



Kevin McNulty, center, is surrounded by some of the staff at the Meals on Wheels Santa Monica office. From left Emma Eastman, Angel Howe, Kevin, and Anun Myagmardavaa.

Photo by Christian Wise

All the Best to Kevin McNulty

By Deborah Gray

After 26 years at Meals on Wheels West, one of their brightest stars, Chief Administrative Officer Kevin McNulty, has retired. We interviewed him about his reflections.

Deborah: What will you most remember about your Meals on Wheels West experience?

Kevin: “First and foremost, everybody has a story! The visits with our meal recipients and the memories shared are amazing. Behind

those closed doors and windows along any street is a wealth of lives well-lived. The stories of everyday folks, war veterans, inventors, artists of all disciplines, among others are hidden away, home alone and hungry. The pearls of wisdom and, of course, laughter that is shared by our aging population is a treasure to behold. My actual experience of their social-emotional well-being,

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Be There – Volunteer When Someone Needs You the Most



John Osburn is a local volunteer who has been deployed to the frontlines when help is needed.

More frequent and intense disasters are ravaging communities and upending lives as a result of our changing climate. The American Red Cross is on the frontlines of disaster response, supporting families across the country who are struggling to cope with this humanitarian crisis. We see first-hand how more disasters are driving more people to seek assistance.

John Osburn, a volunteer from the Red Cross serving Western Los

Angeles and Santa Monica, is one of the incredible disaster workers who has been deployed to the frontlines to help. When asked why he deploys, John said, “I love to help people out when they have major disasters and help them recover to get back to their normal selves.”

As the nation’s largest provider of emergency sheltering, the Red Cross works one-on-one with people to help them recover after

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When your child starts school, it will be a big change for him/her and for your family.

What You (and Your Child) Should Know for Kindergarten and Beyond

Family Features - Starting kindergarten is a major milestone, one that sets the stage for future learning.

Kindergarten readiness encompasses a wide range of skills, including academic, social, and physical abilities. Yet while many parents think of kindergarten as the formal start of their children’s learning, 90% of children’s brain development occurs during the first five years of life.

The brain is incredibly receptive during these formative years, making it a critical time for children to receive exposure and guidance in diverse areas. Enrolling them in a quality preschool or pre-K program is one way you can ensure they’re creating building blocks for the future, but there are also steps you can take at home.

Try implementing these simple habits, recommended by Primrose Schools Chief Early Learning Officer Dr. Amy Jackson, into your

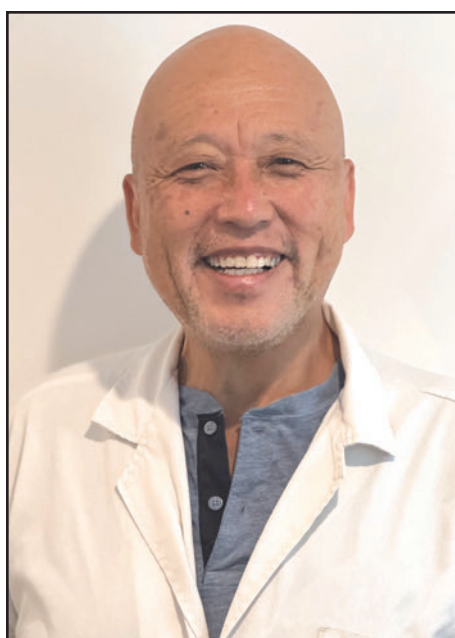
family’s day-to-day routine:

- Read to your children daily to build early literacy skills. Make library trips and story times a special treat for toddlers and encourage preschoolers to read to you by describing what is happening in the pictures or making up their own stories.
- Schedule playdates for social development. Once babies are able to sit independently, they’ll likely enjoy playdates. Older toddlers enjoy more interactive play and begin to learn concepts like sharing.
- Practice counting objects to 10 or more together. It’s easy to make “math talk” part of your everyday experience in other ways, too. When reading a story, ask children to count the objects on each page. When eating, encourage math connections by having children count the items on their plates.
- Encourage physical activities like playing on the playground. Play isn’t just for entertainment. It’s a building block for healthy growth. It helps children learn from the world around them and develop traits like generosity and honesty. Because it helps children release their full range of emotions and has therapeutic benefits, play also has positive effects on mental health. It also helps children learn to navigate the world and practice

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Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?

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Farm Your Front Yard: One Resident's Journey on Urban Farming

By Michaela Grant
Climate Action Corps Fellow
City of Santa Monica

In a quiet Santa Monica neighborhood, one resident is transforming her front yard into a thriving edible garden, fostering connections with neighbors, and exploring the possibilities of urban agriculture.

Phoebe, a local resident, has been gradually turning her front yard into a diverse garden, growing everything from corn to peaches. Driven by a desire to provide fresh produce for her family, Phoebe has navigated the challenges of gardening in an urban setting.

"It was really expensive to get soil testing, but I felt that was necessary because I have a young



Here is a view from inside the house looking out through open sliding glass doors into a lush garden.

child," Phoebe explains. "At times, up to 50% of our food comes from

our front yard. As we began relying more on our homegrown produce, I wanted to ensure that we weren't consuming excessive levels of heavy metals."

Despite the financial hurdles, Phoebe has found joy in the connections she's made with her neighbors through her front yard garden. "It's such a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with my neighbors and be of service," she says. "People have questions about what I'm growing, and we get into great conversations about agriculture and the importance of being connected to our food."

As Phoebe continues to navigate the challenges of urban farming, she encourages others interested in starting their own front yard

gardens to "start small at first." She also hopes to see more city-level support for these types of sustainable initiatives, such as subsidies and resources for soil testing and improvement and tool lending libraries.

"It's a wonderful conversation topic," Phoebe describes. "It's just a nice confluence, a place to meet other people."



