

THE SANTA MONICA STAR

Also Covering
The Greater
Westside

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Connecting You With Your Community

July 2026

Enjoying A Perfect Beach Day on the Santa Monica Bay



Families having fun together create many Summer memories.

Photo by Julia Nilsen Lombardi

By Richard Lombardi

Sometimes it takes losing something to appreciate it.

Despite living near some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, I recently realized I had not spent a full day at the beach in several years. Between the Pacific Palisades Fire, rebuilding our home, work, volunteer commitments, and life's endless responsibilities, beach days had quietly disappeared from my calendar. Last weekend, that changed.

Julia and I joined my oldest daughter, her husband visiting from Seattle, several of their local friends, my five-year-old granddaughter Aurora, and my infant grandson for what turned out to be one of those rare Southern California days that reminds you exactly why so many people dream of living here.

The day began with breakfast burritos from Country Kitchen in Malibu. Armed with coffee, breakfast, beach chairs, umbrellas, and enough supplies to comfortably support three generations, we headed toward the sand.

As anyone who spends time on Santa Monica Bay knows, a beach day is not measured by what you accomplish. In fact, its success is often measured by how little you accomplish at all.

The marine layer slowly gave way to sunshine. Waves rolled ashore with their familiar rhythm. Adults settled into chairs and conversations. Phones stayed mostly out of sight.

For a few hours – permits, insurance claims, construction schedules, emails, and deadlines simply ceased to exist.

My granddaughter quickly assumed her self-appointed role as entertainment director. Before long, she had organized a spirited

game of charades that managed to involve everyone in our group.

Watching adults attempt to act out increasingly ridiculous clues while a five-year-old served as both judge and ringmaster was worth the price of admission alone.

Meanwhile, my grandson experienced one of his earliest beach outings, blissfully unaware that he was participating in a Southern California tradition enjoyed by generations before him.

As I sat under the shade of an umbrella, surrounded by family and friends, I found myself reflecting on what makes Santa Monica Bay such a remarkable place.

From Marina del Rey to Venice, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, and Malibu, few coastal destinations in the world offer such a unique combination of natural beauty and accessibility. Wide sandy beaches stretch for miles beneath the backdrop of the Santa Monica Mountains. Sailboats drift through Marina del Rey Harbor. Cyclists travel the beach path. Surfers chase waves while volleyball players battle for bragging rights on the sand. Visitors travel thousands of miles to experience what many of us sometimes take for granted.

Each beach community offers its own personality. Marina del Rey combines waterfront dining, harbor views, and some of the best sunset cocktail spots in Los Angeles. Venice offers its unmistakable blend of creativity, artists, and eclectic energy. Santa Monica delivers the iconic pier, Palisades Park, people-watching, and endless opportunities to walk, bike, shop, and dine. Pacific Palisades and Will Rogers State Beach offer a slightly quieter experience,

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Above is an example of a film poster created by Talivaldis Stubis from his large collection. Read his story by his son, Mark Stubis, below.

You're Only 100 Once: Celebrating an Artist Who Worked On Iconic Movie & Broadway Posters, Books, and More

By Mark Stubis

One hundred years ago, one of the most creative and prolific graphic designers of the 20th Century was born and went on to help produce many of the most iconic images for film, Broadway, books, and record jackets – images recognized by millions in countries around the world. A new, yearlong centennial celebration now aims to spotlight one of the most intensively innovative and creatively inexhaustible artists of the last 100 years.

Talivaldis Stubis was born in Riga, Latvia in 1926. Largely self-taught, he developed his artistic skills by sketching family, friends, and street scenes outside his home and later in the DP camps where he, his mother, brother, and sister lived following World War II.

Immigrating to the United States, he got his first job in New York painting ties in a sweatshop while applying for positions at art agencies around the city. He was soon hired and earned senior creative positions at a series of important design studios specializing first in Broadway shows, and later, movie posters.

Among the artist's most memorable images was the illustration for the famed Broadway musical and movie, *Funny Girl*, which featured the image of an upside-down girl on roller skates whose body spells out the title, but he worked on literally hundreds of other now-legendary posters for stage and screen. His other Broadway works included Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot*, Stephen Sondheim's *Anyone Can Whistle*, and Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana*, Neil Simon's *Promises, Promises*, *The Fun Couple*, featuring Jane Fonda and Dyan Cannon, and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Flower Drum Song*.

As senior art director for several major movie advertising agencies, Talivaldis worked on and helped develop many of the best-known movie poster campaigns of the 20th century, including Stanley Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, *Barry Lyndon*, *The Sting*, *The Exorcist*, *Day for Night*, *Cool Hand Luke*, *Night of the Iguana*, *Lady Sings the Blues*, *Airplane!*, *Elephant Man*, *Reds*, *Ordinary People*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

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You're Only 100 Once *(Continued from Page 1)*

man, and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

On most nights and weekends, he worked at his "other" job as a book illustrator. Over the course of his long career, he illustrated 24 books, creating a cover for the paperback version of Erich Maria Remarque's *All Quiet On the Western Front*, and working with such illustrious authors as Otto Friedrich on *Sir Alva and the Wicked Wizard*, poet and editor Lillian Moore on *Sam's Place*, and husband-and-wife team Rose Wyler and Gerald Ames, who turned out dozens of books in the 1950s, '60s and '70s such as *Prove It!* to excite children's interest in science. In

1954, Talivaldis married ballet dancer Patricia Ann Thomas and together they collaborated on *Sandwichery*, a cookbook for young children.

Talivaldis' books won numerous awards and in 1962, *A Pocketful of Seasons* was named one of the New York Times' *100 Best Books of the Year*. Tal lived in New York and Los Angeles and died in 2009 at the age of 83.

"My father was one of the most talented and creative artists of the 20th Century," said his son Mark Stubis, who launched the effort with the help of Talivaldis' granddaughter, the artist, gallery direc-

tor, and museum specialist Halley Stubis. "His work has been recognized and loved by millions around the world, but his name is less familiar to many. We hope that this project will not only bring back fond memories of some of the most beloved images in theater, film, books, and records, but help better acquaint them with the remarkable man who had a powerful impact on popular culture over the past 100 years."

• How to Follow the Centennial

The centennial celebration features information and stories about the artist, a forthcoming website and online museum, 100

social posts with familiar and never-before-seen art samples to mark the 100 years since his birth, and a traveling exhibit/presentation of his works and life.

• To participate, follow us via: Facebook: Talivaldis Stubis Centennial Celebration; Instagram: #TalivaldisStubis; Website and Online Museum: www.Talivaldis-Stubis.com (coming soon); or to arrange a live or virtual exhibit/presentation, write to BooksArtsAndMusic@gmail.com.



-Joe Analco



Find Lending Libraries in the Community Gardens

By Sarah Caso, California Climate Action Corps Fellow

This year, the Community Gardens Program has taken a new step in encouraging the public to visit the garden spaces: lending libraries. The effort has been led by Christopher Brehme with help from the rest of his scouts in Troop 223 of the Palisades. In February, Christopher built the little library at Main Street Community Garden as his Eagle Scout project.

