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Christmas on the Hard

A Westchester family leaves it all behind for a 7-year sailing trip around the world



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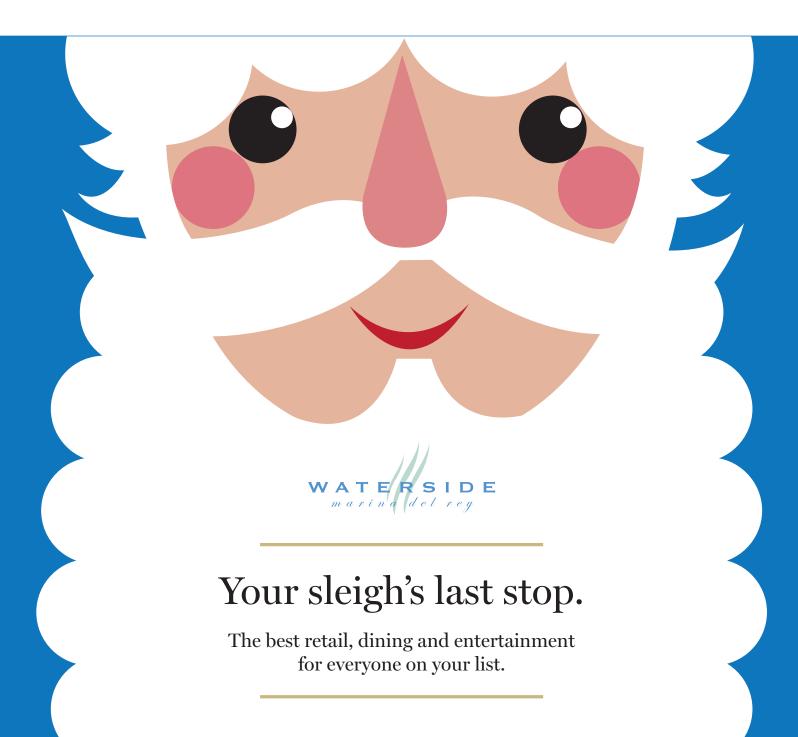






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Don't Be Part of the Problem

Re: "Last Call at Joni's" and "Local History's Days Are Numbered," Cover Stories, Nov. 30

Your stories about the demise of places that make the Westside feel like a community is blind to the fact that your newspaper is built upon that destruction.

The realtors your paper is financially dependent upon are a major force (along with developers) in tearing down human-sized homes and driving out the middle class from our community. Jeez you had a full-page advertisement in the Nov. 9 issue for a \$10-million property at 845 Venice Blvd. The seven existing homes are probably going to be torn down and replaced with a grotesquely ugly millionaire's enclave.

Another example: the doublelot monstrosities going up along Morningside Way from Walgrove Avenue west to Penmar Avenue in Venice. Let's face it. The parasites who are driving out the middle class are your bread and butter. The

people who are moving in are going to be hiding behind their tall hedges and iron gates.

The gentrifiers who can now afford to live around here are not the people who eat, drink and shop in affordable restaurants, bars and stores. They are going to be photographing and slurping up \$28 arugula salads and \$17 cocktails or whatever the hell it is they eat and drink. They are going to get their groceries driven over to them from Whole Foods, because they don't want to bother with the chore of shopping. Me, I like the human interaction of going shopping.

The vultures are tearing apart our community. Your paper is either part of the problem or part of the solution. Which is it going to be?

> Jack Schwartz Venice

Good Reads

Re: Cover and This Week stories, Dec. 14

"Road to Nowhere: Manchester Square is a last resort for L.A.'s down and out, but soon this Westchester neighborhood will

disappear" and "Views from the Water's Edge: #TurningTheTide campaign founder Cristina Mittermeier's vivid photographs bring indigenous peoples into conversations about a planet in crisis" were outstanding. More! Wayne Johnson, PhD Santa Monica

Naughty and Nice

Re: Letter from 'A Concerned Mother, 'From the Web, Dec. 14 Despite some apparent backlash to the Marina del Rey Holiday Boat Parade entry with the inspired addition of a pole and requisite dancer, I'm inclined to offer this take: Nothing gets you more into the holiday spirit than having further proof that those having the most fun are naughty and nice! LOL.

Merry Christmas, baby! An Unconcerned Father Playa del Rey

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Send to letters@ argonautnews.com.

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5301 Beethoven Street, Suite 183, Los Angeles, CA 90066

For Advertising info please call: (310) 822-1629

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EDITORIAL

Managing Editor: Joe Piasecki, x122

Staff Writers: Gary Walker, x112 Christina Campodonico, x105

Contributing Writers: Beige Luciano-Adams, Bliss Bowen, Stephanie Case, Andrew Dubbins, Bonnie Eslinger, Brittany Ford, Richard Foss, Jessica Koslow, Martin L. Jacobs, Nicole Elizabeth Payne, Kelly Hayes-Raitt, Charles Rappleye, Phoenix Tso, Andy Vasoyan

Letters to the Editor: letters@argonautnews.com

News Tips: joe@argonautnews.com

Events: calendar@argonautnews.com

ART

Art Director:

Michael Kraxenberger, x141

Graphic Designer: Kate Doll, x132

Contributing Photographers: Mia Duncans, Maria Martin, Shilah Montiel, Emily Hart Roth, Ted Soqui

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director: Rebecca Bermudez, x127

Display Advertising: Renee Baldwin; x144, Kay Christy, x131 David Maury, x130

Classified Advertising:

BUSINESS

Circulation Manager: Tom Ponton distribution@argonautnews.com

Publisher: David Comden. x120

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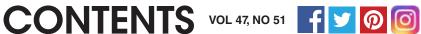
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ON THE COVER: Nearly three years into a 'round-the-world sailing expedition, the Rigneys will celebrate Christmas in Malaysia while their boat, Kandu, is dry-docked for repairs. Photo courtesy of the Rigneys. Design by Michael Kraxenberger.

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Home for the Holidays

After their eviction from public housing, Ana Cruz and her three sons find reason to celebrate

By Gary Walker

The poet T.S. Eliot wrote that April was the cruelest month. But for Ana Cruz, it was October.

That's when the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles evicted Cruz and her three sons from their home of nine years in the Mar Vista Gardens public housing complex, despite interventions by L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin and the grassroots advocacy group People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER).

The city agency moved to evict Cruz after her husband racked up \$10,000 in back rent and abandoned the family, leaving them on the brink of homelessness.

"I had no idea where I'd go," she said.
"All my friends were in Mar Vista
Gardens."

But POWER and Bonin didn't give up, and now Cruz and her boys once again have a place to call their own. On Dec. 1 they moved into a two-bedroom apartment in Baldwin Hills. It's smaller than their three-bedroom Mar Vista



L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin and People Organized for Westside Renewal tried to stop city public housing officials from evicting Ana Cruz and her children after Cruz's husband racked up \$10,000 in back rent and abandoned the family

Gardens apartment was, but they are together — and Cruz says that's what important.

"We found it at the right time, with the holidays almost here," she said. Cruz is undocumented but her children are American citizens, and their eviction dramatized the kinds of problems families of mixed citizenship face when navigating local government and the criminal justice system.

During the eviction process, Cruz told The Argonaut and those trying to help her that she had been a victim of domestic violence for two decades but was afraid to go to the police for help because of her immigrations status.

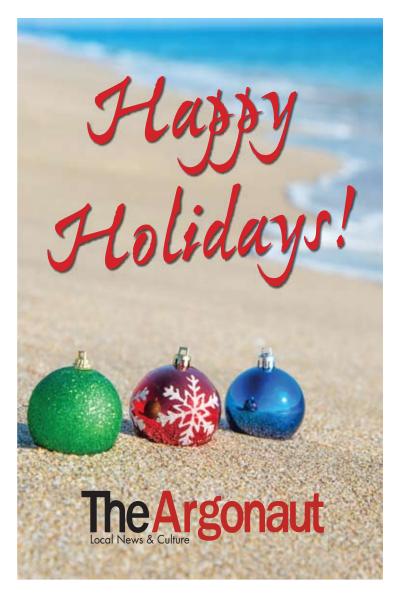
The city's public housing agency does not provide housing subsidies for noncitizens. Because Cruz's family is a mix of citizens and noncitizens, they paid a pro-rated rent higher than neighboring families whose members are all citizens, whose rents are capped at 30% of the family's income.

It also didn't help that Cruz's husband racked up a bunch of fees for underreporting the income on which the agency based the family's pro-rated monthly rent.

(Continued on page 8)







Stepping Out

The Oakgrove retreat program at Venice High has been changing lives for 45 years

By Carl Kozlowski

After racial tensions exploded into riots in Watts and Detroit, Venice High School chemistry and sociology teacher Dale Stuck felt called to influence a more positive future. In 1972, Stuck launched the Oakgrove peer mentorship weekend retreat program to address race relations on campus and teach his diverse student body that they share a common humanity.

Forty five years and thousands of alumni later, it's still going strong.

Building off trust exercises and group discussions as a way for students to bond outside of school, Oakgrove encourages students to speak openly and without fear of judgment about a wide range of hot-button issues: discrimination, family problems, abuse, drugs and alcohol, death, sexuality and gender identity among them, along with purely positive sharing of participants' dreams and aspirations.

This past Saturday, dozens of past and present Oakgrove participants came together at the outdoor education non-profit Wildwoods Foundation's L.A. headquarters to share memories and raise much-needed funds to keep the program affordable for students. Wildwoods

stepped in to save the program amid LAUSD policy changes and budget cuts in 2008, and the foundation has since expanded Oakgrove to include the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex near downtown.

Venice High alum Joan Mateo-Bartoli noted that the Oakgrove program helped her overcome extreme shyness during her first retreat in 1991. In the years since, she's encouraged family and friends to send their children

"Oakgrove broke me out of my shell ... and I want other kids to have the same opportunity."

