



July 4th Concert Headliners Announced

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Although they come from Lake Tahoe and New York, respectively, musicians Adam Topol and Tom Freund are in many ways Southern California boys at heart.

They both love to skateboard. Topol is a surfer, too, while Freund has just started learning to ride the waves at age 46—even taking a lesson from singer/songwriter/surfer Brett Dennen at Gladstone’s recently. They embrace the beach lifestyle. Topol lives in Venice, while Freund has lived and had a studio there for about 15 years.

“We as kids in Lake Tahoe would think of L.A. as this mythical place,” said Topol, 48, who with Freund has formed a new act, the West Side Troubadours. “I have these romantic visions of a lot of these cool bands that came out of these areas—troubadours spawning all kinds of stuff . . . We can now properly claim our little space.”

Both of these seasoned musicians, who have either spearheaded or contributed to more than 50 CDs over the course of their careers, are excited to perform at the eighth annual Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert.

“I am super psyched” about playing the upcoming concert with Topol, said Fre-



Adam Topol (left) and Tom Freund (right) will headline the Palisades Rocks the Fourth concert at PaliHi on July 4. Photo: Tom Hofer

und, who sings, writes songs and plays the upright bass, ukulele, mandolin, guitar and piano.

Freund said the “Palisades vibe” allows

for an intriguing set of songs that are “patriotic, but not corny patriotic, with good American values” that might be a little unexpected at times. “You can push [song

choice] in a good way.”

In addition to Freund’s musical skills, the West Side Troubadours will feature Topol (Continued on Page 21)



Homeless tents are now on Will Rogers Beach.

Photo: Sharon Kilbride

Homeless Tent City Grows

The number of people camping on Will Rogers State Beach, despite the posted “No Camping” sign, is a concern to the community.

On May 14, Santa Monica Canyon resident Sharon Kilbride counted 16 tents. When she took a photo, one guy begged her to photograph him and his bag of pot.

“He told me he was happy and homeless,” Kilbride said, noting that she had heard that Santa Monica and Venice police are enforcing the no-sleeping-on-the-beach ordinance and the homeless are now coming north to Will Rogers because the law is not being enforced here.

Santa Monica Canyon resident Judi Jensen sent a letter to the *Palisades News* (page 7), saying that she had been accosted and threatened when she walked her dog along the bike path at night. She called the West L.A. Watch Commander and he told her to contact Senior Lead Officer Michael Moore and Councilman Mike Bonin’s office.

Norman Kulla, Bonin’s senior lead counsel, was contacted and he said that a meeting was scheduled for May 28 to address the problem. “I am hopeful that a solution will be reached.”

Moore was asked if it was true that Santa

Monica and Venice was more strictly enforcing the law.

In a May 22 e-mail, he responded: “I am not sure of the activity in SM or Venice. We are issuing citations for camping on the beach. We can ask them to leave but we cannot remove their property or wait to see if they come back.”

On Memorial Day, Moore and two other officers walked to the different beach encampments at 11 a.m. and issued citations.

“We cannot force anyone to leave public lands unless we can establish it as a fire hazard,” Moore said. “But the citations can become warrants, which we can use to make an arrest.”

He explained that the citations issued on Memorial Day meant the person receiving it has until June 15 to go to court. If the person fails to appear, a warrant is issued.

“If the person goes to court, the citation is resolved (perhaps community service, or pay a fine, or even spend a day in jail),” Moore said. “If the person is arrested, he will most likely spend the night in jail, go to court, plead guilty, and get time served for the one night in jail.” Moore notes that this is a reasonable deal for some transients, especially those who have multiple warrants.

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Please, Fix the Flag



Pacific Palisades resident Stuart Muller sent us a photograph of the American flag twisted on a pole that flies above the 881 Alma Real building on May 22.

"The picture was taken November 14, 2014, and it [the flag] remains the same," Mueller wrote. "At the time, I looked for a manager's office on the directory and also asked around for someone to talk to, but found neither."

Over Memorial Day, the flag remained unchanged, and the News is wondering if anyone in the building might alert the owner so that the American flag can fly freely.

Photo: Stuart Muller

Bite Nite Coming Soon

The Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce its first Bite Nite Foodie Fest Fundraising event from 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday, June 13, at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club.

The community is invited to enjoy food samples from local restaurants Gladstones, Tivoli, Casa Nostra Ristorante, El Cholo, Kay N Dave's Cantina, Matthew's Garden Café, Dukes Malibu and Vittorio's Ristorante Italiano. The Yogurt Shoppe, Viktor Benes Bakery and All-Pro Health Foods will also have samples to try.

Tierray Vino winery will provide the wine; Party Pizzazz will show off party wares; and there will be jazz music featuring the Bluecat Voice Studio.

Special guest Madame Sylvia Wu will sign her book *Madame Wu's Garden*. She is a celebrated restaurateur, author and philanthropist. In 1959, Wu and her husband opened Madame Wu's Garden restaurant in Santa Monica and it became well-known worldwide for its celebrity clientele who included, among others, Cary Grant, Mae West, George Burns, Charlton Heston, Elizabeth Taylor, Johnny Carson, Carol Burnett, Walter Matthau, Robert Redford,

Paul Newman, Tom Cruise, Steven Spielberg, Governor Pete Wilson, President Ronald Reagan and Princess Grace Kelly.

Not only will it be a night of tasting, but proceeds will go to the Chamber of Commerce and the Woman's Club Capital Campaign. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 for a couple and can be purchased at the Chamber office at 15330 Antioch St. Call (310) 459-7963.

Library Book Sale To be Held June 6

The Friends of the Palisades Branch Library will hold a gently used book sale from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, in the library parking lot, 861 Alma Real Dr.

Thanks to generous donations from community members, the sale will feature an excellent collection of well-priced books, DVDs and CDs.

Sales depend on the continuing support of volunteers, and the Friends are grateful for the time and energy these people provide. In case of inclement weather, the sale will be postponed until the following Saturday.

Fourth of July Home Decorating Contest

Find your American flags, pull out the bunting and dream up an original patriotic design, because the annual PAPA/Joan Sather Real Estate Patriotic Home Decorating Contest guidelines are set.

All homes in Pacific Palisades are eligible. Yes, that means those people who live in the Highlands, Castellammare and the Riviera and whose neighborhoods produced absolutely no entries last year—zero, zilch, nada. (Put out a flag, for heaven's sake.)

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@palisadesparade.org and professionals will upload it to Facebook for you (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.

Tunnel Accidents Spur Citizen Kalp into Action

Too often, westbound PCH motorists slam on their brakes entering the blind curve at the McClure Tunnel because of stopped traffic. There are no signs warning that the freeway is ending, and in late afternoon or early evening, the setting sun can hinder views as drivers exit the tunnel, making it difficult to see stopped cars.

After two particularly horrific accidents, Pacific Palisades resident Amy Kalp, who is vice president of the LADP West Bureau Traffic Committee, took action.

Last June, a child was killed when two big rigs and a minivan collided around 12:35 p.m. on the westbound 10 Freeway at the McClure Tunnel, according to the California Highway Patrol. Nine people were injured, seven of them passengers in the minivan.

"Many people do not realize, especially non-locals, that when you come out of the McClure Tunnel you are no longer on a freeway and the speed limit is now 45 mph," Kalp said. "If you are not going the speed limit, and are not familiar with the road inside the tunnel, your reaction time is reduced or will be inadequate to avoid a traffic collision with the cars in front of you."

At the June 2014 PCH Task Force meeting, Kalp suggested that Caltrans upgrade and add more signage at the tunnel. "We can't control driver behavior or skill, but we can try to do our part to prevent acci-

dents," she said, and Caltrans agreed to conduct an investigation.

In August, another fatal crash occurred in the same McClure location at 5:50 a.m., involving a motorcyclist and an unknown modeled-sedan type.

Later that month, Caltrans told Kalp they had done the field investigation and would proceed with a project to upgrade this section of the highway.

For the short term, they installed a trailer with a warning message: "Stopped Traffic Ahead."

But as Kalp pointed out last month, "It needs to be upgraded because the sign doesn't reflect the flow on PCH. That whole intersection needs to be redone."

At the May PCH Task Force meeting, Caltrans announced that it has agreed to a \$3- to \$4-million project that will include new lighting for the tunnel, painting and a changeable message sign that will include an advisory speed. When traffic starts to come to a stop (such as on hot beach weekends), the message sign will reflect real-time conditions.

Additionally, it was suggested that a "Freeway Ending" sign be posted nearer the Cloverfield exit, in order to prepare drivers for the lower speed ahead. Caltrans is considering the suggestion. Scheduled completion for the safety upgrades is 2017.

—SUE PASCOE

Woman's Club to Honor 90-Year-Olds

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club will host its annual luncheon honoring Palisadians 90 years and older on Saturday, June 6, from 12 to 2:30 p.m. at the clubhouse, 901 Haverford.

This free celebration will include lunch and entertainment, including a visit by the Santa Monica Oceanaires, a popular barbershop chorus. Longtime resident Bill Bruns, an adviser with the *Palisades News*, will be guest speaker.

Call Fay Vahdani at (310) 699-5885 to RSVP.

Norm Kulla Leaves City Government

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Norman Kulla, who has been serving in Los Angeles city government for the past 10 years, first as senior counsel for Councilman Bill Rosendahl and now for Mike Bonin, is resigning July 1.

"I'm trying to put everything in a path, so that when I leave, the people in the office will know how to find everything and respond," said Kulla, who describes his role as a mediator, trying hard to get different groups of people "who really care about certain things to sit down and talk."

Kulla, a former resident of Pacific Palisades, has high praise for both of his bosses. "Bill is a phenom who is a blessing for all of us," Kulla said. "If you believe in God, he lives through Bill Rosendahl."

He recalled the first time he met Rosendahl—at Tivoli Café here in town, 14 months before the 2004 City Council District 11 election.

"I had met with Flora Krisiloff, who was chair of the Brentwood Community Council, because she was running for Councilperson [against Rosendahl] and wanted my support. She gave me a stump speech."

Kulla was so irritated by her approach for his support (he was serving on the Palisades Community Council) that he sought out Rosendahl.

As Kulla came to the table, Rosendahl was reading the *New York Times* and used some salty language about an article.

"He was showing himself to someone he had never met before," said Kulla, a former attorney. "He was transparent, engaged, there was no hidden agenda and I remember thinking, 'This is who we need.' We bonded and we have been close friends ever since."

After Rosendahl was elected and brought Kulla aboard his team, he placed a sign in his office that read "No Gifts." Kulla said it epitomized a man whose driving purpose was to serve the public, until forced to retire early because of cancer.

"There is only one Bill Rosendahl; he's a life force," Kulla said. As a councilman, "He shot from the heart and lived in the mo-



After 10 years as a senior counsel, Norm Kulla is resigning July 1. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

ment. He was a big-picture guy who listened. A decision-maker who lived to serve the community."

Kulla also admires Bonin, who succeeded Rosendahl in 2013. "Mike is a dedicated public servant, who shares Bill's heart. He's disciplined, organized, structured and methodical. I have pride in what he's doing and in a small way I feel I helped him launch his mission."

Why is he leaving?

Kulla, 68, explained how people were asked at a retreat held for Bonin's staff if they felt they would be here in 12 years and to step forward. The question was repeated with eight years and then four years.

"I never stepped forward, because I saw my role as one of transition," Kulla said. "After Mike was elected, I sat down with him and told him that he should surround himself with people who built the team and were similar to him in age." Bonin is 48 years old.

Also, Kulla, who moved from the Highlands to a beach neighborhood in Santa Monica in 2013, no longer lives in Council District 11.

"Mike needs someone [as counsel] who

is going to be a link to the community," said Kulla, who sees his resignation as the start of another career transition and is looking forward to it, even if his immediate future is uncertain.

"I'm going to take a trip with each of my kids," he said. His daughter Julia, 37, is a programmer in Durham, North Carolina. His son Hans, 26, who writes and performs comedy, works on the production side of *Saturday Night Live*. David, 30, is a level-two PGA professional at Westchester Golf Course and the New Roads golf coach.

After receiving his law degree from UC Davis in 1972, Kulla worked as a criminal defense lawyer and became known as a parole release lawyer. He was the lawyer for Charles Manson's first parole request. "I spent a lot of time in prisons," Kulla said. "I felt my calling was to represent the disposed of society."

He and his wife Katherine Mader (Pali-Hi class of '65), a Superior Court judge, moved to Santa Monica in 1980. Kulla transitioned from criminal defense to tax security law at Tilles, Webb, Kulla and Grant.

In 1991, Katherine asked him if he was happy doing that kind of law, and he reluctantly admitted he wasn't. "I do it for the money."

She convinced him to leave, telling him, "You must be inspired, because that directs what you do."

The selling of his interest in the law firm coincided with the verdict on an important law case involving Commercial Acceptance Corporation. "It was a Ponzi scheme and pension plans were defrauded," said Kulla, noting that the \$40 million to \$100 million lost was totally refunded to clients by the people responsible, including payment to the law firm. "People got their money back and my share allowed me to transition into becoming a financial analyst," Kulla said.

During the following 10 years, he learned the theory of investment, received his CFA (Chartered Financial Analyst), studied behavioral finance and lectured at different

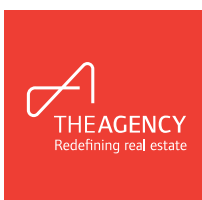
(Continued on Page 5)

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Kulla

(Continued from Page 4)

venues around Los Angeles.

The family moved to Santa Monica Canyon in 1986, which is when he met community activist George Wolfberg. Shortly afterwards Kulla joined the Palisades Optimist Club, served as president (2000-01) and represented service organizations on the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC).

