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Uniting the Community with News, Features and Commentary

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Guns were checked to see if they were loaded and then taken out of a residence in the Palisades Highlands on Sunday.





A .50-caliber rifle, which can no longer be purchased in California, was one of the

By 5 p.m., hundreds of guns and boxes of ammunition had been removed from the residence. guns found.

Guns, Body Found in Highlands By SUE PASCOE

Editor ighlands residents were thrown

into turmoil Friday and Saturday as police first investigated the discovery of a dead body on Palisades Drive, and subsequently hundreds of weapons and ammunition in a nearby condominium.

The situation started Friday, when a man was discovered dead and covered in his car in the 1700 block of Palisades Dr. He supposedly had been dead almost two weeks and the police had been tipped off to his death by his girlfriend's lawyer.

The death is under investigation and LAPD had not released a name by press time. During the death investigation, they were led to the man's residence, which is supposedly owned by his girlfriend, and was thought to be possibly booby-trapped.

Residents were evacuated from nearby townhouses shortly after 1 p.m. on Saturday. Lilly Shafighi, who lives in a nearby dwelling, had gone down the hill on errands but drove back up after her 13-year-old son Aaron called to tell her the police wanted him to leave and she was supposed to come get him.

She was stopped by police at the corner of Verada de la Montura and told, "There's and no one is allowed up the hill."

"But my son's up there and the police told him to have me pick him up," she said. A second parent drove up and said her daughter was also told to leave. The police told parents to call the kids and have them walk down.

As she waited for her son, Shafighi said that police had been in the area for two days and had even put up yellow tape. She said she asked her security company what was going on and they told her, "There's no

a hazardous situation in one of the condos threat to the community; the police are conducting an investigation."

Visibly upset, she told the News: "My son said, 'there's explosives in one of the units." Shortly after her son came down the hill

with their dog, Lucy, three bomb squad trucks, a K-9 bomb squad truck, three cars identified with the bomb unit and a large truck with bomb squad on it, flew up the hill.

LAPD confirmed that there were homicide/robbery, bomb, and hazardous material police units on the site.

A neighbor said the garage and home suggested the couple were hoarders and the police confirmed it was a possible hoarding situation. Additionally, "There were hundreds of guns," a police officer told the News.

Initially, there was worry that perhaps the place had been booby-trapped, which was why all residents were cleared from the area and the bomb squad brought in. Fire Station 23 went to the site around 4 p.m. as a precautionary measure.

(Continued on Page 3)

TPY's Bugsy Malone Jr. Opens on Friday

f you want an upbeat evening, get tick- time with his new love Blousey. ets for Bugsy Malone Jr., a Theatre Palisades Youth production that opens on Friday at the Pierson Playhouse.

Watch as two gangs of children square off in a 1920s-style rivalry between leaders Dandy Dan and Fat Sam.

Dandy Dan's gang has been on top ever since they obtained the "splurge" gun (a weapon that shoots whip cream).

Bugsy Malone, a one-time boxer, is put in the limelight when he becomes Fat Sam's last chance to help his gang survive. Unfortunately, all Bugsy wants to do is spend



The hit 1976 film, Bugsy Malone, written and directed by Alan Parker, starred a preteen Scott Baio and Jodi Foster, and featured a catchy score by Paul Williams, the composer of The Muppet Movie.

Listen to some of the town's most talented youth sing "We Could Have Been Anything That We Wanted To Be," "My Name Is Tallulah," "So You Want To Be A Boxer," "Fat

Sam's Grand Slam" and "Bugsy Malone."

Directed by Dorothy Dillingham Blue, with musical director DJ Brady, the TPY show is produced by Jody Crabtree and April O'Sullivan.

Showtimes are Friday, July 24 and 31 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, July 25 and August 1 at 2 and 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday, July 26 and August 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$14. Call (310) 454-1970 or visit: theatrepalisades.org



The cast of Bugsy Malone Jr. in rehearsal.



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Page 2

Incline Replacement **Underway**



The California Incline in Santa Monica finally closed April 20, six years after the 1930s-built bridge was deemed seismically unsafe. The Incline replacement construction is scheduled for completion by May 2016. Photo: Wendy Anderson

Residents Want Law Enforcement

By SUE PASCOE Editor

he frustration was evident last Wednesday afternoon as more than 130 people filled the Palisades Library community room, spilling out doorways and onto the patio and the front sidewalk.

"Why can they break the law and not be punished for it?" was the overwhelming question asked to the panel of 17 law enforcement, city and county officials, who appeared at the behest of the Pacific Palisades Homeless Task Force.

Residents wanted answers about how to resolve the homeless situation here. "I'm afraid to let my kids play at the park," said one audience member. "Is it acceptable that people can camp on beaches, near playgrounds and parks, and impact our lives?"

"It is not acceptable," said Maryam Zar, chair of the task force organized in November 2014. "We have to address lawlessness. This is a problem that is not easily solvable. We are trying to find out-of-the-box, creative solutions."

Residents in the audience asked why Santa Monica and Venice don't allow the homeless to live in tents on their beaches.

They were told that Santa Monica is a separate city from Los Angeles and can allocate homeless abatement resources directly to the police-and Santa Monica is not under court injunctions.

LAPD officers are not allowed to make some arrests because homeless advocates sued the City, which is now under two injunctions: Jones vs. City of Los Angeles and Lavan vs. City of Los Angeles.

Although the City has a law against sleeping on sidewalks, it is not allowed to enforce it because in Jones vs. City, a judge ruled there was not enough housing for the homeless, which meant they had no other option. Officials feel the same reasoning will be applied to beaches.

In the latter case, although some of a homeless person's belongings may look like trash, it is considered the transient's personal property and police must give 72 hours' notice before removing it. This means the police can't just pick up tents and property on the beach.

The L.A. City Council proposed reducing the noticing period to 24 hours, and that no notice had to be given for the removal of bulky items such as sofas and mattresses. The measure passed 12-1 on June 23, but Mayor Garcetti has not signed the bill, nor vetoed it, because of pressure from both sides. Instead, he has said would allow the measures (Continued on Page 11)

Los Angeles Pursues Sidewalk Repair Plan

By SUE PASCOE Editor

fix-and-release policy for sidewalk repairs is being discussed," Councilman Bonin's former Senior Counsel Norman Kulla told residents and board members at the May 28 Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting. He emphasized that the issue has not been decided, but that Palisades residents should monitor the process.

Initially, quadriplegic resident Mark Willits sued the City of L.A. in 2010 over the inability to navigate city sidewalks, saying the lack of proper repairs violated the American With Disabilities Act. His case was broadened to a class-action lawsuit representing hundreds of thousands of disabled residents.

On April 2, the City agreed to a \$1.4-billion settlement that requires spending \$31 million a year for 30 years by installing curb ramps and fixing sidewalks that are broken and torn up by tree roots.

According to historical records, a 1911 state law made sidewalk repair the responsibility of property owners, but in the 1970s Los Angeles accepted a multi-million-dollar federal grant for sidewalk repairs. In doing so, they City took over financial retrees. The money ran out and sidewalk repairs became nonexistent, except for brief period in the 1990s when a 50/50 program was implemented and homeowners and the city split the cost of repairing sidewalks.

L.A. City Attorney Mike Feuer said the settlement terms require the city to first spend \$5 million on curb ramps; \$26 million will go to sidewalks. Those sidewalks adjacent to city-owned property are the top priority for repairs, followed by sidewalks on the most-used main streets. Smaller residential streets will be fixed, but are lowest priority.

According to a City report, a resident can report a broken sidewalk by dialing 311, but the settlement requires repairs next to cityowned facilities first, and that will take at least two years.

Kulla said a Public Works committee will hold hearings in the coming months to solicit public input and discuss a sidewalk policy. One solution being discussed is to fix all sidewalks and then turn the responsibility for maintaining the sidewalk back to the homeowner.

PPCC Area 8 member Reza Akef asked Kulla, "If my neighbor trips in front of my house after my sidewalk is repaired, would

sponsibility for the sidewalks damaged by I now be liable?" According to City Attorney Mike Feuer, the City has paid \$6.5 million in payouts for sidewalk and tree-root injuries since July 2011.

"Yes," said Kulla, who explained that 🛽 🖡 when people purchased a residential property, they own to the center of the street. The city would still be responsible for the space to the curb, but now residents would be responsible from the curb to their home.

Body Found

(Continued from Page 1)

After the bomb squad gave the all clear, residents were allowed back in their homes around 11 p.m.

On Sunday morning, police started pulling the guns out of the garage. By noon, hunting and sniper rifles, handguns, both semi auto and revolvers—single-bolt action and semi-auto rifles of various calibers had been catalogued. LAPD estimated that only about 30 percent of the cache has been taken out of the residence and that they had been found not only in the garage, but throughout the home.

Further developments will be posted on Facebook.

Council Agenda Features VA Plan, **New Businesses**

The only Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting this month will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, in the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real Dr. The public is invited.

There are two agenda items: the VA Master Development Plan and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for 544 and 548 Palisades Dr. in the Highlands.

A presentation will be made about the progress of the VA Plan by Vince Kane, special assistant to VA Secretary Robert McDonald. He will also address efforts to provide housing for homeless veterans. Community members are welcome to submit questions in advance to Janet Turner, District Representative for Congressman Ted Lieu, at janet.turner@mail.house.gov.

There will be a presentation by an owner and land-use consultant concerning a renewal of the expired Chez Mimi CUP for Roast—a new restaurant in the Palisades Village, and also for a new minimart/gourmet grocery store with full takeout liquor sales.

Palisades Rotary Club Awards \$20,500

The Rotary Club of Pacific Palisades has awarded a total of \$20,500 in grants to nonprofits as well as scholarships to Paul Revere Middle and Palisades High School students.

Recipients received their awards at recent Rotary breakfast meetings at the Aldersgate Retreat Center.