The library is located in the communal plot, where there are chairs and tables for the public to sit and relax. Another lending library is in the process of being installed at Reed Park Community Garden, next to the Miles Playhouse, and the newly-opened

19th Street Community Farm is next in line for a lending library. The goal of having a place where visitors can lend books outside of the public libraries is to encourage both the gardeners and everyone else who passes through to share knowledge with each other to foster community.

In addition to the lending libraries, all of the gardens with communal areas (Ishihara Park Learning Garden, Marine Park Community Garden, Reed Park Community Garden, and 19th Street Community Farm) all provide free fresh produce for the community. Stop by Ishihara Park Learning Garden during volunteer hours from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays; Marine Park Community Garden on Tues-



Boy Scout Troop 223 of the Palisades is putting the first books in the lending library at the Main Street Community Garden in Santa Monica.

day mornings from 9:30 a.m.-11 a.m., and Reed Park on Wednesdays from 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m., or the second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

The newly opened 19th Street Community Farm doesn't yet have a set volunteer schedule, but is recruiting volunteers to help manage the new space. Register for an account with the Santa Monica Volunteer Matters platform and then fill out the Community Garden Volunteer Interest form to learn more about getting involved with the garden space.



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What's Happening on the Westside

Choose From a Variety of Activities to do This Summer

By Pamela Lawrence

• **The Santa Monica College Planetarium will present live-hosted, on-campus shows on three Friday evenings in July, with a Sunday Family Matinée on July 12.**

The July shows include the popular "The Night Sky Show" and feature programs on women in space, exoplanets, and the search for life beyond earth. Each show is about 40 minutes long and followed by a short audience Q&A with Planetarium Lecturer Sarah Vincent.

Friday evening shows start at 6 p.m. with "The Night Sky Show," presenting the latest news in astronomy, space exploration, and the night-sky celebrities making their appearance in the evenings ahead. The show is followed at 7 p.m. by the feature program. No children under age three permitted at the Friday shows. Sunday Family Matinée shows start at 1 p.m. with "The Night Sky Show," followed at 2 p.m. by a Feature Program.

All shows are presented in the SMC Planetarium, located in room MSB 126 of the Mathematics + Science Building on the SMC Main Campus at 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. Ample and conveniently located free parking for planetarium shows is available on the SMC Main Campus.

Shows are on Friday, July 10, 6 p.m., Friday, July 17, 7 p.m. and Friday, July 24, 7 p.m. SMC Planetarium, 310-434-4163.

• **Thursday, July 2 - Regular Guy Dave's Wacky Balloon & Fun Academy** - Ever wonder how they twist balloons into animals? Learn how to make a balloon animal, flowers, and swords! Learn silly magic tricks and games at the

wackiest fun academy ever! 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Montana Branch Library, Community Room. Space is limited; free tickets available at 2 p.m. For ages 5-11.

• **Saturday, July 4 - Fourth of July Parade on Main Street** - Come in your red, white, and blue! The parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Pico Boulevard on Main Street and will conclude at the southern most beach parking lot.

• **Saturday, July 4 - 77th Annual Pacific Palisades July 4th Parade and Celebration** - The Palisades American Parade Association is pleased to announce that just eighteen months after the devastation that consumed the beautiful Pacific Palisades community, the Palisades 4th of July is back with a parade through the Historic Village (4 p.m.), and a spectacular evening event at Palisades High School. For more information, visit: palisades4th.com.

• **Sunday, July 5 - Downtown Culver City Independence Celebration** - The evening will kick off with live music on Town Plaza, leading into the highly-anticipated aerial drone light show - now a cherished part of the Independence Day celebration. 6 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Town Plaza, 9300 Culver Blvd., Culver City. This family-friendly event remains free to the public.

• **Tuesday, July 7 - Bubblemania** - Explore the science and fun of bubbles with shimmering waves of soap films, rainbow bubbles, square bubbles, and giant bubbles. Learn about reflection, refraction, surface tension, and other soap bubble properties with a grand finale! 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Fairview Branch

Library, Community Room. 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Space is limited, free tickets available at 2 p.m. For families.

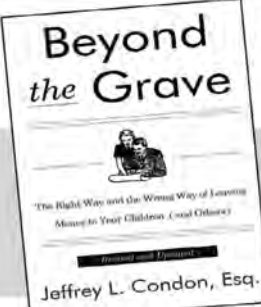
• **Friday, July 10 - Shabbat on the Beach** - Bring your own instruments to join Rabbi Katzan for a musical Shabbat on the Beach. Make sure to pack beach chairs, jackets, blankets, and your own dinner if you plan to picnic on the beach afterward. Challah and grape juice will be provided. 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Santa Monica Beach, Lifeguard Station #28. Hosted by Mishkon Tephilo. Look for the blue and white Mishkon flag. Parking is available for a fee at Parking Lot #5, 2701 Barnard Way.

• **Wednesday, July 15 - Party Time in America Music Show** - Professor Party's Rhythm Explosion is a blast of comedy, music,

and high-energy fun. Get your voices and best dance moves ready for guitar sing-a-longs, an epic dance party, and live drumming! 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, Community Room. 2601 Main Street. Space is limited. Free tickets available at 2 p.m. For families.

• **Saturday, July 18 - Guided Meditation for Skin & Gut Health** - Join local specialist Sun Chung for a relaxing, guided meditation designed to calm the mind, ease stress, and support your body's natural healing. The series explores the connection between self-worth, the nervous system, immune health, and how these influence digestion and skin. You'll learn simple, practical tools you can apply in daily life. 11 a.m.-

(Continued on Page 6)



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Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

A Day I Will Never Forget



By Michael Margolin

"The indescribable moments of your life" is a line in the song *Tonight, Tonight* which is by the band, The

Smashing Pumpkins. The line comes during the most energetic part of the song. July marks the anniversary of the most indescribable moment of my life. Several years later another tremendous moment would occur.

But for now, I want to focus on the first recollection. Thirteen years ago, Alexa was born and Enjoli and my lives were changed in an instant. And, of course, Jake's birth three years later was life changing as well and was remarkably memorable for plenty of reasons.

The first child is the one who makes you a parent. As soon as I saw Alexa's face and her fuzzy little head, the world became a different place to me. In a sense, I had been waiting for several decades to meet this person. I do not remember how much time passed between her being born and the

nurses taking her to clean her up, but she did not leave my sight. Not only was I already learning that I was going to be plenty protective as a father, I simply could not take my eyes off of her. Wanting to know now where she is all of the time and being fascinated by her has not differed from that day.

Thankfully, she has become much more independent over the past 13 years and has a much clearer way of expressing her needs and wants. And, since she is a teenager now, I am curious to see how some of her newer expressions have developed

We will be happy to celebrate Alexa on her newest milestone of a birthday. As Alexa ventures deeper into adolescence, Enjoli and I will try to chart the course as best as we can. It will be a delicious cake and colorful balloons that will be celebrating this wonderful person and the day she came into our lives. And, reminding me again of that moment I still can't describe.