After the Kullas moved to the Highlands, PPCC Area Two Representative Barry Kurtz asked Kulla to run for his seat on the Council. Kulla was elected and served in that position until he was elected PPCC chair in 2004.

Then-Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, determined to get the long-stalled Potrero Canyon Park project back on track, asked Kulla and Wolfberg to help her create a Potrero advisory committee. "She was a good partner for Potrero," Kulla said, noting that Miscikowski established a trust account to protect construction funds raised by selling City-owned property along the Potrero rim.

Kulla embraced his role as PPCC chair. "I love conflict. I'm blessed because when things are tense, I'm okay."

He recalled the time that the fledgling Renaissance Academy was set to take over major space in the 881 Alma Real building.

"There were 200 people at the meeting and it wasn't on the agenda," Kulla said.



George Wolfberg presents Norman Kulla with an historic photograph (copy) of the mouth of Santa Monica Canyon at the Annual Meeting of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, held May 12 at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center. Photo: Sara Jane Boyers

"They said they wanted the Community Council to consider this deal, and so we did."

"People were saying horrible things to me, but I didn't take it personally. It's important for people to express themselves because if they do, they can come back to who they are [which is not the issue]. It becomes an opportunity to change the frame

of how people look at things."

Kulla said that he first noticed this as a child during large family weekly gatherings. "When someone was speaking they weren't always hearing the person," he said. "I try to help people hear each other. They are so focused on what they want to say, they don't hear."

PaliHi Contract Negotiations

Mediator-facilitated negotiations between Palisades Charter High School's teachers' union and the school management reached a tentative agreement in mid-May after a sometimes contentious negotiation process.

The agreement would provide an 8-percent salary increase over two years to faculty with 5 percent retroactive to July 1, 2014, according to a statement issued by both parties. In addition, master's and doctoral stipends would be increased on July 1, 2015.

The bell schedule issue, which involves the administration's effort to explore varied options to the current class schedule, would be handled by the existing Academic Accountability Committee, Principal Pam Magee said.

This committee "will gather and analyze information and research assessing student needs and will consider recommendations based on those needs," according to the press release.

Initially, a ratification vote was planned for mid-May, but the two parties agreed to meet with the mediator one more time to address further aspects of the agreement before a ratification vote will occur.

—LAUREL BUSBY

(See related story on page 8.)

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Heard About Town

No Sparkplugs, No Citizen?

How come there hasn't been a Citizen of the Year announced or even names for the annual Sparkplug Awards?

(Editor's note: The Pacific Palisades Community Council, which will make the selection, has decided to move the awards from the spring to the fall. The honoring of Pacific Palisades residents for those prestigious annual awards will be held at the PPCC holiday meeting on December 10, 2015. Look for more information about nomination guidelines this fall.)

Road Danger on PCH

On Pacific Coast Highway, just before the gas station and Entrada, the slow lane suddenly is forced into the adjacent lane because the roadway juts out where the small underground tunnel is located. There are no markers, no warning signs and there should be. This is an accident waiting to happen.

Long Light at Temescal

The other morning during rush hour I waited eight minutes for a light to change. Cars were backed way up into Temescal Canyon Road. What can we do about this?

(Editor's note: We asked Caltrans public information officer Patrick Chandler to check on the timing and let us know the timing of the lights on Temescal and Chautauqua during morning and afternoon rush hour.)

Check Out the Mailbox

They say you shouldn't leave outgoing mail by your mailbox for the postal carrier because there are too many dishonest people who might take it. So, I went to the mailbox on the corner of Radcliffe and Carthage and dropped a letter in the postal box, but when I checked to see if it had gone down, it was still there. I pulled the letter off the lid and realized someone had put something sticky in there, so I took the letter to the Post Office. I told the postal employees about it, but I don't think they understood. So, I'm just warning everyone.

Time Waits for No One

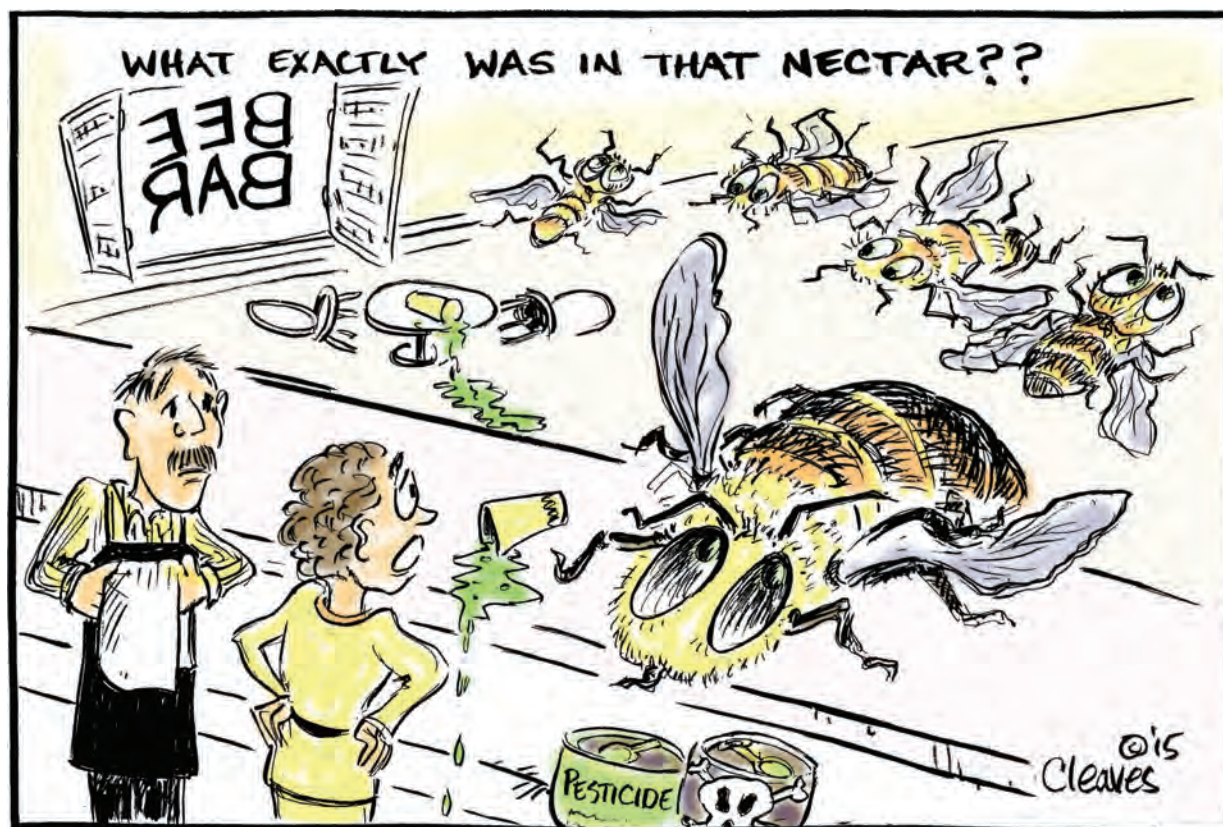
I'm glad to see the clock is back on the clock tower building (at Monument and Sunset)—and this one actually keeps time!

Engine 69 Coming Back

At the Community Council meeting the Deputy Chief said he's working to bring Engine 69 back to the Palisades. It can't happen soon enough, and it should never have gone away.

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Protect Yourself from Scammers

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Staff Writer

Anyone can be a victim of telephone scammers. Not giving out personal information to unsolicited callers is key to preventing these crimes.

When I first received a call from someone claiming to be from Microsoft tech support, he told me that error messages had shown there was a technical problem on my computer. It sounded reasonable, but I wondered why they would initiate the call.

While the caller was recommending steps to fix problems on my computer, I began searching online for Microsoft scams and learned that callers impersonate Microsoft tech staff, then try to download malicious software on your computer, or take control of your computer and get bank account and password information, or get your credit-card number and charge you fraudulently. I hung up before downloading anything or paying any money.

The next time I got a call from "Microsoft," I asked for a callback number, and in an online search found out this phone number was connected to the same fake Microsoft scam.

The third time they called, I had recently been through the experience of helping an older relative who was a victim of a phone scam and identity theft. While researching the subject, I came across AARP's Fraud Watch Network website with information on the con artists who do these scams, how they are trained, how they try to get people to feel heightened emotions so they can scam them,

along with other techniques.

This time, I immediately said "Remove me from your call list," and when the person replied, "Don't you want to fix your technical issues?" I said, "I know who you are and I'm not going to talk to you, so remove me from your list."

A detective I talked to in the course of helping my relative told me: no government agency will ever call you and ask for information; you wouldn't win any contest/lottery without entering; and no lottery/contest you won would call and ask you for your information. When alleged family members call, seeming to need help or say that they are in a predicament needing emergency money, check with another family member first.

My relative was scammed into giving out some personal information and I learned that a con artist can quickly forge checks and make fraudulent debit withdrawals from a victim's account. Thankfully, in our case the withdrawals were eventually refunded.

Other current scams take place in person. One involves someone asking people outside a bank to deposit a check for them, since they don't have an account, and after they get their money, the check bounces. Or criminals knock on the door and get the resident into their backyard to distract them, claiming to be from a utility company or looking for a lost pet, and then a partner comes in to rob the house.

"If anybody comes up to you unsolicited—by phone, e-mail, or at your home—that should be a red flag," said former Pacific Palisades Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale. A good reminder for all of us.

Thought to Ponder

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else."
— Judy Garland (1922-69)

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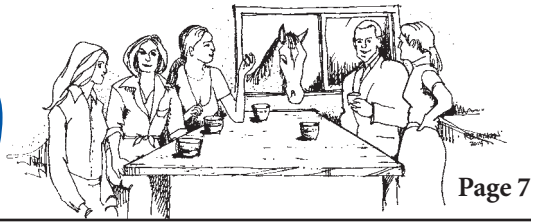
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EDITORIAL

Palisades Homeless Task Force Deserves Support

Pacific Palisades residents are compassionate people and many donate money and volunteer time to various nonprofits to help those in need.

But the increasing number of homeless in the Village, at the park, in local canyons and on the beach, and the aggressive nature of some of these transients, has residents concerned.

Brian Deming, a member of the new Pacific Palisades Homeless Task Force, told the Optimist Club at a recent breakfast, "Everyone seems to have a story about a transient and it seems to be happening more often."

The task force was formed last October after an assault in the Village by a transient, who was subsequently arrested.

The group, along with many Palisadians, participated for the first time in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count on January 29. From that count, it is believed that there are between 150 to 180 homeless individuals living within the Palisades boundaries.

According to the Los Angeles Almanac, an estimated 82,000 people are homeless nightly in Los Angeles County about half of them African American. Some 14-18 percent are not U.S. citizens, and as many as 20 percent are veterans. A quarter of all the homeless are mentally ill and, surprisingly, 16-20 percent of the homeless adults are employed. The *Los Angeles Times* reported in April that the City spends more than \$100 million a year coping with homelessness.

Deming, a film and television location manager,

initially got involved with the task force, chaired by Maryam Zar, because of the people living in a vacant space—the former Bernheimer Gardens on Sunset Boulevard, near Marquez Place.

"I thought there were seven people living there but there were actually 14," Deming said. "When the police showed up they [the police] couldn't do anything." He noted the L.A. Fire Department eventually cleared the area, based on enforcing the fire prevention code.

A 2006 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision stated that the enforcement of Los Angeles City Code 41.18 (d), which allowed police to arrest people for sleeping on the street when there are no available shelter beds, was illegal.

"The Eighth Amendment prohibits the City from punishing involuntary sitting, lying, or sleeping on public sidewalks that is an unavoidable consequence of being human and homeless without shelter in the City of Los Angeles," Judge Wardlaw wrote.

In April this year, Mike Bonin introduced a motion asking City officials to explore whether the constitutional mandate could be better met by providing alternatives to sleeping on the sidewalk—such as shared housing, bridge housing and transitional shelters.

"As a result of the Jones [2006] settlement, we spend time, energy and money accommodating a right to sleep on the sidewalk," Bonin said. "That does a disservice to people who are homeless, and it does a disservice to our

neighborhoods. We need to spend our time, energy and money accommodating the right to sleep in housing."

The Palisades Homeless Task Force formed a Best Practices Committee to see what other communities were doing, specifically focusing on efforts in Santa Monica and Venice. The committee decided that the group getting the best results was the Ocean Park Community Council (OPCC) in Santa Monica.

"There has been a shift from just feeding the homeless to finding permanent housing," said Doug McCormick, the head of that investigating committee. "We need to get them into a house and then we can bring support to them. As a community we need to embrace a long-term approach rather than a quick fix."

We agree with the Homeless Task Force, which believes that permanent housing is ultimately the best direction to go, but in order to work towards that goal by having OPCC social workers meet with Palisades transients, the cost will be \$125,000 for two social workers to work with the homeless five days a week for a year. This will enable OPCC to identify the 20 or so most vulnerable transients and work towards getting them into housing. The strategy is that once a few homeless people successfully transition to housing, the resistance among others will decrease.

The Task Force will meet at the Palisades Library community room on Wednesday, June 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Email pacpalihft@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Video Available: 'Stay Safe on PCH'

As a fellow Angeleno, you're probably aware of the double-edged sword when driving on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). On the one hand, there are the incredible views of the Pacific Ocean, and on the other, speeding commuters, inattentive pedestrians, frustrated residents and growing packs of bicyclists.

In 2013 there were 585 collisions between the McClure Tunnel and the Ventura county line. In an effort to encourage safe behavior on PCH, the PCH Partners has produced a Public Safety Announcement video, entitled "Stay Safe on PCH." Please post this video to your various media channels and let us know if you have any questions.

