation.

Since 1987, the Optimists have partnered with the Will Rogers 5/10K Race Foundation (also known as the Ridge Runners) on the Fourth of July; after expenses are paid, the money from registration fees goes to the Optimists. Club members register runners the day of the race (arriving as early as 6 a.m.), provide water at stations and hand out t-shirts after the race. Last year's race attracted a record 3,000 runners.

At the June 2 Optimist Club breakfast meeting, five grants were given. "This year's applicants represented a diversity of programs dedicated to bringing out the best in kids, which is a primary goal of our club," said President George LaBrot. "We're proud to partner with the Ridge Runners to assist these organizations in achieving their goals."

Special education teacher David Steenhoek accepted for Paul Revere Middle School's parent organization, PRIDE. "This will be used to fund the award-winning student newspaper *The Town Crier*, as well as The Roads to Your Future, which brings



Left to right: Andrew Frew and Brad Lusk accepted a check for Movies in the Park from Optimist Club Program Selection Committee member Bill Snyder.

Photo: Rich Wilken

in professionals to discuss possible college and career choices," Steenhoek said. "Thanks for your support and thanks for your Optimism."

Aldo Juliano, the Palisades High School wrestling coach, accepted a check that will be used towards a new wrestling mat. Currently, the team is using a mat from Santa Monica High that has rips and tears.

"Four years ago, Randy Aguirre and I started the wrestling team at the high

school. We didn't have a place to practice and we used to put mats outside, until the mist came up from the ocean and wrestlers would slide across the wet mats," Juliano said. Aguirre, 30, died last year from brain cancer, but this spring three wrestlers qualified for State.

PaliHi band conductor Arwen Hernandez was all smiles as she accepted a check. "We'll use this to buy a xylophone," she said. "Instruments are expensive, but our

students are dedicated and we thank you for this contribution."

Accepting for Movies in the Park were Andrew Frew and Brad Lusk. They bring free movies to the Palisades Recreation Center during August with John Wirth and David Williams. "We have been doing this for eleven years," Lusk said. "If you go to a movie, you'll see it looks just like a Norman Rockwell cover from the old *Saturday Evening Post* magazine."

"There's not a dime to spare on the budget each year," Frew said. "It's a labor of love. We have to pay for the 'free' movies and there are permit and insurance fees. Thank you so much for your support."

Rick Wilken accepted for the Palisades Americanism Parade Association. "The cost of the parade, fireworks and concert is more than \$125,000," he said and then quipped: "What would the parade be without the semi-precise Optimist Drill Team?"

Other recipients are the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, which offers scholarships for camps and memberships to those needing assistance; the Boy Scouts; the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association; the PaliHi Roads to the Future club; the Chamber of Commerce's teen contest scholarship and the Aldersgate Retreat Center, which offers meeting space for local organizations.

The Palisades Village Green, the small

(Continued on Page 4)

Yearly Luncheon Honors Town's 90-Year-Olds

Photos by Tom Hofer

Three centenarians were among the 50 or so honorees last Saturday as the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club held its 16th annual luncheon to honor the town's 90-year-olds (and up).

The oldest attendee was Paul Wasserman, 102, a retired pharmacist from Beverly Hills who lives at Atria Senior Living on Sunset. He was joined by John Danley, 101, a former executive at Merle Norman Cosmetics who has lived in the Palisades since 1954, and Phyllis Genovese, 100, who owned The Letter Shop in town from 1947 to 1998. She was the first woman to serve as president of the Palisades Chamber of Commerce.

Guest speaker Bill Bruns noted that when Santa Monica celebrated its 75th anniversary in 1950, Danley co-chaired the world's largest square dance, attended by about 15,000 dancers who formed a gigantic T on Ocean Avenue from Arizona to California, and on Wilshire up to Third.

One 99-year-old attended the luncheon—Buela Curry, who lives at Atria—and two 97-year-olds: Betty Lou Frick, who moved here with her late husband Robert in 1940, and Alice Brown, who has lived here 61 years.

The 96-year-olds included Paul Morris and Bob Schiller (the last surviving writer



Paul Wasserman, 102



Phyllis Genovese, 100



John Danley, 101

from the *I Love Lucy* show). The 95-year-olds were represented by Dorly Bern, Jacqueline Braunstein, Lee and Betty Chesney, Lois Eaton, Lev Kline, Alla Miller and Miriam Weitz.

Herman Moonves, 94, and his wife, Josephine, 91, were recognized for having the longest marriage—72 years, just 25 days longer than the Chesneys.

The program began with welcoming remarks from event co-chair Fay Vahdani and PPWC President Haldis Toppel, who noted that the Woman's Club is also celebrating its 90th birthday this year.

Entertainment was provided by the

Oceanaires, a barbershop chorus based in Santa Monica, and 12-year-old Joelle Vuylseke, a drama and singing student at the Adderly School of Performing Arts in the Highlands.

Toppel also introduced one of the PPWC's recent high school scholarship winners: Katie Scholl, who was a co-editor-in-chief of *The Tideline* at Palisades High this year and is headed for Brown University. The second recipient, Maddie White, who was unable to attend, was ASB vice president at PaliHi and an accomplished dancer. She will be attending Boston University.

Event co-chairs Julia Winter and Karen

Vinje organized the traditional trivia contest and handed out donated gifts to winners of the drawing.

Sponsors included Luxe Homecare; Ingrid & Ron Vinje; Myofunctional Therapy (Julia Winter); Haldis Toppel; Jean Aroeste; Mary Dean; Dr. Damon Raskin, MD; Dr. William Francis, DDS; Dave Powers, DPT; Bellagio Nails; Dr. Nasreen Babu-Khan, MD (Palisades Dermatology); Atria Senior Living; K Bakery; Vittorio's Restaurant Pizzeria; Matthew's Garden Café; Tivoli Café; Casa Nostra; Pinocchio; Café Vida; Beech Street; The Yogurt Shoppe; Palisades Garden Café; and Balloon Celebrations.

Optimists

(Continued from Page 3)

private park in the center of town, is operated and maintained by a nonprofit committee that will use the Optimist grant to continue its volunteer efforts.

When Santa Monica dentist Melanie Gullet lost her 26-year-old son Bryan to drug addiction, she formed Bryan's Smile, a nonprofit dedicated to bringing awareness about addiction and depression. This past spring, three programs were held, in which participants followed the fate of a fictitious teen addicted to drugs, including an arrest, jail and ultimately a funeral. Bryan's Smile will receive a grant, as will, the Crayon Collection, which is devoted to teaching environmentalism and philanthropy by collecting used and new crayons and distributing them to the less fortunate. (In the United States, restaurants throw away more than 150 million crayons a year.)

PEP, the booster club at Palisades Elementary, will use the grant to support art cadre, physical education and music. Its other recipients are Palisades Beautiful, which provides free parkway trees to Palisadians and also supports the Citizens' Planning Initiative, the Native Plant Garden in Temescal Canyon and efforts to develop a Temescal Academy Garden.

The Optimists also awarded money to Experience Learning Support with Animals to help pay for transportation for special-



Palisades High School wrestling coach Aldo Juliano said the Optimist grant will be used for a new mat.

Photo: Rich Wilken

need students from PaliHi to a ranch to work with horses. Optimists were told, "Most of these students are moderately or severely physically and /or learning disabled and nonverbal. Touching and grooming the horses is transformative."

The Palisades Charter School Foundation, which provides support to the seven local charter schools, and awards scholarships to PaliHi students, also received money.

The Optimist members overseeing program selections were Bill Skinner, William Snyder, John Peterson and Stu Kaiser.

Handel

(Continued from Page 1)

Handel has been quoted as saying "I enjoy it more today than the day I started [1985]. Abusing callers, giving marginal legal advice and telling callers where to go is still probably the most enjoyable thing I do other than having intimate moments with my wife . . . No . . . It is the most enjoyable thing I do."

Handel came to the United States from Brazil when he was six years old and became a citizen at age 11: he speaks fluent Brazilian Portuguese. His father, Leo, was a Polish Jew, who had hidden in a Jesuit house and lived as a Catholic priest during WWII. Although many members of the Handel family died during the Holocaust, it took 11 years before Leo was allowed to emigrate to the United States with his wife Nechama, a dentist, whom he met in Brazil.

Handel's viewpoint has been called politically centrist, supporting civil liberties and reduction of wasteful government spending and excessive taxation, but denouncing civilian ownership of firearms. He serves as director of the Center for Surrogate Parenting, Inc. in Encino and Annapolis, Maryland, and was an adjunct professor of Law at Whittier College School of Law, where he taught "Legal Aspects of Reproduction Technology."

The radio host has a blue belt in kenpo karate and loves Broadway musicals. On

a recent morning show, he was accused of being elitist because he only wanted center tickets in the first five rows of a theater. Handel tried to discount the accusation, but then a co-host asked if he would take tickets if they were in the seventh row slightly off center. He said tickets have to be in the first five rows.

Handel claims to be working on an autobiography, titled *How to Be an Insufferable Jerk and You, Too, Can Have a Radio Show*.

Clever, smart and actually being a really nice guy probably have more to do with Handel's success than his jerk persona, which his listeners love.

Democratic Club Hosts Fracking Speaker June 23

The Pacific Palisades Democratic Club will host Brenna Norton of Food & Water Watch (FWW), who will speak about the damage oil drilling and oil/gas fracking is doing to our water and our air, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, at the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real Dr. The public is invited.

Norton, the Southern California Organizer for FWW, holds a degree from Scripps College in political science, international relations, with a minor in history, as well as a certification in campaign management from George Washington University.

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Brush Cleanup Reveals Campsites

By SUE PASCOE

Editor

Photos by Brian Deming

The Huntington Palisades is one of the most exclusive areas in the country, but until last week the houses along the rim overlooking Pacific Coast Highway were under constant fire threat because of homeless cooking fires and discarded cigarettes. Two major fires, attributed to transients, have been stopped just short of residents' homes in the past few years.

The threat was diminished the first week in June when the Huntington Palisades Property Owners Corp. (HHPOC) took steps to clean up the area. This included: 1.) working with Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore to enforce the no-trespassing law on private property, 2.) hiring a brush clearance vendor to meet LAFD standards, 3.) getting trespass authorization forms signed by each homeowner, and 4.) hauling away all the leftover belongings and trash.

HPPOC President Sue Jameson told the *News* on June 7, "The area below the homes on Corona del Mar is private property; hence any persons walking, camping or living are in violation of the municipal no-trespassing and fire hazard codes."

On June 4 at noon, the *News* accompanied Brian Deming, a member of the Pa-



This transient has used concrete to make a multi-level living area that includes a sleeping area and a barbeque pit.

cific Palisades Homeless Task Force, to examine the site.

Deming described it as "an almost archaeological dig," because of the complexity of the camouflaged campsites, many of which were now visible to passing motorists on PCH.

Jesus Sandoval, of Brian Walsh Brush Clearance, and his partner had been wait-

ing since 8 a.m. that morning for LAPD to show up and help evict a transient.

"We need the police for protection, some of the guys are kind of violent," Sandoval said. "We need to clear some more trees around his tent."

The area was next to the mouth of Potrero Canyon and the accumulated garbage was

piled high. "We started yesterday and wanted to finish today, but there's no way we can," said Sandoval, who warned about a 6-ft. yellow/albino snake that had been seen in the area.