Mike Margolin has been writing for us since his daughter Alexa was born 12 years ago and son, Jake, 10 years ago. He also coaches each child's soccer team.

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The Next 250 Years Begin at Home



By Cheryl Thode

As our nation celebrates its 250th birthday this July, families across the country will gather for fireworks, parades, backyard barbe-

cues, and community celebrations. Children will wave flags, marvel at the fireworks overhead, and perhaps learn a little about the history that brought us to this moment.

Milestone anniversaries naturally invite us to look back. We remember the people, ideas, and sacrifices that shaped our nation over the past two-and-a-half centuries. But, they also invite us to look forward and consider what kind of country we hope to leave for future generations.

The answer may have less to do with government buildings and historic landmarks than with what happens every day in our homes.

As parents, grandparents, and caregivers, we spend a great deal

of time helping children become successful students. We encourage them to read, study, solve problems, and work toward their goals. These are important investments in their future. Yet raising children is about more than preparing them for the next grade level or the next test. We are also preparing them to be neighbors, community members, friends, volunteers, and caring human beings.

Those lessons do not begin later in life. They begin in the ordinary rhythm of childhood. They begin when a child learns that saying, "Thank You" matters. They grow when they help a younger sibling, show kindness to a classmate, or notice someone who feels left out. They take root when children see that their actions affect the people around them – and that being part of a family and a community means looking beyond themselves.

Children learn these lessons less from what we say and more from what we do. They notice how we treat others. They hear how we

speak about people when they are not in the room. They observe whether we pause to help, whether we listen, and whether we choose kindness when it would be easier not to.

In many ways, raising good humans is simply the daily practice of paying attention to one another. One of the most meaningful ways to nurture this is through small acts of service. Amazingly, service does not require a large budget, elaborate plans, or rare free time. It can be woven into everyday life. Families can write notes to seniors, pick up litter on a walk, donate gently used books, help a neighbor carry groceries, bake something for a friend, or volunteer together in a local event. These small actions stay with children far longer than we often realize.

This Summer, in honor of America's 250th birthday, I challenge your families and you to choose one act of kindness each week for the remainder of the Summer.

Keep it simple. Hold the door for

someone. Introduce yourselves to a new neighbor. Write a thank-you note. Help someone without being asked. Clean up a shared space. Support a local business. The goal is not perfection or recognition. The goal is practice – helping children experience what it feels like to contribute to the world around them.

By the end of the Summer, you may not remember every errand or outing. But your children will remember how it felt to be part of something good. They will remember that kindness was not something just talked about – it was something done as a family.

And, those memories matter. As we celebrate 250 years of American history, perhaps the most meaningful way to honor the past is to invest in the future right where we are.

Our country's next 250 years will not begin in history books or headlines. The next 250 years will begin at home. God Bless.



Reflections From The East

When Sisterly Love Turns into Fond Memories



By Qin Sun Stubis

Every time I pack for traveling, either for a short overnight stay or a long overseas trip, there is always a fear in the back of my

head that I have forgotten something: Have I taken everything I need? How about something essential like pajamas? I did once forget to take sleepwear for myself.

For a multideestination journey, I have formed a habit of doing a last-minute departure sweep in my hotel room to avoid leaving something important behind, such as a phone charger, and the inconvenience it would cause me for the rest of my journey.

In spite of my efforts, the travel gods have a way of playing with me so something is misplaced or lost along the way. Over the years,

I have become almost fatalistic, learning to do my due diligence while almost anticipating oncoming disasters, although I could never predict what would be lost or missing each time.

This May, my near-blind sister from Shanghai, China, insisted on coming to visit me in Bethesda, Maryland, spending a month with me and my family before her doctor's prediction that she would lose what was left of her sight became a reality.

I worried about her traveling alone, and I also worried about her packing by herself. I was almost certain that she would forget to pack something important. Much to my surprise, she didn't. She had neatly packed all her belongings and knew exactly where every item was. I was impressed by the sharpness of her mind's eye.

For a whole month, we hugged, talked, shopped, shared tears, and held hands. We were each other's shadows every day to make up for the years that we had been separated. We even spent a day in a shopping mall, something so ordinary yet something, as sisters separated by a continent and an ocean, we could never have hoped to do together. I only wished that our time together could have lasted longer.

After she left, I thought that she might have accidentally left something here so I searched the house thoroughly. Perhaps not surprisingly, I found nothing. My sister was too well organized. Oddly enough, I was disappointed, for I almost wished that she had left something behind ... a bead from her necklace or a scarf – some concrete evidence proving that she was just here with me.

I so desperately wanted to keep her presence here and make it last, even though she had already returned to Shanghai. Then, suddenly, it came to me that she did leave a lot behind in my house: the imagined sound of her footsteps on the staircase, the gentle way she slid open the pocket door to the kitchen in the morning, the chair she sat in, the meals she shared with us ... my house will be echoing with the memories of her stay for many years to come.

In the meantime, I know that I should plan the next reunion. Though I might misplace an item or two during the trip, I know I will be taking plenty of sisterly love along with me.

You can always reach me at qstubis@gmail.com, or please visit me at www.QinSunStubis.com.

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Before You Float, Know Boating Safety in the Santa Monica Bay

By Tim Kaiser
Flotilla 12-42, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Summer is the perfect time to enjoy the waves of Santa Monica Bay. With its beautiful landscapes and rich colors, it seems idyllic for all forms of marine activity. However, there are facts you should know before taking to the waves. You do not want to be caught off guard as the westerly winds pick up, a sleeper wave surprises you, or an overcast mist moves across the bay. Be prepared before your float.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary will prepare you with the information and material needed to ensure recreational boating safety. The Coast Guard Auxiliary's foundational goal is to prevent accidents and save lives on the water by offering free, voluntary Vessel Exams; Public Education courses on boating safety, navigation, and water sports; and Marine Dealer Visits, which provide safety literature and regulation information. The USCGA website has downloadable float plans, safety gear requirements, navigation aids, and boating courses.

You can also contact Santa Monica's very own Auxiliary unit, Flotilla 12-42, which has been active in Santa Monica Bay since 1956. They are familiar with the nuances of this area and may offer a wealth of information. They also work closely with California State Parks, the California Coastal Commission, and the Bay Foundation toward environmental goals for our area, including the dock-walking program. Flotilla 12-42 is one of many active Coast Guard Auxiliary units in Southern California. You can find your local Flotilla on the USCGA website.

We are active in the community, and you'll find us at boat shows, car shows, parades, harbors, beaches, walking docks, or out on patrol in a Coast Guard vessel.

The United States Coast Guard



Officers of Flotilla 12-42 at the Change of Watch for the California Yacht Club, Marina del Rey. From left, Drew Baldwin, Homayoun Jandaghi, and Jennifer Jandaghi.

