

Summer Memories That Stay With You



Celebrating were Emmy Appelbaum, Natalie Rodriguez, Gigi Appelbaum, and Sienna Monnier.



Waiting to graduate were, from left, Amanda Wexler, Emmy Appelbaum, and Gigi Appelbaum.



Congratulations to the new Santa Monica Troop 2 Eagle Scouts. From left to right, Matthew Zeitlin, Ethan Crawford, Scoutmaster John Matise, Jacob Zeitlin, Luke Terlizzi, and Christopher Fresquez. Photo: Mark Faries

From the Ashes to the Bowl: A Graduation Like No Other

By Richard Lombardi

On a sunny, warm June afternoon beneath the iconic arches of the Hollywood Bowl, the seniors of Palisades Charter High School's Class of 2025 tossed their caps into the air – not only in celebration of their graduation, but in triumph over adversity. For these students, commencement wasn't just a milestone. It was a powerful exhale after four years of holding their breath.

Their final weeks of school were spent not in the familiar halls of their beloved Pali High, but in the hollowed remains of a once-bustling Sears building in Santa Monica. Dubbed "Pali South" by

students and staff, the makeshift campus stood as a symbol of adaptation and resilience. There were no quad rallies or senior pranks in those sterile, echoing spaces – only determination and grit.

But, if the end of their senior year felt displaced, the choice of graduation venue did not. The Hollywood Bowl, with its storied stage and panoramic skyline, served as both a stark contrast and a poetic counterbalance to the chaos that preceded it. It was a gift – a gesture of recognition for all that these young men and women had endured.

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Troop 2 Names Five New Eagle Scouts

This summer, five Santa Monica teenagers achieved the highest rank one can earn in Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America).

The five Scouts are Christopher Fresquez, Luke Terlizzi, Ethan Crawford, Jacob Zeitlin, and Matthew Zeitlin. Fresquez and the Zeitlins attend Culver City High School, while Crawford and Terlizzi attend Santa Monica High School. Terlizzi will graduate in 2025, Crawford in 2026, Fresquez and the Zeitlins in 2027.

All five Scouts were honored at the Troop 2 Eagle Court of Honor

at the Kuruvungna Village Springs on South Barrington in West Los Angeles in June.

The Eagle rank honors exemplary effort, leadership, and service. In addition to demonstrating proficiency in first aid, citizenship, camping, swimming, emergency preparedness, and many other skills, Eagle candidates must coordinate and complete a community service project that demonstrates significant leadership abilities. Each of the Scouts being honored led a major project to improve the quality of life of people in the community.

The 2025 Eagle Scouts completed the following community service projects:

- **Ethan Matthew Crawford** - For my Eagle Scout project, I designed and built custom shelving

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Congratulations to More Graduates - From Kindergarten to College



Edward Guerboian, in front, graduated from kindergarten to first grade at Franklin School. Back, teacher Ms. Kathy, grandfather Eddie, and teacher, Mr. Clark.



Brenton Banister is on his way to get his diploma at his summer graduation from Santa Monica High School. Brenton is planning to become a professional basketball player.



Dyllen Andrews graduated from Cottey College with her BA in Psychology. She will be pursuing her Masters in Clinical and Counseling in Child and Adolescent Therapy at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia next Spring where she will also play Division 2 Lacrosse.

Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?

(Answer on Page 11)



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Adapting to trying times is nothing new for this class. Their journey began in the eerie silence of pandemic lockdowns. The Class of 2025 entered high school not with fanfare and friendship, but through Zoom screens and muted microphones. They were just 14 and 15 years old when the death of George Floyd sent shockwaves across the country and National Guard troops stood watch in the Palisades Village. Instead of finding lockers and classrooms, they found themselves navigating social unrest, civic reckoning, and the isolation of remote learning.

Eventually, schools reopened. The sounds of lunch bells and campus chatter returned. Dances were planned, teams competed, and seniors began to dream of a traditional finish. But once again,

their world was upended.

This time, it was fire – not just metaphorical, but painfully real. The Palisades fires devastated the community, reducing homes to ash and displacing families. For many students, this wasn't just a school disruption – it was personal. Bedrooms, photo albums, cherished heirlooms – all gone in an instant. Friends scattered across Los Angeles. Classmates logged in from hotel rooms, temporary apartments, even relatives' couches. Yet through it all, they stayed connected. They stayed committed.

This class knows loss. But more than that, they know how to rebuild. They've learned how to find community in unlikely places. They've mastered the art of showing up – imperfectly, but whole-

heartedly. They've discovered that resilience isn't just a buzzword – it's a muscle, strengthened every time you choose hope over despair.

As I looked out at the sea of blue gowns against the Hollywood Hills backdrop, I saw more than graduates. I saw future leaders, artists, engineers, entrepreneurs – each of them uniquely prepared not in spite of their trials, but because of them.

To the Class of 2025: You are not defined by what happened to you, but by how you responded. You have endured the unthinkable – and emerged with compassion, courage, and character. Your education has not only come from textbooks and teachers, but from life itself. And, while the world ahead is uncertain, it is also wide

open – with opportunity, with need, with promise.

May you walk forward with heads held high – not only because of what you've overcome, but because of who you've become. The world doesn't just need graduates. It needs rebuilders. And you, dear Pali seniors, are just that.

Congratulations. The Bowl was only the beginning!

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.

Disability Pride in the Garden

**By Isabel Filson
California Climate
Action Corps Fellow**

Gardening is a wonderful hobby that reduces stress, invites creativity, and brings joy. One goal of our community garden program is to recognize and uplift garden access and opportunities for all.