- Joe Analco

Assistance League Thrift Shop Also Offers Online Shopping

By Cree Kawa

Recently, I spoke with Vivien O' Connor, an active member of the Santa Monica Assistance League at their Thrift Shop located at 1453 15th St. between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. We discussed the important work the chapter does in the community. The chapter began as a women-run, social, sewing club. It has transformed into a philanthropic umbrella reaching many groups. From donating \$100,000 in scholarships to Santa Monica College and the high schools in the area, to the emergency clothing fund, school supplies for kids, donations to food banks, and the major recycling efforts they conduct, they are making an effect on many social issues.

This is what initially attracted Vivien. "For me, the League was a perfect combination of meeting like-minded people and giving back," she states.

The Assistance League wasn't always recognized for all the potential it held. It wasn't until they were entrusted with running a local preschool that a change occurred. The League saw this as a segue into something bigger. So, looking past the preschool, they established the appealing and well-stocked Thrift Shop that is flourishing today. The two-story



Lisa Riddle is organizing items in the cabinet to be sold.

structure, which they built, resembles a classical home. The vibe certainly matches the aesthetics once you step inside. There are racks of stylish clothes, shelves of ornamental glassware and home goods, books, furniture, jewelry, and much more. For them, this was, and still is, a way to generate revenue which, in turn, is fed right back into the community. The Thrift Shop is one of the most popular in Santa

Monica. They have also developed an online shopping opportunity for customers.

The Assistance League grows through existing members from the past, their oldest member being 99, and reaching out to younger community members. Vivien explains, "We are open to all kinds of members. People can join on the website, and add themselves to the mailing list to stay up to date." Through organizational meetings one can attend, and the extensive list of auxiliary organizations (like The Night Lights which is for people who work during the day), they provide an abundant array of options when it comes to getting involved.

We wish more people knew about the Assistance League,

Vivien reflected.

And, whether that means joining up (infoALSM@frontier.com/310-395-2338), or simply shopping at the store (or online), it's the little things that will add up to benefit the neighborhood in the long run.

Vivien reminds us, "In times like these, full of isolation, when everything's online, I think people really need the sense of community."

The Thrift Store is open on Thursdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enjoy shopping!



Happy September Birthdays
Lisa Alexander, Steve Eorio,
Carol Follette, Mark Stubis,
Avo Guerboian, Len Lanzi,
Joe Metoyer, Kurtis Magee,
Hodge Patterson IV, Nora Bohn,
Vince Muselli, Valerie Brown,
George Pickell, Bill Werner,
Tanya Gilbert, Patrick Potter,
Bruce Gelvin, Becky Mejia,
Msgr. Lloyd Torgerson,
Enjoli Margolin,
and Steven J. Navin, VI



Gina Maslow is arranging items on the shelves.





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From the Santa Monica Pier Guy

Our Pier, 115 Years Young!



By Jim Harris
Please join me in wishing the Santa Monica Pier a “Happy Birthday!” The Pier opened to great fanfare on September 9, 1909. Written numerically, that’s 9-9-09, which is really cool, and works great when I speak about the Pier to school children!

It was originally built as a public utility – the answer to the City of Santa Monica’s then-growing sewage problem. And yet, the Pier’s opening day was a highly celebrated occasion, with a parade through downtown, a ribbon cutting featuring local and state officials, athletic competitions, a theatrical performance, and fireworks! All for the opening of a public utility.

There were no thrill rides, no restaurants. In fact, there wasn’t much of anything. So why such a celebration?

The Santa Monica Pier opened on that September day as the first pier on the West Coast of the United States to be made entirely of concrete. And, only the second one in the world!

Much has changed since opening day, of course. The deck is no longer concrete, having long ago

been converted to wooden deck boards that give it that distinct, old-fashioned boardwalk appeal. And of course, there are many activities and businesses upon it. One thing remains consistent with that storied opening day, though, and that is the ability to attract thousands of people every day.

This September we celebrate 115 years of the pleasure provided by the Pier with a very special free movie screening of one of the many popular movies filmed at the Pier – *Barbie* – and we invite everyone to join. There will be cake, live music, fun activities, and of course we will all sing “Happy Birthday, Dear Pier” together.

The celebration will be a few days early – on Friday, September 6th – and doors open at 5:30 p.m. Please put that on your calendar and come be a part of our very special day.

For more details about all of the Pier’s great programming, please visit santamonicapier.org.

Jim Harris is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the Pier visitor experience, as well as an accomplished author and playwright.



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Byte by Byte

Traffic Technology and Changing Landscapes



By Dr. Miceala Shocklee
“Temperature is 109F, feels like 125F,” read my phone’s home screen today. August in the Middle East is one of the

hottest parts of the year. I was lucky enough to escape the first few days while away in Iceland.

The contrast between the two countries in terms of climate – environmental and otherwise – was as stark as the dune landscape. Where I worry for my electronics here as phone and watch screens fog up within minutes of stepping out the door, summer temperatures in Iceland hovered in the low fifties.

Where blue days and desert haze plus a relatively middling north latitude means that the timing around my sunrise and sunsets throughout the year in Abu Dhabi mean a relative balanced amount of daily light and dark, Iceland’s sunset happened well past 11:30 p.m., and sunrise started only a few hours later.

Most of my time traveling around featured some amount of daylight, making me grateful for the relative ubiquitousness of blackout curtains at lodgings across the country.

When it came to physically getting around the country, Iceland had a few driving rules I found unique. Headlights had to be on, always – whether to account for the often gusty and unpredictable nature of Iceland’s weather, to provide a visual stimulus to alert

drivers to the presence of an on-coming vehicle along Iceland’s long, often remote and lonely, and frequently one-lane roads, or for some other reason, I don’t know.

Icelandic tunnels also featured an incredibly cooperative one-lane set up, with pull-outs for all the drivers going in a particular direction, with the expectation that traffic collaboration would result in smooth transitions to allow single cars to pass without any other kind of signaling. I passed through these tunnels about four times while driving up in the Westfjords, and I was shocked and impressed by how seamlessly the system seems to work.

Iceland was a brief but welcome break from the heat and bustling population of the UAE. While I’m back to contending with the juxtaposition that is heavily surveilled roads with the resulting unpredictability from an international mesh of driving cultures, it is a relief to no longer have to worry that rounding the next bend might bring on an unexpected herd of road-crossing sheep!

