

THE SANTA MONICA STAR

Also covering
The Greater
Westside

Volume XX Number 8

Connecting You With Your Community

August 2021



Terry and Greg Hargrave were at Denali National Park in Alaska with their daughter, Drew, and her fiancé Matt Hunter, who proposed on the exciting trip! Congratulations!



Bill Powell, shown with wife, Carol, became the new Santa Monica Rotary Club President.

Favorite Summer Memories



Our columnist Mike Margolin, his wife, Enjoli, and children, Alexa and Jake spent a lot of time this summer enjoying swimming in community pools.



Outgoing Rotary president Lisa Alexander received gifts from her board members.



Spyros Dellaportas and Judy Neveau shared stories about their travels at the party.



Qin Stubis visited the Bodie Island Lighthouse in the Outer Banks in North Carolina.



The Rotary Club had its Dethroning Party overlooking the Pacific.

Photos by Iao Katagiri

Senior Snapshot

Thoughts on My Neighbor Jim Reidy

By Bill Buxton

I have been blessed to be back-door neighbors with Jim and Virginia Reidy for almost a quarter of a century. Jim was a wonderful neighbor in every sense of the word.

When I think of Jim, my first thought is of his huge grin that he always shared so eagerly with anyone he met. Behind that grin was his deep sense of kindness that made everyone feel welcomed. He took the time to connect with everyone he met and always watched out for the wellbeing of everyone in his life.

Even in his last few Zoom Rotary meetings, he made a point to greet everyone with good cheer and kindness as they joined the meeting. In Rotary, his commitment to the Family of Rotary was deep and dear to his heart, and his leadership in those efforts has been a big part of the bond that holds us together in friendship and belonging in Rotary. Jim lived the Four-Way test in everything he did in life, and perhaps the strongest of his many gifts he shared with the world around him was that Jim always built goodwill and better friendships!

Always with humility, he accomplished much in his life, including service in the U.S. Marines and many local boards and commissions, including the Coastal Commission and the Santa Monica City Council, serving as Mayor Pro Tem. Professionally, he was with IBM for



Jim Reidy, a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Monica for over 50 years, passed away on June 24.

Photo by Iao Katagiri

17 years, before becoming professor of computer science at Pierce College. His professional accomplishments were recognized by his alma mater, the University of Arizona, in their naming of the Dhaliwal-Reidy School of Accountancy.

As co-chair of our Family of Rotary Committee, Jim always made sure he checked in on any member who was sick or disabled for some reason or another. A card, a call, or flowers always came from the Club via Jim's thoughtfulness.

As a club, we will miss Jim, his kindness and his grin. We can all be thankful for his legacy that lives on in the entire club.

Big Talk: Skip the Small Talk and Make More Meaningful Connections

By Kalina Silverman

With the world reopening and unmasked faces reappearing around the neighborhood, there are now plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends and also meet new people in the community. Some of us are more excited than ever.

However, many people have expressed anxiety at the idea of showing up to social gatherings and having to engage in uncomfortable small talk, i.e. "So when did you get vaccinated?" or "How was Covid for you?"

"Big Talk" is one way to help us avoid such conversations and strengthen our interpersonal interactions. Big Talk is a communication approach designed to help us skip the small talk to make more meaningful life connections instead. Through Big Talk, we can ask deeper questions of the people we encounter, such as:

"What are you curious about exploring lately? What do you struggle with in work? How might you find help with those things? What

is your next great adventure? What do you wish more people knew about you?"

Big Talk is a simple idea that when applied can have monumental outcomes because it allows us to easily talk about what matters most in life. Big Talk has led to marriage proposals, the birth of a child, and the reunion of estranged family members.

So, how might one actually skip the small talk and "make Big Talk?" Here are some suggestions:

Ask questions that are universal, meaning anyone could answer them.

Ask some questions that avoid

(Continued on Page 2)

Do You Recognize This Neighborhood Celebrity?

(Answer on Page 4)



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Planning Ahead



By Lisa C. Alexander, Esq.
Who hasn't been following the "Free Britney Movement?" Every day is another new development in the Conservatorship proceedings for Britney Spears. At the date this article is written, the Conservatorship of Britney Spears continues, and although the Judge has invited her to petition the Court to terminate the Conservatorship, it is interesting to me that she has not done so.

The Britney Spears Conservatorship is unusual because she is seemingly highly functional. The more usual case is an elderly person who has age-related loss of capacity, or sometimes a younger person who has lost capacity because of a catastrophic health event or accident. A conservator of

the person may be appointed if a person is unable to provide for their personal needs for health, food, clothing, or shelter. A conservator of the estate may be appointed if a person is substantially unable to manage his/her financial resources, or to resist fraud or undue influence.

