



YMCA Celebrates 50 Years

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Fiftieth anniversaries are often gala celebrations held in ritzy surroundings, but on October 11, the Palisades-Malibu YMCA stayed true to its mission and for its golden celebration, a family-fun event was held in Simon Meadow.

The Pumpkin Patch was open, the annual artistic glass pumpkin sales were under way, a bounce house and a bounce climb were strategically situated, there was face painting and archery, food trucks, drinks and live music by the Satellite Trio (David Clymer, Alonso Pinio and Jasper Burik).

Former Executive Director Carol Pfannkuche served as the emcee, stressing the Y's past, present and future. "This property was first a camping site, starting in 1922, for the West Coast Chautauqua movement, then it was a lumber yard," she said.

The current YMCA building on Via de la Paz was a theater and then a teen center, before becoming the town's Y in 1965. "Once the Y was established, board leaders started working to meet community needs on its [leased] property in Temescal, including the pumpkin patch, the Christmas tree lot and a summer camp."

Pfannkuche noted that with Cindy and Bill Simon's help, the Y was able to eventually purchase the 3.9-acre property. "We've been operating with a no-build restriction, but we've been building relationships. We have strong connections throughout the community that will serve us well when the no-build restriction ends in 2017."

She introduced long-time Y supporter Annie Barnes, who presented plaques to significant members, including Dr. Mike Martini, 90, who was on the first Y board and has remained active for 50 years. He has been

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Roaring into Yee Haw Days



Go karts, carnival games, a cake walk, obstacle course, a mechanical bull and Palisades Fancy Feet dancers provided ample entertainment at Yee Haw Days, held Saturday at Palisades Elementary.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

Drilling to Start on South Swarthmore

When Caruso Affiliated, the prominent real estate development company, first entered into a purchase agreement with Palisades Properties in 2012, inspectors discovered that the former Emerson-LaMay Cleaners on Swarthmore had for decades poured toxic material into the soil, which required cleanup.

Excavation of contaminated soil and the hauling of that dirt to an outside location has been completed on the north side of Swarthmore Avenue.

Drilling will now start on the south side of Swarthmore, mostly in the parking lot. According to Jose Dias, the Envirosat project manager with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, it generally will take a few days at each location to obtain a soil sample to test for residual VOC soil vapor.

Initially, it was thought that vapor extraction equipment would be needed on the south side of the street, too.

But with the work completed on the north, Dias said, "They may not need to run it [vapor extraction] on the southern parcels. We'll have to wait for the results."

A September 17 letter from Toxic Substances Control to Peter Hayden, the vice president of engineering with Caruso Affiliated, stated "Remedial excavations began on February 18, 2015 and were completed on June 26, 2015. A total of 23,203 tons of soil were disposed of as non-hazardous waste."

California Environmental personnel on-site, Eric Koons, recorded the final day of hauling, June 29: "On site 7:30 a.m.; begin

scraping middle entrance area of site and load out three trucks of soil; pick up trash, clean sidewalk and asphalt areas; send out second round of trucks with rest of soil and third truck only half full because no soil left; offsite 3:15 p.m."

According to Dias, there is currently a vapor extraction system in place, and operational, and the only other vehicles/equipment on site are two trailers and an RV. With the exception of a quarterly testing of soil samples, the north side is completed until construction of Palisades Village begins.

—SUE PASCOE

Citizen, Sparkplugs Sought

The Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) is accepting nominations for the 2015 Citizen of the Year and Golden Sparkplug Awards, which will be presented at the PPCC annual holiday party on December 10 at Gladstones.

Nominations should be submitted to info@pacpalicc.org or to P.O. Box 1131, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. The deadline is midnight, October 31.

The Citizen of the Year Award honors long-term, steady and continuing outstanding volunteer service as well as a recent extraordinary accomplishment by an individual that resulted in a substantial benefit to the Palisades community. The recipient must be an adult resident of the Palisades.

The Golden Sparkplug Award honors those citizens who ignite ideas and projects into community action that benefit Palisadians throughout the community.

The project must have been initiated, in progress or completed during the current or prior calendar year. Adults and youth are eligible, and must either own real property in, reside in or operate a business in the Palisades at the time services were rendered.

In the case of both awards, the accomplishment must have been voluntary and not related to the nominee's business or occupation. Visit: pacpalicc.org and click on tab for Citizen of the Year and Sparkplug Awards, or e-mail PPCC President Chris Spitz at info@pacpalicc.org.

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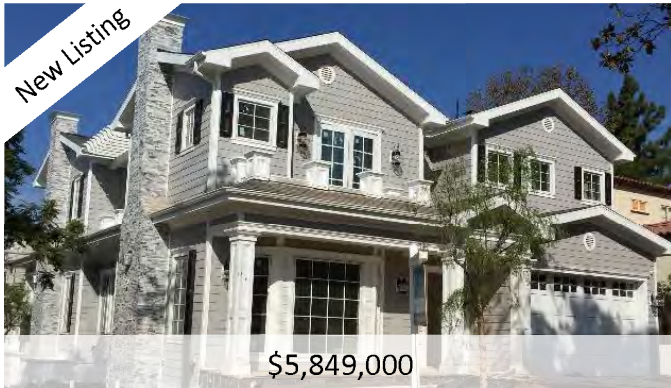
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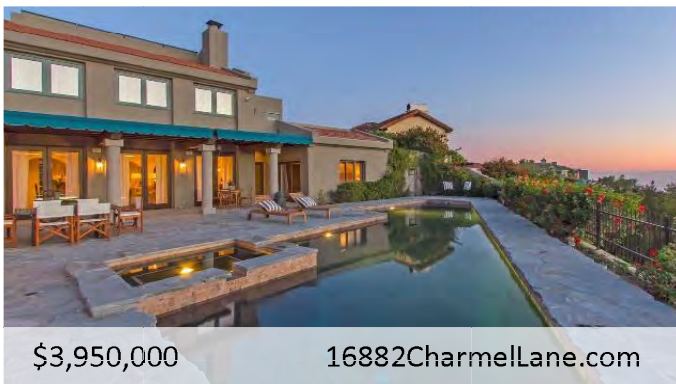
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Summer Writing Contest Winners Announced

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

An annual summer tradition since the early 1990s, the youth writing contest came to a conclusion with winners announced on October 8 at the Palisades Library community room.

Each youth wrote an original piece based on the theme "Rockin', Rhythms and Rhymes." Parents, contestants and siblings listened as actors Bill Jones and Christine Kludjian brought the winners' writing to life with interpretive readings.

"I finally finished my own book and may have a publisher," Jones said. "To all of the children who write—never stop."

Kludjian read some of the judges' comments: "The words come alive" . . . "Great originality" . . . and "Vivid descriptions and imagery."

In the first- and second-grade category (Scribblers), Audrey Yael Smith from Canyon School took first with "The Dance Contest" and Hanna Shin from Calvary was second with "The Rock 'n' Roll Singing Contest."

Smith's heroine wanted to enter a dance contest, but when she arrived everyone was doing hip hop and she questioned her choice of ballet, but finally decided to stay true to herself, and ended up winning the gold trophy.



Actors Bill Jones and Christine Kludjian congratulate Audrey Yael Smith from Canyon School, who took first in the Scribble category.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Third- and fourth-graders (Jotters) saw first, second and third places go to Marquez students. Ilianna Brett was third, Julie Kassin second and Parker Keston first with "Rockin', Rhythm and Rhyme by a Musical Third Grader."

In the fifth- and sixth-grade (Scrawlers) category, Alana Kamins of Brentwood School took third, Elsa O'Donnell (Palisades Elementary) finished second and Sydney Forrester (Seven Arrows) placed first with "An Unexpected Friendship."

Forrester wrote about two musical competitors, one who wrote great music and a second who wrote great lyrics. After they lost to a third person in a contest, they banded together and ultimately won the top competition with their song, "Finding

Harmony in Our Differences."

Seventh- and eighth-grade students (Scribes) saw Paul Revere students Clara Green and Becca Whitaker take second and third respectively. In first place was Joshua Kamins from Brentwood School, who wrote "Jazzy Bellies."

High school students (Authors) included third-place winner Sarah Enayati (Le Lycée Francais) with her story "Do You Believe in Magic?" and runner-up Selby Kia (Notre Dame Academy) for her piece "Rhythm of the World." The winner was Lillian Steinberg from Brentwood School, who wrote "Whistling," a poetic story thread carefully woven through the lives of unrelated people going about their days. "The wind blew the memories right back to him," Steinberg wrote.

Winners received \$100 gift certificates to Diesel Bookstore in the Brentwood Country Mart; second place received \$50 from the bookstore; and third was a \$25 gift certificate.

Each participant received a \$10 gift certificate to Sweet Rose Creamery, the new ice cream store in Pacific Palisades.

Friends of the Palisades Library committee members who organized the contest were Arline Halper, Lou Jenkins, Nina Kidd, Nancy Mekelburg, Kathy Slattery and Karen Stigler.

The adult writing contest will get underway in January.

Designs for Incline Overcrossing Considered

The 58-year-old pedestrian overcrossing (POC) transversing the California Incline was discovered to be seismically unsound when Incline bridge reconstruction began in April.

City of Santa Monica civil engineer Zach Pollard said studies determined it was more economically feasible to replace the overcrossing than try to upgrade it.

Initially, the POC replacement was going to be made about a year after the new In-

cline was completed, but it would have required a three- to four-month closure.

"To replace the POC while the Incline was under construction made more sense," Pollard said. "Because when the Incline is done, this will also be complete."

Pollard said the Incline is ahead of schedule and if the City fast-tracks this project, everything (Incline and POC) could be done by Memorial Day 2016.

Three proposed designs for the POC

were presented to a sparse crowd of about 12, on Monday, October 5, in the Ken Edwards Center in Santa Monica.

TYLIN International architects Hunter Ruthrauff (architectural design specialist) and Michael Fitzpatrick (bridge architect) gave a slide presentation and afterwards, attendees were allowed to vote on one of the three designs, by putting a sticker on the preferred design.

The pedestrian crossing across PCH begins with the Idaho Trail in Palisades Park, which leads to the bridge over the Incline. The trail was dug in the hillside, which has a greater than 10 percent slope (and is not ADA compliant). Part of the construction will focus on improving drainage on that trail.

"The current bridge has blind corners, which we've tried to eliminate," Ruthrauff said. "We've also tried to maximize the view opportunities, improve pedestrian access, make it cost-effective and create an iconic landmark."

The first two designs presented more closely resembled the current POC with its 18-foot-6-inch clearance over the roadway, but added viewing lookouts and created interesting shadows and light patterns.