July is Disability Pride Month, and I want to recognize how Santa Monica community gardeners with disabilities implement strategies and accommodations to make gardening more accessible. Below you will find tips that work for our

community gardens, shared by our community gardeners, along with other ideas and suggestions I have compiled.

I hope these tips are informative, whether you are a gardener or someone creating an inclusive, accessible space. Enjoy your gardening this summer!

Adaptive Gardening Tips

- Plant in garden grow bags or containers elevated on a table or platform to reduce the need to bend over.
- Investigate extendable, long-handled, ergonomic, or adaptive



Euclid Community Garden, which has elevated garden beds and in-ground plots.

gardening tools. (FISKARS has many options).

- Consider buying foam knee pads or a cushioned seat for gardening.
- Research implementing a soaker hose to reduce regular watering labor.
- Connect with garden communities online, or in person, to discuss strategies and techniques for adaptive gardening.

Mobility Tips

- One gardener shares that she practices low-impact exercises and stretching in the morning to prepare for the day's activities, including gardening. She times

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Happy July Birthdays to Kingsley Fife, Don Margolin, Sarah Margolin, Sally Gutierrez, Judy Scholer, Tony Dau, Manuella Selles, Bob Baker, Ellen Horowitz, Pat Samarge, Florence Benjamin, Lisa Analco, Max Margolin, Susan Potter, Qin Stubis, Spyros Dellaportas, Tara Pomposini, Robert Klein, David Snow, Kinsley Gilliland, Carolyne Edwards, Alexa Margolin, Tim Jackman, Pam Brady, Jean McNeil Wyner, Gerardo Reyes, David Cole, Susanne Cole and Julie Gilberg.



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From the Santa Monica Pier Guy

On "The Mother Road"



By Jim Harris
A couple of weeks ago I attended an international travel conference in Chicago and, not surprisingly, was regularly reminded of the Pier's worldwide appeal. We have something very special here in Santa Monica, and it's nice to have that reinforced by people whom you've never met before, yet know a thing or two about the greatest attractions and destinations of our world.

The timing of this conference being in Chicago was a bit ironic in that next year – 2026 – iconic Route 66 will turn 100 years old. Chicago marks one end of the "Mother Road" and, of course, Santa Monica marks the other.

It is often stated that the Santa Monica Pier is the end of Route 66, but that's not quite true. At least, not technically. The United States highway system was developed such that it is completely fluid – a highway only ends when it meets another highway. Clearly, the Pier does not meet another highway.

However, Santa Monica does have another highway that runs through it – US Highway 1 (better known as the Pacific Coast Highway). These two highways, Route 66 and the Pacific Coast Highway,

intersect at the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard, and that is the official terminus of Route 66.

BUT ... If you have driven 2,448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, are you going to end your journey at Lincoln and Olympic? I don't think so, for if you've driven that far you will certainly want to see the Pacific Ocean.

AND... Back during the same time that Route 66 was an officially commissioned US highway, people could literally drive their cars out over the ocean to the end of the Santa Monica Pier. That was as far as anyone could go. And, hence, the traditional and celebrated "End of the Trail."

Yes, I had to clarify this to quite a few people while in Chicago, and even though I may have initially broken some hearts with the official story, the listeners' eyes lit up when they realized the "of course" moment of why the Pier is always referred to as the endpoint. It's a great story!

And, there are many, many more stories that I will continue to share with you all.

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

Disability Pride in the Garden

(Continued from Page 2)

these stretches with an old-fashioned percolator while brewing her morning coffee.

- Practicing weekly Tai chi also helps this gardeners' stamina, balance, and reach.
- Remember, listen to your body, and adjust accordingly!

Garden Design Recommendations

- Implement higher raised beds to accommodate using a wheelchair or standing while gardening.
- Remember, raised beds for wheelchair users need to have an indent/space beneath for the wheelchair to get close enough

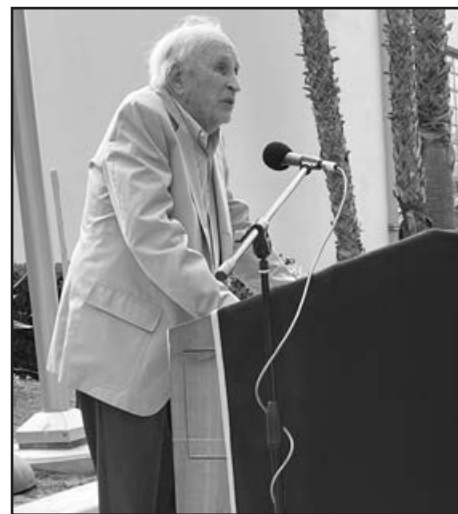
for the gardener to reach into the bed.

- Include designated, flat walkways and keep them clear. Paths also need to be stable, slip-resistant, solid, and wide enough for two wheelchairs.
- Check out other resources like www.hgtv.com/outdoors/gardens/planting-and-maintenance/accessible-gardening-techniques and thedisabledgardener.com/adaptive-tools-methods-for-gardening/ for more information on accessible gardening.

Opening the Time Capsule from 1975 50 Years Later at Samohi

On June 26 1975, Terry Pearson, principal of Santa Monica High School, addressed the student body at a dedication ceremony for the placement of a time capsule.

Inside the capsule were copies of awards and scholarships, a master schedule of classes, memorabilia from the June 1975 graduation, 1975 yearbook, and student body items such as a class ring, senior class photo,



Photos by Jeannie Kusserow

and photos of student activities. This past month, 50 years later, Terry Pearson was delighted to be present at the opening of the time capsule on Monday, June 4. A highlight of the event was the enthusiastic performance of the Samohi school choir.