A conservatorship is initiated by petition to the Court accompanied by a required Capacity Declaration signed by a doctor. For every conservatorship petition filed, the Court appoints an attorney to represent the proposed conservatee from a panel of specially-trained lawyers. If the proposed conservatee instructs the attorney to fight against the conservatorship, the lawyer must do so, even in the case where it's clear a conservatorship is needed. The proposed conservatee must appear at the hearing for the conservatorship unless the doctor

indicates the proposed conservatee is unable to attend. The proposed conservatee has the right to address the judge and to request a jury trial to determine if a conservatorship is needed.

After a conservator is appointed, the conservator is required to file with the Court, among other things: a "Care Plan," a notice if the conservatee has moved, a report of the conservatee's assets, and regular accountings. The accountings must report every penny spent by the conservator. Copies of accountings must be sent to the conservatee and anyone who files a request for a copy. A petition to terminate the conservatorship showing that the conservatorship is no longer required can be filed at any time by the conservatee and any relative or friend.

Conservatorships provide important protections. That said, all of

this costs money, and with Court involvement, conservatorships are expensive. Conservatorships are public and intrusive. And, in most cases, conservatorships can be avoided through proper estate planning. With a trust, durable power of attorney, and an advance health care directive, there should always be someone with authority to handle your medical and finances if you become unable to do so for yourself, without resorting to a conservatorship.

We may never know the truth about the Britney Spears Conservatorship; her lawyer must maintain confidentiality. But, in defense of conservatorships, they serve an important purpose when necessary.

Lisa C. Alexander, Esq. can be reached by calling 310-656-4310.



California is Trying to Solve a Math Problem



By Tim Kusserow
What is happening with the math curriculum in California schools? The proposed Mathematics Curriculum Framework, www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ma/cf/index.asp, which serves to guide math instruction in grades Kindergarten – 12th grade, includes new language and concepts that incorporate social justice and racial equity into a child's math class. While the intent behind these proposals is important, many educators question whether mathematics – traditionally regarded as a "neutral" subject – is a place to discuss anything

other than actual math – as in number sense, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus.

For example, the state's proposed mathematics framework encourages K-12 math teachers to:

- Keep all students together in the same math class until the 11th grade because differentiated programs cause student "fragility" and "racial division" (Ch. 1, p. 15)
- "Reject ideas of natural gifts and talents" as it relates to students learning math and discourage placing more talented math students into advanced classes (Ch. 1, p. 8)
- Stop preparing students to take Algebra I in 8th grade, on par with high-performing foreign countries,

a goal explicitly part of the 1999 and 2006 Math Frameworks (Ch. 9, p. 43)

- Include "trauma-informed pedagogy" (Ch. 2, p. 16) and insert "environmental and social justice issues" into the math curriculum (Ch. 1, p. 35)
- Develop students' "sociopolitical consciousness" beginning in Kindergarten (Ch. 2, p. 39)
- Reject the idea that math is a "neutral discipline" (Ch 2, p. 29)
- Promote a "justice-oriented perspective at any grade-level" and assign math schoolwork to solve "problems that result in social inequalities."

Math is a discipline whose language is universally accessible with good teaching. Parents are encouraged to review California's proposed mathematics framework in more detail and to reflect upon what exactly they desire their children to learn during math class.

For readers who wish to share their own opinion, the California Department of Education welcomes feedback regarding the proposed math framework via email (mathframework@cde.ca.gov).

Tim Kusserow
CEO Kusserow Consulting
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Big Talk: Skip the Small Talk (Continued from Page 1)

soliciting facts or opinions, and instead elicit personal stories.

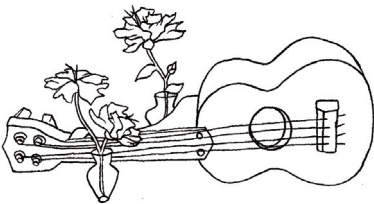
Practice active listening and ask follow-up questions to go deeper. (Some tools for making Big Talk include the Big Talk Question Card Game and the Big Talk Questions App.)

In the end, what matters most? Love, family, friends, fighting adversity, and pursuing dreams. Those are the tenets of life that we can all relate to. Hopefully, by asking the hard questions, the questions that get to the core of our humanity, we can feel more connected to each other, and also ourselves.

To learn more, visit www.makebigtalk.com, or download the "Big

Talk Questions App" on the App Store or Google Play. Please say hello at bigtalkwithkalin@gmail.com.

Kalina Silverman is founder of Big Talk (www.makebigtalk.com)



By Halley Stubis

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Clergy Corner

Post Pandemic Encounters (PPE)



By Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell
It is a relief for some to have the opportunity to move from the Zoom Room and engage in person with family and friends. Some of us are seeing people in person for the first time due to an initial introduction that happened in the Zoom Room, or another virtual encounter. Others are still facing a sense of isolation and uncomfortableness in regard to engaging in public gathering. In whatever state we discover ourselves, there are three motivating virtues that assist us to navigate our way through these times of transition. We hold fast to faith, hope, and love.