The third design went a different direction with a spiral over the roadway. "It gives you viewing with every step and balances

sculpture and structure," Fitzpatrick said. "There has never been a bridge like this built anywhere in the world. The form works perfectly with the site and the location and the Santa Monica sign."

The overcrossing project will go before the Santa Monica City Council for approval on November 10. "The Incline is federally funded," Pollard said, "but the POC will be a City-funded project."

Pop-Up Book Sale Set for Library

Hundreds of nearly new special books, including art and coffee table books; non-fiction and fiction (including mysteries and thrillers); cookbooks, biographies and craft books, will be available at great prices from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24. The sale will take place in the library community room, at 861 Alma Real Dr.

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

Visit: friendsofpalilibrary.org.



This was the third design presented for a new pedestrian bridge that crosses above the California Incline.

L.A. City Passes Beekeeping Ordinance

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

The City Council voted on October 14 to make beekeeping legal in Los Angeles.

Honeybees have been ravaged in recent years by mysterious colony collapse disorder, vampire mites and nutritional deficiencies. So, it seemed like a good idea to enact a code to regulate backyard beekeeping in single-family residences in residential zoned properties.

The law, as written, does not address the size of the hives, require beekeeper training or mandate re-queening to prevent swarming, which happens when the number of bees in the hive increases and the queen and about 60 percent of the worker bees leave the hive to find a new nest.

Palisadian Marcia Roselle started following the proposed law out of curiosity—two of her three children are allergic to bee stings, but she's also a gardener and describes herself as the kid who had the bug collection. "I love bees," she said.

Seventeen neighborhood councils in Los Angeles passed a general statement supporting the concept of residential beekeeping—before the proposed ordinance was drafted in February.

"I'm positive that they all assumed that there are regulations that address public



The Los Angeles bee ordinance has no hive size restrictions.

safety," said Roselle, who after seeing the proposed ordinance drafted in March was appalled. She was not alone.

After the Studio City Neighborhood Council saw the ordinance, it requested amendments requiring registration, insurance and courses in beekeeping.

Sixteen additional neighborhood councils supported the concept, but some requested a feasibility study and others, indicated support only for a pilot program.

According to Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) president Chris Spitz, "Not one of the neighborhood councils supported the current proposed ordinance."

Although the ordinance specifies only one hive on a 2,500-sq.-ft. lot, there is no cap on the number of hives a single residence can have. Also, there are no requirements for hive size or condition, unlike Santa Monica and Redondo Beach, which specify "inspectable hives consisting of moveable frames and combs."

The L.A. Code does not provide hive management requirements such as: hives shall be re-queened at least once every two years to prevent swarming or following any swarming or aggressive behavior; hives shall be isolated from public access by a security fence and prominent signage warning of the presence of a hive; and hive maintenance materials shall be stored in a sealed container or within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

Finally, there is nothing in the proposed code that addresses public nuisance such as: a.) colonies of bees exhibit objectionable behavior; b.) colonies of bees living in other spaces than those with moveable frame hives; c.) colonies of bees swarm; d.) bees or hives do not conform to federal state or local laws e.) hives are abandoned by resident bees or the owner; and f.) diseased bees.

At a presentation in April at the PPCC, Katie Peterson and Tom Rothmann, from the Department of City Planning, spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Area Four Representative Rick Mills said,

"This ordinance needs more specific requirements." The PPCC opposed the ordinance.

In September, Councilman Mike Bonin told the PPCC that L.A. City's bee ordinance is much like Santa Monica's.

Roselle met with Bonin on October 9, and showed him the comparisons between L.A., Santa Monica and Redondo Beach.

L.A.'s code has few specifics, compared to the other two cities. Although all three specify that water must be provided to bees to prevent them from visiting swimming pools and hose bibs on adjacent properties.

"We all want to help the bees," Roselle said. "But I think in this case everyone is assuming that the government is doing something to keep us safe. That isn't the case."

Wishnick to Speak At 'Food for Thought'

Palisades Presbyterian Church will continue its "Food for Thought" speaker series on October 22, at 11:30 a.m. in Janes Hall, off El Medio at Sunset. The speaker will be Arnie Wishnick, who has been the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce Executive Director for 22 years.

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

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Dan was recently congratulated by John Closson, Vice President and Regional Manager of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, for being the "Top Producing" agent in the Pacific Palisades office for 2014, as well as one of the "Top Ten" agents nationwide out of more than 35,000 Berkshire Hathaway sales professionals.



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YMCA

(Continued from Page 1)

the lead campaigner for the Y for years.

“Thank God for my longevity, so I could continue to help,” said Martini. “I hope we can have a nice Y facility like all the other ones.”

Everett Maguire, an attorney, was recognized. “He was instrumental in helping the Y acquire this property,” Pfannkuche said. “He has been a long-time supporter of the Y and has donated his time and services.”

“The Y is in good hands,” said Maguire, who has served as a board chair. “Programs that started 50 years ago are still ongoing.”

Pfannkuche also thanked Janet Davis, her late husband Corwin Davis and her current husband Pete Crosby for all of their contributions to the Y.

Veterans and American Legion Post 283 member Martini and Maguire also accepted a plaque for the Legion, which has generously contributed to the nonprofit over the years.

Martini credited Maguire for the Legion’s involvement. “I negotiated a new lease for the Post Office [on property owned by the Legion],” Maguire said. “I refused to take any fees for my services and then some Legion members came to a Y board meeting and presented a check to the Y as a way of repaying me.”

New Executive Director Beth MacAller was introduced to cheers. “I’m the new Carol,” MacAller quipped. “I’m excited to be here. We’re going to take the Y places, while honoring its rich past. We’re looking to the future and the great things that will happen here.”

Edlen Donates \$2,000 to PaliHi

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Broker Michael Edlen has donated \$2,000 to Palisades Charter High School on behalf of his client, Adam Wolman, who had purchased an investment unit.

“We hope that more agents will decide to offer to do similarly, as just one way of giving back to the community that is the base of our business,” said Edlen, who has given back more than \$250,000 to the community and has supported the Chrysalis/Chamber of Commerce Street Maintenance program with a major annual donation since 2003. “The Woman’s Club, Chrysalis, our local schools and other nonprofit groups can all use our financial support.”

He added, “I am a great fan of the Woman’s Club. Every year they take their Home Tour proceeds and provide grants to various organizations and nonprofit groups in town.”

After graduating from UCLA with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in business administration, Edlen went his family’s Westside business, which supplied curtains and drapes to mobile homes. He moved to the Palisades with wife Wendy in 1971. Even during that time, he said, “We’ve always been strong believers in giving back to the community.”

Edlen retired at an early age and then took on consulting projects. “But I was working at home and I wanted to get back



Palisades High School Principal Dr. Pam Magee accepts a check for \$2,000 from Coldwell Banker realtor Michael Edlen.

with people,” so he became a realtor in 1986.

“What drew us to working with the Edlen team is their knowledge of and commitment to the Palisades community, and that Michael offers to donate part of his commission to local nonprofits,” Wolman said. “We believe it’s tremendously important to maintain a strong public school system and wanted to show some love to Pali-

Hi, which serves not just people fortunate enough to live here, including our two boys, but also kids from all around L.A.”

Since 2007, Edlen has contributed 10 percent of his net commission income to any nonprofit group with a 501(c)3 classification. All he asks is that the client’s request be made in advance. Call (310) 230-7373 or email michael@michaelledlen.com.

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Heard About Town

Wood Left on Curb

Regarding your article "Wood Left on Temescal" (October 7), I think it's great—recycling at its best. But, there's one disadvantage. The remaining pieces of bark and leaves are not swept up by the parties delivering the wood. I think keeping the concrete gutter and sidewalk clean is the responsibility, jointly, of the people who place the wood on the sidewalk. I noticed in the last rainstorm that the leading edge of all of the drains on that side of Temescal, all the way to PCH, were blocked by the debris. As you know, Temescal does not allow parking between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., which would be the only time a street sweeper could pick up the debris. Thus, I think those who deliver the wood should self-police and keep the gutter clean and free of debris.

(Editor's note: People gathering the wood might bring a broom and help police the sidewalk and gutter.)

Swarthmore Sidewalk Should be Reopened

Since Caruso has finished the remediation on Swarthmore Avenue and construction won't begin until next year, why can't the sidewalk be reopened on the north side of the street by moving his fence back? I can't push my stroller on that side of the street, after crossing safely at the Albright crosswalk.

Second Swarthmore Sidewalk Complaint

Whenever I walk my dogs past the old Mort's, I either complete my walk in the street (Swarthmore) or have to walk a maze between trees and parking meter poles that were taken out. Why is that portion of the street still closed and not reopened?

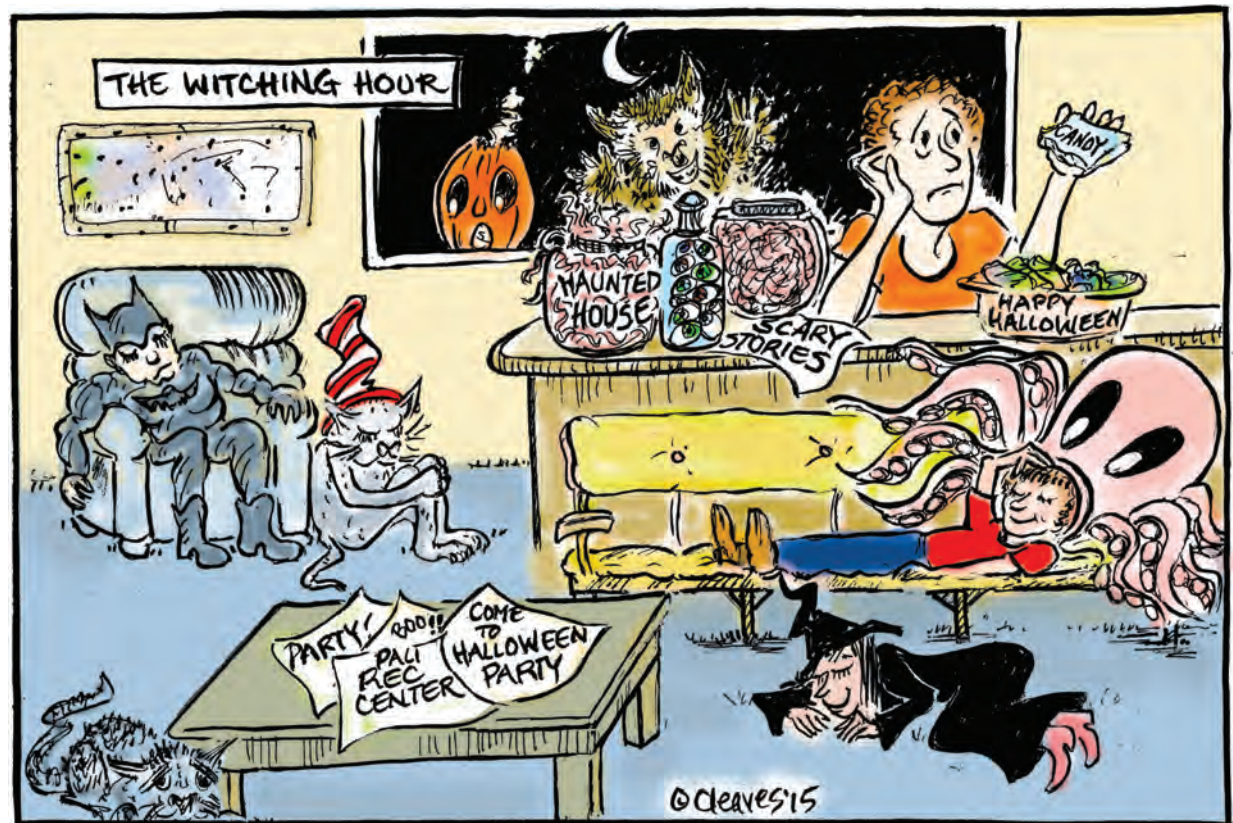
(Editor's note: We contacted Caruso Affiliated spokesperson Liz Jaeger, who said they had a sidewalk closure permit for safety reasons. Councilman Mike Bonin's spokesperson David Grahamcaso said they are researching the issue.)