- Venice High alum Joan Mateo-Bartoli

"I'll never forget my first Oakgrove retreat and being asked to sit in the middle of a circle while everyone around me shared positive thoughts about me," recalled Nicole Romanak, a 2007 Venice High graduate who now teaches at Miguel Contreras and coordinates the school's Oakgrove program. "I was told 'You don't really talk much, but when you do it's important,' and that was a huge boost to my self-esteem. That was big for me in terms of personal growth, to get that positive feedback."

through the program.

"I was a really shy Asian-American kid in the early '90s, and Oakgrove broke me out of my shell and gave me the opportunity to speak out and have people accept me for who I am," Mateo-Bartoli said. "What keeps me coming back is that the program is still running, and I want other kids to have the same opportunity."

An Oakgrove scholarship fund helps low-income Venice High students pay the \$200 fee for two nights of camping

in the Angeles National Forest. About 45 attended a retreat this fall, and more than 60 are expected to attend another next spring.

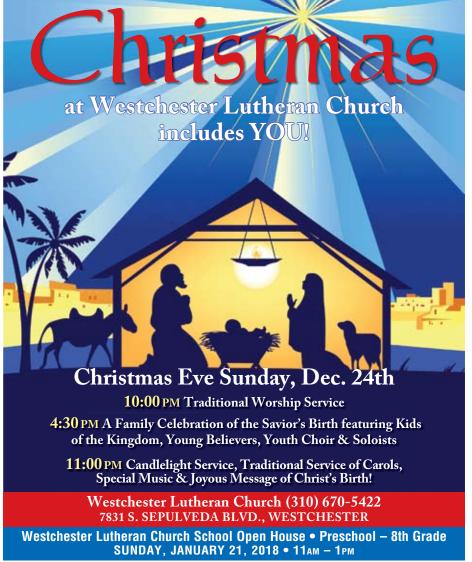
Because many Contreras students face greater economic challenges, that school's program takes place during one overnight session in Griffith Park.

Both retreats include group discussions, hug circles and an exercise known as "step out," in which students hold hands to form a circle and take turns stepping into the middle as a leader asks an array of identifying questions.

"They might ask if anyone comes from a family of divorce, if they've ever cheated on a test, or are homosexual," explained Romanak. "These are all things that make you different, but you see others in your same situation and, at the end, you all step back and hold hands and find acceptance. High school students don't have a good perception of their surroundings, and this helps broaden their perspective."

Email oakgrovealumni@wildwoodsfoundation.org for more information about the program.





OPINION ArgonautNews.com

Circles of Intolerance

A mob mentality on Nextdoor is silencing the voices social media should encourage

By Maina Cioni

The author graduated from Venice High School and is currently a junior at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

Americans are trapped in echo chambers. Gone are the days when civility guided our discourse. The ever-increasing prominence of social media encourages us to excessively filter for content that matches our points of view — systematically silencing dissent and creating silos of intolerance.

We tend to justify closing ourselves off from others under the guise of needing space for our opinions. It's one thing to seek temporary refuge from the noise of 24/7 public debate, but to board up your house and never leave damages our ability to think critically and compassionately. These are crucial skills for coexistence in a social landscape as diverse as Los Angeles.

Social media darling Nextdoor attempts to foster coexistence among diversity of opinion by allowing neighbors to communicate with each other about day-to-day life in their immediate neighborhoods. But simply creating an online platform for various opinions does not ensure all opinions will be heard. On the contrary, it can silence people whose perspectives conflict with the majority.

When conversation on a Nextdoor forum for the Del Rey neighborhood of West Los Angeles became focused on a



President John F. Kennedy called on young people to "make the world safe for diversity," but social media behaviors are threatening the opposite

homeless woman living in her car, the dialogue quickly deteriorated into a digital lynch mob.

Of the nearly 500 comments on this mid-November thread, only six comments were primary accounts — three reporting positive interactions and three

reporting negative interactions; however, the dominant perspective promoted expelling her from the neighborhood at whatever cost. One particularly ugly post urged someone in the neighborhood to "kick her ass."

The majority of neighbors were so averse to opposing views that they ridiculed and silenced dissenters. Some even urged retribution against contrarian voices urging a more compassionate response, with one commenter telling neighbors "there should be some measure of recourse against [the dissenter] personally."

This is just one example of American society spiraling away from civil discourse in favor of knee-jerk calls for vengeance and malice. It's not just Washington D.C. politics: Insulating our circles from responsible social discourse has eroded our ability to reason and empathize at the interpersonal level.

An article in the journal Scientific Reports concludes that discourse with like-minded people tends to negatively influence emotions and enforce group polarization, with social media user activity corresponding to the level of agreement with that community's perspective. The article offered evidence that clearly false corroborative accounts are readily accepted, while opposing accounts are ignored and increase group polarization. Eventually, we begin to see people with opposing views as adversaries who must be defeated.

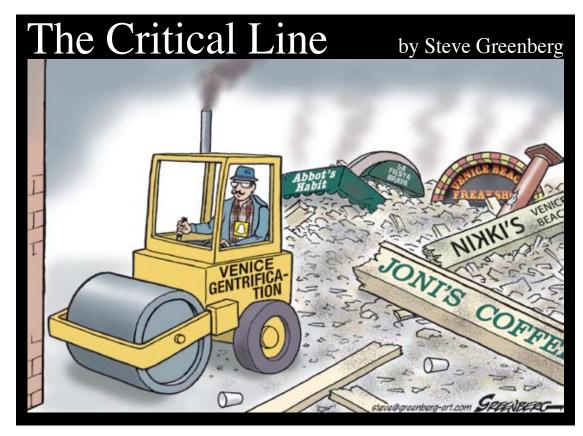
Too often, judgements are made narrowly; we ignore possible truths even if they are in front of our faces. These provincial mentalities not only undermine our thinking, they limit our progress. Valuable ideas are being lost to hostile competition in echo chambers. Instead of celebrating the diversity of ideas upheld by the First Amendment, we are now more and more likely to strike dissenters down.

In an interview appearing on Big Think (sort of a YouTube for ideas), "The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America" author and Harvard University professor Louis Menand argues that intellectual diversity is how good ideas take shape. Shutting down opposing views, on the other hand, closes off the potential for effective solutions to social problems — a losing outcome for both sides of any debate.

Without a competing marketplace of ideas, ideas become stagnant and progress is halted. We squander potential for growth and development.

President John F. Kennedy once urged us to "make the world safe for diversity." Instead of cowardly trapping ourselves in digital echo chambers, we should challenge ourselves to deal with differences in constructive ways.

Humanity has progressed because we have appreciated diverse ideas. If we are willing to expand our bubbles, see through our bubbles and sometimes even pop them, limitless progress awaits us.



Home for the Holidays (Continued from page 6)

The nonprofit Eviction
Defense Network represented
Cruz during the eviction
proceedings. Eviction Defense
Network Executive Director
Elena Popp petitioned the
housing authority to grant Cruz
an extension, saying the policy
of prorating rents based on
citizenship "runs counter to the
U.S. Dept. of Housing and
Urban Development, which
states tenants should only pay
30% of their income in rent."
It didn't work.

"They threw me out like I was a criminal. They wouldn't let my kids go back in to get their clothes when they came home from school," Cruz recalled.

But Daisy Fuentes, a Mar Vista Gardens resident and member of POWER, helped

Cruz take possession of

important belongings and move them into storage. POWER paid the storage bill while the family roomed with friends in Culver City during Cruz's search for a new apartment. Bonin wrote letters endorsing Cruz and explaining her predicament, which she took with her on visits to potential landlords.

"It's hard to find housing on the Westside. An immigrant single mother with children needs a lot of help, so my office tried to help however we could," Bonin said.

Cruz is thankful for the help she received and is looking forward to a brighter future.

"I feel so much better," she said. I'm less anxious, and I feel a lot stronger."

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Christmas on the Hard

A Westchester family leaves it all behind for a 7-year sailing trip around the world

By Martin L. Jacobs

Two years and 15,000 nautical miles into an incredible seven-year 'round-theworld sailing voyage, a Westchester family finds themselves and their 42-foot sailboat Kandu grounded in Malaysia for Christmas.

Eric Rigney, Leslie Dennis-Rigney and their sons Bryce (16) and Trent (14) have found patience and the strength of their family among the many lessons learned on this amazing adventure that began in February 2015.

"On the hard" is sailor jargon for dry-docked. Eric explains that the holiday waylay is due to failing engine seals and a damaged propeller shaft, which forced them to a small port in Pangkor Palau to undertake repairs. They're also tuning up electronic equipment and meteorological gear that's been thrashed by 34 months of nasty storms, salt and hard use.

The work takes on heightened significance because the Rigneys are on the brink of what may be the most crucial leg of their voyage: passage through the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Suez Canal.

"We're going to go by Yemen," Eric points out, "which is one of the banned countries. And Somalia, which is also one of the banned countries. All of these places are in civil war. I can't have an engine failure at that point."

Sound dangerous?

For the Rigneys, it's a telling question. "We wanted the boys to have this experience and not be afraid of the world," explains Leslie, who emphasizes the journey's personal growth aspects. "We wanted them to grow up being more open-minded."

Eric finishes the thought with the explorer's perspective: "We don't know what's on our planet until we go see it."

Rarely are such poetic sentiments executed with such commitment. An equal to this homeschool abroad experience is hard to imagine, but the inspiration for this voyage predates the Rigney children. It even predates the Rigney marriage.

"In a way, it was a prenuptial agreement," explains Leslie, who married Eric 28 years ago. "Not long after we met, we sailed the Hawaiian Islands for a couple of months. Then sailed back to California. Twenty-five days together on his uncle's boat. On that trip Eric said, 'I want to do something like this again. And I want to know' — this was a kind of interview — 'if you'd like it, because if it isn't something you would like to do.... Well, it was definitely something that I wanted to do. I wanted to travel around the world.'