Our faith sustained us these last 17 months. Whether mustard seed or mountain moving trust, we persevered without wavering faith that our condition would change from social isolation to social engagement. The prayers of faith offered during this Season of Pandemics maintained us when we felt exhausted from logging on one Zoom call after another Zoom call. Our hope assisted faith that this Season of COVID-19 would move from winter to spring. We discover our hope cultivating faith as we

observe the option of hybrid gatherings. The choice of in-person or online participation gives some indication that our belief and trust that “this season will soon pass” is not in vain. Faith and hope join forces together to strengthen us. Our mental and physical states move from less stress to believing brighter days are ahead as we spiritually soar to higher levels of confidence within ourselves. Faith and hope operate together while love is the cylinder that surrounds them. We lift up our prayers with love of creator, ourselves, and humankind. Love extends a boost to our confidence that faith and hope are working. As we return to church, school, family, and other in-person gatherings, allow love to encircle every encounter. We are taught love is kind, patient, perseveres, and never fails. Release into the atmosphere, faith, hope, and love to embrace us through these times of transition.

Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell is the Senior Pastor of First AME Church, Santa Monica. This year FAME Santa Monica is celebrating 100 years, from 1921-2021. Plans are being made for special events. We will keep you posted.

Update on the Kentwood Players

During the past year’s shutdown, the Kentwood Players have been diligently working on significant repairs, renovations, and upgrades to their Westchester Playhouse. This work, along with new protocols, ensures the comfort, well-being, and safety of their patrons as they return to live indoor theater again. Their latest Virtual Theater Series production, “Castles in the Zoom” will stream through Sunday,

August 22. Jami Bartlett as Jordan and Shawn “Lefty” Plunkett as Avery are featured in this funny and touching account of two people who meet at a surprise birthday party on Zoom. The only problem is they are the only ones invited! All productions on the Kentwood Players YouTube channel are presented free of charge. Call 310-645-5156 for more details.

Byte by Byte

Car Cruising: Computer-Style



By Dr. Miceala Shocklee
With the world slowly becoming a safer place to get out and about in again, transportation is once again rising to the surface as a factor in people’s lives. While options with lower environmental impact like walking, cycling, and using local public transportation or ridesharing apps are preferable, some situations may necessitate a longer term personal or family vehicle. The pros, cons, and relative availability of new vs. used cars are questions all their own with a constant rotation of answers, but for the purposes of this article, we’ll take a look at the tools out there to help those perusing the used car market.

- 1. Local dealership websites** - Possibly the most traditional option, dealership websites provide a chance to check out inventory before having to show up on the lot and engage in a sales pitch rigamarole. Dealerships’ used inventories usually feature models under the major brand and may include car makes outside the brand as well. Checking out used inventories before visiting on-site allows extra time for scoping out the specs of the vehicle of interest and comparing it to similar vehicles listed in other inventories across the country.
- 2. Carvana and Carmax** - While routing through used car inventories nationwide can be quite the chore, sites like Carvana and Carmax save some of that work by compiling listings from all over the country. Similar to a certified pre-owned car from a dealership, cars sold through Carvana and Carmax must all pass 100+ point inspections before being offered for sale. Inventories can be searched by make, model, year, fuel type, trans-

mission style, and more. Whereas Carmax has lots that customers can visit prior to purchase, Carvana’s car-storage sites aren’t for client walk- (or drive-) through. Its website, however, does provide 360-degree virtual tours of the vehicle with photos and notated flags of any cosmetic damage present. Carvana also has a seven-day money-back return option, though. Whereas negotiation on car price is often a part of dealership purchases, Carvana shopping occurs entirely online, with no agent to negotiate with on prices. Carvana does, however, offer pre-approval for financing and will work with many banks’ financing set-ups as well.

3. Kelly Blue Book - How fair is a vehicle’s price? The Kelly Blue Book website provides a wealth of information on how to figure out where a used car falls in terms of value. The site hosts expert-written reviews detailing the highlights, drawbacks, comparison points, and overall user impression of any year, make, and model of a car. The site also provides reviews from customers who have purchased that kind of vehicle.

4. Carfax - Whether buying a used car online or in-person, Carfax is a powerful tool. Carvana, Carmax, and many dealership websites list the Carfax report for a car, and should do so for free. A Carfax history provides a breakdown of a car’s sales, maintenance, damage, and more. However, it may not always detail any loans or liens on the car. Still, a Carfax history can help settle on a more specific value for a car and help determine the level of risk associated with a particular vehicle.

When in doubt, the web at large hosts an overwhelming number of resources for surveying the used

(Continued on Page 4)

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Gettysburg Revisited This Summer



I felt that I was being spoken to directly when reading the Gettys-

I could hear haunting screams

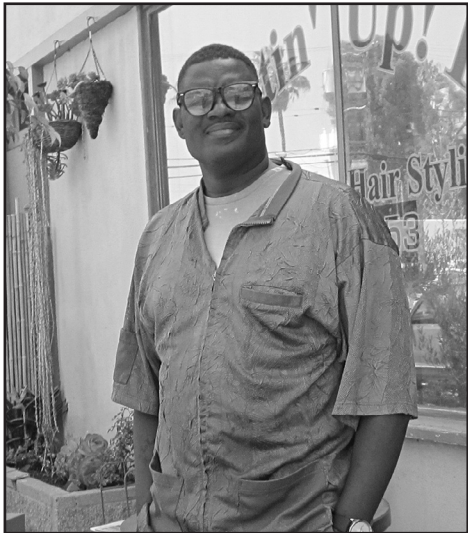
Gettysburg stands to remind each and every American of our duty to forever preserve the liberty, equality, and unity for which so many here lost their lives. Today, to give our full measure of devotion may mean rising above that which

You can always reach me at
qstubis@gmail.com

Qin is a longtime columnist of ours who lives in Bethesda, MD.