Wendell's Memorial Statue

The Brentwood community just unveiled a bronze statue to a homeless guy and a Vietnam Veteran. *L.A. Times* reporter Martha Groves wrote a story about him when he died in 2014. He had three daughters and one quoted her father as saying, "Brentwood is like a family to me. I know if I'm hungry, within 30 minutes I'll have some food, and within a few hours I'll have some money." Doesn't a statue seem like an afterthought? Why didn't someone help him find permanent housing, rather than just give him a few dollars here and there?

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

ANN CLEAVES



VIEWPOINT

What Is Our Life Purpose?

By BARBARA GOULD
Special to the Palisades News

Recently, a friend of mine nearly drowned. David was knocked down by a huge, rogue wave, and remembers the lifeguards doing CPR on him. He was told they worked for 10 minutes to get water and sand out of his lungs.

David spent five days in the hospital, heavily sedated and hooked up to all sorts of life-support medical equipment. His rabbi came often to pray with him. After one of the visits, the doctors were surprised by my friend's quick recovery and removed all the equipment. His recuperation was considered miraculous.

After this frightening experience, he contemplated what he had done in his lifetime that would warrant being saved by God. During his teen and college years, he had drifted away from his religion. But, he then remembered a day when he was attending Berkeley.

He had been in a minor auto accident and had gone to the hospital to be checked out. There was an elderly woman speaking only Yiddish and no one understood her. He understood, and drove her home to her waiting husband. He thought that perhaps this kindness was enough for him to be saved.

I was sure there was more, and did some investigating. This was only the first of many more kindnesses in his life. As an attorney, he did pro bono work, even at the beginning of his career when he really couldn't afford to do it. In terms of his religion, he was a pioneer in founding Shul Chabad in North Hollywood. He would visit hospitals and blow the shofar to welcome in the Jewish New Year. So, while his caring of others began in his college years,

it continues today.

It was interesting to listen to his explanation as to why he thought he had been saved. Because a little over a year ago I, too, was in a position of nearly dying. I had bacterial pneumonia, which takes many of its victims. After five weeks in the hospital and a rehab center, and the prayers and visits of the rabbi's wife, I recovered. My thought was, "I am still on this earth for some reason." I didn't know what that was, but it became clear to me in a conversation with a total stranger over manicures—it was to inspire people.

While my friend and I arrived at our conclusions in different ways, I really believe that we both are inspirations to others. We subconsciously fought adversity and refused to give up. We have shown that by the way we have lived our lives in the past and continue to do so today and into tomorrow, we inspire others.

I am honored to know David and his wife Vanessa. In the short time we have been acquainted, I have seen that how my friend lives his life would certainly inspire others. His beliefs are strong and he follows them with actions.

Double Oops!

The wrong weights were given in the October 7 Sports story, "Olson Sets Weight-Lifting Record." The correct weights the teen lifted in gaining a California record were: dead lift 607 pounds, squat 551 pounds and bench press 363 pounds for a total of 1,521 pounds.

Also, the ninth paragraph in the article on school breakfasts at Paul Revere should have read: "Each day the number of breakfasts requested in a classroom is recorded, and then the number of breakfasts sent the following day is reflected by the prior days' requests."

Thought to Ponder

"Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule."

— Buddha

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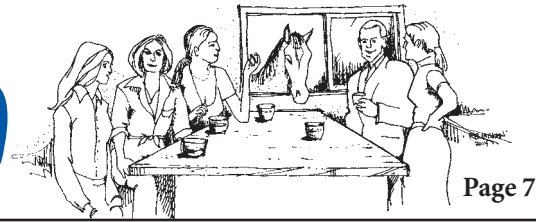
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EDITORIAL

Celebrating a Year of News

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Gratitude. Happiness. Determination. And fairness. As the *Palisades News* prepares to celebrate its one-year anniversary on November 4, I would like to thank all of our readers and our advertisers for their support. You help make us what we are and we are grateful.

The journey had been interesting. Graphics director Manfred Hofer and I began producing the American Legion Post 283 newsletter in April 2014. Although we both had extensive experience working at the *Palisadian-Post* before we were fired under new ownership, I don't think either of us expected to be asked by the Palisades parade committee to produce the Fourth of July parade program.

We had only three months of the newsletter under our belt, but with the help of Kendy Veazie, a long-time advertising representative at the *Post*, and the strong guidance of former *Post* editor Bill Bruns (also shoved from office), we produced a 32-page supplement. The parade organization (PAPA) received some advertising income from the supplement, which had never happened before.

Manfred and I continued to produce the monthly Legion newspaper, winning first place in the state Legion's newsletter competition two years in a row; we also finished

first in the nation our first year and second this year.

Scott Wagenseller, who was serving as Post 283 commander when we joined his staff, missed the local paper he had been accustomed to reading. One day he said, "Let's publish our own town newspaper."

Scott, a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve, is familiar with the military way of doing things. He explains what he wants and then expects you to execute it.

For a self-starter, he's the perfect boss. I've found much happiness working with Scott. He leaves the editorial content to me and although we don't always agree with the stories I choose to pursue or what we print, he, as someone who actively continues to serve this country, sees the value of checks and balances.

This coming year I am determined to make the paper even better.

A paper has to be in production for a year before it can join the California Newspaper Association. When we join, we will be able to run legal notifications (boosting our revenue) and we can enter state writing competitions because we have top-notch writers who know how to tell a story: Laura Abruscato, Laurel Busby, Libby Motika and Laurie Rosenthal (all former staff writers at the *Post*).

Our photographers, starting with former *New York Times* staffer Bart Bartholomew, and including Shelby Pascoe, Wendy Anderson and Jim Kenney, capture attention with their work. Manfred Hofer consistently

works to make each page perfect (bless his heart), even as the printing deadline is on top of him. Bill Bruns and Nancy Bryan serve as copy editors, the last line of defense for our writers.

Of course, advertising representatives Jeff Ridgeway and Grace Hiney continue to be the face of the *News* in our business community and this newspaper wouldn't exist without their persistence.

The pursuit of fairness and truth have been personal goals since I was young. I don't know whether it's genetic, or whether it was being one of six children struggling for equal time in a household. Perhaps it comes from my parents teaching me to "always be nice" to everyone, or growing up on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, which means you automatically question fairness about the way the American government treated indigenous tribes.

I strive to keep stories balanced. I try hard to let everyone have a voice, even if it is not a popular one.

As we start our second year, we now have an office on Via de la Paz (behind Ted's bike shop), we continue to work with the Post Office to resolve distribution issues and we hope at some point to go weekly.

But you, our reader, I want to hear your voice. I am open to your story suggestions and opinions. Please continue to send e-mails, write letters and let us know what is important to you in this newspaper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Castellammare Area Power Outages Explained

(The News contacted LADWP about the frequent Castellammare Power and Marquez outages in September. Spokesperson Amanda Parsons sent the following explanation on October 14.)

On September 8, a transformer fuse failed near 17780 Tramonto Drive at approximately 3:30 p.m. The issue impacted power at 17 locations. Power was restored at all locations three and a half hours later. This outage was related to a Level-1 heat storm.

On September 9, around 6 p.m., an overhead conductor fell to the ground at 16738 Edgar Street due to a broken cross-arm and caused an outage that impacted about 2,000 customers. The outage lasted three and a half hours as crews worked to permanently repair the fallen conductor.

On September 21, palm tree overgrowth into secondary conductors caused a fuse to blow on a transformer cutting power to 22 customers from about 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. near Livorna Drive and Ida Street. The trees were subsequently trimmed and fuses were replaced.

On September 28 at about 7:15 a.m. a transformer failed resulting in an outage lasting for 13 1/2 hours affecting nearly 1,500 customers. This was the same transformer involved in the incident on September 8, where the fuse was replaced. The transformer was replaced during this new incident. The outage is believed to be related to the age of the transformer.

Amanda Parsons
LADWP Public Relations

Is Dumping Wood Legal On Temescal Canyon Road?

I am responding to your recent article in the *Palisades News*. I walk down and up Temescal at least three to four times a week and wonder, "Is it legal for people to dump wood on public property?" If so, I find it wrong that business is conducted illegally on Temescal. Most times the wood is dumped, blocking the sidewalk and making it unsafe to walk by on a public sidewalk.

Marybeth Ursin-Smith

Wood Is Much Appreciated

The wood left on the west side of Temescal Canyon Road is a much appreciated benefit, which is a win-win for all concerned. We have been living in Pacific Palisades for 18 years, and this tradition existed before we arrived. We have never needed to buy firewood in all those years.

The following are a few reasons why this tradition should continue:

1. It saves Palisades homeowners the cost of buying wood.
2. It saves fuel and reduces automotive exhaust by removing the necessity of transporting wood to Palisades homeowners from outside the area.
3. It saves the arborists/tree-trimming companies the cost of transporting/paying dump fees for removing the wood to a refuse depot or dump (and the commensurate reduction in automotive exhaust).
4. The reduction of costs to the arborist/tree trimmers translates to a cost saving to Palisades homeowners for tree trimming and tree removal services.
5. It reduces the demand for space in refuse dumps,

of which wood and trimmings are not a dense, compact material and therefore not desirable in landfills.