Dr. Miceala Shocklee is a part-time freelance writer and editor and a full-time staff veterinarian with SeaWorld Abu Dhabi Yas Island in the United Arab Emirates.



- Joe Analco

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Reflections From The East

A Magical “Reset Button” in Our Lives



By Qin Sun Stubis

For some 13 years, I have had the privilege of residing inside the inner loop of the Capital Beltway in Washington D.C. Despite her swampy weather and heated politics all year around, I rather enjoy being here.

Even during the worst part of our hot summer months, Mother Nature somehow manages to mercifully and miraculously lower the overnight temperature and reset the following morning with a pleasant start. Of course, by noon, the sun heats up the day again, making me yearn for a cooler nightfall.

There are nights, though, when Her Majesty forgets to flip that vital switch, and the temperature, like a witch’s brew, begins to boil day and night, locking us in a perpetual summer’s curse of relentless physical torture. Sometimes this agony can last for days, forcing our outdoor life to a complete halt until the cooling button is magically pressed again.

The importance of a reset button is especially magnified in its absence, not just for the weather, but in our lives. When overheated, whether by a discussion, a dispute or an unhealthy relationship, we are often forced to tone things down a few notches and reset them to a more manageable level to resolve our issues. Sometimes,

how quickly we realize that our lives are on overdrive and take action accordingly can have a long-term effect on the very quality of our existence.

We learned about our own reset button as children when we threw temper tantrums and were given “timeouts.” We were told to sit on a particular chair or stool in the corner to “cool off,” or ordered to go to our room. Only after we had calmed down enough to reason again were we allowed to rejoin the others. As hard as it was, the reset button helped us to learn to cope with life’s difficult moments.

At some point, we took control of our own lives, learning to make important judgments and decisions after we overworked, found

ourselves emotionally drained, or realized that our jobs are not right for us. Sometimes, giving ourselves a “timeout” may be the only way to cool down our senses so we can make the next wise move.

Life is not always smooth sailing. When we have an urge to throw a temper tantrum like a child, or feel our life is betraying us, don’t forget to push that magical reset button. We have full control to make the changes needed to improve our lives. And the time could be right now.

You can always reach me at qstubis@gmail.com, or please visit me at QinSunStubis.com. You can find a copy of my book, *Once Our Lives*, online at Amazon.com.

Going Apple Picking for Family Time



By Cheryl Thode

Hi readers! Can you believe we have made it to September? This year is flying by! Have your kids started their school year, or are they just about to start? Are you seeing the leaves change color? Do you feel a slight crispiness in the air? Guess what, Fall is approaching!

If you had a fun-filled Summer, September sometimes can seem a little dull or lacking in excitement. Getting your kids and family into a new rhythm and routine for the new school year can be draining and challenging at times. However, before the weekends are packed full of sporting events, school com-

mitments, and in two months the start of the holiday season, the month of September provides a great opportunity to set aside some time to do a fun memory-making family activity.

Most of us are familiar with pumpkin picking in October. Did you know there is another Fall picking event? Apple picking! September is one of the best months for picking apples. Similar to pumpkin patch outings, many of our Southern California apple orchards have created wonderful memory-making venues to pick apples and also experience a plethora of activities, eateries, live music, and petting zoos.

This month, my family and I will be making an outing to an apple farm. Over the Summer, my kids

and I went strawberry picking and melon harvesting and had a wonderful time. While we have never picked apples before, knowing how much my kids love this fruit, I am really excited to go and pick with them.

To add some fun to this adventure, we plan to have a picnic for lunch with some apple-themed snacks and beverages and set up a contest of sorts for the one who picks the biggest apple, the smallest apple, the prettiest apple, and the weirdest apple. While I am not sure what to expect, I am really looking forward to this new experience.

So, if you are looking for a new or fun family activity this month, try apple picking. You’ll make some memories, have the chance

to get some great and unique pictures, get outside, and most importantly, take home some delicious and fresh apples. Don’t forget, after you pick your apples, make sure you save some for later and use them to make a Thanksgiving apple pie!

Get to picking and God Bless!

Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?
(Continued from Page 1)



Dr. Kiyohide Tsubakiyama studied acupunctue, bone setting, and massage in Tokyo and China. Visit him at his office on 20th St. in Santa Monica.

How to Prevent Home Burglaries

Here are some general tips from the SSA Security Group, Inc. to keep in mind.

- During the periods that you are home, continue to shut and lock your doors and windows unless they are under constant surveillance.
- Make your home look occupied,

and make it difficult to break in.

- Lock all outside doors and windows before you leave the house or go to bed. Even if it is for a short time – lock your doors.
- Keep entry gates (sides and driveway) shut and locked.
- Leave lights on when you go out.

If you are going to be away for a

length of time, connect some lamps to automatic timers to turn them on in the evening and off during the day.

- Keep your garage door closed and locked.
- Never leave notes on your door such as “Gone shopping.”

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Clergy Corner

Your Hands Share Your Beliefs



By Pastor Christie Webb
God’s Work. Our Hands. This is the tagline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is the denomina-

tion of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, where I serve as pastor.

God’s Work Our Hands is also a day of service that occurs in ELCA congregations on the Sunday after Labor Day. On September 8, Mt. Olive will put our hands to work at the Westside Food Bank, with whom we partner to stock our Little Pantry on the corner of Maple and 14th Streets. We are excited to give back to this organization that helps us feed our neighbors.

But, God’s Work Our Hands goes beyond just that tagline and day of intentional service. It is a way of life we live each day in the ministry of Mt. Olive and in our daily lives. It is God’s Work Our Hands as we teach kids how to write their names in our pre-school, feed seniors at our monthly Senior Celebration lunches, and pass the peace in worship to people who think dif-

ferently from us. It is God’s Work Our Hands that cooks food for our families and accomplishes our professional work. It is God’s Work Our Hands that plants a garden, waves at a friend, carefully guides a steering wheel, or marks a vote. First Corinthians 12:27 reminds us: “You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

Teresa of Avila says, “Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which He looks with compassion on this world.”

