



## DWP to Install Power Poles

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Pacific Palisades residents want cell phones, computers, televisions, air conditioners and larger houses. Unfortunately, the town's existing electrical infrastructure cannot support the increased energy demand.

As a result, two 65 ft. pole-top distributing (PTD) stations will be installed as a temporary solution until a second substation can be built.

Residents were also warned at the Pacific Palisades Community Council meeting last Thursday night that additional poles may be installed, perhaps as soon as later this year.

Bill Herriott and Jack Waizenegger of the Department of Water and Power addressed the frequent power outages in some areas of the Palisades, why they are occurring and the needed fix.

"There are three existing troubled circuits," Waizenegger said. "They are outage prone and overloaded."

The areas affected by these circuits are the Marquez Knolls area, Castellammare and below Sunset by Palisades High School. The circuits are 29-03, 29-06 and 29-05, and DWP showed the statistical outages for those areas.

"The average outage in Los Angeles is once every [16 months] and lasts about three minutes," Waizenegger said. "In the Palisades, these areas have outages three or four times



DWP pole-top stations will be installed at Marquez Ave. and El Medio Ave.

a year that last about three to twelve hours."

He explained that these three circuits have been overloaded since 2009. Last year, they were overloaded at 118 percent, 123 percent and 114 percent. The heat generated from being overloaded can cause shut-downs and reliability issues.

According to the law, the DWP has the right to install utility poles in the public right of way and that is where the poles will be placed: one on Marquez Avenue below Marquez Elementary School and the second on El Medio south of Sunset.

The DWP representatives were asked why the one pole couldn't be placed at the back of the property that they already own on Marquez Avenue (adjacent to the school

playground)—for aesthetics. In order to do that the DWP would have to obtain a conditional use permit and there is a time factor.

The four-week construction will begin in March in order to have these PTDs in operation before the summer when high-energy demands surge.

The poles also can't be placed underground because "it is not practical," Herriott said. "They would be double in size, more expensive and more disruptive [closure of streets]." The average cost of a PTD is \$200,000, compared to about \$30 million for a new substation.

The pole on Marquez will take circuits 29-03 and 29-06 and create three circuits, and the pole on El Medio will split 29-05

into two circuits. The pole site is determined by where the circuits are split.

"This is a good band-aid," said Waizenegger, but he noted two issues with a pole-top station as opposed to a substation: the PTD is fused and has no backup transformer, plus it has overhead exposure and minimal remote monitoring.

"Is there any way around this?" a resident asked.

"No," Herriott said. "When it gets hot, everyone turns on their air conditioners. If we delay, the outages will increase and take longer to restore."

Although Waizenegger acknowledged that alternate energy sources and low-energy appliances can help, and this area's power station (built in 1935 at the corner of Sunset and Via de la Paz and upgraded numerous times) is not enough. The area needs a second substation.

In 2012, the DWP announced plans to build a new substation on its Marquez Avenue property, but uproar from the community led to a task force being formed. This group rejected the Marquez location and recommended several alternate sites. The DWP investigated these sites but has yet to make any decision.

A petition is circling town, already signed by residents attending Optimist Club, Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce meetings and the farmers market on Swarthmore, urging DWP to build the substation on its Marquez property.

## 'Mayor' Nealon Hosts the Palisades

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Popular *Saturday Night Live* star, comedian and actor Kevin Nealon takes over the reins from Jake Steinfield to become the 29th Honorary Mayor of Pacific Palisades.

Selected on January 27 by the Chamber of Commerce board, Nealon's first major policy decision is to work on cell-phone

reception in Pacific Palisades.

"I'm going to place a cell-phone tower satellite 30 miles above the Palisades," said Nealon, who reported that he has had two different providers, has had troubles with both—and he still does not get good reception.

In addition, said Nealon, "I'm going to build a tunnel under Sunset to the 405 freeway and allow only Pacific Palisades residents to use it."

He spoke to the *News* on Friday after completing work on a short film, *Super Sex*, with Ed Asner. The film is based on the joke in which an elderly man is told by an attractive woman, "I'm here to give you super sex," and he replies "I'll take the soup."

Nealon has a co-written a comedy, *The Pleaser*, with his wife, actress Susan Yeagley. It will be filmed this summer and will mark Nealon's directing debut.

"I am a people-pleaser, which has put me in awkward positions," he said, noting the movie is based on one of those incidents.

That same character attribute is one of the reasons Chamber Executive Director Arnie Wishnick was able to snag Nealon as mayor. "I couldn't say 'no,'" Nealon admitted.

Born in St. Louis, he was raised in Bridgeport, Connecticut. His father worked for a helicopter company and Nealon, from the time he was six until he was 10, lived in Germany, where he learned to speak the language fluently.

"I learned how to swim in Greece, ski in



New Honorary Mayor Kevin Nealon

Austria and argue in Italy," Nealon said.

He is also a gifted artist, but not formally trained. "I'm a doodler. When I fly in planes, I sketch the person next to me."

Nealon said he learned how to draw on his own. "There were two framed caricatures of my mom and dad on my bedroom wall, and I used to study them. When I was in Germany I saw a sketch of a soldier on a

(Continued on Page 24)

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# Rustic Creek Cleaned for El Niño

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

If one wants to visit a place that feels far removed from the Los Angeles urban setting and is wet, cool and filled with greenery, surrounded by majestic trees, Rustic Creek is merely minutes away.

The *News* recently visited the creek with Carolyn Perry, a Santa Monica Canyon resident since 1966, and Brooktree resident Chris Casady to investigate the streambed's vulnerability to flooding below Sunset.

One of Perry's worries was that a fallen tree or other blockage could cause the stream to back up and flood the area. Floods in 1968 and again in 1978 caused near-disaster for homes along the creek.

In those years, the heavy wood planks and wire fences installed along the banks in the late 1930's prevented a repeat of the catastrophic 1938 flood that destroyed much of lower Santa Monica Canyon approaching Pacific Coast Highway. Flooding also caused major damage throughout Los Angeles, bringing about the recall of Mayor Frank Shaw and an outcry for flood-control measures. This prompted the Army Corps of Engineers to completely encase the Los Angeles River riverbed in concrete.

There were also plans to pave Rustic Creek, which runs from the Santa Monica Mountains past Will Rogers Park through Santa Monica Canyon to the ocean.

Residents fought the plan, preferring to keep the stream natural. As a result, portions of the sides of the creek bed were bolstered with wood planks about eight feet high. Other portions of the banks were stabilized by installing 10-ft. metal poles half-

way in the ground and then attaching two layers of wire to the poles.

A ladder from Casady's backyard to the stream 10 feet below allowed us access. Once in the bed, we met four County workers who were repairing one of the wire fences that had rusted away. The poles the men were replacing were more than 75 years old and corroded.

One of the workers told us, "We cleared this stream in August." But already the area had regrown with four-foot plants that looked like papyrus, but belong to the cyperus family (a non-native). There was also a heavy growth of watercress, nasturtium, castor bean, German and Algerian ivy, thistle and poison hemlock.

Bougainvillea, which had stretched across the channel, had been cut, and an ash tree as well as a sycamore that had been growing in the channel and had a two-inch trunk had been cut down, but four-foot saplings were already growing out of the trunk.

Even though it hadn't rained for days, water still ran down the spillways, also constructed about 1940.

Casady, whose parents built the Brooktree home in 1959, remembers playing in the stream as a child. He said there are natural springs on the west side of Brooktree that run into the stream. Homeowners on that side of the street either need a sump pump to help keep their property dry or do as one homeowner has done by tapping into the springs and using the water for irrigation.

Just below the Brooktree bridge, there's a pipe that continually feeds water into the stream from those springs. "I think Randy Young said the Chumash used the water for



Santa Monica Canyon residents Carolyn Perry and Chris Casady investigated Rustic Creek.

drinking," Casady said.

In the short distance we traveled down the stream, we saw two areas where the wood wall was bulging or undercut and more areas where wire needed to be replaced.

The County workers told the *News* that people whose homes back up on the area should take a look and call about fencing. Phone: Imperial Yard Flood Maintenance (562) 861-0316.

## SM Canyon Bridges Need to be Replaced

While researching the adjoining Rustic Creek (above), the *Palisades News* discovered that an assessment of 25,408 bridges/culverts in California showed that 3,871 are in need of repair or replacement. There are 674 in Los Angeles County and three of those are located in Santa Monica Canyon.

The first that is recommended for replacement by the National Bridge Inventory Report is the structure that passes over the storm drain at Pacific Coast Highway and West Channel Road; the second is on West Channel Road at Mesa Road; and the third is West Channel Road over Rustic Creek at Channel Lane.

All three of the bridges were constructed in 1940 (after the famous 1938 flood) and all were listed on the report as meeting the minimum tolerable limits to be left in place. They all lacked railings, guard rails and transitions and were designated as the following: "Inspected feature does not meet currently acceptable standards or a safety feature is required and none is provided."



City Councilman Mike Bonin's office was required to see if these bridges are among those due for construction after the California Incline project is finished.

Also receiving a "meets minimum tolerable limits" was the Chautauqua "incline" to Pacific Coast Highway.

—SUE PASCOE

## Woman's Club to Host Wine Tasting Fundraiser

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club will host its second annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser on Sunday, February 28, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse, 901 Haverford Ave. The community is invited.

Participating wineries include Tierra Y Vino, Toucan Wines, Talley Vineyard, Silver Wines, Donelan Family Wines and Pizzulli Family Winery, with more vineyards to be announced.

Sam's at the Beach will provide hors d'oeuvres to nibble while enjoying the variety of wines. Music will be provided by Larry Cohen and his All-Stars. Tickets are \$55 per person and are available online at: [www.theppwc.org](http://www.theppwc.org).

Proceeds from this event will support the philanthropic efforts of the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club and also the Clubhouse renovation.



## It's Cookie Time!



Yay, the Girl Scouts are once again selling their world-famous cookies. Who can resist Thin Mints? How about Tagalongs and Trefoils? Try the Savannah Smiles, Do-Si-Dos and Samoas. All sales benefit the Girl Scouts and your 2016 diet. Left to right: Troop 565's Darby Rastegar, Sage Denham, Maren Ghaffari and Claire Sibson sold cookies over the weekend. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

## Palisades Rec Center News

At the Park Advisory Board's (PAB) quarterly meeting on January 20, it was announced that Keith Rice, who for the past six years has been the recreational coordinator at Pacific Palisades, has been promoted and will become the new facility director at Oakwood Recreation Center in Venice, starting on February 7.

- Signups are currently underway for T-ball and five-pitch.

- PAB has set up a new nonprofit, Your Palisades Park Improvement Corporation (YPPIC), in order for individuals to fund projects at the park, such as the proposed bocce court that will be built near the upper lawn picnic area.

- Susan MacInerney, the PAB member who spearheaded the park's highly successful Halloween Spooktacular and the Easter Egg Hunt, has moved to Chicago. She was also in charge of the teen board, and Park Director Erich Haas is hoping that a volunteer will step up to run the events and the teen board.

The Egg Hunt, a four-hour event, will take place on March 20 at the Rec Center, and will include a petting zoo, face painting and other activities.

- Initially the construction of two offices in the lobby of the large gym were started with Quimby funds (money from developers to fund capital improvements at existing recreational and park facilities as a condition of approval of certain types of residen-

tial development projects). Haas said that there may not be enough funds to cover the cost of installing a T1 line and phone line in each new office area as originally planned.

One board member wondered if the Toppel Fund could be used for that purpose. (To honor Kurt Toppel's 80th birthday in 2012 and the years he had been on PAB, wife Haldis and son Curt agreed to match funds up to \$20,000 for maintenance in the Park.) The advisory board told Haas they would look into how much had been raised.

### Senior Transportation Meeting Set at PaliHi

The Palisades Alliance for seniors, and intergenerational group supporting seniors in Pacific Palisades to stay in their own homes, will hold an informational meeting on transportation alternatives for seniors at 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 1 in Gilbert Hall at Palisades High School. All are invited and there is no cost to attend. Free parking will be available adjacent to Gilbert Hall. Attendees are encouraged to offer a ride to non-drivers.

Speakers will include representatives of Access Services, L.A. Taxi Commission, L.A. CityRide, L.A. Metro "On the Move" Club, Los Angeles Fire Department, Luxe Care, Lyft, Santa Monica Big Blue Bus, Uber and WISE Connection.

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

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Pacific Palisades residents would like an off-leash dog park.

Photo: Shelby Pascoe

# Park Advisory Board Advocates Dog Park

In response to the five women in the audience who asked about a dog park at the Park Advisory Board's quarterly meeting on January 20, several PAB members explained that they were all dog lovers, but that the Palisades Recreation Center did not have the necessary requirements, including size, for a legal dog park.

Park Director Erich Haas added that he had to enforce the city's leash law, and that recently an off-leash dog had bitten a child at the park.