(Continued from Page 1)



Xavier Banister is the owner of the Cuttin' Up! barber shop on 18th and Broadway.

Saint Monica – An Example for All Mothers



An African Christian, Saint Monica (c. 332 – 387) is remembered and honored for her outstanding Christian virtues, particularly her prayerful life dedicated to the reformation of her son. She was a persevering mother whose prayers, patience, and good example at last obtained the conversion of her way-

Similarly to Saint Monica's trials with her son, Augustine, your children may try your patience, choose paths that you do not approve of, or make you question whether or not you are a good mother. However, Saint Monica provides proof of how God can be a strength in times of darkness and the reason to rejoice in times of joy. Personally, I find Saint Monica to be a needed role model. Motherhood has

If you or someone you know is a mother who would like to share with and grow her own village, please visit our website at the link below and register to be a Mother of Monica. <https://stmonica.net/ministries/fellowship-groups/moms>.

Mini Message Bulletin Board



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Passing Through the Pico Neighborhood

Baking Belizean Creole Bread



By Jahrid Longworth
When I was a little boy, my grandmother would take care of me when my mom went off to work. My grand-

mother told me that this breakfast bread she made for me about twice a week is perfect immediately after coming out of the oven. I thought our readers might like to try making this bread.

Belizean Creole Bread
Ingredients:
2 lbs. of flour (8 cups)
1 tsp. salt
½ cup shortening
1/2 Tbsp. vegan butter
2 Tsp. yeast (2 packs fast active)
2 Tbsps. sugar
1 ½ cup coconut milk
Directions:
1. In a medium size bowl, combine flour, salt, sugar, and yeast. Mix together well.
2. Add shortening and vegan butter and combine thoroughly with your hands.
3. Warm milk to lukewarm temperature. Do not boil, or the heat will kill the yeast and not allow the bread to rise.
4. Slowly add the milk to the flour mixture and knead until mixture is combined and hands are clean of flour.



Belizean Breakfast Bread is best eaten hot out of the oven.

5. Remove dough from bowl, flour countertop, and knead dough for about 3 minutes.
6. Put dough back into the bowl and cover with a damp cloth until doubled in size (about 15 mins).
7. Place dough on countertop again, and knead again for about 3 minutes.
8. Roll dough into a log and cut into one inch pieces.
9. Knead dough in the palm of your hand and into round balls.
10. Place balls on greased baking sheet, press down to flatten to about 3/4 inch thick.
11. Let dough raise again for about 15 mins. before placing into oven.
12. Preheat oven to 400 while dough is raising.
13. Bake for about 30 minutes until bread is golden brown
14. Remove from oven and serve!

Dianne Lawson Tackles “Unconditional Love” in Her Book



By Stacy Mc Clendon
One weekday evening, as the sun set around us, I spent some time conversing with Dianne Lawson, my lovely neighbor of ten plus years. Our conversations are always extremely enjoyable and lively, to say the least.

Dianne has been a Pico Neighborhood resident since 1984. She raised her sons Kevon "P.J." Lawson, Jr. and Teran Lawson here since they were four and two. Not only did P.J. and Teran grow up in Santa Monica, they are well known, liked, respected, and were involved in sports, music, and the community.

Many in Santa Monica recognize Dianne and refer to her as "P.J.'s" or "Teran's Mom," or just "Mom." She loves that Santa Monica is diverse, has many resources and thinks it is a great place to raise a family.

Dianne has an extremely loving, friendly, strong and poignant spirit and always has a smile on her face. She is also an accomplished writer of a new book titled *Unconditional Love*.

Most may assume that unconditional love only applies to relationships. Dianne shares how unconditional love applies to all areas of life. She believes that when your heart is connected to someone

and you care about what you and they are doing, it brings a higher level of appreciation, greater contribution, and purpose for self and each other to be successful.

Her book offers her thoughts and insight on how unconditional love looks in a variety of scenarios, such as with a family, the workplace, in school, in toxic relationships and as a significant other.

I would highly recommend reading and purchasing this book. Not only does Dianne delve into other topics, she even offers a notes section at the end of each chapter to capture thoughts that jump out at you during your reading. I think that everyone can find something to enhance their world in this book. I know I did!

Unconditional Love is available in paperback and on Kindle and Amazon.