Annually, the Rotary Club presents a Student of the Year Award to the top Revere eighth-grade male and female students chosen for their involvement in academics, leadership and community service.

Winning a \$500 scholarship was Desmond Andersen, whose teachers describe him as "his humor delights, and his opinions inspire."

Also selected was Shelby Tzung, who was chosen to study this summer with a ballet company in New York City.

To encourage creativity, the Rotarians give \$500 each to winners of their writing contest held at PaliHi. The fiction prize went to Diane Rafizadeh, who was the school's valedictorian and will attend Yale this fall.

The poetry winner was Jessica Carrillo, who recited her moving poem, "Can We Exist in Such a World?" at a club meeting. She will attend USC.

In conjunction with PaliHi, Rotary also honors a Student of the Month for his/her community service and scholarship. Win-



Palisadian David Card drew the outline of the book worm mural at Griffin Avenue Elementary School near L.A. County/USC Hospital last March. Students, Access Books and Rotary Club volunteers helped paint and restock the school library shelves.

ning the Nancy Cleveland Community Service Student of the Year award was senior Zohya Parmar.

Her community service included volunteering for the annual Aga Khan Developmental Network (AKDN) Partnership Walk. The agencies of the AKDN are private, international, nondenominational

development organizations that work to improve the welfare and prospects of people, particularly in Asia and Africa.

Parmar also spent a month volunteering at a school in Mombasa, Kenya. She received a certificate and \$1,000, which she will use at Boston University this fall.

A Scholar of the Year award and \$500

scholarship went to Alexis Ramirez, who will attend Humbolt State. Winning the Rotary-Zentner award and \$500 was Jessie Kolliner, who is also eligible for a matching grant from the Rotary District. Kolliner plans to attend Northwestern.

Leadership award scholarships of \$500, which also includes athletics, service and citizenship considerations, went to PaliHi water polo and swim team members Griffin Koffman, who plans to go to Boston University, and Mardell Ramirez, who will attend Cal Lutheran.

PaliHi's Erika Abtahi and Sierra Climaco were chosen for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, a developmental program that focuses on leadership fundamentals and global citizenship. They were able to attend a retreat in the local mountains.

The award-winning PaliHi marching band received a \$500 donation.

In May, the Rotary Club, in conjunction with Palisades-Malibu YMCA, hosted its second annual "All In for Kids! Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament." Proceeds were split, and the Y received \$7,000 for its youth programs.

Boy Scouts Crescent Bay District (from Malibu to the South Bay) received \$5,500 for scholarships for Scouts who cannot afford to attend Camp Josepho in the Palisades (*Continued on Page 5*)

791 RADCLIFFE AVENUE | PACIFIC PALISADES Asking \$5,750,000



Beach House Charisma... Brand new 6 BD, 6½ BA Cape Cod home fuses classic elegance with luxurious indoor/outdoor living. Enter onto opulent white oak floors that grace the entire 6,000 sq. ft. of living space. Abundant windows add warmth/light, recessed panel wainscoting, and other architectural details showcase the high level of craftsmanship mandated throughout. Rooftop deck with ocean views further enhances the outdoor living theme of this spectacular, made-for-entertaining home. This gathering-inspired home is also within walking distance to village, parks, hiking, and of course, the beach.





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Zohya Parmar received the Rotary Club's Nancy Cleveland Community Service Student of the Year award from member David Card.

Rotary Club

(*Continued from Page 4*)

and Camp Emerald Bay on Catalina Island.

The Rotary Club annually helps to fund Access Books, a nonprofit founded by Rebecca Constantino. Public elementary and middle schools whose libraries are not staffed or poorly staffed and whose books are few and worn are supplied with goods and help. The targeted inner- city schools residents to its 7:15 a.m. Thursday breakhave 90 percent of students who live at or

below the poverty line.

Since 1999, Access Books has donated more than a million books. "So many inner-city children never leave the five-block radius of their home," Constantino said. "Books can give them another world."

Volunteers fill empty library shelves with new books and improve the library room with fresh paint and new murals over a weekend.

The Rotary Club welcomes civic-minded fast meetings, at Aldersgate.

Potrero Canyon Park Will Now Open in 2018

t a 2011 groundbreaking ceremony and Pacific Coast Highway, L.A. City officials promised that a canyon park would be open to the public in 2016.

Community Council member Ted Mackie quipped: "The people who will attend that park dedication haven't been born yet," referring to the 25-years-in-the-works project (1986-2011).

The latest opening date, 2018, was announced at the quarterly PCH task force meeting on May 20.

Engineer geologist Robert Hancock, with the City Bureau of Engineering, told task force members that additional grading will be required and that construction is slated to resume in July 2016.

The stoplight at the temporary Haul Road will have to be reinstalled. The Coastal Commission has also asked the City to consider a safe crossing from the bottom of Potrero Park to Will Rogers State Beach, with three options being considered: 1) a tunnel under PCH; 2) a pedestrian bridge; or 3) a pedestrian crossing.

Hancock said it will take about six months to determine which option will be selected.

In a Palisades News story in December, at the mouth of Potrero Canyon Potrero Canyon Project Manager Mary Nemick put the estimated cost to complete the park at \$30.5 million.

According to Councilman Mike Bonin's Pacific Palisades resident and then former Counsel Norm Kulla, the two-year delay was the result of litigation of one canyon-rim homeowner.

In the 2011 park plans, the land was to be bolstered all the way to the canyon rim, ensuring that there would be no further slippage. "The canyon is a geologic nightmare," Kulla said. "The plan was making sure it was safe for those living on the rim and those going into the park."

Although owners around her agreed to the stabilization plan, this woman did not. The standoff resulted in a delay and eventually the plan had to be redesigned, working around one triangular property at an additional cost.

"It will be stable to her property line, rather than the rim," Kulla said. "I make no apologies about the delay. The project is moving again." -SUE PASCOE

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Heard About Town

Watch for Deer

I was driving home around 1 a.m. on Friday night and I counted six deer along Temescal Canyon Road. People were speeding. Just wanted to let everyone know you should slow down and watch for deer because one bounded across the road and a car almost hit it.

Which Rule to Follow?

I have noticed, over the past three weeks, some homeless individuals camping overnight, consuming alcohol and playing with their two dogs, between the Gladstone's beach parking lot exit and the sign that says "no overnight camping, no alcohol and no dogs allowed on the beach."

Sand Sculpting Contest

I think it would be really fun if a local organization had a sand sculpting contest at Will Rogers Beach. I read about it at other beach communities, but in 20 years I've lived here, there's never been one here. Is the sand the wrong kind?

Man Wandering Around

There is a thin African-American man who appears homeless and has been wandering around the Village the past several weeks. He often walks down the middle of Antioch between Swarthmore and Via de la Paz. But on July 6, he walked out in the middle of Sunset, not at a crosswalk, and cars had to screech to a stop. He was oblivious to the fact that he was in the middle of the street and almost hit. He needs to be taken in for observation before he is accidentally hit by someone who isn't expecting a person in the fast lane.

Design Review Board

Since people thought that the Shell architect was going to attend the Design Review Board meeting, they showed up in droves. Do people understand that the DRB can't make decisions about whether a convenience store will open at a gas station? Its jurisdiction is solely signage and the outward design and color of proposed buildings in the business district. Do you want a yellow Spanish or a red brick modern building and is it within the height limit? That's it.

PaliHi Band Was Best

After comparing all of the bands in the Fourth of July parade, the best by far was the Palisades School band. They sounded great, were in perfect lines and had the sharpest uniforms of any of the bands marching.

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

Representative Ted Lieu Reports

t is a great honor to serve as your voice in the United States House of Representatives for the 33rd Congressional District.

Congress deals with a number of important issues in Washington every day—from national security and health care to transportation infrastructure and the federal budget. However, I want to take a moment to highlight some of the services and assistance my office can provide to you back home.

Help with a Federal Agency:

If you would like assistance with a federal agency, whether you have a problem with the Social Security Administration, the Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the United States Postal Service, my district office may be able to help. For more information, please call my District Office at (323) 651-1040.

Success Stories:

A U.S. Navy veteran contacted our office in early April 2015. At the time, the veteran was homeless and had not gotten a disabilities review. Our office worked on the veteran's case and was able to help secure 100 percent service-connected benefits. The veteran was awarded nearly \$150,000 in retroactive pay by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A long-time homeless woman visited my office because she needed a federal tax lien removed by the IRS before she could use a HUD Section 8 housing voucher. My office worked with the IRS and they eventually reversed their decision and removed the lien. I am happy to report that this constituent can now obtain permanent housing for the first time in several years. A constituent had stopped receiving her Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits while living abroad in Israel. My district office staff contacted the SSA Westwood office, which then contacted the SSA Jerusalem office to inquire about the issue. Based on my office's work, this individual will now receive over \$10,000 in SSA benefit back payments.

These are just a few of the positive outcomes we have been able to secure on behalf of the people of California's 33rd Congressional District.

Other Services:

Through my Washington, D.C. office, you can arrange to have a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, request a Congressional Commendation or a Presidential Greeting for someone living in the 33rd District, and organize tours if you are visiting our nation's capital.

Internships in both my Los Angeles and Washington offices are offered year-round to college students who live in the 33rd District.

I hope to hear from you, and please do not hesitate to reach out if I can ever be of help to you or your family.

(Congressman Lieu [D-Torrance] was elected last November. His district office is run by Janet Turner, a former president of the Pacific Palisades Community Council.)

Oops!

In the July 8 issue ("Music, Fireworks Rock the Fourth"), a person performing with Sophia Eberlien, who wrote and sang a new song, "Palisades," was incorrectly identified. Kalani Hildebrand and Jack Ross were the two back-up ukulele players.

Thought to Ponder

"For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong." — H.L. Mencken (1880-1956)

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

Palisades News July 22, 2015

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A forum for open discussion of community issues

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EDITORIAL

Special Olympics Receives Aid from Residents

he Special Olympics will be held in Los Angeles this year from July 25 through August 1. About 7,000 athletes from 177 countries will compete in 25 events, and an estimated 25,000-plus volunteers will be needed to help events run smoothly.

