

Preserving the Stories of Historic Broadway in Santa Monica



The Walking Tour is part of an on-going quarterly series hosted by 18th Street Arts Center to honor histories of Santa Monica communities.

By Michael Ano
18th Street Arts Center

What is worth saving? City Hall? The library? The market that served Black families, when others would not? Who decides what histories stay and what gets erased? Whose homes are remembered – and whose stories are forgotten?

Just beneath the 10 Freeway lies Broadway between 17th and 20th Streets. Once home to a thriving Black and Brown community, this corridor was filled with homes, businesses, churches, and gathering places that formed the heart of a self-sustaining neighborhood. Today, the area hums with coffee shops, dense housing, and new businesses, but many original landmarks are gone – even as their stories endure.

In July, the 18th Street Arts



The Hughley family auto sales business helped community members purchase vehicles.

Photos: 18th Street Arts Center

Center partnered with Bill and Carolyn Edwards of the Quinn Research Center to host a walk along Historic Broadway. The Edwards shared stories that don't appear on plaques, or in most history books. They told us about the local autoshop, grocers who offered credit during hard times, and business owners who knew their customers by name.

Calvary Baptist Church, still standing today, was much more than a place of worship. It served as a civic hub – hosting voter registration drives, NAACP meetings, and organizing efforts for civil rights and fair housing. Its congregation included generations of families who built both spiritual and social strength within its walls.

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Patricia Chidlaw painted Santa Monica Pier, 2025, oil on linen, which will be on exhibit at the Billis Williams Gallery through August 23. The exhibit is titled *Ordinary Places | Singular Moments: The Cityscape Show XV*. More details in our calendar on Page 2.

You are Invited to the Santa Monica PIERfect Benefit on Saturday, September 6

By Jim Harris

If you've read my columns in this paper over the past year and a half, then you've certainly noticed that I'm not shy in reminding people that the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, of which I am CEO, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Still, there are many people out in the world who assume, incorrectly, that we are a branch of the City of Santa Monica, which means that my staff and I must continually explain who we really are.

Cue the drumroll, please, as I proudly announce the Pier Corporation's "coming out party," our first-ever fundraising event, A

PIERfect Benefit to be held on Saturday, September 6, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the National Landmark Looff Hippodrome (aka the Merry-Go-Round Building). Tickets: www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-pierfect-benefit.

An afternoon gala? Yes! An afternoon affair in which guests will enjoy the antique merry go-round, delectable food, unique entertainment, incredible auction items, and the opportunity to witness a breathtaking late-summer sunset. All make for the perfect tribute, not only to the Pier, but to those who come to support it as well.

There are other details that I would love to share via this column, but I do need to leave room for some mystery. Right?

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The Quiet Between the Storms

By Richard Lombardi

In the aftermath of disaster, there are phases. The first storm that hit Pacific Palisades wasn't just the fire itself – it was everything that followed in those intense early days: the adrenaline-fueled urgency, the chaos disguised as coordination, the constant hum of action, noise, and necessity.

In the days after the flames died down, we entered a whirlwind. The power was out across vast areas, with the Department of Water and Power racing to restore electricity and water to scorched neighborhoods.

Traffic lights blinked red in eerie



In time, hopefully, both sides of Sunset Boulevard will have stores.

unison, creating bottlenecks at intersections manned by LAPD officers, ticketing anyone who dared roll a stop sign. Entry checkpoints were set up on nearly every block, scrutinizing returning residents like scenes from a disaster movie.

And, then came the dump trucks – thousands of them – grinding their way through the narrow Alphabet Streets and canyon roads, hauling away what

was once homes, memories, and dreams reduced to ash.

There was noise, urgency, and movement everywhere. But today, something is different.

The lights work again. The police presence has faded. The checkpoints are gone, and for the first time in months, you can drive through the Highlands or Marquez Knolls without being waved through a barricade. The rumble of dump trucks has diminished to the occasional echo. The majority of debris has been cleared, and what remains now is a strange, subdued calm. A silence that doesn't feel like peace, but like waiting.

Make no mistake – this is the quiet between the storms. The fire was the first storm. The second is coming. We're in the in-between now, a time of deep decisions. Property owners are meeting with architects, interviewing builders, awaiting geotechnical reports, and navigating the maze of permitting. These decisions aren't

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Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?

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What’s Happening On the Westside

• **Saturday, August 9 - Celebrate the 66th anniversary of Chez Jay** restaurant at 1657 Ocean Ave. Hours: 3 p.m.-12 a.m. Featuring free entertainment, 3 p.m.-10 p.m., a Prix-Fixe dinner from 4 p.m.-10 p.m. and more. Call 310-1741, or go online to peanuts@chezjays.com for reservations.

• **Saturday, August 9 - Back-to-School Resource Fair.** Get ready for the new school year with a fun, free event for the whole family! Join L.A. Care at Virginia Avenue Park, 2200 Virginia Ave., Santa Monica, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free school supplies and backpack giveaway for students, ages three and older. Resource Fair with community partners and information to help you start the year strong.

* Students should be present to receive supplies (one backpack per student, while supplies last). Limited quantities may be available for students who are not present. For additional information, visit communityresourcecenterla.org, or call 310-231-3854 (TTY 711), Monday - Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

• **Tuesday, August 12 - Community Conversation** - Montana Branch Library. 5 p.m.-7p.m. Enjoy light refreshments, connect with neighbors, and learn about SMPL's Community Mapping initiative. Share your feedback through a brief survey or join a guided discussion with library staff.

• **Friday, August 15 - Music Time with Miss Kym** - Pico Branch, the Annex. 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Accompanied by her

keyboard, Miss Kym guides children and their caregivers in singing, dancing, and creative expression, blending her original songs with classic children’s tunes. For ages five, and under.