After that portentous trip, Eric and Leslie finished advanced degrees and achieved noteworthy careers. Eric worked his way up to a senior VP position at Sony Pictures in Culver City, and Leslie completed her PhD in music

and then signed on with the Los Angeles Opera. But even as the years passed and they became absorbed in the hereand-now and raising their boys, their dream voyage never faded from mind. In fact, it was part of almost every decision they made.

"We didn't buy expensive cars, a big house or expensive wines. We just saved," Leslie says.

And then the day came.

In early 2014, Eric and Leslie left their jobs and their Westchester home to live aboard *Kandu* in the Ventura Harbor. It would be a year-long process of preparMDs, to teach them how to suture wounds and do other emergency medicine.

Fast forward to December 2017, and it's their third Christmas at sea. They've already sailed and explored Mexico, Easter Island, Darwin, Sydney, New Zealand, Samoa, Fiji, Vanuatu, The Marquesas, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia — sometimes for extended stays, as when they toured New Zealand's north island by car.

I ask 14-year-old Trent how the holidays

intended track, that the sails are okay, the boat speed's good, that battery levels are good. Whoever's on watch is monitoring the systems. And then making sure no boat's going to hit us. Not all the boats have [transponder] identification, so you have to look for the lights constantly. Also, you're looking for weather — if rainstorms are coming. Leslie and I take the same watch over and over again, and the boys switch who takes the first and the last watch, because the last watch gets to sleep the longest." I ask 16-year-old Bryce what it's like to

have so much family time.

"You would think, oh my God, how can you stay in such close proximity with everybody," he says, "and on the ocean not able to do anything? The answer is simple: You're focusing on sailing and sleeping and entertaining yourself, and cleaning up after yourself. There's always cleaning to do, homework to do. You're always tired. There's always something to do. And when you're not doing it, you're super tired and sleeping."

Eric finds a rare reward in the idle time, of which there is plenty.

"This circumstance provides something that I think people don't know that they miss: time to contemplate," he says. "In our lives back home there's so little time for contemplation."

Instead of picking out suits for a high school winter dance, the Rigneys'

(Continued on page 12)

"We wanted the boys to have this experience and not be afraid of the world."

- Leslie Dennis-Rigney

ing the boat and themselves for the journey, and their Yoda-like mentor was Eric's uncle, Bill Kohut, who had not only taught young Eric how to fix all things mechanical, but educated and inspired him in deeper ways to seek a life of joy without materialism.

"Bill's influence is in every part of Kandu," Eric says.

A compulsive planner, Eric tried to anticipate every need while they prepped the boat: solar power, satellite communications, a spare parts cache, and a vast library of repair manuals and medical texts. He even asked two family friends,

feel to him now. The original Christmas story, after all, is a story about travelers.

'We usually would spend Thanksgiving with our grandparents," he says, "but they're not able to see us every Thanksgiving. Last Christmas we saved a boat." It was a fishing boat in trouble, and the

Kandu crew helped them through it. But there have been long stretches at sea — as long as 26 contiguous days.

Eric explains the shared responsibilities in the open ocean: "We have a watch schedule that gets us through the night. There's always someone monitoring our routing to make sure that we are on the



Leslie, Trent, Bryce and Eric have learned that a happy home doesn't require a physical address

COVER STORY

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teenage sons are passing wrenches and repairing the *Kandu's* plumbing.

What is it like, I wonder, to be transitioning into adulthood on an extended ocean voyage?

"I didn't really know what to expect," Bryce says, "I hadn't done any travelling. I had been to two other states. But I was kind of that kid who's just ready for anything, just hit me with it. I think it was when we arrived at Tortuga Bay, Mexico. My dad had us do a report on the wildlife there. And I was out surfing, and that's when I get my ideas. And it just came to me, wow, this is what we're going to be doing for five more years. I didn't realize that I was going to be saying goodbye to all my friends, and saying goodbye to comfort, and hot showers, and internet for five more years — which is basically what we've been doing. But this is awesome. I like travelling and eating different foods and meeting new people. Living a different life all the time. I ask Eric if the boys suffered much

"Yeah," he says. "They're teenagers. One of them broke down about a week ago. He talked about it today. It's tough right now because the family doesn't want to live on the boat when it's in pieces."

homesickness.

Eric later mentions it helps that they are renting an apartment while the boat is being repaired, which brings with it deeply appreciated fringe benefits like air conditioning, hot showers and not having to make their own drinking water.

What both boys appear to miss more than anything is Raiatea, an island in

that when I go to say, Dubai, I can stay at their houses."

With the New Year the voyage will continue, the Rigneys crossing the Indian Ocean via Sri Lanka and the Indian port of Cochin into the Red Sea,

"The sailing is a means to an end. It's the people you meet. People are kind, open, sharing their culture."

Eric Rigney

French Polynesia. It seems to have been a threshold of some sort.

Trent says that he felt more like a sailor after their time there, and Bryce speaks of feeling deeply connected to the place.

"Raiatea," Bryce says. "I really began to love. And I just cherish it in my heart, and all the friends that I made there."

Trent adds: "We've been to a lot of places so far, and just about every place my dad had a friend. It made me feel like I want to make lots of friends so

continuing along Sudan and Egypt through the Suez Canal.

They need to average 120 nautical miles per day.

"The sailing is a means to an end. It's the people you meet. People are kind, open, sharing their culture," Eric says. "We went to 13 places in Indonesia and we made a lot of friends. A lot of lifetime friends. To go up a river on a riverboat to eat bird's nest soup. And discover how you can have a family gathering with just banana leaves on the grass. The food is just poured on the banana leaves, and you

ENJOY HEALTHY TEETH

eat with your hands."

The Rigneys suffer some regret sailing past places they would like to visit but can't. As it is, the unexpected repair work is probably going to rule out stops in Thailand.

"The weather is your master. The seasons," Eric explains. "The best time to enter the Mediterranean is the first week of April, from the east side of the Med. That gives us five weeks to go up the Red Sea. To take our time to get up to the Mediterranean. Then we have to be out of there by, say, mid-September. We want to spit out of the Strait of Gibraltar to be on the east coast of the Atlantic, then we have to wait another month-and-a-half to two months to make the crossing over to the Caribbean.

"We figure we have another year and a half of funds, then we're broke and we have to go back to work. So, we kind of spent our retirement, to some degree, now, up front with the kids. In other words, we're not leaving them an inheritance. We're spending their inheritance seeing the world together."

Track the Rigneys' journey online at rigneyskandu.com.

Follow Martin L. Jacobs on Twitter (@MLJacobs_Venice) or contact him at martin@scriturra.com.







HOLLYWOOD IN OUR BACKYARD

Netflix and chill with any of these 17 movies co-starring a neighborhood near you

By Christina Campodonico, Andy Vasoyan and Joe Piasecki

Hollywood is the traditional home of movie magic, but Westside communities have played an important part in cinematic history since The Tramp's very first film appearance in 1914. If you're stuck indoors over the holidays, maybe check out one of these films to show off your neighborhood or see what it looked like back in the day.

"Alex of Venice" (2014)

The magic of Venice is that even on the bad days, it still manages to glow. A golden light dapples this indie family drama directed by "The Mindy Project's" Chris Messina and set amongst Venice's Craftsmans, canals, walk streets and boardwalk. In the film, a workaholic wife and lawyer (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) living in Venice tries to keep her multigenerational household together after her husband abruptly leaves. Watch to remember that your family isn't the only one with problems and what sunshine feels like when you're visiting your relatives in those snow-covered parts of the country. (CC)

Watch it on Amazon Video or Fandango Now.

"The Big Lebowski" (1998)

"Do I look like I'm f-ing married? The toilet seat is up, man!" A case of mistaken identity and a soiled rug in The Dude's minimalist Venice bungalow launch a comedic take on Chandler-esque L.A. noir that's become a cult classic, in the parlance of our time. The apartment in the film is on Venezia Avenue just off Venice Boulevard. The Coen Brothers' real-life inspiration for The Dude, Jeff Dowd, lives even closer to the beach. These days either place would probably be out of The Dude's price range, but that's just, like, our opinion, man. (JP) Watch it on Amazon Video, Fandango Now, iTunes or Google Play.

"The Circle" (2017)

Playa Vista stands in for Silicon Valley (not much of a stretch) in a timely thriller about a social media company running amok over individual privacy, with Emma Watson playing the eager-turned-reluctant protégé of TED-Talk-from-Hell visionary Tom Hanks. The ending is deeply unsatisfying, but Playa Vista locals will recognize The Circle HQ and delight in the 15 seconds of Beck concert footage shot at the Central Park Bandshell. (JP)

Watch it on YouTube, Amazon Video, Vudu, iTunes or Google Play.

"Forrest Gump" (1994)

Loveable everyman Tom Hanks won an Oscar as loveable simpleton Forrest Gump, whose antics include, among other things, spontaneously jogging across America. Gump eventually ends up at the Pacific Ocean, by way of the Santa Monica Pier. As a pensive, bearded Gump looks for answers out over the blue waves, he might have taken comfort to know that eventually that very pier would proudly host its own Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. restaurant. (AV)

Watch it on Netflix.

"Grease" (1978)

The musical that launched a thousand couples' Halloween costumes, "Grease" proudly stakes a claim as one of the most recognizable teen movies of all time. While the '50s era greasers and gals cavort and cajole across a slew of hotspots, it just wouldn't be a high school movie without, you know, an actual school. Enter Venice High School, which served as the stately facade for that all-American institution of learning, Rydell High. (AV)

Watch it on Netflix.