The hype has already started about the stars and politicians who will attend the event. But little or no press has been given to a story that should praise residentsand also ask questions about resources.

The community e-mail exchange Nextdoor Palisades had an interesting June 8 post from Via bluffs resident Sid Greenwald, who is volunteering at the Special Olympics:

"Does anyone have a connection with a sporting goods store or volleyball supplier that could get the Special Olympics a discount on the purchase of new Mikasa MVA 200 volleyballs?

"Believe it or not, all they have right now is some used volleyballs that were donated. The World Games are being played here in Los Angeles. Special athletes from all over the world will be taking part in the biggest athletic event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympics.

"These athletes deserve to have the chance to play their big games with some nice quality new balls, don't you think?

If anyone has a connection, or is interested in donating some Mikasa MVA 200's to this great organization, please let me know. I will get the information to the volleyball competition manager."

Via neighbor Pepper Edmiston responded the same day. "I'm happy to send in a contribution to purchase some balls. Where should the donation be sent and how should the check be made out?

Marie Steckmest replied on June 9: "I'll also contribute. How many balls are needed? Please give info on where checks can be sent and made out to. I'll also post on Palisades Cares."

Pamela Meyer wrote, "I'd like to donate as well." Pamela Finck suggested that maybe an ad could be placed in the paper, scheduling a drop-off place and get community donations in the form of balls and/or cash. "Also, create an email blast flyer," she said.

Greenwald was asked by the News editor how she knew about the lack of volleyballs and if she knew if other sports, such as soccer, tennis, badminton and beach volleyball, were also lacking new equipment.

She replied, "I am a volunteer at the volleyball venue and my coordinator told us about it a while back. That is when I sent the first note on Nextdoor. They have enough new balls now for the games but could use extras for practice or replacement. I don't know about other venues."

On July 16, Greenwald sent the following message via Nextdoor: "Hi, all of you wonderful neighbors who so generously offered to provide volleyballs for the Special Olympics. I have finally heard back from the coordinator that they have gotten most of the balls, but are still in need

of a few more. If anyone is still interested in donating balls (Mikasa MVA 200) I would be happy to pick them up from you and deliver them to the volleyball coordinator. Benton's will order them at cost [about \$40]. They can be ordered through Amazon or other sites as well."

Page 7

Edmiston replied, "I just ordered a ball from Amazon and will let you know when it arrives. Thanks for doing this good work."

Finck wrote, "Count me in for two. I'll let you know when they arrive."

Greenwald answered "You people are the BEST! Thank vou so much."

None of our Palisades neighbors expected be recognized for their efforts to help out, yet we feel they deserve a salute—not so much for the money they donated, but for the example they set for others. Everyone needs to be reminded that a simple act, like giving a volleyball to the Special Olympics, can actually make a difference. Instead of complaining that "somebody"-a nonprofit or the city or the county or the federal governmentshould do something about this problem, local residents simply stepped up and helped solved the shortfall.

By like token, the question does need to be asked, "Is there enough new equipment for the Games?" If not, there should be. Special Olympians are not second-class athletes and do not deserve used equipment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homeless Task Force Meeting at Library

Last Tuesday's Pacific Palisades Homeless Taskforce meeting at the library was decisive and extremely productive.

It was an uplifting, benchmark experience for me, and I intuit that most all in attendance left with the same sense of renewed hope and empowerment.

This meeting brought the community together for the first time to experience a comprehensive presentation by the key L.A. City officials involved in the "Humans Who Live Outside of Approved Habitations" issue.

It showed me that most attending are considerate of the human-rights issues involved and are trying to arrive at reasonable approaches to this most challenging situation. I am very proud of the communal and governmental response and expressed commitment to fairly address this very difficult situation.

Stuart Muller (Editor's note: Muller has served as an Area representative on the Pacific Palisades Community Council for many years and is a past Citizen of the Year.)

Great Fourth of July Concert! Congratulations

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to Fourth of July concert organizer Keith Turner.)

Hope you had a great weekend and a fantastic Fourth!

Julia and I had a wonderful time and are both glad we got to check out the concert! I was especially moved by the respectful and touching display during "Proud to be an American" where all the veterans were recognizedthat was a super nice gesture and I'm sure they all really appreciated it as well.

It's rare that a person can be in a crowd and feel like everyone is connected as a unit, and I think that throughout the performances and fireworks there were several times when I felt part of the "whole," which was pretty cool. Thanks again for all your efforts in putting on a great show—looking forward to connecting again soon. Have a great week!

IRS Scam Targets Tax-Paying Residents

(The following letter was sent by a resident to Haldis Toppel and we received permission to run it as a community service.)

The first call this morning came at 8 a.m. and a robo voice said "this call is being recorded and the intention is to collect a debt."

Then another recorded voice came on the line telling me that the "IRS was filing a lawsuit against me" and that I should call a 620 area code number. The number was repeated twice.

I kind of panicked and decided that I would never speak to the IRS directly, but have my accountant speak on my behalf. So I hung up.

Called my accountant immediately and he said that the IRS will NEVER call anyone . . . that all correspondence will come through the mail.

About 15 minutes ago, I received the second fraudulent call that my telephone ID told me was coming from Washington, D.C.

I answered and a man with an Asian accent said he was looking for my name.

"This is she," I said. "How may I help you?"

He said he was calling from the IRS and that a lawsuit had been filed against me.

I told him that I do not accept calls from the IRS, Alex Magur and that my accountant, who has always represented me, was on all my tax forms and that the IRS may contact him on my behalf.

> He kept asking me if I had some time to speak with him. I said I did not and hung up.

Called my accountant and explained I had told the caller to contact him to hopefully get off the list of fraud IRS callers by saying to call him. Of course I gave the caller no information about my accountant.

I am terribly tired of all the robo calls and sales calls for construction. We receive 10-20 daily.

Thought you might like to remind the community about this scam. Scared me to bits.

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.

Homes Decorated, Judged; Winners Announced

By SUE PASCOE Editor

The whole point of this contest is to get people to decorate," said former Palisades Americanism Parade Association (PAPA) president Rob Weber, who served as one of the Fourth of July Home Decorating Contest judges.

"I was most impressed by how the tradition of decorating homes on the Fourth has really blossomed on certain streets, such as Toyopa, Alma Real and Monument, where almost every home was festooned in red, white and blue in some fashion."

Weber continued, "Seeing that patriotic spirit generates a wonderful feeling of pride in our community. I hope that more homeowners will embrace the tradition in future years, making decorating one's home on July 4 as widespread as decorating for Halloween and Christmas."

Contest rules are simple. Everyone in Pacific Palisades can enter by taking a photo of their home and uploading it to "Pacific Palisades Fourth of July Celebration" Facebook.

From those photos, the top 12 are chosen, and judges, which this year included Weber, last year's winner Bev Lowe, contest sponsor Joan Sather, PAPA president Daphne Gronich and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Arnie Wishnick, visit each address.

Prizes to the honorees included certificates from local merchants: Palisades Car Detail, Robek's, the Yogurt Shoppe, Norris Hardware, Gift Garden Antiques and Joan Sather.

"I loved being a judge. It was so much fun riding around in the golf cart," said Lowe, noting that her criteria for the winner was a house decorated with love and creativity.

Gronich added, "I share both Rob's and Bev's sentiments. I am thrilled that more and more people are decorating."

This year's winner was the Jack and Sharon Sutton home on Galloway, featuring a three-generation decorating effort. In addition to the certificates and a first-place ribbon, they received an American flag that has been flown over the nation's Capitol and one family member will be a judge next year.

Second place went to Sean and Kristy Morris on Friends Street and their three daughters, Rose, 11, Kyra, 9 and Zoey, 6. In addition to bunting and flags, they also had unusual ball-shaped twirly ornaments hanging from their porch. They received a ribbon and certificates.

The Corwins—Scott, Susan and son Josh—were the first winners of the Spon-



Sean, Kristy and Kyra Morris posed with Joan Sather after their home on Friends St. placed second in the home decorating contest.

sor's Award and received a special recognition ribbon and sponsor certificates.

All runner-ups received certificates: these included the Almarez family, who won in 2011; the Sommer family on Alma Real, who in their second year of competition won praise from judges for the house's tasteful decorations; the Kedeshian family on Toyopa, where lights helped the entry be viewed at night; the Genow family on Toyopa; the Ward/Eisfelder family on Hartzell; the Flutie family on Charm Acres, the Ramsey family on Ocampo and the Christopher

family on Via de la Paz.

The Christophers—Jessica and Dean moved to the Palisades last July, and this was their family's first time decorating. When they were told that they had placed, Logan, 8, and Cole, 5, were excited and said they had helped decorate by wrapping trees and putting out flags and pinwheels.

The first contest was held in 2008, but four years ago, the contest lacked a sponsor and Palisades realtor Joan Sather stepped in. As a 27-year realtor in this area, she and the contest are a perfect match.



Suttons Take Top Prize

redit for the top decorating effort went solely to grandma Sharon Sutton and grandson Zach, according to daughter-in-law Suzanne, a high school biology teacher in Holmdel, New Jersey.

"I was following their directions," she said, noting the two orchestrated where everything was supposed to go. When pressed, the Vassar graduate did take credit for instigating the effort. "I saw all the stuff and said, 'Let's do it.'"

Eight-year-old Zach placed more than six dozen small flags in the drought-tolerant landscape in the front yard.

His father Doug, who attended Palisades Elementary, Paul Revere and Palisades High School (1990) before going to Harvard, served as the ladder for his son.

"Zach got on my shoulders and put the wrap around the tree," said Doug, who met his wife at Harvard, before attending Duke and obtaining his master's degree and doctorate in environmental engineering. He works at HydroGeoLogic, Inc. in New Jersey.