I know you may come from a different tradition than I do. You might not believe in the same God that I do, and that is ok. Whatever your tradition or beliefs or values, your hands are the ways that love, those values, and that higher power gets lived out in the world.

May your hands be blessed to share love, kindness, peace, joy, and hope.

Reverend Christie Webb
Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Santa Monica
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Passing Through the Pico Neighborhood

Stanley Wilson Retires from SMMUSD



By Stacy McClendon
Recently, I reached out to Stanley Wilson for an interview. He had just retired from doing John Adams Middle School (JAMS)

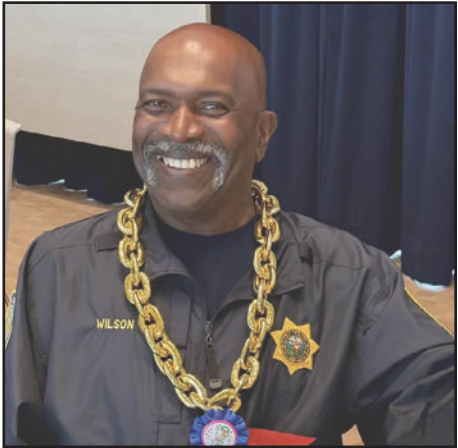
security, while working for SMMUSD for 45 years. That in itself is a feat, as so few stay in positions for long tenures these days.

I was also sure I probably knew Stanley as my son attended JAMS for three years. That was confirmed once I saw the retirement video that SMMUSD faculty, staff, and students put together for him. I immediately remembered him letting me in the back gate to drop my son off to orchestra class in the morning and on the school campus. I personally witnessed Stanley’s cheerful disposition and tireless dedication to the students and parents.

Stanley was born and raised in Santa Monica. He attended Grant, JAMS, and Santa Monica High School while living in the Pico Neighborhood. He graduated from high school in 1978. Stanley became a permanent staff member with SMMUSD as an Assistant PE coach not too long after high school on April 27, 1979 where he stayed until 1984. His position took him across numerous school sites.

Stanley became a custodian at Samohi from 1985-1998. In 1998, he began working in Security for JAMS, and was there until his recent retirement.

During his working years, Stanley also coached for Parks & Recreation Little League Baseball with as many as five teams at a time, all while working at the school. He always enjoyed helping



Stanley Wilson in his security uniform at John Adams Middle School with a gift from the students.

the kids succeed. However, he also held the team members to a higher standard, and would not allow them to play if they had an F grade or talked back to their mother.

Stanley shared that what he enjoyed most about his job was being there for the kids. Now, the kids that he used to work with bring their grandkids to meet him.

Stanley also took me down nostalgia lane when he shared that SMC shop classes were held on the site where Virginia Park is now located, and that the Thelma Terry Center was the name that he and his friends used for Memorial Park. They used to say “We are going to Ms. Terry’s to play sports.”

So much history and stories lie within Stanley, and I was grateful to get the opportunity to hear some of them during our talks.

Now, Stanley gets more time to fill his days with ALL the things that bring him fun and enjoyment. His wife, children, and grandchildren are first in line with more adventures immediately following. We wish him all the best!

Discover What’s Happening on the Westside

By Gigi Appelbaum-Schwartz
• **September 1-6 - “Still Blowin’ - 42 Years of Glass at SMC” Exhibition** - Santa Monica College’s

Pete and Susan Barrett Art Gallery hosts an informative and historical retrospective of Glass Art at SMC, free to the public. Enjoy extensive displays of artful glassworks as well as photos of glass processes and comments sharing the personal and unique glass experiences of SMC students and staff. Event will take place at 1310 11th Street, with entry through the Performing Arts Center’s Courtyard. Details: visit smc.edu.

• **September 1-30 - Roll @ Santa Monica - Opening August 10 through October 14**, a brand-new outdoor roller skating rink will appear in downtown Santa Monica. Lace up your skates and get excited to roll. The rink will be open 12 p.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 12 p.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday, and will be located at 1324 5th Street. For more information, visit rollatsantamonica.com.

• **September 1-30 - An Earth Twin at the Digital Dawn** - Explore the intersections of art and science at this exhibition focusing on the late Tom Van Sant’s Geosphere project, an accurate, interactive, dynamic replica of the Earth, and its transformative historic value as an artwork and a universal scientific tool. The exhibition will run from August 8 to December 7. Event will take place Mondays, Wednesdays-Fridays from 11 a.m. -5 p.m., Tuesdays from 2 p.m.-5 p.m., and Saturdays from 12 p.m. -5 p.m. at the 18th St. Arts Center Airport Campus, 3026 Airport Avenue. For information, visit dnafestivalsm.com.

• **Sunday, September 8 - City Council Candidate Forum**

Meeting - Learn about the ideas and plans of all of the candidates for Santa Monica’s city council, and become an educated voter at this meeting hosted by the city’s seven officially recognized Neighborhood Associations. Event will take place from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. at the Lincoln Middle School Auditorium, 1501 California Avenue. Details: visit smnoma.org.

• **Saturday, September 14 - 4th Annual Westside Unity Classic Car Show on the Pier** - Check out

over 200 classic cars of various makes and models, displayed at the Santa Monica Pier. Awards and raffles will be available, and all proceeds will benefit youth services and after-school programming for underserved youth in Santa Monica and Los Angeles county. Event will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Santa Monica Pier, 200 Santa Monica Pier. Visit picoyouth.org for details.

• **Sunday, September 15 - YARI Dog Adoption Event** - Come meet adoptable pups from multiple Los Angeles-based animal rescues at this event run by the Youth Animal Rescue Initiative (YARI). Event will take place from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Santa Monica Main Street Farmers Market, 2640 Main Street.

• **Thursday, September 19 - Easy Pickings Ukulele Workshop** - Jump into the world of ukulele or hone your preexisting skills with this ukulele workshop for beginning and intermediate level adults and teens, run by ukulele artists Heidi Swedberg and Daniel Ward. Bring your own ukulele or borrow one from the library. Event will take place from 4 p.m.-5:15 p.m. at the Santa Monica Library Pico Branch Annex, 2201 Pico Blvd.