Auxiliary is a civilian branch of the United States Coast Guard. Originally established by Congress in 1939, the Coast Guard Auxiliary consists of volunteers from across the nation working hand in hand with active-duty Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary motto, "Semper Paratus" (always ready), is a way of life for the auxiliaryist. Coast Guard auxiliaryists have donated over 3.8 million hours of manpower in support of Coast Guard missions. Currently, there are 753 flotillas with over 21,000 members, 1,800 vessels, 160 aircraft, and 1,400 radios all participating in active missions.

For more information about the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and recreational boating safety, or to become an Auxiliaryist, please visit www.uscga1242.org or www.cgaux.org.



Senior Care

Aging in Place 101: How to Stay Independent



By Tim Petlin

Think of this as an introductory course in one of the most important subjects facing older adults and their families:

staying safely and comfortably at home as the years go by.

• **Why Aging in Place Matters:**

Nearly 90% of adults over age 65 want to remain in their own homes as they age. The challenge is that most homes were not designed with mobility limitations in mind. A few changes made now can help prevent injuries and delay or eliminate the need to move later.

• **The Bathroom:** Falls are the leading cause of injury among older adults, and bathrooms are a common trouble spot.

-Install grab bars beside the toilet and inside the shower or tub. Make sure they are securely anchored to wall studs. Consider a walk-in shower or, if remodeling isn't practical, a tub transfer bench.

-Replace loose rugs with non-slip mats or textured flooring, and consider a raised toilet seat or comfort-height toilet to make sitting and standing easier.

• **Moving Around the Home:**

Take a fresh look at how your home functions. Wider doorways may be needed if a walker or wheelchair becomes necessary.

-If stairs are becoming difficult, a stairlift may be a practical alternative to moving. Ramps can also improve access for those using walkers or wheelchairs.

-Throughout the home, remove clutter, secure loose rugs, and improve lighting, especially along pathways and stairways.

• **The Kitchen:** Small changes can make a big difference. Pull-out shelves and lazy susans reduce reaching and bending. Store frequently used items within easy reach.

-Lever-style faucets and D-pull cabinet handles are easier to use for people with arthritis or reduced hand strength.

• **Technology Can Help:** Medical alert systems and fall-detection watches can provide peace of mind. Smart home devices such as voice-controlled lights, thermostats, and door locks can make daily tasks easier.

-Telehealth appointments may also reduce the need for frequent trips to medical offices.

• **Don't Forget the Human Element:** No home modification can replace social connection. Regular visits and check-ins from family, friends, neighbors, or volunteers are important for both safety and well-being.

-An occupational therapist can also assess the home and recommend improvements. Many local aging agencies offer these evaluations at little or no cost.

• **The Takeaway:**

Walk through your home with fresh eyes. Look for trip hazards, dim lighting, and hard-to-reach items. Most improvements are neither dramatic nor expensive. The goal isn't to prepare for decline – it's to stay independent, safe, and at home for as long as possible.

About Right at Home

Tim Petlin is the owner of Right at Home West Los Angeles. For more information, contact Right at Home at www.rahwestla.com, at 310-313-0600, or email Tim at timp@rahwestla.com.

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 WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS

Adventure Awaits at the Santa Monica Family YMCA this Summer



By Araceli Alejandre

Summer is just around the corner, and there's still time to secure your child's spot at the Santa

Monica Family YMCA Summer Day Camp. With nine exciting weeks of themed adventures, hands-on learning, and unforgettable field trips, campers will stay active, engaged, and connected all Summer long.

At YMCA camp, every day is designed to help children build confidence, develop character, and create meaningful connections. Through team games, creative projects, outdoor adventures, and group activities, campers learn the importance of sportsmanship, respect, responsibility, and teamwork while making friendships that can last a lifetime.

Campers will enjoy a wide variety of activities that showcase everything the YMCA has to offer, including swimming, sports, rock climbing, games, and hands-on enrichment opportunities. Children will also have the chance to

cool off with weekly swim experiences and participate in exciting field trips that bring learning and adventure beyond camp walls. Highlights include visits to destinations such as the Long Beach Aquarium, California Science Center, Los Angeles Zoo, and Griffith Observatory.

With dedicated, trained staff and a focus on youth development, YMCA Summer Camp provides more than just a place for children to spend their Summer. It is a place where they can discover new interests, gain independence, build lifelong skills, and create memories they will cherish for years to come.

Camp runs from June 15-August 14 from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Families can register for one week or the entire Summer! Camps include before/after-camp care at no additional charge (starting as early as 7:30 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m.), transportation, and all field trips. Registration is still open, but spaces are filling quickly. To learn more or reserve your child's spot, visit www.ymcasm.org/camp.

Teen Talk

Explore the Greater LA Area This Summer



By Michelle Li

Summer is just getting started and Los Angeles is the perfect place to spend it, even for locals who may think they

have seen it all. There are a multitude of activities to explore over this July, ranging from health focused ones to water parks, to the classic entertainment, music, and movies.

There are many ways to watch movies for free and with a community this Summer. Movies are offered at the Culver City Steps throughout July on every Friday. There are iconic movies shown each consecutive Friday of July in the following order - *Top Gun: Maverick*, *The Smurfs*, *Freakier Friday*, *Elf*, and *Wicked*. There are also movies shown on the beach and will be shown at Dockweiler Youth Center in Playa Del Rey. They are also on every Friday of July, through August. They are showing classic kids movies such as, *Sketch*, *Elio*, *GOAT*, *Anaconda*, *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie*, *The Princess and the Frog*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *Elf* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, also in this order. Movies can also be seen at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery every Saturday, including the first Friday of the month. The movies that will be shown are *Shrek*, *Jurassic Park*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Rosemary's Baby*, and *Edward Scissorhands*.

In addition to movies, locals or tourists can also listen to concerts. Throughout the month of July and on, there are various candlelit concerts in the Immanuel Presby-

terian Church. They play a variety of music, such as tributes to pop icons, and movie composers. In addition, the Getty Center continues the "Off the 405" concerts throughout the Summer. On July 11, Leenalchi, a band from Seoul, Korea will be performing Korea's traditional folk storytelling. On July 25, the Horse Lords, an experimental rock band from Baltimore, will be performing post-punk and experimental minimalism.

There are also a multitude of festivals in the area. At Griffith Park, there is a free Shakespeare Festival. Throughout the majority of July, *Coriolanus* will be performed almost everyday at 7 p.m. In addition, Griffith Park will be hosting the Los Angeles French Fry Festival on July 11. This festival celebrates National French Fry Day. There will be many different kinds of fries - such as shoestring, steak, waffle, curly, poutine, and dessert fries. There will also be a selection of special sauces - such as truffle aioli, spicy honey mustard, chili cheese, and more. General admission prices start from \$30. Echo Park will be hosting the 45th annual Lotus Festival. It celebrates the people and culture of Sri Lanka and is two days, July 11 and 12. There will be community booths, food vendors, lantern launches, carnival rides, and live entertainment.