• **Saturday, August 16 - Book Groups - Notable Fiction Book Group** - 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. / Zoom. This community-led, monthly book discussion group meets virtually at 11 a.m. on the third Saturday of the month. This book group discusses prize-winning fiction titles. The titles include: August 2025: *A Strangeness in My Mind* by Orhan Pamuk; September 2025: *West with Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge; October 2025: *Long Island* by Colm Tóibín; November 2025: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks; and December 2025: *Checkout 19*

by Claire-Louise Bennett.

• **Through August 23 - Ordinary Places | Singular Moments: The Cityscape Show XV** presented by Billis Williams Gallery. The show features gallery artists as well as invited guest artists working in a variety of mediums. Tressa Williams wrote, “As we sat down to work on curating this show, we were thinking about where we are now and all that is going on in the world. It seemed fitting for this show to be about recognizing the preciousness of the ordinary, the wonder of a moment in time.” 310-838-3685.

• **Thursday, August 28 - Need your legal questions answered?** Want to learn more about the law or prepare to go to court? An LA Law Library legal research specialist can help! Assistance provided on a first arrival, drop-in basis. No appointment necessary. (Legal research specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice, help fill out forms or interpret the law.) For more information about the LA Law Library, see alawlibrary.org.

Gardening for Bees

By Sarah Caso
California Climate Action Corps Fellow
Last month, the Santa Monica Community Gardens began work on a new community garden at Reed Park behind Miles Playhouse. This garden provides habitat and floral resources to native bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds with California native plants selected to provide continual bloom for pollinators throughout their entire active seasons. There are thousands of native pollinators in California – 1,600

species of bees alone – and this garden emphasizes the need to consider their needs when planning gardens.

When choosing plants for pollinator gardens, it is important to consider the bloom season, whether it is a pollen or nectar source (or both), and what pollinator the flower attracts. Bees see colors different from humans. They see ultraviolet wavelengths that our eyes can’t perceive. Because of this, they are attracted to flowers that are blue, purple, white, and yellow. Hummingbirds,



A long-horned Sunflower bee, *Svastridia obliqua*, sits upon a sunflower.

on the other hand, are attracted to reds and oranges, whereas butterflies like all color flowers. Since moths pollinate at night, they like white flowers, which are more visible. Pollinators need both pollen and nectar sources year-round.

Once you start planning the layout of your garden, there are several things to keep in mind. First, choose to plant large groups of the same flower. Bees like to visit plots of flowers that are at least one meter in diameter, so it’s better to plant more flowers of one type as opposed to more types of flowers. Next, keep portions of dirt uncovered (no mulch). Most bee species

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Happy August Birthdays
Tammy Ito, James Casalor, Susan DeRemer, Suzan Allbritton, Roger Davis, Charley Follette, LaVonne Lawson, Tod Lipka, Myles Pritchard, Freya Rainsford, Jim Rushton, Rebekah Gould, Ruth Schick, Eddie Guerboian, Jay Smith, Mariko Nakagiri, Eric Dobkin, Tish Tisherman, Pat Potter, Kathryn Boole, and Robert Trimborn.

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Senior Care

Tips for Recovering at Home After a Hospitalization

Leaving the hospital is usually a relief, but going home doesn't mean the recovery process is over. In fact, the days and weeks following a hospital stay are often the most critical. Whether you are returning home after surgery, illness, or an injury, the proper preparation and assistance can support a timely recovery.

• Prepare Your Home if Possible If you're going into the hospital for a planned procedure, you have time to prepare for recovery. "Ask your health care provider, nurses, or physical therapist about getting your home ready for your return," advises the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Your preparation may include:

- Moving your bed, stocking up on recommended foods and beverages, and making sure your daily needs (phone, books, medications, etc.) are within easy reach.
- Getting medical equipment, such as a hospital bed, raised toilet seat, walker, or shower stool.

"If your hospital stay was unplanned, have family or friends prepare your home for you," the NIH suggests.

• Understand the Discharge Plan Tim Petlin, the owner of Right at Home in Santa Monica, advises clients to be sure they've received a written discharge plan before they leave the hospital. This typically includes medication instructions, wound care guidance, physical activity recommendations, dietary guidelines, and follow-up appointments. "Make sure you understand everything," Tim says. "Don't hesitate to ask questions before heading home. Having a friend or loved one review the plan with you can be helpful."

• Medication Management Matters - Recovery often involves a complex medication schedule. "One missed dose – or one dose too many – can derail progress or even lead to a trip back to the hospital," Tim explains. If your medications were changed during your hospital stay, be sure to set aside

any outdated prescriptions at home (or dispose of them, if the doctor advises).

• Don't Skimp on Follow-Up Care - Many people don't realize how common it is to end up back in the hospital shortly after being discharged. Follow-up care is important – don't skip those post-hospital doctor visits. And, follow any routines in your care plan, such as monitoring blood pressure or doing prescribed exercises.

• Above all, keep an eye out for early warning signs of trouble, such as shortness of breath, swelling, confusion, or increasing pain.

• Tend to Your Mental and Emotional Well-Being - Healing isn't just physical. After a hospital stay, people often feel tired, anxious, or even isolated – especially if they live alone. "If your loved one was hospitalized," Tim suggests, "encourage them to talk about how they're feeling, and ask them if they want to work with a counselor or support group."

• Don't Forget the Basics: Nutrition and Hydration - A body that's healing needs fuel. Nutritious meals and adequate hydration are essential during recovery, but it's not always easy to shop, cook, or remember to eat when you're not feeling your best. In-home caregivers can help with grocery runs, meal preparation, or encouraging healthy snacks and water throughout the day.

• Stay in Touch With Health Care Providers - Finally, know when to reach out to your doctor. Any signs of infection difficulty breathing, new or worsening pain should be taken seriously.

The Santa Monica office of Right at Home is a locally owned and operated franchise office of Right at Home, LLC, serving the communities of Santa Monica, Palisades, Culver City, Mar Vista, Venice, Marina del Rey, and surrounding areas. For more information, contact Right at Home of West Los Angeles at www.rahwestla.com, or call 310-313-0600.