Near the K-rail there was about 3-feet of flammable material, leaves, dead tree limbs,

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Heard About Town

Silly String Is Serious

Every year, kids set off silly string along the parade route. What they and their parents don't realize is how dangerous it is. It causes horses to slip on the pavement, and when the elderly don't see it and catch their feet on it, they can take a nasty spill. Please don't buy silly string and if you do, please don't use it along the parade route.

Potrero Canyon Access

More residential lots will be auctioned off along De Pauw Street on the northern rim of Potrero Canyon. I hope those of us who don't have houses along the rim will have access to this future park, down to the beach, without having to enter via the Recreation Center.

Solution for Beach Tents

Regarding the homeless tents on Will Rogers State Beach, why doesn't LAPD enforce the no-sleeping-on-beach ordinance?

(Editor's note: We e-mailed Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore and he responded: "We enforce the no-camping-on-the-beach law, which allows officers to issue a citation. We cannot force people to leave the beach or remove their camps. Beaches and Harbors would be the only government department that would have the ability to remove the camps.")

What's Going On?

The degraded lot on Temescal Canyon Road across from the Palisades High swimming pool is an eyesore. What is happening there?

(Editor's note: Take another look. A crew was on site clearing the brush on June 5. One of the workers said that all the permits are now in place and the proposed mini-nursery will soon be under construction.)

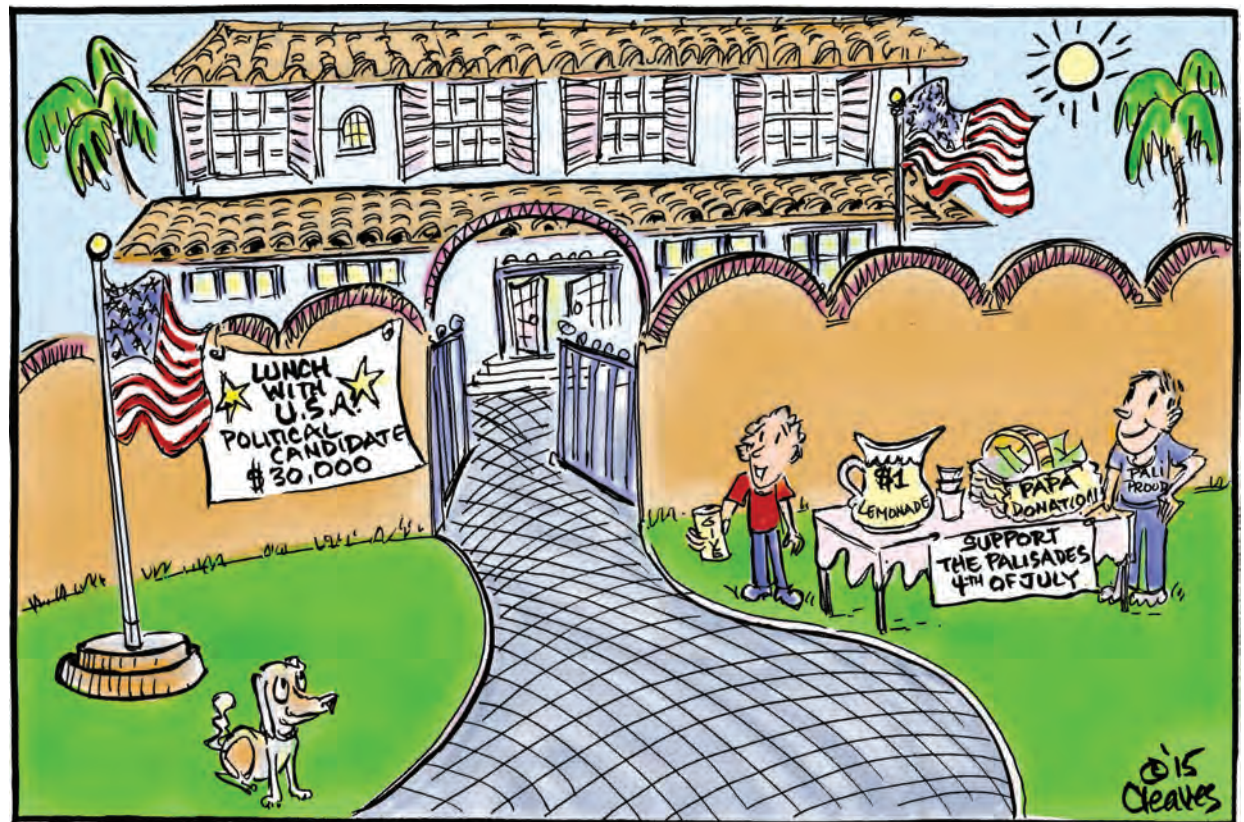
Sticky Mail Boxes

I mailed some letters (some contained checks) on May 12 at Amalfi and Sunset and noticed that it was really sticky on the inside. Today I discovered that not only did these letters not arrive but also one check was reproduced and cashed for another amount to a lady named "Valerie Martinez." I think the sticky substance inside the mailbox prevented the mail from really getting inside and someone just grabbed it and did his business with it! I still have four other checks missing, all of them mailed at the same time. I filed a complaint with the post office and they are going to investigate it.

(Editor's note: This is the second mail box location where this problem was reported. Please make sure your mail is dropping inside the box.)

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Professional Worry Specialist At Your Service

By AMY SOMMER
Special to the Palisades News

Within the little slice of heaven that is 90272, there is a new service. You can farm out your worrying—to me—a just-past-midlife-frumpy-über-volunteer-former-film-producer with enough privilege, time and neurosis to worry about everything so you don't have to.

I'm a parent—two elementary school-aged biological kids and a souvenir gift item (aka stepson) who lives nearby—which naturally provides fodder for all sorts of fears. Yeah, I tell myself that my kids give me great joy and that I just want them to be happy. But seriously, I want them to be happy only as long as their definition of happiness includes hard work, good schools and maybe a Nobel Prize or two.

But can they achieve this? Have I already destroyed my seven- and eleven-year-old's chances at an Ivy League education because they're not on the right team, or pursuing the right interests? Do I, as a parent, set the bar too high? Have I set it too low? Will they figure out that I don't keep and catalogue every piece of art they've produced? Will my husband notice this and divorce me? I worry that my children will never grow up and move out of my house and that they might leave for college and never return.

Sure, there are rational fears—childhood sunburns do increase kids' chances of developing skin cancer later in life—that lead to rational action. Please, slather your kids and yourself

in high-SPF sunblock every morning but then, can you trust them (or their camp counselors) to reapply the sunblock that is dutifully packed in their lunches?

And I don't just worry about my children. I worry that my knees live in fear of the effect gravity has on my boobs. I worry that my 50 will look like everyone else's 60. I worry that I henpeck my husband too much and that he does too little around the house.

And now, I can fret about your fears too—real, imagined, and those specific to our little Millionaire Mayberry—in hopes that if I worry for you, you'll use your time more wisely. I'm here to help you separate the worry wheat from the fearful chaff with some information and whimsy.

I'm not a qualified professional of any sort—medical or otherwise. But, if I do my job correctly, we'll create something positive out of our communal and individual fretting. Because while most of us realize that whatever handwringing we do will likely not help us achieve the outcomes we want for our families and ourselves, a shared laugh and some accurate information can improve our lives and our world.

So, send the *Palisades News* what is weighing on your mind—anonously if you like, I know you worry what others might think—and I will pace, twirl my hair, bite my nails and Google on behalf of your challenges, issues, or actual concerns.

(Editor's note: Amy Sommer lives in Pacific Palisades and blogs at fretforhire.com.)

Thought to Ponder

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom."

— Bob Dylan

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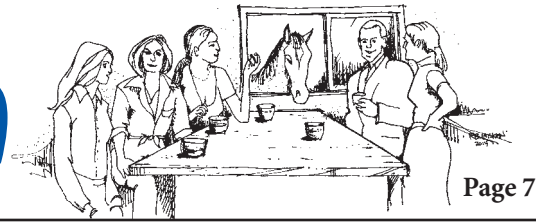
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EDITORIAL

Design Review Board Serves as Watchdog

If you're the type of person who enjoys agonizing over different shades of yellow paint, or the size and placement of a painting on a wall, or whether a shrub best accents an entryway, then you really might enjoy being on the Pacific Palisades Design Review Board (DRB).

Jesting aside, we'd like to praise this seven-member, L.A. City-appointed board—Barbara Kohn, David Forbes Hibbert, Kelly Comras, Paul Darrall, Sarah Griffin, Stuart Muller and Donna Vaccarino—because they embrace the time-involving process required of the DRB.

Businesses come before them with sign ideas, building designs, awnings, and color schemes, and must ultimately receive DRB approval for their plans.

Study historical photos of Pacific Palisades in the 1960s and 1970s and you'll notice that Sunset Boulevard from Monument to Via de la Paz looks like a mini-Las Vegas: huge business signs towering above the street, and even billboards promoting cigarettes.

Palisades activists, who disliked the sign blight, pushed to develop a City-approved Specific Plan that would limit any further large signs and distasteful building designs. A Pacific Palisades Specific Plan was eventually adopted in December 1985, and then amended in October 1992 and March 1993. (Visit: ppdrb.org to read the specific plan.)

According to the City: "Wherever this Specific Plan contains regulations which conflict with regulations contained in LAMC Chapter 1, the Specific Plan shall prevail

and supersede the applicable provisions of that Code."

Once the guidelines were the "law of the town," existing buildings and signs were grandfathered. New projects came before the DRB, the Specific Plan was followed and, gradually, gaudy (including signs above the roof-line) disappeared.

Once the DRB makes a decision, it goes to City Planning, which follows the recommendation.

Additionally, business owners (such as the new owner of the Shell station, whose architect came before the board June 10 to present his redesign plans), can request an informal hearing. This means a general discussion and recommendations are made for a businessman/architect to consider before asking for a final review.

At this latest meeting, the general consensus was that the proposed design, a Spanish/Mediterranean look, did not fit in with buildings around the Palisades village. The architect was asked to look at other buildings in the village, and also the proposed new UDO building design on La Cruz, which at an earlier meeting received high praise from the group.

Rick Mills, who served on the DRB 13 years and chair for the past eight, resigning last September, told the *Palisades News* that the board rarely denied something outright, but rather worked with owners for a continuation and a redesign.

"We didn't see many big projects," Mills said. "The businesses that came before us weren't corporations with

attorneys. They'd push hard, but they'd follow the rules."

Another issue at the June 10 meeting focused on the DRB's earlier denial of a requested business logo sign high on the 881 Alma Real building. The sign didn't follow the Specific Plan, either size-wise or as a building identification sign.

DRB members were told that the business making the application had convinced five residents to write the City Planning department and urge the department to ignore the DRB's denial of the sign.

Harden Carter, from the L.A. City Planning Department, who oversees the Pacific Palisades DRB, sent a message to the board, so that everyone was aware of the attempt to circumvent the board.

Member Comras said, "Everyone has to follow the same rules."

And Vaccarino added, "You have a group of people lobbying for something that is not in the guidelines."