Grandpa Jack helped put up the lanterns in the trees, but it was Zach who came up with the idea to put a colored cutout paper USA in the front picture window.

Zach, a third grader, said: "I took big pieces of paper and cut the lines with a ruler. It was my idea to put up the stars around the USA, too.

"We really had a good time decorating," Sharon said. "We bought a lot of our stuff from Norris Hardware and Party Pizzazz; we try to support the stores in town.

The Suttons celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 12. Their son and his family, who live in Oakhurst, New Jersey, came back to celebrate and everyone took trips to Disneyland, Universal Studios, Legoland and to a beach in Carlsbad where they had taken Doug when he was Zach's age.

"I met Jack when I was in the seventh grade," Sharon said. Both attended school in Reseda, where their brothers were on the same baseball team. They married in 1965, the same year that Jack received a teaching credential from UCLA and was commissioned into the Marines after participating in ROTC.

He retired in 1968 as a Marine Corp captain and taught health and biology at Hamilton High School. He then served as a teaching supervisor for the UCLA Lab School. He also served on the Board of Trustees for PaliHi and when the school adopted a fiscally independent model, he was pressed into service as the executive director from 2004-2005.

"I had three jobs then," said Sutton, who still worked for UCLA, and on a statewide group for teachers who were using educational technology. He finally retired in 2012.



(Left to right) Jack, Sharon, Suzanne, Doug and Zachary (front) Sutton were awarded first place by contest sponsor Joan Sather (right) for their Galloway St. home decorating efforts.

Sharon started her teaching career in buyer by \$1.99. Vista, near Camp Pendleton. Next, she taught four years at Will Rogers Elementary in Santa Monica, before taking time off when her son was young.

In 1980, she joined the UCLA Lab School as a supervisor of elementary-level teachers, eventually becoming the coordinator of technology and outreach.

The Suttons have lived in the Palisades she said. since 1968 and in their home on Galloway since 1974. When they purchased the home driveway," he added. "We've been happy through probate, they outbid the next

"The house, built around 1926, was a mess," Sharon said.

"You could see through the floor," Jack said, noting that it looked like a washing machine had fallen through it. They did some repairing and remodeling, adding Dutch and patio doors.

"We poured the driveway ourselves,"

"We laid the forms for the patio and the here. It's the perfect size for us."

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Sponsor's Award Goes to Corwins

This year's inaugural Sponsor's Award "went to the home which best expresses effort above and beyond," Sather said. "This includes extra exuberance in décor, energy and enthusiasm expressed." The award also takes into consideration prior participation and commitment to the original intention.

"We were absolutely thrilled and certainly didn't expect a special award," said Scott Corwin. "We are happy to support our local Palisades community and love demonstrating our patriotic support."

This is the second time that the Corwins (Scott, Susan and Joshua), who live on Las Casas, have entered the contest. They supplemented last year's design with new decorations.

"We had the same number of large American flags and banners," Scott said. "But we added superheroes Ironman, Spiderman and Captain America. We thought they complemented our Superman from last year."

There were about a dozen hanging ribbons and red, white and blue banners wrapped around the sycamores. "I would say it took us more than 15 hours to get everything up into the trees," said Scott, who has had his own law firm, for 23 years. He specializes in civil litigation and personal injury. He is also the vice-president of the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities



The Scott and Susan Corwin home on Las Casas won the Sponsor's Award in the Fourth of July Home Decorating Contest.

and last month chaired a fundraiser for children, battered women, education and homelessness that raised \$250,000.

His wife Susan is a vice-president of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services and was awarded their Visionary Award in March. She received a Sparkplug award from the Palisades Community Council last year for her work with Vista Inspire Teens, which allows teens to earn community service through consciousness and fundraising for children with autism. Son Joshua is 22 and a student at Pitzer College.

"The Fourth of July is one of our favorite holidays," said Scott, who attended Paul Revere and Palisades High School. "When Joshua was younger we used to have a party every year with about 8 to 10 families and barbeque in the backyard. Afterwards the families would walk to the end of Grenola/Las Casas and watch the fireworks from both the Bel-Air Bay Club and PaliHi."

Double the Fun For Simon Fans

For those who love the work of playwright Neil Simon, Theatre Palisades has teamed with the Kentwood Players in Westchester to offer an exceptional opportunity.

Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* will run through August 15 at the Westchester Playhouse, and *Broadway Bound* will be performed from September 10 to October 11 at Pierson Playhouse. Tickets to both productions may be purchased for a total of \$35, a savings of \$5 off the single-ticket prices.

Brighton Beach Memoirs is Simon's semiautobiographical play and the first part of a trilogy, followed by *Biloxi Blues* and *Broadway Bound*. The first play centers on 15-year-old Eugene Jerome, who lives with his family in Brighton Beach during the height of the Depression in 1937.

Theatre Palisades will present *Broadway Bound*, which is about Eugene and his older brother, Stanley, who are dealing with their parents' relationship falling apart as they work to become comedy writers for radio and, eventually, television.

Performances at both theaters are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The Westchester Playhouse is located at 8301 Hindry Ave.; Theatre Palisades is at 941 Temescal Canyon Rd.

Call the Kentwood Players box office: (310) 645-5156 or the Theatre Palisades box office: (310) 454-1970.



Homeless

(Continued from Page 3)

to become law without his approval and then block the enforcement until City Council softened some of the harsher provisions.

LAPD's West L.A. Division Captain Tina Nieto explained that Venice has a dedicated police unit for beaches, based on the numbers of people which use the beach, which can total more than a half-million visitors on weekends. Will Rogers does not nearly have those numbers, "I don't think you want that many," Nieto said.

Homeless camping on Will Rogers State Beach in Pacific Palisades (and thus within Los Angeles city limits), has become a recent issue as homelessness has risen in L.A. county and transients have been drive away from Santa Monica beaches.

Nieto also said it is a resource allocation issue and she has to assign officers based on the entire division's needs, not only the Palisades.

"Talk to your councilman, we don't have enough people for a dedicated force," said Nieto, who has appointed Sergeant Carter to head the transient division. He has four officers under him and they patrol 64 square miles. He said he has upped the patrol in this area, and that over the past two weeks, "My officers have been out there every day."

Additionally, this area has no method for officers to adequately patrol the beach. Patrol cars cannot be used on the beach, and



An overflow crowd turned out at the library's community room to hear about law enforcement solutions regarding the homeless.

if officers park their cars and then walk over meanors or felonies. to tents. If it is during the day and people are

not breaking the law, nothing can be done. This is a problem if a 911 call from Pacific Palisades comes in, because the response time is usually longer since there is only one dedicated patrol car for Pacific Palisades.

Nieto reached out to the Friends of West Los Angeles, a nonprofit that supports firefighters and police, and that organization donated \$16,000 for an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) specifically to be used for this area. It will be operational shortly.

As far as arresting people who camp on the beach, officers can only give a citation, which is not a misdemeanor, and no arrest is made. Police only arrest for misde-

If somebody sees a person committing a lewd act in front of a child, and calls the police, they cannot arrest the person unless they saw the act themselves. Even if the witness takes a photo to show the police, LAPD cannot arrest based on a photo.

A person can make a citizen's arrest and wait for the police to come and detain the person who committed the act. A photo taken could then be used as evidence. The person making the citizen's arrest would then have to follow through with Neighborhood Prosecutor Veronica de la Cruz Robles and go to court.

An audience member asked if transients could be picked up for loitering. He was told no, that those laws are designed for people (accomplices) who are on lookout when a crime is being committed.

A woman asked about a campfire see saw near the playground at Temescal Canyon Park, just above PCH.

"Call us when you see a campfire," said West Division Assistant Deputy Chief Patrick Butler. "Right now, grasses are at 100 percent ignition, which means a fire will start if an ember comes into contact with receptive beds."

L.A. Fire Department Inspector John Novela showed a new sign that will go up first in the Palisades Highlands and then along the bluffs (Via de las Olas and other locations): "Restricted Entry—Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone." Under L.A. City Municipal Cod 57.4908.81. "This will give park rangers the authority to have people removed," he said.

(For steps residents can take to address the homeless situation, see Page 21.)

Lawn Replacement Talk in Brentwood

"Look Ma, No Lawn," a talk on how to transform a grassy area into an artful floral design of California native plants, will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 at the Brentwood Branch Library. This free event is presented by the Friends of the Brentwood Library and Brentwood Beautiful. RSVP to (310) 476-7234 or go to native.conservation@gmail.com.



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BUSINESS REAL ESTATE **Palisades News** July 22, 2015

Flower and Book Shop Opens

By SARAH STOCKMAN Special to the Palisades News

he small courtyard shared by Beech Street Café and White Lotus Gyrotonic off Swarthmore has a new neighbor: isarose. Melissa Merwin-Malina owns the flower boutique that also sells books.

"I'm excited to be in the Palisades and so far it's been a wonderful experience chatting with residents," said Merwin-Malina, who opened on June 2. "People seem to love my jam jars of flowers for \$15."

Merwin-Malina was on The Boris and Nicole Show on Fox, staring Boris Kodjoe and Nicole Ari Parker, which aired July 23.

"I taught them how to make a jam jar," said the florist, who normally uses about 12 flowers and greens, which can include mint, oregano and bay leaves, arranged in a small jar.

The daughter of a farmer who raised mostly grains and tomatoes, Merwin-Malina grew up near Clarksburg, a farming town outside of Sacramento. She has always had a passion for flowers since she believes that they have the ability to "bring nature inside."

After majoring in history at UC Berkeley, she moved to New York to join her older brother, who was a gaffer. "He helped me get my first production assistant job," Merwin-Malina said. "I loved it there."

She went on to become a costumer for independent films and commercials, before moving to Los Angeles to work as a costumer on The Wonder Years. It seemed a natural progression because with her history background, "I knew how to research," and when she was little, "I loved playing dress up."