Gardening for Bees (Continued from Page 2)

– around 75% – nest underground, and they have a hard time nesting when there is too much mulch covering the soil.

Finally, leave your dead flowers in place! You can continue to dead-head, but some bee species use the stems for nests, so leaving stems is another way to ensure

bees will be able to make their homes in your garden.

If you're interested in learning more about pollinator gardening, visit the community garden program at the Main Library on Saturday, August 9, at 3 p.m. to ask questions and check out planting guides!

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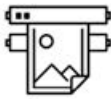
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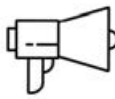
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Reflections From The East

Memory of the Monsoon Season



By Qin Sun Stubis
Summer is here again. Not an ordinary Summer, but an intimidating D.C. Summer marked by wicked, perpetually hot, moist air hanging over everyone and everything. To explain away the unbearable heat and humidity that slink in during the middle of every year, even the misconception that it was built on swampland sounds believable.

During the worst days, I often feel as if the air is a giant, dense, wet, heated cloth, ready to choke me should I dare to go outside. For a woman who spent nearly 30

years in the subtropical climate of southern China, Summer here very much reminds me of the monsoon season when I was growing up, especially this year when intense heat is combined with endless rain, making the wet air even wetter.
As a child, I dreaded the monsoon, which in Shanghai we called mei yu ji jie, meaning “the plum rain season” or “the mold rain season.” Since “plum” and “mold” shared the same sound *mei*, no one could tell which word you were really referring to, but it didn’t matter since they both resulted in the same interminable days of torture and suffering.
Monsoon season could come as

early as the beginning of June and last for at least a month and half. We always knew it was approaching when the temperature soared into the 90s, and a thick layer of low grey clouds covered us, smothering us like a hot, wet blanket.
As school was still in session, I often had to dash into a blinding rain with my useless umbrella. I ran as my sweat raced with the deluge, and my school bag danced crazily on my hip. Soon our city streets turned into vast canals as I waded forward through them. When I got home, I didn’t have one dry spot left on me. Since the air was as wet as the rain, the only way to dry my clothes was to put

them on our rice pot as it cooked over our charcoal stove.
We didn’t have any air conditioners or dehumidifiers. Sometimes our house was so overcome by moisture that our inner walls would weep. When the monsoon was finally over, everything inside our house felt damp. It was time for my mother to dig out all our winter bedding and clothes and air them in the sun to get rid of their moldy stench.
The rest of the Summer would be just as hot, but at least the humidity retreated and the sky was blue again. Then, gradually, I would begin to miss the clouds over my head and the rain they
(Continued on Page 8)

Breathing in a Summer Meditation



By Cheryl Thode
Parents, we are in the last full month of Summer. For some of us, our kids will return to school either in mid to late August, and for the rest, after Labor Day. Thus, this is the last official month of Summer to share with our kiddos. How has your Summer been? Did you make some fun, crazy, or even embarrassing family memories? Are you counting down the days until school starts? Are you looking at the calendar and wishing the Summer was longer? Where are you mentally on the Summer journey?

I hope you have had a wonderful Summer. If you have children (young or old), I pray that you were able to explore nature, a museum, the library, the beach, a park, or some other fantastic location with them. I remember when I was little, loving my family’s Summer excursions and vacations. I looked forward to beach camping and Summer sports camps. I cherished the friendships

forged and the memories made. Now, as a parent, I try to provide the same opportunities for my children.
Nevertheless, as I am sure many of you parents can attest, it can be challenging to do all the things everyone in the family wants to do, and in the time period they want to do them. In the end, the goal is for everyone to have a good time, enjoy our beautiful Southern California, and make some memories along the way.
Now, with the winding down of Summer, we need to start preparing for the start of the new school year. There are supplies to order, clothes to buy, and schedules to organize. However, before you transition into the new school year and the craziness it can bring, let’s take a moment to calm our minds, breathe, and reflect on how the year is going and how we want it to proceed. Please join me in a short meditation.
To start, let’s set our intention for this Summer meditation. An intention is what you want to focus on while you meditate. For this meditation, I propose we focus on the ending of Summer

and what you want out of the last rays of Summer sunshine.
First, find a quiet and comfortable place to sit or lie down. Gently close your eyes. Begin to notice your breaths. Take a few slow and deep breaths. As you breathe in, feel the slow and steady rise of your chest and how your chest falls as you breathe out. Next breathe deeply in through your nose and follow a five count breath, hold, and exhale through your mouth. Inhale for 5, count 1-2-3-4-5, hold the breath for 5, counting 1-2-3-4-5, then I exhale for 5, counting 1-2-3-4-5. Continue with this breathing exercise for 3-5 minutes.
With each breath, feel the opening of your mind and the calming of your body as you sink deeper into a state of relaxation. Return to your intention and think about summer, its end and what you are drawn to do in this last month.
As you continue to breathe and relax your body, you may notice your mind is drifting. Allow your thoughts to move quietly through your mind, like seagulls gliding over the ocean.
Keep bringing your mind back to

your breath.
If a sound, such as a dog bark, a car engine, or even someone talking around you breaks your focus, just acknowledge the sound and then return to your breath.
At the end of five minutes, open your eyes and slowly take in your environment. Take a moment to move your fingers and toes, stretch out your legs and arms, and bring your body back to the present. Reflect one more time on what you experienced during this Summer meditation. Do you have some ideas on how to spend your last month of Summer? Do you have a direction? Do you need to spend some more time reflecting?
As we end Summer 2025, I encourage you to take some time to practice this breathing meditation, either by yourself, with a partner, or even with your kids. In the hustle and bustle of our lives, slowing down especially before a major transition like the start of the school year, can be the best way to prepare our bodies, minds, and souls for the next exciting journey we are to embark on. God bless!