The plaque where the time capsule was buried was donated by the Rotary Club of Santa Monica.



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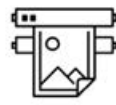
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Reflections From The East

Life's Best Gifts are Within Us



By Qin Sun Stubis

Whether we are rich or poor, our greatest gifts in this world may perhaps be our basic physical senses – our ability to smell, hear, see, taste, and touch – the lack or the loss of any of which could compromise the quality of our lives in unimaginable ways.

For those lucky enough to be born healthy, we become aware of our given abilities the very minute we come into this world when we hear our own cries and feel our loved ones' touches for the very first time. From then on, we grad-

ually learn to rely on them not only to form a perception of ourselves, but to understand and maneuver in our physical and social worlds.

Those born with challenges learn to cope with everyday life in unique ways others might be unable to fathom. They are brave souls who fight to achieve happy and fulfilling lives in spite of their difficulties and obstacles. They are my heroes, and in some way, I can also empathize with them.

I was born a healthy child but for the first two years of my life, my mother had to leave me in a crib during the day all by myself. She had to go to work and earn enough so that we wouldn't starve

to death. I can only imagine how I lay there for so many long hours without being touched or heard, while my eyes stared at the same wooden ceiling above me.

I had a tough start in life because I was born during the Great Chinese Famine, one of the worst natural disasters in the world. My family and I were lucky enough to have survived it. The deprivations of my early days propelled me to do more to stimulate my senses later on in life – to read an extra book, to learn another language, to be the first one in my family to attend college, and to come to America all by myself with nothing more than two suitcases.

The more we read, see, learn,

feel, and embrace, the bigger and more meaningful our world is to us. Similarly, the less we exercise our abilities, the duller our senses become. The worst thing is when we whine and complain about not having understanding parents, rich uncles, or influential friends to support and back us up when all along, we have been empowered with all the tools we need to succeed in life. Use them.

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.

Oh, Say Can You Sing!



By Cheryl Thode

Happy Birthday, America! This month our country is 249 years old. We are one year shy of 250 years old! While we celebrate the great event officially on Friday, July 4th, in reality, the whole month is dedicated to the country. From barbecues to fireworks, boat rides to parades, this is a wonderful time to reflect on our country, where we are, where we have been, and where we want to be.

Regardless of how you celebrate our Country this month, one celebratory staple you are sure to encounter at any major event is the singing our beautiful national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*. However, do you know the story behind this song? While you may recall it was written by Francis Scott Key, did you know why it was written, when it became our national anthem, or even the history behind the actual flag that inspired it? Well, here you go, get ready to learn about this historic song.



The Star-Spangled Banner was written in 1814 (nearly 40 years after our country was founded) by Francis Scott Key following the battle with the British at Baltimore's Fort McHenry during the war of 1812. As the stanzas relay, on September 14, 1814 after a night of heavy bombardment by British forces and a very rainy night at the Fort, in the early morning hours American soldiers raised an enormous 15-star and 15-stripped flag over the Fort signifying that the Fort had withstood the assault. The actual flag had been commissioned by the commander of the Fort, Major George Armistead and sewn by Mary Pickersgill and her team of sewers a full year prior. Measuring 30 feet by 42 feet the flag was designed to

be large and visible from a great distance. (For comparison, today's standard flags with 50-stars and 13-stripes are typically three feet by five feet.) To have a sense of the enormity of this flag flying over Fort McHenry, picture the size of a 1,260 sq. ft. canvas sheet flying over your head, basically the footprint of a two-three bedroom house!

In a ship eight miles down river, under British control and anxiously waiting out the heavy battle for a sign that the city of Baltimore, and by extension the nation could be saved, American lawyer Francis Scott Key saw the colossal flag flying proudly through the clearing smoke. The prior night's actions and this amazing vision inspired him to write a four-verse poem called *Defence of Fort M'Henry*. The poem was eventually set to a popular British tune at the time and renamed *The Star-Spangled Banner*. It changed how our country saw the U.S. flag and made it a major symbol of patriotism.

Over the 19th century, the song became one of the nation's most loved patriotic songs. During the

Civil War, it gained a special military place through its playing during ceremonial settings, such as the raising and lowering of the colors. Starting in 1917, a campaign began to have Congress recognize *The Star Spangled Banner* as the official anthem of the country. In 1931, a bill making the song our national anthem passed in Congress and was signed into law by President Herbert Hoover on March 3, 1931, over 117 years after its creation.

Today, the actual flag that inspired our national anthem, rests as a permanent gift to the nation in the Smithsonian Institution, where it can be seen by any and all visitors.

With this amazing story in mind, this July, I encourage you to sing our national anthem proudly and when you have a chance to see the U.S. flag, think about how lucky we are to see it flying above our heads. God Bless America!



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Architecturally Speaking

How Design Influences Health, Wellbeing, and Daily Life



By Elisa Garcia Garcia Architects
This is a continuation of Elisa's suggestions on building a fire-resistant home. She discusses lifestyles this month.

We spend about 90% of our lives indoors, making the design of our spaces critically important to our health and happiness. A well-designed space not only looks appealing but also supports a healthier, more balanced lifestyle.

Many people know clutter can cause stress or that dark spaces can feel depressing – but there are deeper ways design shapes our well-being. At Garcia Architects, we create environments that improve daily life through thoughtful design choices.