I have observed the past 18 years that residents are very competitive in their response to taking wood. There is an enormous quantity—tons, which disappear very rapidly.

All wood of the appropriate size to burn in a fireplace disappears very rapidly. The good stuff, if you will, is gone within 24 hours.

The optimal size of the wood pieces, depending on the density of the wood, is below approximately six inches in diameter and a length not to exceed 24 inches. The size of these pieces, and the species of wood to some extent, is directly correlated to how quickly it is removed by our residents.

Whenever one sees wood lingering on Temescal Canyon, it is always the large chunks from tree trunks which require additional seasoning, and splitting or cutting with a chainsaw. If these pieces were cut to a smaller size which would not require additional splitting/cutting to burn in a fireplace they would undoubtedly disappear very soon after the other more choice pieces of wood are gone.

In short, this is a great tradition, which with a little more effort from the tree trimmers by cutting the larger pieces to a fireplace size, would make the process even more efficient. However, notwithstanding that relatively minor issue, this is a wonderful system which benefits our residents. Let's keep it going!

Chris Tesari

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.

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Letters

(Continued from Page 7)

Discussion of Caruso's Village Project Plans

On Thursday, October 29, at 6 p.m., the Village Project Land Use Committee (VPLUC) will hold a meeting in the U.S. Bank building on Sunset Boulevard regarding plans submitted by Caruso Affiliated. All Palisadians should inform themselves about the Caruso plans, attend the meeting and express any concerns while there is still time to do so.

There has been much excitement surrounding the new Caruso development planned for our Palisades Village. And for good reason—our main neighborhood shopping thoroughfare has long been in need of revitalization. But, as a growing number of Palisadians have been digging into the proposed project and its many requested exemptions from current building and zoning laws, they have found that what is proposed is not a simply a revitalization of our Village. Instead, it is a shopping and entertainment complex the size and scale of which will impact the character of the community. View (carusoaffiliatedmarketing.com/images/Palisades/Plans%202015.pdf)

Plans call for:

- Major exemptions from our community's Specific Plan, originally designed by Palisades residents to protect the character of our Village. (Caruso seeks a 36-ft. height limit for its property, as opposed to our Village's existing 30-ft. height limit; a redefinition of parking requirements for its project area; exemptions from our sign ordinance; as well as other exemptions.)

- Several elements that will greatly exacerbate traffic and traffic backups on surrounding streets, particularly Sunset Boulevard.

- Size and scope more indicative of an urban retail/entertainment complex (54 proposed storefronts, including seven restaurants/bars with outdoor seating, plus a five-plex movie theater, compared to 22 existing storefronts, three of which were restaurants).

- More than double the square footage of buildings on the developed property (116,000 sq. ft. of retail, restaurant and residential space, compared to 55,000 sq.ft. currently).

- 10 new liquor licenses in the project area alone under a requested grant of a "Master CUB/CUP"—without naming the vendors and removing the public's right to future input about who are those vendors, what the hours of operation will be, and precisely where these licenses might be located; and despite the California Bureau of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) having determined the subject census tract already has an "undue concentration" of liquor licenses.

- 63 fewer parking spaces than currently mandated under existing law (by way of comparison, there are about 20 parking spaces along one side of an empty Alphabet Street).

- Changes to existing zoning guidelines, including elimination of transitional buffer zoning, so as to construct commercial buildings on residential zoned lots adjacent to single-family houses.

- An above-height (43 ft.), over-sized (seven times greater than allowed by our regulations) illuminated movie marquee, visible to many residential areas; and an above-height clock tower (41 ft.).

- Much less green space than many expected—about 6,000 sq. ft. The parking lot bordering Monument is 42,700 sq. ft.

We urge Caruso Affiliated to take immediate steps to work with the community to scale down the size, height and intensity of uses of the project; and to re-configure ingress, egress and delivery zones so as to mitigate traffic impacts throughout our community. If Caruso makes these changes quickly, it can prevent future delay of the project. The Village project can be a wonderful addition to our community while still complying with our existing laws.

Mark your calendar for October 29, when you will be able to express your concerns to the VPLUC about the Caruso project. Remember, this is our Village!

Ted Weitz

ProtectOurVillagePP@gmail.com

(Editor's note: The VPLUC is an ad-hoc committee that has been set up by the Pacific Palisades Community Council to monitor the development and report back to the Council.)



Bundy-Finkel Architects' rendering of the building at the proposed Shell station.

Proposed Shell Station Comes Under Attack

By SUE PASCOE
Editor

Even without the uncharacteristic heat wave, the temperature in the Palisades Library community room rapidly went to boiling when a "discussion" about the proposed Shell station mini-mart came before the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) on October 8.

The facts are simple, the opinions sharply divided.

Mobil station owner Saeed Kohanoff's station (on Sunset at Swarthmore) is open 24 hours a day, with wine and beer sales from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. A condominium building on Albright is a block away.

Kohanoff has sold his station to Caruso Affiliated and purchased the Shell station, located a block west on Sunset at Via de la Paz. Only an alley separates the station from a three-story condominium building.

The owner wants to demolish the existing 1,620-sq.-ft. car-repair bay, located next to the alley, and build a 2,870 sq.-ft. convenience store on the west side of the 16,000-sq.-ft. property (against the Ritrovo restaurant building).

At his Shell location, Kohanoff would like to keep the station open 24 hours and have beer and wine sale hours from 10 a.m. to midnight. He has said he would be willing to negotiate the hours.

At the PPCC meeting, Kohanoff was charged by one resident of having numerous alcohol violations. The California De-

partment of Alcoholic Beverage Control keeps a record of infractions. There are four on record for the Mobil station: the first one was in 1998 and the last in 2007.

Heading the opposition against Kohanoff's plans was Mel Kimon, who spoke on behalf of the 1157 Via de la Paz HOA.

"Way more residents are affected by proposed uses here than at the Mobil station," Kimon said. "This mini-mart is about the community that doesn't live here. What we're asking for is the same hours that are currently in operation [at the Shell station]—6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; no liquor, there's plenty at Gelson's (across the street); and the size of the proposed building be reduced."

Nearby resident Sandy Eddy collected signatures from more than 274 people who feel similarly to the Via HOA residents.

Resident Ted Weitz noted the top-three sales at convenience stores are tobacco, beer and lottery tickets. "I don't think we need to encourage drinking, smoking and gambling at this location," he said.

Kohanoff spoke, noting he had 300 signatures from customers supporting his project.

"I feel like a mobster [after what everyone has said]," he said. But "I feel like I have done a good job of selling to the community. I have serviced the community well for 25 years. My license has never been suspended."

He continued, "The Shell station was a 24-hour service station 20 years ago. LAPD and all the security companies stop in my gas station late at night because there's no place else to go. My business does not bring in bad people."

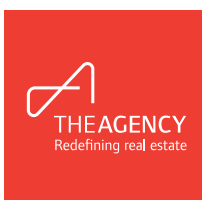
After hearing both sides, the PPCC sent the following motion to City Councilman Mike Bonin and the City Planning Office:

"PPCC requests that the owner of the proposed project revise his application and reconsider his development in consultation with affected neighboring residents and businesses . . . and the current application not be approved as written."

Key elements to be addressed: hours of operation; hours and/or allowance of beer and wine sales; the size of the building; possible placement of the building; and possible traffic flow issues.

Ninkey Dalton

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Game's Afoot Opens Nov. 6

The *Game's Afoot*; or *Holmes for the Holidays*, a play by Ken Ludwig, will have its first Los Angeles production for Theatre Palisades at Pierson Playhouse, 941 Temescal Canyon Rd. Directed by Gene Franklin Smith, the show will open Friday, November 6, and run through Sunday, December 13.

It's Christmas Eve, 1936, and William Gillette, the first actor to portray the iconic Sherlock Holmes on stage and in silent film, is recovering from a gunshot wound inflicted during a performance.

Assuming his Sherlock alter-ego, Gillette attempts to learn the identity of his would-be assassin and invites his cast and a vituperative theatre critic to his home for the holidays. The theatre critic is murdered and the murderer must be found before he or she strikes again.

The play, which won the Mystery Writers of America's 2012 Edgar Award for Best Play, is produced by Nona Hale and Pat Perkins. The cast features Gail Bernardi, Matthew Godfrey, Nicole Knudsen, James Lujan, John Mawson, Maria Pavone, Maggie Peach and Andi Wagner.

Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for students. Call (310) 454-1970 or visit theatrepalisades.org.

Technology for You! Team Wins Chamber Polo Contest

The 23rd Annual Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce Polo Tournament was held on October 4 at Will Rogers State Historic Park. Former Chamber President Ramis Sadrieh, owner of Technology for You!, was the event chairman.

His sponsored team won the Chamber trophy by beating RLB Architecture and Wells Fargo the Private Bank. Sadrieh provides comprehensive technology solutions for homes and businesses.

Goorus Yoga

Goorus Yoga, which opened in August at 15327 Sunset Blvd., is adding weekend workshops in order to allow members and interested residents to try something new or to have a longer time with an instructor.

Ania Mechlinska-Venice is offering an introduction to Ashtanga from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 24. The cost is \$30.

Instructor Jeff Perlman will host Yoga and Ayurveda from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 25. Cost: \$35.

ME-Treat will have yoga, facials and nutrition tips from 2 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 7. The workshop will be led by Alison Burmeister, Christine Laguna and Mady Wolf. The cost is \$75.

Kane Phelps will lead a Sacred Circle

PALISADES BUSINESS NOTES



Technology for You! owner Ramis Sadrieh, flanked by the players on his winning polo team, displays the championship trophy.

Photo: Wendy Price Anderson

Dance Workshop on Saturday, November 14 and the suggested donation is \$20-\$25.

Goorus offers a full range of classes from gentle to moderate to vigorous.

Beer and Wine at Starbucks

At the Design Review Board meeting on October 14, Spencer Regnery of Glassman Planning Associates showed a concept that would include a railing to help close in the front patio at Starbucks at Sunset Boulevard and Swarthmore and also divide the space between it and Subway. The coffee store is considering selling bottles of craft beer and wine by the glass and once the design is complete the store will apply for a conditional use permit. It was an informal meeting and the applicant will schedule a formal hearing process.

Rick Caruso Interviewed

In an October 13 Q&A in Curbed L.A., Patricia Kirks interviewed developer Rick Caruso. The portion of the interview re-

ferring to Pacific Palisades is below:

Curbed L.A.: The Palisades Village shopping district has been around since the 1920s. Are you restoring the old structures and re-tenanting the project like you did at Waterside in the Marina? What's involved in this project?