The *News* asked Mills if anything like that had happened during his time on the DRB. "I haven't heard of that before," he said, but added: "If the DRB didn't exist, there would be a clamor to have it," in order to prevent giant roof signs, tall pole signs and flashing neon signs from encroaching on the business district.

Palisades residents need to support the DRB and its mission to "assure projects are designed to have an overall unity and beauty, including landscaping enhancing the area's scenic status."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Long Mail Delay From the East Coast

(Editor's note: Palisadian Dick Littlestone sent the following note to Pacific Palisades Postmaster Charles F. Hearne. His response follows.)

Hi, Mr. Hearne,

I just received, on Wednesday 13 May, this Mother's Day card (scan attached) postmarked from Atlanta last Thursday 7 May. Why the delay?

Thanks,
Dick Littlestone

May 14, 2015

Good Morning, Mr. Littlestone.

The mail is taking up to five days from back east since January of this year. I have no idea what's causing the delay. We are delivering as soon as we receive the mail into the building.

Charles F. Hearne
Postmaster, Pacific Palisades

LAPD Warning About Prisoner Release

(Editor's note: LAPD sent out a press release about a prisoner, who was no longer in custody.)

A 24-year-old transient, Keith Whittington, was released on Tuesday, June 9. He had been arrested in February in connection with a string of thefts from vehicles in Pacific

Palisades.

LAPD note that criminals are notorious for returning to the locations where they committed their crimes.

Residents are reminded to lock their vehicles because unlocked vehicles were his primary target.

Palisades Community Council Opposes Assembly Bill 57

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to State Senator Ben Hueso by the Pacific Palisades Community Council on June 10.)

Pacific Palisades Community Council opposes AB 57 because this bill will severely restrict the ability of local governments to regulate WTF (wireless telecommunications facilities, more commonly known as cell towers) and/or make local decisions about cell-tower siting. PPCC opposes AB 57 based on all of the grounds set forth in the letters in opposition dated (1) May 6, 2015, by the California State Association of Counties, the American Planning Association (California Chapter) and the Urban Counties Caucus (<http://blob.capitoltrack.com/15blobs/793a8209-30cc-40f1-9f71-ed5f9154660b>), and (2) May 11, 2015, by the League of California Cities (<http://blob.capitoltrack.com/15blobs/aa02035b-46c0-41c1-a4be-e46ebef40d2f>), and specifically on the grounds that:

1. By "deeming approved" all applications for co-location or siting of new WTF if a city or county fails to act on such applications within time periods established by the

FCC, AB 57 goes beyond the requirements of federal law and unnecessarily and significantly impacts and constrains the authority of local governments to regulate the placement of WTF; and

2. Despite language to the contrary in AB 57, WTF are matters of municipal as well as statewide concern.

PPCC also brings to your attention the fact that substantial portions of Pacific Palisades are located within the Coastal zone and are thereby afforded important environmental protections under the California Coastal Act. New WTF within the Coastal zone are required to undergo additional review by local governments and/or the California Coastal Commission. PPCC is concerned that under AB 57, such required environmental review may be severely curtailed or effectively eliminated and significant protections afforded by the Coastal Act may be rendered meaningless.

In addition, PPCC notes that on June 9, 2015, (1) the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution in opposition to AB 57; and (2) a resolution in opposition was introduced in Los Angeles City Council by Councilmembers Bonin, Koretz and O'Farrell (vote not yet scheduled as of this writing).

PPCC urges you to vote NO on AB 57.

Christina Spitz
President, Pacific Palisades Community Council

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

The 4th of July Festivities are Coming Soon!

★★★★★ SUPPORT THE ★★★★★★ Fourth of July Parade



It's not too late to GET INVOLVED!

The Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) organizes and pays for the entire day: from pre-Parade details to post-fireworks clean-up.

Support comes through volunteers, community donations large & small, sponsorships, and even revenue from advertising in the **Official Parade Program**.

There is still time and need to support this great Palisades tradition. Volunteers are still wanted. Donations large & small go DIRECTLY to pay for the parade and all the activities of the day, which include:

- ★ Massive Set-up & Clean-ups
- ★ 2 p.m. Skydiver Kick-Off to the Parade
- ★ The Best and Most Fun Parade on the West Coast!
- ★ Live Music & Food Trucks at PaliHi
- ★ and the Fantastic Fireworks Display at Sundown

All of this through community involvement, donations and sponsorships. Support the organization which brings one of the Best Things of the Year to the Palisades.

**DONATE, SPONSOR, VOLUNTEER.
GET INVOLVED TODAY!**

Daphne Gronich
PAPA President
(310) 779-4456

★★★

Jeff Ridgway
Parade Program
Ads Volunteer
(310) 401-7695



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Saturday

June 27 7pm

Kick off the July 4th week
with friends & neighbors.
\$10 at the door
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At PaliHi's Stadium by the Sea

- ★ **Food Trucks** (4 p.m.)
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Music by
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Organized Each Year by PAPA ★ For details: www.palisadesparade.org



The accumulated garbage at homeless sites is a sanitation hazard.



A system of hoses uses the water draining down the hillside for drinking and laundry.

Campsites

(Continued from Page 5)

paper and garbage. There were about seven campsites at different levels. At one location, a 4-ft. by 5-ft. area had been excavated into the hillside to allow a flat space for a tent. At another site, someone had left an inflatable air mattress, and at four of the seven sites there were numerous cigarette butts and empty cigarette packs.

A rope with knots had been tied to a higher tree, and by pulling oneself up by holding on, it was easier to reach the higher campsites.

The transient that Sandoval has spoken

about was there, but did not want his name used in the paper. He was proud of the plumbing system he had installed, using tubing to funnel water from a stone basin into a big barrel. He had enough for drinking and also enough for laundry (a second barrel was filled with water and had two pair of jeans soaking).

He was wearing a camouflage shirt, but said he was not a veteran. He had also purchased cement redi-mix and had fashioned a concrete cooking pit and a place to store his groceries. He said he had been living on the hill since he got out of jail, about five years.

He had cut steps into the hillside, to make it easier to go up and down on his multi-layered site. The man said that he

used to feed the skunks—they like eggs—and that rats had awakened him by tugging on his beard. There was a skull of a cat and another critter on his “nightstand,” which he said a friend gave him.

“Where do you shop?” he was asked.

“Ralphs,” was the answer.

He did not want to move from his campsite.

(His tattoos were later described to Michael Moore, who said the transient had served five years for manslaughter of another transient, Seth Greenspan. Moore said it was supposedly a drug deal gone bad and Greenspan had been stabbed and bled to death.)

Further towards Chautauqua, behind the K-rail and high walls, the Econo Tree Care

Company was filling garbage bags with dead brush and garbage. One tent was still standing about halfway up the cliff, but workers had just pulled a second down.

A six-foot gopher snake, perhaps roused from under the garbage, made its way back to the hillside.

The HPPOC concluded its message to homeowners: “Our mandate going forward is to ensure that we keep the bluffs properly maintained year by year so we don’t revert to the prior status.

“Additionally, it is imperative that our residents don’t feed [give money to] the panhandlers on Chautauqua. According to Officer Moore, they go straight to the liquor store.”

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6

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8

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9

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Lightfoots Will Open New Yoga Studio

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Gretchen and John Lightfoot will take over the YogaWorks space on Sunset Boulevard (next to Rosie's Nails) and reopen in July with an expanded class list. Their new studio will be called Goorus (a play on the word Guru).

"I'd like to add more classes and a variety of classes," said Gretchen Lightfoot, who recently worked as an instructor at YogaWorks and served as the company's program advisor for Orange County in charge of scheduling teacher training workshops.

On her list would be chair yoga (for the elderly and those who might have a disability), prenatal, family, meditative and even kundalini, which she describes as a calisthenic-type movement that incorporates regulated breathing.

"I'd also like to offer eight to nine classes a day as opposed to four or five (the YogaWorks schedule)," Lightfoot said.

She also plans to describe classes as gen-



Gretchen and John Lightfoot will open Goorus, a new yoga studio. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

tle, gentle-moderate, moderate and vigorous instead of Level 1, Level 2, etc., which is the common description used.

Prior to joining YogaWorks, Lightfoot worked for 20 years in marketing and fund-

raising for nonprofits. Her husband, who grew up in the Palisades and whose parents, Mike and Joan, still live here, was the catalyst for her career switch last year. John urged her to "Do it."

"I was scared to make the transition [to teaching], but liked it more than I thought I would," said Lightfoot, who initially did the 200-hour yoga training program, and then went through an additional 300-hour training program. "I just completed the course in February."

After finishing her initial training, she gave back to the community by teaching at the Palisades Recreation Center and at the Fancy Feet Dance Studio, before joining

YogaWorks on Sunset.

When the space became available in May, John Lightfoot contacted the owner of the building. "The landlord was amazing," Gretchen said, noting that they liked the fact that John had grown up here.

"He is my 'partner in crime,'" Lightfoot said of her husband, who is working on the business side of the studio, including the lease, business plan and website.

John attended Paul Revere and Palisades High School and is a business entrepreneur with more than 20 years of experience in information technology. He is the founder and CEO of Vizhn (visit: vizhn.com).

After living in the Marquez Knolls area for years, the couple recently moved to Beverly Glen with their 13-year-old son, Declan.

Growing up Crawfordsville, Indiana, Lightfoot was 9 when she discovered yoga. "My mom gave me a book on Vidal Sassoon, and there were yoga poses in there, so I tried them." But she didn't take her first yoga class until college.

After majoring in the classics and Latin at Indiana University in Bloomington, she moved to San Francisco to work on a graduate degree. Yet instead of going to school, Lightfoot started working for nonprofits—and practiced yoga in major cities across the country.

"There are so many benefits [of yoga]," she said. "It calms your mind and is about reflection and inner peace."

John also practices yoga. "He has arthritis, so exercising every day with yoga is keeping the joints loose," Lightfoot said, noting that her husband's rheumatoid specialist has noticed real improvement in his range of movement.

"I'm excited about this studio because Palisades needs one. There is something for everyone and it's in our backyard," Lightfoot said. "We hope to keep the momentum going."

She added that while there are several places in the Palisades that offer yoga classes, Goorus will be different because the studio will be "All things yoga."

Anticipate, Solve Challenges Before Selling Your Home

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

We have often been asked what actions can be taken to maximize the benefit of the home-marketing process. Many of the issues can be anticipated and handled effectively before they become problems.

- One of the most challenging areas is the visual appeal of the home and surrounding property. Often some basic preparations are overlooked or not completed. These include the first impression in front of the property, the entry to the home, numerous areas of interior clutter, many personalized items and children's toys scattered around. Also, people often do not perform even basic cleaning such as wall smudges, dirty windows, dusty or dirty floors, dishes in the sink, items tossed in the yard and unmade beds.

- Family expectations and emotions are often overlooked in the sale preparation process. For example, there may be financial pressures or children's feelings that need to be considered. Also, if the general emotional climate is filled with anxiety, anger or tremendous uncertainty, it can indirectly affect the success of the marketing process.

Sufficient consideration is often not given to the marketing. Many agents fail to budget for any advertising that will help

their listing stand out in the marketplace. Most agents seem to feel that online marketing is all that is necessary today. However, many people still read magazines and newspapers, at home and in various public places. Where a home is advertised and with what frequency and regularity are aspects of marketing that often are left out.