"Ingrid Goes West" (2017)

"Parks and Recreation" comedienne Aubrey Plaza produces and stars in this take on a darker side of the Instagram-filtered #VeniceBeach lifestyle. Ingrid, a fresh-out-of-the-mental-ward woman loaded with a huge cash inheritance, moves to Venice to befriend (i.e. stalk) her new favorite Instagram star, Taylor Sloane (Elizabeth Olsen). From there, the picture-perfect façades of Venice — the beach, the boardwalk, the boho-minimalist-hipster bungalows — give way to the desert landscapes of Joshua Tree. (CC) Watch it on Amazon and iTunes.

"Kid Auto Races at Venice" (1914) & "Sugar Daddies" (1927)

Warm up your binge watching with a silent film short set amidst a children's go-kart race in Venice. Wearing his signature bowler hat and baggy pants, Chaplin's The Tramp makes his film debut and disrupts the race at almost every turn, leading to comedic interactions with the cameramen filming the contest and a couple of close calls. Pair with Laurel and Hardy's silent film short "Sugar Daddies," with a sequence set in the

(Continued on page 14)

THIS WEEK

(Continued from page 11)

long-gone Venice Amusement Pier's fun house, and you've got a dynamic double feature of truly vintage comedy. (CC) *Watch them on YouTube*.

"Knocked Up" (2007)

Arguably the high point of Judd Apatow's stoner/man-child movie canon, one of the key scenes features Seth Rogen and Katherine Heigl awkwardly getting breakfast at Swingers Diner in Santa Monica after a drunken encounter. The setting is great, but the two show a remarkable incompatibility. Barring any, uh, unexpected consequences, that's probably where this ends, right? Order up: one comedic will they/won't they, and a side of whacky pregnancy shenanigans. (AV) *Watch it on Amazon*.

"Made in Venice" (2016) & "Dogtown and Z-Boys" (2001)

A love letter to Venice's skateboarding scene, "Made in Venice" by filmmaker Jonathan Penson and co-produced by local skate culture luminary Jesse Martinez chronicles the evolution of Dogtown and its skating community's decades-long struggle to convince L.A. City Hall to build a skate park off the Venice Boardwalk. Watch for a crashcourse on SoCal skate history and to get inspired about the power of civic engagement. Pair with original Z-Boy Stacy Peralta's Sean Penn-narrated documentary "Dogtown and Z-Boys" — about the rise of the Zephyr skateboard team — for a double dose of non-fiction. (CC)

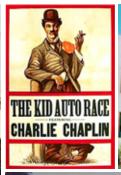
"Spawn of the Slithis" (1978)

By many critical accounts, this horrendous horror film about a monster born of mutant slime and terrorizing Venice and Marina del Rey should probably have never been committed to film. What it does offer is vintage views of the marina and Venice during the 1970s, when grungy hippies roamed the boardwalk and the canals were pre-posh and gritty. The Helmsman statue at Burton Chace

Visit madeinvenicemovie.com or rent

"Dogtown and Z-Boys" on YouTube.











Clockwise, from left: A production still from "Touch of Evil," the first appearance of The Tramp, a scene from "The Circle" shot on Waterfront Drive in Playa Vista, Palisades Park in "Xanadu," and the film that took Tom Hanks to the Santa Monica Pier

Park makes a cameo, and there's a cool action sequence of the turtle races at Brennan's Pub. It's worth a look to see what Venice and Marina del Rey looked like before people started calling it Silicon Beach. (CC)

Watch it on YouTube.

"Speed" (1994)

Keanu Reeves, Sandra Bullock, and a Big Blue Bus hurtle towards destiny after a madman plants a bomb that will detonate if they travel below 50 miles per hour. That's a tall order for a movie set in L.A. during rush hour, but the non-copyright-infringing "Santa Monica Intercity Bus Lines" vehicle manages it. Come for the absurd, thrilling action and shout-outs to Venice (including the Firehouse restaurant and the Ballerina Clown), stay for the wish-fulfillment of traffic being forced to move so you don't slow down. (AV) *Watch it on HBO Go*.

"The Sting" (1973)

Old-time Hollywood hunks Robert Redford and Paul Newman team up in this Academy Award-winning film about a pair of conmen who devise an elaborate scheme to swindle a mob boss who killed their friend. Set in 1930s Chicago, much of the classic caper was shot in Greater Los Angeles — including the Santa Monica Looff Hippodrome, where Newman's character lives, works and operates a carousel. (CC)

Watch it on Amazon, YouTube, Google Play, iTunes or Vudu.

"Touch of Evil" (1958)

Venice stands in for a Mexican border town in an extended single-take opening tracking shot along Windward Avenue and Speedway in Orson Welles' film noir thriller. You'll notice there used to be a lot more of those pillars outside Bank of Venice. Muralist Jonas Never pays tribute to the sequence in his Touch of Venice mural on Windward. (JP)

See the opening sequence on YouTube or watch the whole film on Amazon Video.

"The Truth about Cats & Dogs" (1996)

Janeane Garofalo plays an animal expert and radio host who dispenses pet advice on air in this rom-com update of Cyrano de Bergerac, co-starring Ben Chaplin and Uma Thurman. When Garofalo's selfconscious character Abby develops a flirtation with one of her listeners (Chaplin), she sends her beautiful neighbor Noelle (Thurman) to court him and pretends to be one of Noelle's friends. In a scene with her love interest at O'Brien's Irish Pub in Santa Monica, Garofalo spills salsa all over herself. (CC)

Watch it on Amazon, Google Play, YouTube or Vudu.

"Xanadu" (1980)

"Xanadu" may have flopped 37 years ago, but the Oliva Newton-John and Michael Beck-led movie about a roller disco and a mysterious muse has since spawned a cult following, making it a fun throwback film to group-watch (or hate-watch) with assorted friends and family. Look out for these local spots: The mural featuring the Nine Sisters in the dance number "I'm Alive" was added to the east end of Dudley Avenue, just off the Venice Boardwalk, in post-production. And Newton-John whizzes up on her roller skates to kiss Beck in Santa Monica's Palisades Park later in that same number. (CC)

Watch it on Amazon. ■





Home for Christmas

Doma Kitchen celebrates the holidays with a fusion of global flavors



Doma Kitchen's scrumptious Nutella Panettone French Toast

By Jessica Koslow

Doma Kitchen

4325 Glencoe Ave., Ste. 8, Marina del Rey (310) 301-0582 domakitchen.com

'Tis the season to be jolly. But judging by Angie Corrente's bright smile, she's happy year-round.

She grins while talking to a talent manager about hanging local art on her walls. She bristles with excitement when describing Eastern European menu items like pelmeni and vareniki. And she overflows with enthusiasm when discussing the live music lineup at her restaurant, and her and her husband's handmade contributions — like the tables, floors, aprons and sewn-denim cushions.

Corrente and husband Stanislav Mayzalis are the founders and owners of Doma Kitchen, which occupies the former Panini Grill space in the Villa Marina Marketplace Mall.

"Our food is gorgeous," she gushes. "Every dish is beautiful as well as tasty."

Doma Kitchen takes holiday eating seriously. If you happened to stop by for lunch during Thanksgiving, you could order pumpkin pancakes. Pumpkin risotto, pumpkin soup and pumpkin cake — filled with sweet cream cheese, salted caramel, walnuts, cinnamon and ginger — appeared on the dinner menu.

Christmastime will be no different, as Corrente and Chef Kristina Miksyte have a few seasonal treats up their sleeves. These include Herring Under a Fur Coat, a glass jar layered with beets, eggs, carrots, apples, potatoes, onions, mayonnaise and herring; homemade Nutella Panettone French toast; butternut squash salad with beets, arugula, goat cheese, pumpkin and pomegranate seeds; and beef goulash.

Doma Kitchen is also hosting a Holiday Music Celebration, featuring live music by the duo Cori + Chrystal, from 7 to 10 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22.

October marked the one-year anniversary for Doma Kitchen in Marina del Rey. The restaurant started in Redondo Beach, then moved to Manhattan Beach before arriving here.

"Redondo loved us," says Corrente, "but our place was so small. We were in a bungalow with no indoor seating. It was like an outdoor beach café, more like a testing kitchen with Kristina and her mom."

Doma Kitchen is a family affair. Chef Miksyte's mom is a dumpling maker and has worked alongside the team since day one. Mayzalis has contributed recipes as well as handmade furniture, lighting and other décor.

"Redondo was like a food truck without wheels," explains
Corrente. "We outgrew that place and after two-and-a-half years, we went looking for something else. We were in Manhattan
Beach for just over a year when the Manhattan Village mall went under construction, and we had to move once again."

Neither location was big enough for the crowds that Doma attracted. Now, next to the main dining room Corrente has another eating area that can accommodate private parties of up to 40 people. That's also where music events, including live tango and bossa nova, happen two or three times each month. And here they allow dogs on the patio.

"In the South Bay, in the small beach-town communities, the kind of food we offered was a novelty," Corrente says. "We call ourselves multicultural with an emphasis on Eastern European and Central Asian."

Corrente is from Ukraine, but she's lived in the States since 1979. Her husband is from Uzbekistan. Chef Kristina is from Lithuania. Even though all three places of origin were former

(Continued on page 28)



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MOVIE & A MEAL

Gender and Gentility

Parse the timeless "Phantom Thread" over a classic cocktail in Casa del Mar's Terrazza Lounge



By Angela Matano

Pleasure layering — combining two great things for an amplifying effect — is tailor-made for cinephiles and gastronomes. While enjoyable on its own, the act of seeing a good or even just interesting movie is immeasurably enhanced by the chance to chat about it after, allowing the themes and subtext to breathe and grow, like one of those miniature children's toys that expand when you submerge them in water overnight.