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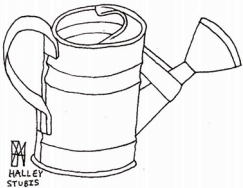
Summer Reading at the Santa Monica Libraries

- **Summer Reading Finale Show: Virtual Insect Discovery Lab**
Friday, August 13 - 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. Explore the fantastic lives of beetles, millipedes, tarantulas, walking sticks, whip scorpions, and more with the staff of Save Nature.org. For ages five and up. Register here: bit.ly/DiscoveryLabSMPL.
- **FREE COMIC BOOK WEEK Comic Book Giveaways**
Monday, August 9 – Friday, August 13 - During Library open hours, stop by the Main Library, Montana Avenue Branch Curbside, or Pico Branch Curbside for a free comic book. For all ages. One comic book per person. Comic books are available while supplies last.
- **Free Comic Book Week Photo Fun** - Tuesday, August 10, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Thursday, August 12, 4:30-6:30 p.m. In the Main Library Lobby - Celebrate Free Comic Book week with a superhero

selfie. We'll have a costumed superhero on hand for selfies in our photo booth.
• **Santa Monica Reads Special Event** - Author Talk: Emma Donoghue on *The Pull of the Stars* Saturday, August 21 - 2:00 p.m. Award-winning writer Emma Donoghue's timely story about the Great Flu of 1918 takes place in a maternity ward when Ireland is doubly ravaged by war and disease. Over three brutal days, three women come together to support patients and one another in unexpected ways. Join us for this conversation and discussion about living through unprecedented times with the author of *The Pull of the Stars*. Access the event: bit.ly/32FOHUz
• **Santa Monica Reads Book Discussions** are hosted by trained discussion facilitators. Participants can share their thoughts about *The Pull of the Stars* and its themes or are welcome to simply listen and

learn more about the book.
- Thursday, August 5 at 11:00 a.m. Live via Zoom. Register here: bit.ly/3nj6HxA
- Tuesday, August 10 at 7:00 p.m. Live via Zoom. Register at bit.ly/3euYKRA
• **Ocean Park Branch Book Group Discussion**
Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill by Sonia Purnell Saturday, August 7 - 11:00 a.m. to Noon. This fascinating portrait of Clementine Churchill reveals her lesser-known role in World War

II, how she safeguarded Churchill's health, and the controversy around her family priorities. To register, email karen.reitz@santamonica.gov.
• To find out about the many library programs, go to smpl.org.



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Infuse Bright Nutritional Flavor Into Summer Menus

Family Features - When it comes to meal planning, oranges are a highly versatile fruit that can be added to both sweet and savory dishes, as well as beverages, cocktails, sauces, frozen desserts, smoothies, and more. To introduce a depth of flavor and burst of nutri-

tion to dishes, add a sprinkle of zest, segments or fresh-squeezed juice, or even grill the fruit to bring out the flavor. Try combining them with tastes of the Mediterranean for dinner with Orange and Harissa Glazed Beef Kebabs.



Orange and Harissa Glazed Beef Kebabs.

Orange and Harissa Glazed Beef Kebabs

Prep time: 2 hours
Cook time: 20 minutes
Servings: 2
1/2 cup California Valencia orange juice, freshly squeezed
2 oranges, zested and segmented
2 Tbsps. harissa paste
2 Tbsps. honey
2 Tbsps. olive oil
1 Tbsp. fresh mint leaves, roughly chopped

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
8 oz. beef tenderloin, cut into 2-inch cubes
1 green bell pepper, cut into 2-inch squares
1 red onion, cut into 2-inch squares
16 broccoli florets, raw
Kosher salt, to taste
Black pepper, to taste
Cooked couscous
Mandarin chutney

- In mixing bowl, combine orange juice and zest, harissa, honey, oil, mint and garlic; mix well.
- Add beef cubes and toss to coat; marinate 2 hours in refrigerator.
- Using long skewers, build kebabs, alternating beef, peppers, onions and broccoli on each.
- Heat grill to medium-high heat.
- Season kebabs with salt and pepper, to taste. Grill until vegetables are cooked through and beef reaches desired doneness.
- Serve over bed of couscous and top with mandarin chutney.

For more information and recipes, visit CaliforniaCitrusGrowers.com.

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More About the Santa Monica Juneteenth 2021 Celebration



Rev. L. "Mack" Mossett



Jubilant and CeCe Sykes



Chester Williams and daughter Tracey



The Calvary Commemorative T-Shirt Committee



Curtis Hawkins, Kim Goff, and Troy Harrington



Kera Blades-Snell

By Clara Wright

The celebrations started early in the morning on June 19th as the city of Santa Monica presented the 29th Annual Juneteenth Celebration online from 10:30 a.m.-noon. It included the annual presentation of the Juneteenth Proclamation by Mayor Sue Himmelrich to LaVerne Ross, founder and visionary of the Juneteenth celebration in Santa Monica.

In the words of LaVerne Ross, "Justice delayed does not mean justice denied, and the nation came together and signed into law June 19th a Federal holiday."