• **Lighting and Wellness** - Natural light is essential for both mental and physical health. It regulates our circadian rhythm, improves mood, and enhances productivity. Ideally, daylight should be the primary light source. Artificial lighting should be indirect, adjustable, and balanced in color to avoid disrupting sleep.

Exposure to blue light in the evening – common in phones, TVs, and LED bulbs – suppresses melatonin and affects sleep quality. Lighting that mimics the sun's daily cycle helps maintain our internal clock, improving sleep and overall wellness.

• **Designing for Movement** - Modern lifestyles involve a lot of sitting – often more than nine hours a day. This is linked to health issues like obesity, heart disease, and fatigue. Design can help counteract this. Simple changes like adding standing desks, placing hand weights near the TV, or separating kitchens from entertainment areas can increase movement throughout the day.

Even minor adjustments, like



The solar panels are facing south on the roof.

placing bathrooms farther from living areas, subtly encourage healthier habits.

• **Managing Noise** - Noise is a hidden stressor. Traffic, electronics, and HVAC systems can disrupt sleep and raise stress levels. Effective design includes sound insulation, zoning for quiet and loud areas, and materials that reduce echo.

Tall ceilings, though beautiful, can amplify sound. Balancing them with rugs, acoustic panels, or textured walls helps maintain a calming environment.

• **A Connection to Nature** - Being near nature or natural materials enhances relaxation and mental clarity. Outdoor spaces should be welcoming and peaceful. Indoors, views of greenery, access to fresh air, and natural textures can mimic the benefits of outdoor time.

Even small design choices can lead to big improvements in your daily life. At Garcia Architects, we design environments that elevate your health, comfort, and happiness. Contact us to learn how we can enhance your space – and your well-being – through intentional design. (www.GarciaArchitects.com).

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

California Heritage Museum Unveils Rare Disney Animation Exhibition

The California Heritage Museum is thrilled to announce the opening of *Disney – Animated Films*, a captivating new exhibition showcasing more than 100 original works of art from the production of Disney's most cherished animated classics. This unprecedented collection offers visitors an intimate glimpse behind the scenes of filmmaking history through original animation cels, concept drawings and paintings,

storyboards, and production artwork.

The exhibit continues through Sunday, November 2, 2025, providing art lovers and Disney enthusiasts an extended opportunity to explore these rare treasures.

Featured films span Disney's most celebrated animated works, including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *Pinocchio*, *Dumbo*, *Bambi*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter*

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Passing Through the Pico Neighborhood

Yes! Fathers Matter Just as Much When it Comes to Showing Appreciation!



By Stacy McClendon
Even with living in a very patriarchal society, we often forget to celebrate the fathers in our lives. I know many

strides have been taken to change this, but we know that men silently hang in the throws, especially when compared to what is done for the mothers. This is not about comparison, but just about honoring the men in our lives.

The father should be celebrated. He is the other half of the equation that imparts time, love, energy, and wisdom to his child, or the children in his life.

The perfect parenting situation doesn't exist. However, there are many fathers who are serious in their intentions of what they offer to their children. The father can lay down a strong foundation in his son's life, if the situation is consistent and not judgement filled. The father is also the strongest role model for his daughter, as the man she often chooses as a mate may mirror very closely to the relationship that she had, or didn't have with her father.

It's something to be thought about. Situations may be different. Children can be raised by fathers, stepfathers, siblings, grandparents, or consistently mentored by a male.

Sometimes males are raised by a single mother, which happens to be the case in my home. However, my sons are still connected with their father, other males in my family, and even some mentors.

We might think the men in our lives don't care, or don't feel comfortable having a fuss made over them. Everyone needs to be cared about. This year, let's get creative by celebrating the fathers or male

figures in our lives as much as we celebrate our mothers and supporting female figures.

- Some gift ideas include:
- Letting them choose their favorite game, show, or movie to watch, paired with a wonderful meal (made in house or delivered).
 - Get them a gift to the spa. Yes, men go to the spa, need to relax, and pamper themselves, and if they don't, they will learn to if you give them this gift. Reach out to Tikkun Spa in Santa Monica. They have specials lined up for the male figure in your life. (I just enjoyed my Mother's Day treatment in May).
 - Buy them a ticket to attend their favorite sporting event.
 - Take a surprise vacation to go somewhere that they've mentioned they want to visit.
 - Have the children come up with an itinerary of what to do for the day.
 - Just hang out and enjoy the day together with family.
 - Go to a concert or another event of their choice.
 - Collaborate with friends and celebrate together with other dads and families.

Sometimes men appear as if they don't want or need anything. However, that may not be accurate. Everyone needs appreciation and a chance to just enjoy a special outing.

Let's remember this and honor the fathers and male figures in our lives at any time during the coming year!

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



-Joe Analco

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PEO Chapter IT Holds Its Annual Spring Fashion Show Fundraiser

This past Spring, the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) Chapter IT held its Annual Fashion Show Fundraiser At Macy's in Century City. Models were PEO members, as well as friends and family of PEO. The funds raised support the organization's philanthropic projects which are aimed to supporting women in their educational goals.



President Kathy Naylor



Members and family friends who were in the fashion show were: Melissa Theis, Bryan Andrews, Kathy Naylor, Pam Andrews, Jane Young, Debra and Michael Rich and their granddaughter, Madison, Jamie Jones, and Dori-Ann Carter.



California Heritage Museum (Continued from Page 5)

Pan, Lady and the Tramp, Sleeping Beauty, One Hundred and One Dalmatians, The Jungle Book, and The Little Mermaid. Early artwork from *Mickey and Friends* adds to the collection's historical significance.

Visitor Information:

- Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Admission: FREE every Friday for all visitors; FREE always for military families; FREE for children under 12.

