# THE SANTA MONKA

# Also Covering The Greater Westside

**Volume XXIV Number 6** 

**Connecting You With Your Community** 

**June 2025** 

### **Have Fun Showing Dads Your Appreciation**



John Galuppo took his family to the Coachella music festival. From left, his wife, Megan, Lily, George, and John.



Richard Lombari, holds one-dayold grandson, Leo and grandrascal, Aurora, now four. Richard loves time with his grandrascals.



Frank Lavac is with his daughter. Kira, at her recent beautiful Santa Barbara wedding where she married Mark Arthur.



The Margolin Men - From left, Dad Don; his sons, Michael and Max; and in the front row, Jake, Mike's son, who is now nine years old.



Mack, left with Dad, Hodge Patterson, and older brother, Hodge, are getting ready for a fun family outdoor adventure.



Stephen Freedman enjoys time with his daughter, Olivia. She is a dancer, gymnast, and a burgeoning ice hockey player.



David Jonathan Rogers Weber, left, was a bright light whose positive energy touched so many lives. He was the father of Adaeze, far right, shown with her husband, Lenny.



Jeff Jarow, left, was with his son, Morgan, when Jeff received an award for his last year on the Santa Monica Chamber Board of Directors. Jeff was given the Chamber of Commerce's Community Leader Award.

### Wrapping Up My Palisades High School Senior Year at a Reconfigured Sears

#### By Gigi Appelbaum-Schwartz

When my home and parts of my school burned down in January, I had no idea what the remainder of my senior year would look like.

Coming out of Winter break, my classmates and I were plunged into online learning – isolated from our friends and communities while we struggled to adapt to our new reality.

Zoom school came with a vague promise of eventual relocation, and a blind hope that we would be able to return to school in person

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Planning Ahead .....10



Arik Kraft, Dani Traum, and Avery Waxman-Lee meet in the second floor commonspace of the Sears building.

at some point before graduation, but we were skeptical. We didn't think our school would have the time or resources to successfully relocate us, especially as the demands of post-fire remediation

weighed heavily on them and the whole community.

But, our administration pulled through, and by April 22, we were back in person in the newly-

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#### Do You **Recognize This** Neighborhood Celebrity?

(Answer on Page 11)



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### **How Food Shapes Mood and Brain Function**



By Molly Rapozo
The food we eat
plays a critical role
in both emotional
well-being and
cognitive performance. In dietetics
and psychology,

nutrition is increasingly recognized as a key factor in managing mood and sharpening mental function.

A well-balanced diet regulates neurotransmitters like serotonin and dopamine, which influence mood, motivation, and stress resilience. Foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids – such as salmon, walnuts, and flaxseeds – help reduce inflammation and support brain communication, while processed foods high in sugar and unhealthy fats can contribute to mood swings and fatigue by disrupting gut health.

Cognition, including memory and focus, also benefits from nutrient-dense foods. Antioxidant-rich options like blueberries, red cabbage, and leafy greens help protect brain cells from oxidative stress, enhancing mental clarity and slowing cognitive decline. The gut-brain connection plays a significant role in this process – probiotic-rich foods like yogurt and fermented vegetables promote a healthier microbiome, which has been linked to improved recall and problem-solving.

By making mindful food choices, we can optimize both how we feel

and how we function. Prioritizing whole, nutrient-rich foods while minimizing processed ingredients fosters sharper thinking, emotional balance, and long-term brain health. Food isn't just fuel – it's a tool for mental resilience and cognitive vitality.

Putting it all together, a leafy green salad loaded with brain-boosting ingredients makes for a perfect meal. Salmon provides omega-3s for cognition, while blueberries add a sweet antioxidant punch. Walnuts bring crunch and healthy fats, and pickled red cabbage offers a tangy probiotic boost. Topped with a simple olive oil dressing, this vibrant dish nourishes both mind and mood.

We invite you to attend our FREE Food, Mood, & Function Brain Health Booster, a virtual educational presentation designed to help you understand the impact of dietary choices on your mental health and cognition.

Date: Wednesday, June 4, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Registration: bit.ly/foodmoodfunction 213-344-2037.

Molly Rapozo, MS, RDN, CD, is the Senior Nutrition & Health Educator at the Brain Wellness & Lifestyle Program at Pacific Neuroscience Institute. With years of experience counseling individuals and families, she provides nutrition coaching for those seeking to improve their cognitive wellness and overall health. PacificLifestyle.org/213-344-2037.

#### **Summer Reading: Book Recommendations**

#### By Sarah Caso California Climate Action Corps Fellow

Summer is here, which means I'll be enjoying the longer days reading. If you're like I am and hoping to spend the extra daytime reading, here are a couple of books you can savor as you sit on the beach, lay on the grass at a park, or enjoy the sunset.

For those of you looking for a new perspective on what the environment is, *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer will take you on a journey through the basics of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Dr. Kimmerer is a professor of environmental biology at

the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she founded the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. She combines her background in Western science with that of Indigenous Knowledge to write about reconnecting with nature.

After reading her work, you will want to spend all of your time outside. You may also want to read *Gathering Moss*, her first book, which is a love letter to moss that will make you fall in love with it as well.

Another excellent choice is *Disabled Ecologies* by Dr. Sunaura



Santa Monica Community Gardens Program Coordinator Teague Weybright is reading the book "Braiding Sweetgrass" in his office.