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SANTA MONICA PIER

STREET FOOD CINEMA

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A Native's View of Santa Monica History

Recalling the Early Days of Santa Monica



By David Blundell

In 1839, Mexican Governor Alvarado granted Francisco Sepulveda II lands that became Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica.



The house David's father built for his family in 1950.

Later in 1872, the heirs of the rancho sold the land to Robert Baker who portioned a three quarter interest to John Percival Jones in 1874 for establishing the City of Santa Monica in 1875. The eastern boundary from Olympic Boulevard to San Vicente Boulevard was 26th Street. In those early days 26th Street was a bridle trail.

North of San Vicente Boulevard, the trail continued down into upper Santa Monica Canyon to access the polo grounds that my uncle Albert Mirabito sometimes managed, and where the 1932 Olympic Games equestrian events were held.

In the 1920s, a better road was engineered into the canyon providing access to the new Los Angeles Athletic Club and the Riviera Country Club.

In 1948, the Brentwood Country Mart was built on 26th Street near San Vicente Boulevard to provide a country style atmosphere with red barn architecture. It provided a bakery that allowed the public to view the bakers working behind the glass in their white smocks and tall bakers' hats. It featured Reddi's rotisserie chicken basket with fries with special ground chili pepper and BBQ red sauce, a patio fire pit with white benches, and picnic tables.

The most unique aspect of the Country Mart was its variety of shops: shoe repair, clothes, jewelry, chocolates, stores for books and toys, barbershop, a U.S. Post Office, and many more conveniences. I learned to ride a pony on the Country Mart grounds.

Between Colorado Ave and Olympic Boulevard on 26th Street, was an industrial area that had a brick factory and a freight train stop to transport bricks, stones, and other building materials.

There was also the Plastic Glides factory that produced the famous hula hoop. Today at the location of the brick factory pit, there is the Water Garden office complex. The freight train has become a light rail metro passenger line from downtown L.A. to the beach.

In terms of aviation, the street was used to move 1920s planes from the Douglas Aircraft manufacturing plant at 25th Street and Wilshire to the Santa Monica Airport known as Clover Field.

As was the custom of the streets of Santa Monica, the streets were lined with trees. And, 26th Street was no exception; lavender flowering jacaranda trees were planted in the curbside lawns.

In 1950, my parents found a vacant lot a block south of the Country Mart. My father handcrafted a ranch style house. It was completed at the time of my birth.

In 1966, the street changed again to usher in the progress of the times. The construction of the Santa Monica Freeway leveled a swath of houses from the 405 Freeway to the Pacific Coast Highway. An important exit was at 26th Street providing a commuter road north to Allenford Avenue connecting to Sunset Boulevard.

The residential boundary road of 26th Street required widening for increased traffic. The two beautiful lavender jacaranda trees planted in front of every house were uprooted, and replaced with a single Podocarpus macrophyllus, commonly known as yew plum pine or Buddhist pine. Curbside lawns were eliminated creating driveways sloping through the sidewalk to increase the widening of the street.

Before, 26th Street was like any other street in Santa Monica. That has changed as the street became a commuter route. Yet, it remains a residential street to be respected for safety and its integrity as other streets in the city.

David Blundell is a native of Santa Monica and an anthropologist active in the field of environmental sustainability in programs at Santa Monica College and UCLA. He offers his courses through the UCLA Extension Program.

Be There (Continued from Page 1)

disasters. The most significant recovery needs we see revolve around chronic health conditions, food insecurity, and safe and affordable housing availability.

Today, the impacts of climate crisis are disrupting lives and causing devastating harm. As extreme weather disasters increase, more people need help from the Red Cross. The need for volunteers is more urgent than ever. Your help is crucial in caring for those impacted!

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Call 310-394-3773 for details.

Sean Inoue
Executive Director
American Red Cross
Santa Monica

Love Links

Love of Travel Brought Them Together



Stacia Price and Greg Roberts after their vows had been exchanged.

By Gigi Appelbaum-Schwartz
When Stacia Price and Greg Roberts first met on match.com in October of 2014, they had no idea that their long-awaited wedding would take place almost a decade later – solidifying a longstanding connection and transforming their lives forever. Both Stacia and Greg grew up in California (Stacia in Redlands and Greg in Woodland Hills), where they continue to live and work, but the couple’s love of travel means that the ten years they have spent together have found them exploring a multitude of countries and chasing adventure whenever possible.
In fact, their proposal took place abroad – on a multi-country trip to Oktoberfest in October of 2023. Many years prior, Stacia had told Greg that if he were to propose, she would want to be completely taken by surprise. Taking that to heart, Greg had initially planned a surprise proposal at the Neuschwanstein castle in Bavaria, Germany, complete with a carefully placed bystander to record the moment and a perfect, fairytale location. Unfortunately, Stacia, who had just had emergency hip surgery a few weeks prior, was distracted and misunderstood Greg’s careful directions which were meant to lead her to the site of the proposal. By the time she finally met up with him, it was time for them to leave the castle, and Greg wasn’t able to follow through with his proposal plans.



Enjoying their first meal as a married couple at their reception.

Still wanting to propose, Greg had to rethink his plans and, two days before the trip’s end, he found the perfect opportunity. The couple was eating and laughing together at a quiet restaurant at the Julius hotel in Prague when Greg pulled out a ring, told Stacia

that he had been planning to propose all during the trip and couldn’t wait any longer to ask her to marry him.
Their wedding took place on July 3, 2024 at the Carlsbad windmill in Carlsbad, California. At the reception, a travel theme incorporating the couple’s many international adventures was shown at each table, which represented a different country, and through room decor and music.
After dinner, in lieu of typical wedding festivities, they hosted a game in which the couple answered questions about each other and their relationship. The activity was led by Stacia’s cousin, Christi. The guests, who were close family and friends, watched eagerly as Stacia and Greg sat in front of them in chairs that were back to back. Each was facing guests, but they could not see each other’s responses. Christi asked Stacia to remove her right shoe and hand it to Greg. She then asked Greg to remove his left shoe and to give it to Stacia. They were to raise either his or her shoe in answer to the questions.
Christi asked several questions such as, “Who is the better cook?” and each raised his or her own shoe to indicate who was. The guests were delighted to see how they both agreed on almost all of the answers.
The last question was, “Who is the most romantic of the pair?” Stacia raised her own shoe and Greg also raised her shoe.