The video is available on YouTube: youtube.com/watch?v=eOIXIaEUXtM. We hope you enjoy the video, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about our efforts to increase safety on PCH.

Drive safe,
Hayley Brown
Swell Communications Inc.
hayley@swellco.us

Change Alphabet Streets To Bishop Streets

I am thinking about undertaking a Pacific Palisades civic project to place a proper historic name on the "Alphabet Streets." Most longtime residents are probably aware that the streets in that neighborhood are named

after Methodist bishops (e.g. Albright, Galloway, Hartzell) and other religious leaders.

I've always felt that the term "The Alphabets" is sort of derogatory or at least a designation that isn't consistent with the image of the Palisades. PLUS—it is dismissive of the Town's Methodist founders.

There is no legal grounding for the name, it is only an informal assignment, so changing it is only a matter of putting a campaign together and making it happen. The proper name for the neighborhood should be the "Bishop Streets."

Some time ago a local real estate office manager required that his agents refer to the "Alphabets" as "Village North." This received positive feedback from agents and clients alike. However, the manager, Ed Nash, who lived in Rustic Canyon, relocated to New York and his campaign died with him.

I do not have a dog in this hunt. My intent is not to campaign for Methodism but to lift up the image of this neighborhood. History counts and to dismiss our roots means we have lost touch with the past.

Lynn Borland

Beach Tent 'Campers' Present Problem to Residents

Last night [May 20] at around 10:30 p.m. I called the police non-emergency number and was transferred to the West L.A. Watch Commander I told the operator that I had been accosted and threatened by very aggressive homeless people on the beach when I was walking my

dog on the bike lane between Lifeguard Station 18 and the jetty where the big lifeguard station is [along Will Rogers State Beach].

The Watch Commander, who said his name was Casey, told me that I should contact Michael Moore, and asked if I knew who he is [our senior lead officer]. I said yes. He also said that I should contact the Councilman's office about this problem.

I was astounded and asked if they really couldn't do something! He indicated that there wasn't much they could do and I asked him to at least send a car there to drive on the bike path and shine some lights on the tents out on the beach to at least let these aggressive people know they are there. He said he could do that, but he mentioned again that I needed to contact Moore and Councilman Bonin. I reminded him that it is illegal for these people to be sleeping on the beach between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. He didn't have anything else to say.

Pretty frustrating. Makes me think that I am not safe walking my dog on the bike lane and that is not right. I live in Santa Monica Canyon and should have access to the beach. It is illegal for them to be there. And by the way, if I did walk my dog out to the water's edge or anywhere on the beach, I would get a ticket; I think it's around \$200.

Judi Jensen
Santa Monica Canyon

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.

Student Petition Investigated by PaliHi Board

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Palisades High School Spanish teacher Alexander Shuhgalter stopped the *Palisades News* editor on the street the week of May 18 and said that a student had started a petition, and more than 1,200 kids had signed it and it was going before the school's board of trustees.

When asked what the petition was about, Shuhgalter said students were upset with the administration and were asking the board not to extend the contract for Dr. Pam Magee, the school's executive director and principal.

When the editor questioned the validity of the petition, Shuhgalter responded: "They are wise and they know what they want."

On May 19, Isabel Kelly, a junior at PaliHi, presented her petition to the board of trustees, signed by 1,213 students, urging the board not to give Dr. Magee a three-year contract extension.

At the meeting, the student was recorded as saying Magee failed to establish a connection between herself and students; didn't demonstrate leadership qualities because she didn't know any of the student names; didn't provide for student input through surveys; said Magee stated it was unnecessary for parents and students to have input on the bell schedule; that student concerns

had not been heard about such topics as better cafeteria food; and concluded: "We need a leader who is going to do everything in his or her power to consider suggestions from teachers and not just the board. It appears that the principal forgets teachers are the ones who most directly influence the start of success of students and are most aware of what students need to maximize performance."

Magee, who was hired by the PaliHi board in 2011, manages a budget of \$27 million and oversees more than 2,800 students.

The *Palisades News* received letters from two parents last Friday on deadline, after a story about the petition appeared on the front page of the *Palisadian-Post*. These parents stated they felt that a handful of unnamed teachers at Palisades High are unhappy with the current administration and were responsible for convincing students to start the petition.

The *News* did not have time to investigate these allegations before going to press.

Conflict between administrators and the teachers union can be common, especially over salary and benefit issues and classroom support.

At PaliHi, the current teacher-contract negotiations have been contentious at times, but may soon be settled. (See story, page 3).

The *News* asked Dr. Magee last Friday, May 29, if the student who started the peti-

tion had ever contacted her either by e-mail or by appointment. The answer was no.

The Board of Trustees has a student representative, and a faculty member on the board is elected by students. Additionally, student leadership elected by all grades is responsible for taking issues to the administration.

Attempts to contact Kelly to ask if she had gone to any of those three sources with concerns, were unsuccessful.

Board of Trustees Chair Allison Holdorff Polhill released the following statement regarding the student's allegations about the bell schedule: "Dr. Magee insisted on meaningful input from parents and students—including a formal survey of both groups—concerning the bell schedule, and that the 'vote' that Dr. Magee opposed was a post-negotiation formal vote by each group as a precondition to any change."

Polhill said that regarding the allegation Magee doesn't know the needs of students, "no examples or particulars are given [by the student] that would help provide some context or substance to the assertion."

One concrete statement said Magee did not understand about the bad cafeteria food. The *News* also tried to reach the student to ask her if she knew the PaliHi cafeteria provider, Sodexo, also supplies colleges across the nation.

At a May 26 private session, the board

voted unanimously (Magee was not in the room) to hire a private investigator, Nicole Miller, to investigate the student's petition.

The *News* asked Polhill about the board's decision. Speaking for herself and not for the board, she said: "There were a number of allegations in the petition, but most were generalizations with no specifics. We care about students' views, and need to know what facts are behind the general assertions in order to weigh properly the petition in the evaluation process."

Polhill said students were interviewed on Friday, May 29, and on June 1, about their understanding of the petition. The interviews were voluntary. She said no students are being investigated and that no one is questioning the students' integrity.

The Board of Trustees, which meets the third Tuesday of every month, will have its next meeting at 5 p.m. on June 16 in the school library. The public is invited.

Volunteers Needed For Fourth of July

The next volunteer meeting of PAPA (Palisades Americanism Parade Association) will be held at 6:30 on June 29 at the American Legion, 15247 La Cruz Dr. All are invited to attend. If you are unable to attend the meeting, visit: palisadesparade.org

ELLEN McCORMICK

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West L.A. Captain Nathan Retires

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Captain Evangelyn Nathan, the Area Commanding Officer of the West Los Angeles Community Police Department, retired at the end of April. Captain Tina Nieto is her replacement.

"A huge thank you to the West Los Angeles community and especially to Pacific Palisades," Nathan told the *Palisades News* before speaking at the Woman's Club dinner meeting in May. "You have been awesome."

After commanding 323 officers and 31 civilian personnel, in an area that serves a population of more than 257,000 and 65 square miles and 748 street miles (the largest mileage of any LAPD department), Nathan's first retirement task seemed calm.

"My family has signed me up to take care of an 11-year-old niece and 9-year-old nephew," said Nathan, who is also a certified Master Gardener. "I just finished redoing the yard with artificial turf, going water-wise, and now my brother and sister wanted me to help them, too."

"I still get calls from work: my schedule is still busy," said Nathan, the first African-American woman to earn a LAPD command position. "I figure in six months it will slow down."

She was asked if the Wednesday night motorcycle noise will ever abate on Sunset. "Not all of the motorcyclists are violating the law," she said. "I feel bad for those who live on Sunset because the noise can be deafening."

Nathan said one possible solution might be to post signs that are the same as those seen when patrons leave a concert area, asking for compassion for those who live in the area. The flashing signs could be used to remind all motorists about noise, including motorcyclists.

Later at the Woman's Club podium, Nathan spoke about entering LAPD and the challenges facing her.

She received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Cal State Dominguez Hills, and frequently ran 10K races. She had just finished one and went by an



Captain Evangelyn Nathan, the Area Commanding Officer of West Los Angeles Community Police Department, who retired at the end of April, was honored at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

LAPD recruiting table that was offering free water. Nathan took the water, but instead of trying to recruit her, he said "You wouldn't make it out of the academy because you would flunk out."

"Give me that card," Nathan said, accepting the challenge. She explained that the attitude in 1981 was "women don't belong here."

Nathan said in the late 1800s to be a police officer you needed to be a 6'5" male. Gradually the height requirement dropped and by 1981, it was 5'8", which Nathan made.

Nathan said her career was possible because of two women, Alice Stebbins Wells and Franchon Blake.

Wells petitioned the mayor, police commissioner and the City Council to become the first woman officer. Hired in 1910, she was assigned to aid women and children who were victims of crime.

99. Every week more women dropped out.

"It was one of the biggest challenges I ever faced," Nathan said. "Eventually five of us partnered together—and whined together."

In order to make it out of the academy, recruits had to pass the self-defense test, which meant having to free yourself from the other person, doing whatever it took to get away.

Nathan's partner was Jim McDonald (who was elected as L.A. County's 32nd sheriff last November). She told him before the test, "I love you, but I apologize for what I'm going to do to you today."

She bit him; she passed. "The other two women did something to their partners they hadn't been taught in academy, either," Nathan said, noting that only five women graduated.

Nathan completed her initial probation at 77th Street Patrol Division, followed by assignments to Wilshire patrol, narcotics and recruitment.

She worked the West Los Angeles Vice Unit from 1985-87, 77th Street Detective Division from 1987-89. In 1992 she was upgraded to Detective II and assigned to Internal Affairs. Two years later she made Detective III and was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Police. She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2000 and was assigned as Watch Commander for the Pacific Patrol Division.

In 2002, Nathan was assigned as the Officer-in-Charge of Operations-South Bureau Homicide Task Force. A year later, she was upgraded to Lieutenant II and assigned as the 77th Street Detective Division Commanding Officer. She was a 2006 inductee into the Los Angeles Police Revolver and Athletic Club, Athletic Hall of Fame and in April 2007 came to the Westside.

Nathan told Woman's Club members: "We have to support each other. If we come with a complaint, bring a suggestion to go with it. Make sure you balance our life, seek spirituality and share. Give more than you take and laugh often and laugh loudly."

She concluded, "Don't forget we are women, we are amazing. In the LAPD, the terminology changed from policeman and then policewoman to now, police officer."

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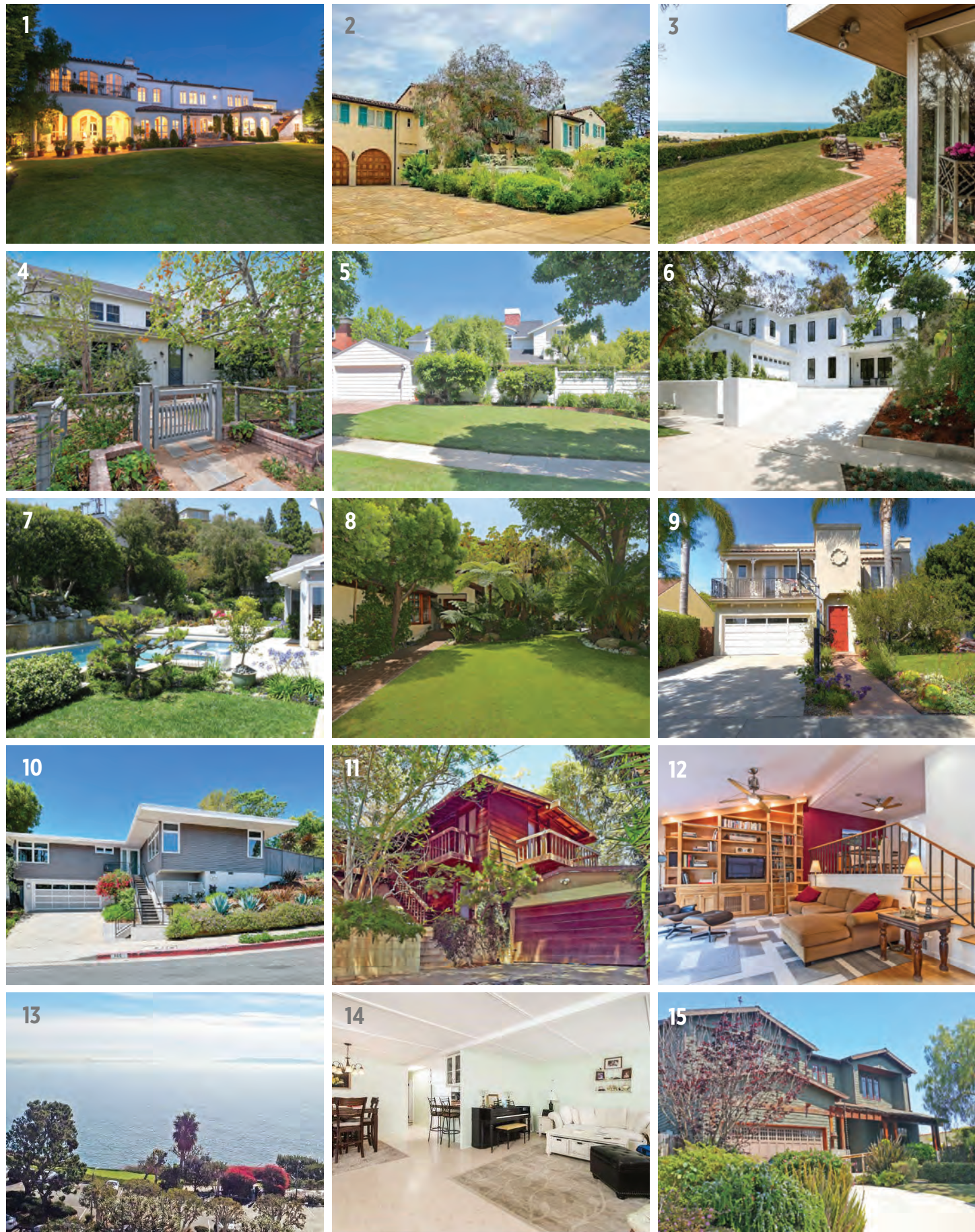
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New Realtor Opens Office on Via

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Realtor Donna Bohana has always done things a little bit differently. As a Baldwin Hills teenager, she opted to head to an English boarding school. But it wasn't a typical English boarding school.