- Selection of an agent who has been through the sales process enough times to have learned from experience is another oversight home sellers frequently make. Experienced agents are far more likely to instinctively resolve challenges and issues that may come up. Of course, simply because an agent has had many years of experience, this alone does not necessarily ensure that they also have as much professionalism and integrity as others do. Obviously, the first challenge for the prospective home seller is to effectively select and interview candidates for the job and responsibility of representing them in the complex marketing and sales process.

As in so many areas of life, the big differences are often made by the smallest details!

Michael Edlen is ranked in the top 10 of all Coldwell Banker agents in the country and has provided counseling to nearly 2,000 owners about the marketing and home sale process. He can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or Michael@michaedlen.com.

Potrero Lot Public Auction

The City of Los Angeles will hold a public auction on six properties along the rim of Potrero Canyon at 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, at City Hall, 200 N. Spring St., Room 350.

The City General Services Real Estate division will sell two houses and four lots. The minimum bid for each property is \$1.325 million. An open house for the homes at 15329 and 15333 De Pauw St. will be held Saturday, June 20, from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

The 1,578-sq.-ft. house at 15329 De Pauw is a three-bedroom, one-bath on a 8,154-sq.-ft. lot. The house at 15333 De Pauw is about 1,900 sq.ft., and has two bedrooms, two baths on a 8,432-sq.-ft. lot.

The vacant lots at 15205, 15209, 15213 and 15217 De Pauw Street range in size from 9,710 sq. ft to 10,230 sq. ft.

Buyers must pre-register for the auction with a cashier's check. "As-is" sale and all cash. Visit gsd.lacity.org/asset/surplus.htm.

Chamber Mixer is Thursday, June 25

The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce June mixer will be held 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 25, at 17315 Sunset Blvd. at Los Liones Drive (next to Fire Station 23).

The event is sponsored by The Friendship Circle by the Sea, A Project of Palisades Chabad. There will be appetizers and raffle drawing. Free to members and \$25 for non-Chamber members. Call (310) 459-7963.

Palisades Rental Market Update

By ANTHONY MARGULEAS
Special to the Palisades News

The Pacific Palisades lease market is as hot as the sales market, but be prepared: the lease market moves even quicker than buying or selling a home.

When buying a home, usually you need to go back a few times, bring other family members or friends and get your financing in order. With a lease, many times when someone sees a place they have to make a decision immediately.

This is why it is important to be prepared and have your current credit report with your FICO scores, a bank account or brokerage statement that shows a full year's lease funds as well as a fully completed rental application and your personal bio letter on hand.

From the landlord's perspective, preparation is important because tenants often put in lease applications on several properties at the same time. If a landlord waits too long

to respond, he/she may lose the tenant.

In the past 12 months, 218 Palisades properties have leased. Currently, there are 52 leases on the market, which is low. Prices for homes and condos range from \$3,200 to \$50,000 per month. Out of the 52 leases, nine are condos and the rest are homes. Seventeen of the 52 leases are offered furnished and most of those tend to be shorter term leases (one to six months). With furnished leases a landlord can legally charge a tenant three months security deposit as opposed to the standard two months security deposit.

Due to low-lease inventory, it is important to be very creative when finding leases. As the top leasing agent in the Palisades, we have found a successful way to find leases for our clients before they even come on the market. We go through the MLS and find properties that were leased 10 months to three years ago, because there is a high chance the lease will be ending (most leases are one to two years).

We take a client's regular active MLS lease-search criteria and then look for the ones that have leased that have the right number of bedrooms, bathrooms, pool, pets or no pets, etc. Once we have that list, we call each previous listing agent to see if the lease is coming due, and if so can we show it to our client. It does take a lot of time but overall it works well for our clients. The landlord also benefits by not having their place vacant for a month or two or more waiting to find a new tenant.

We also have had success contacting listing agents that have had a home on the market for sale for a while and inquiring if their owners may be open to leasing their home since they have not been able to sell it.

Anthony Marguleas founded Amalfi Estates 21 years ago and has personally sold \$700 million in properties (mostly all in the Palisades). He was selected by the Wall Street Journal as one of the top 250 agents in the country out of one million agents. He can be reached directly at (310) 293-9280. Visit: AmalfiEstates.com or email Anthony@amalfiestates.com.

Big Band Dance Fundraiser

The Palisades Americanism Parade Association is hosting a Big Band concert and swing dance at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, in Mercer Hall at Palisades High School. The cost is \$10 at the door and proceeds will support the Fourth of July parade and the music program at PaliHi.

Gary Greene and His Big Band of Barristers will play all of the Big Band favorites, including "In the Mood," "Moonlight Serenade," "Blue Moon" and "New York, New York."

The band, consisting of L.A. lawyers and judges, includes Justice Arthur Gilbert; Gary Urwin, who conducts the 18-piece Gary Urwin Jazz Orchestra; Robert Hirschman; Jerry Levine; Bill Hochberg and bandleader Greene, who has conducted for many leading performers, including Debby Boone, Pat Boone, Richard Chamberlain, Carol Channing, Robert Goulet, Florence Henderson, Carol Lawrence, Stefanie Powers, Debbie Reynolds, Mickey Rooney, Dick Van Dyke and Michael York.

Visit: LALawyersPhil.org.

Caregivers of Cancer Program

Caregivers of cancer survivors have special challenges, including maintaining an equilibrium and focus while still supporting a loved one through the ups and downs of the disease.

A free six-week program for caregivers developed by Palisadian Michael States, Dr.

Jan Berlin and Timothy Tillman, will meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., every Monday (June 22 and 29, July 6 and 13, August 3 and 10) at the Roxbury Park Community Center, 417 Roxbury Dr., Beverly Hills. Call (424) 230-7154 or email nicole@towercancer.org.

Village Art Show Set for June 21

The Pacific Palisades Art Association will host a Village Green art show and sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 21, at the Village Green, corner of Sunset Boulevard and Swarthmore Avenue. This is a chance for residents to support local artists.

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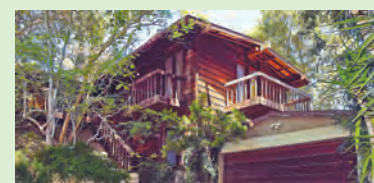
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Rustic Night 2015 Celebrated

Story and Photo by DEBBIE ALEXANDER
Special to the Palisades News

The third year of "The World Famous Rustic Night" exceeded expectations, with more than 240 Rustic Canyon Park neighbors and friends attending the fundraising party on June 6.

An extra 100 tickets were sold in the 24 hours prior to the event, which featured the 18-piece Les Hooper Band. Organizers had prepared for 150 to dine and dance in the gym decorated like the 1920s era of the famed founders of the building—The Uplifters.

Sisters Karen and Sarah Steben performed incredible feats on the trapeze, while guests marveled. The Stebens' students, who were dressed as acrobatic monkeys, greeted everyone on the way in.

"This park is pure magic," said resident Richard Beale. Al Pinnaro, now retired from the Los Angeles Parks Department and who built the irrigation system in the historic eucalyptus grove and courtyard added, "Rustic Canyon is a really special place because of the history."

History is just what the Rustic Canyon Park Advisory Board plans to maintain by renovating the main building back to its original 1924 glamour, with French doors replacing the steel ones in the interior

courtyard and a native garden planted inside the atrium.

Architect Taylor Loudon, known for his interior improvements in the Will Rogers house, has been retained and has already been approved by the city's historical commission.

The tennis shack is soon to be rebuilt as well and the new structure will be named in honor of the late tennis legend Dorothy "Dodo" Cheney, who lived in Santa Monica Canyon.

As realtor Frank Langen shared in his introduction, Dodo felt there could never be too much perfume or lace in tennis. He reminisced about taking lessons from Cheney at Rustic Park, where she taught when she was not busy competing on the international circuit.

Her three children, Brian, Christie and May, who grew up in the Canyon, accepted a posthumous handmade ceramic tennis ball created by local artist Moye Thompson in honor of their mother.

"Being back in the canyon is wonderful for us," they said. "It is inspirational and you inspire our passions by keeping the canyon's spirit alive."

Emcee Steve Slavkin joked, "Next up is a dodgeball game. No, really, we are going to return this historic building back to its historic glory with your help."



Dorothy Cheney's children accepted a handmade ceramic tennis ball in honor of their mother.

He then asked for donations and many in the room gladly ponied up to help underwrite French doors that cost \$7,500 each.

The event raised more than \$100,000 towards the historic renovations at Rustic Park.

Generous sponsorships from Deasy/Penner & Partners, Inthecanyon.com and Colin Financial helped underwrite the evening.

Celebrities included 91-year-old Ernie Marquez and his cousin Sharon Kilbride, who lives in the canyon; Ted Danson; Marcia Gay Harden and legendary screenwriter Alvin Sargent, who won Oscars for *Julia* and *Ordinary People*.

According to event chair Veslemoey Zwart, "We exceeded all expectations, both in ticket sales and donations. To see people enjoy the clubhouse, the grand room, the Grove and the courtyard in a slightly different way than we normally do was simply magical."

Park Director Tracy Field loved watching her domain undergo the transformation. "It was incredible to watch what happened today, and I look forward to the planned changes as well."

"Rustic Night 2015 gave us a clear signal from our community that we want this," Zwart said.

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WACKY HAIR DAY 7.06	SKY HIGH 7.07	ISRAEL DAY PARADE 7.08	7.09	CARICATURE ARTIST 7.10
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SPEAKERS CORNER

Rev. Edwards Will Speak At 'Food for Thought'

Palisades Presbyterian Church will continue its "Food for Thought" speaker series on Thursday, June 25 at 11:30 a.m. in Janes Hall, off El Medio at Sunset.

Reverend Douglas Edwards, the director of church outreach for the "be.group," a nonprofit that provides retirement housing throughout Southern California, will speak on "Packing your suitcase for the trip of a lifetime." Edwards is a licensed mar-

riage, family and child therapist, who specializes in spirituality and aging, parenting, and attention disorders. He is also an instructor for the Pasadena City College Community Education Center's Parent Education Program. Visit: thebegroup.org.

Atria Senior Living will once again serve a complimentary lunch. The event is free, but please RSVP to (310) 454-0366 to ensure there is enough food.



Rev. Douglas Edwards

Patriotic Pups To March in Parade

If you have a dog that gets along with other dogs and doesn't panic when it sees a horse, then consider marching with the Patriotic Pups in the Fourth of July parade.

For the past 20 years, between 70 and 100 dogs trot along the parade route with their owners, wowing the crowd with their resolute cuteness. All potential marchers should call Marilyn Haaker at (310) 454-6430 and leave their name, telephone number and the pup's name.

Shortly before the parade begins at 2 p.m., owners and canines meet under the trees at Palisades Elementary, corner of Via de la Paws (Paz) and Bowdoin. Owners should bring water for their pets.



Roland Dyens

French Guitarist Dyens To Perform, Offer Master Class

Guitar Salon International (GSI) will present French master guitarist and composer Roland Dyens in concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, at the GSI Showroom in Santa Monica, 1455 19th St. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$22.

Dyens will perform on a selection of collectible classical guitars made by legendary French luthiers such as Daniel Friederich and Robert Bouchet.