Rick Caruso: We have 100,000 sq. ft. of new buildings going in. We bought the whole area and are tearing down existing buildings to create a charming coastal village that's basically akin to The Hamptons. The old buildings were suffering from deferred maintenance. Some stores even had to close because the former owner didn't do needed upkeep. With new construction, we now have an opportunity to increase parking and put it underground.

But we are bringing back the historic Bay Theater. We found the original drawings of the marquee and are really excited about that. This project will add to the quality of life in the Palisades. People living in the area will be able to walk there to dine and see a movie.

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Helms Bakery Opens Robotic Garage

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

For Palisadian Wally Marks, the Helms Bakery in Culver City is his personal playground.

He imagines new spaces, and with a bit of work, he creates them on the historic 11-acre complex. "It's a blessing. It's a joy," said Marks, 54. "I get to express myself architecturally. When people ask me what I do for a living, I say I create opportunities. I have a great building with a great history."

Marks' grandfather, a real estate broker, also named Wally Marks, purchased the property in 1971, a couple of years after the iconic bakery closed, and the property has become the central peg in the family business. In 1988, the youngest Wally Marks started working there with his similarly named father. A UC Berkeley engineering graduate, Marks gradually learned the family business, which includes not only Helms Bakery, but also rental property on the Third Street Promenade and Rodeo Drive.

However, Helms Bakery, which originally opened in 1931, is the company's most famous piece of property, Marks said. The space is well-remembered by most native Angelenos over 50 years old, who often recall fond memories of their Helms coach drivers visiting their neighborhoods or perhaps a school field trip to the business which provided a little Helms coach with a small loaf of bread.

"They always have a smile on their faces," when they share the memories, Marks said. "There was a great affinity towards it. So when you have a great piece of real estate that has tied with it a great emotional background, you're very lucky today. Our job is to enhance that. I think we've done a good job of that over the years."

The 350,000-sq.-ft. Helms complex includes offerings ranging from furniture retailers HD Buttercup and Room & Board to stores that offer items such as lighting, rugs and art books. Restaurants, bars and cooking classes are available, as is office space with high wood ceilings that still retain a bit of the factory feel. In addition, there is an outdoor space, which in September hosted free Saturday night movies for the public.

One of Marks' newest Helms projects may not make much of a splash with the public, but the employees will make good use of it, he said. Marks is building a robotic parking garage that in essence will allow workers to drop off their cars at the garage door, and then the garage will simply roll



Wally Marks at his robotic garage in the Helms Bakery complex.

the vehicles away itself. Instead of having to search for a parking space in the 200-car garage, the garage will do it for them.

"It's novel," said Marks, who moved with his wife Carol and son Aaron, 18, to the Alphabet streets in 1998. "I'm always interested in novel things . . . I know all my tenants are excited to use it. It's fun."

Instead of the open parking spots that employees currently use, the robotic garage, which should open in late October, will house cars in the shade. Ceilings will be 7 feet high, instead of the 10 feet height required for a standard parking garage, cre-

ating a smaller structure than would usually be required. One level will hold larger cars, while three levels will be geared to smaller vehicles, Marks said.

Employees will have key fobs that they can swipe either right at the garage when they drop off their vehicles or at various spots when they leave Helms Bakery after work. That way, the garage can get a head start on bringing cars down. The garage will also learn employee patterns. Folks who go in and out all day will have lower parking spaces than those who typically leave their cars parked from 9 to 5. Also,

as cars leave during the day, the garage will automatically lower the remaining cars, so that exits become swifter.

While the technology is unusual for an employee parking garage, it's not experimental in any way, Marks said. "It's a tested, true well-oiled machine that has been done for logistics in the automotive industry for years."

An open level at the bottom will be available for customers, so parking at Helms will provide about the same number of spots, but 200 employee cars won't need to use them any more, so parking for the public should be easier.

"I'm always interested in trying to promote new technologies and new ways to do things," said Marks, who installed a solar array at the property in 2002 when they were much less common than today. "I think the customer experience will be better."

In part, Marks is thinking ahead to parking challenges that may occur next year when another of his projects, a re-imagined Helms Bakery, opens headed by award-winning pastry chef Sherry Yard, the former executive pastry chef for Wolfgang Puck.

"I expect there to be a big demand and I want to be ahead of the parking," Marks noted. But he also added that just like other spaces he designs at the studio, the parking has been an interesting project. "I love to find a better way to do things."

(The Helms Bakery Complex is located one block east of the Metro Expo Line at 8758 Venice Blvd. Call (310) 204-1865 or visit: helmsbakerydistrict.com)

Prepare Now For a Rainy Season

By MICHAEL EDLEN
Special to the Palisades News

Even though it may be difficult to imagine with the current weather conditions, the coming winter season has been forecasted to be one of heavy and long-lasting rains. While that will be a refreshing change from the lengthy drought we have endured the past several years, it will undoubtedly result in many challenges for local homeowners—especially those who have not prepared for possibly record-breaking amounts of water on their property.

Here are some suggestions to help get one's home ready for downpours:

1.) Have your roof and any overhangs checked for signs of material cracking, loose tiles or shingles, uplifted or displaced pieces, or worn areas of rock roofs.

2.) Inspect all roof vents, chimney flashings and skylights to see if caulking or

patching is needed.

3.) Clear and check all rain gutters to be sure they are firmly attached and connected to downspouts.

4.) Be sure all downspouts are clear, and that they either are directly connected to underground drain pipes or that they direct water at least a few feet away from the house and in a direction that slopes away from the foundation.

5.) Have your windows checked to be sure they are sealed completely. Even small gaps can allow significant water intrusion in stormy weather.

6.) Consider having a drainage expert inspect the entire property to assess any potential problems, and to recommend any improvements that will minimize damage from a possible series of heavy storms. Ask this expert about the benefits of a "French drain" system if it may be appropriate for your property.

7.) Have a tree expert recommend any pruning or supplemental supports for large trees before the winter.

8.) If your property is on or below hillside areas, consider getting enough sandbags to make a protective barrier along the exposed sides.

9.) Have emergency supplies packed and nearby in the event of a power outage, including some battery-powered lanterns.

This is also a good time to have a professional check your heating system and ensure it is in good working order, and replace the batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Michael Edlen has been ranked in the top 1 percent of all agents in the country with nearly \$2 billion in sales and more than 1,200 transactions. Michael can be reached at (310) 230-7373 or michael@michaelledlen.com.

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Pali, Revere Teachers Win Petrick Awards

By BILL BRUNS
Palisades News Adviser

On October 11, three teachers received innovation grants from the Palisades Charter Schools Foundation (PCSF) that will help broaden their enrichment programs at Palisades High and Paul Revere Middle School.

Grant recipients included Donna Mandosa, a technology teacher at PaliHi; Carrie Robertson, the agriculture/horticulture teacher at Revere; and Dennis Hamanishi, who teaches world history at Revere.

The grants were presented at the annual Lori Petrick Excellence in Teaching Awards reception, held this year at Matthew's Café on Swarthmore. Robin Weitz, who has a daughter at Revere and a daughter at PaliHi, was the event chair.

The PCSF established the awards program in 2003 in honor of the late Lori Petrick, a popular and innovative teacher at Palisades Elementary. She was survived by her husband, Bud, and two children, John and Kimi.

John Petrick, the Senior Managing Director of Perennial Financial Services in Brentwood and a former Chamber of Commerce president, attended the reception with his wife, Sara, and their 15-

month-old daughter, Delaney.

"We're so honored that the Foundation keeps our mother's name out there with these awards," John said, and his sister recalled how their mother "had so many ideas and such creativity in the classroom." Kimi, one of the announcers along the parade route every July 4, is now a doctor in family practice and urgent care at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles.

This year, the Foundation has received donations from the following organizations:

American Legion Post 283—\$4,000; Optimist Club—\$2,500; Masonic Lodge—\$500; Booster club support of \$2,000 each from PRIDE (Paul Revere), PEP (Pali Elementary) and Friends of Marquez (Marquez); and \$1,000 each from the PaliHi Booster Club and The Pali High Ed Fund.

Foundation Chair Daphne Gronich added, "We plan to use some of the grant monies for a relaunch of the Foundation website."

The Complex embraces five elementary schools (Canyon, Palisades, Marquez, Topanga and Kenter Canyon), Revere and PaliHi, and the Foundation strives to support enrichment programs that encourage creativity and collaboration among students within the Complex.

The Foundation grant to Donna Mandosa, the head of the Technology Depart-



Foundation Chair Daphne Gronich (far left) and Event Chair Robin Weitz (far right) with Petrick Award winners Carrie Robertson and Donna Mandosa and Paul Revere principal Tom Iannucci.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

ment for grades 9-12, will help expand the STEAM Shop program at PaliHi (STEAM meaning Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). Specifically, she said in her application, "it will fund the purchase of equipment that will enable us to offer afterschool and weekend workshops for Palisades Charter School Complex families."

"The STEAM Shop is our innovation lab—a makerspace [that] currently hosts three clubs open to all PCHS students: Robotics, Rocketry and Auto Shop," said Mandosa, who has years of experience implementing STEAM innovation programs around Los Angeles and came to PaliHi in 2013. "As part of those clubs I teach intro to electronics, robotics, rocketry, Arduino and iOS app development."

"Our goal with this grant is to use PCHS facilities to bring the innovations of 3D printing, wearable tech and game development to the broader Palisades community," Mandosa continued. "We will buy tools and small electronics components that will support workshops for children in grades 3-8, with our 9-12th grade students acting as workshop mentors. These workshops will offer engaging and rigorous introductions to electronics, programming and invention with an emphasis on student inquiry and creativity."

The Agriculture Program at Revere, which utilizes a nearly two-acre parcel on

campus, will use its grant "to fund a new a new installation on our farm—the Revere Riparian Project—with lessons that will help students 'Follow the Drop,'" said Carrie Robertson in her grant application.

"... With water shortages [in California] affecting urban, rural and ecological systems, student awareness of water issues is more critical than ever before... Our riparian garden installation will provide an area of 'living lessons' where students will be able to visually watch the way water travels and is used in natural and man-made systems."

Robertson, now in her fifth year at Revere, said that the new garden "will be accessible by all classes on campus and will be available for outside groups who wish to learn more about water and water science... Students will be able to observe the interaction of water, rocks and soil, the movement of nutrients through a system, and the interaction of organisms in an ecosystem. These concepts are embedded in the new Common Core and Next Generation science standards."

The grant received by Dennis Hamanishi, a longtime teacher and after-school coach at Revere, will support the school's Aca Deca club, "an academic 'competition' club where students compete in a 'Jeopardy game' format" emphasizing Common Core knowledge: math, social science, science, literature and essay.