"It is a better use of my staff to handle kids than to chase dogs and the owners who allow them off leash," Haas said. "There are some people I have to tell every day and those people are giving dog people a bad name. One dad came in upset because a dog owner had allowed his dog off-leash and it had urinated in the sand in the playground.

"By law, dogs have to be on leash in City parks. I stepped on a field into a huge pile [of dog poop]. Dog owners are supposed to pick it up," Haas said, and then added, "I want a dog park, but it can't be here."

At a December 14 meeting at Barrington Park, Los Angeles County staff asked the L.A. City Department of Recreation and Parks to identify community recreational

needs. Most of the 16 people at that meeting asked for a dog park.

There are fears that the dog park at Barrington Park, which is located on the grounds of the West L.A. VA campus, may be permanently closed. At the December meeting, people were urged to have local park boards pass a resolution asking for help in securing an area for a new dog park.

For that reason, the Pacific Palisades PAB passed the following resolution on January 20:

"PPPAB has determined that off-leash dogs at the Recreation Center have been a continuing issue for patrons and staff, detracting from a safe and enjoyable experience at the Park. Furthermore, a significant number of park patrons and members of the surrounding community want the creation of an off-leash dog park within the community of Pacific Palisades. The PAB notes that a dog park cannot legally be located at the Palisades Recreation Center, and requests that Recreation & Parks (RAP) look into the creation of an off-leash dog park in Pacific Palisades. PPPAB Board member Madeline Hyman is designated to follow-up with RAP on this motion.

—SUE PASCOE

## Caruso to Present Final Design

The Pacific Palisades Design Review Board will hold its final design review for Caruso Affiliated's Palisades Village Project on Wednesday, February 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. in Gilbert Hall at Palisades High School.

The project, which will develop properties along Swarthmore, Monument and Sunset, includes nine new buildings with a total of 116,215 sq.ft. Caruso's application proposes a sign plan and amendments to the Pacific Palisades commercial Village and Neighborhood Specific Plan.

Every person wishing to address the board during the meeting must complete a speaker's card and submit it to the City Planning staff.

After the meeting the DRB will make its recommendation to the Department of City Planning.

A special (non-regular) DRB meeting of up to three projects will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, at the Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce at 15330 Antioch St.

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## Heard About Town

### Hurricane Pali

I read that Pali became the earliest hurricane on record in the central Pacific Ocean, forming on January 11, 2016 and dissipating as a tropical system three days later. In addition to being a rare January hurricane, Pali also took a peculiar track close to the equator. I always knew Pacific Palisades was a stormy place.

### Upside-Down Values

If you saw a cat or a dog living on the sidewalks of Pacific Palisades, you'd try to get it in a home or at least call authorities to come and take care of it, so it would have food and wouldn't get hit by a car. Isn't funny we don't treat humans with the same regard as animals? We allow people to live on the sidewalks because courts decided this is more humane than finding a place inside for them. This is upside-down common sense and just plain criminal.

### Bicycle Scofflaws

I read in your January 20 issue that someone was upset because motorists don't come to complete stops at stop signs, but bicyclists are even worse. I followed a group in Santa Monica Canyon that spread across the entire road, making it impossible to get by. Then when we got to a red stop light, they looked and went right through it. Do you know how much I would have had to pay for a ticket if I had done that? Bicyclists should be required to follow laws, too.

### Another Caruso Naming Suggestion

I am part of the group, and I hope we are a large group, that want no name. I want to be able to "run into town" or "go up to the Village" just as I do now. Caruso's new development should be part of a whole, not separate from the other stores. Then, individual meeting places can be referred to. "Run into town and meet you" in front of Maison Giraud, the Yogurt Shoppe, the Bay Theater, Michelle International, Gelson's, Kay 'N Dave's or the post office; each place can have an identity. This feels right to me and will keep the entire town cohesive.

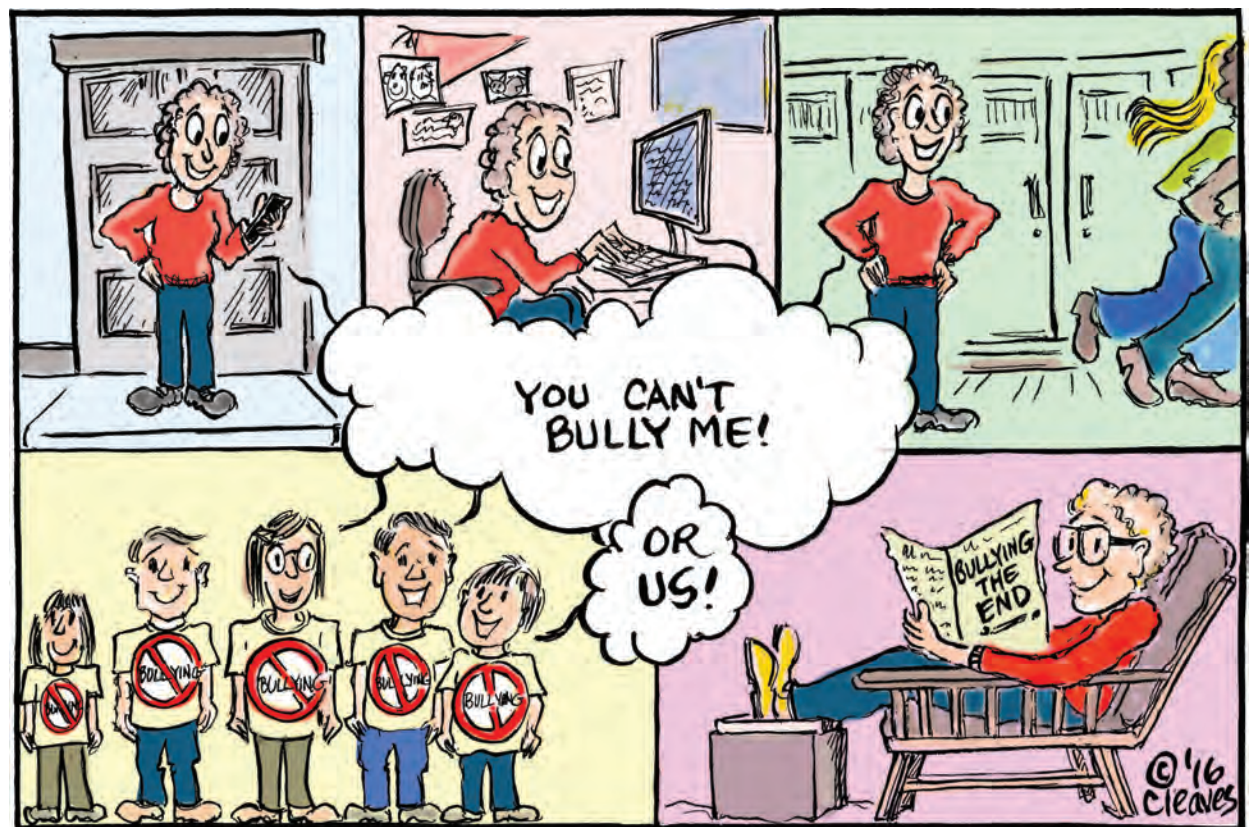
### Graffiti Makes Me Angry

I see graffiti and it just makes my blood boil. Why doesn't the City do anything about it?

(Editor's note: Report it. On January 13, the City Council approved legislation that doubles the reward to \$2,000 offered to people who provide information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals. Call 311 or (800) 611-CITY to submit a tip about taggers.)

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

## ANN CLEAVES



## VIEWPOINT

### Someone's Knocking, What To Do?

By DEBBIE ALEXANDER  
Palisades News Contributor

Homeless encampments exist on the bluffs, a knock-knock burglary crew worked the area, holiday packages got lifted from front porches, and a fine-art heist occurred in our library.

Seems like the ills of greater Los Angeles are seeping into our idyllic hamlet. Ah, but what about that lone solicitor ringing our doorbell at 7:15 p.m. on a frigid and rainy Saturday?

My younger son Jeremy answered as our dogs barked like crazy. He yelled, "Mom come here now."

"Do I have to?" I shouted from the kitchen. "I'm busy making dinner."

"Yes," he added.

I turned the stove off, calmed the dogs down, and encountered a young African American man standing in front of me holding an umbrella and a thin black book.

Ah, yes, our annual visit of the magazine sales people. Usually, they travel in a couple, or trio. He politely launched into his speech. I stopped him, trying not to be rude.

"Can I just give you a donation?" I asked, because we get plenty of magazines that pile up unread. "I am familiar with your program, and I need to finish cooking. How about I donate a magazine for a Boys and Girls Club?"

He suggested magazines for a Veterans home instead and offered a \$300 tab. We haggled. He quickly slashed the price by two-thirds. I made a check out to Mailbox Media. As we finished, he needed a critique his performance. On his sheet, I could see he started miles west of me on Lachman Lane.

"It's been a long day for you," I inquired. He nodded. I gave him a soda and realized that he never said his first name, "Who are you?"

"Tommy," he answered. "Thank you, because I really want to turn around my life after making some big mistakes."

I wished him luck, returned to the kitchen and filled Jeremy in. He immediately did a Google search on Mailbox Media, and the rap sheet was quite long. "Mom, you totally got scammed."

I probably did. Yet, I defended myself with this warped logic—Tommy got a sale, the Veterans may get *National Geographic* and we get dinner, so everybody wins.

That was that until a few hours later, when I noticed an LAPD squad car with two officers pulling up across the street. I happened to be putting my car into the garage, so I asked, "What is up?"

"Did you see someone ringing door bells around here?" one of the officers said.

"Yes, I did," I replied. "It was one of those magazine salespeople. He seemed harmless to me, and I bought a gift subscription. I can get you a copy of my receipt."

They agreed, but were gone by the time I came back. I stood there in shock that the police even responded to a neighbor's call about the solicitor, and the vast difference in our reactions to that solicitor.

I don't blame my neighbors at all. In retrospect, I can see that I acted naively, but I believe in karma—what goes around comes around. Therefore, I can happily live with choosing friendliness over fear and will always continue to do so.

### Thought to Ponder

"The time we shared  
went by so fast,  
Just like a dream,  
we knew it couldn't last."  
— Glenn Frey/Jack Tempchin

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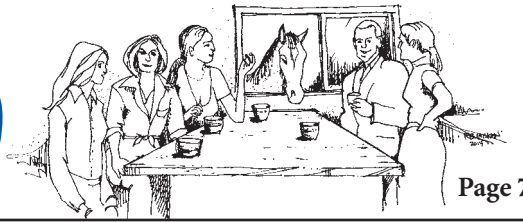
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## EDITORIAL

# Porter Ranch: Developer Needed Oversight

Now at Porter Ranch, after residents have been evacuated from the nearby leaking gas storage tank, there is talk of suing the energy company for its failure to ensure safety measures.

An argument could be made that the City of Los Angeles is equally culpable.

Even though Pacific Palisades is far removed from Porter Ranch in the northern San Fernando Valley, and we don't live near a natural-gas storage facility, the story should still resonate with every taxpayer, particularly in light of the new housing construction projects near Pacific Coast Highway and Sunset.

In 1989, Chatsworth and Northridge residents formed PRIDE (Porter Ranch Development Enough) and waged protests against the overdevelopment of the area. The proposed \$2-billion project was to be built on 1,300 acres and be the site of 3,395 homes for 11,000 people. There would be six million square feet of commercial and retail space, resulting in an extra 150,602 vehicle trips a day.

An environmental impact report (EIR) was completed.

The item missing in that 1988 report? Even though fires had broken out in the natural-gas storage facility in the 1970s, which is located about half a mile from the proposed development, there was no mention of the facility or dangers in the report.

According to news reports there was a vague question about whether the storage facility (a depleted oil well) would pose a risk of an explosion of hazardous substances, including oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation in the event of an accident, but the EIR concluded it was "determined to not be significant."

Interestingly enough, the California Supreme Court recently reaffirmed that under the California Environmental Quality Act, an analysis of the impacts of existing environmental conditions on a project's future residents is not required.

According to the law, unless the homes at Porter Ranch were going to destabilize the gas storage facility or make any future hazards worse, it (the natural gas storage) didn't have to be included.

PRIDE sued the City over its approval the development, but the case was never brought to court.

According to the *L.A. Daily News*, PRIDE members remember concerns about the fault lines under the proposed project and even tried to get a former City Councilman, Hal Bernson (1979-2003), recalled. According to news stories, Bernson received \$50,000 from developer Nathan Shapell, who owned the Porter Ranch Development Co.

Bernson was not the only City official to benefit. Between 1982 and 1989, more than \$245,000 was

donated by the Porter Ranch Development Company to L.A. City Council members and Mayor Tom Bradley.

In 1989, Bradley reached an agreement with Bernson, as long as there was to be affordable housing and new freeway ramps. The following year, the City Council approved the project (voting 14-0) after listening to three hours of comments against the project from residents and members of PRIDE.

The City always has our best interests, correct, or could that be our naiveté speaking?