At Tasis, students spent six weeks in England and then six weeks in another country. She visited Ireland, Spain, France and Greece, among other places—learning a bit of each native language and experiencing each nation firsthand.

"I didn't know it at the time, but it laid the foundation for me to understand working with different cultures," said Bohana, who works with people from around the world in her real estate agency, Solstice International Realty, which recently opened at 833 Via de la Paz. "When I meet people from these different countries, I can always find a connection somewhere."

Her new office, which will have its grand opening on June 21, is also designed to allow her the time and space to connect with her clients. The space is arranged more like a living room than a traditional office with sofas, a coffee table, and a big-screen TV for viewing properties and documents.

"I just wanted a new concept—not a corporate office, which never did feel right for me," Bohana said. "I wanted something more comfortable and inviting where we can sit comfortably and talk about what you need."

Bohana, a single mother with a 6-year-old daughter, Emme, named her company after the solstice, because her birthday is



Donna Bohana, owner of Solstice International Realty.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

a few days before the summer solstice, and the winter solstice has always been a fortunate time of year for her. Her biggest sale, a \$10-million home, occurred in December.

"For some reason, that time—winter or summer—seems to be my lucky time of year," said Bohana, who founded the company in 2007 and has offices in Malibu and Pasadena. "I just thought I'm going to name my company that. It's a happy time of year.

The word solstice means new beginnings."

Bohana said her own beginning as a realtor originated with a part-time job in Malibu at the Fred Sands realty company. At the time, she was earning a degree in international studies at Pepperdine University, and she was still considering various careers.

After graduating from Pepperdine in 1992, Bohana became an executive assis-

tant to the Malibu Board of Realtors, but she also decided to earn her realtor's license. Once she had that in hand, she started work at Coldwell Banker, where she worked for 14 years before branching out on her own. Danielle Thompson joined her as the broker of record and now runs the Pasadena office.

From the beginning, Bohana decided to take on not only sales, but also properties that weren't that popular at the time among Malibu realtors—one-month rentals. Although the short-term rentals had low commissions, she found that they often turned into sales, even if the sales happened years later.

"I've gotten lucky with the rentals, so I work them like I work my sales," said Bohana, who lives in Malibu close to where it meets the Palisades.

Valerie Joslin, a neighbor, client and also Bohana's interior designer, said, "She'll hustle for you. You've seen handymen with signs—no job is too small. Donna will say 'Give it to me.'"

And even though Bohana has sold many high-end properties since her early days as a realtor, she still embraces the idea that no job is too small. She also declines to specialize.

"I just never wanted to have a label. So I just do everything," Bohana said. "What do you specialize in? Everything."

Castellammare and Miramar Estates

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

The Castellammare subdivision and prestigious Miramar Estates were developed starting in 1925-1926 on land that Alfonso Bell had owned. The original style of architecture was to be Mediterranean, with Italian Renaissance as the initial theme for the street names and styles, suited to a seaside neighborhood reminiscent of the Amalfi Coast in Italy.

Paseo Miramar and Tramonto are the "backbone" streets of these areas, which are located between Santa Ynez Canyon (Palisades Drive) and the original Getty Museum, just off Pacific Coast Highway at Coastline Drive.

Castellammare means "castle by the sea" and Tramonto means "sunset" or "setting sun." Some other streets include Porto Marina, "door or entrance to the sea coast," Monte Grigio, Quadro Vecchio and Revello.

Paseo Miramar literally means "walk to a view of the sea." A few of the streets on that hill include Resolano, Lucero and Vista Pacifica.

As in many of the Palisades hillsides areas, both of these neighborhoods have homeowners associations and deed restrictions that include protections of individual views.

A substantial part of the price point many of these homes sell for is due to the wide variety of types and magnitudes of views. Numerous geologically-challenged hillside lots still remain undeveloped and major slope failures, many decades ago, have resulted in road closures in a few locations.

Several sections of the Castellammare hill include public stairs that date back to the 1920s. Many of them are difficult to find, and some have been abandoned by lack of use or soil movement. The remaining portions enable walking down towards Pacific Coast Highway between homes, and a few get close to accessing the bridge across to the beach.

There are at least two major hiking trail access routes in the area, as well as a public park in Los Lions Canyon. The Getty Villa owns a large parcel of land that extends well beyond the museum grounds.

There are about 680 homes in Castellammare and Miramar Estates. Eleven

homes sold in 2014, ranging from \$1.1 million for a tiny house on a small lot on Castellammare to \$9.25 million for a beautiful new architectural home on a large lot on Paseo Miramar. The median average sale price was \$2.26 million which was 8 percent higher than 2013's \$2.09 million.

As of June 1, there were seven homes on the market, asking between \$2.45 and \$10.5 million. No homes were in escrow. Three have sold so far in 2015, from \$1.675 million on Notteargenta to \$2.711 million on Tramonto.

One of the several remaining large buildable sites in the Palisades that is zoned for multiple units is off Tramonto and overlooks PCH and the ocean.

A project of 53-luxury townhomes has begun construction and may be available by 2017, with sizes ranging from 2,200 to 3,200 square feet.

(Michael Edlen has been ranked #52 of all agents in the country with nearly \$2 billion in sales and more than 1,200 transactions. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales since 1987. Call: (310) 230-7373 or email: michael@michaeledlen.com.)

Marquez Knolls Association Annual Meeting on June 6

The Marquez Knolls Property Owners Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, June 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Marquez Charter Elementary School. There will be a short business meeting with the election of next year's board. Sandwiches, desserts and drinks will be served.

"How to Create a Drought-Tolerant Yard" is the topic for this year's program. Rebates are available to assist in the cost of these do-overs. Marquez Knolls resident Laura Mack will share her experience in transforming her lawn into a vibrant drought-friendly garden. Director of Sustainable Solutions for Tree-People Lisa Cahill will present more specifics on the why and how of lawn conversions.

LAPD, LAFD and ACS Security will be available to answer questions.



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Rotary Is All in For the Kids

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The bidding was fast and furious and the bluffing top-notch as the second annual Rotary Texas Hold ‘Em poker tournament for charity was held May 9 in Janes Hall at the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church.

Sixty-five players started with \$200 in chips and waited for Lady Luck to give them two “good” cards in the pocket. The Dealer Dolls then laid out five additional cards, as players tried for three-of-a-kind, a full house, a straight and a flush. As people lost, the seven tables were condensed until only the skilled—or maybe lucky—were left at the championship table.

Taking first was Merv Dunn (\$2,000), who won the tournament final hand with a pair of sevens. Second went to Dave Dealy (\$1,000), third Carole Raskin (\$900), fourth Bill Snyder (\$700) and fifth Layth Carlson (\$400). Two organizations, the Palisades-Malibu YMCA and Pacific Palisades Rotary Club Foundation, each received \$3,500. Individual players kept their winnings.

“From a fellowship and financial stand-

point, this is really a good event,” said Rotarian Perry Akins. His daughter Natalie, who graduated from Palisades High School and now lives and works in Kansas City, played in the tournament.

“The kids and the Rotary club are the winner,” said member Stockton Gaines.

Entry fees included drinks and dinner from Vittoro’s Ristorante on Marquez Avenue.

Last year’s winner and the person responsible for organizing the tournament, Peter Crosby, was out early this year. “I only won one hand the entire night, I didn’t have the pocket cards. I watched Merv in one hand where he drew ‘pocket rockets’ (a pair of aces).”

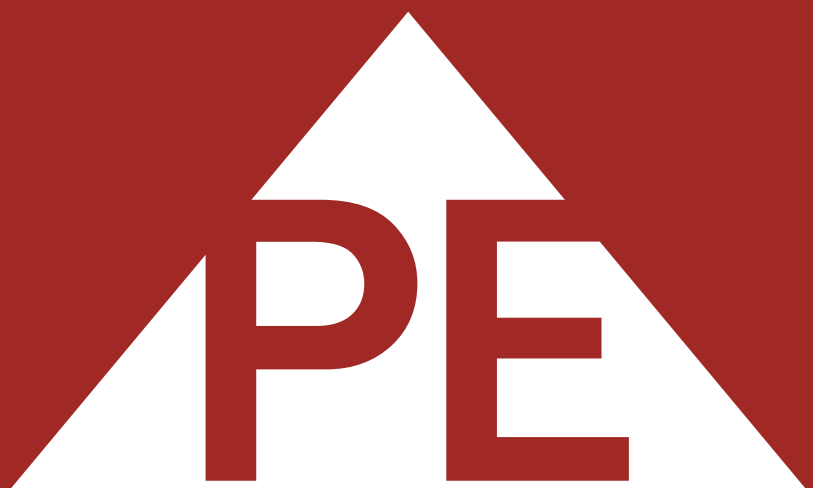
Crosby admitted he re-bought twice, making his loss for the night \$600—but as he explained, “It all goes to charity and it’s all tax-deductible.” Take that, Las Vegas!

Tournament sponsors included Marie Tran (Mac & PC computer services), Dr. Damon Raskin, W.I. Simonson Mercedes Benz, Brett Bjornson (estate planning services), Cindy and Bill Simon, Westside Rentals, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage (Holly Davis, Anne Russell and Fran Flanagan) and an anonymous Rotarian.



Last year’s winner Peter Crosby hoped the Dealer Dolls (dealerdolls.com) would bring him luck. They included (left to right) Summer Evans, Jodi Screpnek and Rya Meyers.

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Reeves to Discuss His WWII Book, *Infamy*

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Staff Writer

The story of the Japanese American internment during World War II is cynically extraordinary in three different ways: the expedient mobilization of Japanese Americans within 48 hours of the bombing of Pearl Harbor; the U.S. government's abrupt abrogation of the civil rights of American citizens, and finally, the stoic acceptance of the evacuees.

In *Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II*, best-selling author and journalist Richard Reeves outlines the story, from the government's conviction that Japanese Americans presented a security threat, to the hostility towards Japanese Americans while incarcerated and finally to the aftermath and reflections on what is the best and worst of America.

Reeves, a former resident of Pacific Palisades who now lives in Westwood, will talk about the book and sign copies at the Palisades Branch Library on Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. His talk is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Most Americans have heard about the internment camps; some have visited Manzanar, the most widely known of 10 camps where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during the war. But in *Infamy* we come to understand the complicity of so many "honorable" Americans in sequestering the Japanese Americans. The surprise attack on Pearl Harbor fueled a belief that Japanese Americans were allied with the enemy and assisting in a clandestine invasion. Hysteria swept the West Coast.

"The good people, the 'Great Americans' were behind it," Reeves says. "Walter Lippmann, Edward R. Murrow, Dr. Seuss, Earl Warren and Roosevelt. This stuff wasn't that unusual in those days. Roosevelt was comfortable with the casual racial myths that had emerged in the U.S. in the 1920s. He speculated that the reason Japanese were 'devious and treacherous' was the shape of their skulls—less developed skulls, 'two thousand years behind Caucasians.'"

Lippmann, the most respected columnist in Washington, D.C., wrote an incendiary column in the *Washington Post* in February 1942 that was carried in 250 other newspapers warning that the Pacific Coast was in danger of an attack from within and without, despite no signs of sabotage.

Lippmann's column persuaded all members of Congress from the West Coast to write to President Roosevelt recommending "immediate evacuation of all persons of Japanese lineage and all others, aliens and citizens alike, whose presence shall be deemed dangerous or inimical to the defense of the United States from all strategic areas."

Theodor Seuss Geisel's cartoon in a New York newspaper showed multitudes of



Richard Reeves' book recounts the Japanese American internment in World War II.

Photo: Patricia Williams

bucktoothed, squint-eyed Japanese lined up across the entire West Coast to be given packs of dynamite at a stand called "Honorable Fifth Column." The caption read: "Waiting for the signal from home."

Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing evacuations as a matter of "military necessity."

First, assembly centers were established to house more than 100,000 Japanese on the West Coast and Arizona while the War Relocation Authority built permanent concentration camps east of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains.

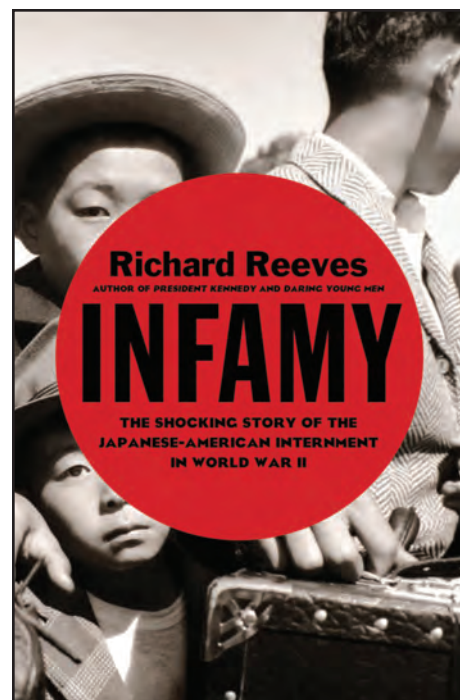
In California's largest cities, posters instructed where and when Japanese aliens and Japanese Americans were expected to arrive and be carried away by buses and trains to the holding centers.