Los Angeles is hosting many events this Summer, and even those that may think they have seen it all can find something new to do!

Michelle Li is a Santa Monica High School student.

What's Happening (Continued from Page 3)

12 noon. Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library. Sign-ups are encouraged. Please email:

prncho@lapl.org, or call 310-840-2142 to reserve your spot. For Adults, Seniors.

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What's Coming Up at the Santa Monica History Museum?



By Anne Wallentine

Here are some upcoming events at the Santa Monica History Museum for you to discover.

Santa Monica's history is all around us – from the trees that shade our streets to the foods and traditions that connect generations of families. The Santa Monica History Museum preserves and shares these stories through exhibitions, programs, and events.

This Summer, visitors can explore our current exhibitions, *Roots and Branches: A Tree's View of Santa Monica* and *Food & Family: African American and Intercultural Traditions*, as well as the wide range of stories in our permanent galleries. You can also attend talks by community leaders and historians to discover new perspectives on the city's past.

On Saturday, July 18, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., there will be Mexican American perspectives on food, family, and heritage. *At the Table: Exploring Food, Family, and Our Shared Histories* will be presented by community leaders Kathleen Benjamin and Daniel Alonzo, whose 57-year friendship began in Santa Monica's elementary school classrooms. Discover the cultural and historical roots of beloved dishes and how food connects history, identity, and community at the free program, which highlights stories from the Food & Family exhibition.

On Saturday, August 15, from 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m., historian and

author Nina Fresco will speak about her recently published book, *First Around the World: the History of the Santa Monica Municipal Airport*. With the airport's future currently up for discussion, it's a fascinating moment to talk about the history that shaped it. The talk will be followed by a book signing, with copies available for purchase onsite.

And, don't forget to save the date for the museum's annual dinner celebration on Sunday, October 4, which this year will honor Santa Monica's Olympic legacy ahead of the Games in 2028.

Check out the calendar on the museum's website (santamonicahistory.org) to learn more and register for upcoming events, or sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay up to date.

Whether you've lived in Santa Monica for decades, or are still discovering the city's stories, the Santa Monica History Museum offers many opportunities to explore the people, places, and traditions that have shaped our community.

Location: 1350 7th Street, in the same complex as the Main Branch of the Santa Monica Public Library.

Hours: Thursdays, 2 p.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$5 for adults, and free for children, students, seniors, and SNAP/EBT cardholders. Free to all the first Sunday of every month.

Phone number: 310-395-2290.

Santa Monica is Coming Up Roses: City to Participate in 2027 Rose Parade

The City Council recently approved the city's participation in the 2027 Tournament of Roses Parade, moving forward with a city-sponsored float that will showcase the community's welcoming spirit, cultural vibrancy, and ongoing economic revitalization efforts.

The decision follows months of staff planning that included completing the Tournament of Roses application process, evaluating float builders, developing a fundraising strategy, and conducting operational assessments. The council originally authorized staff to begin the planning process in January of this year.

The 2027 Rose Parade theme, "Welcome," aligns with Santa Monica's identity as an inclusive and innovative coastal destination. Participation provides an opportunity to share Santa Monica's story of economic renaissance with an international audience of millions while promoting tourism, local businesses, community pride, and civic engagement.

"The 2027 Tournament of Roses Parade is an incredible opportunity to showcase Santa Monica to millions of people around the world," Mayor Caroline Torosis said. "The parade's theme, 'Welcome,' reflects who we are as a community. Santa Monica has always been a place that brings people together, and today we are building on that tradition as we revitalize our city, support local

businesses, and prepare to welcome visitors from around the globe. I look forward to working with residents, community organizations, and business leaders to create a float that captures the creativity, beauty, and spirit of Santa Monica."

The city will start concept development later this month, and community engagement and fundraising efforts will begin July 23 at the State of the City event on Main Street in Santa Monica's Ocean Park Neighborhood. Float engineering, fabrication, and production will take place from August through December 2026, including an opportunity for volunteers to help decorate the float at the end of December.

The float will celebrate Santa Monica's iconic landmarks, oceanfront setting, sustainability efforts, public art, cultural diversity, and welcoming community. The city selected Artistic Entertainment Services as the official float production partner based on the company's experience, operational capabilities, and authorization by the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association to design and build official parade floats.

The float will make its debut in the 138th Rose Parade on January 1, 2027, followed by Floatfest from January 1-3, where spectators can view the float up close after the parade. For more information

(Continued on Page 9)

From the Santa Monica Pier

It's Summertime and Can You Imagine What Pier Life is Like?



By Jim Harris

You'll probably laugh if I say that Summertime at the Pier is *easy*, right? Perhaps *crazy* is the word that comes to mind first? I totally understand that thought. But what if I told you there are ways to enjoy a nice, quiet experience on the Pier in July? Yes, July!

For instance, how about a morning walk? Morning walks on the Pier are always special. While the Pier is admittedly becoming increasingly popular, those early mornings will never succumb to the midday mayhem that Summer is known for. I admit, you won't get to enjoy a roller coaster or Merry Go-Round ride (those don't open until 11 a.m.), but you will assuredly get to enjoy the peace, the escape, and the peace of mind that only places like this unique edge-of-the-world environment can offer.

And, then there is sunset! The western end of the Pier is an incredible place to take in the beloved "golden hour" and seek the

legendary (mythical?) "green flash." Why? Because there is no obstruction. The view is ocean, sky, and sun. Granted, you'll likely need to navigate through some large crowds for a few minutes to get to the Pier's end, but once you pass by Pacific Park amusement park and all of its popular family fun, the walk west suddenly and miraculously eases the chaos and frenetic noise, and every step toward your sunset-viewing destination is less stressful and more serene.

And then, of course, the reward – an extraordinary sunset and twilight serenity. So, I invite you to come try the *easy* life at the Pier this summer. It's not always so *crazy*. It's just Summertime, and we are all truly living in a wonderful place and time.

Jim Harris is the Executive Director of the Santa Monica Pier Corporation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the pier visitor experience, and the author of the Pier's official history book, "Santa Monica Pier: America's Last Great Pleasure Pier."



Santa Monica Breakfast Club Officers for 2026-2028

The Santa Monica Breakfast Club raises funds to provide dental care for young children in the Santa Monica Malibu School District. Here are their incoming officers.

- Co-Presidents: Pam Brady and Pati Lacy
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Shannon
- Corresponding Secretary: Luann Perry
- Treasurer: Pat Armacost
- Parliamentarian: Maryanne LaGuardia

- Dental Chair: Marilyn Schmitter
- Membership Chairs: Char Lawrence and Kathy Checchi
- Program Chair: Jeannie Kusserow
- Inspiration Chair: Helen Vasak
- Social Chair: Leila Brown
- Historian: Kathy Checchi
- Grants: Anna Rogers

For more information about the welcoming club, contact Pam Brady at ptabrady@aol.com.