- Parking: Complimentary parking available; handicapped accessible facilities.

- Special Note: Sunday visitors can enjoy the Farmers Market in the museum's parking lot, with additional metered parking available nearby.

The museum is at 2612 Main Street and Ocean Park Blvd. Call 310-392-8537 for more details, or go online to californiaheritagemuseum.org.

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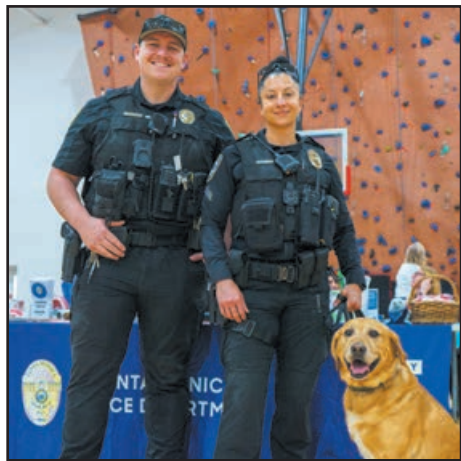


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Healthy Kids Day Big Success at Santa Monica Family YMCA

Healthy Kids Day in Spring at the YMCA is an event I have worked on for years. This year it was especially important to appeal to so many children who were affected by the Palisades Fires. Caity King at the Y helped welcome new organizations to participate – Ballet Folklorico, Troop 2 Boy Scouts, the Santa Monica librarians, as well as our popular participants – the Santa Monica Breakfast Club,
(Continued on Page 8)



Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

Protecting Our Children As They Grow



By Michael Margolin
For our family, the month of July has many birthdays. We get to do a lot of celebrating during this month. (Including the day that changed my life.)

Alexa's birthday is in July. Not only do we celebrate her, but Enjoli and I always marvel at the length of time that we have been parents. Although it will be 12 years, and Jake has already turned nine this year, being a parent to these two still has surreal moments.

The other day I was smiling at Alexa and she wondered what I was smiling about, and it was really nothing in particular. I told her that one day when she has children, then she will know. She will smile at the amazement and pride that comes with being a parent. At least to this point, the older my kids get, the more fun they are. So often after a parent answers the question about how old their child is, a general response tells them what a fun age it is. For me, every age has been more fun than the previous one. anyway. I cannot wait to see what my kids accomplish and the places they will go and the partners they will end up with. I am happy to enjoy the moment and

soak up the memories we are creating now, but I am curious about what the future holds for them.

I ask Enjoli what she keeps learning as a parent. She said now there is more we cannot control. Alexa is finishing up her first year of middle school and Enjoli's feeling certainly mirrors mine. We wonder about the things other kids say, and the videos and devices they seemingly do not need permission to use that they are exploring and sharing. These are the effects we cannot control. At home, we guide them as best we can as to what to keep an eye out for and what type of characters to steer clear of.

I want my children to be happy, healthy, and safe. I think it is possible that feeling more protective of my daughter has to do with the fact that I do not know what being a young girl is like. I want to make sure I shield her as much as I can.

My main concerns with Jake are different as I already know what boys are like growing up. Even though I am a grown man, that little boy will always have some type of voice in my head. It mostly sounds mischievous. I imagine that feeling is common among grown men.

Again, Enjoli and I believe we are giving them the best advice and the best guidance we can, and we have to trust they take it

(Continued on Page 11)

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Corsica: A French Island Basking in the Italian Sun



Crystal-clear waters and sculpted granite boulders define the unspoiled beauty of Corsica.



By Tanya Gilbert

A rugged, mountainous island with stunning beaches, perched villages, and a strong cultural identity – Cor-

sica is best experienced by car on a slow, scenic loop around the island. With three regional airports, it's easily accessible from Paris, Marseille, or Nice. Corsica punches well above its weight in food and wine, but I'd be remiss not to mention, as my French husband does at every opportunity, it is the birthplace of Napoleon!

Consider visiting these locations:

- Calvi: Northwest Coast - This sun-drenched region offers beautiful beaches, forested hills, and charming hilltop villages such as Pigna and Sant'Antonino. Hike through the Bonifatu Forest for fresh mountain air and panoramic

views. Stay at the Hotel A Casa di Mâ – an elegant, family-run hotel in nearby Lumio with one of the island's best restaurants.

- Porto and Scandola Reserve: West Coast - Don't miss the dramatic red cliffs and the UNESCO-listed Scandola Nature Reserve, perfect for boat tours. The Calanques de Piana are especially magical at sunset. Stay at Les Roches Rouges with its cliffside charm and relaxed hospitality near Porto.

- Sartène and Alta Rocca: Inland South - Step into authentic Corsican culture with mountain villages, vineyards, and archaeological wonders. Hike in the Ospedale Forest, taste wines in the Sartène AOC region, and explore the prehistoric site of Filitosa. Stay at the Domaine de Murtoli - a luxurious private estate with

(Continued on Page 11)

Troop 2 Names (Continued from Page 1)

units for the John Adams Middle School Instrumental Music Program. Additionally, I repainted and personalized the program's music stands with the school logo.

- **Christopher Alan Fresquez** - For my Eagle project, I chose to work with The Culver Closet, a non-profit that serves all CCUSD students and families by providing access to free clothes, shoes, toiletries, and other basic supplies. The organization expressed a need for better storage options. My fellow Troop 2 Scouts and I spent two days building and painting custom shelving to fit the organization's space, and engineered them to neatly accommodate large plastic storage bins, which keep donations better organized and accessible.