The best post-cinema dining experiences occur when the picture resonates in some way with the present moment. This is especially difficult to achieve when you consider how long it takes to make a feature — 2015 practically feels like a universe apart.

Luckily, by happenstance or design, a lot of this year's cinematic offerings confront gender issues — whether head-on or obliquely. "Mother!," "Their Finest," "Battle of the Sexes," "Ladybird," "Beguiled" and "Wonder Woman" all provide chewy fodder in these historic days of sexual misconduct freefall.

The latest entry into this year's canon of female revolt is the new P.T. Anderson film "Phantom Thread." Set amidst the high fashion world of 1950s London, the story follows haute couture designer Reynolds Woodcock, played deliciously by Daniel Day-Lewis, as he struggles with

his own obsessive nature. Deeply desirous of solitude, Woodcock conversely acknowledges the necessity of life and forward momentum in his process of creativity, pronouncing that "a house that doesn't change is a dead house."

Circling the black hole of such egotism, echoing Javier Bardem's character in Darren Aronofsky's brilliant and largely misunderstood "Mother!," is a dangerous place for a lady. And yet relative unknown Vicky Krieps, as Alma, first stumbles and later rams herself into Reynolds' good graces — Alma's early reticence belying an inner reserve of steel.

Austere and elegant, "Phantom Thread" thrums with repressed energy. Reminiscent of Merchant Ivory's "Remains of the Day," Anderson's tale of buttoned up desire plays out below the surface of the actors' faces. Flickers of recognition, micro eyebrow jumps and miniscule lip twitches telescope the inner car chases driving the characters. A movie to savor and even see again, "Phantom Thread" haunted me long after the closing credits.

There couldn't be a better place to mull over this thought-provoking, meaty film than Casa del Mar's Terrazza Lounge. As graceful and well-designed as the atelier in the film, stepping into the lobby of the hotel approximates the world so meticulously created by Anderson. Built in the 1920 as a private beach club, the

lobby radiates glamour and might even inspire you to break out of your athleisure rut and don some evening garb. Do!

Gussied up, you may find yourself feeling a little more civilized than usual, your manners retrieved from a recessed corner of your frontal cortex. If there's anything "Phantom Thread" beseeches us to do, it's to embrace our inner anal-retentive. Tight collars, lace-up shoes, chignon hair and fitted bodices act like armor in the film, battening down feelings and straightening spines.

Order a Singapore Sling or a Pink Squirrel — drinks that peaked in the middle of the last century — while cozying up at a table overlooking the sea at Terrazza. A charcuterie plate or English pea soup makes for refined dining. A pot of tea and a banana crème tart wouldn't be a bad choice either. Live music plays seven nights a week and, if you're lucky, you'll hit on an evening of piano or jazz, music to facilitate your time-traveling experience.

A couple of drinks in you just might find yourself arguing about the gender gap, or just what exactly constitutes sexual harassment. Don't fret! The discussion is what actually matters, not the parsing of semantics. Living in a time of redefining roles and boundaries makes for interesting art and

(Continued on page 28)



THE ARGONAUT'S REAL ESTATE SECTION



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

"This thoughtfully updated home is bursting with traditional charm," says agent Stephanie Younger. "A welcoming entry area transitions to a bright living room featuring a statement fireplace as well as high-end finishes that include elegant columns and coffered wall accents. Prepare gourmet meals in the sleek kitchen that transitions seamlessly to the morning room, perfect for casual dining. Eat inside or dine al fresco on the expansive backyard patio, accented by a built-in brick barbecue and drought-tolerant lawn. Retreat upstairs to the second-floor master, which boasts a walk-in closet and updated en-suite. Downstairs, two well-appointed bedrooms offer abundant closet space and built-in organization. An additional bonus room and two recently updated baths, which include fine porcelain finishes and a glass-walled shower, complete the layout of this spacious Westchester home."

Offered at \$1,495,000

INFORMATION:

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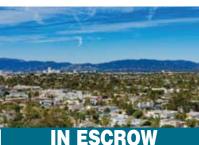


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THE ARGONAUT

OSAGE HOME

"This cozy three bedroom, one-and-three-quarters bath, home is on a tree-lined street," says agent Jane St. John. "The seller did a very thorough refreshing of the landscaping, creating decomposed granite walkways, drought tolerant plants and shrubs. The beautiful pergola in back yard offers a private sitting area. Details include refinished hardwood floors and updates to kitchen and bathrooms. The two smaller bedrooms are off front center hallway. The master suite has hardwood floors and an exit to the yard."

Offered at \$789,000 Jane St. John, RE/MAX Estate Properties 310-567-5971

KENTWOOD HOME

"This inviting home boasts high-end finishes and an exceptional floor plan," says agent Stephanie Younger. "Entertain with ease in the formal dining room or in the newly updated kitchen. Enjoy meals inside or dine on the backyard patio, with views to an expansive yard. Tucked in the rear of the home, the master suite is a generously sized retreat featuring a sophisticated en-suite with marble countertops. This enchanting home is perfect for modern living yet grounded in classic style.'

Offered at \$1,249,000 Stephanie Younger, *Compass* 310-499-2020



PANORAMIC VIEWS

"Extraordinary city and mountain views are offered by this incredible two-bed, two-bath home, ideally located in the Center Tower of the Marina City Club," says agent Charles Lederman. "The open, updated kitchen offers granite counters, stainless steel appliances, recessed lighting, and custom cabinetry. A generous living space leads to an oversized patio, overlooking the dazzling panoramic cityscape. Features include wood floors and ample closets. This is a priceless lifestyle with incredible amenities.'

Offered at \$675,000

Charles Lederman, Charles Lederman & Associates 310-821-8980



PLAYA DEL REY HOME

"Happy Holidays from this ultra-charming classic beach house on the Playa del Rey Hill," says agent Alice Plato. "Highlights include bleached hardwoods, a bright living and dining space, and a wall of west facing windows. Other perks are the vintage kitchen and baths, updated central heating, and a convertible third bedroom that opens out to backyard patio and pool. The desirable flat lot has valley access, a dipping pool, a garden patio shaded by a graceful Chinese elm tree, and a detached two-car garage.

Offered at \$1,479,000 Alice Plato, Coldwell Banker 310-704-4188



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

"This Inglewood single family home provides two bedrooms and a single bath," say agents Bob Waldron and Jessica Heredia. "This is a fixer with excellent investment and development possibilities. The home has

Bob Waldron & Jessica Heredia, Coldwell Banker





Jesse Weinberg, Jesse Weinberg & Associates 800-804-9132

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THE ARGONAUT **REAL ESTATE Q&A**

Q: Many of us have lived in the immediate area for a long time and are interested in downsizing to a smaller home or condominium and taking advantage of keeping our Prop. 13 real estate tax base. Is this even possible?

A: I find that there is generally much confusion surrounding application of Prop 13, and it is a question best raised with your tax consultant. Since it does impact my clients' real estate decisions, I make it my business to learn as much as I can. Here's what I know, but don't skip the consult with your tax professional.

"Prop 13" is the beloved California tax break for homeowners, allowing you to generally keep your property taxes low, based on the property value at time of purchase, only rising up to 2% per year, regardless of spikes in value. There are some exceptions to this, including reassessments for remodel, partial transfers, and ballot measures that add to your property tax bill. However, with a stable property tax bill, you don't have to worry about your home's appreciation and rising tax bills pricing you out of affording your own home. For senior

citizens who purchased their homes for a fraction of todays' values, this benefit cannot be overstated. The reassessment of the property tax based on current market values occurs only upon sale of the property. Great for the homeowner staying in place, but what about the question raised by our reader- what about the homeowner who wants to downsize? Can they afford to?

In many cases, yes. However, the answer does not lie within Prop 13, but in Props 60 & 90, passed in the 1980s for just this reason. Proposition 60 allows a senior citizen, once in their lifetime, to replace their existing property with one of equal or lesser value, and retain their Prop 13 property tax basis. To qualify for this benefit, you or your spouse must be at least 55 years of age upon sale of your principal residence, the new residence must also be your principal residence

(and qualify for a homeowner's exemption or disabled veteran's exemption), and here's the catch — both homes must be in the same county.

Proposition 90 is a key supplementary provision, allowing you to use the same rules of Prop 60, but to buy and sell in different counties. The counties currently participating are Alameda, San Diego, El Dorado, Riverside, San Mateo, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Tuolomne and Orange. This is so important, especially for our local Westside residents who look to neighboring counties to downsize and reduce their cost of living.

Even better, there is a bill currently proposed by the California Association of Realtors to expand Prop 13. If passed, seniors and disabled homeowners would be permitted to transfer their existing

Prop 13 assessed value to a new home anywhere within California, regardless of purchase price, and as often as they choose. This is important, not just to seniors, but to potential new homebuyers, as it will allow seniors to sell their homes without this tax penalty, freeing up some much needed inventory. Don't forget to consult your tax professional!

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION WAS ANSWERED BY

LISA PHILLIPS, ESQ Real Estate Connection Lisa Phillips is an active Realtor in the Los Angeles area, with more than twenty years as a practicing real estate broker and attorney. Lisa is also a member of the National As-



sociation of Realtors "Green Resource Council", and achieved its "GREEN" Designation. www.LisaPhillipsRealEstate.com.