Even as Porter Ranch residents are most likely to sue Southern California Gas Company for its ineptness in handling the situation, the City government should also come under fire for letting this mega-project go through. Residents deserved to have a greater impact on the Mayor's and the Council's decision.

*L.A. Weekly* managing editor Jill Stewart will start a new job in February, overseeing and managing the Coalition to Preserve L.A., which will push for a slow-growth initiative on the November ballot. The Coalition has drafted a ballot measure to limit the city's ability to change planning and zoning rules for major real estate projects—seeking a crackdown on mega-projects.

Lessons? Money talks and there's plenty of blame to go around after the fact.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dark View of Flood Lights

In the last 12 months, many two-story developer-built houses have popped up all over my area, the Alphabet Streets. It used to be that I could keep my blinds open a bit at night and wake up to natural light. I also could go out on my balcony and watch shooting stars.

Now the night around here is super-bright. Developers, all of them, put massive floodlights all around the new houses, upstairs and down. The floods are way too big for the property and my bedroom has light all night long from several different houses, including one that is on the street behind me and three houses up. The light fixtures are for spreading light, not bell-shaped and pointed down. Anyhow I have been trying to wake people up to this before our area loses all natural night light and stars.

Madeline Hyman

### Driving Sunset Is a Nightmare

Although Councilman Mike Bonin covered most of the issues that are plaguing our commute to the 405 along Sunset ("Addressing 405/Sunset Traffic," January 6, page 7), he focused on the Brentwood area. I'd like to add that the traffic from the Village to the freeway to reach the Valley or going to UCLA, where some of us attend classes and lectures during the week, is more than maddening; it's impossible!

Quite reluctantly I have avoided going to the delightful summer concerts at the Skirball Center on Thursday nights because of this nightmarish traffic. Typically one should think twice about travelling along that route from 2:30 to 7 p.m. weekdays, and it is a pity.

Danielle Avidan

### Big Blue Bus Benches

I thought Laurie Rosenthal's BBB Viewpoint ("Big Blue Bus Bench Blues," January 20), was spot on.

What were they thinking when they designed those inadequate bus-stop seats and shade canopies that are worthless in shading anything? I am incredulous when I drive by and see them.

Marge Gold

(Editor's note: Rosenthal received the following response from the City of Santa Monica: "The repurposed benches are part of a pilot program of reinstalling benches where needed in our city. The Big Blue Bus is willing to go back to the City Council and request more benches be installed if they hear positive feedback. Go to [smgov.net/sm\\_go.aspx?goparms=cid%3D2142](http://smgov.net/sm_go.aspx?goparms=cid%3D2142).")

### Cautionary Tale: Lock the Doors

(Editor's note: Always keep your doors locked. Note the story about an incident in the Castellammare area.)

I had a patio mason, Joe, working on our yard. As he was finishing, he told me how he had just met my new neighbor, a guy who had just moved in next door.

I said that couldn't be, my neighbor had been living there since 1985. Joe said the man had told him that he had just taken title of the home and had moved in only today. Joe offered to take me next door to meet the fellow.

I thought Joe must be talking about the house farther down the road, which has had some overturn these last few years but he led me right to the home next door to mine where a thirty-something disheveled-looking white male greeted me. He introduced himself as a relative of the homeowner, and that he had just been given title to

the house after the previous occupant had suddenly moved out.

The man offered me a look at his phone, showing me his name on a Facebook page. It was the same last name as the homeowner, his way I suppose of verifying his identity as the new rightful owner.

I walked back to my house and called the homeowner and asked him if he had moved out and given title to his cousin. I called the police.

Two cars arrived in exactly 10 minutes, coinciding with the arrival of the homeowner.

Guns drawn, they entered the house, arrested the intruder and led him out in handcuffs. He was eventually taken away by ambulance after intentionally and violently bashing his head repeatedly against the side of the squad car and loudly threatening suicide.

A sidenote to this tale is that not only was I home, so was my wife, as well as Joe. Our neighbors opposite us were home, and had a crew in the yard doing extensive landscape.

Even with all this activity, no one noticed this person riding up on a bicycle, who then calmly walked around the side of the house and let himself in through an unlocked patio door. If he hadn't introduced himself to my mason, my neighbor would have likely been surprised to find him in his living room upon his normal return home from work.

Anthony Punnett

Palisades News welcomes all letters, which may be emailed to [letters@palisadesnews.com](mailto:letters@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.



# Getting the Homeless off the Streets

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Most Palisadians are familiar with Timmy, the homeless man who seems to live on the Sunset sidewalk by the Ralphs parking lot, surrounded by trash—sometimes shouting at people and at other times appearing naked.

Now that the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness has raised money to help fund two social workers to help transients, the question most asked OPCC Executive Director John Maceri is, “Why isn’t Timmy gone?”

“He is the ‘poster child’ for one of the most difficult cases,” said Maceri, who noted that living on the sidewalks is legal, according to the courts, and “a lot of people would like us to pick him up and throw him in a van, but we can’t do that. Timmy’s smart and he knows how the system works.”

Unless he commits a crime or the social workers can prove that he is a danger to himself, nobody can legally remove him from the street.

There is something that locals can do to help get Timmy off the street: Stop giving him food and money.

“He makes a lot of money off the com-

munity,” Maceri said, noting that handouts make the social workers’ job harder. “He is so provided for by people in the community that they are sabotaging OPCC.”

According to Maceri, Timmy has a checking account at Wells Fargo and people bring him food from Gelson’s. “If he didn’t have those resources, he would be more willing to take help from the outreach team, who could then get him off the streets,” Maceri said.

Although people feel they are showing compassion by giving money to transients, they are making it more difficult for the OPCC team. “Please don’t give money to the homeless,” was repeated several times during a 90-minute meeting at Corpus Christi auditorium on January 19. Residents were told that if one wants to make a difference, fund the outreach program instead.

At the meeting, sponsored by the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, two OPCC social workers, Glanda and Maureen, were introduced. They began their outreach work in the Palisades the week of January 4. Maceri and OPCC associate director Dr. Christina Miller also fielded questions.

Miller told the audience that about 95 percent of the people that OPCC serves are considered seriously mentally ill and that most are gravely disabled.

On January 15, the social workers had convinced one woman, who had mental and physical issues, to come in for help. They also brought a male in to see a doctor.

“We’re basically getting them to the door,” the social workers said. “We’re getting them acclimated to coming inside. They have a lot of things going on; we’re building a relationship and it takes time.”

Santa Monica-based OPCC works in a three-way partnership with LAPD and LAFD. If residents see a homeless related crime, such as trespassing or smoke from a hillside fire, they should call 911, not the social workers.

Additionally, for now, LAPD has asked OPCC to stay away from the Via de las Olas bluffs until police can accompany the social workers, telling OPCC that this area was off-limits and not safe.

“Anything that has to do with enforcement, call LAPD,” Maceri said, noting that many homeless when given the choice between being prosecuted for low-level offenses or taking services, choose the latter.

One woman asked, “What if someone who is homeless wants to go to OPCC?”

She was told, “We’ll pick them up and bring them in or give them bus tokens.”

The social workers said that many of the people who sleep on the beach or in the

(Continued on Page 8)

## Homeless Count Held Jan. 28

The second annual homeless count was held on Thursday, January 28. This year, 55 people were at Mercer Hall at 4:45 a.m. for a briefing. Von’s, Ralphs, Starbucks and Noah’s supplied coffee, bagels and fruit for the volunteers.

Pacific Palisades Task Force members Kim Clary and David Morena were site coordinators in the Palisades. The final tally had not been released at press time. Last year the tally was 70 people and 74 shelters.

There may actually be more homeless than counted in Area 4 (the area bounded

by Temescal Canyon, Pacific Coast Highway and Sunset). Along the beach were two women who walk their dogs every morning at dawn and they told counters, “You picked a bad day. It’s empty today.”

The women know most of the homeless by name and said that the rumor among the transients the day before was that the police were going to have a raid on January 28.

The two said the beach and bike path between Temescal Canyon and Bel-Air Bay Club didn’t have nearly as many transients as it normally does.

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# Homeless

(Continued from Page 9)

canyons come here from Santa Monica for the night. They like it here because it is quieter and safer. During the day, they go back to Santa Monica or into L.A.

Most of the female homeless are paired with males. They have an underground network that supplies information and they have their own set of rules and friends.

Miller said, "They have their own social network circle and part of the problem of bringing them in is that transitional housing can be lonely for them."

The group was asked whether it was legal for a person to beg for money with their children present.

"No, and it is not grounds for taking the children away," Miller said.

"There are professional panhandlers,"

Maceri said. "In my view it is predatory and preys on the emotions and good will of those who want to help."

Miller told about a man she ran into in front of a Santa Monica CVS, who said he was soliciting funds for the homeless. She asked for his credentials. He gave her a piece of paper, but when she told him what she did for a living, he walked away.

Audience members were told that panhandlers can make between \$600 and \$1,500 a week, but most of that money goes to drugs or alcohol. Bottom line—if one wants to be helpful, it is not advisable to give money to people on the street.

If you would like to leave a message to assist the two social workers, call (310) 460-2630 (voice mail) or email palisadesoutreach@opcc.net. If you have an actual emergency or see smoke on the bluffs, call 911.

To give money to assist in helping the homeless, visit: ppthf.org.

## LIBRARY NEWS

### Fines Will Be Forgiven

The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) will welcome back its overdue books during its "Missing You" event from February 1 through 14.

During these two weeks only, people can return undamaged, overdue materials to any of the 73 libraries, and LAPL will forgive the overdue fines.

Library accounts that have been frozen owing to overdue fines will be re-activated, allowing people to begin using their library cards again.

"We are thrilled to offer people this unique opportunity to reunite their overdue books with our library shelves with no questions, no judgment and best of all, no fines," said City Librarian John F. Szabo. "We're encouraging everyone—children, students and adults—to return their overdue materials."

Materials can be returned to the circulation desk or book drop at any library location. If materials are lost, patrons may replace them with a librarian's approval, and the fines will be forgiven. Visit: [lapl.org/missingyou](http://lapl.org/missingyou).

### Free Music Classes

Jy Gronner, owner of Palisades Music School, is offering a free four-lesson course on music starting, with an initial lecture on Friday, February 5 at 10 a.m. in the Palisades

Library community room, 861 Alma Real Dr. She uses the Australian-developed program that allows students to play classical and popular tunes from the first lessons. (See story, Page 11.)

### Free Movie

The free Saturday movie matinee is a historical drama set during the Cold War, starring Palisadian Tom Hanks and directed by Palisadian Steven Spielberg. It will play at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 13, in the Palisades Library community room.

The film received six Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Actor in a Supporting Role, Original Score, Production Design, Sound Mixing and Original Screenplay and Original Score (written by Palisadian Thomas Newman).

### Mysterious Book Club

The Mysterious Book Club will meet at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 16, at the Palisades Library community room. Everyone is welcome.

The discussion will center on *Cover Her Face*. This is P.D. James' debut 1962 crime novel and details the investigations by her poetry-writing detective, Adam Dalgliesh, into the death of a young, ambitious maid, surrounded by a family which has reasons to want her gone—or dead.

## Palisades Symphony to Perform Sunday

The Palisades Symphony will perform at 7:30 on Sunday, February 7, at the Palisades Lutheran Church, 15905 Sunset Blvd. Admission is free.

"Doppelconcerto" for viola and bass by Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf will be conducted by assistant conductor Cavit Celayir-Montezis. Soloists featured include Joel Lish on viola and Denisa Hanna on bass.

The concerto will be followed by "Overture to La Forza del Destino" by Verdi and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 5, "The Reformation." Palisades Symphony Director Joel Lish will conduct.

This is the fourth of seven concerts in the 50th anniversary season of the symphony. For more information about joining the orchestra or becoming a donor, call (310) 454-8040.

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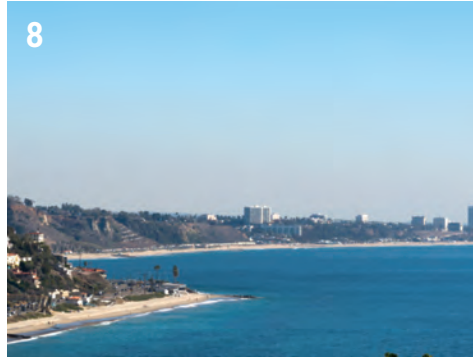
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## Gronner Makes Piano Lessons Fun

By LAURA ABRUSCATO  
Palisades News Contributor

In the animated movie, *Inside-Out*, workers who are inside an 11-year-old girl's brain sort through long-term memories to decide what memories to hold on to or throw away.

"Four years of piano lessons?" one says. "Let's throw everything out except 'Chopsticks' and 'Heart and Soul.'"

Indeed, childhood piano lessons tend not to lead to lifelong playing, says Jy Gronner, owner of Palisades Music School. She aims to change that with the Australian-based Simply Music approach to piano lessons for groups of kids and adults, which champions the idea that everyone is musical.