The next day, June 28, at noon, Dyens

will teach a master class with five student participants at the same location. Admission is free for public viewing.

Dyens is known for his spontaneous performances of a wide selection of repertoire ranging from pieces from the standard repertoire to his own compositions as well as creative and tasteful interpretations of popular French songs and ballads.

Visit: guitarsalon.com or email info@guitarsalon.com or call (310) 586-1100.

Theatre Palisades Actors' Troupe Performs June 24

The Theatre Palisades Actors' Troupe will perform an evening of five short plays revolving around the theme "Love and Marriage," at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24. Refreshments are served at 7 p.m. and the event is free. Come enjoy an hour of live entertainment from trained professionals.

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The steps to enter are simple: 1.) decorate, giving it your best patriotic effort; 2.) upload a photo of your home to the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Celebration page

on Facebook, or email it to info@palisades-parade.org (remember to include your address). The deadline is July 1.

Preliminary judging of the submitted photos will take place on July 2. The top choices will be viewed personally by a panel of local celebrities on July 3.

The top prize is a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol as well as an opportunity to judge next year's contest. The top 10 finalists will also receive prizes from local businesses and recognition certificates.

Visit: palisadesparade.org, joansather.com, or email joan@joansather.com.



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PASSINGS



Fred Wolf with Palisades resident Carol Leacock at Gelson's.

Photo: Ted Mackie

Fred Wolf, 90; Auschwitz Survivor

Fred (Manfred) Wolf, who survived two years in the Auschwitz concentration camp, and late in life worked as a popular bagger at Gelson's in Pacific Palisades, died on May 27 at age 90. Funeral services were held at Hillside Memorial Park.

Born on July 15, 1924, in a small village along the Moselle River in Germany, Wolf was an only child. His mother died when he was 11 and his father perished at Treblinka in 1942.

After Kristallnacht in November 1938 (when his father's clothing store was ransacked), Wolf moved to Cologne to join a kibbutz that was part of the Zionist youth movement's Hakhshara (preparation) program to give young people the agricultural and technical skills necessary for immigration to Palestine. There, Fred learned to be a machinist. He worked in three other camps before his entire group was sent to a labor camp in Paderborn, according to an article by Jane Ulman in the *Jewish Journal*.

In March 1943, the group was sent in open boxcars to Auschwitz. Wolf was spared: he was 18, strong and healthy, and he had skills that were needed in the work camps in and around Auschwitz that were closely connected to German industry. He said he also had "a sixth sense" that helped him survive several near-death incidents.

As Soviet troops approached in January 1945, Wolf and thousands of other prisoners were forced to join a death march, sleeping at night in the snow. Near the Czechoslovakian border, the Nazis loaded them into cattle cars and took them to Mauthausen.

Wolf was barely surviving in an overcrowded subcamp in Gunskirchen, Austria, when American troops liberated the camp on May 4, 1945.

Eventually, with the help of the Haganah, Fred made his way to Genoa, Italy, where he boarded an illegal ship to Haifa and later reconnected with his Uncle Max, his fa-

ther's youngest brother. Fred fought in Israel's War of Independence.

In 1951, Fred returned to Germany in an unsuccessful attempt to restore ownership of the family's house in Merl. But he had success in Cologne, where he met Sonya Berger, and six months later they were married. In April 1954, sponsored by a family in Erie, Pennsylvania, Fred and Sonya immigrated to the United States with their daughter, Rita. Their son, Eddie, was born in July 1955.

A year later, the Wolfs moved to Los Angeles, where Fred worked for several aerospace companies before owning and operating the Cork and Bottle liquor store in Venice for 30 years. He sold the business in 1993 after Sonya died.

In 2001, restless in retirement, Fred went to work for Gelson's, retiring in 2013.

"Fred was a wonderful guy with hundreds of friends here in the Palisades," said Ted Mackie, a bike shop owner who eats lunch at Gelson's most days. "No matter how many times I saw that tattoo number on Fred's forearm [105064], seeing it was always an emotional jolt."

In 2002, Fred met Calia Mintzer at a Culver City Senior Center dance, and they married in 2010. She has four daughters, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Fred was survived by his son and his daughter, who both live in Los Angeles, his daughter-in-law Deborah, and three grandchildren.

Throughout the years, Wolf spoke to school groups and individuals about his Holocaust experiences. He told writer Steven Lieberman, "By giving my testimony, I hope that people will see what it really was like for the Jews under Hitler. It's a warning for everybody in the world today that this (Holocaust) could happen again. The Nazis today (and during the trials), say, 'I was just doing as I was told, taking orders from Hitler,' even though they knew, deep down, that it was inhumane."

Cardinals Win Bronco World Series

The Cardinals had to win two against the Dodgers to take the PPBA Bronco World Series, and on June 4, they did just that.

"We got hot at the right time and hit 90 points higher in the playoffs than in the regular season," said Cardinal head coach Joe Collins. "We threw strikes, we played good defense."

Going into the playoffs, the Dodgers (11-4-1) were seeded first. The Cardinals (9-7) were seeded third behind the Red Sox.

"Our only loss during the playoffs was game three to the Dodgers," Collins said. That defeat pushed the team to the Loser bracket and a game against the Red Sox, who had also lost to the Dodgers.

The Cards jumped out to an early lead and beat the Red Sox, 9-6. Connor Colao pitched four strong innings for the win. Carson Kirshbaum and Shane Bunting led the offense with two hits each.

Coming out of the Loser's bracket, the Cards had to win two games, the Dodgers only one to clinch the title—and the Dodgers had already beaten the Cards three

times during the regular season.

In game one on June 2, the Cards jumped out to a fast start and their bats stayed hot in a 15-8 win. Nine different Cardinals had base hits, including two each by Zack Weitman and Holden Gering. Charlie Collins hit a three-run homer in the fourth to break the game open, and Colao added a grand slam in the fifth to shut the door.

Lucas Herman pitched three innings, giving up four runs but getting good defensive plays by the infield to end threats in the first and third innings. Charlie Kastner came through with two defensive gems at second base in the late innings.

The Cardinals win meant a final game on June 4. Once again, they jumped out to an early lead, scoring three in the first on a line-drive single by Gering, a ground-rule double by Herman and a homer by Colao.

The rest of the Cardinal line-up took over in the second inning. Matt Fahn singled and Chase Plager added a double, leading to six runs. By game's end, the Cards had combined for 23 hits and notched an 18-1 victory.

Five Cardinals hit over .400 in the six-



The Bronco Cardinal team won the PPBA World Series.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

game playoff run: Colao, Collins, Gering, Weitman and Kirshbaum.

"This was a fun, cohesive group of kids," Collins said. "They really supported one another, and I think that is why we were able

to put up such big numbers in the playoffs. I tip my cap to Josh Morrow and the Dodgers. Their regular season record was great. But for us it was a game of momentum, especially in the World Series."



The Pinto Cubs won the World Series by defeating the Dodgers. During games, and at the Awards Ceremony on June 6, both teams wore pink socks to support a player's mom who is suffering from cancer.

Photo: Chelsea Ford

Cubs Capture the Pinto World Series

It looked like it was going to be an easy path to the PPBA World Series title for the Pinto Cubs, who went into the playoffs seeded first. But when they lost to the Yankees in the first game, 4-3, they dropped to the Loser's bracket—and a loss away from being eliminated.

"We needed to win our next four games in order to make it into the championship round," said Cubs head coach Rich Ford, whose team was 12-4 on the season. "And then two more if we wanted to win the World Series."

The second-seeded Dodgers, coached by

Paul Arenson with a 13-3 record, knocked out team after team to make it to the World Series finals.

When the two teams went head to head the first week in June, the Cubs scored two runs in the third inning on a groundout by Jackson Steets and an RBI single by Nolan Miller. The Cubs bats stayed alive in the fourth, racking up five runs: an RBI single by Declan McCormick, a two-run double by Kellan Ford, an RBI single by Jett Teegardin and another RBI single by Steets. When the dust settled, the final score was 11-2, which meant the teams

had to face each other one last time to determine the champs.

The Cubs grabbed a first-inning lead RBI single by Teegardin and never looked back, winning 14-1.

They added two more runs in the fourth, when Steets kicked things off with a single, sending Kellan Ford home. That hit was followed by a single from Brendan O'Malley, who scored Jasper Hoegh-Guldberg.

In the fifth, Miller singled to score Dylan Arata and Ford doubled to score McCormick. In the sixth, the Cubs racked up six runs on a two-run single by Miller

and a two-run triple by Ford. The Dodgers' fate was sealed when Teegardin hit one of the longest over-the-fence home runs of the season.

"Our defense in the final games made some amazing plays," Coach Ford said, noting that Kate St. John caught a line drive that took the steam out of a Dodgers rally. "Two consecutive fly balls to right field were caught by Matthew Bratter."

Ford also singled out Hoegh-Guldberg for making a good nab on a pop fly to left center and Matthew O'Conner for his great fielding.

Mustang Red Sox Nab Title

Head coach Brian Grimes has just finished his third season of coaching in the PPBA by gaining his third World Series title. His Red Sox team beat Jim Ford's Dodgers, 13-12, on June 2.

"I have been lucky enough to have both kids and parents that work hard and we peaked at the right time," Grimes said. "We came into the playoffs as the number-four seed (out of eight)."

The Red Sox and Dodgers (seeded fifth) faced each other in game one. Down 7-3, the Red Sox came back and scored 16 unanswered runs to beat the Dodgers, 19-7. The Dodgers then won four straight games to

gain the World Series against the Red Sox.

In the final game, the Red Sox went up 7-2 in the second inning, but the Dodgers responded with seven hits and seven walks, taking an 11-7 lead by the fifth inning. The top three batters for the Dodgers—Crew Morrow, Jake Grossman and Campbell Ford—accounted for 7 of the 14 base runners.

At the end of six innings (a regulation game), the score was tied, 11-11. The Dodgers scored one in the top of the seventh, but the Red Sox answered with two runs in the bottom of the seventh.

Matthew Arth, who had just returned after being out for three weeks with a hip injury, led off the inning with a single. A base hit by Jack Bentley scored Arth. Brendan Gardner then singled, driving in Bentley to win the game.

"We had huge games from three players," Grimes said. "Arth had three hits and three RBIs. Bentley also had three RBIs on four hits. Our best hitter throughout the year, Gardner had three hits including a monster homer to left field."

The Red Sox also had two hits each by Gage Grimes and Spencer Rodman and Jack Messina had a key game-tying RBI in the fifth inning.

The Dodgers were led by Grossman with four hits and two apiece by Morrow, Ford and Leo Velez.

AYSO Soccer Camps Open for Registration

Palisades AYSO Summer Soccer Camps are now open for registration. A daily camp, held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday will have two sessions: July 27-31 and August 3-7.

A second AYSO camp that focuses on speed and agility will be held Monday through Thursday, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., August 10-13 and August 17-20.

Camps will be held at Barrington Park and Paul Revere Middle School. To register, visit: aspisoccercoaching.com.



The Mustang Red Sox celebrate after winning the World Series.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

"There were some defensive gems in this game," Grimes said. "The Dodgers had a great catch in center field by Velez, robbing Jack Richman of a would-be extra base hit with two runners on base, ending the fifth inning Red Sox rally."