Greg and Stacia at Stonehenge in England on their honeymoon.

Currently, Greg is a Corporate Director of Sales for Excel Hotel Group in San Diego, and Stacia works for a private dermatologist in Redlands. We wish the couple all the best in their future together, and hope that they can continue to travel the world and seek adventure wherever possible!

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Stay Tuned for More Details

All the Best to Kevin (Continued from Page 1)

delivering the meals to our home-bound neighbors, and the interaction with them and with the volunteers was an eye-opener for me. The joy and compassion received and given on the part of our amazing aging population, and the volunteers of Meals on Wheels West was beyond imagination.”
Deborah: What led you to begin working at Meals on Wheels West?
Kevin: “Upon a visit with my family in Santa Monica, I discovered that they required health and wellness assistance. I realized that I was beginning a personal path as a caregiver. Instead of continuing my career in the Real Estate Development and Management industry which required travel, I focused on re-establishing myself locally, both personally and professionally, to care for my family.” Being a “temp” allowed me the flexibility to be available to provide the care they required. One of the temp assignments was Meals on Wheels West. In 1998, a perma-



Kevin’s good nature and sense of humor makes him a pleasure to work with and to know.
nment position was offered to me and I accepted.”
Deborah: And, what’s next on your agenda?
Kevin: “What’s next is to apply the tips of self-care that I have gleaned over the years, take a breath, and reaffirm my joy of living. No need for world travel at this time. I will enjoy riding my bicycle along the edge of the continent, relax, and be in the moment.”

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the year, for both adults and serious teens.

And, we would like to welcome you all to our annual open house from November 1-3, which is our grand exhibition of both student and faculty work that has been created throughout the year. You will be blown away!

By the way, you can join our classes at any time, no prerequisite needed. All are welcome, from beginners to advanced artists. Let's paint!

You can find the Kline Academy of Fine Art at 3264 Motor Avenue in West Los Angeles. For more details, please call 310-927-2436 or 310-837-7194, or go to klineacademy.com.



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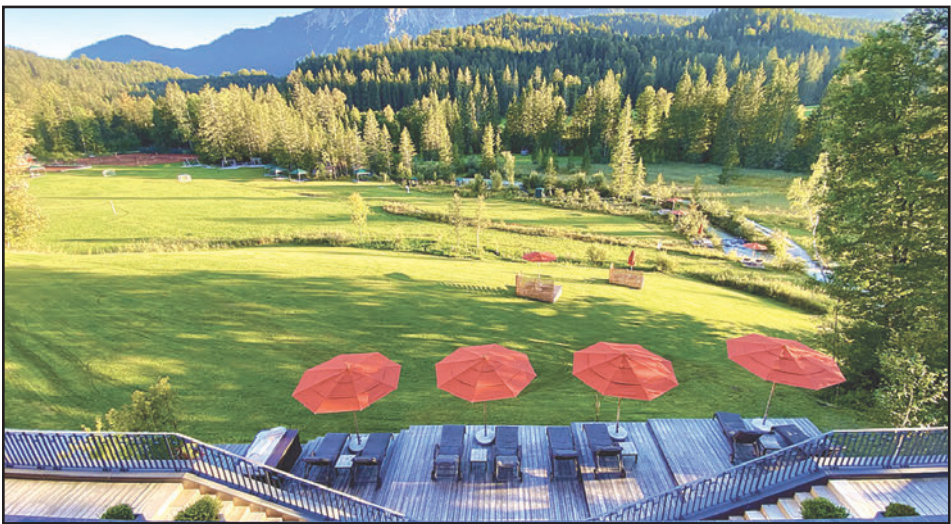
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The Magic of Travel With Tanya



Breathtaking view from Schloss Elmau: Soak in the stunning vistas of the Bavarian Alps while relaxing on the terrace by the heated pool, surrounded by the landscapes that come alive in September.

A Fall Retreat in the Bavarian Alps: Schloss Elmau

By Tanya Gilbert

Nestled in the Bavarian Alps, the luxury resort, Schloss Elmau, offers an idyllic retreat that feels like stepping into a timeless world. As Summer fades into Fall, the landscape around the castle bursts into a symphony of colors, making September an ideal time to visit.

Schloss Elmau has deep historical roots providing more than just opulent accommodations. Built in 1916, as a place of rest and reflection, surrounded by nature, and filled with an abundance of books and classical music.

Schloss Elmau has become a world-renowned luxury spa and cultural refuge. The resort features six heated swimming pools, saunas, a gym, Turkish bath, two yoga pavilions, three libraries, a bookstore, and a stunning concert hall. Additionally, the surrounding area offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, and skiing.

The resort's dedication to wellness is evident in its world-class spa facilities and extensive wellness programs, which include yoga, Gaga dance, tai chi, and

well-being retreats.

Dining at Schloss Elmau is a culinary journey. The resort's restaurants celebrate local Bavarian cuisine, incorporating fresh, seasonal ingredients. A dinner at the Michelin-starred Luce d'Oro, with its exquisite dishes and fine wines, is an experience to be savored.

Schloss Elmau is a haven where luxury meets nature, culture, and wellness. It's a place where you can recharge, reconnect, and rediscover the simple pleasures of life. Whether you seek solitude, adventure, or cultural enrichment, Schloss Elmau offers a perfect blend of experiences that will linger in your memory long after you leave.

Located just an hour from Munich and 40 minutes from Innsbruck, Schloss Elmau is conveniently accessible. If you think a couple of nights is enough, think again. It's not uncommon for guests to extend their stays at this unexpected gem.

For exclusive upgrades and added perks, contact me at tanya@mariposatraveladvisors.com.