Taylor. This book interweaves disability studies with environmentalism, bringing attention to the importance of environmental justice, by using trichloroethylene contamination in the Tuscon aquifer as a case study. Environmental exploitation, human health, and ableism are all intersecting - harming the environment harms us all. Dr. Taylor is an artist and assistant professor in the Division of Society and Environment at UC Berkeley with a focus on Crip Theory. I was so fortunate to take a class taught by

(Continued on Page 5)





Happy June Birthdays to: David Trachtenberg, Michael Margolin, Frances McDormand, Wendy Navin, Sharon Gavin, David Rosenfeld, Rick Mateus, Thelma Daar, Rose Mann, Chris Baca, Brandon Murray, John Dravillas, Pat Johnston, Eric Jorgensborg, Bernadette Lucier, Steve Rosell, Clara Wright, Rufus Baker, Julia Abbott, Jeff Jarow, Charles Haskell, Elise Martin, Matt Lehman, Skip Rimer, Ruth Sperber, Toby Fulp, Maurice Jordan, Johanna Jenkins, Jane Franz, Kevin Erhart, Kalina Silverman. and Andy Gavin





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#### From the Santa Monica Pier Guy

#### The Pier Kicks Off Summer



By Jim Harris Ah, it's June - a perfect month to visit the Pier and ignore the June Gloom. Why? Anticipation. No matter the color

of the sky, Summer is undeniably here. School is out and people embark upon their family vacations, whether to or from Santa Monica. Despite our morning marine layer, we know that our beautiful blue Summer skies will ultimately break through and confirm that Summer is, indeed, here. We have a full slate of activities, offering something unique and special every week!

Our Wellness & Waves fitness series is already well into its 26straight-week of Saturday morning group runs and yoga sessions (and sometimes mat Pilates sessions). There is no better way to start a weekend than joining us for an invigorating fitness session at the Pier's beautifully serene west end. Pick a Saturday, any Saturday, and come join us!

On June 21, inside the national landmark Merry-Go-Round Building, we will showcase our second annual SaMo Pride event,

Fabulous Fables, featuring a children-focused theatrical performance by Miles Playhouse, with face painting, and a fun community fair. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

And, on June 28 and 29, we produce my personal favorite Santa Monica Pier event - the one which is most true to the Pier roots as an integral part of the development of Southern California beach culture. It is our 15th Annual Pier 360 Beach Festival. This fun-filled weekend features paddle board races, swim races, beach volleyball, a skateboard half-pipe, roller skating, and a strongman competition. What is the Pier's historical attachment to each of these sports? I'm glad you asked, for there will be a pop-up Museum of Beach Culture in and next to the Merry-Go-Round Building where you can learn about it.

So never mind the grey skies, and please come enjoy June in the way that we celebrate it at the Pier!

Jim Harris is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

### Santa Monica History Museum is Calling for Your Support

Dear Readers:

The Santa Monica History Museum is facing significant obstacles - from the devastating wildfires that have impacted our community – to cuts in funding for the arts and museums. The museum's mission to preserve and share the rich history of Santa Monica has never been more important, and we are reaching out to our community to ask for your support during this critical period.

Our mission remains as vital as ever: to safeguard Santa Monica's history for future generations. We are in dire need of your help. Every donation, no matter the size, can make a significant difference. Your generosity will help us keep the museum alive, ensuring that we can continue telling the stories that shape our identity, and honor the memories of those who came before us.

Please consider joining us in this vital mission. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of the Santa Monica History Museum endures for generations to come. Your support is not just a gift, it's a commitment to our community and its heritage.

I have included a link to our programming this year along with



Museum member Terri de la Peña shares her family's early Santa *Monica history with a group of* others who grew up in our city.

a donation [Santa Monica History Museum on Linktree] (https:// linktr.ee/SantaMonicaHistory Museum.

You can also send a check to the Santa Monica History Museum, P.O. Box 3059, Santa Monica, CA 90408.

Thank you for considering a donation, and for your ongoing commitment to our history.

With heartfelt gratitude, Susan Gabriel Potter, President Santa Monica History Museum

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#### Reflections From The East

#### Contemplate Being a Child on This International Children's Day



By Qin Stubis Being a child means something very different from one corner of the Earth to another. Some have to help their parents with chores the moment

they start to walk and talk. They toddle as they feed their chickens, pick vegetables with their baby fingers, or sweep yards with broomsticks taller than themselves. Their tasks only grow with

To this day, going to school or playing with toys is only a distant dream for many – one that will never come true – while for others, having dolls, bicycles, and an education is just an ordinary part of growing up. For me and my three sisters, childhood fell somewhere in between, for in spite of our hard lives, we all had an opportunity to go to school.

It was the 1960s in Shanghai, China. We shared our one-andonly doll and played with it until it was threadbare. My mother often had to sew its disjointed body parts together because we had bestowed too much affection upon it. By the time we entered elementary school, we learned to do our own laundry with a tub and washboard, and we sneaked into parks and onto neighbor's lawns to collect grass and other edibles for our backyard chickens.

Our lives were often a struggle as we coped with half-empty stomachs and worn-out clothes. We shivered in the Winter cold and when the Summer heat was too intense to bear, we slept on our cool concrete floor. We often worried where our next meal was coming from and whether our

father, who was unfairly locked up as an "anti-Cultural Revolution" reactionary, was still alive.

Life's cruel challenges forced us to grow up fast. In some ways, the only time we could truly be children was when we were in school. Sitting at my desk in front of a blackboard forced me to stop thinking about all my worries and focus on what the teachers were teaching.

Going to school and getting As made me feel happy and proud. I knew that the more I learned in class, the faster I could grow up and help my mother to shoulder more family responsibilities. And, as I moved up the grades, I knew that I was getting closer to being a real adult.

An education gives every child a chance in life, no matter who they are and where they are. I feel very lucky to have been given the gift of learning, without which, I could not have become who I am today. On this June 1, International Children's Day, I want to dedicate my column to children all over

If you want to get involved in changing a life through education, please check out local charities such as the Santa Monica Breakfast Club whose goal is to provide dental care for families in need whose children attend schools in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District. Or, on an international level, check out Shanti Bhavan Children's Project at shantibha vanchildren.org.