The creative staff from AlphaGraphics was celebrating an anniversary with cake. From left, Rachel, Elisabeth, Jose, Menuk, Coco, and owner, Robert Gilbert. Call 310-453-7559 for their incredible ideas.



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Parenting Talk

One Reframe That Can Change Your Family's Story



By Frances Barry

Recently, I was driving slowly through a parking garage when a child ran in front of my car. I slammed on the brakes. The child and I stared at each other, frozen, as their parent pulled them away. As I drove away, I imagined the inevitable reprimand: Don't run in parking lots.

Sound advice – but directions that begin with "don't" rarely land the way we intend. When a child hears 'don't run,' their mind may inadvertently focus on 'run' – the very thing you want them to avoid. Or they simply tune out after the word 'don't.' Children can better follow directions that tell them what to do rather than what not to do.

But this shift can be challenging. Our natural instincts are wired towards danger, what we don't want, not towards desire, what we do want. It takes real mental effort to override that pull. Let's replay the parking lot scene using a framework I call ORCA – Observe, Reflect, Connect, Act – and see what that looks like in practice.

The parent pauses at the parking lot entrance. They observe their child buzzing with energy. They reflect that this energy could easily turn into a sprint. They connect with their child: "In the parking lot, we walk. I'll hold your hand if you need help slowing

down." Then they act. The parent role models being safe by noticing approaching cars and stopping when needed.

This pivot in focus – from negative to positive – can also apply to how parents frame family goals. Consider the magnetic pull of screens. You sit down to dinner and notice one child glued to the TV, another engrossed in a video game, you and your co-parent scrolling through work emails. Instinctively you wonder: How can there be less screen time?

Sit with a different version of the same question: What does our family need more of? Movement, hands-on projects, time outdoors, uncontrollable laughter? The answer will look different for every family – and possibly, for each family member. But asking it at all gives you something to move toward, rather than something to run away from.

The shift in phrasing from "don't" to "do" and a change in focus from "less" to "more" may seem subtle, but the effect can be long lasting. Your child begins to see themselves as capable rather than needing correction. And you, with practice, begin to see your family not for what it's missing – but for everything it is becoming.

Frances is a therapist who supports elementary school children and their families, who are struggling with anger, anxiety, and grief. Learn more at www.FrancesBarry.net.

The Joy of MultiGenerational Vacations



By Scott Andrews

Multigenerational family vacations – trips that include grandparents, parents, and children – are becoming increasingly popular. These vacations offer a unique opportunity for families to spend meaningful time together and create lasting memories. In today's busy world, it can be difficult for families to gather regularly, making a shared vacation an ideal way to reconnect across generations.

One of the biggest advantages of a multigenerational trip is the variety of experiences it provides. Grandparents often enjoy sharing stories, traditions, and wisdom with younger family members, while children bring energy and excitement, keeping the trip lively. Parents benefit as well, since grandparents can help watch the kids, giving adults a chance to relax and enjoy some downtime. This shared support makes traveling less stressful and more enjoyable for everyone.

Choosing the right destination is an important part of planning a successful multigenerational vacation. Locations that offer a mix of relaxation and activities tend

to work best. Beach resorts, cruise ships, and national parks are popular options because they offer entertainment for people of different ages. While some family members might enjoy hiking, sightseeing, or cultural tours, others may prefer relaxing by the pool or taking scenic walks.

Planning ahead is key to making sure everyone has a positive experience. It helps to discuss expectations, budgets, and activity preferences before the trip. Creating a flexible itinerary will allow for both group activities and individual free time, keeping everyone traveling happy and wanting more.

Ultimately, multigenerational vacations strengthen family bonds and create cherished memories. Whether it's grandparents teaching grandchildren a favorite family recipe, parents sharing stories from their childhood, or simply enjoying a sunset together, these trips remind families of the importance of spending quality time together.

Scott Andrews, an experienced world traveler, is the co-host of The Cruise Dudes Podcast. You can listen to The Cruise Dudes Podcast on major platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and YouTube.

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July Holidays to Celebrate

- July 4 - Independence Day • July 7 - World Chocolate Day
- July 8 - National Video Game Day • July 13 - National French Fry Day • July 14 - Bastille Day • July 22 - National Hammock Day • July 24 - National Cousins Day

Community Service on the Westside

Saluting Our Country's 250th Birthday



By Ilene Knebel

Happy 250th Birthday America from the Santa Monica Elks!! July is traditionally a quiet

month at the Lodge, but we do have our Elks National Convention being held in Chicago over the holiday weekend, recognizing both the 100 years of the Elks National Memorial Building and celebrating America's 250th Birthday.

We will be donning our red, white, and blue to show our patriotism and symbolize the colors of the American Flag.

- Red represents hardiness, valor, and the bloodshed by heroes fighting for liberty.

- White symbolizes purity, innocence, and a fair and just society.
- Blue stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

- **Upcoming events:** We still have

the Westside Winds Mahjong on Wednesdays, July 8 and 15. Sign up at <https://westside-winds-july-dec26.cheddarup.com>. We have tables for all levels as well as expert-guided play available.

We are preparing for National Night Out, to be held at Santa Monica City Hall on Tuesday, August 4. Stop by and see us at our booth and learn about the Elks and what we do in the community.

- **Community Service:** Are you looking to serve your community, our veterans, children, and the underserved? We have activities that need your help – check out our website for upcoming events and contact us to join! <https://www.santamonicaelks-lodge906.org/home>

- **Event Space:** Are you looking for an event or meeting space? Call our office at 310-452-3557 for more information.

An Update From the SMBWC



By Patricia Webber

Continuing the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club (SMBWC) commitment to education, and especially stu-

dents from Samohi, the Elmira T. Stephens Scholarship Committee awarded two scholarships this year to Kaitlyn Eggers and Aubrielle Gomez. Kaitlyn is tentatively planning to study Marine Science and Communications. She has been on the swimming team for four years and was a volunteer with Heal the Bay.

Aubrielle's college plans include majoring in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Health Sciences. Two of her school activities include the Black Student Union, and the Puzzle Club. Outside activities include serving as a Teen Mental Health Advisor with Teen Talk. Our members wish these two extraordinary young women great success in their educational pursuits.

The ETS Scholarship Committee consists of Holly Shaffer, Irene Moy, Martine Salter, and Alicia Syres.

One of our busiest volunteer members, Josana Joseph, repre-

sented SMBWC at the Marina District Council Meeting held on May 22 at the Torrance Woman's Club. The Marina District is part of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, of which there are 213 clubs with approximately 10,000 members statewide.

Josana accepted three awards on behalf of the SMBWC. 1) Marina District 70th Convention Membership Third Place Award; 2) 2025 CFWC Service Award for Civic Engagement & Outreach (Large Club category); and 3) the 70th Convention Membership Contest, First Place Award!