Merwin-Malina was the costume designer for Ellen DeGeneres' first sitcom, Ellen, and then worked on movies including Love Field, Jade and Point of No Return.

When her daughter was born 17 years

ago, Melissa took a break from costuming to stay at home. Her son was born four years later.

Merwin-Malina's flower business kicked into gear after she put together the arrangements for her daughter's bat mitzvah. Her floral designing abilities spread by word of mouth, and soon she was getting requests for weddings and other events.

After working out of her home in Malibu for four years, she received encouragement from her husband, Scandal star Joshua Malina, her children and close family friends, to open a shop of her very own.

In preparation for opening her Palisades shop, Merwin-Malina traveled to Amsterdam to attend a weeklong workshop through the Flower School in New York. While there, she made a contact that allows her to import flowers every week directly from Holland. Additionally, she goes to the L.A. Flower Mart two or three times a week.

Merwin-Malina lets her creativity run free when she designs floral arrangements. Instead of roses in standard clear glass vases, she uses wildflowers, peonies and mint placed in vases purchased at flea markets so that no two bouquets are exactly the same.

Besides flowers, the store boasts a variety of dishes, books, vases and, coming soon, furniture. Her husband said the store is "Melissa's idea of how the world should be."

The books, which range from art and fiction to nonfiction and cookbooks, are all



Melissa Merwin-Malina is the owner of isarose flower shop.

Photo: Sue Pascoe

Merwin-Malina's favorites. "These are all people will visit," she said. the books I've read and I loved," she said.

The dishware in her store is French Limoges China; the soon-to-be furniture will be French bistro chairs designed 125 years ago, the same year as the Eiffel Tower.

She plans on arranging the chairs in the courtyard as a way of offering a brief respite for people passing through. Although word of mouth has kept her busy, "I hope more

There is no standard pricing on arrangements since, as Merwin-Malina points out, each customer wants different flowers, and each arrangement is unique. She welcomes walk-ins.

Visit: isaroseflowers.com or call (310) 310-2802. Store hours are Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., although they're subject to change.

Helpful Tips When Selling Your House

By MICHAEL EDLEN Special to the Palisades News

here are certain things a seller should avoid if they want their home sold for the best price in the shortest time. Although no selling process is without mistakes, most are easy to avoid. 1. Take time to prepare your house before

putting it on the market. Try to look at the property through a potential buyer's eyes. Then allow at least a month for painting, deep-cleaning, decluttering, minor repairs and perhaps some small upgrades that will enhance the house and property. An attractive, organized space allows buyers a chance to envision themselves in your home.

2. Be prepared to invest on minor renovations, staging and pre-inspections. Occasionally it may be wise to invest in a larger project that would result in a significantly higher sales price.

3. Make sure your agent hires a professional photographer to capture the completed project, and that he/she will provide widespread advertising both online and in print.

4. Be cautious about hiring a friend, neighbor or relative as your agent. The selling process can be arduous, and you should feel comfortable to discuss issues freely without concerns about putting a relationship at risk. Some sellers find out the hard way that a less-experienced agent didn't have sufficient skills to deal effectively with marketing and negotiation.

5. Make sure you and your agent agree on what your home is worth and how it should be marketed. Don't hesitate to ask for the agent's reasoning about the list price, and do not be influenced by online price evaluation sites such as Zillow or Trulia because their estimated values are often inaccurate.

6. Avoid the urge to list a property too high at the outset. Many sellers regret having tried to get too much for their home and found their house sitting on the market and starting to look "stale" even though it had been a strong seller's market.

The ideal approach is to set the list price just at market value. This will generate a higher energy level in the first few weeks, and result in the home selling faster and for the most money attainable.

Michael Edlen has been ranked in the top one percent of all agents nationwide with nearly \$2 billion in sales and more than 1,200 transactions. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales since 1987. If you would like to know what your home may be worth today, call (310) 230-7373 or michael@michaeledlen.com.



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Friends of Temescal Pool Donates \$4,000

By SUE PASCOE Editor

Page 14

he Friends of Temescal Pool (FTP), a nonprofit that was formed in August 2008 when the YMCA pool was suddenly closed, has officially shut down. The remaining \$4,000 in its account has been turned over to Palisades High School for the purpose of adding outdoor showers at the Maggie Gilbert Aquatic Center.

Earlier, FTP had donated nearly \$2,000 to replace shower heads and purchase the white plastic furniture now at the pool.

Ilene Cassidy was one of the founders of FTP after the Y pool closed in Temescal Canyon because of needed repairs. Although the pool was operated by the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, it was owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

An estimated \$400,000 in repairs was needed for the pool to reopen. In an interview this March with the Palisades News, former YMCA Executive Director Carol Pfannkuche, spoke about the pool and said she regretted its closing.

"The facility was 50 years old and the pipe structure needed to be repaired. The Y was willing to do the work, but our contract only allowed for routine repairs and maintenance. We asked to do the repairs, but our request was declined."

Hundreds of residents used the Temescal

pool every week. "The pool was paradise," said Cassidy, recalling how the view from the hillside pool extended to the ocean, and swimmers often saw deer grazing next to the fence. "Everyone in the locker rooms was family and we all knew each other. The pool was a treasure lost."

Residents formed a nonprofit and battled to reopen the pool after the Conservancy used an emergency permit to fill in the pool with dirt and gravel in January 2009. Protesters later marched in the Fourth of July parade to draw awareness to their cause.

Lawyer John Yeh stepped up to support the FTP with legal help, and a lawsuit was filed. At that time, the reopening of the pool had support from L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Councilman Bill Rosendahl, State Senator Fran Pavley and Assembly member Julia Brownley.

"We fought hard for three years," Cassidy said.

"It was a great spirit and great cause," said Kelly Comras, another FTP board member. Money was raised to support the reopening of the pool. According to Cassidy, Palisadian Greg Schem had offered to pay for the repairs.

Additionally, "Hundreds of people donated to the pool fund," Cassidy said. A wine-tasting fundraiser was held in April 2011 to raise money for the court battle. When the PaliHi pool opened in 2011,



The Friends of the Temescal Pool marched in several Palisades Fourth of July parades in order to draw awareness to the pool situation.

many swimmers finally had a year-round expected to win. The purpose of the lawsuit facility to use again, but still wanted the Temescal pool because the hours for outside swimmers would be more generous.

In 2011, a California Court of Appeals upheld a judge's decision to dismiss the Friends of Temescal Pool lawsuit that required that the Conservancy honor its obligation to maintain and operate the pool. At that time, Yeh said: "We never really

was to get Joe Edmiston [executive director of the SMMC] to the bargaining table, and we accomplished that."

Cassidy said that Edmiston met in 2012 with Comras, Yeh, Jane Albright and Dave Olson, but strong personalities prevented a resolution.

In June 2013, John Yeh died while swim-(Continued on Page 15)





Ilene Cassidy donated \$4,000 from the FTP to the PaliHi pool, closing the nonprofit.

Temescal Pool

(*Continued from Page 14*)

email: PalPlum1@aol.com

ming at a Boy Scout outing in Minnesota. "He was gone. He put a lot of time and money into the pool reopening," Cassidy said. "I don't know if we'll ever be able to get another pool."

Some FTP members still wish the dirt could be excavated from the Temescal pool, the pipes repaired and the pool reopened. But Cassidy said, "We are grateful to have the high school pool and we know they're doing the best they can for the community."

Movies in the Park to Start August 1

free movies to be screened in August at the Field of Dreams at the Palisades Recreation Center, 851 Alma Real. Written by Palisadian J.J. Abrams, the 1998 PG-13 movie stars Bruce Willis, Palisadian Ben Affleck and former Palisadian Billy Bob Thornton. The story revolves around the discovery of an asteroid the size of Texas that is going to collide with Earth in less than a month. NASA recruits a misfit

with a picnic basket, and let the kids play on the field. Movies get under way at chairs, no pets.)

Other movies include 101 Dalmatians Potter 2 (August 22); and Toy Story 3 (August 29).

Movies in the Park, a nonprofit organi-

rmageddon will be the first of five team of deep-core drillers to save the planet. zation founded in 2004 by David Williams Come join the free community event and John Wirth, and joined by Andy Frew and Brad Lusk, has led fundraising efforts, selected movies, created the onscreen and dusk. (No alcohol, no smoking, no stick audio ads, and announced and advised youth volunteers.

> Working with them as a volunteer since (August 8); Ironman (August 15); Harry MITP's inception is Marilyn Crawford, Palisades Chamber of Commerce administrative assistant. Sponsors for films are still sought. Call: (310) 459-7963.

Join Palisadian Ed Massey and **Portraits of Hope**

Palisades resident Ed Massey, whose Portraits of Hope's "The Spheres" were featured in the Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade, invites individuals, families and friends to help paint spheres that will be part of the MacArthur Park Public Art and Civic Project display.

Painting takes places for 24 hours and begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 and ends at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 26, in Playa Vista. To register visit: poh@portraitsofhope.org.

Participate in Local Government **By Joining Community Council**

The Pacific Palisades Community boundaries of the area for which they are - who would like to participate in aries visit: pacpalicc.org/map. local government.

Needed are second alternate representatives for Area 1 (Castellammare/Paseo Miramar); Area 2 (Highlands), Area 7 (Rustic and Santa Monica Canyons/Will Rogers); and Area 8 (Riviera/Polo Fields).

Second alternates must apply and are selected by the board after a nomination process. Alternates are encouraged to attend meetings and to participate in the discussion of issues, but do not vote unless the primary and first alternate are both absent. Applicants must live within the specified info@pacpalicc.org.

Council (PPCC) is seeking residents applying. For more details about bound-

Those interested must submit a statement, which includes the number of years residing in Pacific Palisades; the number of years at the current address; reasons for applying; and a few biographical facts including specific skills the applicant would bring to the PPCC.