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.

## When Ego Gets in the Way of the Chainsaw

#### By Richard Lombari

Our ongoing Palisades fire recovery took a strange and somewhat humbling turn recently – one that had nothing to do with fire.

A few weeks back, the debris removal crew began clearing what was left of our home. I stood nearby, quietly hoping something might surface from the ashes - a photo, a piece of jewelry, anything with some sentimental weight. Nothing did. But as that hope faded, I found myself drawn to the backhoe operator. He moved with such precision – sorting mangled metal from ash, lifting huge appliances and even what was left of our car like it was routine. The whole crew worked in sync. I was

genuinely impressed.

Then came Monday. The foreman showed up early, a little irritated because one of the younger guys had missed the morning ride in. While the crew shifted to the next big task - removing the tall palms out front – the latecomer pulled up across the street in a shiny new extended cab pickup. You could tell he was proud of that truck.

In a burst of energy, maybe trying to make up for being late, the young guy grabbed a chainsaw from another worker and jumped into action. He didn't ask, didn't plan – just started cutting. And cutting.

A minute later, the palm tree

started to fall – just not the way it was supposed to. It leaned, pivoted, and then came crashing down - directly onto the hood of his brand-new truck. Silence. The entire crew turned and just stared. Even the foreman, who'd been barking about permits five minutes earlier, was speechless. I stood there, not quite sure what to say. But in that moment, I realized something that surprised me: I could see myself in that kid.

When I was younger, I had a lot of that same energy. I would rush into situations, eager to prove I could handle whatever was in front of me. I wouldn't always pause, or ask questions, or wait for the right moment. And more

than once, that approach landed me in a mess I could've avoided.

That tree on the truck? It was more than just a bad break. It was a reminder of what can happen when ego gets ahead of good judgment.

Another lesson learned – maybe, just maybe, it's worth taking a second look at which way the tree's leaning - before you fire up the saw and charge ahead.

Richard Lombari 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://lom barirealestatewealthadvisors.com/ about, email Richard@TheLombari Group.com, or call 310-903-6509.

#### Finland's Secret: A 40,000-Island Archipelago and an 800-Year-Old City

#### By Tanya Gilbert

If you're looking for a destination that blends serene Nordic landscapes, authentic local culture, and a dash of history, set your sights on Saaristo - Finland's ar-

chipelago of 40,000 islands and islets. This world's largest archipelago is where time slows down, flavors come alive, and the sea is always within reach.

Only a short drive or scenic ferry

ride from Helsinki or Stockholm, Saaristo is a treasure trove of tranquil villages, forest trails, and rugged coastlines. Whether you're exploring by kayak, savoring a freshly foraged mushroom dinner, or soaking in a traditional Finnish sauna, the archipelago invites you to truly live like a local.

• Turku: Finland's Cradle of Culture Turns 800 - At the heart is

(Continued on Page 8)

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**CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL** 2025 HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES!

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#### Architecturally Speaking

# Prefab Homes: Custom, Cost Effective, and Faster



By Elisa Garcia Garcia Architects This is a continuation of Elisa's suggestions on building a fireresistant home.

*She discusses* 

prefab homes this month.

There's a lot of buzz about prefabricated homes, yet there's a great deal of mystery about what prefab is. Many prefab buildings are predesigned, and can be selected from a catalog, with several plans or façade alternatives to choose from.

However, many are custom homes designed by an architect who then brings a prefab factory on board as part of the team. In many cases, the factory is also the General Contractor for the site work. The building is built in a factory very similar to how it would be built on site, however, it must be designed and constructed in modules that are small enough to transport on truck beds to the jobsite. Typically 10 to 14 feet wide and about 10-13 feet high, these modules join together once they are on site. If a volume ceiling is desired, modules can be stacked. These modular buildings can be any style, modern or traditional.

Factory-built buildings, even custom-designed ones, are usually less expensive than those that are site-built, because factories are located where labor is less expensive, and the construction process is more efficient and produces less waste. The transportation cost to the site, however, can offset the savings if the site is too far away.

Construction can be started earlier than with a site-built building, before the building permit approval, and can occur concurrently with the foundation and

#### Women Painters West Recent Exhibit

Lynn Gadal, right, displayed one of her paintings, left, at the Betsy Lueke Creative Arts Center last month along with other member's works at the Shades of Color Exhibit held in Burbank.

other site work. This is the reason why the total construction timeframe is faster than with a sitebuilt building.

The buildings are typically delivered to the site with the interiors already completely built out, including kitchens and bathrooms, so once at the site, they can be completed within a couple of weeks once the modules are delivered to the site.

In Los Angeles and Santa Barbara, on a new site-constructed lot, an average house costs about \$800 to \$1,200 per square foot. The same home built in a factory might cost about 10% to 20% less with the added environmental benefits of being more ecofriendly, even with the transport factored in. Remodels and additions are still better suited for on-site construction.

Multi-family residential buildings and commercial buildings can be prefabricated as well. I worked on several Bank of America branches that were prefabricated. This approach cut the construction schedule in half. These buildings were built in the factory in approximately six weeks, while the site work, such as the foundation, paving, and utility hook-ups, were completed. They were then transported, erected, and finished within two additional weeks.

It may seem surprising that architects like the idea of a type of construction that requires less of our time, but we are, first and foremost, advocates for our clients, with a goal of achieving the best building possible for their dollar.

Elisa Garcia has been an architect for several years. Her firm, Garcia Architects, has offices in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara.



#### Summer Reading (Continued from Page 2)

her in college, and it has changed my worldview for the better.

If you are moved by this book, check out *Beasts of Burden* on the connection between disability liberation and animal justice. Dr. Taylor writes of ethical problems

with grace and invites you to challenge ableist ideology and the common misperceptions surrounding animal rights activism.