Farmers, fisherman and shop owners lost their property, often forced to give it away free.

"It was greed, hysteria and racism that fueled the roundup," Reeves says. "We were in much more danger from the Germans. But if we had done the same thing to the Germans and Italians, it would have been 50 million people rather than 120,000 and obviously you couldn't run the country. A

third of the country would be in concentration camps."

The Japanese were ideal prisoners, Reeves concludes. Their practice of gaman, a teaching of Zen Buddhism that means "enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity," accounted for their



stoic endurance and pliant obedience as well as their tremendous resourcefulness.

At Manzanar, a barren, inhospitable slab of desert at the base of the Sierra Nevada, with freezing winter temperatures and scorching summers, the evacuees made the area bloom with over 36 different vegetables, rice paddies and even fisheries.

In telling the story of this reprehensible chapter in American history, Reeves relied on memoirs and oral histories of people in the camps, which gives a face to those who endured the humiliation.

The Uchida family of Berkeley had nine days to move. They were transported to an assembly center on the central coast, before settling in their permanent relocation camp on a high and windy plateau in southwest Utah.

An educated family, the Uchidas were shocked by the barbed wire perimeter, the powdery dust that blanketed the barrack city they would call home, and the absence of any privacy as 8,000 residents packed the mile-square camp.

Reeves read government papers, letters and accounts of meetings between Roosevelt and everyone else involved in the evacuation, and finally military records for the all-Nisei 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was the most decorated unit in Army history.

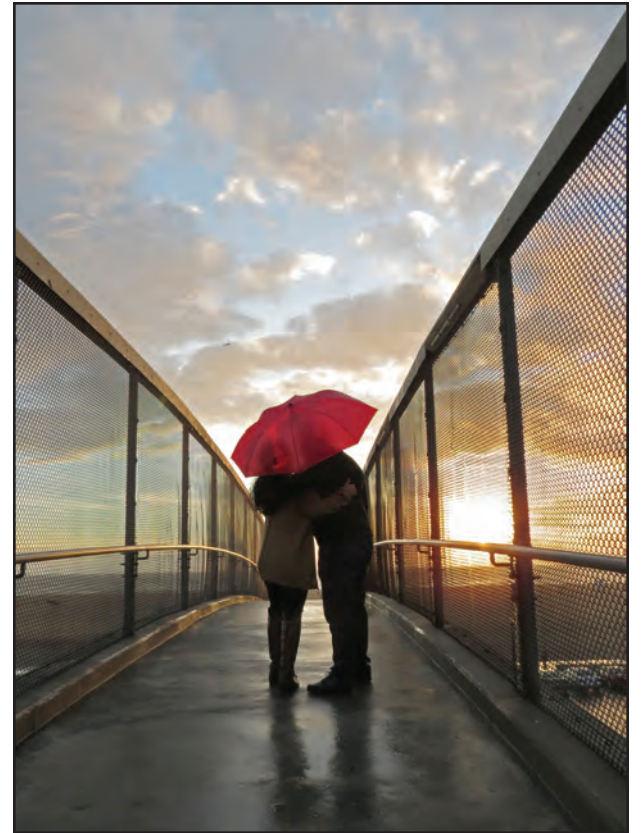
We learn of the valiant courage of Ben Kuroki, who enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, overcame overt hostility and racism from the other enlistees, and eventually flew 58 bombing missions over German, Italy and Japan.

When the war ended, life for the incarcerated Japanese Americans was forever changed. Few were able to return to their prewar lives. Many of the older evacuees, the Issei, had to start over, more than three-quarters of them without money or property. Thousands of their children made new lives in other parts of the country.

"Nobody paid any attention to them in Indianapolis and other Midwest cities, because there hadn't been Japanese there before," Reeves says. "And they felt safe. Nobody talked about what had happened to them from 1942 to 1945. Parents and grandparents were ashamed to talk about the camps, and the young ones learned not to ask."

Reeves, the author of a number of acclaimed books about America, its best moments (the Berlin Airlift) and darkest (Richard Nixon), views the shameful treatment of the Japanese Americans with caution. "This is my conclusion," he says. "We are perfectly capable of doing it again. We always say, never again, but it did happen here."

"I wrote the book because we would do the same things to Muslims tomorrow. It's our history. People who came here were always mistreated, whether it was the Irish or Polish, because they weren't like us, until they were us."



Above: AP photography student **Melissa Ramos** started taking photos as a seventh grader at Columbus Middle School. The Crenshaw resident has studied two years with Rick Steil and plans to attend Santa Monica College this fall. Right: This was senior **Xena Ahalfeilat**'s first photography class. She snapped the photo of her mom and dad on the Santa Monica Pedestrian Bridge. She is going to San Francisco State for business and marketing, but would like to continue taking photography classes.

Looking Through a Different EYE

Palisades High School student photography was on display last month in the Palisades Branch Library community room. Teacher Rick Steil chose from the works of more than 160 students in his beginning, advanced and AP photography classes. The photos on the Spotlight page are representative of that top-notch work.

Since Steil started teaching at PaliHi, seven years ago, the classes have grown by more than 60 students. The former professional fashion photographer said, "I've been told it's one of the hardest classes to get into at Pali."

This summer Steil will host a week-long photography camp with morning or afternoon sessions on the

Palisades High campus. Enrollment will be limited to 10 in each session, and a student must be in seventh grade or older (adults are welcome) to enroll.

Steil will teach digital photography basics, including composition, shutter speed/aperture/ISO, Photoshop and inkjet printing. Call: (310) 428-1160 or rsteil@palihigh.org.



Left: **Nicole Gozini**, a junior, took this photo of her grandmother for beginning photo. She has been invited to join AP photography next year. Right: **Jasper Shorr**, a senior, plans to attend the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is undecided about his major. This was the first photography class he took.



Atria Offers Programs For Palisades Seniors

Atria Senior Living, at 15441 Sunset (across from Gelson's) offers its programs free to Palisades residents. Seniors do not have to live at the facility to take advantage of the programs, but please RSVP to (310) 573-9545.

On Thursday, June 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. concert pianist Alexander Borghese will perform as part of the celebration of Atria's one-year anniversary. A dinner will feature gourmet fare and wine pairing. Valet parking will be provided.

The following Thursday, June 11, at 11:30 a.m., there will be lunch on the rooftop patio, followed by karaoke.

On June 18, at 3:30 p.m. Frank Sinatra impersonator Jimmy Brewster will sing. Appetizers will be served.



Top left: Luis Velasquez took beginning photo this year as a junior and has been asked to be in Steil's AP class next year. He would like to be a professional photographer when he finishes school.

Top right: Matthew Gorlick, a Pacific Palisades resident, will attend the University of Oregon in business administration this fall. He took beginning photo as a junior and is currently a student in the AP photography class.

Left: Sam Schoemann, a senior AP photography student, plans to attend American University and major in political science. He started photography as a Paul Revere seventh grader and has studied photo three years at PaliHi.

Chancel Choir, String Orchestra to Perform

The Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church Friends of Music will present a concert, "My Inner Reflections," at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 14, at the church, 15821 Sunset Blvd. Free admission (freewill offering).

The program includes the world premiere of "Beati Qui Ad Cenam Agni Vocati Sunt," "Trisagon" by Arvo Pärt, "Psalm 86" by Gustav Holst and "Magnificat RV610" by Antonio Vivaldi. Guest organist is David Wheatley, concertmaster is Alex Russell and conductor is Jaco Wong. Visit: palipres.org.



Greenfeld's Novel Reimagines the Palisades

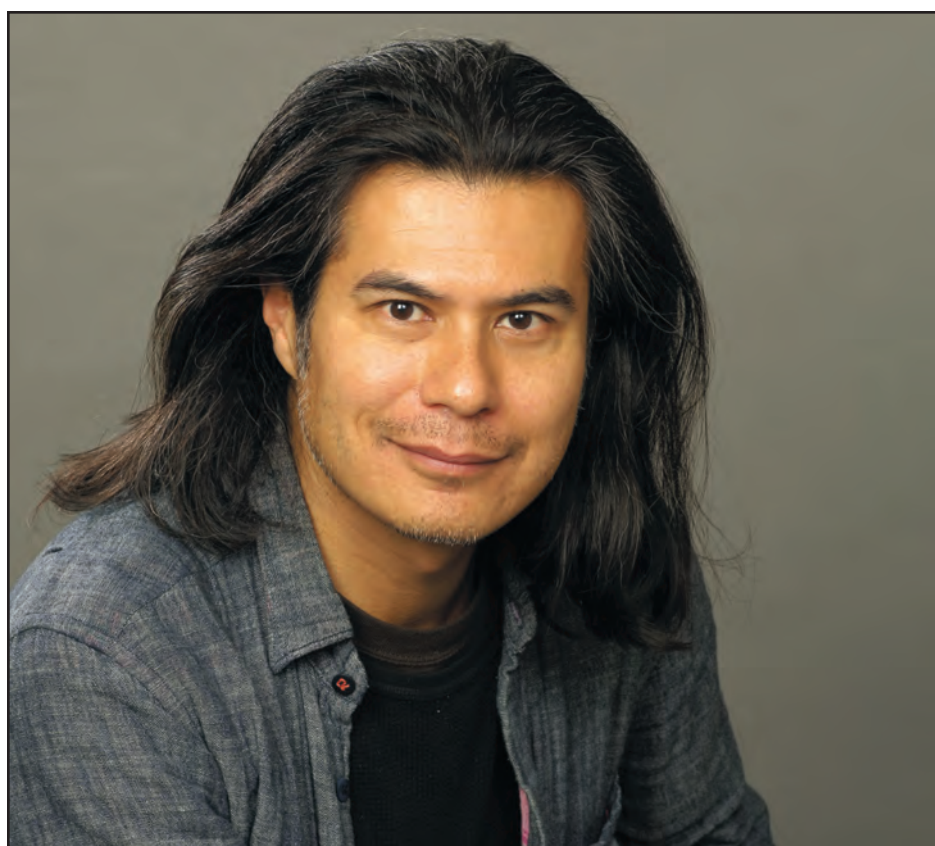
By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Imagine offshore oil rigs along the Palisades coast, packs of coyotes attacking people in the local mountains and a crumbling Sunset Boulevard closed between PCH and the 405.

Imagine a country so affected by greed that debtors' prisons have arisen, and anyone with a bad credit rating is sent there. Families of unimprisoned "subprimes" are on the run and forced to live in hiding. The Internet is over, and the Dallas Cowboys stadium has been overtaken by a church pushing the idea that environmentalists, progressives and anyone else who isn't promoting a free-market agenda is against God's will.

In this re-imagined, near-future Pacific Palisades and United States, local author Karl Taro Greenfeld's satirical novel *The Subprimes* comes to life. He describes the setting as "capitalism gone amuck" with "no OSHA, no federal tax, no FDA, no government regulation, aggressive super-muscular capitalism, horrible dystopia, and super-wealthy elite."

The idea for the book stemmed from thinking about a contemporary version of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*—an "economic and political story... of contemporary life in the Palisades and what's it like



Karl Greenfeld

Photo: Courtesy of Sports Illustrated

to hold onto economic and social position in this world that's trying to pull you down," said Greenfeld, who will read from his new novel on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Skylight Books, 181 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles.

Greenfeld, who grew up in the Palisades and now lives and works in the town, based one character on some of his life experiences, except like the broader culture of the novel, this character is in some ways a ver-

sion of himself gone amok. Where Greenfeld is a respected journalist who headed *Time's* Asia bureau for many years and also worked for *Sports Illustrated* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*, his alter ego in the book, Richie Schwab, has also written for these publications, but his research is so shoddy that he relies on lawsuits to retain his jobs. Publications in *The Subprimes* don't want to fire journalists who are co-defendants with them in a libel lawsuit.

Another similarity stems from Greenfeld's teen years at Palisades High School, where he tended to use marijuana at lunch and thus had a hard time succeeding in afternoon classes.

"At Sarah Lawrence College, I arrived not totally literate—I didn't know what a complete sentence was. One summer I had to teach myself how to parse a sentence," said Greenfeld, who graduated from PaliHi in 1983 and set himself the goal of being a writer. Both of his parents, Josh Greenfeld and Fumiko Kometani, are successful writers. "I was very slow developing... My teenage years—I had to survive them."

At the beginning of *The Subprimes*, middle-aged Richie Schwab is still in the phase of getting high that Greenfeld gave up as a young man. There are other parallels between the two that allow Greenfeld to use his life experience to bring Schwab to life
(Continued on Page 19)

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Greenfeld Discovery Shop Celebrates 50th Anniversary

(Continued from Page 18)

and also create a parallel version of the Palisades that is both humorous, bizarre and yet, still connected to current reality both in the Palisades and in society at large.

For example, Greenfeld is raising two daughters, Esmee and Lola, with his wife Silka, and has an office in the Palisades. Schwab has a similar office, but is divorced while trying to raise two kids—a daughter and a son. The latter is running into all kinds of trouble in the re-imagined Paul Revere Charter Middle School—called the Subway Fresh Take Paul Revere Charter Middle School in the novel—where bringing a switchblade comb to school is considered a weapons offense.

“For residents of the Palisades, it might be fun to look at one possible future of the Palisades,” said Greenfeld, who has written six other books, including the novel *Triburbia*.

The current community is changing, he noted. “A small house comes down and a big house goes up . . . A lot of these people moving in—their idea of community is not the same as what the long-term residents think of as community.”

Greenfeld remembers that one of his high school friends had a father who was an auto mechanic. Residents with blue-collar jobs were common. “That is gone forever. That demographic shift is real. That change is happening.”

The Discovery Shop will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a gold ribbon ceremony at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 12, at the store, located at 920 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica.