Statements must be submitted by midnight Saturday, August 23. Email to info@pacpalicc.org or by mail PPCC Candidate Statement, P.O. Box 1131, Pacific Palisades, 90272. Direct questions to



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WEDDINGS Carney/Desrochers

Sea Cove in Malibu, Vanessa Desrochers and Kevin Carney were married on May 24.

More than 130 family and friends, many from Ireland where the groom was raised, celebrated with the couple. Vanessa, who grew up in Pacific Palisades, is the daughter of Drs. Michael and Cynthia Desrochers of Pacific Palisades. Kevin is the son of Brian Carney, J.D., and his late mother, Siobhan O'Driscoll Carney.

Vanessa attended Marquez Elementary, Paul Revere and Palisades High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in economics and in business from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in business and a CFA from UCLA's Anderson School of Management.

Kevin attended Clongowes Wood College, Ireland, earned his bachelor's degree work in finance.

verlooking the ocean at Cypress from the National University of Ireland Galway, and his master's degree in business from Central European University in Hungary.

Vanessa was preceded down the grasscovered aisle by nine attendants, which included lifelong Palisadian classmates Marissa (Redmond) Wolf, Rebecca (Koenig) Todd Horine, and Allison (Bruns) Mininsky, as well as Kevin's sister Maire Carney Harney.

Also in attendance were Kevin's four brothers, Sean, Brian, Liam and Jimmy, and Vanessa's brother, Lawson.

Following the wedding, twenty members of the couple's families spent three days visiting the Napa Valley wine country before heading home to Ireland, England, Hungary and New York.

Vanessa and Kevin currently make their home in New York City, where they both





Kevin Carney and Vanessa Desrochers

Editor's note: If you would like your wedding announcement in the Palisades News, please send a high resolution photo and not more than 400 words about the event. Please include date, location of wedding, bride and groom's occupations to Laurie Rosenthal at Laurie@palisadesnews.com.

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Palisades News July 22, 2015



By LOGAN TAYLOR Sports Writer

Page 18

Turbulent ocean waters churn around Emma-Kate Lidbury, 35, as she pushes herself through a rough 1.2mile swim off Will Rogers State Beach. This Pacific Palisades triathlete knows a 56-mile bike ride and a 13.1-mile run still lie ahead as she trains for the title of Ironman 70.3 World Champion. Yet she relishes the challenge, knowing that this is the only way to maintain her status as one of the sport's top professionals.

Starting her profession as a journalist in Oxford, England, Lidbury was assigned to compete in the 2005 Blenheim Triathlon in order to write a firsthand account for the *Oxford Mail*. Since she had been a national swimmer, Lidbury was chosen over other journalists.

Unfortunately for the newspaper, Lidbury fell in love with the sport, and three years later left journalism to compete professionally.

"I actually really enjoyed training [for her first triathlon]," Lidbury told the *Palisades News.* "It reawakened that competitive spirit I had in me as a swimmer that I had forgotten about. I promised myself that if I enjoyed the race as much as I had enjoyed the training, then I would do another race. And I loved it, absolutely loved it, and it totally changed my life."

Being passionate about the sport is one thing, but Lidbury turned out to be successful, too. She has not only won six Ironman 70.3 (half Ironman) professional titles, but has also competed in the world championships five times with two top-10 finishes.

"For the pros, there are 35 women and 50 men that compete in the world championships," Lidbury said. "The top 35 girls in the rankings at the end of July go to the

championships." The 2015 World Championships will be held in Hawaii this October. While Lidbury will not be competing in this event due to having missed races with a shoulder injury, she continues to train and push herself to qualify for the 2016 World Championships.

Although continuing to compete as an athlete from Great Britain, Lidbury moved from England to Pacific Palisades in January 2013.

"I moved for a lot of reasons," she said. "My coaches, the team I was a part of, the climate, and really, the racing opportunities here. There are far more commercial sponsorship opportunities here than in the UK.

"It is probably one of the best, if not the best, decisions in my life so far. It has helped me in all aspects of my life but most noticeably in my training and racing."

While most athletes base their progress and training on finishing times, Ironman 70.3 athletes use placing because of differences and difficulties of terrain and varying condi-

tions from race to race. "You could have a really fast flat course like Galveston, Texas, but for pro racing the timing is pretty irrelevant," Lidbury said. "You're racing for position. In Hawaii you race against strong

headwinds which slows you down significantly. It varies massively." Lidbury maintains a steady workout routine throughout the week. "I swim with the Tower 26 group, coached by

Gerry Rodrigues, which is

based out of Palisades High School, usually five times a week. I usually start with an early swim practice at Pali at 5:45 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. Then I run six days out of seven and usually bike four days a week. Then I do a couple of gym sessions a week. Some of it is weight training and some of it is just activation mobility work."

Lidbury is sponsored by more than 10 companies, including Felt Bicycles and Osmo Nutrition, as well as Bonk Breaker and Anthem.

Thanks to her many sponsors, the prize money from races and paid motivational speaking engagements Lidbury is able to make her living while continuing to focus on training and competing.

"I am an athlete, I am an agent, I am my own manager, I am my travel agent, I am my own social media expert," said Lidbury, who notes that running a commercial and business side of the sport is a full-time job in itself. "Working out is the easy bit." Regardless of the upcoming terrain or competition, Lidbury continues her normal physical training and focuses on herself rather than her rivals.

"Quite often you see the same faces and race against the same people throughout the year. I pretty much focus on myself. You can only control what you do," Lidbury said. "You could spend literally hours researching what everybody else is doing and it still won't get you anywhere because you're only respon-

Emma-Kate Lidbury

sible for what you do on race day."

When asked what her hardest race was, Lidbury said, "There have been quite a few hard ones. Probably last year when I did the 70.3 in Utah. It was one of those races where I genuinely didn't know if I would finish." Due to pure exhaustion Lidbury ran out from her bike to the run ahead not knowing if she could complete the course.

"You realize how much of it is in your head," she said. "I told myself, 'You do not get to quit today,' and that was then my mantra. It has since become a mantra that a few of my friends have borrowed."

Lidbury said, "My perfect training day would probably be an ocean swim, a long ride in the mountains with the guys I always ride with, and then a late evening run along the beach."

While continuing to succeed in the Ironman 70.3, Lidbury has decided to try the full Ironman—140.6 miles—in September.

"I am really looking to step up and potentially race Ironman all through next year and beyond," she said.

On July 12, Lidbury completed the Ironman 70.3 in Napa and placed 8th with a final time of 4 hours and 31 minutes; firstplace finisher Meredith Kessler clocked in at 4 hours and 11 minutes. On July 26, Lidbury will be competing in the Ironman 70.3 Calgary in Canada.

"I have raced all over the world," Lidbury said, "including in Thailand, Australia, all over America, all over Europe and the UK."

As for advice for others interested in joining and competing in the sport, Lidbury said, "If it is something you are really passionate about then do it, but do it with the right team around you and with the right approach. Patience and belief are the two biggest traits you need. Nothing comes overnight, it is a lot of hard work."



Back row, left to right: Coach Carlos Gray, Tommy Graves, Trey White, Daniel Leonard, Tenzin Prince, Peter Sykes, Zander Hurley, Hunter Horn. Front row, left to right: Aaron Phan, Andrew McCoy, Andrew Arth. Not pictured: James Keefe and Ben Hobin.

Pali 14 Nike Volleyball Team **Competes at Nationals**

Coached by Carlos Gray, the Pacific was so interesting to play at the tourna-Palisades Boys Volleyball Club competed at the Boys Volleyball Junior Nationals in Columbus, Ohio from June 28 to July 2.

Key players on the Pali 14 Nike team included outside hitter Tommy Graves, middle blocker Peter Sykes, and outside for the boys, the team fell only three hitter Andrew Arth. The team finished in 18th place overall.

Middle blocker Tenzin Prince said, "It

ment. We played teams from all over the country. We are so used to playing Southern California teams that it was fun to play teams from Chicago and Minnesota."

Although it was a tough tournament points short for qualifying for the agile bracket and a top ten finish.

-LOGAN TAYLOR



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Benartzi Attends National Yu-Gi-Oh! Championship

Championship Tournament, held at the Music City Center in Nashville on June 27-28. Benartzi qualified for the invitation-only tournament after taking fourth place in Anaheim last November among 1,600 players.

Although Benartiz won several duels, he did not advance to the finals in Nashville. "If I could do something differently," he said, "I would have adjusted the deck with a few different cards. I felt limited."

Yu-gi-oh! is a game of strategy, in which players create individual decks of cards collected from structure decks and booster packs. Two players engage in a duel while using cards representing powerful monsters, magical spells and surprising traps. Duelists with well-constructed decks, dominating monsters, solid strategy and good fortune are the victors.

Noah Greene from Georgia was the champion, winning paid travel and accommodations to the world tournament in Kyoto, Japan; complete sets of Secrets of Eternity and Crossed Souls booster sets; and a 64 GB iPad. Chase Cunningham (Wyoming, MI); Maxwell Schrack (Glen Burnie, MD); Miguel Soto, Jr. (San Antonio, TX); Matt Kolenda (Niles, IL); and Jacob David

aul Revere seventh grader Gabi Ben- Phinney (Blanch, NC) earned invitations, artzi attended the National Yu-gi-oh! travel and accommodations to Kyoto.

Benartzi, with help from Palisades librarians, started a Yu-gi-oh! club at the Palisades Branch Library last year. Beginning players, as well as the "experienced" Benartzi, meet in the community room every other Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:45 to duel. The next duels will be held August 5 and 19.

Junior Golf Camp At West L.A. VA

Golf is a sport that will last a lifetime, and there is now a camp at the West L.A. VA Heroes Golf Course that gives lessons to boys and girls, ages 7 to 15, through August 25.

The camp is taught by Marine veteran and PGA Teaching Professional Carlos Rodriguez of the L.A. Golf Academy at the nine-hole, three-par golf course. Students will play golf and learn all aspects of the game, including rules and golf etiquettes.