How to Prevent Home Burglaries (Continued from Page 4)

- When moving to a new home, have all the locks changed.
- Lawn mowers, barbecues, and bicycles are best stored out of sight.
- Have adequate exterior lighting. A motion-sensitive light is recommended for backyards.
- Trim trees and shrubs so they cannot be used as hiding places for intruders.
- Alarm systems are only useful

when you remember to activate them. Activate the system whenever your home is vacant, even for a few minutes.

To find out about the SSA Security Service for business and residential areas, call 818-773-5600.



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Community Service on the Westside

A Wrap-Up of Recent Lions' Meetings



By Kingsley Fife
We had a delightful time at our recent dinner meeting. Our speaker was Anne Carmack, the City of Santa Monica's first Poet Laureate. She's a writer, painter, photographer, filmmaker, and screenwriter.

Her poetry collection, *My Own Body Breathing*, was an Amazon #1 best seller. She talked to us about what it's been like to be the Poet Laureate, and how she explores personal narrative, cultural and identity, spirituality and philosophy through her art. She told us about an early major event in her life that was a big factor in the direction she took. At the age of three, her mother gave her a typewriter, and on it she typed her first poem. From then on, she knew what her main love in life would be. She's now very active as the city's first Poet Laureate. She goes to the schools and plants seeds in the students' young minds about the appreciation of the arts. She

says it's a wonderful gratifying experience. Our program was very stimulating for all of us.
We also recently had a very enjoyable time at the Police Activity League's annual "Back to School" event held at their location on 14th St. and Olympic Blvd. As one of the participants, we passed out free Target gift cards to the eager students. Santa Monica-Pacific Palisades Lions who were part of the team were Linda Levee, Kingsley Fife, Joanne Fife, Jane Birman, Kathy Boole, and Rae Kameny.

Now, we are getting ready for our Club picnic to be held mid-month at Clover Park. We're working on some special games to liven up the action. It's all part of the fun we have as basically one big happy family!
Are you curious about Lionism? Maybe joining us will fill a void in your life. Learn more by being our guest at one of our dinner meetings. Call Lion Kingsley Fife at 310-454-2960 or jkfife88@yahoo.com.



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An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber
The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) is experiencing a lot of interest from organizations and individuals to

rent our facility. It is a wonderful place for wedding receptions, organization fundraisers, and many other celebratory events. Please see our website (smbwc.org), or call 310-395-1308. This is an especially good time to contact us if you are planning something for Fall or early Winter. The holidays are just around the corner!

The results are in from our June Food Drive supporting the Westside Food Bank. During July, donations of cereal were collected at Club activities. This includes Bridge/Canasta/Mahjong, Book Group, Writers Group, Arts & Crafts, and Pass the Dish, as well as individuals just stopping by the Club to drop off cereal boxes. All this resulted in a delivery to the Food Bank of 123 boxes of cereal – that's 182 pounds of food! This beats our last year's donation of 110 boxes of cereal (144 pounds of food).

Do you have a half-finished art project? Are you stuck in the middle of a knitting project? Then bring your project to the Artists' League (Arts and Crafts) at the Club. Sometimes the camaraderie helps, and our friendly atmosphere can inspire you to finish your projects. We can also assist you in learning or finishing needle arts and/or watercolor art. We meet at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays at the Club. To let us know you are coming, RSVP to Joan at 310-390-7101. We look forward to meeting you!

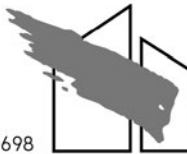
If you are interested in playing Mahjong at the Club on Mondays at 11 a.m., please contact Margery "Minkie" McKevitt at minkiejean@gmail.com. Also, our Creative Writer's Group is on hiatus until 2025.

Please be advised that our facility has a "no pets policy." Due to Club members' allergies and other conditions, pets will no longer be allowed in the Club. However, Certified Service Pets will be allowed.



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What You and Your Child Should Know (Continued from Page 1)

motor skills while at play.
• Establish routines at home. A structured school day is filled with routines that provide familiarity and comfort. Routines can serve similar benefits at home by helping children clearly understand what is expected of them and when. An evening routine helps everyone settle down and prepare for a good night's sleep.
• Encourage self-regulation and social skills. Self-regulation is the

ability to understand and manage your own behavior and reactions, often displayed during actions like taking turns, transitioning from one activity to another, or cleaning up for dinner. Social skills include interaction and communication abilities like speech, body language, and facial expressions, as well as the ability to play with others and make friends.

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Paws and Claws

How Do I Select the Best Foods At the Local Pet Store?



By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM
Q: I am overwhelmed by the number of choices for food at the pet store. How do I sort out the better foods?

A: You're so right. The multitude of choices is daunting. There are a few key points that will be helpful

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in screening the foods. Avoid grain free diets. There has been correlation between the grain free diets and heart disease. Avoid raw food diets. They can sometimes carry pathogenic bacteria that can lead to diarrhea or more serious illness.

Use AAFCO feeding guidelines as a tool to help select the most highly-tested diets. The American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is a non-governmental agency that evaluates pet foods. I recommend diets that have gone through AAFCO Feeding trials. There is a statement on the side of dog food labels called "AAFCO Statement."

The key words in that statement are "Animal feeding tests..." The typical foods in this category are Science Diet, Royal Canin, Purina Pro Plan and "Just Food For Dogs." For details, see <https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&sterm=aafco>.

If you have any questions, you can contact Dr. Lavac at 310-828-4587.



Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

Adapting to New Surroundings



By Michael Margolin
Middle school is right around the corner for Alexa. She is 11 and will begin sixth grade soon. She will be at a new school

for the first time since she started kindergarten. A bigger school with bigger people. There will be a lot of new faces and many teachers to meet. The pond is about to get a lot bigger for her.

Not long before fifth grade ended, I asked Alexa and one of her friends how they felt about fifth grade being over. They gave several answers, but both were sad that their time in fifth grade was coming to an end.

I think that is certainly understandable, and told them as much. I also let them know that they would get over it. That when middle school ends, they would be sad, and get over that as well. Same with high school and college.