Whether you chose to pick up these books or others, happy reading this Summer!

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#### Entertaining With Ease

# More Questions From My New Instagram Account Entertain\_at\_Home\_with\_Maureen



By Maureen Molé
Here are a few more
questions that I received on my new
Instagram account
regarding Summer
entertaining and
my responses.

• Why is Summer entertaining al fresco so much easier than the rest of the year? - There are so many benefits to hosting an outdoor party whether it's a casual daytime event with children and parents, or a bit more formal in the evening with friends. Certainly, the house stays tidier. You can use plastic or paper plates and napkins, so the cleanup is easier.

It's just delightful to sit outdoors in the lazy afternoon sun, under the moonlight with a few candles lit, or with friends sitting around a fire pit.

• When entertaining friends at a casual get-together in the back-yard, what's an easy menu? - Summer is such a fabulous time to entertain friends and family. Easy casual menus could include

to entertain friends and family. Easy casual menus could include cold chicken, pasta, or vegetable salads; grilled fish or meats; fresh vegetables in season, and, for dessert, fresh Summer fruits.

• When I grill foods in the backyard, the guests seem to gather further away. What can I do to get some company at the BBQ?-(Continued on Page 6)

#### Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica Host Gala Fundraising Brunch



The Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Monica held their their Future Ready Brunch fundraiser at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel last month. Avo Guerboian, far left, and his dad, Eddie, third from left, were joint masters of ceremony. Others in the photo NRO Brandon Avila, SMPD, second from left; Lorena, Youth of the Year runner up; next to NRO David Wang, SMPD; Alison Raitt; SMPD Sgt. Ricky Verbeck, SMFD Captain Mike Rivera, SMFD Maya Waas, Far right is Roger, the SMFD's newest staff member.



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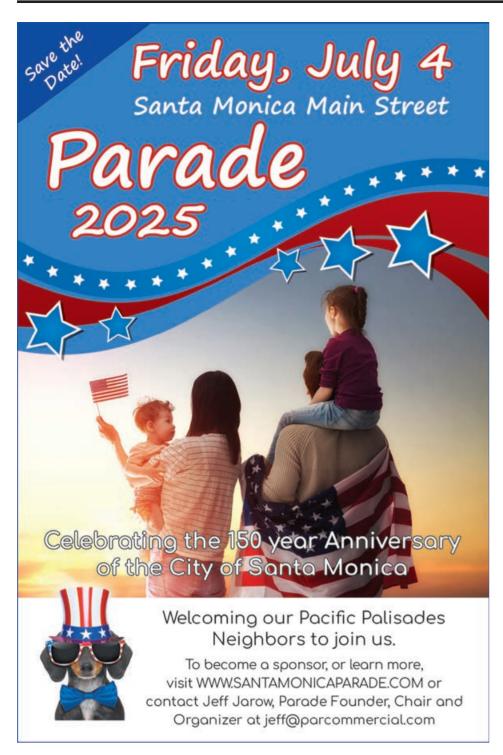
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#### New York Bagel Deli & Bakery Owners Bring New Ideas to Their Store

Several years ago, I met Lenny Rosenberg when he opened a bakery in the 17th St. Cafe on Montana Avenue. His freshly baked challah was the best I'd ever tasted. I was always buying loaves for my friends to taste.

Eventually, Lenny shared his talents at other Westside delis. He ended up taking over the popular family-owned Bea's Bakery in Tarzana. With his talented wife, Adaeze, a Nigerian designer, they have blended their skills and backgrounds to turn longtime delis into appealing spots for today's customers.

Recently, I was delighted to get a phone call from Lenny. He felt something was missing from West-side bakeries. A good friend of his was selling the New York Bagel Deli, now, and Bakery, that is located on Wilshire Blvd. west of 23rd St. in Santa Monica. Lenny took over this deli. They are open from 5 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday; 5 a.m.-4 p.m., weekends.

While at Bea's, Lenny and Adaeze wrote a wonderful cookbook, *It's a Sweet World*, featuring recipes for many of the baked goods served in their bakeries. It has a multicultural flair and often includes a fascinating background on how the recipe was chosen to become part of the book

Lenny and Adaeze do a cable TV show on JLTV.net, highlighting the cookbook and helping their viewers plan special events.

At the New York Bagel Deli and Bakery, Adaeze has focused on placement of the baked goods and new booths. She wants to give the store a New York vibe, inside and out.

Lenny added, "We are making gluten-free bagels, made from scratch, hot daily." Many of the pastries, such as black and white cookies, rugelach, the rainbow cookies, and more are the ones you often see in New York, but rarely here.



Lenny and Adaeze with their "It's a Sweet World" cookbook. The book is for sale in the deli, or on Amazon.com.

Another special feature is how Adaeze has blended some of her traditions into the bakery's selections. For example, the red velvet kola nut cupcakes are Nigerian inspired. The kola nut symbolizes goodwill, love, trust, togetherness, and prosperity in a marriage. A young man must present the cupcakes to the father of his betrothed before they marry. Adaeze explained that the kola nut is an African fruit.

Lenny reminds me that they can also help plan and cater special events. The bagels and baked goods are being freshly made each day, and they are delicious. Some of the bagel flavors are Cinnamon Raisin, Cinnamon French Toast, Blueberry, Pumpernickel, Whole Wheat, Poppy, Rye, and more.

Their website is nybdbakery.com, or call 310-828-3228 to speak to Lenny about your upcoming event.

\_**Д.М.** 

#### More Questions (Continued from Page 5)

An easy fix to standing alone at the grill is to place a cooler of your guests' favorite alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. Then you'll get lots of company.