There is a half-day option (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1 to 4 p.m.) and a full-day option (9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Carpooling with other parents can be arranged.

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July 22, 2015

PaliHi Envirothon Team Goes to Nationals

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL Staff Writer

alisades High School's Envirothon team took first in state in April at the contest held at the Stunt Ranch Santa Mountains Reserve.

The five-member team will now represent California against 52 teams from the United States and Canada at the NCF-Envirothon in Springfield, Missouri, from July 27 through August 2.

Since winning the state title, seniors Noah Alcus, 17, Gregory Gladkov, 16, Makayla Michelini, 17, and Yuko Nakano, 16, and Claire Dubin (who will attend UC Berkeley this fall) have focused on learning the urban forestry, soils, aquatics and wildlife of Missouri. Each team member specializes in two topics.

Coach and AP environmental science teacher Steve Engelmann, whose teams have won California championships in six of the past nine years said: "One of the neat things about environmental science is while other sciences are super specific out of necessity, environmental science is a big picture subject.

"Students are trying to solve real problems," Engelmann says. "They consider all the different stakeholder groups. The environment is a stakeholder, but what about

the people who live in the area, and have experts in different subjects. been living there for 100 years. What about businesses? If it costs a lot of money to implement, it's probably not going to happen. The team has to think in practical terms."

At Missouri State University, more than 500 contestants will be measuring trees, analyzing water samples and identifying invasive species as well as taking a test that may include questions such as the name of a specific creature and the food it eats.

Engelmann, a graduate of PaliHi, meets with the team once a week during the school year. He explains that environmental science didn't exist back when he was a student, and today's parents don't always understand the topic.

"It's all the sciences together: biology, physics, geology and chemistry. It's also government, international relations, economics-it's all connected," said Engelmann, who said he likes the Envirothon format because it relies heavily on teamwork to be successful, unlike most academic decathlons, which are more individually based.

"They're on a team, but they'll take the test by themselves. Then they come together and come up with what's the best solution," Engelmann said. He notes that a lot of environmental problems need to be resolved by a group of people who are

For example, Gladkov's specialties are wildlife and aquatics, but he was studying native grasslands. "In the 1800s, over onethird of Missouri was covered in native grasslands. Now, it's 75,000 acres, a very big drop," he said, adding the decline has caused grassland species, such as the prairie chicken, to decline.

At the urging of another teacher, Engelmann began Envirothon when his daughter, Sasha, 26, was a senior at Pali. He said his former students go on to a variety of fields. Some have attended medical school, while others go into careers completely un-

related to science. Nakano is thinking about environmental law, while Alcus is certain he will study something in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in college.

"Environmental science can be attached to any subject in personal or professional lives," Engelmann said. "A lot of students come back to me later and say what they learned in Envirothon really paid off especially the public speaking aspect."

Also, sometimes being at Envirothon may lead to an internship, which in some cases has led to jobs. Professionals from the (Continued on Page 21)



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Left to right: Palisades High's Envirothon team members Yuko Nakano, Makayla Michelini, Greg Gladkov, Claire Dubin and Noah Alcus with the state trophy. Photo: Steve Engelmann

Envirothon

(Continued from Page 20)

Forest Service, EPA and similar agencies are in the audience during presentations, and students can find out more information about the careers they are interested in pursuing from people who work in those areas.

Traveling to Envirothon is expensive, and in past years the team has camped instead of staying in motels in order to save

money. Though they are housed in university dorms once the competition begins, they are responsible for their own lodging until then.

The Pali Booster Club provides some funds, and team members sometimes sit at the Swarthmore farmers market with their trophy, encouraging donations. They are still accepting donations for travel expenses for this year's competition. Contact Engelmann for more information: steveengelmann@gmail.com.

Steps Residents Can Take to Address the Homeless Situation:

1. Do not give money to transients. Instead, give it to the Pacific Palisades Homeless Task Force (PacPaliHTF @gmail.com), which is raising money to have social workers approach transients with help and permanent housing. Donations can also be sent to the Friends of West Los Angeles (Visit: fowla.org).

2. Do not give food to the homeless, which delays them from seeking permanent long-time help.

3. Call Councilman Mike Bonin and tell him Captain Tina Nieto needs more resources for this area.

4. Call Mayor Eric Garcetti and tell him you support the City Council's resolution to remove bulky items from parks and public areas and that you support a 24-hour notice period for removal of items in the public domain because you have sanitation concerns.

5. Report all crimes. Police are allocated to areas based on numbers of reported crimes. If it is an emergency, dial 911. For a non-emergency, dial (877) 275-5273 (Ask-LAPD) or call the LAPD front desk, (310) 444-0701.

6. If someone is arrested and you are a witness or a victim, be willing to go to court to testify.

7. If you see a flame/campfire at any homeless encampment, call firefighters immediately.



A day after the Palisades Homeless Task Force meeting was held in the library on July 15, new signs were posted: "Beach Closed Dusk to Dawn. No camping or sleeping allowed.15.20.070 LA Co C.C. 17.12.250."

Community activist and Santa Monica Canyon resident Sharon Kilbride wrote to LAPD officials: "New signs posted this morning in tent-populated areas at Will Rogers Beach. Can Sergeant Carter's group enforce this code? We have to start somewhere and this is a positive step in the right direction." (Sergeant Rodney Carter is the head of the LAPD West L.A. transient division.)

Two days later, Audrey Foster, a Coldwell Banker realtor, sent the following message: "Shout out to LAPD and to Beaches and Harbors!"

Foster reported early Friday morning that police vehicles were on the sand and a lot of officers were going from tent to tent, speaking to residents and asking them to pack up.

"I think because Jose [Jose Bedolla from L.A. County Beaches and Harbors] posted signs, officers can now cite the campers and with continued enforcement transients will leave permanently," Foster said. "This might be a good time, while these people are more vulnerable, to have mental health services go in, or any other community service to try to find homes to help these folks relocate. Maybe they would be more open to help."

Foster thanked Bedolla, West L.A. Captain Tina Nieto and the Pacific Palisades Homeless Task Force for their efforts.



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<u>SUMMER</u>

ADVANCEMEN



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The Battles over Settling the West

By LIBBY MOTIKA Palisades News Contributor All images courtesy of Autry National Center

he American West was won on a peak-by-peak trek. The Louisiana Purchase in 1803 added territory; the Transcontinental Railroad, completed in 1869, added population, and the highest peak of all, the Civil War, spread the unresolved scourge of slavery and the decimation of Native American patrimony.

"The Civil War and the expansion of the West are national stories," says Carolyn Brucken, co-curator of "Empire and Liberty: The Civil War and the West" at the Autry National Center through the end of the year.

So much of our understanding of the Western frontier resides in the romantic stories of cowboys and Indians, cattle drives, desperados and get-rich schemes. These stories share historical truth, but become more understandable when taken in a broader context.

To assist the visitor in traveling through history, the Autry exhibition is divided into four sections.

Although the Constitution had resolved, temporarily, the question of slavery, the addition of the Louisiana territory, which stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains, doubling the size of the United States, reignited the standoff between the northern states, which wanted all additional land to be free, and the southern states, which wanted slavery extended to the west.

The exhibition broadens the definition of slavery by including forms beyond chattel slavery (in which people are treated as property) to debt slavery, in which labor takes the place of a debt or loan, and captive slavery, a frequent practice in Native American cultures.



The Fort Laramie Peace Commission of 1868," hand-colored lantern slide, 1867-1868. Photo: Alexander Gardner, Southwest Museum of American Indian Collection, Autry National Center

The second section of the exhibition focuses on the aggressive campaign to remove Native Americans from the land, first by seizing tribal lands in the East to make way for more cotton acreage, forcing tribes to relocate west of the Mississippi, and later by confiscating those Indian lands during the Civil War and the deadly wars that raged over tribal territories.

The Civil War, often thought of as strictly a north-south conflict, exploded just as fiercely in the West.

By 1863, the war had become a struggle not only to end slavery, but also to dispossess and incarcerate all western Indians.

"Empire and Liberty" explains the divergent threads in the story of America's "growing up," not only by providing crisp, informative texts, but also by focusing on individual players in the drama accompanied by objects, letters, photos and graphics that engage both adults and children.

"Our theme—the Western expansion and the Civil War—gave us a way to look at the Autry collections," Brucken explains. "This is a mission-driven exhibition that shows the diverse experiences of all people of the American West and opens up a dialogue to connect the past and the present."

One example is how the curators illustrate the difficulty of prosecuting a war in the West, dogged by rugged topography, primitive communication and inefficient are highlighted: the bugle, the telegraph and the percussion pistol.

"A skilled bugler was worth his weight in silver in a campaign or on a battlefield," writes Durwood Ball in "Empire and Liberty.""His tactical calls, correctly blown, maneuvered men into formation to skirmish, advance or defend or extracted them from untenable positions and certain defeat."

The telegraph resolved the problem of slow and unreliable communication between Washington, D.C. and California. In 1861, the Union Army established the U.S. Military Telegraph Corps, strung 4,000 miles of telegraph wire and sent more than a million messages to and from the battlefield.

The Union's use of repeating rifles and pistols in distant Western frontiers was certainly far more efficient and accurate than the old flintlock weapons.

Palisades News

July 22, 2015

The exhibition's third section explores the Westerners' participation in the war and the impact on life in the West.

In California, the north leaned Republican and pro-Union; gold and silver from California and Nevada funded the Union effort. Seventeen thousand Californians volunteered in the Union army. The Southern California counties, including Los Angeles, remained strongly pro-Southern and secessionist.

The final section of the exhibition focuses on the post-war westward expansion and continuing battle over who could enjoy the rights of American citizenship. Who was allowed to purchase land, who was allowed to vote?