Juneteenth is held on June 19th, because that is the date in 1865 when Union Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended and all slaves were free. Many of slaves in Texas had not known of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, which was given two years earlier.

On the evening of June 19th, the city hosted an in-person outdoor screening at the historic Belmar Park of *Wade In The Water: A Tiny Film Fest*, a series of short films celebrating Black

culture and its connection to water.

The Calvary Baptist Church located at 1502 20th St. held its first Juneteenth Heritage Celebration on the grounds of the oldest African American Baptist Church in the city of Santa Monica.

Reverend L. "Mack" Mossett, Senior Pastor, and first Lady Edwina laid out the welcome mat for invited guests, complete with entertainment, food trucks, fantastic vendors of arts and crafts, children's books, handmade jewelry and Afro-centric clothing, and an old-fashioned barbecue led by Reverend Jackqueline Maye and Sister Ann Cochran.

Reverend Mossett and Chairwoman Sharon Bennett were extremely pleased with the great turnout and look forward to hosting a bigger and better Juneteenth celebration next year.

Thanks to all the organizers, participants, and volunteers who assisted in an outstanding Juneteenth celebration.

Check the July 2021 issue of *The Santa Monica Star* and our August website for more photos of the event by Clara Wright.

Connect to Nature in August

By Julie Rensink Hanson
Wild Birds Unlimited
Nature Shop

The month of August finds most of us enjoying lazy days and summer fun, yet birds and other wildlife are already getting prepared for fall migration and the journey to their winter homes.



Costa's Hummingbird

The earliest fall songbird migrants arrive this month. The yellow Wilson's Warblers, with distinctive black caps on the males, are often the first to pass through. They're headed north up the coast, though lucky for us, many will stay for the winter if they find a nice willow thicket in the coastal lowlands.

Also loving the willows are the Yellow Warblers, who look similar but without the black cap. A third common August visitor is the greenish-yellow Orange-Crowned Warbler. The orange streak on its head is barely visible, but the eyes have light yellow outlines. Watch for these visitors to your yard as they search for insects or a drink of nectar from your plants.

August is when Orioles, with breeding complete, start to pack up for their fall migration south for the winter. Many males are gone by the end of the month. The females and juveniles will remain a bit longer, frequenting local feeders looking for nectar and jelly to be ready for the journey.

Also departing soon are the colorful Black-Headed Grosbeaks, who like fruit and berries as much as sunflower seeds. Until they go,

enjoy their cheerful chirpy song.

We have our local hummingbirds almost all year, though the Black-Chinned Hummingbirds may depart starting the end of August for warmer climates. For the Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, August will see the last fledgling coming to your feeders. If you are thinking about pruning your plants, wait one more month to make sure all nesting is complete. Desert-loving Costa's Hummingbirds, with bright purple heads on the males, may flee the hottest desert areas for the coast in August.

Look to the sky, as the just famous Perseid Meteor Shower will peak the night of August 12, though there will be plenty of activity several days before and after that date.

The Wild Bird Unlimited Nature Shop is located across from the Armstrong Garden Center. Call 424-272-9000, or go online to www.wbu.com/santamonica.



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From the Santa Monica History Museum



Montana Ave at 17th St. in 1940 - Montana Avenue looking east to 17th Street. Elmer Lebert's Markets were located at 1627 Montana Avenue in 1940. To get a copy of this photo, ask for SMHM Beebe 3.2.3967.


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Thoughts From a Second-Time Father

How Fast the School Years Are Going By



By Michael Margolin
My son Jake has now officially graduated from pre-school and will be attending the same school that Alexa does in the fall. He will be in kindergarten, and Alexa will start third grade.

I was thinking to myself recently about what grade she would be in, and third did not seem to make sense. Third? Already? How is this happening? Enjoli and I will have two kids at the same school. All of these things remind me that I must be getting older.

I do not really feel older, but since my kids keep getting taller and going into new grades, then I must be aging. It is like time keeps speeding up, and there is no brake pedal. There is not even a gear other than full speed ahead. And, now summer is halfway over. You begin to realize that it certainly is important to take time to stop and smell the roses.

Jake had a ceremony at his preschool to commemorate his accomplishments, along with his

classmates. It was what you would expect. Songs about sharks, juice boxes, sunglasses, and of course, diplomas. I remember thinking a long time ago that graduation ceremonies from preschool were kind of silly. That was before I was a parent. I do not think Jake would have been incredibly disappointed had there not been the pomp and circumstance, but he seemed to enjoy some time in the spotlight.

These ceremonies, and many other events, make me think about how exciting the kids are now at five and eight years old, and how much more exciting they will get.

And, then I look at pictures of them when they could barely walk and think about how much fun they were then as well. I suppose some of the angst I have as a parent is what begins to feel like my children's slow departure from our bubble of invincibility and innocence. I just have to make sure to get my hands on as many roses as possible.

Michael Margolin is an avid sports fan who has been writing this column since the birth of his first child.