- **Jacob Stone Zeitlin** - My Eagle Scout project involved painting 106 parking space delineations in a large visitor parking lot at the Los Angeles National Cemetery. The most challenging part of my project was the design and construction of the wood frame guides and stencils needed to achieve consistent dimensioning and spacing of the painted lines. There was very little room for error. One important aspect of the project was educating my volunteers on the history and importance of national cemeteries, which are present throughout our country. I am very grateful for all the help I received from Troop 2 scouts and families. I couldn't have completed it without them.

- **Matthew Steven Zeitlin** - My Eagle Scout Service Project benefited the Los Angeles National

Cemetery. It involved repainting 176 gravesite curb markers that have faded over time, making it difficult for visitors to locate specific gravesites. On a task of this significance, accuracy was key, so a large part of my work was making certain that our painted markings were correct and legible. I also presented information on the history of the Los Angeles National Cemetery to the project volunteers, conveying its importance to the community and the nation, and its special relevance to the Scout community.

- **Luke Gregory Terlizzi** -

For my Eagle project, I repainted more than 120 parking space delineations at the Los Angeles National Cemetery. Improved cemetery parking spacing and markings maximize capacity and order, and is important for visitors who come to pay their respects to loved ones. The largest challenges were overseeing the project, tracking and scheduling volunteers, and orienting and training volunteers on site.

Troop 2

Troop 2 is one of the oldest and largest Scout troops in the western United States. In its remarkable 78 year history, Troop 2 has awarded Eagle Scout rank to 397 deserving individuals. The storied troop has traveled to Scout camps and high adventure destinations throughout the United States, and all together, Troop 2 Scouts have saved more than 67 lives using CPR, water rescue, first aid, and other skills and training.

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-Michael Beck

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Healthy Kids Day (Continued from Page 7)

Santa Monica Police and Fire Departments with their dogs, and Charles Claverie, a member of the Rotaract club who took photos and brought other members to help. Xavier from Cuttin' Up! barber shop returned again to give free haircuts to the kids. Caity also set up a community resource distribution table for families who fled the Palisades Fires and needed supplies.

—D.M.



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Community Service on the Westside

Grand Opening of YMCA Makerspace Just in Time for Summer Camp



By Araceli Alejandre, COO

The Santa Monica Family YMCA marked an exciting milestone this month with the official ribbon cutting of our brand-new Makerspace – a dynamic, creativity-driven environment dedicated to sparking innovation in the minds of our youth.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was marked by joy, gratitude, and forward-looking energy. YMCA staff, families, supporters, and members of the Audre Slater Foundation gathered to commemorate the opening with hands-on demonstrations and heartfelt remarks about the power of investing in our future leaders. It was a moving reminder that when a community comes together with purpose, magic happens.

The vision for this Makerspace wouldn't have become a reality without the Audre Slater Foundation. Their investment goes far beyond bricks and mortar – it's an investment in every child who walks through our doors, offering them a safe space to discover talents, grow confidence, and dream big. We are honored to carry forward this mission, and deeply thankful for the foundation's trust in our work.

The Santa Monica Family YMCA Makerspace is more than a room filled with tools and tech – it's a dynamic environment where children can tinker, build, create, play, and dream. From 3D printing to robotics, arts and crafts to laser printing and engraving, the



Staff, volunteers, and members of the Audre Slater Foundation gather to cut the ribbon for the new Makerspace on the second floor of the Santa Monica Family YMCA.

space encourages young minds to explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) in meaningful ways.

The timing couldn't be more perfect. With Summer Day Camp kicking off in mid-June, the Makerspace is now an exciting part of the YMCA's camp programming. Campers will rotate through activities that stretch both their bodies and brains.

At the Y, summer isn't just about play – it's about growth. And, with the Makerspace now open, campers are getting the chance to invent their futures while having their best summer ever.

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 love supporting all the Salvation Army activities. The most recent activity we enjoyed doing

with them was participating in their annual National Donut Day celebration when we passed out free donuts on the Promenade. It's always held on the first Friday of June and it commemorates the Salvation Army's "Donut Lassies" who served fresh donuts to our soldiers during World War I.

The Salvation Army established this day in 1938 to honor the women, "Donut Lassies" as they were called, who braved the hazards and traveled to France to serve donuts and other snacks to our soldiers. This is why the American soldiers got the nickname "Dough Boys." We Lions had a lot of fun handing out donuts to startled passersby while their surprised reactions added to the merriment.

Today, National Donut Day, is well established in our country. Many doughnut shops and bakeries offer free or discounted

donuts on this day and some people even hold donut-themed parties or events.

Every year our Club awards scholarship money to two deserving Santa Monica High School students. Recently we invited the two recipients and their parents to our dinner meeting to talk. Stephanie Cruz will be going to UC Santa Barbara and Jamie Lopez plans on attending Pepperdine. It was so gratifying to listen to their plans and feel their enthusiasm as they talked about their future. To be able to help our youth in this way is one of the reasons why Lionism is so satisfying.

Are you curious about Lionism? Want to learn more? Be our guest at one of our monthly dinners. Contact me at jkife88@yahoo.com.



What's Happening on the Westside?

• **Tuesdays, July 8-29 - Adult Literacy Program** - Pico Branch, the Annex. 4 p.m.-6 p.m

• **Wednesday, July 9 - Carlos Nieto III, former illustrator for The Simpsons**, will teach you how to design and draw comic characters from scratch. For ages 6-16. Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Building. 3 p.m.-4 p.m

• **Tuesday, July 15 - Common Ground Dinner: Celebrating Women, Storytelling, and Food** - 6:30 p.m. Lisa Kyung Gross, founder of The League of Kitchens, will share how immigrant women's

culinary traditions build bridges across communities will speak with Evan Kleiman, KCRW's *Good Food* host. Skirball Museum.