Simply Music aims to use all parts of the brain. Rather than learning to read music initially, beginning students use diagrams and other tools that isolate the senses to help them learn. The goals are for students to express themselves musically, learn a large repertoire, progress on their own and have a positive feeling about themselves.

For example, students use a keypad (a board with a visual representation of the piano keys) to practice on when they initially learn, then move to the piano.

"You see the pattern visually first before the ear is involved," Gronner says. "Our brains are pattern-seeking, so the biggest way to retain it is to set it in the brain as a pattern."

Songs are learned with both hands from the first lesson in a variety of genres, such



Palisades Music School owner Jy Gronner uses the Australian-based Simply Music method.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

as classical, blues, ballads and accompaniments. Gronner aims to have students playing 35 to 50 songs in the first year. Reading music is usually introduced in the second year of lessons.

Simply Music was founded by Australian music teacher Neil Moore in 1999. He came up with it initially as a way to visualize music with shapes while teaching piano to a blind child.

Gronner, who studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, taught traditional private piano lessons for 20 years before becoming a Simply Music teacher 12

years ago, after learning of the success her sister's piano students were having with it.

Gronner opened her Palisades studio three years ago; she previously had a studio in Marin County. One year ago she moved to a larger location within the Alma Real building and the school now has 120 students, adults and children, with a special program for four- to six-year-olds.

She is active in the community, performing as a clown in the Palisades Fourth of July parade and playing piano with her students at the Palisades farmers' market.

"The kids really respond to her, she's

fun," says parent Anne-Marie O'Neill whose sons Milo and Finn Dunne, have been students of Gronner's for three years.

"Learning with two hands from the first lesson is good for this instant gratification generation," said O'Neill. "The school uses an app where they can log their practice and see when other kids have practiced."

At a recent lesson, five women were playing the "Bishop Street Blues" they had learned the week before. With two benches pushed together, they learned new songs and played together and individually.

"There, your corpus callosum just grew," Gronner said, referring to the network of fibers between the two hemispheres of the brain after a student mastered a piece with both hands. "It's fifteen percent bigger in musicians."

"This is a dream I've had for decades," said student Karen Delshad, who began playing in October. "Right from the beginning I got joy from it. I thought I needed to have a private lesson but it's been a great support system, sharing the experience of learning."

Adult students get together every few months at someone's home for piano parties where they perform for each other and cheer one another on. Children have a recital/party called a "shingig" in the spring.

In a free introductory seminar, Gronner gives examples, teaches a short song and explains the brain science behind the method. Visit: [palisadesmusicschool.com](http://palisadesmusicschool.com) or phone (310) 454-1045.

## More History of Palisades Street Names

By MICHAEL EDLEN  
Special to the Palisades News

(In 1990, Randy and Betty Lou Young published a limited edition book titled *Street Names of Pacific Palisades & Other Tales*. This short summary of these names is based on that book.)

The area between Temescal and Potrero Canyons, south of Beverly Boulevard (the name was later changed to Sunset), was developed by 1923, and was Founders Tract II in Pacific Palisades. Like the pattern used in Tract I, today known as "the Alphabet Streets," Tract II streets were also given names in alphabetical order. With only a few exceptions, the names of American Christian colleges were used.

**Via de la Paz**, which in Spanish means "way of peace," was laid out as the main north-south thoroughfare serving the community. This wide street was intended to be

the major road of the Palisades, with deeper setbacks for all homes and lavishly landscaped parkways. Originally it extended all the way from Peace Hill on the north (above Bestor) down to a major recreational development site on the beach off Pacific Coast Highway.

**Antioch**: A Christian college in Ohio, founded in 1853, named for an ancient city in Turkey.

**Beirut**: Either named after a Christian school in Palestine or after the American University in Beirut, established by Presbyterians in 1866.

**Bowdoin**: A private nonsectarian college in Maine, named for James Bowdoin, a prominent political leader during the Revolutionary War.

**Carthage**: A Lutheran college in Missouri, named for the ancient city in North Africa which the Romans destroyed.

**De Pauw**: A Methodist women's college in Indiana, founded in 1837 and renamed

in 1883 to honor Washington De Pauw, a manufacturer and benefactor who saved the school from bankruptcy. The family name came from Paw, a town in France.

**Earlham**: A Christian college in Indiana, founded in 1847 by the Society of Friends (Quakers). It was reorganized as Earlham College in 1859.

**Friends**: Friends University in Kansas, founded in 1898.

**Hampden**: Hampden College was founded in Virginia in 1776 by the Presbyterian Church.

**Haverford**: A college in Haverford, Pennsylvania, founded by the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1833.

**Lombard**: A college in Illinois.

**Mount Holyoke**: One of the oldest liberal arts colleges for women, founded in Massachusetts in 1837.

**Patterson**: The newest street in the area, named for Charles and Martha Patterson, who had purchased 30 acres of land in low-

er Potrero Canyon in 1949. The 10 homes there now are behind the only gated street entry near the Village.

**Potrero**: Means "pasture" or "cowboy" in Spanish. Its name came from Zanjan dal Potrero, the full land-grant name of Potrero Canyon.

**Radcliffe**: Women's college founded in 1879 in Cambridge, Massachusetts, named after Ann Radcliffe, who had endowed a scholarship to Harvard University in 1643.

**Swarthmore**: College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, founded by the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 1865.

**Via de las Olas**: "Way of the Waves" in Spanish.

Michael Edlen has been ranked in the top one percent of all agents in the country with nearly \$2 billion in sales and more than 1,300 transactions. He has tracked Pacific Palisades sales and historic events for 30 years. Call (310) 230-7373 or email [michael@michaeledlen.com](mailto:michael@michaeledlen.com).



# Marguleas Donates to Village Green Sunset Traffic Meeting Set

Anthony Marguleas, owner of Amalfi Estates on Monument, who has donated to the Village Green for the past four years, handed a check to Village Green president Joan Graves, continuing his philanthropy towards the privately owned park.

The triangular park, located between Sunset Boulevard, Antioch Street and Swarthmore, at one time was the site of a gas station. In 1972-73, residents raised funds to purchase the land and turn it into a park, to be enjoyed by all residents.

Since it is not City-owned, the Village Green committee raises funds for the upkeep of the little pocket park.

“Anthony’s generous gift to the Village Green each year has provided the base of financial security necessary for us to go ahead with essential repairs and improvements,” said Graves. “We are grateful to him and to all the donors who help to support us.”

In addition to various maintenance costs, which have risen to about \$9,000 a year, street lights near the fountain were replaced in 2014 for \$4,200. This year the Village Green board hopes to raise \$14,000 to replace the sidewalk on Antioch and to prune the tipus and pear trees.

“It’s such a blessing,” said volunteer Bob Gold about Marguleas’ latest \$5,000 donation to the Village Green. “We still have to raise money, but it takes the pressure off.”

Marguleas is not comfortable being



Members of the Village Green committee celebrate Anthony Marguleas’ donation. Left to right: Marge Gold, Grace Hiney, Marguleas, Bob Gold and Village Green President Joan Graves. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Arnie Wishnick is in the back.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

singled out. “It is not just the act of giving money, but also of good deeds. Ever since my four kids were younger, in the morning I remind them ‘to make a difference in the world’ today and help someone,” said Marguleas, a real estate agent who has lived in

the Palisades since 1992.

He used to give 100 percent of his commission from two home sales a year to local causes. Now he gives 10 percent of his net proceeds from each sale to a charity of his client’s choice.

A major Sunset traffic meeting will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, at Paul Revere Middle School, 1450 Allenford Ave. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the event will start at 9. RSVP: [http://www.11thdistrict.com/sunset\\_traffic\\_community\\_workshop](http://www.11thdistrict.com/sunset_traffic_community_workshop)

Late last year, Councilmember Mike Bonin announced a three-pronged approach to alleviating gridlock on Sunset Boulevard in Brentwood. Bonin’s Sunset Traffic Initiative is addressing the problem, focusing on unprecedented collaboration, expert analysis and community input to come up with proposed solutions, big and small.

The Sunset Traffic Solutions Charrette will give the Brentwood and Pacific Palisades residents an opportunity to evaluate proposed solutions to gridlock on Sunset, and suggest their own. This will be an interactive, solutions-focused workshop.

Participants will begin by hearing about proposed solutions from traffic engineers and transportation experts. Afterwards, small groups will be formed to discuss ideas.

Councilmember Bonin is open to any idea that could help—big and small, general or intersection-specific—and nothing is off the table for discussion.



## Shop Local

Stores and restaurants along Swarthmore Ave. are open for business.

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## BUSINESS NOTES

Ramis Sadrieh, owner of Technology for You! and a former Mr. Palisades with an MBA from Pepperdine, spoke to the Palisades Optimist Club about the January technology show held in Las Vegas.

According to Sadrieh, the top four trends were: 1.) virtual reality; 2.) drones; 3.) wearable tech Fitbits and 4.) 3-D printing.

Sadrieh said that virtual reality glasses were available everywhere, but "I don't know what other practical applications there are, besides the gaming world."

He said that drones were also everywhere, but that if a customer bought one over five pounds, it would need to be registered.

The 3-D printing, he said was impressive. "A plastic statue could be printed in about 10 minutes. We're almost there to being able to print a heart, liver or kidney."

For "Call of Duty" aficionados, one of the top players of the video military game, who operates under the name Fatality, played against a Navy SEAL and a Marine at the convention. Fatality won easily, but earlier, when the three went to an actual range, the military guys were tops.

For those who want a BB-8 droid from the recent *Star Wars* movie, a miniature version that can be controlled with an iPhone is now available.

Perhaps one of the most interesting technologies, particularly for people who have

an elderly relative living alone, is the Beam (made by Suitable Technologies), which has an iPad on top of a moving wheel. It allows a person who is a distance away to monitor what is going on at a certain location. Initially, it was developed to monitor an Asian factory through a wireless network; the cost is about \$17,000 for corporations.

But, for about \$2,000, a small model can be used to monitor a home or apartment. Sadrieh said that one of his customers had him install one to oversee his 96-year-old mom who lived alone.

### Yogurt Shoppe II

Yogurt Shoppe owner Kevin Sabin will open a second shop in Brentwood Village at 11726 Barrington Ct. in February. His store on Swarthmore had given back more than \$37,700 to local organizations via its daily Happy Hour program.

### Meditation Series

Palisadian Jahna Perricone will lead a beginning meditation series from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on Mondays, February 8, 15 and 22 at Goorus Yoga, 15327 Sunset Blvd. The cost is \$45 for the three sessions. Call: (310) 765-4871 or visit: goor.us.

### Madison Closes

Madison, an upscale women's clothing store at 1013 Swarthmore (in the building owned by the Bowinkel Trust next to the alley), closed last week. Owners Mark and Emily Goldstein had opened the Palisades store in the fall of 2008. A sign in the window directed shoppers to their other locations. Visit: madisonlosangeles.com.

## \$22 Million Home Sold In Pacific Palisades

By FRAN FLANAGAN  
Special to the Palisades News

The highest price paid in Pacific Palisades in 2015 for a single-family home was \$22 million, the highest sale in Pacific Palisades since 2010. Amalfi Drive in the Riviera had the highest number of sales over \$10 million sales with four, three of them south of Sunset, which is a first.

Three properties in the top ten were located on Corona del Mar in the Huntington. Surprisingly, only four of the top ten were brand new construction.

Nine of the ten properties have amazing views. Two of the estates were built before 1930 and were once part of the historic McCormick estate. One of the sales on Corona del Mar (14904) is vacant land.

One of the top-ten buyers came from China and nine were Americans. One buyer relocated from Beverly Hills, one from Santa Monica, one from Bel-Air, one from Los Angeles, two from New York, and three from other homes in Pacific Palisades.

Finance is the business of three of the buyers, one is the CEO of a public company, one is a techie, one a famous athlete, one from international trade, two from the world of entertainment and one is retired.

The property addresses and sale prices (according to public records) are:

15070 Corona del Mar	.....	\$22 million
15060 Corona del Mar	.....	\$17.5 million
580 Chautauqua Blvd.	.....	\$14.75 million
781 Amalfi Drive	.....	\$13,042,500
578 Amalfi Drive	.....	\$12.85 million
1630 Amalfi Drive	.....	\$12.7 million
957 Corsica Drive	.....	\$11.2 million
14904 Corona del Mar	.....	\$10,995,000
581 Amalfi Drive	.....	\$10,459,460
888 Napoli Drive	.....	\$10.4 million

Throughout the Westside, records were broken in 2015, with 133 closings above \$10 million compared to 125 in 2014. The highest sale for 2015 in Los Angeles was in Malibu for \$60 million. Santa Monica's highest sale was \$23 million for a property built in 1932 at 609 E. Channel Rd. on 3.3 acres, but with no view.

Fran Flanagan is Coldwell Banker Previews International Estates Director. Call (310) 801-9805 or email Fran@franflanagan.com.