John Petrick with his wife Sara (left), daughter Delaney and sister Kimi at the Lori Petrick Awards ceremony at Matthew's Garden Cafe.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

PALISADES NEWS

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Uhls: Parenting in the Digital Age

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

When Yalda Uhls was growing up, she was allowed one hour of media time each week.

Then, as an adult, media became her life. “I became obsessed with media,” Uhls said. “As soon as I realized, you could have a career in the media business, I was very, very interested.”

After earning a B.A. at UC Berkeley and an M.B.A. at UCLA, Uhls worked her way up to becoming a senior vice president at MGM Studios. She took a break from work to begin raising her own children and eventually chose to earn a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from UCLA, specializing in the effects of media on kids.

“I found my movie background informed my academic career. I understood how to communicate to the public and I was excited about it,” said Uhls, who worked on the ‘90s movies *Stigmata* with Gabriel Byrne, *Permanent Midnight*, starring Ben Stiller, and the Edward James Olmos epic, *My Family*.

“I did [the Ph.D.] because I was interested in the subject, not because I had any

career goals. It ended up really changing my life in wonderful ways.”

Uhls is now a regional director of Common Sense Media and the senior scientific researcher at The Children’s Digital Media Center@LA at UCLA. This month, she released the book, *Media Moms & Digital Dads: A Fact-Not-Fear Approach to Parenting in the Digital Age*, which discusses scientific data on children’s media use in a clear, easy-to-read manner to help parents navigate the varied issues.

“I felt it was important to share this information with the people who really need it,” said Uhls, who will discuss her book and sign copies on October 27 at 6:30 p.m. at Diesel Books in the Brentwood Mart.



Media Moms & Digital Dads examines topics ranging from “screen time for babies and toddlers” to “video games and learning.” Uhls pulls together the most current research, including

some she conducted at UCLA, and advises parents on what scientists have discovered about the pros and cons of various media use. She talks about the positives of social media—such as how it allows teens to connect and socialize—but also discusses downsides, such as the explosion of selfies

that is potentially increasing narcissism in our culture.

“The interesting thing about research is a lot of it proves our intuition,” Uhls said, but she noted that, “sometimes we’re wrong. If the science proves it, you can feel better about it.”

In her book, she also shares some of her personal experiences as she has worked to address her parental concerns about her children’s media use. One thing she emphasizes is that “the way that you use media and what you’re doing in your home as an adult will inform how your children use it. Look in the mirror, say ‘This is what I do,’ and be okay with that,” Uhls advised.

Unlike her own time growing up, her kids, Chloe, a 16-year-old Palisades High student, and Walker, 13, a Mirman School student, are experiencing a media-rich childhood, yet time away from media is part of their family culture—something she recommends for other families too.

“We are a media family,” said Uhls, who moved to the Palisades with her screenwriter husband, Jim Uhls in 2002. “My daughter likes watching television shows; my son likes playing video games. Phones aren’t allowed at the dinner table. We spend time putting stuff down and taking breaks. However, we definitely like media, and our kids do too. It’s not like it’s something that doesn’t lead to grown-up desir-



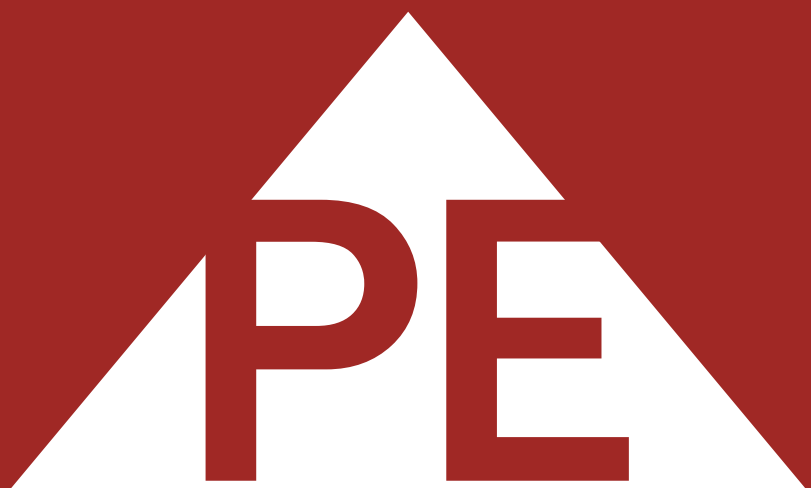
Yalda Uhls

able job prospects.”

And yet, in some ways, Uhls didn’t stray far from her parents’ guidance. Both her parents, who raised her in Berkeley, were scientists. Her mother, Mina Bissell, is a breast cancer research scientist, while her father, Montgomery Bissell, is a doctor specializing in liver disease. Now Uhls is a scientist too.

“Family values end up informing how the child will develop more than anything else,” Uhls said. “Peers and media may seem to dominate and may not match the family values . . . I did that for a while. I went into the film business, because I did not want to be a scientist like my mother, but look at me.”

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Swimming the Strait of Gibraltar

By LAUREL BUSBY
Staff Writer

Alan Morelli twice swam across the 11.6 mile Strait of Gibraltar. During his first swim through one of the world's busiest shipping channels, Morelli was part of a group of six (including a two-time Olympian and former world champion), which set a record for the most swimmers crossing at one time.

On the second trip from Spain to Morocco in July of this year, he helped inspire three non-elite swimmers who were addressing both physical and mental challenges.

"They never thought they could do this," Morelli said. "I said, 'No, you can do this.'"

Morelli, a 19-year Palisadian, knew from experience that challenges could be overcome to conquer endurance swims. He had been injured in a car accident before his first swim across the Strait and had spent months working to recover. He also suffered injuries years earlier during a triathlon bike accident that not only required extensive physical therapy to heal, but also inspired him to assemble a chain of physical therapy clinics to develop and test software to get better clinical results and help others get active.

"What motivates me seven days a week is to get others to live a healthy and active lifestyle—to get their hearts pumping," said Morelli, whose company operates 46 clinics across the country. "Other people have ways to help and leave a legacy. Mine is clearly based on physical movement."

In his recent Strait of Gibraltar endeavor, three of his company's board members, Brian Wing, Larry O'Shea and Scott Schroeder, took on the challenge of the swim and used the company's OptimumMe program to prepare.

Wing had back surgery earlier in the year, Schroeder had shoulder issues that the



Above: At the start of their swim off the coast of Spain, Larry O'Shea (pink cap), Scott Schroeder (red cap), Alan Morelli (white cap) and Brian Wing (barely visible red cap) swim for Morocco. Photo: Marko Simic

Right: Larry O'Shea, Alan Morelli, Brian Wing and Scott Schroeder discuss their swim in Cadiz, Spain. In the background lies the coast of Africa. Photo: Sam Gillen



physical therapy eliminated, and O'Shea was a triathlete who found swimming to be his weakest sport. All were good athletes, but none had ever done this type of endurance swim before, except Morelli, whose multiple endurance swims have included a 12.6-mile swim from Manhattan Beach to Santa Monica.

"What we did is shocking for most people, but when you break it down to individual movements, it is 12,500 movements," said Morelli, who swims at the Palisades

High School swimming pool.

His group went to the Optimis Sport + PT Clinic at 15200 Sunset (in Pacific Palisades), where physical therapist Edwin Tinoco and exercise physiologist Aishea Maas helped analyze and improve their physical motions and cardiac readiness for the swim.

"They're the ones who got us into the position to handle what we were going to face," said Morelli, who noted that Tinoco and Maas helped the company develop the OptimumMe assessment tools that could be used to aid people to achieve whatever physical goals they have—whether athletic challenges "or lifting up a cup of coffee." The two have "the ability to do that for people, even if they're not crazy people trying to swim from Europe to Africa."

Morelli worked to help his friends develop the mental strategies needed for the five-hour-and-15-minute swim.

Conditions overall were much worse than Morelli's first crossing during the same week five years before, which had ideal, calm waters. That effort took about 4-1/2 hours.

This time, "we picked the worst conceivable day to swim," Morelli said. "It was like jumping in a washing machine." But the churning conditions of the water didn't give the group pause. "I was really moved by the strength of spirit and courage of Larry, Brian and Scott for them to even jump in the water. But they had all adapted the mindset that I had tried to instill in them that they can't ever let fear or doubt of whether they're going to make it enter their minds—never even for a second. It clearly worked." Afterwards, all three men said that they "never even thought that the conditions were really bad."

For the swim, Morelli led the way at a pace that was slower than usual for him, so they could all remain together. But during the final two kilometers approaching Morocco, he had to swim ahead by pushing himself at a faster rate, because he was starting to experience hypothermia as they felt an influx of the colder Atlantic waters. These waters were probably in the upper
(Continued on Page 18)



Palisadian Alan Morelli celebrates his last day of training before swimming the Strait of Gibraltar this year. Photo: Stephan Dastous



Brian Wing takes a long training swim off the coast of Santa Monica. Photo: Stephan Dastous

Gibraltar

(Continued from Page 19)

50s, Morelli estimated. Other parts of the swim had temperatures approaching 67 degrees at the highest.

In addition, those final two kilometers required the men to swim against a powerful current, which meant they had to swim diagonally towards the Mediterranean. "It was very challenging to make any headway," Morelli said. "If we weren't swimming hard, we would have moved backwards."

Two boats accompanied them—one in front and one to the side. The boats helped ensure that the swimmers made it through the busy boating channel without running into any ships. Aside from ships, the group also had to worry about encountering a variety of sea life.

"It's like the wild west," Morelli said. "There are killer whales that frequent those waters, sharks of all kinds, 500- to 600-pound tuna, barracudas. It's pretty crazy—the diversity of wildlife. You never know what you're going to see while you're out there."

At one point, the side boat had to move away for a bit, because it encountered an octopus attacking a huge sunfish. Morelli's wife, Julia Zhu-Morelli, was in that boat, so Morelli was keeping track of it as he swam. His son, Carlo, 15, also rode ahead in the guide boat to watch the swim, which made the event particularly special for Morelli, as neither had been able to join him the first time.

For the previous swim, Morelli had also had to re-teach his body how to find equilibrium in the water after his car accident.

Part of a bone in his inner ear had been sheared off when a motorcycle did a U-turn in front of him and they collided. He also had cracked some ribs, but the inner-ear injury was much more serious.

"I went from being a very, very strong triathlon swimmer who would win races to being barely able to swim 25 yards," Morelli recalled. The injury also made it "impossible to drive or be on a bicycle—very challenging."