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Passing Through the Pico Neighborhood

Chris Baca is Passing the Torch



By Stacy McClendon
Chris Baca started his career as director of Meals on Wheels West (MOWW) in January, 2014.

He has been happy and humbled to provide innovative techniques that helped bring rapid growth and success while he was at the helm of this important organization. We sat down to discuss his career and more as he prepares to retire in August.

During his time at the helm, the organization established strong relationships with the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles’ Department of Aging & Disability, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica, the American Legion of Pacific Palisades, and more organizations.

Chris was also a founder of the County of L.A. Meals on Wheels Association, and is on the board of Meals on Wheels California. He consulted in the casting of Subaru’s *Share the Love* commercials for two years, which highlighted the partnership of Subaru and Meals on Wheels when they were featured in a national advertising campaign.

Meals on Wheels West has a local, regional, and national impact. Every organization that partners with MOWW allows them to provide services and opportunities to communities that are underrecognized and underserved. In 2024, MOWW delivered 220K meals to 800 unduplicated clients, which is a 259% increase from when he started.

Meals not only serves older adults, but veterans as well, and is a part of the annual City of Santa Monica veterans event that is held on the Santa Monica Pier.

MOWW have also put a focus on those who are formerly unhoused. They collaborate with The Peoples Concern, Community Corporation of Santa Monica (CCSM), and Step Up on Second, to make sure this population is assisted, as 26% of MOWW clients are formerly unhoused. This is a strong focus, as they want to make sure that their clients do not relapse back into homelessness.

Seniors are also one of the fastest growing populations that are becoming unhoused for the first time. MOWW helps combat this, with their Food and Shelter program.

They also have a Community Connections friendly calling program which reaches out to clients, once or twice a week, doing wellness checks, providing socialization, checking if/what they need assistance with (transportation, prescriptions, etc.). They also partner with Providence St. John Hospital and 68 other agencies to make sure that all their clients have what they need.



Chris Baca is off to tour the world, but he will be back to volunteer.

“Delivering More Than a Meal” is the slogan of this amazing organization, and that is what they are all about! Almost 85% of their clients say that the meals and additional resources received enable them to continue living independently at home.

Chris grew up in Santa Monica and lives in Venice. Before working at MOWW, Chris was the Regional Director for Community Health Charities America in nine states.

Prior to this, Chris was in the music business for 30 years. He worked for Capitol Records, EMI America Records, and RCA. He was also nominated by Billboard three different times for marketing, and promotional executive of the year. He also worked for numerous record labels as an independent consultant for various artists.

During his years in the recording business, his focus was to find new baby bands and make them successful. He worked with Duran Duran, Stray Cats, Poison, Red Hot Chili Peppers early in their careers. He also worked with established artists including David Bowie, Heart, Bob Seger, and Tina Turner. He assisted interns in climbing up the ladder to success.

Chris’s entire focus in both careers has been about helping people thrive.

Chris’s legacy is the 249% growth that took place during his tenure at MOWW, the area expansion which now includes Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, Venice, and Marina del Rey, and his focus on locating and assisting underserved populations.

Once Chris retires at the end of August, he plans to travel to Europe and Central America. Chris has a lot of energy to expend and will continue to serve with the community, as he cannot see himself lounging non-stop. He is extremely grateful and thankful to have had two satisfying careers.

We wish Chris a rewarding and fulfilling retirement as he starts a new adventure.

To volunteer or donate, please visit mealsonwheelswest.org.

Stacy McClendon is a longtime Pico Neighborhood resident and Santa Monica City staff member.

Attention First-Time Buyers

First-Time Buyer Myths That Are Holding You Back

By Laurel Earhart,
For most first-time buyers, the journey to homeownership feels like standing at the base of a mountain with no map – and a lot of misinformation. I’ve taught dozens of renters how to create a 3-year plan to buy a home, and over and over, I hear the same myths stopping people before they even start.

Let’s clear a few up:

Myth #1: You need 20% down.
Nope! There are solid loan options that allow 3-5% down – and with good credit or local programs, even less. The key is understanding your financing options early and aligning your plan with your timeline.

Myth #2: You have to be 100% debt-free. Not true. Lenders are more interested in your debt-to-income ratio than whether you still have student loans. I’ve helped buyers with debt become homeowners – they just needed the right roadmap.

Myth #3: It’s cheaper to rent.
Maybe in the very short term, but with rent climbing and home equity growing, buying is one of the most powerful wealth-building tools we have. Your rent is funding someone else’s mortgage – why not make it yours?

Myth #4: You have to do it alone. You don’t. There are agents, lenders, and programs that exist just to support first-time buyers. My 3-Year Plan class was built to guide people who never thought homeownership was possible.

The truth? If you can pay rent in West L.A., you’re likely just a plan (not a miracle) away from owning your first home.

Laurel Earhart focuses on helping first-time buyers purchase a home. In the field for 10 years, she can be found at the Coldwell Banker office, 1608 Montana Ave. Contact her at 424-299-0302, or Laurel.Earhart@CBRealty.com.



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Highlights of the July 4th Parade

Jeff Jarow, far right, started the July 4th Parade on Main Street 19 years ago. This year, members of the Palisades community were invited to join the parade. It was a wonderful event for all who came.

Thanks to Evelyn Lauchenauer and Rich Schmitt for their wonderful photographs of the parade. Everyone was also celebrating 150 years of the city of Santa Monica.

Jeff is also an active member of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and Santa Monica Sister City Organization.



Evelyn Lauchenauer and Jeff Jarow



Mia Ruhman, center, sang the Star Spangled Banner.



Staff from the Santa Monica Family YMCA rode in the parade.



Cyndi Young, Citizen of the Year for the Palisades, was ready for July 4.



Members of the Santa Monica Police Mounted Unit appeared.

Rotary Club of Santa Monica Welcomes New Board of Directors



Len Lanzi, board member and event coordinator, presents a beautiful bouquet of flowers to outgoing President Monika White.