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- ... you've written non-theatrical
- prose, but can you 127 Spellbound
- 128 Early role for Ronny 129 Takes the Black Friday plunge
- 130 Sorbonne enrollee131 Melanie's "Working
- Girl" role 132 Drive, for one
- 133 Catch a glimpse of 134 Pittsburgh product

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- Between ports Fischer's forte
- Contract conditions "If only known
- 5 African capital on its own river
- 6 Ice skate part 7 Summer Olympics
- 8 Actress Charlotte "Happy Days"
- mom, to Fonzie 10 Very, in music 11 In quantity
 12 Id controller
- 13 The first Mrs. de Winter, in fiction
- 15 10th-century

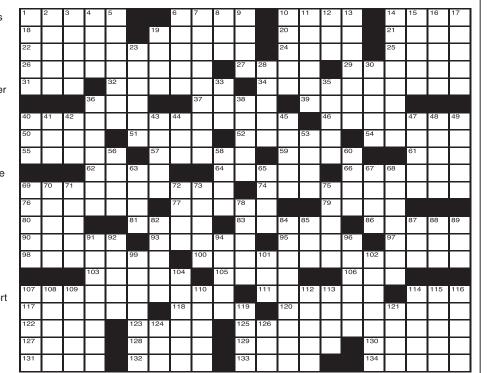
- emperor 16 Get cracking
- "Yay me!" shouts 19 Breton or Gael 23 Chocolate trees
- Was in a jam?
- Sch. in Knoxville 30 33 Penn, e.g.: Abbr. 35 Insincere, as a
- promise Sunny-day shapes Crete's highest 36
- 40 Hula hoops, say 41 "__ we good?" Spot
- 43 Party-pooperish 44 Honor society letter
- 45 "Turn the Page" rocker 47 Hajji's destination
- 48 Up and at 'em 49 Kenton and Getz
- 53 Cubs' all-time home run champ 56 Burglar's challenge 58 Exxon, formerly
- 60 "Diana" singer Prefix with port
- Powerful engine Man, but not
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- Well-timed 72 Forensic detectives, for short Take the loss
- 75 Chintzy 78 Like Willie Nelson vocals
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- 85 Many OCS grads 96 Remote Salmon-to-be Iditarod team
- 88 Discount abbr. member Winter Games org. Some "X-Files"
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- 121 Snazzy coating Barbary beast
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#1 FOR PROPERTIES

IN MARINA DEL REY 2010 - 2017



1 IRONSIDES ST. #7, MARINA DEL REY 2 BD & 2.5 BA \$2,949,000



13700 MARINA POINTE DR. #PH1906, MDR 2 BD & 2.5 BA \$2,475,000 1,993 SQ.FT



7301 VISTA DEL MAR #10, PLAYA DEL REY, 2 BD & 2.5 BA \$1,999,000 1,840 SQ.FT.



6 VOYAGE ST. #103, MARINA DEL REY 2 BD & 2 BA \$1,899,000



CAPRI COURT II,PLAYA VISTA 3 BD & 3.5 BA \$1,750,000

2,628 SQ.FT



13650 MARINA POINTE DR. #1003, MDR 1,780 SQ.FT.



7433 ARIZONA AVE.,WESTCHESTER 4 BD & 2 BA 1,865 SQ.FT. \$1,499,000



121 WATERVIEW ST., PLAYA DEL REY 1,764 SQ.FT.



11900 WASHINGTON PL., MAR VISTA 2,146 SQ.F<u>T</u>. 3 BD & 3.5 BA \$1,399,000



8044 COWAN AVE., WESTCHESTER 4 BD & 2 BA 1,918 SQ.FT. \$1,399,000



13650 MARINA POINTE DR. #1605, MDR 2 BD & 2 BA 1,714 SQ.FT. \$1,379,000



13700 MARINA POINTE DR. #1812, MDR 2 BD & 2 BA 1,227 SQ.FT. \$1,355,000



13650 MARINA POINTE DR. #503,MDR 2 BD & 2.5 BA . 1,780 SQ.FT.



13650 MARINA POINTE DR. #905,MDR 2 BD & 2 BA 1,714 SQ.FT.



13080 PACIFIC PROMENADE #414,PLAYA VISTA 2 BD & 2.5 BA 1,714 SQ.FT. \$1,195,000



13700 MARINA POINTE DR. #1617,MDR 1 BD & 1 BA 992 SQ.FT. \$1,029,000



13600 MARINA POINTE DR. #315, MDR 1 BD & 1.5 BA + DEN 1,791 SQ.FT.



4050 GLENCOE AVE. #207, MARINA DEL REY 2 BD & 2 BA 1,220 SQ.FT. \$859,000



13700 MARINA POINTE DR. #910, MDR 1 BD & 1.5 BA 997 SQ.FT.



13700 MARINA POINTE DR. #1806,MDR 2 BD & 2.5 BA 1,887SQ.FT.

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11748 COURTLEIGH DR LA 90066
\$2495.00 / MO
12741 MITCHELL AVE LA 90066
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LEGAL ADVERTISING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

2017 311278 The following person is doing business as: Tito's Transport 1601 E. Olympic Blvd suite 411 Los Angeles, CA. 90021. 8827 Tweedy Lane Downey CA. 90240. County of Los Angeles Registered owner: Rodolfo Guardado 8827 Tweedy Lane Downey, CA. 90240 This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/2017. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.) Registrant Signature/ Name: RODOLFO GUARDADO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on Oct 27, 2017. Argonaut published: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2017, NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal. State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

NAME STATEMENT
2017 329911 The following persons is (are) doing business as: Connection From The Heart 12806 Pacific Ave. #6 Los Angeles, CA. 90066 Julie Greenberg 12806 Pacific Ave. #6 Los Angeles, CA. 90066. This business is conducted by a individual. The registrant menced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2017 I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is quilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). JULIE GREENBERG TITLE Owner This statement was filed with the county on Nov.17 2017. Argonaut published: Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Na Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Rusiness Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

2017 333410 The following persons is (are) doing business as:
1) On the Waterfront Cafe 205
Oceanfront Walk Venice, CA.
90291 T.K. Restaurant Inc. 205
Oceanfront Walk Venice, CA.
90291 This business is conducted
by a corporation. The registrant
commenced to transact business
under the fictitious business name
or names listed above on 05/2012. I declare that all information in this
statement is true and correct. (A
registrant who declares as true
any material matter pursuant to

Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). T.K. Restaurant Inc. This statement was filed with Nov. 21, 2017 the county on Argonaut published: Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, 21, 2017. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as pro vided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a reg istered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq.,

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 7 334099 The following per

Business and Professions Code

sons is (are) doing business as: 1)Delighter 12068 Culver Bvd. Los Angeles, CA. 90066. Daniel Hanasono 12068 Culver Blvd. Los Angeles, CA, 90066 This business is conducted by a individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/2017. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)) DANIFI HANASONO TITLE Owner This statement was filed with the county on Nov 22 2017. Argonaut published Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2017 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seg., Business and Professions Code

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

2017 339123 The following person is doing business as: 1) Amada Senior Care 114 7327 Dunfield Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90292 Registered owners: ASC100 Inc. 7327 Dunfield Ave. Los Angeles CA. 90045 This business is conducted by a corporation. registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). Registrant Signature/Name: ASC100 Inc. Title: CO. This state ment was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles on Nov 30

2017. Argonaut published: Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal. State. or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

2017 339696 The following persons is (are) doing business as: Paws Up Playa 8156 Manitoba St # 1 Playa Del Rey, CA. 90293. Donna Taylor 8156 Manitoba St. #1 Playa del Rey, CA. 90293 This business is conducted by a individual. The registrant commenced transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2017. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is quilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). Donna Taylor TITLE Owner This statement was filed with the county on Nov. 30. 2017. Argonaut published: Dec. 7. 14. 21. 28. 2017 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2017 347339 The following per-

sons is (are) doing business as: 1) High-Tech Systems 2) High-Tech Security 8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd Ste A Los Angeles, CA. 90045. L.A. High Tech Enterprises Inc. 8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Ste A Los Angeles, CA. 90045 This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/1989. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any ma matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). L.A. TECH ENTERPRISES PRESIDENT RAYMOND MOHANDES FOULADIAN statement was filed with the county on Dec. 11, 2017 Argonaut published: Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2018. NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement gener ally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the state ment pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

2017 347538 The following persons is (are) doing business as: 1) Cafe Buna 3105 Washington Blvd. Marina del Rey, CA. 90292. 1710 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Venice CA. 90291. Pit Dog Inc. 1710 Abbot Kinney Venice, CA. 9029. This business is conducted by a corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/2002. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)) This statement was filed with the county on Dec. 11, 2017 Argonaut published: Dec. 14. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2018 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as pro-vided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal. State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

2017 348321 The following persons is (are) doing business as: Cuccio Nails & Spas 2805 Abbott Kinney Blyd unit E Los Angeles. 90291. Tu Thi Be Nguyen 4824 Irongate Lane Santa Ana. CA. 92703 This business is conducted by an individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). Registrant Tu thi Be Nguyen Owner Argonaut published: Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2018 NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement gener ally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing

of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2017 350747 The following per-

sons is (are) doing business as: ML & Partners SA 8172 Manitoba Street unit 5, Playa del Rey, CA. 90293. Anne-Marie Fabishak 8172 Manitoba St unit 5, Playa del Rey, CA. 90293. This business is conducted by a individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). This statement was filed with the county on Dec. 14, 2017. Argonaut published: Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, 2018. ANNE-MARIE FABISHAK Owner NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal State or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT 2017 350762 The following per-

sons is (are) doing business as: World Liquor Spirit International Limited 8172 Manitoba Street unit 5, Playa del Rey, CA. 90293. Anne-Marie Fabishak 8172 Manitoba St unit 5, Playa del Rev. CA. 90293. This business is conducted by a individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. declare that all informa tion in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). This statement was filed with the county on Dec. 14th 2018. Argonaut published: Dec. 21, 28, 2017 Jan. 4, 11, 2018. ANNE-MARIE FARISHAK NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code.

OBITUARIES

Robert I. Livingston

NOVEMBER 1, 1938 — DECEMBER 10, 2017



Robert I. Livingston from Des Moines, Iowa, youngest son of Benjamin and Molly Livingston, brother of Alan Livingston, departed to be with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, December 10th, 2017 in Irvine California surround by his loved ones.