Morelli chose to forego a risky surgery that would have put a steel plate in his head and also involved a high risk of encephalitis. Instead, he opted to work to help his bone re-grow by taking supplements and stimulating the area through swimming, among other efforts. The swimming made him extremely nauseous, but it stimulated the bone to grow calcium deposits back. "The hell for me" was spending 6 to 7 months swimming as the growth occurred.

However, Morelli said, it was also "what inspired me to do marathon swims," and his first bike accident injury, which dislocated his hip and damaged the associated ligaments, inspired him to start his physical therapy company. This year, his friends were in turn inspired to swim the Strait of Gibraltar with him. He said that in recorded history, only a few thousand people are estimated to have done endurance swims more than 8 miles in length.

"It's cool to be able to have the technology and experts like Edwin and Aishea to help people do something that so few people have done before. It opens your mind," Morelli said. He added, "If we can do that, then the readers of the *Palisades News* can take on challenges that they never thought they can do."



Look for a story on Revere Charter Middle School athletics in our next issue.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Rec Center Spooktacular

The Palisades Recreation Center will host its traditional Halloween Spooktacular from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, October 31. The cost is \$10 per child (cash only, no credit or debit cards).

Admission allows children into bounce houses, a pumpkin patch, a reptile petting zoo and the Reptacular reptile show.

There will be carnival games and prizes, crafts and a DJ. New this year is a trick-or-treat path that features all sorts of tricks and all sorts of treats.

Also new this year are food trucks, which will offer families different food options. Everyone is invited to come in costume.

Palisades Park Advisory Board member Susan McInerney, who has organized the event for the past five years, is looking for volunteers. Community-service hours are available. "If anyone is interested in sponsoring a booth or any element of the day, we have many opportunities available from \$50 to \$250," McInerney said.

E-mail McInerney at sbmcinerney@yahoo.com to volunteer or learn about a sponsorship.

Girls Lacrosse Training Underway

Girls interested in learning to play lacrosse, or those who want to tune their skills can sign up for fall lacrosse. Clinics for U9, U11, U13 and U15 (those born on or after September 1, 2000 to those born on or after September 1, 2006) are held Sunday afternoons at the Palisades Recreation Center, 851 Alma Real Dr.

Every player must have mouth piece and goggles, which are required in girls' lacrosse. Players must have own stick. Contact Katie Sabini, (310) 775-5150, or email ktsabini15@gmail.com.

Visit: palisadeslacrosse.org.

Thanksgiving Turkey Trot Signups Begin

Registration for the third annual Banc of California Pacific Palisades Turkey Trot 5/10K is now open. The race begins and ends on the Palisades High School football stadium on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Street closures in the Asilomar bluffs area begin at 6:30 a.m. and the race starts at 8 a.m. Adults (18+) are \$35 pre-race and \$40 race day, children are \$25 pre-race and race day. Proceeds from the race support Hearts of Hope and the Los Angeles Food Bank. To register visit: paliturkeytrot.com/

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 If you are unable to join us, please consider a donation to help fund scouting in your community.

MacAller Named New YMCA Director

By LAURA ABRUSCATO
Staff Writer

Although Beth MacAller moved across country to accept the position as executive director of the Palisades-Malibu YMCA, she feels like she has come back home.

"I'm a Y lifer," says MacAller, who previously worked for 15 years in various positions at the YMCA in her hometown of Rochester, New York. "I'm so excited to be here, to meet people out in the community and to utilize the YMCA to serve the community the best we can, foster relationships and create traditions."

MacAller was introduced to the community by Carol Pfannkuche, her predecessor at the Palisades Y from 2005 until last spring, at the Y's 50th anniversary celebration in Simon Meadow on October 11.

"I am very pleased that Beth has come to be the executive director," says Pfannkuche, now executive director of the Ketchum-Downtown YMCA. "Her passion for the mission of the Y, and her extensive experience in communities similar to ours, make her a great choice for the job. She is a pleasure to work with, and I know she will enjoy getting to know our wonderful town."

MacAller and her husband of 25 years, Steve, met in Malibu at Camp Bloomfield,



Beth MacAller, new executive director of the Palisades-Malibu YMCA. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

a Junior Blind Foundation camp where they were both working for the summer. Since Steve is from Thousand Oaks they visited the area once a year and planned to retire in Southern California.

"How funny to be here," MacAller says of being back in the Malibu-Palisades area. "As a 21-year-old I fell in love with it."

The couple's two daughters—Annie, a

sophomore at Oxnard High School and Sophie, a sixth grader at Paul Revere Middle School—have grown up at the Y.

"We're a YMCA family," says MacAller, whose husband Steve was the executive director of the Rochester YMCA. "It's been their backyard since they were babies." The family enjoys outdoor activities, including cycling, horseback riding, camping and water sports. They are living in Oxnard near family and friends, and hope to move closer to Beth's work.

MacAller spent the last three years as ex-

ecutive director of Sojourner House, which serves homeless women in transition. She learned of her current position from colleague Mark Dangler, the COO of the YMCA of Greater Los Angeles.

Moving here last month has been a big change. "There's not that many sunny days in Rochester," says MacAller, who described days when school was cancelled because it was too cold to wait for the bus. "I gave away two winter coats." In addition to the change in weather, MacAller is also enjoying the less formal work culture, wearing a skirt and sandals to work after wearing heels and a suit every day in Rochester.

MacAller graduated from SUNY Brockport with a degree in Recreation Management. Her first job out of college was at a Y sleepaway camp in Becket, Massachusetts. "Working for the Y, it's not just you do your work and go home, it's a passion, you live the YMCA mission and are committed to Y values." Her goals include growing the programs at Simon Meadow, looking into facility expansion and possibly a capital campaign.

"It's a close-knit facility. It's a quick workout. It's a place to gather, especially for seniors—they know each other, they know the staff," says MacAller, who mentions some of the Y's programs, such as Youth and Government at Palisades High, after-school care in Malibu and the Pumpkin Patch and Christmas tree lot at Simon Meadow.

"It's not your average gym," she says. "There's a sense of community, a sense of belonging. It's accepting, it's for everyone."



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Frank Damon: Shutterbug in Our Midst

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer
Photos by Frank Damon

Frank Damon's lifelong love affair with photography began in the mid-1950s when he was given a Kodak camera as a present at about age 10.

"I just got intrigued with it," says the longtime Marquez Knolls resident, joyfully reminiscing about flashbulbs blowing up. (Note to millennials: Google "flashbulb.")

In 1971, he bought a Pentax camera while honeymooning in Jamaica with his wife, Linda, and then his first digital camera in 1999, which led to him tinkering around with Photoshop.

"Digital photography changed the whole medium. I love it," says Damon, a retired attorney.

Wherever he goes, his camera comes along, including several yearly visits to Mammoth Lakes. Linda paints while he shoots.

In 2010, Damon started his 365 Project, which forces him to take a daily shot and post it on his web site. "Some days they're beautiful pictures," he says. "Some days they're not." The Apple Store on the Third Street Promenade and the evening sky shot from the lower yard at Marquez Elementary are two of many images local residents will recognize on his web site.

Primarily self-taught, Damon has read a lot about the great photographers, and is struck by how many of them started at a young age.

He talks about what photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson called "the decisive moment," when photographers will wait ever so patiently to get the perfect shot. Damon knows photographers will wait for days, or even weeks, to get a great image of water, sunsets, aurora borealis, or any kind of nature.

"That's one thing I like about photography. You're always going to see something new, no matter how many people are going



Showering Seagull, Santa Monica

to be out there taking that same picture," he says.

Damon likes working with digital processes, such as HDR (high dynamic range), which helps compensate for the fact that the eye actually sees more than the camera. A slower shutter speed resulted in one ocean shot having a "creamy, ethereal feel."

He's a member of the Los Angeles Photography Project, a group of 11 people who shoot all over Los Angeles County. According to its web site, the group's mission is "to represent L.A. cities, people and places with a photographic spirit which parallels the unique and constantly changing evolution of Los Angeles."

Damon enjoys learning from fellow pho-

tographers, and is always striving to better his technique. His pictures have been exhibited both at the Annenberg Beach House and downtown's Pico House.

Damon, who grew up in North Hollywood, remembers orange groves on Burbank Boulevard in the early 1950s. His parents previously lived in Boyle Heights, a thriving Jewish community at the time.

While in law school at the University of San Diego, Damon made contacts that led to a job in the California legislature, where he worked in insurance regulatory law.

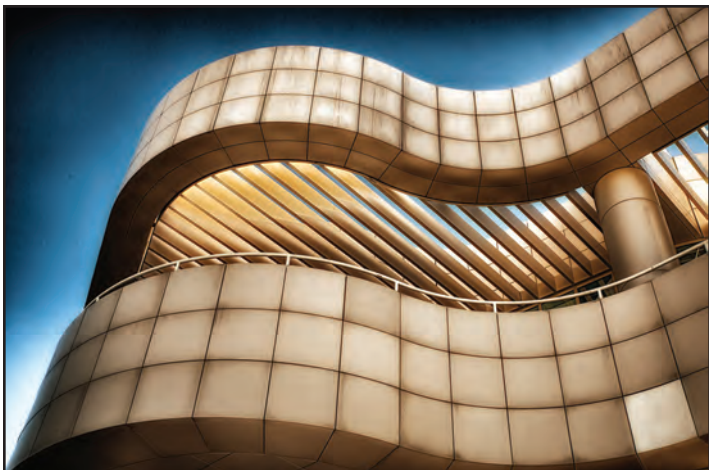
After many years of work, including a stint as California's Chief Deputy Insurance Commissioner (he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in the early 1980s),

Damon began cutting back his hours in the late 1990s, and several years ago he became an inactive member of the State Bar.

This has allowed him the luxury of pursuing photography and other interests, which has received support from his wife. Before he retired, Linda warned him that "Men don't have enough hobbies," so he figured out ways to stay engaged. A Spanish class at Santa Monica College morphed into becoming a docent at downtown's Las Angelitas del Pueblo.

Damon then became a docent at the Getty Center in April 2014; he gives tours to school groups ranging in age from kindergarten through high school. He takes the

(Continued on Page 22)



The Getty, Los Angeles



Frank Damon

Photo: Bart Bartholomew



Visitors Center, Tunica, Mississippi



Si, me encantan mis cigarros, Havana, Cuba



Bunker Hill, Los Angeles

Damon

(Continued from Page 23)

students through several different galleries, and sometimes they create their own works of art. The Getty's hillside location affords him many opportunities to get great shots.

Shooting clouds and sunsets is his true passion.