### JUMBLE SOLUTION

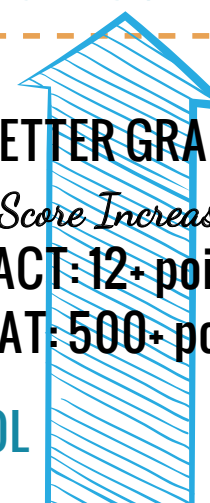
Jumble: DRILL PLUCK SUMMER MUTATE  
Answer: The tug-of-war was going well until he  
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# Glenn Frey, 67; Member of the Eagles

Glenn Frey, 67, a founding member of the great rock band Eagles, passed away on January 18. The band's official website noted, "Glenn fought a courageous battle for the past several weeks but, sadly, succumbed to complications from rheumatoid arthritis, acute ulcerative colitis and pneumonia."

Frey's health had become a big enough issue that the band had to postpone its inclusion in the 2015 Kennedy Center Honors. When notified of his death, co-founding Eagles member Don Henley said, "We are in a state of shock, disbelief and sorrow."

In 1971, Frey's former roommate J.D. Souther (who was Linda Ronstadt's boyfriend at the time) convinced Ronstadt to hire Frey, drummer Don Henley, guitarist Bernie Leadon and bass player Randy Meisner as her back-up band.

Immediately following Ronstadt's tour, the Eagles were born. Their first album in 1972 featured hits such as "Take It Easy" and "Peaceful Easy Feeling."

Within a year their second album, *Desperado*, was released, with Frey co-writing "Tequila Sunrise" and the album's title song.

In a *Rolling Stone* interview, Frey said, "Sometimes I wonder if the other guys in the band know how much I like them. How much of a foundation they are. We never even talk about it. We each have our own spaces."

The Eagles went on to phenomenal

success with songs such as "One of These Nights," "Take It To the Limit," "Lyn' Eyes" and "Hotel California."

As a member of the Eagles, Glenn won six Grammy awards, and five American Music awards. The Eagles were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998.

After Frey's death, Don Henley said, "He was like a brother to me. We were family."

And it was as family that we knew Glenn Frey in Pacific Palisades. When *The Eagles' Greatest Hits* album passed 30 million copies sold, Frey told *Rolling Stone*, "You have to adjust when things like this happen. You just have to keep perspective. As long as I keep taking out the garbage and cleaning up after the dogs and taking the kids to school, I'll have perspective."

Glenn and his wife Cindy had three children. The family attended St. Matthew's Church and the children attended St. Matthew's Parish School. Glenn was very generous with his time and talent, and often played his guitar in the classroom, attended music classes with the kids and even helped students form a rock and roll band.

Glenn would often emcee the school's annual auction dinner where he would donate two tickets to an Eagles concert. When the bidding leveled off, Glenn would tease the audience by saying, "Did I forget to mention the concert is in New Orleans and I'm taking you to dinner?"

The bidding would take off again and when the enthusiasm settled down to the point where he almost had to say "sold," instead he added, "All right, I guess you can come on our jet with the band." Mayhem bidding ensued as Glenn played the audience as he so easily played his guitar, and all for the benefit of the church and school.

"Words can neither describe our sorrow, nor our love and respect for all he has given to us, his family, the music community and millions of fans worldwide," the band said on its website. "Rest in peace, husband, father, son and friend, Glenn Frey."

—BART BARTHOLOMEW



Glenn Frey

Photo courtesy of Eagles.com

## Kenneth Roland Waco, 49; A Man of Many Talents

Kenneth Roland Waco, 49, son of Virginia "Ginny" Waco and the late Roland Peter Waco, passed away in Los Angeles, on January 14. He and his twin brother, Richard, were born at Saint John's Hospital in Santa Monica on June 2, 1966.

Ken lived most of his life in Pacific Palisades. He attended Corpus Christi School, Saint Monica's High School, ultimately graduating from Palisades High School. He then graduated from Sound Master Recording Engineer schools.

Ken worked as a sound engineer. In addition, his work as a personal fitness trainer made for an easy transition to professional actor and stuntman.

He was at home in the California mountains, enjoying hiking and the beauty nature has to offer. He especially had a bond with and love for wolves. His wonderful art reflected that love, in several mediums, as well as his appreciation for a wide array of animals and reptiles.

An accomplished musician, Ken excelled on the piano, keyboard and guitar. He often wrote his own music as well as entire compositions.

Besides his mother, Ken is survived by his twin Richard, sister Michelle (Mark O'Donnell), brother Robert (Michelle Auxier Waco),



Ken Waco

niece Arielle, nephew Brendan, and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He was also beloved by a host of longtime friends.

Ken will be remembered for his loving nature, kind and generous heart, and willingness to help others, especially homeless people.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in Ken's memory to the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness, via OPCC (Ocean Park Community Center), Memo-PPTFH, P.O. Box 331, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272, or online at opcc.net, Giving, Donation, In Memoriam, Designation-Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 13 at Corpus Christi Church.

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# Cats Star in Children's Book *Noodle & Nugget*

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Children's books are a tricky thing to get right. One needs interesting characters, a nice story and creative illustrations. Highlands resident Stefani Sherwin has captured that essence with her first book, *Noodle & Nugget (A Tale of Two Kitties)*.

Noodle lives on a high hill above the little town of Periwinkle with his female owner. The house they live in always has a dark cloud above it.

When Noodle plays outside he discovers a cat he's never seen before, Nugget, and the two become fast friends. The book, geared towards children ages four through eight, is also appealing to adults, because through the felines, adult characters also find love.

"When I used to read bedtime stories to my stepdaughter Robin, if the story was boring to me, it was also boring to her," said Sherwin, who grew up in West L.A. and attended Hamilton High before graduating from Rexford (a private school).

Sherwin then traveled with her boyfriend to New York (where they lived in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood), to Hawaii (where they lived in a tent) and then North Carolina. It was the era of hippies and her lifestyle reflected that.

Sherwin attended several colleges, in-



Stefani Sherwin, who volunteers with the cats at the farmers market on Swarthmore, has published her first children's book, *Noodle & Nugget*. Photo: Bart Bartholomew

cluding New York University and the University of Hawaii, before finally getting her degree from Cal State Northridge.

"I didn't know what I wanted from life," Sherwin said. "But Hell's Kitchen (a fourth-floor walk-up apartment with a shared bathroom down the hall) taught me what I didn't want. I needed financial security."

When her boyfriend wanted her to move to India with him, Sherwin returned to California instead. She completed her degree in sociology with a minor in psychology and got her first job with L.A. County in the Department of Public Social Service as an intake worker.

She had to make sure that women who said they had no support from a boyfriend or male, actually didn't. She was also responsible for making sure that applications were filled out so that people could qualify for food stamps and other assistance.

After seven years, "I burned out," Sherwin said. "A man came in at 3:30 on a Friday afternoon. He said he had been living in his car with two kids and wanted food stamps."

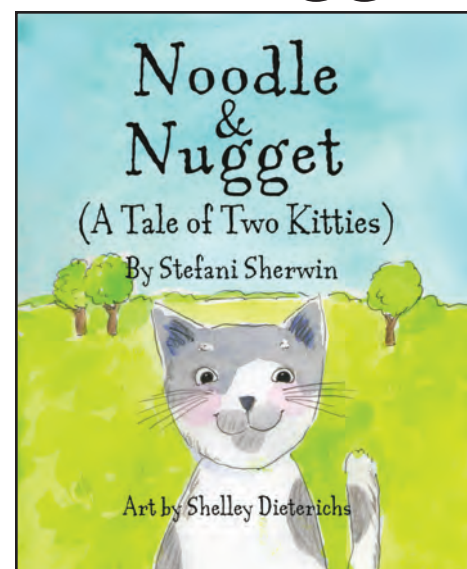
Earlier in her career, Sherwin used to take people home with her or she'd give them money, but this time she asked, "You didn't know you were going to be hungry at 10 a.m.?"

She resigned and found a job as a court judicial assistant, working mostly on criminal cases such as the case of the Menendez brothers who were convicted of killing their parents.

After 23 years, Sherwin decided to go back to school to the Hypnosis Motivation Institute, a nationally accredited hypnosis training college. As a young dancer, her body was often in pain, but she couldn't take drugs for it, so she had controlled her condition through hypnotherapy.

Today, she helps those with weight issues, phobias and chronic pain. "I love it," said Sherwin, who also has an EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) practice. "We have to listen to our bodies, so we can heal ourselves. There is always an emotional component to all of it."

Sherwin, who moved to Pacific Palisades



in 1997, has always been shy about her writing, which includes short stories and movie treatments. But "I just wanted to finish this book," she said. "I didn't care if anyone liked it."

Now that she has found an illustrator and a publisher, done book promotion, and placed the book on Amazon, she admits: "Writing was the easy part."

Sherwin is working on a sequel, based on 10-year-old nephew Seth's observation about a bullying cat in his neighborhood.

"It will have a new character, a 'bad-ass' cat named Herman, and deal with bullying," said Sherwin, who volunteers on Sunday mornings with the cats at the farmers market on Swarthmore.

The book is available on Amazon, or through Sherwin directly, who promises that Noodle signs all books with his paw print and that she will hand deliver it to Palisades customers. Email: stefanisherwin@gmail.com.

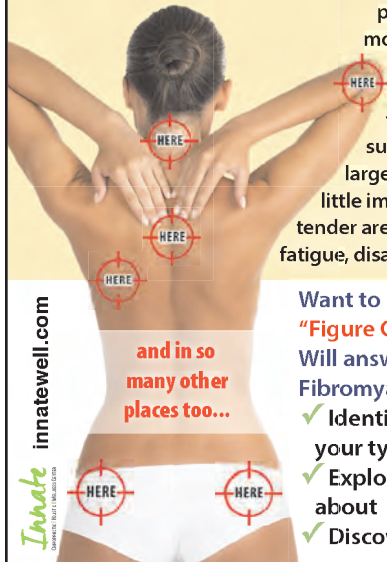
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## New Caretakers Group Forming

Pacific Palisades Atria Park is hosting a new caregiver support group that will meet the first Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. If a resident knows of someone who is caring for a senior at home and could use some support, he or she can attend the meeting tomorrow, February 4, at 15441 Sunset Blvd.

Judith Delaney, who has more than 20 years of experience specializing in aging issues for individuals, couples and families, will lead the group. Delaney was a clinical director for the Alzheimer's Association and associate director at OPICA (Optimistic People in a Caring Environment) Adult Day Care in West L.A.

Tomorrow's discussion will center on "Understanding the Challenges When Caring for a Senior."

The March 3 meeting is "Dealing with Feelings of Guilt and Anger," and on April 7 the discussion will center on "Identifying Signs of Normal and Abnormal Aging."

Atria Marketing Director Debbie Lee

said, "Let caregivers know they are not alone and help is right around the corner." The event is free to the community and will meet in the private dining room. Refreshments will be served. Call (310) 573-9545 or visit: atria-pacificpalisades.com

## Free Senior Exercise Class at Woman's Club

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, in cooperation with Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles, is hosting an exercise class from 10 to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays through February 24.

This free class provides an opportunity for residents 50 years or older, to participate in an active program proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness. The routines include gentle range-of-motion exercises.

Reservations are requested, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact: Danny Vasquez at (818) 984-1380, ext. 108.



## Line Dancing Swings at the Park

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Forget *Dancing with the Stars*—some of the sweetest dance steps are being performed in Pacific Palisades. If you feel like trying to see what television dance contestants go through or simply want to see how easy it is to learn new steps, come to line dancing at the Palisades Recreation Center on Tuesday or Thursday from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Line dancing often conjures up the image of a country-western dance bar, where the two-step or western promenade dance is performed.

Instead, it is a choreographed dance in which groups of people dance in one or more rows without regard for the gender of individuals. Joy Park, who has been teaching the class for seven years, makes it look incredibly easy to waltz, mambo, tango, samba and cha cha cha.

“After I retired, I needed exercise,” said Park, who had worked at Wells Fargo Bank for 25 years in different departments.

As a youth she had taken ballet and Korean traditional dance, but when she took her first line dancing class at Culver City Senior Center 10 years ago, she was hooked.

Park explained that line dancing is great as one ages because it continues to help with coordination, and is also a brain exercise, because students start to memorize the order of the steps.

Perhaps the best thing about line dancing, “You don’t need a partner,” said Park, who is often joined by her husband and fellow members of the Young Nak Presbyterian Church (near Dodger Stadium).

“I love to dance,” said Brentwood resident Kitty Pease. “You don’t have to be a dancer



Line dancing is taught at the large gym at the Palisades Recreation Center every Tuesday and Thursday. No experience is necessary and the class is for all ages.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

to come to this class, we teach you the steps.”

“This is good for balance and is social—you get to meet a lot of people from different backgrounds,” said Pease, who has been line dancing almost nine years. “It’s good exercise, in the hour and half, you can do more than 5,000 steps. It’s also a good stress release.”

She assured a newcomer that “nobody cares if you don’t get the steps. You do it at your own speed and own ability.”