- What should hosts do BEFORE the guests arrive at an outdoor party? Be sure to spray the bug repellant around the party area before the guests arrive and before the food is on the table. Also, have some sunscreen available. As always, be sure to have the table colorfully set with a seasonal centerpiece. Also, if it rains, it's a smart idea to be prepared to use a party room in the house or schedule a rain date on the invitation.
- How can I create an elegant atmosphere at an outdoor party in the evening?- Dazzle your guests by combining the ease of Summer entertaining and the enchantment of candlelight. Surround your backyard with a halo of candlelight. Fill sandwich-size paper bags, preferably white or colored ones, with sand and put a three-inch battery-operated candle into each one.

Place the bags one foot apart on the ground along the perimeter of the party area. When the candles are lit, your guests will love the wonderland quality they impart.

• I'm planning a children's party (with their parents, too) at a public park. What type of food do you suggest? - Hosting a children's party at a public park in the warm weather is a fun idea. Rather than a typical buffet lunch, I suggest a boxed lunch. These can be prepared at home in advance. You might include a cold beverage and sandwich, a salty snack, a piece of fruit, candy, or sweet dessert. Ideally, use all finger foods so no utensils are necessary and be sure to include a few napkins. You can wrap the boxes with decorative paper in the theme of the party or just tie the boxes with colorful fabric ribbon.

Maureen is a product spokesperson, author, and lecturer. Follow her on Entertain\_at\_Home with\_Maureen, or email her at Maureen-Mole@gmail.com.

### What's Happening on the Westside?

By Gigi Appelbaum-Schwartz • Saturday, June 7 - Summer Concert & Ukulele Strum-Along

- Join Cali Rose and the CC Strummers for an interactive concert! Learn to play ukulele or hone your skills. 2 p.m.-3:15 p.m. at the Santa Monica Main Library MLK Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

• June 7, 14, 21, 28 - Saturday Morning Line Dancing Class -Learn to dance with no experience needed at this new weekly class. 10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. at the Palms Recreation Center, 2950 Overland Ave. laparks.org.

• Saturday, June 14 - 33rd Annual Juneteenth Celebration -Virginia Avenue Park. 2 p.m.-7 p.m. A Family Affair: Unifying Healing & Restoring. Free. Enter-

tainment, food, fun, and more. 310-458-8688.

• Saturday, June 14 - Summer Reading Kickoff Carnival - Play carnival games and enjoy a juggling show and summer treats to celebrate the start of summer reading! 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Santa Monica Main Library North Courtyard, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

• Saturday, June 21 - Pride on the Promenade Pop-Up Library -Enjoy free books and pridethemed crafts at this familyfriendly festival celebrating pride month. 2 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Third Street Promenade.

• Saturday, June 21 - Film Screening: I'm Still Here - Enjoy this year's Oscar-winner for Best International Film in a community setting. 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Santa Monica Main Library MLK Jr, Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

• Saturday, June 21 - Summer **Soulstice Festival** - Enjoy live music, vendors, family activities, and more at this annual celebration of summer! 12 p.m.-7 p.m. on Main Street. mainstreetsm.com.

• Thursday, June 26 - Library **Play-Writing Workshop** - Learn about playwriting or work on an existing script with the guidance of Santa Monica Repertory Theater Artistic Director Tanya White. 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Pico Branch Library Annex, 2201 Pico Blvd.

• Thursday, June 26 - A Talk Through Pier History - Dive into the history of the Santa Monica Pier with this free storytelling

event. 6 p.m.-7 p.m. at the Santa Monica Pier Merry-Go-Round building, 200 Santa Monica Pier.

• Thursday, June 26 - Sunset Picnic - Unwind on the beach and enjoy the sunset with a fun communal picnic including complimentary s'mores and a splash pad! 5 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Highway.

• Sunday, June 29 - Santa Monica Pier 360 Beach Festival -Enjoy live music, ocean sports, kids activities, delicious food, and more at this summer festival! 7 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Santa Monica Pier, 200 Santa Monica Pier. santamonicapier.org.



#### Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

#### When Family Members Attend Their First Major League Baseball Game



By Michael Margolin

If there is something that is difficult for me to admit as a sports fan father, it is that it took me

until Jake was almost nine years old to take him to a Major League Baseball game. We did travel halfway across the country for an NFL game, but he still had not been to a pro baseball game. And, though I might lose readers over this, I am not a Dodgers fan and have been a San Francisco Giants fan since

the late '80s. I grew up about an hour away from Chavez Ravine, but that was not the team that I ended up following.

Having said that, I took Enjoli, Jake, and Alexa to Angel Stadium recently when the Giants were visiting. Alexa was at a game when she was about 10 months old in 2014, so it technically was not her first game.

After a little tailgating, we made our way to our seats. From the second deck along the third base line, we had a perfect view. Never knowing how kids might react to sitting through a baseball game,

they were both alert, attentive, and enjoyed the evening. It did not hurt that the Giants won.

We did have to sweat out Mike Trout hitting what would have been his third home run of the game, only to have it caught about five feet from going out.

The game was followed by a fireworks show which was icing on the cake for us. For those who do not know, in the last couple of years Major League Baseball has implemented a pitch clock which requires the pitcher to begin his process of throwing a pitch to avoid a violation. It is not favored

by everybody, but it sure helps move the game along at a faster pace.

I have written before about my first baseball game that I attended with my dad and grandfather at Dodger Stadium. It clearly did not influence my rooting interest, as I have explained that abnormality previously. Getting me to this game was one of the many things my father has done the right way.

I have always been very thankful for the father I have. Not only has his love, support, and encouragement never waivered, he has

(Continued on Page 11)



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Time

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## Remembering Our Beloved Mother - Diane Foster Olson

#### By Carol Olson Coote

Diane Carol (Foster) Olson died on December 10, 2024, in Santa Monica, at the age of 95 surrounded by her loving family.