Chinese-American communities expanded in the West during the Civil War, with more than 60,000 immigrants arriving between 1861 and 1870. Brucken asks, "Were they free workers entitled to legal protection or were they imported slaves?"

Fearing that ratifying the 15th Amendment, giving African-Americans the right to vote, would open the door to Chinese suffrage and citizenship, California and Oregon refused to ratify it.

The Chinese hired as workers on the Transcontinental Railroad were not only assigned the most dangerous stretches of the route, but paid wages far below their white co-workers.

In the 1870s, California politicians passed laws limiting Chinese immigration, banning Chinese ownership of land and excluding Chinese Americans from citizenship. Largescale Chinese immigration did not occur until the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. The law in California prohibiting Chinese people from marrying whites was not repealed until 1948.

The story of women's suffrage illustrates and cumbersome firearms. Three items the ups and downs of civil rights that have characterized American society, and continue to this day.

> The suffrage movement emerged as (Continued on Page 23)



John Fremont expedition flag, circa 1841-42. Gift of Elizabeth Benton Fremont. Southwest Museum of American Indian Collection, Autry National Center.



United Equal Suffrage States of America, postcard, circa 1896–1910. Purchase made possible by the 2006 Gold-level Acquisitions Committee and an Anonymous Donor.



An unidentified African American soldier, Benton Barrack, Saint Louis, Missouri, 1863-1865. Photographer: Enoch Long. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division

(Continued from Page 22)

women, Native Americans and Chinese Americans were excluded from the 14th and 15th Amendments.

The first two states to offer the vote to women were Utah and Wyoming. Lawmakers wanted to encourage settlers in the vacant lands of the Far West and promised more liberty to white women who were expected to settle and raise a family.

"This exhibition offers interconnected stories that give us a way to look at our col-



"Stanford Driving of the Last Spike (Gold) at the Joining of the Central and Union Pacific Lines—Promontory, Utah, May 10, Clifford Park Baldwin Collection, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center; 14.C.1202 1869," lithograph circa 1881, after Thomas Hill.

lections," Brucken says. "We wanted people a diverse population, the question remains to see how we got from the Civil War to its legacies and ripple effects."

With a country as large as ours with such and the individual?

What is the role of the federal government

"Empire and Liberty" continues through to this day: How do we hold together? January. The Autry, located in Griffith Park, is open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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THEATRE REVIEW Extremism Is Human In All American Girl

By LIBBY MOTIKA Palisades News Contributor

atie Mason is privileged, educated and idealistic. She's an all-American girl who dresses in skinny jeans and carries a Burberry satchel. But before our eyes, our Katie becomes Karima, veiled and cloaked, and begins a new life of righteousness.

In her new play, All American Girl, Wendy Graf explores the complicated and emotionally charged frontier between America's unfathomable power and democratic secularism, and strict religious orthodoxy.

Once again, the Mandeville Canyon resident tackles cultural and philosophical issues, which she softly wraps in beautifully crafted language.

In the 2010 Behind the Gates, Graf focused on the desperation of a mother and father as their American teenage daughter vanishes into the mysterious world of Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox haredi community.

In No Word in Guyanese for Me (2012), she traced the journey of Hanna from her childhood in Guyana to pre- and post-9/11 New York, and her struggles to come to terms with

her sexual identity and devotion to her faith. InterACT Theatre's All American Girl follows Katie's path from earnest social activist to radicalized extremist.

Americans are often puzzled by news of Western young women and men who abandon the rule of democratic societies and embrace a strict, disciplined and often violent orthodoxy. Graf's exploration of this phenomenon was piqued by her fascination with the wife of the Boston Bomber, "a seemingly normal American girl from Rhode Island who converted to Islam," she explains.

"There seemed to be very little written about her. Nothing made sense. Was she involved? What did she know? How could this happen to an all-American girl?

All American Girl offers a loose guide to Katie's life trajectory, but abstains from definitive cause and effects or judgment. In fact, the wonder of this play is how "Everyman" or woman Katie is.

The surprise is that this is a one-actor drama, starring in alternating performances Jeanne Syquia (whom I saw) and Annika Marks. The audience gets to know Katie through vignettes from her childhood. We



Jeanne Syquia stars in All American Girl.

see her at 7 playing with her friends in the of his hands protecting me. I feel the power park. We see her at 9, when she is entranced by a charismatic evangelist whose power reduces her to ecstatic tears. "I feel that heat

Photo: Rich Friese

of the Lord," Katie says. We hear from her mother, whose pres-

(Continued on Page 25)



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The Pacific Palisades Art Association will host an art reception at noon on Saturday, July 25 to honor painter Joanne Cullen.

An instructor at the Culver City Arts program, the director of the art program at the Beverlywood Mental Health Center and an instructor at West Los Angeles College, Cullen's paintings have been featured in the Palisades library during the month of July. She studied at the St. Paul School of Art at the University of Minnesota and at USC, and was commissioned to paint a mural at St. Matthew's Church. The reception will be held in the Palisades Library community room, 861 Alma Real Dr.

Right: A portrait by Joan Cullen.

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All American Girl ical and irreversible trajectory. Graf offers

ence is seamlessly portrayed through the actor's quick-change voice and stance. Syquia manages a multiple cast with such skill and conviction you can almost see each character manifest on stage. Dialect coach Adam Michael assisted in helping the actor distinguish male and female characters and non-native English speakers.

From an early age, Katie is troubled by the disparity between her comfortable life and so many lives that are not. "I want to help people, just like you," she tells her mom, who worries about her daughter teaching in a rough part of Boston. "It's not fair I have so much and they don't because of an accident of birth."

She grows up and she's off to college, where she meets and is self-consciously aroused by Igbal Ibrahim, an Indian Muslim with "skin the color of a macchiato." Their love "is a raging wave knocking us down, filling our ears and eyes with saltwater," she savs.

Tethered together by their sense of justice, they begin to feel more and more helpless in the face of the injustices they see throughout the world. Katie is drawn to Islam, and to the appeal of this kind of piety. She believes the act of submission when chosen can feel empowering, and even politically empowering, free of the corruption of the West.

Syquia creates a young woman we learn to love and accept as authentic in her world even as the arc of the narrative takes a rad-

fine details couched in a poetic rhythm that matches the sensibility of the character, expertly directed by InterACT Theatre member Anita Khanzadian.

Page 25

The staging by Joel Daavid and graphic design by Olivia Weissblum provide a helpful timeline as Katie's life events unfold. The music contributes to the tone of the times, which span from 1996 to 2013.

All American Girl continues Wednesdays through Sundays at the Lounge Theatre in Hollywood through July 26. For tickets (\$30), call (818) 765-8732 or visit InterACTla.org.

Women's Self-Defense **Course Set for July 25**

A four-hour course on how a woman can protect herself from an attacker will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, at ZFIT studios, 827 Via de la Paz. The cost is \$149.

Women will learn how to recognize and avoid a dangerous situation; how to use normal items in a purse as weapons; how to defeat a larger opponent; and how to kick and properly punch. They will also learn escapes, throws, take-downs, pressure points, anatomy, physiology and how to defend against weapons.

Instructor Bill Shuttic, a martial arts practioner for 30 years, has a black belt in aikido, jujitsu and iaido. He is also a certified massage therapist, personal trainer, nutritionist, herbalist and natural health practitioner. Call (310) 413-0514 or visit: ulti-health.com.

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(Continued from Page 24)

DINING WITH GRACE

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I f you are locals and have an outof-town guest you wish to show the ocean/beach while dining, then Gladstone's is the perfect place. My Irish nephew found both the setting and the food terrific.

On a lovely evening we were seated on the outdoor terrace, well shaded from the setting sun by umbrellas, with a great view of the beach where people were playing with their kids, and others romantically enjoying the sunset. We also could watch the many birds landing on rocks and the waves as they rolled in.

Later in the evening, heaters are started to keep the temperature

pleasant. The décor is simple wooden tables with comfy chairs along with large white napkins wrapped around the silver.

The new executive chef, Jason Hanin, has done a good job with the food and says he plans to continue to freshen up the menu.

My nephew found the "Spanish-style" garlic shrimp spicy and delicious. My crab cake with salsa was also excellent. This is the real thing—a crab cake filled with crab, not mixes.

The wedge salad of bright green cilantro leaves with radishes and red-pepper chilis, tossed in an olive oil,



garlic-flavored dressing, was just as bright and tasty as it sounds.

My nephew ordered the linguine and clams. These were fragrant with a garlic-infused olive oil and came with excellent charcoal-grilled bread.

I found the wild Madagascar giant shrimp to be superb. I ordered the half-pound version, which was more than enough for me. (The other choice is a pound.) These succulent large prawns were delicious to the last bite.

Interestingly, the menu varies from an array of fresh seafood to steak frites, braised short ribs and Mary's Organic Chicken. Prices vary greatly for all of the

fresh fish depending on the size of the order. Raw bar and chilled seafood are at the market price for East or West Coast varieties of oysters, for example. While a shrimp cocktail or tuna tartare are in the \$18 to \$20 price range, a Grande Plateau Platter of eight offerings such as oysters, shrimp, scallops, mussels, king crab legs, half lobster tail, seafood ceviche and tuna tartare is \$79.

My crab cake was \$21, while the garlic shrimp was \$15. Entrees vary from \$25 for fish and chips to \$26 for the linguine and clams to \$29 for the half-pound of Madagascar giant shrimp. Wild Alaskan halibut with honey goat cheese, melted leeks and a potato galette is



\$38, and a Fisherman's stew is \$29. A whole Maine lobster is priced at \$43 a pound. In other words, there is selection to fit everyone's price range.

Our shared key lime pie for dessert was \$11. It was excellent with its blackberry and freshly whipped cream topping, and with coffee, made a fine finish to our dinner by the sea.

Gladstone's serves lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and dinner from 4 p.m. to close or 9 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the restaurant offers brunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., lunch from 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and dinner from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Valet parking is \$7 for customers.

- GRACE HINEY







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