That rainy day at the large gym, Park started by showing the 15 students steps they would be doing, before putting on the music and having everyone follow along.

Park told the newcomer to stand in the middle, so that when the group pivoted to the left, right or back, the person could still follow someone like 87-year-old Gerrie Kaplan, who teaches line dancing at the Felicia Mahood Center in West L.A. on Monday and Saturday.

Kaplan started line dancing 20 years ago at the Palisades Recreation Center and started teaching when she was 80. “If we had a partner who danced, we wouldn’t be doing line dancing,” she said.

Line dancing is not a new offering at the park.

“Our teacher had a stroke and no one would take the class,” Kaplan said. “I enlisted Joy to take over.” Kaplan taught one day, Joy the other and then eventually Joy

was the sole teacher in the Palisades.

Kaplan is good, if she were to be on the television show, people would root for her, not because of her age, but because of her style and graceful steps.

“We have a lot of fun. This is the nicest group of people,” Kaplan said. “Everyone

is smiling, everyone is pleasant.”

So bring a partner or come alone. “Everyone is welcome, even beginners,” Park said.

Typically, Park has between 15 and 20 students in each class. The cost is \$10 a month and each class is \$3.



Instructor Joy Park Photo: Bart Bartholomew

### Northern Trust Open

The Northern Trust Open will once again take place at the Riviera Country Club in Pacific Palisades, February 15 to 21.

Monday, February 15 features collegiate athletes from 14 schools paired with alumni PGA Tour professionals. The professional and two alumni will compete for a donation to the university, while the collegian plays for an exemption into the 2016 Northern Trust Open. Tickets are \$19 and proceeds go to City of Hope. Course opens 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 16, the course is closed to the public.

Wednesday, February 17, Pro-Am. Course opens 6 a.m.

Thursday, February 18, First Round tee-offs at 6:40 a.m. Course opens 6 a.m.

Friday, February 19, Second Round tee-offs at 6:40 a.m. Course opens 6 a.m.

Saturday, February 20, Third Round tee-off at 8 a.m. Course opens 6 a.m.

Sunday, February 21, Fourth Round tee-off at 8 a.m. Course opens 6 a.m.

Those purchasing tickets will receive complimentary shuttle service to and from The Riviera Country Club and the downtown Santa Monica parking lots.

It may be faster for people living in Pacific Palisades to take the Metro Bus that travels on Sunset.

Advance ticket purchasers will have the opportunity to choose one amenity at no additional cost: 1.) food and beverage credit valid at any concession stand (\$10 value. Does not include food trucks.) or 2.) fan vision voucher.

Call (844) 868-7465 or visit: [northerntrustopen.com](http://northerntrustopen.com).



# Eagle Scout Pairs with Clippers

Palisades Boy Scout Troop 223 member Sam Beutner was unexpectedly honored for his Eagle Scout project by the L.A. Clippers Foundation on January 19.

Beutner, with the help of eight younger members of the troop, made a bench for kids to sit on while waiting for vision screen exams by Vision to Learn (VTL).

"These Boy Scouts worked really hard and did a great community service project that will benefit thousands of kids," said VTL Executive Director Ann Hollister, who explained that the nonprofit provides free eye exams and free glasses to children in low-income communities.

When Sam was asked why he had chosen this as his Eagle Scout project, the high school freshman said, "I wondered what the kids did while they were waiting their turn to be examined by the optometrist. When the doctors said they had to wait a few minutes I thought it would be great if they had somewhere to sit."

After selecting a project, an Eagle Scout candidate must recruit and oversee younger Scouts to help him complete it. Working with eight younger kids, the crew spent a weekend constructing the wood bench in Sam's garage after he went online and found "How to Make a Bench" instructions.

"It looked much easier than it actually was," Sam said.



Sam Beutner made a bench for children waiting to have their vision checked. He was acknowledged by Clipper player Chris Paul.

The Clippers teamed up with VTL to provide glasses to every child in the Inglewood School District, from preschool to high school. The tip-off event at Inglewood High School featured Clippers players Paul Pierce (an Inglewood High graduate) and Chris Paul, as well as radio personality Big Boy. Sixty students received glasses at Tues-

day's event, and all Inglewood students who need glasses will receive them by the end of the school year.

"Our groundbreaking partnership with the L.A. Clippers Foundation allows us to provide free eyecare and glasses to every child in Inglewood, a community of 111,000 people," said Vision to Learn Chair and Founder

Austin Beutner, a Palisadian. "To our knowledge this is the first effort of its kind anywhere in the nation in a community this size."

As a result of the L.A. Clippers Foundation-VTL partnership, every Inglewood School District student will receive an eye screening by school nurses and Rotary Club volunteers. Students who do not pass the screening will receive a free follow-up eye exam and free glasses from VTL. And of course, the kids who are waiting to see a doctor will have a place to sit.

## Pacific Palisades Baseball Association Season Underway

Pacific Palisades Baseball Association, which provides baseball instruction for boys and girls from 7 to 14 years of age, gets underway this week. The first practice will be held on Saturday, February 6, at the Field of Dreams at the Recreation Center.

Four divisions, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco and Pony, will officially start the season with practice games on February 22. Opening day and the annual pancake breakfast will take place on March 12. Find your local little league player and purchase tickets for the best meal bargain deal in town.

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# FAA Addresses Airplane Noise

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

After a series of complaints about air noise from Pacific Palisades residents in the last quarter of 2015, FAA Regional Administrator Glen Martin addressed the Pacific Palisades Community Council on January 14.

Martin explained that there had been no increase in flight activity during that period and that the FAA could also not explain the increased noise that residents were reporting. He did say that the number of operations at LAX had increased 17 percent from 2009 to 2014.

In 2013, arrivals and departures at LAX were 606,348; in 2016 there were 676,256; and in 2020 the number of flights is projected to be 732,029. But, he pointed out, "That is still less flights today than prior to 9/11."

One possible reason for residents hearing extra noise could be because one runway (out of four) had been closed for construction, resulting in missed approaches.

A missed approach means the airplane has to climb to 5,000 feet for a return to the airport—a maneuver done for safety reasons. Those approaches increased to 23 in July, 30 in August and 27 in September.

At the PPCC meeting, Martin showed graphs of air traffic in and out of this area. "There are 11,404 tracks in one day [in all of Southern California from Santa Barbara to San Diego]," said Martin, who showed a chart that tracked the difference in flights between 2013, 2014 and 2015 into LAX.

The major difference was that in 2015 the planes were landing at different times than prior years. "From 8 p.m. through 11 p.m., there were more flights than prior years," Martin said. "It was an anomaly for



Pacific Palisades residents perceived increased airplane noise this past fall.

this year, but it will be interesting to see what January looks like."

Martin explained that because of weather conditions over the Pacific, planes from Asia were arriving at LAX about an hour and half earlier.

He also looked at the tracks over Santa Monica Canyon from October through December. "The planes are at about 8,100 feet. In 2013 there were 1,219 tracks and in 2015 there were less—785 tracks.

Additionally, Martin said, "Weather conditions and an inversion level causes you to hear sound differently." There was some speculation that last's fall weather, when daily temperatures were above normal, might have made a difference.

Last December, on behalf of constituents from Mar Vista and Pacific Palisades, Councilman Mike Bonin had complained about the noise in a letter to the FAA.

In response, he received a December 9 letter from Martin explaining the runway construction projects.

In a January 11 letter to Congressman Ted Lieu and Congresswoman Karen Bass, Bonin wrote that the FAA response was "pure BS."

"As you know I live in Mar Vista, and I can assure you that the increase in flights and noise was not gradual: it happened suddenly and is quite pronounced.

"As an example, my parents have visited frequently from out of state, always spending time in the backyard. My mother was here in March and early August of this year. When she visited again in early December, she was shocked and asked, 'What is it with all these planes over your house?'"

At the PPCC meeting, Martin acknowledged that "We hear the Councilman, we pull the data, but we're scratching our

heads. We're trying to see what it is, to discover if there's a solution."

In response to Martin's report, the PPCC passed a resolution to support the Mar Vista Community Council Resolution to "support efforts by the Los Angeles City Council to request information from the FAA regarding the reason for the observed changes to flight approaches into LAX over Mar Vista." The same resolution supported flight approaches to LAX that would reduce noise impacts.

PPCC president Chris Spitz wrote: "We have reviewed the attached motion unanimously passed by the Mar Vista Community Council on January 12, 2016. We note that the airplanes flying over Mar Vista appear to be the same craft that have flown over our community. The MVCC motion supports flight operations into LAX over neighborhoods, specifically including Pacific Palisades, that offer a reduction of noise impacts.

"In the brief time it has taken to prepare this document around 6 a.m., four aircraft have flown low over my house," Spitz concluded.

## Valentine Glass Sale

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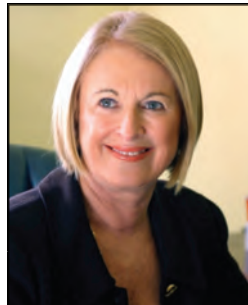
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*This wall at Murphy Ranch will remain, but hopefully the graffiti will be removed in this L.A. City park.*

## Murphy Ranch Is Closed

The graffiti-covered ruins at historic Murphy Ranch in upper Rustic Canyon are being removed.

According to Palisades Patrol, the City of L.A. contracted with a company to go into Rustic Canyon, south of Camp Josepho, to clear out the remaining metal structures, demo the existing cement water tank and secure any holes, bunkers or other dangerous man-made structures on the 50-acre property. The work began in mid-January.

The buildings were constructed in the 1930s, purportedly by a group of Nazi sympathizers. The area, which received many hikers, has been featured in blogs in other countries as a site to visit in Pacific Palisades.

Located in a tree-filled canyon and at the base of concrete steps, Murphy Ranch has attracted groups of people whose after-hour activities have been an annoyance to those who live north of Sunset in the Riviera section of the Palisades.

Palisades Patrol told the *News* that rangers are present, "No Trespassing" signs are posted and those entering the site are receiving citations.

# PaliHi Fair Grading Policy Passes

By LAUREL BUSBY  
Staff Writer

A new "fair, equitable and consistent" grading policy resolution for Palisades Charter High School took effect on January 19 when the school board voted to approve it.

The unanimously approved resolution was a much simplified version of a detailed policy initially proposed in the fall by board members Dara Williams, a parent, and Leslie Woolley, a community representative. The resolution, which requires "grading policies that are fair, equitable, and consistent for all students," states that the schools executive director/principal "has the authority to approve all specific grading policies."

The approximately half-page-long resolution also requires more details in the future by tasking Principal Pam Magee with developing a broad grading policy to bring back to the board for approval. The policy's development "should include a process to seek input from all stakeholders," according to the resolution. The original three-page resolution included many more specifics, such as removal of additional penalties for failing to achieve a score on a particular

test and a retest/reteaching policy for certain situations.

During the meeting, board members mentioned that faculty in particular sought to be further included in the development of the grading policy, and so the simplified resolution with a call for more stakeholder input was devised. Williams and Woolley attended an earlier faculty meeting to discuss the reasons for creating the new grading policy, and Magee said the two spent over an hour discussing the matter with faculty.

At the board meeting, Williams read aloud a letter from herself and Woolley to the faculty stating that "we made a misstep in bringing the grading policy issue to the Board without having talked to the faculty members first. Of course, teachers should lead the process of improving the grading policies where it is possible because they know better what needs to be done to help students achieve good results."

The letter, which Williams sent to the school's union representatives for distribution to the faculty, also detailed the reasons for implementing a broad policy. "We are asking the faculty to re-visit the existing grading policies or create policies that will

be more conforming in the same subject area. Consistency among the same or similar classes will assist those students whose slow start often affects their improved performance by the end of the semester. In re-visiting these policies we are asking the faculty and the administration to remember that parents and students are equal stakeholders, and their opinions count as well. After all, the primary goal of the school is to serve young people's developmental needs."

Faculty board member Alex Shuhgalter praised Williams' and Woolley's letter. "My hat is off to you," he said. The letter "will show that the intent was positive . . . No one was trying to sabotage the faculty or act against it."

Last year, the school had a divisive salary negotiation process between the administration and faculty, and one of the focuses of the administration and the board this year has been to improve communication. This goal was mentioned later in Williams and Woolley's letter, and the school's efforts to improve both communication and school climate cropped up in various ways throughout the meeting.

Charter law attorney Lisa Corr spoke at

length about conflict of interest and the roles of board committees, which she said should be assigned specific tasks to provide "deliverables" back to the board. She recommended that the board focus its efforts on establishing goals and policies, while leaving the administration to interpret and carry out the board resolutions. "Govern, but do not manage," she advised the board.

The grading policy resolution connected to this effort in that the board worked to create an overarching policy for the administration to implement, even as it called for further refinement of the policy to be delivered to the board in the future.

In an e-mail after the meeting, faculty union representative Stephen Klima said the school's efforts to improve communication and school climate have been beneficial.