Congratulations to the new officers of the Santa Monica Rotary Club for the coming year: Mitchell Kraus, President; Hodge Patterson, IV, Vice President; Vicky Curtis, Vice President; Alan Glick, Treasurer; and Tanya Gilbert, Secretary, for a second term.

On Friday, July 11, about 100 Rotary Club members, family, and friends gathered at Tiato Kitchen and Garden in Santa Monica to honor outgoing president Monika White and the board of directors.

They also welcomed the incoming officers and board. Officiating over the "dethroning" and installation was Rotary District Governor, Alex Parajon.

The Western theme of the event was prominent with a genuine BBQ dinner, the sound of great Bluegrass music by Dennis Witcher and the Brew Band, and the majority of guests in country-western attire.

It was a lively, festive evening celebrating the Club's past year of numerous service projects, grants, and scholarships provided to the community, as well as the more than \$80,000 raised by the members to support non-profits assisting families and individuals affected by the wildfires.

—Monika White



Rotary District Governor Alex Parajon, far right, dethroned the president and board including, from left, Tanya Gilbert, Secretary; Karin Wallerstein, VP; Gary Ogden, VP; Len Lanzi; and Timur Berberoglu. In front, Monika White and Ken Waltzer, past presidents.

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Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

How to Teach Your Children About Dealing With Disappointment



By Michael Margolin

In the span of about 18 months, Alexa has had two of her best friends move out of state. It was not easy to see the heartache that my daughter experienced the first time. Her friend's father is in the military and was assigned back to the East Coast. We saw that move coming, but it was still not easy to deal with. Her other friend's family decided it was time to relocate, and that happened at a much faster pace.

When I was 12, I do not remember any of my closest friends moving. In fact, the guys I was best friends with then, are still my best friends, and all are still relatively close by.

But, I have had my heartbroken and know what that feeling is like. I have had conversations with my wife Enjoli about what it would be like when our kids get older, and maybe a relationship ends and they are troubled by it.

This is not a feeling I necessarily want our kids to have, but I think a silver lining to that empty feeling is that it can teach you lessons. Among them, it can teach you that

at some point, each day is a bit easier than the previous one. So in a sense, I had thought that if our kids were heartbroken, I would give them my input about how to navigate those feelings. But seeing the tears in my daughter's eyes as she said goodbye to her friend really gave me a helpless feeling. In parenting, feeling helpless is not a place one wants to be.

I understand that what Alexa was dealing with is not the end of the world, and she is still happy and healthy. Nevertheless, it's not a great space to be in. I know these are moments and feelings that Alexa will not forget. At this point, there are tentative plans to see these families. So we are thankful for that.

I am always incredibly thankful for the health of my children. And for what easy people they are to deal with. I am genuinely feeling anticipatory and excited to see what the future holds for them. And, to help them maneuver through as many of life's lessons as I can.

Mike Margolin has been writing for us since his daughter Alexa was born 12 years ago and son, Jake, nine years ago. He also coaches each child's soccer team. Mike is a great sports fan.

Save the Date! Join The Santa Monica History Museum on Sunday, October 19

Come for a fun dinner on Sunday, October 19 to celebrate the Santa Monica History Museum, our City's 150th birthday and their most deserving honorees. They are Paulette Kardashian and the late Sam Kardashian who will receive the Louise B. Gabriel Award and Bruria Finkel who will be given the Community Award. The event will be held at the

Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club. This annual event is the Museum's largest fundraiser, raising over 20% of the annual funds needed to provide educational programming, exhibitions, and outreach throughout the year. Preservation of history has never been more important. For more information, go to santamonicahistorymuseum.org.

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Preserving the Stories of Historic Broadway (Continued from Page 1)

Just steps away were businesses that gave the neighborhood its daily rhythm. **Mack and Sons Union Service**, eventually **Youngers Auto**, kept cars running, but more than that, they provided jobs, pride, and economic independence for Black workers.

Hughley's Broadway Auto Sales was another pillar – run by community members who helped others purchase vehicles in an era when traditional banks and dealerships often refused to lend to Black buyers.

At **HW Atkins Grocery and Meat**, customers didn't just shop – they lingered. You could get a freshly made sandwich, charge your groceries to a tab if the week was tight, and hear the latest neighborhood news.

Nearby, **Juanita's Beauty Shoppe** offered nourishment, care, and comfort. Terri de la Peña, Juanita's daughter, shared about her mother, who as a young woman went to a local salon and was told they would not serve her. She returned home in tears. A few years later, Juanita completed beauty school and opened her first salon – and eventually, a second. Her story is just one example of how Brown and Black women in this neighborhood built institutions of care in response to exclusion.

We completed our tour at the **Philomathean Club**, on 18th and Broadway, a social and civic organization founded in 1921 by Black women, creating space for education, mutual aid, and cultural gatherings when few others did. In recent years, the

Philomathean received official historic landmark status – an achievement that, not long ago, seemed far out of reach.

Today, the organization continues to support the community by offering full scholarships to several students each year, carrying its legacy of empowerment into the present.

These are stories of resilience. Stories that challenge the postcard-perfect version of Santa Monica. And, stories that deserve space in our collective memory. This project is about listening and learning, but it's also about accountability. As artists, institutions, and residents, we must ask: What do we choose to remember? What histories are allowed to remain visible? And, who gets to shape the future of our community?

This tour is part of an ongoing quarterly program series hosted by 18th Street Arts Center, created to honor and celebrate the deep histories of Santa Monica's communities. The next event – a community gourd-making workshop – will take place in November, offering another hands-on opportunity to reflect, remember, and reconnect.

These programs are made possible with generous support from the Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts, whose commitment helps amplify community voices and reframe how history lives in place.