• **Thursday, July 17 - Westside Laugh Party** - Westside Comedy Theater. 1323-A Third St. Santa Monica. 310-451-0850. Shows nightly.

• **Thursday, July 17 - LEGO Club**, SM Main Library, Youth Activity Room. For ages 18 mos.-11 yrs. 4 p.m.-5 p.m.

• **Friday, July 18 - Summer Film Series** - *The Greatest Showman*. Fairview Branch, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

(Continued on Page 11)

An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber

It has been a busy spring at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) and it looks like an equally busy early summer. Our membership ranks continue to grow as participation in our ongoing Club activities continues to expand. These include Monday card playing (canasta and bridge) and mahjong. The mahjong coordinator offered half-hour introductory sessions on the first three Mondays of June that covered the basics of this fascinating game. After the lesson, participants had the opportunity to observe experienced players in action, providing valuable insights into game strategy and play.

Arts, Crafts and Conversation meets on Tuesday mornings, and our very popular book club meets in our newly refurbished lounge on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

And, on the first Saturday of each month, the new Walking Group meets outside the Club at 8:45 a.m. and gets started at 9 a.m. Walks take place in Santa Monica but, as the activity grows, the routes may expand. Anyone

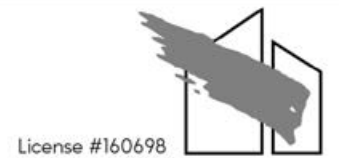
interested in joining in these activities may contact the Club at 310-395-1308, or email us at www.smbwc.org.

Established in 1927 and named for the founder of the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club, the Club's Elmira T. Stephens (ETS) Scholarship Fund has sought to provide financial assistance to Santa Monica High School students in their continuation of education. This year, 14 applications were received and reviewed by the Scholarship Committee that included Club members Holly Shaffer, Martine Salter, Irene Moy, and Alicia Syres. Some aspects of each application evaluated by the committee were essays and information on school activities, plans for future studies, and community volunteering. At a Meet & Greet in May, Events chair Alicia Syres met the 2025 ETS recipients. They are Emily U. (\$3000 recipient) who plans to major in psychology/neuroscience, Emily R. (\$3000 recipient) who plans to continue her studies in finance/accounting, and Ava A. (\$4000 recipient) who will continue her studies to become a pediatric nurse.

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

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Paws and Claws

Is it Possible for Rabbits to Get Fleas?



By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM
Q: Can rabbits get fleas, and what is the best treatment?

A: Rabbits can have flea infestations. They usually acquire fleas from living with dogs and cats. Contact with other flea-infested rabbits or wildlife can also transfer to rabbits.

You may not be aware of the flea infestation unless you notice intense itching. Fleas move very quickly and can sometimes be difficult to find. Using a flea comb can be helpful in identifying them. Additionally, fleas drink blood and when it passes through the flea, they leave a black peppery excrement that is a telltale sign of their presence.

There are no approved, rabbit-specific flea products. The usual, over the counter product that works fairly well is Advantage (Imidacloprid). However, do NOT use Frontline (fipronil) in rabbits, as it is highly toxic and often leads to death. There is also an effective prescription product called Bravest (fluralaner) topical.

All pets in the household should be treated. Flea shampoos are not recommended as their benefit is only effective during the bath. If not bathed carefully, rabbits may become jumpy and injure their spines.

Untreated flea infestations can lead to anemia, skin infections, tapeworm infestations, and intense discomfort.

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



Adopt a Pet



"Diego" is a very friendly eight-year-old chihuahua that we rescued through our San Bernardino Intervention Program. He loves to go on walks and gets along with other dogs. Please contact the Lange Foundation at info@langefoundation.org.

Planning Ahead

Quirks Of Inheritance Law



By Lisa Alexander, Esq.

The laws of inheritance contain some quirks which apply if you don't make your own Will or Trust, or include a specific provision in your estate plan. The results may catch you by surprise. The good news is you can plan around them.

One quirk happens if you don't have a Will or Trust, and you had a spouse who died before you. If you inherited real property from your deceased spouse and if your spouse died within the last 15 years, the portion of your estate attributable to your deceased spouse will go to your deceased spouse's heirs, not your heirs. You can avoid this result by making your own Will or Trust.

Another quirk can happen when a person you name in your Will or Trust dies before you. You may be surprised that the gift to the deceased beneficiary is not automatically cancelled if that person is "kindred," meaning a person related by blood or adoption. Instead, the gift will go to the deceased beneficiary's descendants. So, if you only want the person you named to inherit and intend for the gift to be cancelled if the person is not living, then you must specify your intent in your Will or Trust.

Another common situation concerns gifts made during lifetime intended as an advance on inheri-

tance. For example, you might make a large lifetime gift to a child in need, with the intent that the child's inheritance when you die will be reduced by the amount of the gift, so as not to favor that child over another child. But, the child's inheritance will only be reduced if you specifically say so in your Will or Trust, or if you put it in writing at the time you make the gift that the gift is intended as an advance on an inheritance, or if the child acknowledges, in writing, that the gift is an advance on the child's inheritance.