"I'll go there in the morning. I love the shadows and clouds. In the wintertime, the sun is low, and there are good clouds. If you can get there when the sun is setting, it's just gorgeous." He enjoys taking the same pic-

ture at different times of the day, then merging the two, and marvels how there is always something new to shoot there. "I look for shapes and light and lines.

"I could do that every day," Damon says. He often goes to the beach during the winter months to capture the sunset and post-sunset (known as the afterglow) sky. "There's something magical about being at the ocean watching sunsets," he says. He loves the solitude, and never knowing what's going to happen in terms of the clouds and light.

Frank and Linda, both UCLA graduates, have lived across the street from Marquez Elementary since 1975. Air quality in Los

Angeles was quite poor at the time, which is what brought them to Pacific Palisades. They paid under \$100,000 for their home, which left them with \$100 in the bank. At the time, Damon was concerned about whether they were in over their heads, but they both had steady incomes—he as an attorney, she as a psychologist—so they were able to manage. At one time, part of their basement became a darkroom.

Damon's a familiar face on Marquez Avenue, often stopping by to chat with crossing guard Dane Calcote. He loves the activity, and seeing the kids. He was president of Kehillat Israel for several years in the 1980s,

helping to hire both Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben and Cantor Chayim Frenkel.

"Whoever heard of a rabbi and cantor staying together for 30 years?" he says about the duo who were a great team until Rabbi Reuben's 2014 retirement. "It never happens."

Returning to discussing photography, Damon says: "Some people are gifted with natural artistic ability. I'm not one of them. I've had to work. I was a lawyer all of my life. I worked out of the left side of my brain. So I'm really trying to trigger the right side of my brain doing this kind of stuff."

To view more of Damon's photos, go to frankdamonphoto.com.

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Author Diamond to Speak Here Oct. 29

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL
Staff Writer

When Laura Diamond was sitting in the audience listening to Kehillat Israel's Rabbi Amy Bernstein's Rosh Hashanah sermon last month, she was stunned to hear her book mentioned.

"I can't help but think about her 'mistake' that led to my mother's birth, and therefore mine, and my kids—all the choices that led to our whole life. Mistakes make us," the rabbi quoted from Diamond's debut novel, *Shelter Us*.

"It blew me away," Diamond told the *Palisades News*.

Diamond will talk about her book and sign copies at the Palisades Branch Library community room on October 29 at 6:30 p.m., hosted by the Friends of the Library. "I'll talk about how I got started writing fiction, the power of keeping a journal, the publishing journey, and why I set the book in Pacific Palisades," she said.

Diamond is a second-generation Palisadian, and also a lawyer-turned-stay-at-home mom-turned-blogger-turned-author-turned-lawyer.

Shelter Us, published by She Writes Press, was released earlier this year, and is currently in its second printing. It is Diamond's first attempt at fiction.

The book is set in the Palisades, and local readers will enjoy the familiarity of being able to picture exactly the spots being described. Similar to Diamond, the protagonist, Sarah Shaw, is the mother of two

boys, lives locally and went to Boalt Hall in Berkeley for law school.

Unlike Diamond, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery after a major life event that triggers a midlife crisis. Parents of all ages can relate to the fear of just keeping their children safe, a theme which runs through the novel.

Diamond jokes, "This story should be called, 'There are a million ways to die.'"

After Diamond stopped practicing law at the Center for Law in the Public Interest when her oldest son, Aaron, now 14, was young, she began writing more, eventually starting a blog and editing the book, *Deliver Me: True Confessions of Motherhood*, in 2007. She began working on *Shelter Us* in 2008.

"I started making things up at the computer one day. I thought, 'That's not nor-

mal.' I had not had a creative writing cell in my body. This mom suddenly wasn't me anymore, and she was doing things I hadn't done."

The character of Josie, a homeless single mom, was inspired by Diamond's volunteer work with Beyond Shelter and PATH. "I wanted to humanize the face of homelessness," she said.

(Continued on Page 25)



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Paint-Out at Leo Carrillo State Beach

The Malibu Art Association will hold a paint-out from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, at Leo Carrillo State Beach. Bring painting gear, water and a lunch. All artist levels are welcome. Park in the day parking lot on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway and participants will walk under the bridge to the beach.

Palisades Art Association Hosts Paint with Tissue

The Palisades Art Association will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27 at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. Artist Liz Hooker will demonstrate the paint with tissue paper process. She will have supplies for those who would like to try it or an artist may bring a small piece of work (acrylic) that he/she are not pleased with and use tissue on it to recreate a new piece of art. There is a \$5 guest fee.

Diamond

(Continued from Page 24)

In July, the Southern California Independent Booksellers Awards Committee nominated *Shelter Us* for best fiction honors. The awards will be presented on October 24. Diamond is the only new author in the category, which includes two established writers, Deborah Harkness and Diana Wagman.

Diamond has been happily married for 17 years to Christopher Heisen, whose own creative talents have been displayed in Keshillat Israel productions such as *Guys and Dolls* and *Grease*. He owns a software company called Educational Assessments Corp.

The couple has two sons, Aaron and Emmett, age 11. New to the family is 18-year-old foster daughter Maria, a student from Guatemala, who moved in last January. She walks with Aaron to Palisades High School, where Diamond graduated in 1987, while Emmett is a fifth grader at Palisades Elementary.

Adding Maria to the family was a strange way of life imitating art after art imitated life. When the Diamond/Heisen household heard about Maria's plight, they were struck about the similarities to the completed *Shelter Us*, most notably that one of the major characters in the novel came from Guatemala. And Laura, like Sarah, found herself reaching out to help a young woman, even if she hadn't asked for help.

Over the summer, Diamond embarked on a book-signing tour back east with her family, visiting 23 bookstores in 21 days. At some she gave readings, while at others she simply sat at a table, talking to passersby about her novel, which helped to sell the book. Her most successful outing to date was at Diesel Bookstore in the Brentwood Country Mart, attended by 100 people.

Diamond lives walking distance to the home she grew up in, where Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton visited with his wife, Hillary, before his first run for president. Her parents, Fran and Roger, still live there, while her older sister Marni lives a few blocks away.

She began writing in a journal when she was nine, after her mom bought her a Hello Kitty diary at the long-departed Anita Jean's on Antioch Street when the two were shopping. Diamond still has it, and recites a sample: "School was so boring today."

She has continued to journal off and on throughout adulthood, finding that "journal writing helped me notice things, and be more awake to life." And writing, she says, is "my way of making sense of the world, and sense of myself."

Diamond is already working on her second novel, which will again focus on social-justice themes. She also plans to return to law in the near future, working with an old PaliHi classmate whose firm focuses on Americans with Disabilities Act cases.

For more information, go to lauranicolediamond.com.



Palisadian Laura Diamond will read from her novel, *Shelter Us*, at the Palisades Branch Library on October 29. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

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For more than two decades, owners Elio De Santo and Chef Gaetano Foiani have made Il Moro a superb place for either lunch or dinner.

While we dined inside to cool off during the latest incredible heat wave, there were still diners enjoying the delightful outdoor dining area. Surrounded by tall office buildings, the greenery around the outdoor area gives a relaxing vibe that totally obscures the office buildings.

And, amazingly, we found that Il Moro has been totally redone since my last visit and now has a very modern vibe, starting at the Gastrobar that you enter on your way into the dining room and outdoor patio. Better yet, Chef Gaetano's food is just as compelling as I remembered.

After placing your order, a basket of Italian bread along with special crisps is served with wonderful aged balsamic vinegar and fine olive oil for dipping.

The menu starts with a number of dishes entitled "Tasty and Fun to Share," such as fried calamari with a pineapple sauce (\$17), a smoked bacon 'fritter,' a grilled apple and wood-smoked pancetta (\$10). The "rustic" pizza and "thin" pizza are both priced from \$16 to \$19.

My friend and I shared the "Garga" salad with its



array of watercress, some avocado and hearts of palm, with roasted pine nuts, shaved parmesan cheese and tomato—all mixed in a vibrant Balsamic vinegar and lemon dressing. This salad made a great beginning.

Of course, like any fine Italian restaurant, there are a number of pastas and risotto dishes, but the Sapori de Mare sounded too enticing to miss. With warm steamed seafood (sea scallops, calamari, octopus, clams and mussels) joined by artichokes and diced fresh tomatoes with a lemon and olive oil dressing, this dish was totally enticing to my friend and I.

She, however, was lured by the pumpkin special served in a pumpkin (very fitting for this time of year). The pumpkin pieces with pumpkin puree, zesty Italian mustard and the sweet touch of amaretto cookies is served with either a thick, full-bodied Bolognese meat sauce, or with a more simple butter-and-sage sauce. While the meat sauce was excellent, the next time I will opt for the lighter sage and butter. Both entrees were delicious and each was \$25.

There are always a number of specials added to the regular menu of main-course dishes. There are chicken entrees, braised beef served with spinach and steamed

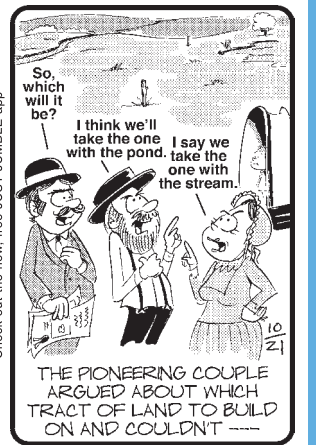
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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



(Answers on Page 13)

potato, and even herb-crusted, pan-roasted swordfish with a citrus salad, and more.

Between courses enjoy surveying the large scale artworks by Curtis Brooks.

Then, of course, check out the dessert menu which is indeed enticing. We decided on sharing the cheesecake with a wild strawberry and balsamic sauce.

With a cup of decaf, this was a dinner I will not forget.

Lunch hours are 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and dinner is 5 to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The bar is open from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and the Happy Hour is 4 to 5 p.m. Il Moro is closed on Sundays.

— GRACE HINEY

Spooktacular Set for October 25

The Marquez Elementary Halloween Festival SPOOKTACULAR will be held from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 25 on the lower yard, 16821 Marquez Ave. There will be a traditional cake walk, cake baking competition, ring toss, duck pond, lollipop pull and, of course, the ever popular win-a-fish opportunity.

Fancy Feet dancers will perform at 1 p.m. A haunted house will include Marquez fifth grade zombies. Admission is free. All community members are invited and anyone wearing a costume will receive a free bag of popcorn.

Sponsorship activities are available. Parents

are also sought to help build and set up the event. Call Loren Schmale at (310) 600-1714 or e-mail Ericka Gair theGairs@mac.com.

Free Senior Flu Clinic to Be Held

There will be free flu vaccines for seniors (over 50), caregivers and families from 9 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 12, at the Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave. This service is first-come, first-served and limited pediatric doses will be available.



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