Diane was born in Columbus, Ohio, on August 21,1929, at the start of the Great Depression. She lived in Ohio with her beloved parents, John Thomas Foster, and Carol Puetz Foster; her younger sisters, Suzanne Verdin Foster and Joan Thomas Foster; and her younger brother, John Thomas (Jack) Foster.

She began her university education, first at Oberlin College, and then at the University of Wisconsin (UW) for her junior and senior years. Diane was a popular member of the drama department at UW, winning the Best Actress Award twice. She graduated in 1951, with a degree in art history. Diane's love for the theater took her next to the Cleveland Playhouse where she starred in many of their plays and then to New York, N.Y.

That was where she fell in love with and married Robert (Bob) Daniel Olson (1918 - 1974). Bob was also a devotee of the theater and liberal politics. They bonded over their support for Adlai Stevenson and opposition to Ethel Rosenberg's execution.

Diane and Bob moved to Metuchen, New Jersey, when their family started to grow. Their house in Metuchen was filled with happy children, bookshelves overflowing with books, and a menagerie of pets, including multiple

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dogs, cats, parakeets, rabbits, gerbils, fish, a turtle, a dove, and an African goose.

Diane leaves behind these five heartbroken children: Fred, Carol, Max, Sarah, Edward, and her loving stepdaughter Claire who called her Mother, nine grandchildren (Diane, Suzanne, James, Sam, Patrick, Ben, Sandy, David, and Cara), two great grandchildren (Everett and Adelaide), her sisters (Sue and Joan), her brother (Jack), two nephews (John and Andy), and two great-nephews (Jack and Alex).

From a young age, Diane was engaged in the world around her: she paid close attention to the natural world, as well as the world of politics and policy. Her day in California was not complete without a walk to the ocean, hoping for a glimpse of dolphins. As a young mother, she accepted every stray her children brought home. More recently, and in between bird and tree sightings, she signed petitions to care for elephants and fought for animal and human rights until the day she died.

Diane's influence on her family and her community was profound. Her trenchant online opinions about the news of the day were eagerly read by all who knew her. In her last decades, she marched against corporate control of the federal government, for gun control, and in support of many progressive candidates.

But, Diane wasn't all principles and polity. Along with her family,



Diane Foster Olson passed away on December 10, 2024.

she enjoyed swimming, films, books, music, and attending any and all sporting events in which her family members were participating (basketball, crew, football, tennis, track, and field).

She loved opera and would have liked her children to share this love, but they failed her spectacularly, (except for Max who developed a fondness for opera from watching too many Bugs Bunny cartoons). Regardless, Diane didn't hold it against them.

She was much too compassionate, empathetic, and interested in others. Her children did not fail her when it came to books and movies. They often shared favorite books and enjoyed many movie nights together. Diane left behind a list of suggested films to view: everything from *Z* to *The Shop Around the Corner*.

As her children were growing up, Diane navigated a successful career as a research librarian. The

success came from her deep knowledge of and interest in most subjects. She started working locally at the Metuchen Public Library, then moved on to the Library of Science and Medicine at Rutgers University (where she received the University Merit Award), the Institute of Fine Arts Library at NYU, and finally the UCLA Medical Library in California. She also starred in many plays in New Jersey, including Mornings at Seven, and served on the Metuchen Cultural Arts Commission, including two years as its vice president.

Above all, Diane Olson was a loving matriarch. She has left behind a deeply-grieving family who loved her beyond measure for all the telephone calls, homemade meals, bedtime stories, laughs, kisses, hugs, birthday pies, and dinners at her favorite neighborhood restaurant, Spumoni.

Diane was laid to rest in the Eternal Meadow section of Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica, on Saturday, May 24, 2025. The Eternal Meadow is a wildflower meadow consisting of native California plants that provides habitat for the region's native birds and pollinator insects like the endangered monarch butterfly, one of Diane's favorites.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of these charities in honor of Diane's memory and her love for monarch butterflies and elephants:

Monarch butterflies: https://xerces.org/monarchs/western-monarch-conservation and Elephants: https://www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org/.



### Finland's Secret (Continued from Page 4)

Turku, Finland's original capital and a cultural powerhouse that will celebrate its 800th anniversary in 2029. This city is as comfortable with its medieval castles and cobbled streets as it is with its trendy rooftop bars and designforward hotels. And, thanks to its sustainability-forward mindset (Turku aims to be carbon neutral by 2029), it's a model for conscious travel.

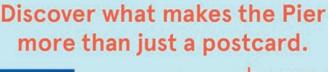
• Sample the Archipelago Way of Life - In Saaristo, adventure is never far. Hike scenic trails, forage for chanterelles, or join a full-day sea kayaking trip in the Archipelago National Park. High-end options abound too – think chartered-boat dinners, island

glamping, or booking an entire island retreat like Project Ö.

And, don't forget the food. This region supplies 70% of Finland's new potatoes, and celebrates its culinary heritage in fine restaurants and food festivals throughout the year.

• When to go - Summer is ideal for island hopping, kayaking, and festivals under the midnight sun, while Autumn brings golden forests, foraging, and food harvests. Whether you're drawn by design, heritage, food, or wellness, this region is remarkably easy to explore – and hard to forget. Let's start mapping out your Finnish adventure today. Contact tanya@maripo satraveladvisors.com.





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**June 2025** 

# Community Service on the Westside

#### **Our Community in Action:** Service Day at Camp Big Bear



By Araceli Alejandre, COO There's something truly special about the spirit of giving – and that spirit was on full display

during our recent Service Day at Camp Big Bear on May 3. Volunteers, families, and YMCA staff members took time out of their schedules to drive up the mountain and roll up their sleeves for a cause that brings joy to hundreds of children every Summer.