"We have been working with a couple of 'climate' facilitators, and it has greatly improved the relationship between the union leadership and the administration as a whole," Klima said. "This has brought about a more collaborative environment, and things have been going very well so far this year."

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## McCord's Photos Capture the Eye

By LAURIE ROSENTHAL  
Staff Writer

If Lisa McCord hadn't gone into photography, she would have been a dancer. "I studied dance from the time I was five to 30," the longtime Palisadian said, adding that it was the pre-MTV era and there weren't many ways to make a living as a dancer.

The lifelong artist and photographer hails from the small town of Osceola, Arkansas, the offspring of a free-spirited mother who frequently moved McCord and her two siblings whenever she had a creative urge. The family moved 13 times during her childhood, including stints in Little Rock, Memphis, Atlanta and Cape Cod.

Her father, Lindsey J. Fairley, who comes from a family of doctors and lawyers, took a more traditional path, becoming a district attorney and judge.

But it was the creativity of her mother, Nancy Ohlendorf Fairley, and maternal grandmother Frances Jones Ohlendorf—both painters—that most influenced McCord. Despite her rigorous academic high school education at boarding school at Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, her parents knew she was an artist.

McCord was also inspired by her stepfather, James Zimmerman, who was a painter and photographer.

Though she was planning on becoming a lawyer when she started New York University, McCord began taking photography classes, and learned her way around a darkroom. Photography quickly trumped her interest in law, and she eventually received her B.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute.



Photographer Lisa McCord.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

Today, McCord calls herself a documentary photographer, which she describes as "walking the streets, talking to people and taking pictures," especially in Arkansas.

Locally, she sets up shoots, but she wants to start bringing her documentary photography eye to the Palisades.

"Although I went to art schools," McCord says, "I have always documented my family and my life, telling my stories and my memories. I relate to documentary photography, and was influenced by that means of photography from my experience of living in Paris," where she studied in the late 1970s.

"Growing up on a farm," she says, "I could not help but be influenced by the Farm Security Administration photographers who photographed the farmwork-

ers in the mid-1930s.

"When I first did this work my teachers didn't get it. They asked, 'Why would you shoot poverty?' Because there's love and family and beauty," she told them.

Despite her many moves and extensive traveling, McCord retains a Southern lilt in her voice, as well as the charm of a Southern belle. Her Arkansas roots run deep, and still inform her outlook and photography.

"I'm very much a Southern lady. I'm a good hostess. I have good manners," she says. "I'm conservative in some ways, but my ideology is totally liberal." She has lived in Los Angeles since getting her M.F.A. from CalArts in 1985.

While I was interviewing McCord, *Palisades News* photographer Bart Bartholomew arrived to take pictures, and what

transpired was fascinating: two professional photographers who love their craft talking shop, discussing influences, experiences and techniques.

In fact, Bartholomew deconstructed several of McCord's photos from her "Rotan Switch" series, and spoke in detail as to why they were such masterful shots. By looking at several pictures, he knew that McCord gets "a lot of trust" from her subjects, evidenced in some revealing images. To this reporter, a photography novice, it was a wonderful lesson.

"Her job is to capture your eye and make it stay inside the frame," Bartholomew said, explaining that McCord excels at that.

Currently, McCord is working on her sixth book, *Nancy Sherwood: My Mother's Passing*, which is also the name of her cur-



McCord's hometown is Osceola, Arkansas.

Photo: Lisa McCord



McCord's current exhibit, "Nancy Sherwood: My Mother's Passing," features this image of McCord's niece and nephew, Chloe and Samuel Everett.

Photo: Lisa McCord





A tenant farm family that lived on McCord's grandfather's farm, from the "Rotan Switch" series.

Photo: Lisa McCord

rent show at Los Angeles Art Association's Gallery 825 (through February 19). The recent opening boasted a large, enthusiastic crowd. "People could not get in," she said.

Sherwood passed away on February 5, 2015 in Burbank, when McCord and other family members were on their way to see her.

McCord's grandparents' house in Arkansas is featured in some of the photos, and it's a fascinating look through time, with old-fashioned wallpaper and furnishings.

"The house was built by my grandfather and grandmother when my mother was three. We always went back. It was the only

permanent place in our lives," says McCord, who currently owns the home along with other relatives.

Her grandfather was a tenant farmer and a self-made man, well liked and respected by whites and African Americans alike. When agriculture became automated, he worked with Governor Bill Clinton in the late 1980s-early 1990s to bring industry to the community so his workers and others would still have jobs.

McCord lives near Fire Station 69 with her husband, Don, a builder and Palisades High School graduate. They have been married



Self-portrait, Malibu.

Photo: Lisa McCord

since 1989. Son Dedrick, 23, also a PaliHi grad, is a senior at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, and recently returned from a semester in Southeast Asia. Both father and son attended preschool at the Palisades Methodist Church.

When Bartholomew and I entered McCord's house for a photo shoot, she gave us a tour of all the artwork. "My house looks like a gallery," she said, showing us her photographs as well as a wall of photos taken by friends with whom she has traded pic-

tures. Large canvases featuring McCord, painted decades ago by her mother, also hang in the home.

McCord continues to expand her photography knowledge with classes, including digital printing, and is inspired by the young artists she meets. "I love working in the sunshine at my computer," she says, adding that she never loved working in a darkroom.

"I love art. I love photography."

Visit: [lisamccordphotography.com](http://lisamccordphotography.com) or [gallery825.com](http://gallery825.com).

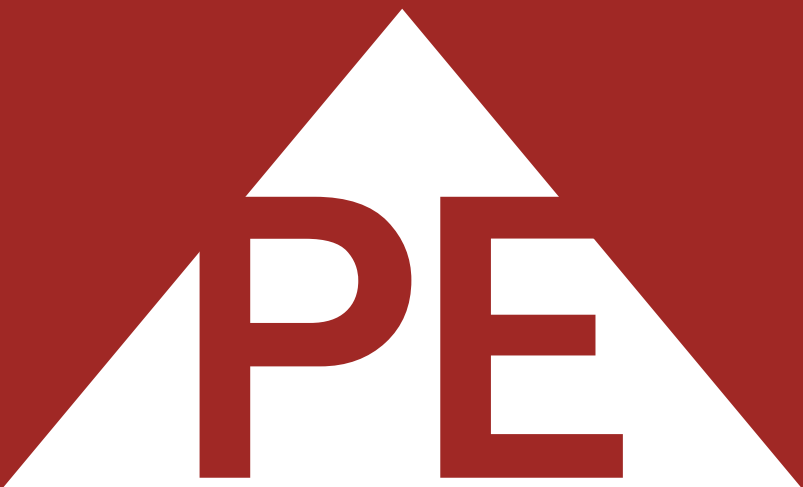


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(Left to right, back row) Dovi Rabinowitz, Menny Chazanow and Sholom Ber Eagle; (bottom from left) Rabbi Moshe Kalmensohn and Rabbi Yekusiel Kalmensohn participated in the concert at the Village Shul on Sunset.

Photo: Menny Kagan

## Chabad Center's Village Shul Holds Concert and Art Show

Pacific Palisades residents gathered on January 16 at the Chabad Jewish Community Center's Village Shul location for an evening of classical chassidic music and an art exhibition.

The evening featured rabbinical students playing guitar and cello, accompanied by the voices of brothers Rabbi Moshe Kalmensohn and Rabbi Yekusiel Kalmensohn, spiritual leader of the Village Shul.

On display was the Jewish Aleph Bet Art Exhibit, curated by Palisades-based master

printer and digital craftsman Lev Moross.

"It was a great opportunity for the community to see our wonderful synagogue in the heart of the Village, which has been a space for prayer and study, and also for this unique art exhibit," said Rabbi Zushe Cunin, executive director of Chabad. "We also used this opportunity to gather in unity to honor the 65th anniversary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's leadership, which continues to guide our growing Jewish Community Center in the Palisades."

## Peter Kreitler Is 'Food for Thought' Speaker Feb. 18

Environmental activist and photographer Peter Gwillim Kreitler will be the "Food for Thought" speaker on Thursday, February 18 at the Palisades Presbyterian Church, corner of Sunset and El Medio.

The public is invited to enjoy a free catered lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by Kreitler's illustrated talk, "Traveling to the Cradle of Civilization," at noon, and questions from the audience. Reservations are necessary by calling (310) 454-0366.

Kreitler, who graduated from Brown University and the Virginia Theological Seminary, was influenced by the "book of nature" on Cape Cod every summer as a youth. Travel, adventure and engaging in village life in Mexico and India before age 21 led to his life-long appreciation for the diversity in our fragile island home. His dedicated commitment to preserving the environment resulted in his educational nonprofit, Earth Service Inc.

As an ordained Episcopal priest (who served 16 years as Associate Rector at St. Matthew's Church), activist, author of five books, avid collector of photography and magazines featuring the American flag on the cover, Kreitler has been described by his



Peter Kreitler on his recent trip to Africa

wife Katy as a "preservationist."

Kreitler's engaging and provocative "Food for Thought" talk will focus on his recent journey to Africa's Rift Valley, the Olduvai Gorge, and the plains of Serengeti, where various wild species are threatened to the point of extinction. (Read his January 20 article, "Southern Africa: Majestic and Endangered," at the *Palisades News* website.)

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# Irma Wendell: 101-Year-Old 'Party Girl'

By SUE PASCOE  
Editor

Although her hearing was compromised because "One hearing aid fell out and the other is lost," spending time with 101-year-old Irma Wendell was vastly entertaining.

A consummate hostess, Wendell offered a cup of coffee before sitting down for an interview in her apartment off Haverford, where she lives alone, but under the watchful eyes of her daughter and a nephew. Then it was laughter and stories for the next hour.

"I never expected to live to such an old age," Wendell said. "The years went by and all of a sudden here I am."

Her husband Andrew (Andy) Wendell was a grand master in the Vasa Order of America, a century-old fraternal society for Swedish immigrants. This meant that Irma was responsible for playing hostess in a variety of situations—and even meeting two kings from Sweden.

"We met the 'old king' [Gustaf VI Adolf] at their summer house [Sofiero Castle], which looked like a palace. I met the new king [Carl XVI Gustaf] in Beverly Hills."

Not bad for a girl born on January 21,



Irma Wendell displays her wedding dress from 1940.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew



Irma Wendell celebrated her 101st birthday on January 21. Photos of her husband, two daughters and two grandsons are on the wall behind her.

Photo: Bart Bartholomew

1915 in Thompson, Iowa, and raised in St. Anthony. Although her family lived on farms, Irma's father Horace worked as a welder and her mother Elizabeth (Lizzy) was a homemaker to the four children.

"I had so many boyfriends," Irma said. "I came to California when I was 24 for a vacation and to get away from them." But fate struck when she met Andy. "He said he was going to marry me. I told him 'In your dreams.'"

The Swedish immigrant kept persisting. He would stand on the street and wait for her, and finally the third time he asked she agreed.

Before the wedding took place in June, 1940 in Iowa, Irma's family received a telegraph from her future husband that a friend, Donald, would attend the wedding and need to be picked up at the station. "My grandfather picked up a duck, dressed in a Donald Duck costume," Irma laughed. "My husband kept him in his bathtub until he put the duck on the train."

Irma's wedding gown was beautiful. She showed this writer the 75-year-old dress, which her grandson Jeffrey's fiancée Kirsten has tried on and might wear at their wed-

ding to be held in Sweden in September.

Wendell was asked if she was going to her grandson's wedding. "It depends on how I feel," she said.

Although she has a walker, she uses it only to get up and down from a chair and to steady herself. "My husband and I used to love to dance," she said. "Today, I don't have enough balance to do that."

The couple's two daughters, Karin and Kathleen, were born in 1942 and 1943. Kathleen died in 2007, but Karin lives in Pacific Palisades and checks in every day—bringing dinners and helping with chores.

For more than 50 years, Wendell never went to a doctor because "He retired and I just didn't go again"—until the 1990s, when the woman who usually hosted the family's Christmas Eve smorgasbord, complete with glogg and Swedish meatballs, got sick.

The Wendells lived in San Gabriel and "I went into real estate in 1978 and sold my last house in 1994." Her husband died in 1983.

She moved to Pacific Palisades in 2012 to be closer to her daughter Karin, and a nephew, also named Jeff, who also looks out for her.

She moved to Pacific Palisades to be closer to her daughter Karen, who stops by to visit every day.

Irma is legally blind because of macular degeneration. One of her favorite pastimes is listening to books on tape, which she receives free from the Braille Institute. "I like westerns, adventures, history and romance," she said, noting that one never knows what books they'll send and that some are a bit racy. "They would make your hair stand up."

Her daughter and nephew drive her to Vasa meetings and other outings.

"We went to Teddy's Café for breakfast last week," Irma said. "It's on Pico. Go and treat yourself; it's good and cheap."

She also loves listening to Judge Judy and the news on television. As far as politics, "I like Donald; if he runs I'm going to vote for him."