Anyone interested in learning the SMBWC canasta version is invited to contact the Club at 310-395-1308 and leave a message for Sue Price-McGough. Our Artists, Crafts & Conversation group meets on Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Other on-going Club activities include Mahjong, bridge and contract bridge. Our Book Group meets the 4th Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Club.

Due to Club member allergies and other conditions, pets will no longer be allowed. However, Certified Service Pets will be permitted.

Santa Monica is Coming Up Roses (Continued from Page 7)

about the city's participation in the 2027 Tournament of Roses, view the full Staff Report #7744

and watch the council discussion from June 9, 2026.

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



By J. Kingsley Fife

We Santa Monica-Pacific Palisades Lions are very excited about the new plans and changes that will be taking place with our club in the next few months.

First, we are having our annual installation dinner at a beautiful new venue. It's going to take place at the gorgeous Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina del Rey on Wednesday, August 5. This will also be special because we are installing Lion Carol Ann Emmitt as our new Club President. Carol Ann, several years ago, was the Governor of our entire District 4-L3, which encompassed all of the Lions Clubs in half of Los Angeles. Our club felt very distinguished to have such a high profile person as Carol Ann as a member. Now, Carol Ann will be devoting her energy to raising our club to new goals and greater

achievements for the future.

Secondly, we are leaving the Elks Lodge as our long standing location for our monthly dinner meetings. Our new location will be the exquisite Hyatt Centric Delfina Hotel on Pico. Our first monthly dinner meeting there will be in early September, exact date to be determined, details will be forthcoming.

The thing that is so gratifying to us Lions is that we're always involved with some helpful activity for the Westside. At the moment, Lion Brian Ransom, our Service Project Director, is coordinating our food collection for the Westside Food Bank. Following this, we will be involved with some charitable activity that the Santa Monica Salvation Army has planned for the future.

Are you interested in learning more about Lionism? Contact me at jkfife88@yahoo.com.

Rotary Club of Santa Monica Changes its Slate of Officers

By Vicky Curtis

As the Rotary year comes to a close, the Rotary Club of Santa Monica will celebrate its annual Changing of the Guard in July, welcoming a new leadership team that will carry forward the club's long tradition of service and community impact.

Taking the reins as president will be Carol Powell, who will lead the Club into the coming year alongside Vice Presidents Tom Loo and Bryan Miranda. Supporting the leadership team are Treasurer Neil Doshi and Secretary Stephen Weaver. Joining the Board of Directors are Tanya Gilbert, Bill

Powell, Carol Jackson, Rick Ferraro, and Brynja Seagren, each bringing valuable experience, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to Rotary's guiding principle of Service Above Self.

We extend our sincere congratulations to the incoming board and wish them a successful and rewarding year ahead as they continue the Club's efforts to make a positive difference in Santa Monica and communities around the world.

The Club holds weekly meetings on Fridays at lunchtime. Visit the website: www.rotaryclubofsantamonica.org.

Congratulations to Julia Abbott



From our longtime columnist, Julia Abbott, "I graduated from Dartmouth College with double majors in Economics and English. I'm going on a Fulbright in Tajikistan, and then I'll be working in economic consulting at Cornerstone in Los Angeles!"

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Historic Broadway Spotlight

Michael Ano Interviews Carolyne Edwards

**By Michael Ano
18th Street Arts**

The gourd is one of humanity's oldest technologies – used for thousands of years as vessels, tools, and instruments long before glass or plastic existed. For Carolyne Edwards, the story of the gourd is also a story about migration, modernization, silence, and memory.

Carolyne grew up in Santa Monica with deep family roots in Texas. Her father was from Fort Worth, and her husband Bill's family came from East Texas. Yet despite those Southern connections, gourds were never part of her everyday life growing up in California. Like many Black families who arrived in Los Angeles during and after the Great Migration, her family rarely spoke about the harder parts of Southern life. "I never saw a gourd until later in life," Carolyne recalled. "It wasn't something people brought up as a story to tell their kids or grandkids."

Her first meaningful encounter with a gourd came in the 1970s during a trip to East Texas with her husband. Near the remains of his family's homestead, she found an old dipping gourd lying among scattered relics. Later, after reading the children's book, *The Drinking Gourd*, Carolyne began to understand the object not simply as a household tool, but as part of a larger history of Black resilience, migration, and survival. "It speaks to resilience," she said. "It speaks to a desire to find something better."

As Carolyne learned more about the history of gourds, she began thinking about what had been lost through migration and urban life. In Texas, her husband remembered using well water, carrying buckets from creeks, and seeing gourds used in the fields. But those stories rarely made it to California. By the time families arrived in places like Santa Monica, indoor plumbing, apartment



Bill Edwards, whose family came from East Texas, above, with his wife, Carolyne, whose father was from Fort Worth

living, and modernization had changed daily life entirely. Many Southern traditions tied to agriculture, land, and manual labor quietly disappeared across generations.

Carolyne believes part of that loss also came from assimilation and silence. Black families arriving in predominantly white communities were often focused on survival, stability, and fitting in. Stories connected to hardship or rural poverty were not always passed down. What disappeared was not only an object, but a relationship to nature, labor, and family memory that had once been part of everyday life in the South.

Today, Carolyne sees the gourd not simply as an artifact, but as a reminder of the importance of storytelling. "We don't need to use the gourd anymore," she said. "We can use a glass cup. But we should still tell the story of the gourd."

For Carolyne, preserving Black history in Santa Monica means more than protecting buildings or landmarks. It also means remembering the everyday objects, traditions, and family stories that shaped community life – even when those stories were nearly forgotten.

A Perfect Beach Day (Continued from Page 1)

where the dramatic bluffs create a backdrop unlike anywhere else on the bay.

And, then there is the food. A proper beach day can begin with a breakfast burrito from Malibu, continue with fish tacos or a burger near the sand, and end with a cold beer, margarita, or waterfront cocktail as the sun begins its descent into the Pacific. Few places blend outdoor recreation, dining, and scenery quite as effortlessly as Santa Monica Bay.

Yet, as enjoyable as the beaches, restaurants, and ocean views may be, I realized they were not what made this particular day memorable. What made it special was watching three generations share the same patch of sand.

It was seeing my daughter and son-in-law create memories with their children. It was hearing laughter carry across a circle of beach chairs. It was watching my granddaughter enthusiastically direct a game of charades while

my infant grandson soaked in his surroundings.

In a year and a half that has included tremendous loss, displacement, rebuilding, and uncertainty, this simple beach day felt like a reminder of what matters most.

Sometimes, the best reminder of why we love Santa Monica Bay is not found in the ocean views, the beachside restaurants, or the perfect weather. It is found in a beach chair surrounded by family, watching the next generation make memories of their own.

Richard Lombardi is a displaced Pacific Palisades resident, Real Estate Wealth Advisor with Sotheby's International Realty, 2nd Vice Commander of American Legion Post 283, Vice Chair of the Pacific Palisades Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG), The Salvation Army Santa Monica Board Member, and Santa Monica Family YMCA Board Member.