The Santa Monica Family YMCA, as a proud non-profit organization, thrives because of the passion and commitment of community members like these. Camp Big Bear, nestled in the heart of the San Bernardino Mountains, is a cherished destination for young people to connect with nature, build confidence, and form lifelong friendships. But, before campers arrive, there's much to be done – and that's where our amazing volunteers came in.

From sunrise to sunset, volunteers were hard at work refreshing some of the program areas, rebuilding benches, and generally sprucing up the camp. Each brushstroke, shovel of dirt, and wipe of a windowpane was a testament to the love our community has for this place, and for the young lives it serves. It's this kind of grassroots dedication that ensures Camp Big Bear is not just a Summer getaway - but a transformative experience.

This day was more than just



Charles Follette, Norm Lantz, Michael Peattie, and Hodge Patterson joined together in front of Big Bear Lake when they were working to get Camp Big Bear in perfect shape for incoming campers.

preparation. It was a celebration of teamwork, service, and community pride. Volunteers bonded over shared goals, relationships were strengthened, and everyone left feeling a little more connected - not just to the camp, but to each other.

As we gear up for a busy Summer season filled with laughter, we invite YOU to become a part of the magic. If you're interested in volunteering at Camp Big Bear this Summer, we welcome your time and talent! Reach out to us at campbigbear@ymcasm.org to learn how you can get involved.

Together, we can continue building something extraordinary – for our campers, for our community, and for the future.

For more details, 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 We Santa Monica-Pacific Palisades-Lions are very fortunate to have very stimulating and informative programs at our dinner meet-

ings every month. They keep us abreast of all the latest subjects of interest and newsworthy items.

Two months ago our speaker was Jim Harris, the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier. This is the world-famous national icon that everyone is familiar with. He told us about its fascinating history, about all the current activities going on there, and some exciting plans for the future.

Since the first of the year, the plight of the Pacific Palisades has been on everyone's mind and the terrible ordeal they're suffering through. Consequently, for our recent program, we had Sue Kohl, President of the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) and John Padden, Head of Palisades Pride (PRIDE - Protect and Renew our Identity and Environment).

Sue told us that the PPCC is one of the oldest volunteer organizations in Los Angeles. They meet

Beyond

the Grave

Jeffrey L. Condon, Esq.

twice a month and deal with a broad range of community matters. Their mission is to protect and improve the quality of life in their area. Of course, all efforts now are directed toward dealing with the current crisis, and they are coordinating with all government and private agencies to solve the various ongoing problems.

John described the challenges that PRIDE is facing at the present time. They were established in 1992 to direct beautification efforts in the town, but never have they had to face a challenge like this on such a massive scale!

Our Lions Club is working hard to directly support both the PPCC and PRIDE. If you would like to help us, please make checks payable to SMPP Lions Club and designate on the check "for Palisades Fire Relief Fund." Mail to SM-PP Lions Club, P.O.#3435, SM 90408. 100% of these proceeds will go directly to the effort.

Are you interested in learning more about Lionism? Be our guest at one of our dinner meetings. Contact me at jkfife88@yahoo.com.



# An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber

Word seems to have spread about the beautiful, updated restrooms at our Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club

(SMBWC). May was almost completely booked with rentals. Hint to the wise, call the Club to schedule events for the Summer and Fall. Please call our office on weekday mornings for rental information. That number is 310-395-1308.

One of the features of our ballroom is the dumbwaiter connecting to the kitchen on the second floor. Finally, after more than 100 years, the original rope pully has been replaced with an electric one. This will greatly improve service for catered events.

In April, several of our Board members attended the annual convention of the Marina District of the California Federation of Women's Club held in Redondo Beach.

At the April meeting of the SMBWC Board of Directors, over 20 charities were chosen to receive donations from the Club. Many of these are community organizations which the Club has contributed to for several years. However,

our highest priority this year are organizations providing assistance to our neighbors affected by the fires. More on these donations in next month's column.

The Club's ongoing activities have attracted several new members. Canasta, bridge, and Mahjong groups play every Monday afternoon. Anyone interested in participating should contact Becky for canasta and Darlene for bridge at 310-395-1308. Duplicate bridge is played on Thursday afternoon and the contact for that is Sue Price-McGough at sue.mcgough@yahoo.com. The Arts, Crafts, and Conversation group gets together Tuesday mornings, and the contact for them is Joan Temple at joanie.tee@gmail.com.

A new group is in the early stage of forming: the Walking Group. If this takes off, more information on joining will be in future columns.

Finally, a reminder that the Club has a NO PETS POLICY due to member allergies and other conditions. Certified Service Pets will, of course, be allowed.

For more information, or other questions regarding rentals and membership, go to SMBWC.org, or call 310-395-1308.



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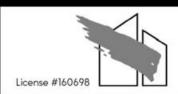
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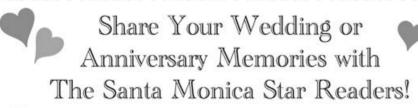
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#### Paws and Claws

#### **Cost of Veterinary Care is Increasing**



By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM Q: It seems like the cost of veterinary care is increasing. How can I get help to deal with the costs of taking

care of my dog?

A: Like almost everything else in our world today, veterinary costs have often increased as well. It's

## Adopt a Pet



Drogo is very friendly, affectionate, and so playful, he especially loves to play fetch. Drogo is a male, tan and white German Shepherd mix, approximately one year old. To adopt Drogo, please visit the Santa Monica Animal Shelter located at 1640 9th St. off of Olympic Blvd. Open Tuesday-Saturday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Closed between 12 p.m.-1 p.m. for lunch). 310-458-8595.

frustrating for the owners and the veterinarians.