In the top of the sixth, the Red Sox made two key defensive plays. Catcher Sammy Petrocelli gunned out a runner trying to steal second base, helped by a great catch and then a tag by Richman. Logan Harris followed up by catching Max Bridwell's fly ball in right field.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Dodgers continued their stellar defense as Ford robbed Grimes by snagging a hard line drive. After a single and stolen base by Rodman, Grayden Levin stopped the threat by fielding Nathan Bank's hard-hit ground ball in the hole between first and second base.

"Two teams battled to the finish with players on both sides stepping up to the challenge," Grimes said. "I'm certainly proud of my team this year as they put a smile on my face, getting a little better each and every week as they worked toward this title."

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Knock-Knock Burglars Nabbed, Williams Takes 2nd at State

Four suspects, Elanee Jarrett, 20, Chivetta Overstreet, 21, Evarald Fisher, 22, and Donte Caldwell, 22, were arrested by the Los Angeles County Major Crimes Bureau burglary-robbery task force, for stealing property valued at more than \$10,000 from a residence in the 800 block of Oreo Place.

Detectives believed multiple male and female members of a Los Angeles area criminal street gang were using rental vehicles while committing "knock-knock" style residential burglaries throughout Los Angeles County.

On June 8, just before 1 p.m., the four suspects cruised the neighborhood in a rental vehicle. They stopped at a house, two men emerged from the vehicle, peered in a window and then jumped a back fence. A short time later the men emerged with a bag, which was later found to contain jewelry, watches and sentimental heirlooms.

The four were arrested, booked and held on \$50,000 bail each. Overstreet was out on bond for a recent felony evasion/vehicle pursuit arrest and has previously been arrested 15 time for felony violations. Jarrett was on parole for a residential burglary conviction and has multiple previous felony arrests. Caldwell was also out of custody on parole for a residential burglary conviction

and has been arrested for more than a dozen felony violations. Fisher has numerous previous felony arrests including: murder, attempted murder, robbery, and burglary.

Bail amounts for suspects Fisher, Jarrett, Caldwell, and Overstreet increased because of priors and were put at \$140,000, \$175,000, \$1,125,000, and \$1,000,000, respectively.

Citizens are reminded to police their own neighborhoods and quickly report suspicious persons or vehicles. Call: LA Crime Stoppers (800) 222-8477, texting the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637), or visit: lacrimestoppers.org.

Gregory Willis Exhibition

In the Palisades Library community room are behind-the-scenes photos taken by Gregory Willis between 1980-93 during his career as a truck driver/stage builder on The Who '80, the Prince Purple Rain Tour and Live Aid. Willis also worked as a honeywagon driver on Robert Altman films *The Player* and *Short Cuts* and has stories to share about Altman. A reception will be held 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. RSVP to redwings399@yahoo.com.



Senior distance runner Marissa Williams.

Photo: Craig Weston

Palisades High School senior Marissa Williams cut eight seconds off her personal best time in the 1,600 meters and finished with the second fastest time (4:39.88) in the nation this year. Unfortunately, she lost to Amanda Gehrich of Tesoro (4:39.33) and took second by 55th hundreds of a second.

Williams placed third in the 3200 with a personal best of 10:20.35, Destiny Collins of Great Oak won the race in 9:53.79.

To qualify for state, Williams, who is headed to Cal Berkeley, broke her own City records in both the 1600 (4:47.88) and 3200 (10:28.30)—the fourth straight year she has won both events. This prompted veteran *L.A. Times* prep sports writer Eric Sondheimer to call her "the greatest girls distance runner in City Section history."

Of the 10 PaliHi Dolphins qualifying for state, Williams was the sole athlete to place.

Williams has run the Will Rogers 5/10K and as a 15 year old in 2013, she finished first in her age group and second overall in a time of 40.44.

Rain Report

Last week's crazy weather moistened the bottom of the official Los Angeles County rain gauge, located on Bienveneda Avenue with 0.03 of an inch.

Deputy assistant rainmeister Ted Mackie said this bring the year's total to 8.78 inches of rain, which is less than normal, but not bad compared to last year's 6.13 inches of rain.

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Taking Baseball Up a Notch

By TYLER KECKEISEN
Sports Reporter

The Heineman brothers, Tyler and Scott, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, are moving upward in their baseball careers.

Tyler, a catcher who was drafted by the Houston Astros in the eighth round of the 2012 MLB Draft, advanced from Double-A Corpus Christi to Triple-A Fresno in mid-May. He hit .342 in his first 10 games for the Grizzlies (through June 12).

"Overall, I'm happy the way I'm playing right now since I was called up," said Tyler, who went 3 for 5 on May 28 against Memphis and 3 for 4 against Reno on June 6.

Heineman had a disappointing season last year, hitting only .242 with one home run and 25 RBIs after hitting .286 with 13 home runs and 71 RBIs the prior season for High-A Lancaster. But he came out strong this spring and, after 22 games, sported a .318 average with Corpus Christi.

"I just played really well and went out there with no pressure," said Tyler, who is 5'11" and 195 pounds. "I tried to do the best I could every night when my name was in the line-up."

Even with this season's success thus far, Tyler is aware of the tough task ahead, facing pitchers who have played in the Ma-



Tyler Heineman moves to AAA ball.

jors already.

"Fresno's a bit different than Double A because you have veteran pitchers that have been in the big leagues for awhile or have been up-and-down, pitching against you most nights," Tyler said. "The pitchers who keep going up-and-down [between Triple-A and the Majors] know what they are doing and are very crafty. It's all part of the learning curve and I'm just excited for the opportunity to get better."



Scott Heineman, a member of the University of Oregon baseball team, was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 11th round.

After making the jump to Triple-A, it's hard for a player not to think about that call-up to the Big Show. Tyler wants to put everything into perspective and not get ahead of himself.

"I have no idea when or if I'll play in the big leagues this year," he said. "That's out of my control. The only thing I can control is trying to get better every day and get to play baseball for a living. And thanking God for the ability and the opportunity that I have been given."

Meanwhile, Scott Heineman, a redshirt junior at Oregon, was drafted by the Texas Rangers in the 11th round of this year's MLB Draft on June 10. The infielder/outfielder was drafted by Kansas City in the 19th round a year ago, but elected to play another year at Oregon to improve his prospects, especially after he had to miss most of the 2014 season following shoulder surgery.

This year, Heineman helped the Ducks reach the NCAA playoffs as they finished Pac-12 play by winning nine of their final 10 games.

In their must-win final game against No. 2-ranked UCLA, Scott went 4-for-5 with a home run, double and two RBIs as the Ducks won, 4-3.

Playing in the double-elimination regional in Springfield, Missouri, the Ducks lost to Iowa, 3-1, but bounced back to crush Canisius, 12-6, as Heineman had two hits and three RBIs. He then went hitless as Oregon lost again to Iowa, 2-1 in 11 innings, ending its playoff hopes.

Heineman finished the season with a .290 batting average (third highest on the team), four homers, 23 RBIs and a team-high 16 stolen bases.

Despite lingering questions about his post-operative shoulder, Scott was confident about his potential going into the MLB Draft. "The doctors would say my shoulder is 100 percent, and the scouts are

well aware of my athleticism." At 6'2", he played every position except shortstop and catcher during his career at Oregon.

After watching the first day of the draft on TV with his family at their home in the Palisades, Scott distracted himself the next day. Instead of following the draft proceedings, he watched TV shows and movies, and did family-related activities.

That night, Scott said, "My advisor told me that Texas would pick me on the third day if no team selected me before then. I actually was sleeping when it became official. I had so many messages from my friends when I woke up."

Scott said Texas drafted him as an outfielder, and he's eager for the challenge. "I'm excited, blessed, and very fortunate to be part of this organization," he said.

Former PaliHi Pitcher Nabs First MLB Victory

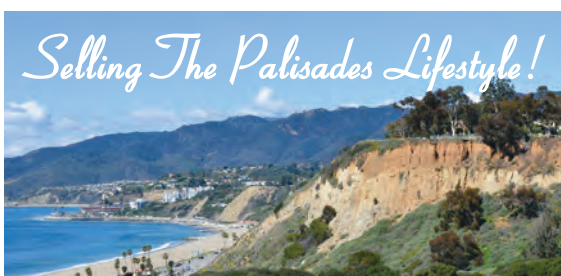
Former Palisades High School pitcher Jon Moscot picked up his first Major League victory—and base hit—today (June 10) to help the Cincinnati Reds score a 5-2 victory over the visiting Philadelphia Phillies. Moscot (1-1) allowed two earned runs and six hits in his six-inning stint.

—LISA SAXON

(Editor's note: Moscot, who is 6'4", pitched well for Pepperdine and was drafted by Cincinnati in the fourth round in 2012. He started this season with a 7-1 record at Triple-A Louisville and was brought up on June 5 to make his Major League debut against San Diego. He pitched five innings and lost, but looked sharp on June 10 in his second start, bolstered by Cincinnati's four-run first inning.)



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Hold On, Hollywood, Mia Z Is Coming!

By MARCI CRESTANI
Special to the Palisades News

How's this for stress? You're 16 years old and you're from a small town in western Pennsylvania that has a population of fewer than 500. You have made it past the blind auditions on NBC's *The Voice* and Pharrell Williams is your coach.

However, because you're a sophomore in high school, you still have to attend school—online now—every day at Universal Studios. Today you've just finished taking a math test and have to walk from the studio classroom to the studio stage to sing "Ain't No Sunshine" in front of a viewing audience of over 14 million people.

Oddly enough, youthful blues singer Mia Z (for Zanotti) was unfazed by this pressure. It was the rest of her family—including my husband, who is her cousin—who were very nervous. "She was fine. We were a wreck," said her uncle Jay, who is a father figure to Mia.

Known for the incredible range of her voice—from a plunging growl to off-the-scales high notes—Mia has been dubbed "The Savior of the Blues for the Next Generation" by her many fans who hail from all over the world. "It's beyond a dream come true to hear that," Mia reflects. "That is my goal: to sing the blues, to keep it alive and to put my own stamp on it."

Judges on *The Voice* were continually amazed that such original, soulful renditions of standards like "The Thrill Is Gone," "Hold On, I'm Comin'" and "Ain't No Sunshine" were coming out of the mouth of such a petite young woman.

With her trademark jet-black hair and perfectly trimmed bangs, Mia has a distinctive sense of fashion, frequently turning heads during her recent visit to the Palisades.



Mia Z (Zanotti) visited her uncle in Pacific Palisades while taping *The Voice*.

sades. When she piles her long hair on top in a bun, she brings to mind a more sophisticated, polished Amy Winehouse—who happens to be her heroine.

Amy Winehouse?

Mia admires the singer for her authenticity, not for the drug-addicted celebrity that she became. "I liked her style and how she believed in herself and stayed true to her music. That really spoke to me."

Despite being voted off the show after making it to the top 12, Mia made such an impression on Pharrell Williams that he was moved to write a song, "Child," about her, which she recorded for Republic Records. An accompanying video was also made.

"Child" was introduced in a special segment on the show's finale and is currently ranked in the top 20 on the iTunes blues chart. Mia still has two other songs in the top 50 and for months she consistently had anywhere from one to three songs in the

top 10, being bumped from the number-one position when B.B. King died.