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American Red Cross Reminds You to Stay Safe During Extreme Heat

By Angel Saucedo

As summer continues, experts are warning that dangerously high temperatures are heading to Los Angeles communities. The American Red Cross Los Angeles Region urges everyone to remember these three critical actions to keep yourself and your families safe:

- 1. Stay hydrated by drinking a cup of water every 20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty. Avoid sugary, caffeinated, and alcoholic drinks.
- 2. Stay cool by spending time in air-conditioned places. If your home is too hot, go to a mall, library, or cooling center.
- 3. Stay connected by checking on others and asking for help if you need it. Make sure pets have access to fresh water and shade.

What else should you do? Don't forget to drink water and remind everyone to drink water, even if they don't feel thirsty. Aim for a cup of water every hour, if you're outside or doing an athletic activity, it's recommended to drink a

cup of water every 20 minutes.

Make sure athletes and outdoor workers are taking breaks in the shade. If you don't have air conditioning, find a safe place to go such as a mall, library or cooling center.

Be aware of heat illness signs, anyone can become ill during extreme heat if their body can't cool down properly. Signs to be aware of are:

- Heat cramps are signaled by sweating and muscle pain.
- Heat exhaustion is signaled by heavy sweating, weakness, cool and clammy skin, muscle cramps, dizziness, fainting, nausea or vomiting.
- Heat stroke is a deadly condition signaled by high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, confusion, headache, dizziness, fainting, nausea or vomiting. Call 911. Move to a cooler place, remove extra clothing and use a wet cloth or cool bath to cool down. Sip a sports drink or water, if possible.

The Quiet Between the Storms (Continued from Page 1)

made quickly. They're made at kitchen tables in temporary rentals, with insurance paperwork spread out next to childhood photos pulled from fireproof boxes. They're made with uncertainty about costs, timelines, and whether to rebuild at all. Some are waiting on structural engineering. Others are wrestling with whether their family will return at all.

Meanwhile, utility crews continue to trench through streets, upgrading water mains, laying underground cables, and restoring vital infrastructure. It's slow, deliberate work – critical groundwork for what's ahead. Because what's coming will be a storm of a different kind.

Soon, foundations will be poured. Cranes will dot the hill-sides. Nail guns will replace silence. Dozens, then hundreds of contractors, framers, roofers, electricians, and landscapers will arrive each morning, and by midday the streets will be alive again – not with sirens and flashing lights, but with the sound of rebuilding.

The Palisades will erupt into a new kind of energy: the roar of recovery, the storm of construction. And, through it all, something more powerful than wood and nails will be taking shape – resilience.

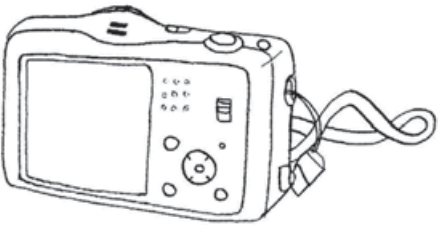
Yes, many of us lost everything. Yes, the journey back is long, expensive, and emotional. But from the ashes of this tragedy, a new – town is being born – one rebuilt not just with stronger materials, but with stronger hearts.

This quiet moment, this pause in activity, is not an end. It's the inhale before the exhale. It's the space where dreams are redrawn, decisions are made, and hope quietly takes root again.

Soon, Pacific Palisades will rise – not just to what it was, but to what it can become.

And, when that second storm comes, it won't bring destruction. It will bring renewal.

Richard Lombardi has been in real estate sales for over three decades. Richard is an author, speaker, coach, and trainer. To learn more about Richard, visit <https://lombarirealestatewealthadvisors.com/about>, email Richard@TheLombardiGroup.com, or call 310-903-6509.



Halley Stubis

Memory of the Monsoon Season (Continued from Page 4)

brought. I prayed for a brief sun shower to cool me down and a slice of watermelon to make my Summer sweet.

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



As my brother, a pilot, pointed out, no cloud formation will ever be the same.

—D.M.

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Community Service on the Westside

Ballmer Group Supports YMCAs to Provide Opportunities for Youth



By Araceli Alejandre, COO
This summer, the Santa Monica Family YMCA is proud to partner with Ballmer Group to support families and youth affected by the devastating Los Angeles wildfires. As one of eight YMCAs across Los Angeles County receiving a portion of Ballmer Group's \$2.5 million investment, we are expanding access to summer programs that offer healing, connection, and joy to those who need it most.

These funds are helping children and teens impacted by the fires participate in enriching programs such as Camp Big Bear, Summer Day Camp, swim lessons, and Junior Lakers Youth Basketball.

By removing financial barriers, the YMCA is providing safe, supportive spaces where youth can recover, build confidence, and simply enjoy being kids again.

We are also encouraging family time this Summer by subsidizing family memberships, allowing

children and their family members an opportunity to be active and healthy, together.

This support comes at a critical time, as many families continue to navigate the emotional and economic toll of displacement and loss. Ballmer Group's investment reflects a deep commitment to long-term recovery and trust in the YMCA's ability to serve communities through both crisis and renewal.

We are deeply grateful to Ballmer Group for helping us create a summer of possibilities for families across our region. Together, we are ensuring that every child – regardless of circumstance – has the opportunity to thrive.

For families interested in determining qualification, they can apply online at: <https://ymcasm.org/blog-updates/summer-of-possibilities/>.

For more details on our the YMCA summer programs, please contact the Santa Monica Family YMCA at 310-393-2721, or visit our website at ymcasm.org.

The Santa Monica - Pacific Palisades Lions are Always on the Go



By J. Kingsley Fife
Our recent monthly dinner meeting was a very special event. We Santa Monica-Pacific Palisades Lions had the annual installation

of our new officers for 2025 and 2026. For the installing officer, we were privileged to have our District Governor Nick Mananghaya and his wife, Lion Cecille. The highlight of the procedure was installing our new Co-Presidents, Pam Andrews and Derrick Beerensteyn. President Pam will lead us from July thru December, and then President Derrick will take the gavel from January thru June in a dual presidency system. We have found that a multi-presidency works out very well.