Bob, the inventor of Racquet Power Weights had retired after 37 years in the banking industry with his long-time friend and partner, Michael McKenna of Costa Mesa, California. Bob was also property manager of Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey, California in the 1970's and was married to Mary Jennings/Davis from 1974 to 1994 along with her four children, Lois Davis/Kirschbaum, David, Bruce and Jeff Davis. He is also survived by his nephew,

Howard Livingston (Kathy) and niece Jody Livingston/Jacklin (Todd), and 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. Bob will be deeply missed by family, friends and all those who knew him. Please visit: https://tinyurl.com/yaqf5q9x

LEGAL ADVERTISING

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS

2017 350764 The following persons is (are) doing business as: Lazar Equity Capital Limited 8172 Manitoba Street unit 5, Playa del Rey, CA. 90293. Anne-Marie Fabishak 8172 Manitoba St unit 5, Playa del Rev. CA. 90293. This business is conducted by a individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions Code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)). This statement was filed with the county on Dec. 14, 2017 Argonaut published: Dec. 21, 28, 2017 Jan. 4, 11, 2018 ANNE-MARIE FABISHAK Owner NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A New Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE NUMBER SS027112
ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Katyn Maine Everson (name) Katyn Maine Evenson to Kay Evenson Snyder to be filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as fol-lows: a.)THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the netition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: Jan. 5, 2018. At 8:30am. Dept K room A-203 The address of the court. 1725 Main St. room 102 Santa Monica, CA, 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation printed in this county: The Argonaut Newspaper Original filed: Nov. 22, 2017 Gerald Rosenberg Judge of the Superior Court. PUBLISH: The Argonaut Nov. 30, 2017 Dec. 7, 14, 21, 2017

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER SS027116

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner Ramona Ivy Bragg (name)
RAMONA IVY BRAGG to RAMONA
IVY filed a petition with this court for a
decree changing names as follows: a.)
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons
interested in this matter annear, before interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the peti-tion for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date:1/12/18. At 8:30am. Dept K The address of the court. 1725 Main St. room 102 Santa Monica, CA. 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Argonaut Newspaper Original filed: Nov. 28, 2017 Gerald Rosenberg, Judge of the Superior Court. PUBLISH: The Argonaut Dec .7, 14, 21, 28, 2017

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. 2017 246019-2017 342903 THE FOLLOWING PERSONS HAS/

HAVE ABANDONED USE TO THE FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: Marina Del Rev Pharmacy 4558 Admiralty Way Street Address of Principal Place of Business: 4558 Admiralty Way Marina Business: 4558 Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA. 90292 The date on which the fictitious business name being abandoned was filed: 12/5/2017. Registered Owners Zelrey Inc. 4558 S. Admiralty Way Marina del Rey, CA. 90292 The file number to the fictitious business name being abandoned 2017246019 . The county where the fictitious business name was filed: Los Angeles This business is conducted by: a corporation. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information, which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime.) Zelrey Inc. Owner This Statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles. Dec. 5, 2017 PUBLISHED: Argonaut Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2017

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. NS034028

This statement was filed Sept. 19 2017 with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 257 Magnolia Ave. Long Beach. CA.

19, 2017 with the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles 257 Magnolia Ave. Long Beach, CA. 90802. Petition of Zoe-Jane Christian Bratcher to Zoe-Jane Christian Cardwell TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Zoe-Jane Christian Bratcher filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Zoe-Jane Christian Bratcher to Zoe-Jane Christian Cardwell.
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: 12/12/17. Time: 8:30 AM. Dept. Room 27 The address of the court is Superior Court of California 257 MAGNOLIA Ave. Long Beach CA 90802 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once a week each week for four consecutive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Argonaut Newspaper. By Order of the Presiding Judge, Ross Klein PUBLISHED: Argonaut Dec. 7, 14, 21,

90802 This statement was filed Sent

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NUMBER SS027109

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS: Petitioner Judy Ann Nimtz Harris (name) Judy Ann Nimtz Harris to Judy An-yu Harris Nimtz filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: a.)THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear efore this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. NOTICE OF HEARING: Date: Jan. 26, 2018. At 8:30am. Dept K The address of the court. 1725 Main St. room 102 Santa Monica, CA. 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: The Argonaut Newspaper Original filed: Nov. 21, 2017 Gerald Rosenberg Judge of the Superior Court. PUBLISH: The Argonaut Nov. 30, 2017 Dec. 7, 14,

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WESTSIDE HAPPENINGS

Compiled by Nicole Elizabeth Payne

Thursday, Dec. 21

Google Expeditions AR Pioneer Program: Playa Vista, 2 to 4 p.m. (See Friday for Venice hours.) Show-and-tell meets augmented reality. Imagine staring into the eye of a miniature Category 5 hurricane or getting up close with a strand of DNA. Expeditions AR uses Google's AR technology to map a physical location and place 3D objects. Participants can walk all around the objects, get in close to spot details, and step back to see the full picture. Playa Vista Branch Library, 6400 Playa Vista Dr., Playa Vista. Free. (310) 437-6680; lapl.org

Venice Jam Session and Music Workshop: Exploring the Blues,

2 to 4 p.m. A new program for musicians, the Venice Jam Session encourages the community to bring their instruments and play. Israel Levin Senior Adult Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk, Venice. \$5 monthly fee. (310) 396-0205; jfsla.org

ICE at Santa Monica, 2 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 2 p.m.to midnight Fridays; 10 a.m. to midnight Saturdays; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays. Celebrate the holiday season with ice skating in downtown Santa Monica. 1324 5th St., Santa Monica. \$15 skate rental and all-day admission. (310) 260-1199; downtownsm.com

Mar Vista Community Council Aging in Place Committee, 6 p.m. Westside Center for Independent Living Executive Director Anastasia Bacigalupo is the guest speaker. The committee meets on the third Thursday

committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Windward School, 11350 Palms Blvd., Room 1030, Mar Vista. marvista.org

A Christmas Caroling and Ornament-Making Evening, 6 to 8 p.m. Join the library staff for Christmas caroling and seasonal ornament crafting. Materials provided. Cookies and hot drinks served. El Segundo Pub-

lic Library, 111 W. Mariposa Ave., El Segundo. (310) 524-2728

Venice Art Crawl Mixer, 6 to 9 p.m. Celebrate art, culture and entertainment. Meet artists and merchants over Latin- and Asian-inspired dishes. Canal Club, 2025 Pacific Ave., Venice. \$5. veniceartcrawl.com

West Coast Swing, 6:30 p.m. Move your body and free your mind with a swing class and open dance. Intermediate swing dance classes start at 6:30 p.m., followed by beginner and intermediate/advanced classes at 7:30 p.m., and open dancing at 8:30 p.m. \$15 includes the class; \$10 just to dance. Westchester Elks Lodge, 8025 W. Manchester Ave., Playa del Rey. (310) 606-5606; philandmindiadance.com

West L.A. Hike, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A community of friendly people gathers each Thursday for one of five West L.A. routes. Check website for weekly location, meetup.com/los-angeles-hiking-group/events

"Rituals," 7 p.m. Original member of the Groundlings Rahla Kahn hosts as SHINE storytellers share true tales of how following or breaking traditions changed their lives. Singer-songwriter Zane Messia performs. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. \$12. (310) 452-2321; storeyproductions com

Del Rey Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee,

7:15 p.m. The committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at Del Rey Square, 11976 Culver Blvd., Del Rey. delreync.org

"Bad Santa" and "Trading Places"

Double Feature, 7:30 p.m. A holiday double feature. "Bad Santa" stars Billy Bob Thorton as a foul-mouthed con man posing as a mall Santa, planning to rob the store before Christmas. In

"Trading Places," the lives of street hustler Eddie Murphy and stockbroker Dan Aykroyd are turned upside down by wealthy brothers Don Ameche and Ralph Bellamy. Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica. \$12. facebook.com/aerotheatre

A Very Merry MagicMania, 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday. Sprinkle some magic into the holiday season with a festival of 30 different variety acts. Albie Selznick hosts featured performances by world-famous magicians over the course of nine shows. Pre-show entertainment begins a half hour before each performance. Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. \$40. (818) 558-7000; magicmaniala.com

Merry Miss Jessica's Funky X-Mas Party, 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Shake your jingle bells to the rousing R&B, soul, jazz, blues, funk and, of course, Christmas music of Miss Jessica and her band: Johann Stein (guitar), Sam Correa (bass), John Montgomery (drums) and Matthew Demerritt (saxophone). Surfside Venice, 23 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (424) 256-7894; surfsidevenice.com

Howl, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. A dance party featuring music by LoboMan and special guests. DJ Vinyl Don spins at 10 p.m. in the Townhouse bar. Townhouse & Del Monte Speakeasy, 52 Windward Ave., Venice. \$5. (310) 392-4040; townhousevenice.com

Live Music Thursdays, 9 to 11 p.m. Discover new bands by the beach. A new blues, reggae, rock or hip-hop artist is featured each week after Thursday Night Football. Surfside, 23 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (424) 256-7894; surfsidevenice.com

Thursday Night Karaoke, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. KJ Theresa Ryan hosts this Thursday night of tunes and fun at



Discover what augmented reality is all about when the Google Expeditions AR Pioneer Program visits Playa Vista and Venice. SEE THURSDAY (DEC. 21) AND FRIDAY (DEC. 22)

The Venice Whaler, 10 Washington Blvd., Venice. (310) 821-8737; venicewhaler.com

Friday, Dec. 22

Mar Vista Seniors Club, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Each Friday the Mar Vista Seniors Club meets for trips, tours, speakers, bingo and live entertainment. Ages 50+. Mar Vista Recreation Center, 11430 Woodbine St., Mar Vista. (310) 559-7798 or (310) 351-9876

Google Expeditions AR Pioneer Program: Venice, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discover what augmented reality is all about. Tickets become available at 9:45 a.m. on a first come, first served basis. Program (ages 5 and up) includes Dinosaurs (10 a.m.), Forces of Nature (10:30 a.m.), Da Vinci's Inventions (11 a.m.), The Ocean Floor (11:30 a.m.), The Solar System (noon) and Ancient Rome (12:30 p.m.) Venice Abbot-Kinney Memorial Branch Library. Free. (310) 306-9124; lapl.org

Longest Night Service, 7 p.m. Know you are not alone this holiday season.