What has kept Mia grounded throughout her whirlwind introduction to the Los Angeles music industry is her close-knit family—in particular, her mother, Lorey, who raised Mia and her sister Zena as a single mom and gave them her Zanotti surname.

Lorey also continued the Zanotti family tradition of making music. Mia's grandfather John played saxophone and

her grandmother Judy sang in the Johnny Murphy Orchestra, a big band that played in New York and Chicago, as well as the Pittsburgh area. For several years Mia has been in a band with her mother playing keyboards and her uncle Jay on lead guitar. They perform all over Pittsburgh, but at these gigs Mia sings the blues songs that she has written.

So back to the question of why Mia wasn't nervous performing in front of millions of TV viewers after taking a math test.

"I was in competitive cheerleading since I was four until I was about 13, so I'm used to performing in front of people," Mia explains. "The audience in the studio was actually smaller than the audiences at cheerleading competitions."

You don't think of highly regarded blues singers as having a cheerleading background. The intriguing Mia Z definitely sings to her own beat.

(Editor's note: "Child" is available on iTunes. Pacific Palisades resident Marci Crestani is the author of *Halfway to Dead: After 50, You Just Have to Laugh*, available on Amazon.)

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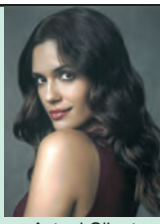
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Think Pink Luncheon Celebrates Women's Health

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

The Irene Dunne Guild recently celebrated its 10th annual Think Pink for Women's Wellness luncheon at the Bel-Air Bay Club.

Always held around Mother's Day, this multi-tiered event includes speakers and workshops, a shopping boutique and lunch. It's the brainchild of Palisadian and Guild member Fran Flanagan, a local realtor, who was the event's co-chair along with Melinda Casey.

Palisadian Kate Prudente has been a Guild member for about 10 years, and is the current president.

"It is a celebration of women in our lives. The event is really promoting health education for women," says Prudente, whose husband, Ernie, an internist at St. John's, is the chair of medicine at the hospital.

Think Pink is open to anyone, and Prudente saw a lot of new faces this year. The event was sold out, with more than 200 women attending.

Chloe Bird, Ph.D., editor of the *Women's Health Issues Journal* for The RAND Corporation, was the keynote speaker ("Assessing and Addressing the Gender Gap in Healthcare"). Her talk centered on how women need to focus on their own health, which often gets neglected.

"We as women have to really make our own health a priority. Sometimes we push aside our own personal health issues because we're taking care of everyone else," says Prudente, referring to Bird's talk.

Prudente said the audience responded well to Bird and enjoyed hearing the facts she presented, such as the fact that often when lab rats are used in experiments, only male rats are studied.

Additional speakers included Dr. Robin Berman ("The Legacy of Great Parenting"); Dr. Timothy Davis ("Keep Moving to Stay Strong"); Dr. Delphine Lee ("Skin and the Immune System"); and Dr. Nicole Weinberg ("Happy Heart, Healthy Heart").

Guild member Sabrina Mumford calls it a "spa day for the psyche."

Though the event is not a fundraiser, a percentage of the proceeds from the shopping boutique went to the Guild's Patron Drive Fund, which funds a variety of things for St. John's, including toys for children to play with while waiting in the ER, waiting-room magazines and Angels of the ER. The Angels look after both families and patients in the emergency room; the program has been replicated in other hospitals across the nation.

When Mumford's sister, Jennifer Nevill, was diagnosed with colon cancer, a friend suggested she join the Guild.

"I attended a Think Pink session where a doctor spoke regarding palliative care, something I had never heard of," Mumford says. "Just that single session changed my whole family's outlook on how to navigate dealing with my ill sister, and prepared us for the worst."

Nevill passed away four years ago from the illness. "It doesn't matter when they pass away, you're never ready," Mumford says.

Currently, the Guild's membership totals 122, and more than 40 percent have been in the organization for over 10 years. Some members have been active since the Guild's inception in 1987.

There is no set rule for volunteering, yet there are many ways to be involved, from being a hands-on volunteer at St. John's to working behind the scenes. Members ranges in age from twenty-something to eighty-something.



Left to right: Think Pink co-chair Melinda Casey, Irene Dunne Guild President Kate Prudente and Think Pink founder and co-chair Fran Flanagan. Photo: Courtesy Irene Dunne Guild

"The nice thing about the group is we don't just do one thing," Prudente says. The next big event for the Guild is the

Caritas Gala, which will be held at the Beverly Wilshire in October. The theme will be "Spirit of St. John's."

Kids on Bikes Can Win Prizes

Kids, decorate your bike (Razor/scooter, tricycle) in a patriotic motif for the Fourth of July parade and you could win first prize (\$75), second prize (\$50) or third prize (\$25). The winner will also have his/her photo printed in the *Palisades News*.

The Yogurt Shoppe at 873 Swarthmore Ave. has hosted the Kids on Bikes brigade for the past four years.

"We're excited to sponsor this event again," said storeowner Kevin Sabin. "We are trying to run things as efficiently as possible to ensure that all kids who participate in decorating are judged."

In prior years, some youths have come to the parade route with some spectacular decorated bikes after the judging was over.

Youths who want to enter the bicycle decorating contest must come to the Yogurt Shoppe with a fully decorated bike between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 3. Authorization forms will be handed out and a photo of each entry will be taken.

Judges will scrutinize photos, and awards will be presented on July 4 as bikes are assembling for the parade. Only those who have had their photos taken on July 3 will be eligible for prizes.

Everyone is welcome to ride in the parade, as long as they are wearing a helmet and have a completed authorization form, which must be picked up prior to the parade at The Yogurt Shoppe.

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Class of 2015 Celebrates Graduation

By SUE PASCOE

Editor

Photos by Shelby Pascoe

On a nearly perfect evening, 683 seniors graduated from Palisades High School on June 4. According to College Center Counselor Helene Kunkel, 95 percent of the students will attend college in 34 states and two foreign countries.

After the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance," played by the school's orchestra, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by student body president Benjamin Safvati, who will attend UC Berkeley.

The National Anthem was sung by senior Chandler Jenkins, who plans to attend San Jose State, and Mecca Coleman.

Senior class president Lily Henson gave the welcoming address. "Thank you to our family, friends and teachers for believing in us," said Henson, who acknowledged that as happy as the class will be to move on to the next part of their lives, "In truth, we will miss morning announcements that



Palisades High School graduating classes celebrates at the end of the ceremony.

always start 'Good Morning Palisades.'"

Executive Director and Principal Dr. Pam Magee first addressed the parents, saying "We have been proud to be your partners the past four years." To the teachers at the ceremony she said, "We salute them and their efforts each and every day." She concluded by congratulating the class for their hard work.

Traditionally, a multi-lingual welcome is given at PaliHi commencements, and this year 17 students welcomed guests. (There are 20 languages spoken by students at the high school.)

Those speaking included Zena Abulfeilat (Arabic-Syria); Kia Kolahi (Dari) will attend UCLA; Cyrus Dastur (Vietnamese) will go to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Nina Masjedi (Farsi) will go to UC Santa Barbara; Luiz de Araujo (Portuguese); Ana Tanaka (Japanese) plans to attend Stanford; Catherine Lee (Korean); Jiaze Li (Mandarin Chinese) will go to Georgetown University; Laura Sussman (Italian) will go to Stanford; Miya Eberlin



Photography teacher Rick Steil with graduation speaker Marcellus Cole.



Chandler Shutt and Riley Siegel are all smiles as they line up before graduation.

(French) plans to attend UCLA; Ashely Aguilar (Spanish); Mariamme Ibrahim (Arabic-Egyptian) will attend UC Riverside; Obianuju Izuchukwu (Igbo-Nigeria) will attend Kent State; Ayla Albek (Hebrew); David Grinsfelder (German) plans to go to UC Berkeley; Leya Solomon (Amharic) will attend Pomona; and Alexandra Genina (Russian) will attend UC Northridge.

In addition to the valedictorian address, students auditioned for the honor of speaking at graduation. Those selected included Annie Loy, Marcellus Cole and Maya Muldrew.

Loy, who will attend Humboldt State, admitted, "There were days that we did not want to come to school because of difficulties. I would tell myself 'Just show up.'" She acknowledged that many of her classmates probably felt the same, but that by showing up, they proved to themselves they could

(Continued on Page 23)



Jed Moscot, PaliHi's top baseball pitcher, takes a selfie during the ceremony.



Sydra Gianassi smiles after receiving her diploma.



Seniors from the PaliHi choir entertained at the graduation.

(Continued from Page 22)

work through anything.

"You added something to a class or a team," she said. "We all did. Thank you class of 2015 for doing more than showing up."

Cole, who was leaving directly after graduation to compete as a shot putter in the state track meet, spoke about how he changed during his four years at Pali.

"I don't want my classmates to pass me by, I don't want to take algebra for the fourth time. Why do I know I want to go far, yet act like I don't? Oh, I know I'll find new

friends, I'll speak to my counselor, I'll study more. I won't hang out on weekends. I'll tell my mom I love you more. I'll be all right."

His junior year he received his first A and said, "It smelled good and tasted better."

Cole challenged his peers, saying chapter one of their lives was written by parents or guardians. "We have begun to unfold chapter 2 in our life. The question is what are you going to make chapters 3, 4 and 5 about?" The football player and track star will start at Santa Monica College, with plans to transfer.

Muldrew, who will attend San Francisco



Kenny Jones, who went to state in wrestling, receives help in tying a bow tie from friends Dhaa Mir and Quincy Cowherd.

State, spoke about their journey from ninth grade. "For some of us, this [PaliHi] was a second home, for others a temporary prison," she said. Regardless, "We've been extremely lucky to be inspired by previous generations and it is our turn to inspire the next generation."

A "Graduation Medley 2015" was arranged by teacher Joshua Elson, with help from senior Alonso Pirio, who will attend UCLA.

The six songs "You Gotta Be," "In My Life," "Home," "Break Away," "Rivers and Roads," "Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)" and

"Unwritten," gave senior soloists and musicians one final opportunity to sing and play for PaliHi.

Featured soloists were Mollie Greenspan, Kate Maninger, Shane Warnken, Tessa De Nicola, Evan Levy, Natalie D'Amico and Caitlyn Krone.

After a presentation of the class by Counseling Director Kimberly Theard, and the presentation of diplomas, Magee told seniors to move the tassel from the right side to the left and then presented the class to the audience.

VALEDICTORIAN

Diane Rafizadeh

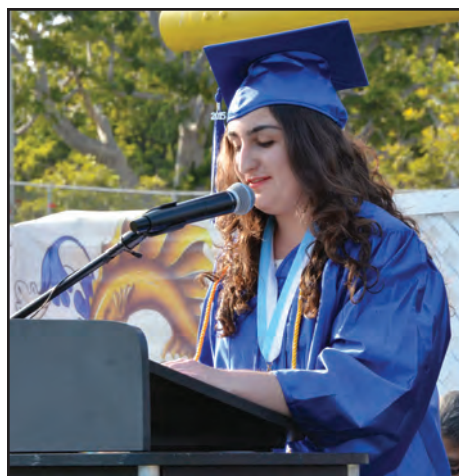
Diane Rafizadeh, with a weighted grade point average of 4.475, was Palisades High's valedictorian. She grew up in the Westwood area and attended Westwood Charter Elementary before attending Paul Revere.