People often remark that Wills or Trusts are overly long, way too many pages. But, many provisions are included in the estate plan to **(Continued on Page 11)**

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What's Happening on the Westside? (Continued from Page 9)

- **Thursday, July 31 - Santa Monica Walking Photo Class** - 11 a.m. Call 888-651-9785 to secure a spot. \$50.
- **Underground Donut Tours** - Call or text 844-366-8848 for details. Start at Randy's Donuts and learn about other sweet treats in our town.
- **Through September 15 - A Midsummer Night's Dream** - Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum - Free for kids under 4. 1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Topanga. For tickets, call the box office at 310-455-3723.

- **Through August 31 - Wired for Wonder: A Multisensory Maze at the Kidspace Children's Museum** - Open daily Tuesday to Sunday with evening hours especially for adults Thursday, Friday, and Saturday through August. 480 N. Arroyo Blvd. Pasadena. Call 626-788-8795.
- **Tuesday and Wednesdays - Toddler Sing-Along at the Skirball** - Special sing-along included with admission to Noah's Ark at the Skirball. Little ones can sing, move, and play as they learn songs and games. 2701 Sepulveda Blvd. 310-440-4500.

Bookmark It! A Simple Craft for You and Your Children



By Emily Lesch

Turn old clothes into cozy corner bookmarks with this fun, easy project. It's a creative way to reuse fabric, encourage storytelling, and get crafty with your child.

What You'll Need:

- Old clothing or scrap fabric
- Scissors
- Needle and thread
- Markers or fabric paint

How To Do It:

1. Cut a square from old clothing.
2. Fold it diagonally in half, then again into a triangle.
3. Decorate the outside of the folded triangle.
4. Stitch along the shorter open edge. (Leave the diagonal side open).
5. Tuck it onto the corner of your child's favorite book page!

This quick craft helps kids express creativity and gives new life to old things.

For more crafting ideas, workshops, and questions reach out to Emily at bambolashoppe@gmail.com.



—Joe Analco

Planning Ahead (Continued from Page 10)

avoid the quirks of inheritance law, so make sure your specific intent is carried out.

Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
JAKLE, ALEXANDER & PATTON,
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Corsica: A French island (Continued from Page 8)

restored stone cottages.

• **Bonifacio: Southern Tip** Perched on sheer limestone cliffs, Bonifacio is one of the island's the most striking destinations. Explore the sea grottos, Lavezzi Islands, and Bonifacio's medieval citadel. Stay at the Hôtel U Capu Biancu – A boho-chic escape on a secluded bay.

This wild and beautiful island is rich in history and worthy of slow exploration. If you're dreaming of your next trip, let me take the stress out of planning – and add some perks along the way. Contact me at tanya@mariposa-traveladvisors.com.

Protecting Our Children (Continued from Page 7)

to heart, which they seem to be doing fairly well to this point.

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.

Answer to Neighborhood Celebrity

(Continued from Page 1)



Ulysses has worked for several years at The Shores cafe within the Santa Monica Shores apartment building. They serve pizza and burgers in a relaxed setting.

New Book Empowers Professionals to Write with Purpose and Spark Influence

Veteran author and book coach Cara J. Stevens knows what keeps professionals from writing the book they're qualified to write – and in *Write, Teach, Spark*, she lays out a practical path to lead with their words.

With almost 100 titles to her name and over 30 years of experience in writing, editing, and coaching, Cara has helped aspiring authors across six continents clarify their message and gain the confidence to share it.

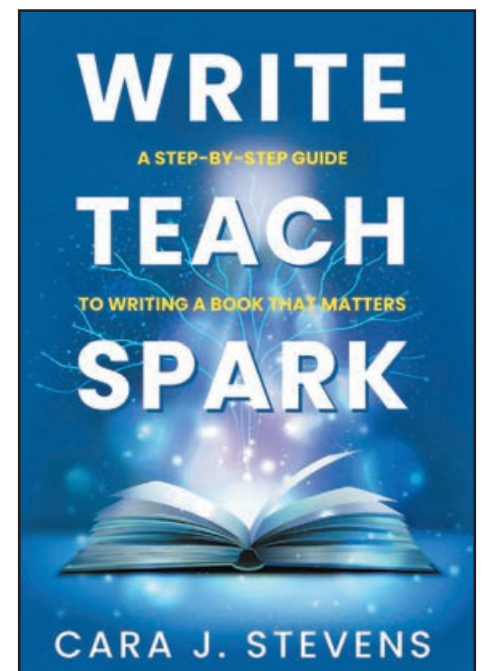
Now, she brings that expertise to a wider audience, delivering a book that fuels creativity, strengthens communication, and simplifies the publishing journey.

Writing a book isn't just about getting published. It's a chance to step fully into your expertise and make a meaningful impact.

Cara J. Stevens believes that we are in a world where attention is scarce and authenticity matters more. Rooted in what she calls the Firefly Effect – the belief that when we share what lights us up, we help others shine.

Write, Teach, Spark offers practical tools alongside moments of reflection, paired with seasoned advice to guide readers from an initial idea to a finished book.

Drawing on insights from a diverse group of thought leaders – including publishing experts like Andrea Fleck-Nisbet (IBPA), Rob Price and Luis Javier Mijangos (Gatekeeper Press), and small business strategist Bridget Weston (SCORE), Cara delivers practical,



usable advice grounded in real world experience. The book also features guidance on imposter syndrome, content marketing, and strategic communication.

Written for business owners, entrepreneurs, creative professionals, and CEOs, *Write, Teach, Spark* offers more than just instruction – it offers a mindset shift. It's a call to action for anyone who's ever asked, "Do I really have something worth saying?" The answer, Cara proclaims, is a resounding "Yes!"

For more information, visit: www.writeteachspark.com. (*Write, Teach, Spark: A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing a Book That Matters*).

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