Special guests at our meeting were the new chiefs of the Santa Monica Corps Salvation Army, Captains Ty and Heather Baze. They have been transferred here after five diligent years leading the Salvation Army in Sierra Vista, California. They replace the very popular Lion Captain James and Katrina Fleming who headed the

Santa Monica Corps here for four years, and are now transferred to San Francisco. We are looking forward to carrying on this strong Salvation Army-Lion bond by working with Captains Ty and Heather on many future mutual projects.

We recently inducted two new members, Brian Ransom and Jessica Cunza. This month we will be welcoming two more new Lions into our Pride: Patty Namkoong and Steven McMahon. It's very fulfilling to see our club thrive and grow as people catch the "Lions spirit," wanting to be part of the exciting action.

July 4 was a busy day for us. In the morning we piled into an open convertible, led by our banner, and participated in the famous Santa Monica Independence Day Parade. Then, in the evening we had a vibrant booth at the Pacific Palisades Festival held at Paul Revere School. We were busy with happy kids filling out puzzles and playing skill-games.

Curious about Lionism? Be our guest at a dinner meeting. For info, contact Dr. Kingsley Fife, jkfife88@yahoo.com.

An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber
Half of 2025 is in the books. It's certainly been memorable for our community and our neighbors in the Palisades.

In June our members of the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) contributed 112 (at last count) boxes of cereal for our annual cereal drive to benefit the Westside Food Bank. Our Events Chair, Alicia Syres, personally delivered every single box.

The Club has several activities pending for September, including the California Federation of Women's Club's National Day of Service. We hope to have as many members participate as possible.

And, we are also planning for Sock-tober when members contribute socks that we then donate to a shelter. (If you know of anyone who can obtain bulk socks, please contact Becky at 310-395-1308.)

This past fiscal year the SMBWC Board of Directors donated funds once again to several local community organizations. They were The Santa Monica History Museum, the Santa Monica Sym-

phony, the Santa Monica College Foundation, the Santa Monica College Veterans Resource Center, the Santa Monica High School Orchestra, and the Samohi Jazz Band, and finally to Friends of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter.

This year, the Board was especially eager to donate funds to the World's Central Kitchen – L.A. Fire, the Pasadena Humane Society, the California Fire Foundation L.A. Relief Fund, and the American Red Cross for the L.A. fire victims. We also donated to organizations we have supported in the past, which I will write about in my column next month.

Our weekly Club activities continue with new members joining each month. Canasta, bridge, and Mahjong are offered each Monday; Arts, Crafts, and Conversation each Tuesday, and Contract Bridge on Thursdays. Monthly, we offer our Book Club which meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and our new Walking Group meets outside the Club at 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month.

For information on these activities, or rentals and membership, call the Club at 310-395-1308, or see our website at smbwc.org.

Planning Ahead

The Perils of Naming a Business Associate



By Lisa Alexander, Esq.
Naming a business associate as a Successor Trustee is common, but is it the best choice?

When Diane Feinstein's husband, Richard Blum, died, he left a trust for Feinstein to provide for her lifetime.

The Trustees of her Trust were long time business associates of Blum. Issues arose over claims by Feinstein that the Trustees were holding back money she was entitled to receive. Feinstein had re-

quested reimbursement from the Trust for close to \$170,000 in medical expenses and to pay for her caretakers. The Trustees refused to make the distributions requested because they concluded that Feinstein had other sources of income. This led to a Court battle to have the Trustees removed.

The widow of singer Jimmy Buffett, Jane Buffett, is now in a similar situation. Buffett left a trust for Jane's benefit, with express provision that the trust was created "for the wife's sole benefit of her lifetime." Jane is a Trustee, but Buffet named his longtime

(Continued on Page 10)

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You Are Invited *(Continued from Page 1)*

One last detail that I can share is something very important to me, personally, and also to everyone who loves the Pier. For the first time since our centennial celebration in 2009, the Pier Corporation will be presenting the "Santa Monica Pier Award" to two very special honorees: Larry Barber, Chair of the early 1970s "Friends of the Santa Monica Pier" organization that literally saved the Pier from the demolition in

1973; and Judy Abdo, one of our original board members and the leading advocate during the 1980's restoration and reimagination for keeping the Pier free and accessible to everyone.

Once again, get your tickets at www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-perfect-benefit, or visit our website: www.santamonicapier.org/pierperfect-benefit25.


We look forward to seeing you here at the Pier!

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Paws and Claws

Why Does My Cat Keep Sneezing?




By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM
Q: I recently adopted a cat from the shelter. He has been sneezing often. He is eating and happy. What is going on?
A: This is a very common problem where cats are crowded together. He most likely has an upper respi-

ratory infection (URI). The most common cause of this is the Rhinotracheitis virus which is a herpes virus. Even if he was appropriately vaccinated, he can still pick up infection when stressed. You should have your cat examined. You mentioned that he is still eating, and that is a very positive sign. Most cats recover within one-two weeks. Occasionally, antibiotics might be indicated, or an antiviral drug called Famcyclovir can be helpful. Even after he recovers, he still may harbor the virus in his system and can manifest it later when he experiences a stressful event. Overall, the prognosis is good.

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

Adopt a Pet



Jack has the most friendly and outgoing personality. He loves to play with feather wand and catnip toys, and also loves treats and attention. Jack is a neutered male, gray and white Domestic Shorthair. The shelter staff think that he is about two years old. Contact the SantaMonicaShelter, smasf.org/.




--Joe Analco

The Perils of Naming a Business Associate
(Continued from Page 9)


financial advisor, Richard Mozenter, to serve as a Co-Trustee with Jane. The arrangement deteriorated with claims by Jane that Mozenter has refused to give her information about the Trust and the income of the Trust. Mozenter told Jane that there was not enough income to cover her expenses and advised that she “consider adjustments.” The breakdown of the relationship between the Co-Trustees has led to dueling Court battles between the Co-Trustees, including Jane’s lawsuit to have Mozenter removed. In another case, a Trustee has withheld distributions to a beneficiary based on the Trustee’s opinion that the beneficiary was not spending her money wisely and therefore he would not make further distributions. This case is also now in Court in an effort to have the Trustee removed.