Anniversary festivities will include mystery savings for the customers and a golden ticket drawing that will be held every hour with the chance to win up to \$50 in Discov-

ery Dollars. Speakers will include Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce CEO Arnie Wishnick and Palisadian Sandra Eddy, a 15-year volunteer at the shop.

Customers returning on Saturday, June 13, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and on Sunday, June 14, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., will save 50 percent off all purchases.

More than 40 volunteers help run the

Santa Monica shop, including Pacific Palisades residents Sylvia Boyd, Elaine McEwan, Maureen Gardner, Pat Waldhanz, Susan Blake and Marie-Anne Balthard Helgeson.

“Over the years, Palisadians have been generous donors and loyal shoppers at the Santa Monica store,” Eddy said.

Since 1965, funds raised by the Discovery Shop of the American Cancer Society, Inc., have helped save lives by preventing cancer, or detecting it early (when it’s most treatable); helping people get well with comprehensive information and support; finding cures through groundbreaking discovery; and public policy.

Through donations, volunteers and shoppers, the Discovery Shop has raised more than \$308 million over the past 50 years.

The American Cancer Society is the largest voluntary health organization in the country. Its efforts have contributed to a 20-percent decline in cancer death rates in the U.S. since 1991, and a 50-percent drop in smoking rates.

The Cancer Society is finding cures as the nation’s largest private, not-for-profit investor in cancer research and continues to fight for access to quality health care, lifesaving screenings and clean air. Visit cancer.org.

Call: (310) 458-4490 or e-mail Discovery Shop manager Tonya Wagner: tonya.wagner@cancer.org.

The World Goes ‘Round Opens

The *World Goes ‘Round*, a revue of songs from musical-theater collaborators John Kander and Fred Ebb, will open on Friday, June 12 at 8 p.m. at the Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

Vocalists Renee Travelli, Iphy Presley, Ann Grennan, Jared Tkocz and Steven Brogan sing songs from *Cabaret* to *Chicago* in this interwoven night of passionate, up-tempo musical theater, presented by Theatre Palisades.

Kander and Ebb received critical acclaim and a Tony award for best musical for *Cabaret*. Another of their musicals, *Chicago*, became the longest-running revival in Broadway history and the film subsequently won six Oscars, including the award for Best Picture. Other Broadway hits included *Woman of the Year* (1981), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (1992) and (posthumously for Ebb) *Curtains* (2006).

Their song “New York, New York” became a signature hit for Frank Sinatra and the pair’s songs were associated with actresses Liza Minnelli and Chita Rivera.

Director/choreographer Victoria Miller, musical director Joshua Eli Kranz and producers Pat Perkins and Shirley Churgin promise that this will be a highly entertaining evening.

The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through July 19. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$23 for seniors and students.

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Murder Saga in the Palisades

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

It was a cool, cloudy May night in the town nestled between the Santa Monica Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Suddenly, the topic turned to murder.

At the Pacific Palisades Historical Society's recent annual meeting, almost 100 people filed into Pierson Playhouse to hear the debauchery surrounding Thelma Todd's 1935 murder and the notorious serial killings by former Palisadian Louise Peete.

Utilizing historical photos, movie clips and radio broadcasts, emcees Randy Young and Roger McGrath presented an informative and entertaining evening.

Palisadian Thelma Todd was one of the biggest Hollywood stars of the late 1920s and early '30s, yet her death remains a mystery 80 years later.

The 30-year-old actress, nicknamed "Hot Toddy," was known for her comedy roles and had appeared in about 120 films, including the Marx Brothers films *Monkey Business* and *Horse Feathers*. She co-starred with Buster Keaton and Jimmy Durante in *Speak Easily*, and was working on a Laurel and Hardy film, *The Bohemian Girl*, at the time of her death.

Todd, famous director Roland West and his wife, Jewel Carmen, lived in Castellammare, above the building they operated: Thelma Todd's Sidewalk Café on the lower level, and a private club, the Joyas Café, on the second floor at Porto Marino Way and Pacific Coast Highway.

The 1927 building, which until recently was owned by Paulist Productions, is largely unchanged; Raymond Chandler, who also lived in the Palisades, later described the café in his book, *Farewell My Lovely*.

"Thelma loved fast cars and fast men," Young said, noting that the characters surrounding Todd's death were "straight out of central casting."

She had been married to Pat DiCicco for a short time, but had divorced him. It was unspoken but acknowledged that he beat her. (Later, DiCicco married 17-year-old Gloria Vanderbilt, who also accused him of abuse.)

After her marriage ended, Todd had an affair with Roland West, who was still married to actress Jewel Carmen.

On the night of her death, Todd, dressed in a mauve



Thelma Todd was one of the top stars in Hollywood when she was allegedly murdered in Pacific Palisades in 1935.

Photo: Photo: Courtesy of Pacific Palisades Historical Society

and silver evening gown, mink coat and wearing a small fortune in jewelry, attended a party hosted by Stan and Ida Lupino at the Trocadero. West, who did not attend the party, told Todd she had to be home by 2 a.m.

At the party, Todd fought with her ex DiCicco, but later a chauffeur drove her to her apartment, arriving around 3:45 a.m. He left her by the door.

The next morning, December 16, 1935, Todd was found dead by her maid in the car inside the garage owned by Jewel Carmen and West, which was a block from the restaurant. According to Young, Todd was initially found on the passenger side slumped over to the driver side, but by the time the police arrived, she

had been moved into the driver's seat.

Jack Sauer, who operated a gas station in Pacific Palisades, and who worked on Todd's cars, was called by West to come to the hillside garage. Young, a local historian, recalls Sauer later telling him, "How did she get a gash on her face?"

Another Palisadian at the scene, Ysidro Reyes, thought it was odd that the police called the funeral home before the coroner. Reyes also saw Todd and said, "She was hit hard."

One report said Todd had suffered a broken nose, broken ribs and bruises, which would seem to rule out suicide. At an inquest held two days later, the surgeon testified that there were no marks of violence, but recommended a further investigation.

Subsequently, a grand jury closed the case, determining that it was carbon monoxide poisoning that had killed her.

At one point Lucky Luciano, a mutual friend of Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel, was named as a suspect in the murder because he had supposedly asked Todd to turn the upstairs into a gambling joint, and she had refused.

Young said that all of the testimony before the grand jury was straightforward, except that of West. "He didn't answer the questions he was asked," Young said.

According to Young, Todd had a key to her apartment, but speculated that West locked the inside dead bolt, which meant Todd couldn't get in. An examination of her shoes and the doors seemed to suggest that she had kicked the door, trying to get in.

"He could have easily knocked her out and put her in the car," Young said, noting that maybe the car was started up to keep her warm, but had unintended consequences when she died of carbon monoxide.

One thing is certain all these years later: no one has ever been found responsible for Todd's death.

Peete, a Palisades resident, was executed in April 1947, making her one of only four women to die in the California gas chamber. Peete's life was also examined in episode six, season five (2011-2012) of *Deadly Women*, "To Love and to Murder." Over her lifetime, she was on trial for the death of two men and a woman. Four "suicides" were linked to her, as well as robbery.



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Band

(Continued from Page 1)

on drums plus a horn player, an electric guitar player and an electric bass player. The band will play a combination of tunes from their separate musical endeavors and specially selected covers.

They don't want to give away the surprise of the covers they might do, but Freund said, "There's been talk of The Beatles' 'Revolution' going down. It's got a nice Fourth of July ring to it."

Freund, who has recorded 10 solo CDs, including his most recent recording, *Two Moons*, met Topol in 2000 soon after moving to Los Angeles. At that time, Freund, who has been profiled by NPR and played with Mandy Moore, Jackson Browne and Josh Kelley among many others, sought Topol out, because he so admired his drumming.

"Luckily he was nice," said Freund, who most recently played the Claremont Folk Festival. "You never know. We shared a burrito, exchanged CDs, and I think we were playing a concert within a week."

Topol, the drummer for Jack Johnson since 1999 and the leader of Culver City Dub Collective, also has played drums on

Singer Needed For Race Start

Are you a professional singer or want to be a professional singer? If so, the Will Rogers 5/10K race organizers are looking for someone to sing the National Anthem before the annual run starts on July 4 at 8 a.m.

Please send your name and information to Bob Benton at bentons@earthlink.net. Additionally, if you know someone you think is tremendous singer, please email a name and relevant information. For the first time in the race's 38-year history, auditions will be held.

Musicians Sought for July 4 Opening Band

The opening band on the main stage at the Fourth of July concert/fireworks show will be "Palisades-centric."

Concert organizer Keith Turner said that instead of having just one local band play, the idea is to be inclusive and use Palisades kids and adults in an all-star-type group.

"The band will play four to five songs," Turner said. "Because there are some good drummers and bass players in town, individual drummers and bass players may only play one song or two."

Amazing Music's Patrick Hildebrand, who plays tenor and baritone uke in the Oaks of Hazard and is also a teacher at the store, has agreed to organize the local talent.

Again, this year again, the B stage in the upper parking lot will feature music from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Turner said the stage is ideal for solo and acoustic acts, but that a regular-sized band might also work.

If you are interested in playing in the All Stars or playing on the B stage, please contact Turner at kjt@turnerlawapc.com.

tour or in recordings with Joey Santiago of The Pixies, Dave Gilmore of Pink Floyd, Mason Jennings and Zee Avi, including gigs at the Hollywood Bowl and Greek Theatre. Like Freund, he was a Berklee College of Music student for part of his education, but he also studied in Cuba at the ENA—Escuela Nacional de Arte.

In Cuba, "I was so inspired by people who played so beautifully," said Topol, who credited the experience with reinvigorating his desire to play music. "It was just a thing they did. There weren't the commercial trappings of here . . . You could learn something from everybody, because the streets were so interesting and alive."

Topol has also found Freund inspiring. "First time I heard this guy, it blew me away . . . It was amazing. I had never heard anything like it." He immediately thought of his pal when approached by Keith Turner about the Fourth of July concert in the Palisades High Stadium, prior to the fireworks show.

"They wanted an American kind of music," said Topol, who recorded a solo instrumental CD, *Blue Painted Walls In Far Away Places*, last year. "Tom knows a lot about guys like Woody Guthrie—a lineage Tom was connected with. I wanted to see if he was available."

The two have been friends since their first meeting. They are also both pals of three-time Grammy winner Ben Harper, who recorded his first CD in 1992 with Freund. Freund also has another friend, Alastair McKevitt, who first introduced him to Pa-

cific Palisades. McKevitt, who grew up in the Palisades, used to spend summers on Fire Island, New York, where he met Freund.

Freund also visited McKevitt to spend time in the Palisades as a kid, and since then he has repeatedly hung out in the area.

"I've been to the Fourth of July parade many times with friends who stake out the lawn and hang out in trees." His daughter Delilah, 12, has performed in the parade with the Adderley School.

"I'm honored to be playing for the Palisades, which is such a special part of the Southern California experience," Freund said. "It is the California Dreamin' spot of Southern California, and I hope we can give a California Dreamin' kind of performance."

Tickets to the concert and fireworks are only \$10 for adults and can be reserved by visiting palisadesparade.com.

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Local Author, Pro Soccer Player Team Up



Pro soccer player Nat Borchers believes Gerry Renert's book will help kids make the right eating choices.

Photo: Ethan Erickson

Pacific Palisades children's author Gerry Renert has teamed with Portland Timbers soccer player Nat Borchers to drive home the message of physical activity combined with healthy eating.

Brave Rooney and the Super-Sized Superheroes, a second book in the Rooney series, received a "Mom's Choice" Gold and CEBA award. The author is a three-time Emmy-nominated kids' TV writer.

The book centers on Rooney, the only regular kid in an elementary school of superheroes. When he wants to play soccer with them, he is shunned by them. But after the superheroes have an eating contest and are bursting out of their costumes, it is Rooney who helps win the championship soccer game.

The book app includes a lot of physical comedy that kids enjoy.

"I'm excited Nat has taken a liking to the book app and my underdog character, Rooney," Renert said.

This year, Borchers became part of "Let's Move—Active Schools," associated with First Lady Michele Obama's national "Let's Move" initiative.

The organization's mission is to work with schools to ensure that sixty minutes of physical activity a day becomes the new norm. Borchers will visit schools in his area and introduce the children's iOS book app, "Brave Rooney and the Super-Sized Superheroes," which encourages kids to eat a healthier diet.

Eating the right diet has always been essential to Borchers during his 13-year career in pro soccer. Now, as the father of a 10-month-old boy, getting the health and fitness message out to kids seems



even more important.

He began his soccer career at East High School in Pueblo, Colorado. After a successful college career (and a master's degree in accounting) at the University of Denver, Borchers was signed by the Colorado Rapids, where he anchored the Rapids' defense. Now he's a defender for the Portland Timbers and lives in Portland with his wife, Crystal, and son, Lincoln.

Renert, who created *Toddsworld*, an animated television series, and the Nathan series picture books, is married to Liz Stahler. They have lived in Pacific Palisades since 1988.

A portion of sales from the app, which can be found at the iTunes store, will support the "Let's Move" initiative.

Visit: gerryrenert.com.

Rustic Night Event Is This Saturday

Rustic Night 2015 will be held starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, at Rustic Canyon Park, 601 Latimer ad. Evening attire required and the event is for adults only. Dorothy "Dodo" Cheney will be honored.

All proceeds will go to the L.A. Parks Foundation and in turn be used to launch a historical renovation of the clubhouse in Rustic Canyon. Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. If one would like to make a donation and is unable to attend the event visit: rusticnight.org and follow the link to the donation page marking Rustic Canyon as the designated park. Call: (310) 454-5734.