Rafizadeh, who will attend Yale University in the fall, took 12 AP courses. "I'm a deep lover of science," she said. "I took six science courses in four years. I truly loved AP chemistry and AP physics because not only did they pose the most pleasurable challenges, but also changed the way I perceive and understand the world around me."

She had high praise for her teachers, but singled out David Schalek, who taught her physics and astronomy, and was her Science Bowl coach.

"His physics classes were fast-paced and unfailingly captivating, especially when he'd go on a short tangent to 'wow' his students with an amazing description of cutting-edge current or potential future innovations in science," Rafizadeh said. "I'll never forget watching the derivation of $E = mc^2$ or learning about the history of the universe during his lectures. Also, he's the epitome of heavy metal, which is awesome."

Rafizadeh, in addition to participating in the Science Bowl, also tutored in the PaliHi Study Center four years. She has played piano and violin since she was young, as a hobby. "I'm also an avid solver of Rubik's cubes, from the 3x3 to the 4x4 and the 5x5," she said.



Valedictorian Diana Rafizadeh

In college, she is considering a major in molecular biophysics or biochemistry.

During her commencement address, Rafizadeh said: "With the rest of our lives ahead, let's widen our horizons and leave an impact on the world that people will remember."

"How? Well, we can sure try to cure cancer, or to end poverty, or to paint the next Picasso . . . but, as great as all of those intangibles are, it really doesn't have to be so grand a goal that drives us and satisfies us."

"Rather, we can leave just as great a mark on the world through the people we know. The people in our lives who have gotten us to this point, and the people who will guide us in the years to come—it is through them that we'll do something of significance, by them that we will truly be remembered. Now and in the future, people are our greatest resource."

SALUTATORIAN

Ellie Sun

Ellie Sun, who grew up in the Alphabet streets and attended Palisades Elementary and Paul Revere, was the Palisades High salutatorian with a weighted grade point average of 4.43.

She has elected to go to UC Berkeley. "It is a fantastic school that offers me security and adventure because of its diverse student body and prime location," Sun said. "At the moment I am considering majoring in cognitive science, but of course that may change when I start college."

Another of Sun's interests is computer science and she says Berkeley's location near Silicon Valley was another reason for her choice.

In addition to honors chemistry, algebra 2, math analysis, Spanish 2 and 3, Sun took 12 advance placement courses, including chemistry, world history, biology, calculus, English, Spanish, U. S. history, literature, statistics, physics, government and human geography.

"My favorite course was AP Human Geography because it was the most relevant and interesting," Sun said. "We got to learn about how and why people are where they are and how the world developed into the current state of interconnection."

In addition to academics, Sun participated in the a.m. orchestra and ran on the track and cross-country teams. She also tutored for Titanium Tutors.

She enjoys hiking and for one of her col-



Salutatorian Ellie Sun

lege essays wrote about the ascent to Dafeng, a 16,522-ft. mountain in the Himalayas.

"The lack of oxygen made it difficult to breathe and a headache pounded as I lay on the plank shivering, trying to unzip my sleeping bag. The hike up to the base camp at 14,000 ft. the day before had already drained my energy and most of my sanity." She wrote and concluded, "Pushing my limits—physically and mentally—has made me resilient. I continued to test myself by partaking in the 2014 L.A. Marathon and by summiting Mt. Whitney—the highest mountain in the contiguous United States, at 14,505 feet—this past June. I did not let myself quit and I knew that I could conquer whatever challenge came my way."

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Roast Will Come to the Palisades

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Roast is coming to Pacific Palisades by way of reality television. The deli-style eatery, which opened its first location in Brentwood in 2012, is headed by chef Whitney Werner, who spent last year not just operating the restaurant, but competing on three cooking reality shows.

For the final show, *Restaurant Startup*, he combined his efforts with childhood friend and Roast investor John Berkey and together they earned \$100,000 in investment capital in exchange for 25 percent of the profits at their new location in the former Mimi's space in the Highlands Village, although these details are still being negotiated.

"I'm just excited to get to the Palisades," said Werner, 52, who, like his pal Berkey, grew up in Brentwood. "I think we'll be a great addition to the already good options up there." Werner has already planned to honor local people with a Mort's Special and Ted Knight Special enhancing his menu.

Roast's concept, which Werner describes as a new-style deli, includes organic meats and roasted vegetables (\$12.95 to \$16.95 for sandwiches and entrées with sides at the Brentwood location) that can be eaten in the restaurant or delivered for a home-cooked-style meal.

"Everyone is so busy, and food has become so processed. We provide good home-cooked meals available for dine-in or take out," said Werner, who plans to be open before September 1. "It's a home meal replacement—a pound of salmon for mom and dad, roasted chicken tenders (crispy like fried, but roasted) for the kids—good healthy organic foods."

Sandwiches—including dips, burgers and sliders—are an important part of the business, and these items were featured in the CNBC reality show, *Restaurant Startup*, despite show investor Joe Bastianich's request that the duo focus on carved roasted meats and sides only. Still, Werner and Berkey succeeded despite Bastianich's initial disappointment.

During the course of the show, the two



Roast investor John Berkey is on the left, and Whitney Werner, chef/owner, is on the right. They are lifelong friends.

received \$7,500 to put their restaurant into place for a one-day opening on Melrose Avenue. Customers ate and then filled out comment cards, with 97 percent applauding the food. Bastianich and the show's other investor, Tim Love, were both impressed and separately offered to invest, but Werner and Berkey selected Bastianich, the owner of 30 eateries, to join them in the business.

Although the third time was a charm for Werner in his reality show venture, the first effort certainly wasn't. He appeared on the show *Chopped*.

"I didn't do very well. I got chopped in the second round," he said. Unfortunately, Werner made an error during the show. "I forgot my fish in the oven. I had to put it on the plate anyway. It was like a freaking fish chip. The guy was laughing across the table from me."

However, the show was a success for him in another way. The production passed his name to another show, *Cutthroat Kitchen*, which soon invited him to join their competition. This time, he reached the final dessert round, but lost. However, he enjoyed the experience tremendously.

"I was laughing, having fun. I gave them good TV. I was all over the commercials for that season," Werner said.

TV cooking shows also provided enjoyment to Werner as a child, but in a different way. "When I was in elementary school in the '70s, I would run home to watch Graham Kerr's *The Galloping Gourmet* and Julia Child, back to back. I would be glued to the TV watching these guys. I would tell my mom, 'Don't tell my friends I watch these shows.' It was so uncool back then."

During his elementary days, Werner

also met his pal Berkey, when they both attended John Thomas Dye School. Berkey, a real estate investor, eventually moved to Rancho Mirage and now has a daughter, Ella Grace, 7.

However, Werner, whose son Stone, 14, attends Paul Revere Charter Middle School, still lives in Brentwood. He did venture out of the area to attend the Culinary Institute of America in New York after graduating from Santa Monica High in 1981. He also traveled abroad, working at different hotel kitchens in Asia before settling locally.

He had originally begun cooking as a teen, taking his first job in the Gladstone's kitchen. As an adult, he continued the trend. He ran the kitchens of the Beverly Hills Hotel, the Bel Age Hotel, and the Ritz Carlton in Laguna Beach. He also ran Café Montana before branching out with his own restaurant, Whitney's on Montana, which he operated for five years until his lease ended.

He then opened Whitney's at the Beach at the Beach Club on PCH. During his 10 years operating that establishment, he increased profits from \$200,000 per year to \$3 million per year, he said. And he continues to love the excitement of the restaurant business.

"There is always something coming at you. You need to shuck and jive all the time ... That adrenaline comes from always getting thrown curve balls and having to think on your feet," said Werner, who noted that he also simply enjoys pleasing customers and watching them smile. "It's like giving them meat candy."

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Café Vida in Culver City is located next door to the Kirk Douglas Theater on Culver Boulevard (by Duquesne Street). For about a year, this eatery has been creating the menu we Palisadians enjoy at the Antioch location: “high in nutritional balance and a healthy dose of flavor.”

In other words, food with quality and health in mind, and exceptionally good-tasting.

The setting is simple, including a heated outdoor patio with wooden tables and woven-backed comfy chairs. Both the patio and the interior are busy (no surprise!).

When my sister and I dined last week, Chef Nacho served us small portions of sample menu items so that we could taste a variety of dishes.

With our glass of wine was the guacamole brightened with sea salt and lime with tasty crisp and warmed tortilla chips. Next was a small soft short-rib taco, fragrant with a red smoky tomatillo sauce, and then a tasty small soft chicken spicy taco and wedges of fresh lime (to cut down the spiciness if requested). A delicious beginning!

Up next: a small piece of natural prime skirt steak with thick herbed chimichurri sauce. Delicious! The



accompanying golden Yukon mashed potatoes were also superb, as was the sautéed organic spinach.

Crisp striped sea bass with a shallot white-wine sauce came with a richly flavored poblano corn succotash and a medley of fresh vegetables. Again, a superb dish meant for me, a seafood lover.

Not to be overlooked was the salmon teriyaki bowl of pan-seared teriyaki salmon on a bed of thinly sliced vegetables with a light teriyaki sauce and a delicate organic fennel quinoa.

This delightful array of food is reasonably priced. At dinner time (after 5 p.m.) most of the dinners

are in the \$16 to \$19 price category except for the spicy soft chicken tacos, which are only \$13. Juicy burgers with Wagu beef or Jalapeno turkey are \$14, while the veggie burger is just \$13. All of these come with a choice of French fries, sweet potato fries, or an organic greens salad. The dinner salads are priced \$14 to \$16.

And, of course, we had to sample the excellent cheesecake from a neighboring bakery, along with a cup of Café Vida's organic hand-roasted artisan coffee (\$2.75).

If super food smoothies or fresh squeezed vegetable juices are on your agenda, this cafe is a “must” for you,

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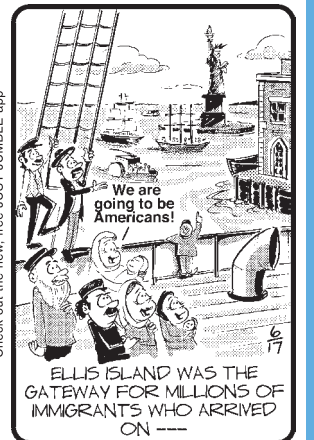
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(Answers on Page 20)

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Breakfast is served from 8 to 11:30 a.m. with healthy offerings from oatmeal to pancakes, egg combos and morning favorites such as wraps, huevos rancheros or breakfast quesadilla, and even a “balanced breakfast bowl.”

Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. During lunchtime there are soups, wholesome salads, a half-dozen burgers and sandwiches, along with tacos, quesadillas and burritos, as well as Cali bowls.

The Culver City restaurant also serves wine and beer, and offers valet parking. I look forward to returning in a few weeks when we will have dinner before going to the Kirk Douglas Theater.

— GRACE HINEY

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Lyrics by **Fred Ebb**

Conceived by **Scott Ellis, Susan Stroman** and **David Thompson**
Produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International

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