The hardest part about being 101 is "When you get to my age, all my wonderful friends are gone. It would be nice if my husband were still here."

But Irma said, "I like life, I like living."

She thinks her long life can be attributed to good Iowan food—meat, potatoes and gravy—and good Iowan upbringing. "We used to have this garden that is as big as this [apartment] complex," she said. "My mother canned food for the winter and baked bread. It was just good living."

She says she eats almost everything (except calamari) because "that's the way I was raised."

Wendell was circumspect. "When you reach this age, you're probably not going to live that much longer. I wish I had contributed something—dreamed up or thought something different, but I was just an average Iowa girl."

Her grandchildren would probably not agree. Irma's grandson Jeffrey Holmes is a professor at Chapman University. A second grandson, David Holmes, and his wife, Stephanie, are in the Foreign Service living in Russia, with their two children, Andrew and Elsa.

But this is one party girl that is not going to go quietly into the night. "I'm going to live until I die," she said.



**Happy Valentine's Day To All!**

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# Nealon

(Continued from Page 1)

napkin and I practiced drawing it.”

He credits drawing maps for geography as another way that he honed his skills.

Growing up, however, “I always wanted to be a musician,” said Nealon, who plays guitar. After seeing the movie *Deliverance*, he also taught himself to play banjo. “I was too intimidated to sing on stage, but started going to clubs and telling jokes.”

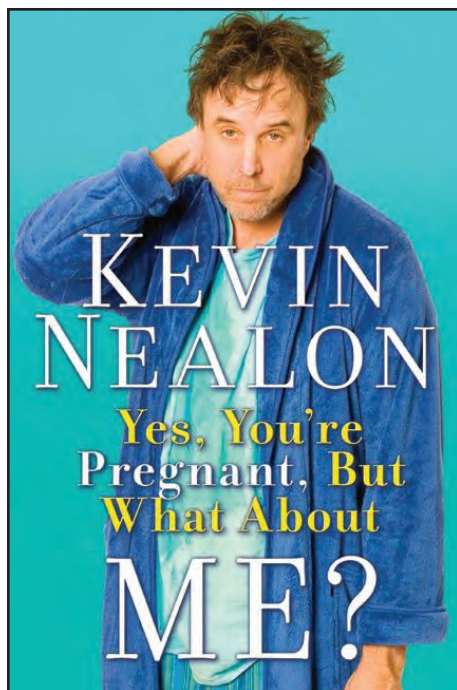
Ever the people-pleaser, Nealon attended college because “my parents felt strongly about it.” He received a degree in marketing from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut.

After college, Nealon moved to Los Angeles, hit the comedy-club circuit and soon appeared on Johnny Carson and David Letterman. He heard from his pal, Dana Carvey, that *SNL* producers were looking for another cast member. After auditioning, he was hired and from 1986-95, he anchored the Weekend Update and created the muscular fitness experts “Hans and Franz” with Carvey.

Nealon made his film debut in the 1987 romantic comedy, *Roxanne*, with Steve Martin and has starred in more than two dozen comedies, including *Happy Gilmore*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Anger Management*, *Daddy Day Care*, *Grandma's Boy*, *Just Go With It* and *Blended*, with Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

He has taped two one-hour standup specials, *Now Hear Me Out* and *Whelmed, But Not Overly*, both of which are available on DVD and CD.

If you want to see Nealon live, once a month on Tuesday, he hosts a “New Material” night at the Laugh Factory in Holly-



wood, where comedy legends such as Adam Sandler, Larry David and Norm Macdonald go on stage to try out new material. Afterwards, Nealon sits down and talks with the comic and asks questions about the material and the person's life.

It allows the audience insight into how comics come up with jokes. The process also helps comics nail down new jokes for their acts.

After living in Pacific Palisades for six years, Nealon is ready to take on the challenge of his new political office. After all, he insists, “My goal [in life] was to become an honorary mayor.”

In the works: “I’m going to move Pacific Palisades closer to the ocean.”

To follow Nealon, visit: [kevinnealon.com](http://kevinnealon.com) or look for his new movie website [Pleaser-movie.com](http://Pleaser-movie.com).

## Grant Applicants Sought by Pacific Palisades Optimist Club

The Pacific Palisades Optimist Club is seeking applicants for its annual grant donations, which are given to youth organizations, schools and nonprofits based in Pacific Palisades.

The Optimists earn their grant funds by working with the Palisades Ridge Runners at the Palisades-Will Rogers 5/10 K every Fourth of July. They register late entrants, hand out T-shirts and pass out water.

Grants may be used for funding of a specific event, for equipment, a facility or service, and must be spent this year. Grants are not given to organizations that request continuing financial support. The application must be received no later than March 31.

Send queries to grant committee chairman John Peterson or call (310) 454-9708 to receive an application and guidelines. Applications are also available at the Chamber of Commerce at 15330 Antioch St. They may be returned to the Chamber or mailed to Grants Committee Chairman, Optimist Club of Pacific Palisades, P.O. Box 211, Pacific Palisades 90272.

The 2014-15 recipients included the Palisades High wrestling team; Paul Revere; the PaliHi band; Movies in the Park; the Palisades Americanism Parade Association; the Palisades-Malibu YMCA; Boy Scouts; and the Pacific Palisades Baseball Association.

## Memory Training Classes Offered

Free memory training classes for adults, ages 50 and over will be held from noon to 2 p.m. on four Mondays in February (1, 8, 22 and 29, with no class on President's Day February 15) at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, 901 Haverford Ave.

Developed by faculty at UCLA, this memory class provides practical strategies and exercises to help improve your long-term memory and ability to recall information. This four-week class is offered through a grant from the LA Department of Aging and is sponsored by the Jewish Family Service Organization.

**SPECIAL SECTION**

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[jridgway@palisadesnews.com](mailto:jridgway@palisadesnews.com)

**Grace Hiney at (310) 401-7694**  
[gghiney@verizon.net](mailto:gghiney@verizon.net)

**Jeff Parr at (310) 401-7690**  
[jparr@palisadesnews.com](mailto:jparr@palisadesnews.com)



## WEDDINGS

# Lee and Bollow Married At Lutheran Church

**P**eter Lee and Dee Ann Bollow were joined in holy matrimony at Palisades Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 16, at a private family wedding officiated by Pastor Wally Mees and Pastor Emeritus R. Z. Meyer. After a dinner reception at Tony P's in Marina del Rey, the couple spent sev-

eral days in the Santa Ynez Valley, with plans for a honeymoon cruise to Hawaii in April.

Peter, a 40-year resident of Pacific Palisades, was born in Norway and emigrated to Los Angeles with his family when he was 10 years old. He graduated from Cal Poly University at Pomona with a degree in engineering, and later worked as a Staff Engineer for the L.A. DWP for 30 years. A widower since 2008, he and his first wife, Gerda, raised two sons, Paul and John. Peter is now a grandfather to four grandchildren: Nathaniel, Tanner, Griffin and Johnny.

Dee Ann was raised in Santa Monica, attending Santa Monica High School and then going on to major in English at UCLA. She has lived in Malibu for many years. A recent widow, Dee Ann bore two daughters, Kristen Beacham (deceased in 2005) and Karlyn Neusatz, who resides in Munich, Germany. Between them, she has four grandchildren: Taylor, Jordan, Nico and Eric.

Peter and Dee Ann met and grew to know each other in their church and at the weekly prayer breakfasts they both attended. They will make their home together in Malibu.



Dee Ann Bollow and Peter Lee

## Turan to Give Inside Scoop on Oscars

*Los Angeles Times* film critic Kenneth Turan will give the inside scoop on the Oscars at a fundraiser at the Palisades Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 20.

Get an early preview of his picks in different categories a week before the event. Desserts will be served, such as pastor's key lime pie, baklava and other delicious homemade offerings.

A copy of Turan's *Not to be Missed* will be given to each family attending. The community is invited. Singles are \$75 and couples are \$125. Call: (310) 454-0366.

# Help Sought for Marquez Teacher Elise Bamesberger

A GoFundMe account has been set up for beloved Marquez kindergarten teacher Elise Bamesberger, who was recently diagnosed with stage-3 breast cancer.

Bamesberger turned 40 last summer, and shortly after getting her first mammogram in December, she began chemotherapy.

Set up by Bamesberger's friend, Stephany Olson, the fund had reached about half of the \$7,000 goal by last week.

"Her profession is one of the few jobs

that cannot be continued as long as she is having chemo treatments, which will be through May of this year," Olson said. "I am hoping that this fund will compensate for all the time and pay she will lose due to fighting this evil."

Bamesberger is married to Jonathan Tavss, and the couple has two children, Jensen, 7, and Emory, 3.

To donate, visit: <https://www.gofundme.com/rqhpp75w>.

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# DINING WITH GRACE

## SAM'S BY THE BEACH

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Sam's By The Beach has been providing locals and visitors with superb food for decades, all in a pleasant relaxing atmosphere which includes full bar service. This gives diners who prefer a cocktail rather than a glass of wine a selection to complement their meal.

From the warm welcome given by the valet, to owner Samer Elias, who usually greets each diner (often by name), you immediately feel relaxed and eager to see the menu and specials of the evening. Sam's offers a great variety of food, each specially prepared with beautiful flavor.



parsnips that looked like mashed potatoes but with such a different and interesting flavor that I must learn how to make these. There was a fine lemon sauce for the fish. An outstanding meal.

My friend had the veal cordon blue, pounded veal filled with prosciutto and Swiss cheese, and served with a wild mushroom sauce. Once again this was a superb dish filled with flavor. The pureed parsnips and vegetables also accompanied this dish.

Our desserts were a poached Anjou pear with various berries, and a succulent little ball of coconut sorbet. Sam's elegant and delicious warm bread

pudding was another treat.

Best of all, we were given our leftovers to take home to enjoy the next day, as neither of us eat very much.

The menu at Sam's consists of a single page of starters, and then main courses, each of which sounds inviting.

Salads vary from a tossed garden salad with fresh mint and cumin seeds in a lemon dressing to a wild mushroom salad served with watercress and fresh mozzarella cheese in a lemon basil dressing.

There are buffalo baby back ribs served with angel hair potato in a light yet spicy herbed red wine sauce, enough for a meal (\$21.95). Other starters vary from

## JUMBLE

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

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

LIRDL

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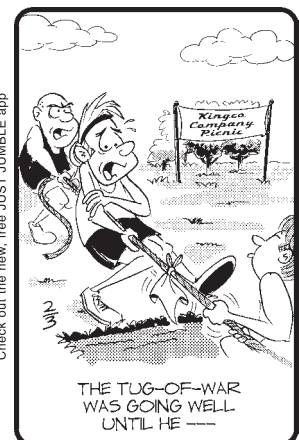
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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app.

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

(Answers on Page 13)



THE TUG-OF-WAR WAS GOING WELL UNTIL HE ---

\$12.95 to \$16.95 with many in the \$13.95 price category.

On the main course menu, vegetarian crepes are \$25.95 and Sam's spaghetti with sautéed sweet white shrimp and calamari is \$26.95. Most of the other entrees, such as grilled butter fish and citrus sauce, the veal cordon blue and braised lamb shank are in the \$28.95 price range. Only the grilled New York steak or filet mignon are \$31.95.

If you are looking for a dinner that is special and beautifully flavored, Sam's is the place.

The restaurant is open for dinner from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 5 to 9 p.m. on Sunday and they are closed on Monday. Valet parking is \$7.

— GRACE HINEY



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\*Fundraiser

---

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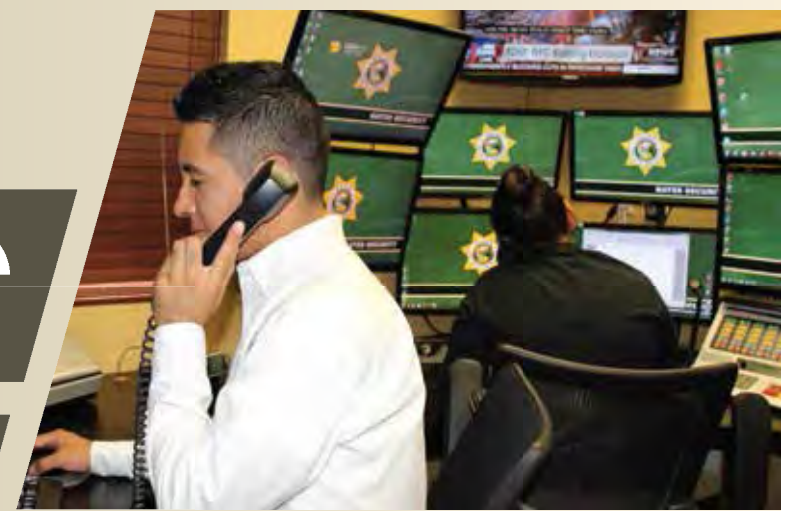
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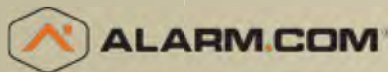
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