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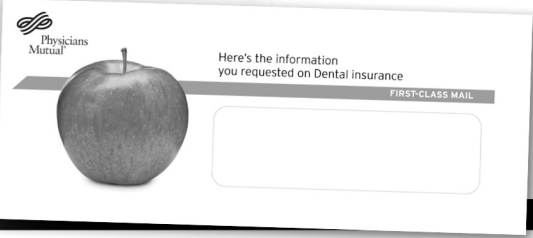
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Community Service in Santa Monica

Santa Monica Rotarians Make a Difference Locally and Across the Globe

By Sharon Gavin
One of the benefits of being part of the global Rotary network is having the opportunity to help others, both locally and across the globe.

Recently, with COVID-19 raging around the world, our Rotarians jumped into action. We donated funds for the purchase of oxygen concentrators for hospitals in both Mumbai and Bangalore, India. Locally, we contributed both volunteers and funds to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital Foundation to support their mobile vaccination clinics in South Los Angeles.

Supporting clean water initiatives has also been an important cause to our club. This year, we donated funds for a water treatment plant in Providencia Island, Columbia after the island was devastated by Hurricane Iota. We also provided monetary help for a water harvesting underground tank for a school in Uganda and clean water systems in two different parts of Kenya.

Within the last few months, our club has been busy assissting our local community with numerous grants and scholarships. In June,

we were pleased to award scholarships to six outstanding high school students and three remarkable Santa Monica College students. We also gave citizenship awards to three noteworthy local middle school students.

We supported local businesses who were negatively impacted by the pandemic with our grant to the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Foundation. In partnership with the Santa Monica Wellbeing Project, our club was pleased to present several microgrants to deserving entrepreneurs. Furthermore, our various grant programs have provided funds to numerous non-profits, including the Aurelia Foundation, SOL-LA Music Academy, the Coalition for Engaged Education, the Children's Lifesaving Foundation, the Morgan-Wixson Theatre, and the Santa Monica Little League.

If you are interested in joining us as we continue to make a difference in our community and in the world, check out our website at rotaryclubofsantamoinca.org, or contact us at admin@rotaryclubofsantamonica.org.

Santa Monica Lions Planning Fundraising Events

By Linda Levee
The Santa Monica Lions Club is back in session. We have returned to having a regular meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at the Elks Lodge on Pico Boulevard at 6 p.m. for a dinner meeting.

The outgoing President Kathryn Boole turned over the gavel to our new President Susan DeRemer. Our second meeting of the month will still be on Zoom until we get fully settled.

The Club voted to keep the Board meetings virtual so that working members can do their Lions work from home or office as it is much more efficient. Our full activities

schedule will be open to the public as soon as we meet at the next board meeting. We have many new exciting ideas for our fundraising event.

Our membership chair, Lion Yoriko, has several prospective new members interested in our Lions work.

If you are interested, please contact Lion Yoriko at YorikoFisher@gmail.com. The wonderful thing about being a Lion is that we get to help others of all ages, colors, and religious beliefs.

If you are looking for a way to join a group of like minded men and women, please contact Lion Linda at levelheadedlinda@yahoo.com, to request information about our meetings and programs.

SMBWC Works on Community Service Projects



By Susan Barry
The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club's (SMBWC) most recent community service project brings a touch of comfort to newly diagnosed breast and gynecological cancer patients at the UCLA Medical Center. With a grant from the Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program and the financial support of several members, SMBWC filled 100 custom tote bags with items to help "soften the edges" on a patient's first day of treatment. Each bag contains balms and lotions specially created for cancer patients, other items they may find useful and nourishing, and a handwritten note from a club member. After designing the bags and purchasing the contents, we gathered around a huge table to fill the bags and write the notes. It was wonderful to be back together to complete the project in

person and to take the bags to UCLA – Santa Monica Medical Center.

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club has reopened for Bridge and Canasta each Monday beginning at noon, and the Artists' League at 10 a.m. each Tuesday. Our Book Group will take the rest of the summer off and return on September 16 with a new format. As always, everyone is welcome.

We welcome everyone back to our beautiful facility and activities. Please keep SMBWC in mind when looking for a place to host your upcoming events. We are available for large and small events, one or multiple day rentals, and are especially seeking other non-profit organizations looking for an event site. Please reach out for further information to info@SMBWC.org.

The Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club is at 1210 4th Street, just below Wilshire Blvd. For more information, call 310-395-1308.

When is it Safe to Travel?

By Grace Cheng Braun, MSPH
This past Fourth of July saw a record number of travelers since our country started to open up following the increased number of Americans who are vaccinated.

Older adults, who constitute a majority of leisure travelers, have been waiting to get back out to explore the country and world. Time to make more memories, not more things.

WISE & Healthy Aging has been organizing and leading group trips for more than 10 years, offering exclusive group travel opportunities for adults of all ages. These high-quality packages are available at competitive prices, and are a safe way to travel. Make new friends

and see the sights. Relax, the planning is already done for you!

Travelers can sign up for local one-day excursions, multi-day trips internationally, or trips within the United States.