There are a few strategies that may help. VCA offers a Wellness program called CareClub. There's one particular plan that has great benefits called "CareClub Access

For \$19.99 monthly, you can have unlimited exams at your home VCA hospital. Additionally, you will have free exams at VCA Urgent Care hospitals and VCA Emergency Hospitals. This latter benefit is really helpful too.

Even with a good Wellness plan, I strongly recommend looking at pet insurance as well. With serious illnesses or accidents, quality care can be expensive.

The 2022 Consumer Reports recommended Pet's Best, Embrace, and Trupanion as the top three pet insurance plans that they evaluated.

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



#### Planning Ahead

#### Survivorship and the "What-Ifs"



By Lisa Alexander, Esq. This is a true-life story. Husband and wife - he's in his 80s with Alzheimer's, she is in her 60s. Husband has es-

tranged children from a prior marriage; wife has no children. Both have Wills and both expect wife will outlive husband. But then, wife dies suddenly, and husband unexpectedly dies a week later.

Wife's Will leaves her estate to her husband or, if they were to die within 90 days of each other, her estate would go to charity. Husband's Will leaves his estate all to his wife, nothing to his children. But, husband's Will has no provision for distribution of his estate if wife dies before him.

Then, of course, the unthinkable happens. Wife dies unexpectedly from a rare virus and husband dies seven days later. Because they died within 90 days of each other, wife's estate will go to charity. But, husband's Will did not anticipate this sequence of deaths.

For purposes of his estate, it will be distributed as if he had died without a Will. Husband's estate will go all to his children under the laws of intestate succession.

What an unfortunate result. Husband did not intend to leave anything to his children. But,

because husband's Will did not consider the "what-ifs," his wishes won't be carried out.

Estate planning is all about the "what-ifs." What if my beneficiary dies before me? How long must a beneficiary outlive me before the gift to that beneficiary vests? What happens if a beneficiary is a minor child, will a guardianship be necessary?

Lisa C. Alexander, Esq. JAKLE, ALEXANDER & PATTON, LLP - Direct Line: 310-656-4310



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or copywriting?

June 2025 Page 11

# When Family Members Attend (Continued from Page 7)

always been a positive role model for me and my siblings.

This has led me to be a positive role model for my children. For that, I will be forever grateful. My dad modeled a successful marriage in his love and dedication to my stepmother. He showed what it means to honor one's vows as wholeheartedly as possible, in the best of times and in the most excruciating of times.

In some ways, I have more in common with my dad the older I

get. For that reason, my admiration grows. Tremendously lucky am I to have a father like he is. Happy Father's Day to my dad and all the other great dads out there. You all are very much appreciated.

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.

#### Wrapping Up My Palisades High (Continued from Page 1)



Dani Traum waits in an English classroom in the Pali South Sears Santa Monica building.

renovated, former Sears building. In just three short months, an abandoned department store was transformed into a school capable of receiving over 2,000 students. My classmates and I were able to reunite in a relatively familiar environment.

The Sears building can be chaotic – especially during transition periods, when hordes of students attempt to use the same few staircases to get in and out of the building. There are no doors in the classrooms, so everyone has to make an effort to be quiet so as to avoid disturbing the classes around them. And, the Wi-Fi is unreliable at best, which can make it difficult to follow through with in-class assignments and lesson plans.

But ultimately, I've found that none of those things bother me when I consider the alternative: a semester spent isolated online, far from my friends, teachers, and routine. I'm grateful for the sense of normalcy the building has given me amid so much change, and for the opportunity to connect with my Palisades community, even if it's outside of our usual home.

The building isn't all bad – its location makes it easily accessible by public transportation, and its proximity to the Third Street Promenade and the Santa Monica Place mall means that my friends and I can walk to get lunch nearby. My teachers have all made the best of a difficult situation, and are working on decorating their classrooms to create a more positive atmosphere.

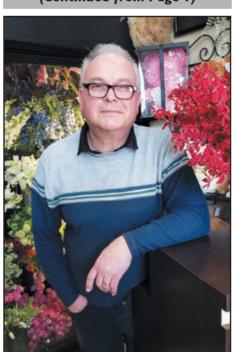
We have plenty of donated school supplies and furniture, and are surrounded by a community ready to help us with anything we might need.

Ultimately, our community's resilience in the face of so much adversity is incredibly inspirational to me, and I'll be forever grateful for the normalcy that has been returned to my senior year. It's comforting to know that my class is in good hands, and that so many people have dedicated themselves to making sure our transition out of high school is smooth, painless, and full of joy.

Editor's Note: It has been a blessing to have Gigi work on our paper for the last two years. She is a wonderful writer, a talented and caring young woman who is a pleasure to know. Gigi is definitely going to make a difference in whatever community she becomes a part of as she enters college. We wish her all the best in the years to come. She will be missed.

# Answer to Neighborhood Celebrity

(Continued from Page I)



Abe Yashar has been working for several years at Ann's Flowers, a very popular neighborhood florist, now at 1229 Wilshire Blvd., near See's Candy shop.

# STAR

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#### Santa Monica Sister City Association Members Recently Celebrate 50th Anniversary of Fujimoniya and Our City



Twenty Santa Monica Sister City Association (SMSCA) members, family, friends, and Santa Monica dignitaries traveled to Fujimoniya in April to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the relationship between the two cities. Included were Mayor Lana Negrete and her family; SMSCA President Jeffrey Jarow and his son, Morgan; SMSCA Executive Vice President, Deborah Daly; SMSCA Vice President Monika White; and Ian McGrath and his wife representing SGI. In addition to the replica of the Santa Monica Pier constructed many years ago in the Fujinomiya park in honor of our city, Fujinomiya added a tall clock to commemorate the anniversary. Over 40 students and faculty from the Samohi Japanese department joined the main celebration. Visitors enjoyed a variety of food events, tours, and fellowship with a large number of Fujinomiya Sister City members and city leaders.

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