The lessons to draw include the importance of good communication during the estate planning process, including setting expectations for the Successor Trustee. Most important is to name the right person as Trustee. The job of the Trustee is to follow the terms of the Trust while respecting the fiduciary duties owed to the beneficiary. If there is any concern that the Trustee will act in a paternalistic manner or perpetuate past family dynamics, that person is not right for the job.


Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
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Santa Monica Family YMCA to Host Healthy Aging Fair in November

The Santa Monica Family YMCA will be hosting a Healthy Aging Fair on Monday, November 17 from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The fair is free and open to the public. This event is a great opportunity to connect with the community, share valuable resources, and engage with local organizations that are dedicated to supporting healthy, active aging. If you are interested in joining the YMCA as a participating organization, please let Matthew know by Monday, September 1. You can reach him via email, matthew@ymcasm.org, or by phone, 310-393-2721, ext. 116.

Have You Been Thinking About Writing a Book?

By **Cara J. Stevens**

“I’ve always wanted to write a book ... but I have no idea how to start.”

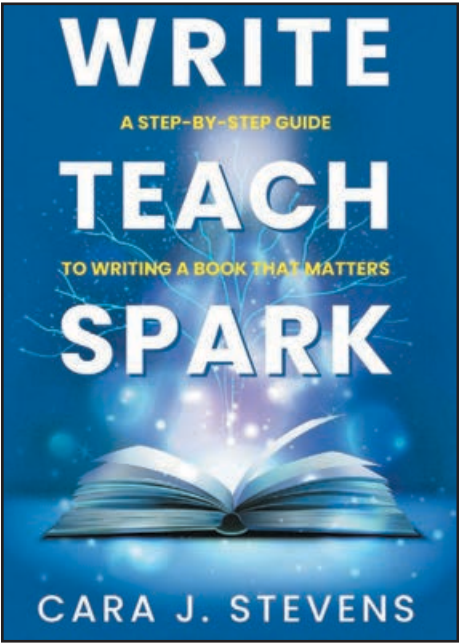
This is the question I get asked most often – whether I’m speaking to a crowd or just chatting with someone I’ve just met after introducing myself as a writer and book coach. In fact, when I was asked to write a column answering frequently asked questions, this one topped the list.

If it’s your question too, you’re in good company. Whether you want to share your expertise, explore an idea, or craft something entirely fictional, the first step is often the hardest. The uncertainty around how to begin is the number one reason people with a great book idea never actually start writing.

To ease the leap from idea to page, I suggest coming at it sideways. Sneak up on the idea before it has a chance to intimidate you. Then gather just enough clarity and confidence that starting becomes the natural next step.

Thinking about who you’re writing for, what you want to say, and what you want your reader to take away can bring your concept into focus and show you where to begin. Start here:

- Define what your book is about and who it’s for. A focused concept and clear audience will guide your choices.
- Identify what makes your story, approach, or perspective unique. It doesn’t have to be brand new, just truly yours.
- Talk about your idea with others. Notice when people lean in, ask questions, or connect.
- Jot down 5–7 key ideas, scenes, or turning points. These are the building blocks of an outline.
- Revisit your favorite books in



your genre. Study how they start, how they’re structured, and what keeps you turning pages.

- Let yourself start messy. Every finished book begins as a rough draft. The important thing is to begin.

And, if you’re still figuring out what kind of book you’re writing, that’s perfectly okay. The process of writing often reveals the heart of what you’re really trying to say.

As Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom (and father of actor Daniel Day-Lewis), C. Day-Lewis once wrote, “*We do not write in order to be understood; we write in order to understand.*”

Cara J. Stevens is an author, editor, and book coach. Her book, *Write, Teach, Spark* (Gatekeeper Press, 2025), guides new writers through shaping their first nonfiction manuscript. She lives in Marina del Rey with her husband and has two grown children. Learn more at WriteTeachSpark.com.

Answer to Neighborhood Celebrity

(Continued from Page 1)



Foster SLA Needs Dog Fosters to Help Save Lives!

What an opportunity for L.A. dog lovers. Foster SLA brings together shelter volunteers and rescue groups to lessen the strain on our packed shelters, while giving loving adoptable dogs more chances at finding *furever* homes.

Students can even earn community service hours for fostering. No matter your experience level, this unique program supports you and your foster dog from the very start.

Foster SLA helps match you with a dog, provide supplies, and support with group texts. There are also bi-weekly video calls for questions, along with event invitations and promotion to help get your foster dog adopted. Yes, of course you can adopt your foster dog. (It is a great way to see if that dog is a fit) but that’s not what they expect from you.

Learn more @FostersouthLA and FostersouthLA.com or email fostersouthladogs@gmail.com.



Karan Kumar Sharma is the mail carrier in the Pico Neighborhood. He has been in the U.S. Postal Service for 10 years.



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Taste the Best Breakfasts at Flapjax on Wilshire Boulevard

Scrambled eggs, tomato, onions, and spinach top a delicious fresh waffle known as Popeye.

Bru Caplan, owner of Bru’s Waffle, recently combined that restaurant with the yellow front on the south side of Wilshire, with Flapjax with the blue front on the north side.

Now, even more appealing foods are on the combined menu. And, you can get waffles and pancakes, plus burritos, smash burgers,

Scrambled eggs, smoked salmon, and avocado are a tasty combination with a waffle. Photos by Steve Litwak

wonderful desserts, and tempting combinations of foods that will tempt your palate.

My favorite place to sit is in the back patio. Bru has decorated it so you feel as if you are relaxing in your own yard. Hours are 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on weekends and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. during the week. **D.M.**

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