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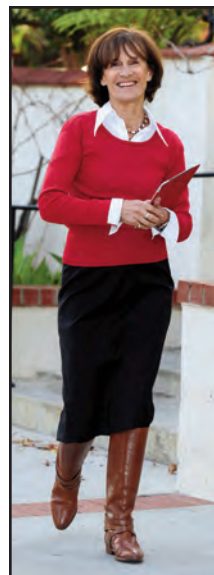
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Big Band Dance Fundraiser Will Benefit Parade, PaliHi on June 27

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 and proceeds will go towards the Fourth of July parade costs and to the music program at PaliHi.

Gary Greene, Esq. and His Big Band of Barristers will play all of the big band favorites, including "In the Mood," "Moonlight Serenade," "Stompin' at the Savoy," "Blue Moon," and "New York, New York."

The band, consisting of L.A. lawyers, some of whom played with Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie and Glenn Miller, rehearses at Arthur Gilbert's Palisades home.

Gilbert, presiding justice on the California Courts of Appeal, is also a jazz pianist who wrote the libretto for the musical *Separations*.

Trumpeter Gary Urwin is a practicing attorney who specializes in commercial litigation. He has won a Frank Sinatra Musical Performance Award for arranging and also conducts the 18-piece Gary Urwin Jazz Orchestra.

Robert Hirschman, principal of Robert Hirschman & Associates (real estate and

business litigation), plays upright bass. He has also played trombone with Ray Conniff, Roger Daltrey of The Who and Dick Esmond's Sound of 17 Big Band.

On drums is Jerry Levine, a partner in the L.A. office of Holland & Knight, a firm that concentrates on on- and off-reservation resort, casino, real estate and economic development projects and financing involving Indian tribal governments.

Bill Hochberg, guitar, mixes law and music at his entertainment practice in Santa Monica, where he represents *Mission Impossible* composer Lalo Schifrin and musicians, songwriters and producers involved with Guns N' Roses, Rascal Flatts, Cheap Trick and Motley Crue.

Bandleader Gary S. Greene has been an attorney for more than 37 years. He was recognized by the legal community with the 2010 Person of the Year Award as "A Man with a Briefcase and a Baton—the Only Lawyer From Whom Judges Take Direction."

Greene has conducted for many leading performers, including Debby Boone, Pat Boone, Richard Chamberlain, Carol Channing, Robert Goulet, Florence Henderson, Carol Lawrence, Stefanie Powers, Debbie



Gary Greene, Esq. and His Big Band of Barristers will play at Palisades High School.

Reynolds, Mickey Rooney, Dick Van Dyke and Michael York.

On Saturday, June 13, at 8 p.m., the Big Band Barristers will perform their sixth annual Walt Disney Hall concert. The pro-

gram will include the band, the choir "Legal Voices" and the L.A. Lawyers Philharmonic, as they perform "Rhapsody in Blue" and a "Salute to Broadway Musicals."

Visit: LALawyersPhil.org.

Historical Society Luncheon June 18

The Pacific Palisades Historical Society will hold a luncheon and installation of officers at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, at the Aldersgate Retreat Center, 925 Haverford Ave. The public is invited.

The program will also feature a talk about the "Indians of the Palisades." To reserve a seat, send a tax-deductible 2015-16 mem-

bership check (individual is \$20, family is \$30, business is \$50, patrons are \$75 and a life membership is \$500) and a separate luncheon reservation check for \$15 to PPHS at P.O. Box 1299, Pacific Palisades. The check must be received by June 15.

Seating is limited. Email: board@pacific-palisadeshistory.org.

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PaliHi Music Program Wins Top Accolades

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer
Photos by Mark Galasso

Over the past eight years, Palisades Charter High School's band program has become something to celebrate.

From a 17-student marching band when band director Arwen Hernandez took over in February 2008, the program has swelled to an 84-student band in the upcoming school year, and this school year, the marchers finished first in division 3A of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. In addition, the school now offers a color guard, a women's chorus, a drum line, a wind ensemble and a concert band—all of which have placed well in competitions.

Hernandez is the driving force behind this success, but for her the most essential aspect of the music department is that it provides a welcoming place for experienced players as well as kids who have never played an instrument.

"I want to give them a place to call home within the high school," said Hernandez, who grew up playing French horn in the Yucaipa High School marching band. "They spend a lot of time here. They're very close to each other. They know each other's parents. They're really a family. It's very important to foster that sense of family here."

Next year, she will have a staff of 10, including ballet instructor Kimberly Cronin from Fancy Feet Dance Studio. Cronin's assistance was one facet of the band's triumph in the 3A division finals, where it performed pieces from the ballet *Billy the Kid*.

"She has been a delightful addition to the band," said Hernandez, who plans to take the marching band to the national competition in Dayton, Ohio, for the first time next year to perform Leonard Bernstein's *Mass*. "You could really see the difference in the way they moved this year."

Other facets of the program have also showed strongly this year. The color guard



Arwen Hernandez

placed second in its division. The concert band and wind ensemble both received the highest ranking—superior—for both performance and sight reading at May's regional festival of the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association. In April, the drum line finished ninth place out of 56 entrants at the Southern California Percussion Alliance.

For the drum-line performance, "We had lots of wind players learning percussion for the first time with a very challenging show," said Hernandez, who marched in her high school's drum and bugle corps and later worked on stage in London's West End in the original cast of *Blast!*—a drum corps stage show. "They did a great job—a believable, deep job for such a young group."

PaliHi's percussion director, Jeremy Miller, wrote the show based on a Dylan Thomas poem featuring the beast, madman and angel, while visual instructor and designer Sean McDermott did the piece's visual design. The kids portrayed the piece not only with music and movement, but also on their faces since drum-line performances, featuring a small troupe about one-quarter the size of a marching band,



Members of the color guard include (left to right) Mikkah Del Prado, Angie Gonzalez, Allison Wyant and Shenoa Butler.



Five PaliHi drum-line members (top to bottom): Trebor Meseroll, Ray Pineda, Tomomi Uruma, John Doland and Sarah Bonder.

typically occur indoors and more intimate than marching band shows.

A judge's commentary said, "They weren't acting; they were performing." Hernandez added, "It wasn't high school kids are supposed to be smiling now. They really were feeling what they were trying to portray."

Many of the students are extremely dedicated to the band program, which has taken more than 100 field trips over the school year. Forty-two students arrive about an hour before first period starts to participate in the wind ensemble. Most of these players also take band in 6th period, and a portion also join drum line during 7th period. The wind ensemble is by audition only, but the other portions of the program are open to any interested students.

"The participants in marching band are extremely enthusiastic," said Hernandez, adding that the more seasoned players mentor the new players. "They spend a lot

of time with us to hone their abilities. Everyone in band performs in every show. We have no bench."

The band and color guard will perform in the Fourth of July parade and at the evening concert.

Vacation Bible School Will Be Held June 15-19

The Palisades Lutheran Church will hold Vacation Bible School from 9 a.m. to noon, from June 15-19 at the church, 15905 Sunset Blvd. Classes are available for preschool students through sixth grade. The session is open for all residents; one does not have to be a member to attend. Please register at plc.cc or call (310) 459-2358.

UCLA Memory Training Offered

A UCLA Memory Training Class for adults 50 and older will be offered from 5 to 6:30 p.m., every Wednesday in June, at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club.

Developed by the faculty at UCLA, the class provides practical strategies and exercises to help one understand his/her own learning style; develop new methods to re-

tain and recall information; and improve one's ability to put names with faces and recall lists without writing everything down.

Trivia and "brain games" exercise short-memory, but this class will offer exercises to improve long-term memory. The class is offered through a grant from the L.A. Department of Aging and is sponsored by the Jewish Family Service of L.A. Call: (310) 454-9012.

PaliHi's Johnson to Assist in National Trials

Palisades High School girls basketball coach Torino Johnson was selected as one of four high school coaches from across the nation to assist in the 2015 USA Basketball Women's U16 National Team Trials at Colorado Springs May 21-25.

More than 158 basketball players fought for a spot on a team that will play in the FIBA Americas U16 Championship from June 24-28 in Puebla, Mexico where the USA will vie for a fourth-consecutive U16 gold medal, along with a berth into the 2016 FIBA U17 World Championship.

The selection was made by the USA Basketball Women's Development National Team Committee. The lead clinician is Washington University head women's basketball coach Nancy Fahey. In addition to Johnson, the other three high school coaches chosen were Kelly Carruthers (James Bowie High School, Texas), Angie Hembree (Norcross High School, Georgia) and Kelly Sopak (Miramonte High School).

"The four court coaches will be invaluable in making sure that all of these players get some individual instruction throughout the trials," USA Basketball Women's National Team Director Carol Callan wrote in a May 18 press release.

Johnson has been Palihi's coach for eight

years and has a 154-104 record. In an earlier interview with the *Palisades News*, Johnson said, "I never schedule bad teams—there are no cream puff games." The Dolphins lost (99-73) in the opening round of the State playoffs to Mater Dei, the number-one ranked team in the nation. Johnson has twice been named the Los Angeles Coach of the year.

In a statement released by USA Basketball, Johnson a graduate of Manual Arts High School and USC (2005) said, "Becoming a USA basketball coach is the realization of a dream I had after being inspired by skill, effort, and camaraderie of the Dream Team. To see such fierce competitors come together for our country gave me a different perspective of the meaning of basketball.

"Today, I remain inspired to mentor young adults to not only teach them basketball skills, but to also help them understand the ways in which basketball can help them become productive adults," Johnson said. "I am excited to have the opportunity to learn from my peers, while also coaching young athletes to represent America. I am humbled by this duty that has been bestowed upon me and look forward to contributing towards the improvement of these student athletes."



Palisades High School girls basketball coach Torino Johnson was chosen as one of four high school coaches to assist in the U16 National Team Trials. Photo: Bart Bartholomew



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Boys Volleyball Wins a Thriller

By TYLER KECKEISEN
Sports Editor

The end of the school year at Palisades High School saw teams dominating in several sports. Winning City championships for the school were the boys and girls swim teams, boys volleyball, tennis and golf. Placing second were girls and boys lacrosse.

Although the track team did not take a City title, there were individual standouts, who qualified for the State meet in Fresno.

Making it to the first round of playoffs were the baseball and softball teams.

Seeking its first Division 1 City title since 2010, PaliHi did not make it easy for head coach Carlos Gray in the finals against Carson on May 23

After the Dolphins won the first two games, 25-21 and 25-21, Carson rallied to win the next two, 25-21 and 25-17 and seemed to have the necessary momentum going into the decisive fifth game.

But Pali responded and never gave up the lead. Shane Stoklos, who was voted City Player of the Year, put his team up 10-6 with a kill from the left side. A few plays later, Jason Wittbrodt's kill set up match point, and the junior followed with another kill to close out the match, 15-12.

"I'm excited and proud how hard this team fought as they have so much heart,"



The PaliHi boys varsity volleyball team celebrates winning the City title at Carson.

Photo: Tyler Keckeisen

Gray said afterwards. "This was our goal. There were times I didn't think we were going to get there after we lost games three and four. But we fought back and responded in the last game."

He added, "We had to make sure we got

an early lead [in game five]. Once we did that, everyone took a deep breath and everyone relaxed and played side-out volleyball."

The Dolphins appeared headed for a three-game sweep after controlling each of the first two games. But, as Gray

pointed out, "Carson's defense is always good. They started to execute and showed a lot of heart."

Pali advanced to the first round of the State playoffs last Tuesday, but lost 25-12, 25-22, 25-13 to host Huntington Beach.

PALIH I SPORTS ROUNDUP

Golfers Win City Title

PaliHi captured its third consecutive City title and 14th overall at the Wilson Golf Course in Griffith Park last week. The five top Dolphins shot a combined 397 to tie El Camino Real, and then prevailed on the sixth-golfer tiebreaker: Ethan Rautbort's 86. This was the first such tiebreaker in City finals history.

Jason Simon led Pali with a 78. Ray Yang

and Will Holbrow each shot 79, Max Hagar shot an 80 and Grant Ebner had an 81.

The Dolphins advanced to the Southern California Regionals at Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena on May 28 and finished eighth (out of 10 schools) with a score of 427. Yang led the way with a 77. Torrey Pines won the team championship with a 362.

Swimmers Reach State Meet

Palisades High swim teams are accustomed to winning city meets by a large margin. In the City finals two weeks ago, the boys won their third consecutive championship by 343 points, while the girls captured their sixth title in a row by 314 points.

Yet as expected, that dominance didn't translate at the inaugural CIF State championships in Fresno on May 22-23. The Pali boys finished 76th overall with only four points, and the girls were shut out.

"The State meet was an eye-opening experience for all of us," said Nance, who noted "there were 11 All-Americans in the 100 butterfly alone. That part was crazy. [But] we were gratified to be there and now have our sights set on something higher. We aim to get more kids to that meet and more kids to finals.

"The ability to continue on this year after City was incredible," Coach Maggie Nance said, and she was happy with the way her 19 swimmers competed, and how

much they had achieved this season.

Sophomore Kian Brouwer, who won the City title in the boys 200 freestyle, was the only PaliHi swimmer to score points in Fresno. He finished 13th in the same event, swimming 1:40.44, compared to the winning time of 1:31.08. Brouwer also finished 18th in the 100 butterfly and competed in the 200 medley relay (22nd) and 400 freestyle relay (24th).

Freshman Roy Yoo showed real promise by finishing 23rd in the 50 freestyle, 26th in the 100 freestyle and 29th in the 200 individual medley, while also competing in the 200 freestyle relay (31st) and the 400 freestyle relay (24th).

On the girls side, Leah Timmerman finished 22nd in the 200 individual medley, 26th in the 100 breaststroke, and swam on the 200 medley relay (34th) and 400 freestyle relay (27th) teams. Mardell Ramirez was 26th in the 100 freestyle and 29th in the 100 backstroke, while also competing in the 200 medley relay (34th).