Something I realize is the older Alexa gets, and Jake as well, though he is eight, the less I feel I can protect them. There is something unsettling about that. What I mean about protecting them is that they will meet new people and do more things without their parents watching over their them.

When I talk to people who have kids that are starting similar grades, high school, or going off to

college, I always remind myself that we all did the same thing. We all know that they will face different situations where maybe we can help, though we may not necessarily change the end results.

We know that going in. This is what we signed up for. So nothing is a surprise. The goal is that they grow up to become independent, self-sufficient humans. As a parent, I need to make sure I am doing my job to guide and to support them the best I can.

When we found out my wife Enjoli was pregnant with Alexa, I said to her, "Well, we're just going to be worried for the rest of our lives now." I am not worried every second of every day, but once you have a child, you realize that their health and happiness are always not far from the top of your mind all of the time.

Our children, Alexa and Jake, tell me and Enjoli that they love us more than we love them. Though that's not even remotely possible, it is nice to hear. One day, if they do in fact, have children of their own, they will realize that impossibility.

Mike Margolin has been writing for us since his daughter Alexa was born 11 years ago. He is an avid sports fan. Mike is also a coach for both of his children's soccer teams.



Discover What's Happening (Continued from Page 5)

• Saturday, September 21 - Memorial service for Tani Sims - Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd. and 14th St. From 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tani is fondly remembered by many in the Los Angeles community of potters for her efforts to create a unique environment at the Clayhouse ceramics studio, school and gallery, where all could come together to learn and grow in a creative

environment. Pottery and mementos will be available.
• Sunday, September 29 - Santa Monica History Museum: Stand Ups for History - Enjoy performances by stand up comedians in honor of the Community Corporation of Santa Monica, hosted by Nicole Blaine. Event will take place from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Santa Monica Woman's Bay Club, 1210 4th Street. Details: 310-395-2290.

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No Common Law Marriage in California



By Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
Actor Shelley Du-

vall died recently. Despite her fame and access to good legal advice, she proved to be like so many people who die without a Will. Included in her estate is her home that she shared with her long-time partner, Dan Gilroy. They lived in the home in Texas for 30 years since leaving California after the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Shelley had no children. Her closest blood relatives are her three brothers.

Texas, unlike California, recognizes common law marriage. As a common law spouse, under Texas law, Dan is entitled to all his and Shelley's community real property and the rest of Shelley's estate, other than 50% of separate real property. Under Texas laws of intestate succession, the remaining 50% of Shelley's separate real property goes to her brothers. As far as I know, the brothers have not yet responded to claim a larger share of Shelley's estate.

Dan is fortunate that he and Shelley lived in Texas where common law marriage is recognized.

California does not recognize common law marriage. If Dan and Shelley were still living in California, Dan would have been left with nothing, not even his home of 30 years.

In California, live-in partners and long-term relationships must be protected by a Will or Trust. Counting on family to do the right thing for a surviving partner leaves the partner unprotected.

In Dan's case, it could be that Shelley's brothers are fully supportive of Dan keeping the house and they won't try to claim anything more. Under California law, the brothers would have inherited the house, not Dan, and Dan would have been left to rely on the brothers' good will to make an arrangement to allow Dan to remain in his home.

In California, unmarried live-in or otherwise long-term relationships must have an estate plan to protect one another.

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From Me to You...



By Diane Margolin
It seemed to me that the 2024 Olympics that were held last month in Paris were some of the

most exciting we've ever seen. Perhaps it was the way the commentators presented information, or the beautiful French scenery, or the French way of presenting programs. When I watched athletes hugging each other after a race, I wished that we could see people of various cultures embracing each other regardless of their differences all over our world today.

If you have taken care of your older parents, you know that going to doctors appointments is something you end up doing frequently. Then, as you get older,

you find that it happens to you. I've been very aware of doctors who are kind to their patients, who take them seriously when they explain their pains, and who do their best to make their patients feel better.

One of my doctors is Optometrist Ross Somers. Our mothers were friends and each of them went back to college at a time when mothers didn't do that. I also babysat for Ross and his three siblings and went to his wedding.

Recently, I went to him to get new glasses. Of course, when we see each other, we always have memories to share. If you are looking for a doctor who is kind, caring, knowledgeable, pleasant, and who treats his patients with respect, give Dr. Somers a call at 310-319-9999.

An Update From ERBA Markets

The Uncertainty in Cannabis Banking



By Stephen Freedman
Despite cannabis being legal in this state and many others, there remain many obstacles the industry must deal with that most everyday businesses take for granted. One of the most difficult roadblocks to legitimacy is banking.

Because cannabis is illegal under federal law, it can be incredibly difficult and cumbersome for cannabis businesses to gain access to financial services. These include checking and saving accounts, lines of credit, insurance, and loans. Most banks are unwilling to cross the imaginary line into dealing with "illegal" businesses, for fear of federal repercussions.

Additionally, these restrictions force most cannabis businesses to operate largely in cash, which creates a significant safety risk. Legitimate businesses must travel with large sums of cash in order to make their tax payments.

They also have no alternative but to keep an exorbitant amount of cash onsite, which forces companies to employ overnight, sometimes armed, security. Even with the added security, break-ins and threats of violence always hang over these businesses.

While the current administration's recommendation to deschedule cannabis is a start, it does not alleviate the uncertainty of banking with the cannabis industry. One proposal that is making its way through Congress with bipartisan support is the SAFER Banking Act.

This act would prohibit federal regulators from penalizing financial institutions that offer banking for cannabis businesses, and help to clarify existing laws to provide common sense protections for these accounts. Passage would also go a long way in promoting public safety, tax collection, and transparency, which would further legitimize the industry in the public eye.

The validity of the Cannabis industry has come a long way over the years. But, until the federal government gets on board with easing obstacles such as banking, the unjust perception of legal cannabis and the industry as a whole will continue.

Stephen Freedman is the Regional Manager of the ERBA Markets, the WOODS, West LA, Venice, Culver City, and WeHo.



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