Paws and Claws

Beware of Summer Hazards for Pets



By Dr. Frank Lavac, MS, DVM
There are a multitude of concerns for pets Summer holidays. Here are a few to watch for:

1. Fireworks

Aside from the fear and anxiety fireworks can cause pets, they can also be toxic. Sparklers are the most common fireworks that the ASPCA Poison Control receives calls about. If ingested, they can cause GI upset. Lit sparklers can

also cause severe burns. Fireworks contain chemicals that can be corrosive.

2. Pool chemicals

Pool chemicals, once appropriately diluted, don't typically cause problems. However, in their concentrated form, they are caustic and can cause serious GI upset if ingested and respiratory difficulty if exposed in a confined space.

3. Lawn Products

Fertilizer ingestion can cause severe GI upset and can even lead to limb stiffness and soreness.

4. Foods

Grapes/raisins, onions, garlic, xylitol, macadamia nuts, and chocolate are all toxic if ingested by pets. Xylitol is a common sugar substitute that is toxic to dogs. It's often present in chewing gum.

If you have questions, contact your veterinarian or ER. You can also contact the ASPCA Poison Control, 888-426-4436.

You can always contact Dr. Lavac at 310-828-4587 with questions about your pets.

Adopt a Pet



This mother and baby duo were reunited on Mother's Day after losing each other during the rescue. Mom is hesitant, but incredibly sweet when she warms up. She demands head and belly pets constantly. Baby is an energy ball, but will snuggle up when held. We are hoping to get them adopted together! Contact Dr. Cannon at Emma.Cannon@vca.com.



-Joe Analco

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Planning Ahead

Trust Settlement – Not a DIY Job



By Lisa Alexander, Esq.

You may be the “lucky” person named as Successor Trustee by a friend or relative who has just died. This is not the time for do-it-yourself Trustee work.

After dealing with the mortuary and funeral, it is time to reach out to a Trust and Estates attorney to help you review the Trust and Will and inform you of your responsibilities as Successor Trustee. Don't worry, the attorney's fees are paid from the Trust, not out of your pocket.

As Successor Trustee, you are required to give a notice with specific language and with a specific size font, in bold, to all the beneficiaries of the Trust, and to the deceased person's heirs. The attorney can help you determine who must receive the notice and can prepare the notice for your signature.

A key aspect of the notice is it starts a four-month period during which a Trust contest can be filed. Until the end of the four months and it becomes certain that the Trust has not been challenged, no distributions should be made to the beneficiaries. In other words, the Successor Trustee must not rush to send out checks until it is appropriate to do so.

If there is California real property, the Successor Trustee must file a required notice with the Assessor in the County where the property is located. At the same time, it is important to confirm

how title to the property is held. Is the property in the name of the Trust? Is there a joint tenant or co-owner? The attorney can help you determine the ownership of the property and advise on next steps for transfer of ownership to the persons entitled to receive the deceased person's interest.

As Successor Trustee, you are responsible for making sure all income tax returns for the deceased person during life and for the Trust following the death have been filed and taxes paid. You can be personally liable for taxes, so make sure taxes are covered before you make distributions to the beneficiaries.

When you are ready to close out the Trust and distribute the assets to the beneficiaries, before you do so, you must provide the beneficiaries with a financial accounting down to the penny for your handling of the Trust assets and including your compensation. If there are questions or issues, these should be resolved before you make a final distribution. The attorney can help you with the accounting.

At the end, for all your hard work, you are almost always entitled to a fee paid from the Trust. The attorney can help you determine an appropriate fee. Your time is valuable and you deserve to be paid. Job well done!

Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
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Great Labels Store Celebrating 30 Years!

By Juliana Pouldar

Founded by owner Andrea Waters in 1996, Great Labels is proud to celebrate 30 years of serving the Santa Monica community as a destination for luxury designer consignments.

What began as Andrea's passion for timeless style, designer fashion, and a need to provide for her three children on her own, has grown into a beloved local business known for its curated collection of pre-loved designer clothing, handbags, shoes, and vintage treasures. Over the past three decades, Great Labels has helped make luxury fashion more accessible.

As a woman-owned and operated business, Great Labels has built its reputation on expertise, trust, and personalized service. The store is supported by a dedicated team of fashion professionals, including manager Juliana, who has been an integral part of the company for the past eight years.

Great Labels has proudly welcomed local residents, stylists, collectors, and visitors from around the world, all connected by the excitement of discovering exceptional pieces.

As resale and sustainable fashions continue to grow, Great Labels remains committed to giving



Designer pieces collected by owner Andrea Waters are sold to eager customers at appealing prices.

exceptional designer pieces a second life. By connecting clients with quality fashion meant to last, the store continues to champion a more thoughtful and sustainable approach to luxury shopping.

Thirty years later, Great Labels continues to honor the values that have defined it from the beginning: timeless style, sustainability, community, and empowering women through fashion.

Great Labels is located at 1126 Wilshire Blvd. Contact Juliana Pouldar, store manager, by calling 310-451-2277 for more details.

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Love Links

Roberto and Christina Caught the Beat at a Hip-Hop Concert When They First Met



Christina Saucedo and Roberto Sanchez-Lopez ten years ago in June at St. Monica Catholic Church when they were married.

Christina Saucedo and Roberto Sanchez-Lopez looked forward to celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary on June 25 last month. They thought about how they had met at a hip-hop concert in Hollywood in 2010. Three dates later they quickly became boyfriend and girlfriend.

Christina grew up in Santa Monica, and Roberto grew up in Simi Valley. The two started living together in 2014. Robert proposed to Christina at dinner in 2015. She let us know they had already looked at rings. One day after his work, he bought the ring, and called Christina's mom to ask for her hand in marriage. He then went home where Christina was preparing dinner. She had her back to him and was surprised when she turned around and saw him down on one knee, asking her to marry him.

Christina and Roberto were married by our special Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson at St. Monica Catholic Church on June 25 ten years ago. The reception was held at a beautiful Malibu location, the Adamson House.

When Christina recalls some memorable moments from the event, she says one was Roberto watching her walk down the aisle, with tears in his eyes. Roberto recalls Christina took his breath away when he first saw her. Their first dance as a married couple was to *It Was Just My Imagination*, by The Temptations, and having two hundred of their family members and close friends at the very important event.

Christina is a devoted mother to three children, ages nine, seven, and four. She earned her BA from Otis College of Art and Design. She works part-time at a popular women's clothing store in Santa Monica. She also does volunteer work at her children's schools and other community organizations.

Roberto works as a Construction Coordinator at Forest Lawn and also participates in school and local community organizations as Christina does.

We wish them many, many more years of good health and happiness in the years to come.

—D.M.

Have You Thought About Water Safety This Summer?



The sea lion is not thinking about water safety. Have you been thinking about it? Go to Page 5 and learn how the Coast Guard can provide helpful information regarding water safety.

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