For those seeking local adventures, upcoming one-day trips include an escape to the picturesque Danish town of Solvang on Saturday, September 25, featuring a visit to an emu and ostrich farm.

On Thursday, October 21, there's a day trip to Julian, nestled among the oak and pine forests in the beautiful Cuyamaca Mountains. Enjoy some of Julian's famous apple cider and apple pie. There is also a stop at "America's First and

(Continued on Page 10)

★★★★★

I advertise in **The Santa Monica Star** because it is a community newspaper. Publisher Diane Margolin brings her readers and advertisers together as neighbors and friends. As a Trusts & Estates attorney, my law practice is relationship driven, just like this newspaper. I enjoy talking to prospective clients who call me after seeing my name in **The Santa Monica Star**. As members of this wonderful community, there is instant connection. It feels good when I can help my clients with estate planning or with a probate or trust settlement when there's been a death. **The Santa Monica Star** promotes the sense of community and personal connection that makes my work so satisfying.

—Lisa, C. Alexander

Happy August Birthdays

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Teen Scene

Develop a New Morning Routine



By Julia Abbott
For the first year in however long I can remember, I will not be doing a fall-themed article for August. I know, it's quite the about-face. But, I really want to share something I've implemented in my life that I hope will help others. It's not yoga or a multi-level marketing scheme; it's a morning routine.

My morning routine used to be a frantic rush to get out of the house. But, over lockdown, I've been able to develop a better way to start my day. Every morning, I wake up, go for a walk, take a shower, eat breakfast, and do one thing I like.

The order has really helped me relax and feel ready for my day. Instead of my life controlling me, the routine puts me in control of my life. So, I'd like to propose a morn-

ing routine for anyone interested in taking control of their own lives, or just waking up a bit easier.

The best part? It can be done in under 30 minutes. **Step 1: Make your bed.** A clean room makes coming home or starting work that much easier, and it only takes a few seconds. **Step 2: Hygiene.** Brush your teeth, wash your face, take a shower, whatever. But, it will wake you up and prepare you for the day. **Step 3: Move.** Do some yoga, take a short walk, stretch, but get your body moving. **Step 4: Eat breakfast!** It really is the most important meal of the day, even if there's only time for an apple.

I'd highly encourage anyone who is interested to try to create a structured morning. Instead of waking up on the wrong side of the bed, start off the day on the right foot!

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The Roadtrippers Route 66 guidebook is designed from the ground up to be paired with the official Roadtrippers app. Use your mobile device to easily plan a trip with friends, save and share your travel itinerary, learn more about each point of interest, and get turn-by-turn directions to out-of-the-way places. Check the app while on the road for live updates and exclusive offers.

The guidebook features the entire iconic U.S. highway, from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California. It divides the legendary road into six sections. For each, you're given a map, recommendations on everything from campgrounds to restaurants, and the fun and fascinating details that make each stretch compelling and unique. Roadtrippers further helps with tips on how to plan your adventure, how to pack your vehicle, what to bring along, and more.

Roadtrippers Route 66 (\$19.99, softcover) is available wherever books are sold, including bookstores and gift shops, as well as popular online retailers. The basic version of the app is free to use, and the book comes with one free month of the premium Roadtrippers+ subscription.

From Me to You...



By Diane Margolin
Many of you may remember reading about Florence Kinney, our 108-year-old member of the Remembering Santa Monica group at the Santa Monica History Museum. We believed this Santa Monica native was the oldest living graduate of Santa Monica High School at the time. Sadly, she passed away this past New Year's Day, but her family had been waiting to plan a memorial service. The service is now scheduled for Monday, August 16 at 1 p.m. at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church on 12000 San Vicente Blvd. and Bundy Drive. If you knew Florence, please join us in a celebration of her memorable life.

When I was creating my family newspaper, I worked with a woman who had three children. As soon as each child was tall enough to reach the washing machine, she taught them how to do their laundry. It seems that children are capable of learning to do many tasks at an early age, but, some parents might think they are too young.

As you may know if you've looked up information online, YouTube videos cover a very wide range

of topics.

Check out FlavCity with Bobby and Dessi Parrish on YouTube. They present health-oriented recipes, step by step, with the aid of their two-year-old daughter, Rose. She has a table, dishes, a sink, and cleaning tools all in her size. She helps prepare the recipes, from cracking eggs to adding vanilla. Even if her teaspoonfuls are overflowing, her dad deals with them. Rose also has an urge to taste almost everything that goes into a recipe. She understands everything she is told to do, and responds verbally in her own way.

It is such fun to watch Rose, in her little apron, learning to cook. As an educator, it is a joy to see parents introducing tasks that you know are the foundation for Rose's culinary training. When they took her to the store with her own grocery cart, she had a page of color photos of the items she was to find.

And, of course, she did great! Her parents are beside her, but she is encouraged to reach for the items herself. What a positive way to help a child build confidence. I hope more parents consider sharing household jobs with their children at an early age.

Enjoy the rest of our summer.

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