Another City Title for Boys Tennis

Palisades captured its seventh straight City championship in May, crushing Granada High, 26 to 3-1/2, for its 33rd title overall.

The Dolphins swept the individual finals a week later. Junior Ben Goldberg defeated his teammate, Jake Sands, 7-6 (5) 6-4 for the singles championship. Pali's duo of Barron Chavez and Diego Huttepain defeated Brian Bonilla and Daniel Lin of Granada Hills, 6-3, 6-1 in the doubles final.

Seeded No. 4, the Dolphins moved on to the CIF Southern Regional playoffs, but were upset by No. 13 Arcadia, 4-3, at home on May 26.

Jake Sands, Lucas Bellamy and RJ Sands won their individual matches, but Goldberg lost, 6-2, 6-2, to Arcadia's top player, and Arcadia swept the three doubles matches against Chavez-Huttepain, Bailey Joseph-Jack Harrington and Arvin Hedayaty-Alex Strohmeier, all in two sets.

Track-and-Field: City Finals

Senior distance runner Marissa Williams was the individual star of the day at the City Section finals on May 28 at Cerritos College. The Palisades High girls team finished third (48) and the PaliHi boys placed 12th, with Carson capturing both titles.

Williams, who's headed for 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."

In addition to Williams running in the State championships at Buchanan High School in Fresno on June 5-6, senior Marcellus Cole qualified after placing second in the shot put with a toss of 45 feet.

PaliHi will also send the girls 4 x 400 relay team of Kendal Lake, Erica Agege, Jessica Agege and Nicole Figueroa, who won in a time of 4:00.12, and the boys 4 x 400 team of Ranard Beckman, Doug McGee, Kaelynn Lamothe and Mahkai Husband. The boys finished third in 3:24.55, but broke the school record (3:29.38) set in 2012.

In addition to her relay leg, freshman Jessica Agege finished second in the 400 (59.31) and fourth in the 200 (25.90). Lake finished sixth (26.10) and Erika Agege was seventh (26.39).



Senior distance runner Marissa Williams.

Photo: Craig Weston

Sophomore Nicole Figueroa finished fourth in the 800 (2:23.89) and seniors Elizabeth Goodman and Hannah DeSilva finished seventh (2:27.10) and ninth (2:30.03) respectively.

Senior Natalie Marsh, sophomore Shannon Lee and junior Emma Ulfvengren placed sixth, ninth and 15th in the 3200.

Junior Whitney Yost tied for ninth in the high jump with a jump of 4 foot, 8 inches.

In the boys 3200, senior Shane Brouwer finished sixth (9:41.65) and freshman teammate Ben Hamer finished 11th (9:56.47).

Steve Kerr Takes Warriors to Finals

Head coach Steve Kerr and his Golden State Warriors will host the Cleveland Cavaliers tomorrow night, June 4, as the NBA Finals get underway.

Forty years ago, when the Warriors won their last NBA title, Steve Kerr was a 9-year-old star in basketball and baseball at the Palisades Recreation Center. He played both sports at Palisades High, then focused on basketball at the University of Arizona and had a 15-year career as a shooting guard in the NBA, winning five championship rings.

Last spring, Kerr rejected a coaching offer from the New York Knicks and opted for Golden State; the Knicks ended the season with the league's second-worst record, while the Warriors had the best. This gives them home-court advantage (they are 46-3 at home this year) against LeBron James-led Cleveland.

Bell 14th at Indy

Pacific Palisades resident Townsend Bell finished 14th at the Indianapolis 500 on Sunday, May 24. Juan Pablo Montoya, won the race.

Bell started 23 in the 33-car field driving a car sponsored by the Dreyer & Reinbold-Kingdom racing team. This was Bell's ninth Indy 500, and his best finish was fourth in 2009.

Last year he was running second with only 25 laps remaining in the 200-lap race. He ended up 25th after his car's left-rear suspension broke with only 10 laps remaining.

Bell, who is also Pacific Palisades' honorary sheriff, races in the Tudor United SportsCar Championship Series and is an IndyCar analyst on television for NBC Sports Network. Next month, Bell plans to drive in the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race.

—SUE PASCOE

Baseball: Out in First Round

The Dolphins lost to second-seeded Chatsworth, 7-2, in the opening round of the City Division I baseball playoffs on May 20.

Pali jumped to a 2-0 lead in the top half of the second inning. Jed Moscot led off with a walk, Cameron Schiffer followed with a single, and Brendan Ward reached first on a bunt to load the bases. Joe Fasano

hit into a double play, scoring Moscot from third, and Remi Meteigner singled up the middle to score Schiffer.

However, Chatsworth quickly responded with five runs in the bottom half of the inning, and Pali never recovered. Harrison Hart, Charlie Carr and Roben Sieling each pitched in the loss.



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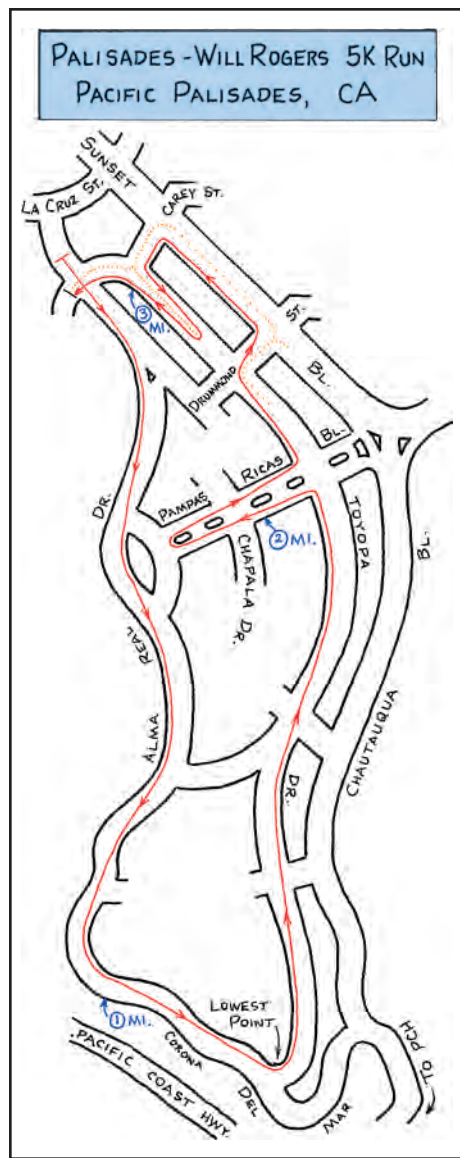
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Will Rogers 5K Course Revised PaliHi Alumni Picnic Slated For June 13

The 38th Annual Palisades-Will Rogers 5/10K Race will start at 8:15 a.m. on July 4 at the Palisades Recreation Center, with two changes in the 5K race course.

To make it a true 5K, 427 feet have been added and the route altered to eliminate the congestion that occurs at the Sunset Boulevard and Drummond Street intersection with 10K runners.

The start and finish lines, and mile splits for miles 1, 2, and 3, will be in the same locations as prior years.

Veterans of the race will notice that the separation of 5K and 10K runners now occurs on northbound Toyopa (5K keeping left, 10K right), just prior to making the right turn onto Drummond.

Once at Sunset, 5K runners will turn left, while 10K runners turn right and continue their normal route to Will Rogers State Historic Park and back.

At Carey Street, 5K runners will turn left and proceed to Toyopa, where they will again turn left and run to a U-turn point on Toyopa, just before reaching Drummond St., and returning on the opposite side of Toyopa to the finish line.

Red traffic cones will be placed to maintain the separation of the 5K and 10K races.

"If you've been looking to set a personal record at a true 5K distance," said race co-organizer Lynn Borland, "sign up now as this could be your year."

Registration for the Will Rogers 5/10K and Kids Fun Run is now open. There are two ways to register: online (palisades10k.org) or via an app (Palisades 10K).

Early entry fees are \$50 for the 5/10K race and \$25 for the Kids Fun Run. The online and app registration deadline is midnight, Monday, June 29.

Visit: palisades10k.com.

The OomPaPa Band Seeks New Members

Players of all instruments and all ages (also flag bearers) are needed to join the local OomPaPa Band as it prepares for the upcoming Fourth of July parade.

Practices are every Saturday beginning June 6 at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of Pampas Ricas and Ocampo Drive. Join co-chairs Phyllis Schlessinger and Margot Morrison in growing this community-based band. Contact: Morrison (310) 459-3516 or email margmet@earthlink.net.

Another Palisades High School mega-alumni picnic will be held starting at noon on Saturday, June 13. Highlights include a classic car show, an alumni art show and screenings of *Temescal Canyon Before Pali Hi* and Don Burgess' documentary *Skateboarding's First Wave*.

Pacific Palisades Art Association president Annette Dugdale-Alexakis is chairing the art show. Set-up time is 11 a.m. Those interested in participating should contact her at annette90272@gmail.com or call (310) 459-8370.

Hot dogs, burgers, popcorn and beverages will be available for those who do not want to pack a picnic basket. Bring a beach chair and listen to music from the past six decades. Alumni are urged to contact classmates about the event. Email GWAT975@aol.com.

Park Badminton Seeks New Players

People who like to play badminton can join a group that plays in the large gym at the Palisades Recreation Center on Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Rackets are provided. The cost is \$10 a month, payable to the Rec Center. This is a non-competitive group that likes to play and also get some exercise.

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VIEWPOINT

A Long Relationship Loses Its Magic

By BOB VICKREY
Special to the Palisades News

It's official. As of last week, In-N-Out Burger and I have called it quits. After more than 35 years, we have decided to go our separate ways.

The split did not happen overnight. We have been seeing less and less of one another in recent years and have connected only a

couple of times in recent months. I cannot fully explain how we ultimately lost the magic in our long meaningful relationship.

But how do you go about breaking up with a veritable Southern California institution? Adults spend endless hours talking about their last meal at In-N-Out. It's such a popular place that kids want its burgers to be served at their birthday parties. I can already tell that this is going to be a difficult

separation. How do I explain to my friends that we're through?

I'll never forget the first time I laid eyes on the beauty that was—and is—an In-N-Out "Double-Double"—double meat, double cheese, accompanied by a fresh slice of garden tomato and crispy lettuce—all neatly wrapped in carefully folded wax paper, alongside those crispy, dry and salty French fries. How could I not have fallen in love? Throw in a perfectly blended strawberry shake and suddenly you found yourself a virtual slave to its magnetic appeal.

In those first years together, I was constantly hunting for new locations as I traveled the Southland. The Woodland Hills store was one of my favorites with the canopy-covered tables in the parking lot. The Westwood location had long lines, but I didn't care. The tantalizing thought of that mysterious secret sauce used on their burgers lured me toward the nearest freeway off-ramp without the help of a GPS.

We had enjoyed plenty of good times, but I'll always remember one particular evening at the Sepulveda Boulevard restaurant near LAX, as we watched the planes land at dusk against the backdrop of a spectacular crimson sunset just beyond runway L5-11. The taste of life—and that burger—had never been sweeter.

However, our time spent together in recent years has lost much of its thrill and excitement. On my last trip there, the soggy tomato and the limp slice of lettuce on my Double-Double just stared up at me from the tray and appeared cold and lifeless. The thrill was gone, and I saw no other alternative but to surrender my In-N-Out gift card—despite still owning an unused credit balance of \$9.76.

Our decline may have initially begun on a warm sunny day last year in Westwood when I was mistakenly served another customer's order. To my utter horror, the burger I was handed was wrapped in a slice of lettuce instead of a freshly baked wheat bun. That cruel act perpetrated against the sacred institution of the classic hamburger struck me as downright un-American and wrong.

Thankfully, months later, the nightmares caused by that experience have pretty much subsided, but things were never the same between us again.

I'm quite sure that friends will try to fix me up with someone new—Tommy's Hamburgers, the Apple Pan, Five Guys Burgers & Fries, or maybe some new novelty on the block like Umami Burger. But I'm simply going to need some time to heal and reflect on the good times we had together. As Jivin' Jean once sang, "Breaking up is hard to do."

As I reflect on our memorable night watching the planes land at LAX, I'll fondly remember the last scene from the movie



The author's ex.

Casablanca, as Rick and Ilsa stood on that foggy airport runway saying their good-byes. I can just imagine borrowing a portion of Rick's dramatic lines: "If that plane leaves the ground and you're not on it, you'll always regret it—maybe not today and maybe not tomorrow—but soon, and for the rest of your life. But just remember, we'll always have Sepulveda Boulevard."

(Editor's note: Pacific Palisades resident Bob Vickrey's columns appear in several Southwestern newspapers, including the Houston Chronicle. He is a member of the Board of Contributors for the Waco Tribune-Herald and is a regular contributor to the Boryana Books web site.)

Library Offers Summer Activities

Reading Fun

The Palisades Library's Summer Reading Fun program starts June 8 and runs through August 1. The program is for school-age children (incoming kindergarten through fifth graders and the youngers (newborn through preschool). Both self-readers and read-to-me are welcome. Teen summer reading kickoff is 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, and those in grades 6 through 12 are invited to make vegetarian sushi rolls with Acooba Scott. Sign up at the information desk at the library, 861 Alma Real. Call: (310) 459-2754.

Opera-Kadabra Kick-Off

To launch the reading program, singing magician Patrick Bell will entertain at the library at 4 p.m. on June 8. The event is for children ages 3 and older.

Pajama Storytime

Monday June 15 and 29 at 7 p.m. is pajama storytime. Parents and teddy bears are welcome.

Story-Craft Time

Hear a story and then design a craft at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 18 and 25. (Suggested for ages 3 and older.)



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