Be with others on the longest night of the year for scripture, stories, special music, silent reflection and healing prayer. The Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St., Santa Monica. (310) 399-1631; churchop.org

"Elf" Screening, 7:30 p.m. Will Ferrell plays Buddy, a human who has been raised among Santa's elves at the North Pole. In search of his real family, he brings Christmas cheer to New York City. Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica. \$12. facebook. com/aerotheatre

Friday Dinner Cruise, 8 p.m. With unforgettable views, deejay entertainment, dancing under the stars and a four-course dinner, this two-and-a-half hour cruise makes for a quick romantic getaway. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey. \$87.95; reservations required. (310) 301-9900; hornblower.com

Friday Night Trivia, 7 p.m. Test your knowledge while having a brew and win prizes. TRiP, 2101 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 396-9010; tripsantamonica.com

(Continued on page 29)

ON STAGE - THE WEEK IN LOCAL THEATER

COMPILED BY CHRISTINA CAMPODONICO

Cycles of Life: SHINE: "Rituals" @ Santa Monica Playhouse

This month's SHINE storytelling series is devoted to the habits that govern or change our lives. Storytellers open up about breaking convention and following tradition. Rahla Kahn, an original member of the Groundlings, hosts. Zana Messia provides musical accompaniment.

One performance only: 7 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 21) at Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. \$12. storeyproductions.com

Don't Blink:"A Very Merry MagicMania"

@ Santa Monica Playhouse

The producers of "Smoke and Mirrors," "Magic Monday" and

"MagicMania" bring together a changing lineup of award-winning magicians from The Magic Castle, "America's Got Talent" and "Penn and Teller's Fool Us" for a variety show that's never the same twice. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Last shows: 5 and 8 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 23) at the Santa Monica Playhouse, 1211 4th St., Santa Monica. \$40. (818) 558-7000; magicmaniala.com

Dinner & A Show: "Murder Mystery Dinner Variety Show" @ Aloft El Segundo

Mingle with other guests and character actors incognito for this murder mystery show coupled with a 3-course dinner, a cocktail hour, live music, dancing, magic and photo opportunities with Santa Claus.



Dmitrious Bistrevsky in "A Very Merry MagicMania"

Casual or holiday attire. RSVP by Dec. 21.

One performance only: 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 23) at Aloft El

Segundo, 475 N. Sepulveda Blvd., El Segundo. \$160. Search "Murder Mystery Dinner Variety Show" at eventbrite.com

The Odd Couple: "Ashes to Ashes" @ Odyssey Theatre

Southern California female playwright and director collective The Athena Cats present the world premiere of Debbie Bolsky's madcap romantic comedy about a liberal woman and rightwing man, trapped on a 16-day journey to scatter their two filthy-rich best friends' ashes across Europe.

Now playing at 8 p.m. Fridays, 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays (except for Dec. 24 and 31) through Jan. 14 at Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West L.A. \$15 to \$30. (310) 564-9410; ashestoashestheplay.com

The 'Ham' in 'Hamilton': "Spamilton"

@ Kirk Douglas Theatre

The creators of "Forbidden Broadway" skewer Lin-Manuel Miranda's Pulitzer Prize-winning smash hit "Hamilton" in this parody of everyone's new favorite musical. Fridays feature a spirited karaoke session where you can belt out your favorite "Hamilton" tunes after the show.

Playing this weekend playing at 2 and 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday and 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 21 to 23). No show Sunday, Dec. 24. Run ends Jan. 7. Kirk Douglas Theatre, 9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City. \$55 to \$85. (213) 972-7231; centertheatregroup.org



NOSE TO THE GROINSTONE

I'm a woman, and I recently made a new professional connection — a man who's excited about my work. We're plannina on doina a bia important project together. I'm worried that he's interested in me romantically (based on a few things he's said). I'm not interested in him in that way. What's the right thing to say to get that across?

- All Business

It's tempting to get everything out in the open right away: "I've run the numbers on your chances of having sex with me, and they're pretty close to the odds of your being crushed to death by a middle-aged dentist falling out of the sky."

Informing a guy pronto that you aren't romantically interested in him — though in somewhat kinder language - would be the right thing to do if he were just some persistent Tinder date you

wanted to unload forever. But you're hoping to have a continuing business relationship with this guy. So even if it were wildly obvious that he has the hots for you, the last thing you should do is mention that particular elephant in the room (not even while you're pole-vaulting over steaming mountain ranges of elephant dung)

Cognitive psychologist and linguist Steven Pinker points out that "most social interaction" involves some conflicting goals - for example, when only one of two people is interested in ending the evening in the sack. Pinker explains that "indirect speech" — not saying exactly what you think or want — is a way two people can maintain their relationship as it is (even when both suspect or are pretty sure that their desired outcomes are in sharp conflict).

The sometimes tiny measure of ambiguity (uncertainty about another person's goals)

that is fostered by indirect speech does a big job. It allows the person who wants something the other doesn't to save face, enabling the two to preserve their common ground. So, your refraining from telling the guy that you aren't interested (in so many words) allows him to cling to the ego-preserving possibility that you might be.

If he goes direct on you — tells you he wants to sex up your business relationship — that's when you likewise get explicit: Tell him straight out that you want to keep things strictly professional. However, this may not be necessary if you act in ways that say "just business!" Avoid going flirty in communicating with him, and schedule meetings for the utterly unsexiest times and places possible. Nobody ends up doing the walk of shame because they had seconds on biscotti and one too many double espressos.

SIMPER FI

There's always been an attraction between this auv and me. I've been thinking of testing the waters with him romantically, but he recently mentioned that he freaks out when women cry. He says he iust has no idea what to do. Well, I'm an emotional person — generally happy, but also a big crier. Are we a bad match, or could I teach him to soothe me?

Most men are comfortable dealing with any leaky item ... as long as it can be fixed with an adjustable wrench and a Phillips screwdriver.

If there's a decoder ring for human emotion, it's the female brain. Psychologist Simon Baron-Cohen finds that men, generally speaking, just aren't

as good as women at what's called "theory of mind" — the ability to "infer what other people might be thinking or intending." He explains that women, from childhood on, tend to be the "empathizers" of the species, driven to identify others' "emotions and thoughts, and to respond with the appropriate emotions" (say, by hugging a teary-eyed person instead of treating Waterworks them like a statue weeping blood).

In contrast with female "empathizers," Baron-Cohen describes men as the "systematizers" of the species. This is a fancy way of saying they're engineering-focused — driven, from a young age, to identify how inanimate stuff works and "derive the underlying rules that govern the behavior of a

system." However, these are "reliable" rules, like the law of gravity — "what goes up must come down" — nothing helpful for fathoming what the girlfriend's got swirling around in her head when she suddenly goes all funeralface.

Typically, women believe "If he loved me, he'd figure it out." Um, no. Not here in realityland. Assume most heterosexual men are sucky at emotional tealeaf reading. When you're in boohooville (or on your way), tell a man what you're feeling and how he could help — for example, by just listening and rubbing your back. In time, this may help him avoid reacting to the welling of that very first tear by diving behind the couch and yelling, "Incoming! One o'clock! Alpha team, flank left!" ■

GOT A PROBLEM? Write to Amy Alkon at 171 Pier Ave., Ste. 280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or email her at AdviceAmy@aol.com.

Alkon's latest book is "Good Manners for Nice People who Sometimes Say F*ck." She blogs at advicegoddess.com and podcasts at blogtalkradio.com.

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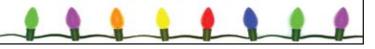
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Art for Good

100 Pieces art show at Deutsch's Steelhead Studios raises \$70,000 for Safe Place for Youth

By Christina Campodonico

Local artists and ad agency creatives came together at Deutsch's Steelhead Studios on Nov. 30 for the third annual 100 Pieces charity art show and silent auction. This year's event displayed 204 donated works of art and raised \$70,000 for Venice-based homeless services nonprofit Safe Place for Youth (SPY).

As beer and wine flowed, prospective art buyers could make bids from their smartphones and mingle amid artworks by big names like Shepard Fairey as well as emerging local artists.

Deutsch Chief Creative Officer Pete Favat, his wife Amy, talent manager Melissa Ross and designer Chris Buzzell started 100 Pieces three years ago and partnered with SPY — where Amy volunteers and serves on the board of directors — as a way to showcase hidden artistic talent within local ad agencies and harness it for a good cause.

"A lot of the creatives in advertising and production went to art school, and they went to journalism school. They went there to be artists, and they went to be writers and painters and graphic designers. But then, when you get a job in the business, you get overwhelmed because there's so much work you have to do professionally that you kind of give up your side art — your passion," Pete Favat said. "We wanted to bring that talent out into the open.

"The other thing is, all these agencies, we all compete against each other, and we wanted to create a night where there is no competition, where everyone comes together for a great cause," he said.

The name "100 Pieces" stems from the four founders' ambitious goal to assemble 100 pieces of art in just two weeks for the silent auction's inaugural show three years ago.

"We thought we'd get 100 people [involved] and maybe 100 pieces of art,"











100 Pieces founders Amy and Pete Favat, Melissa Ross and Chris Buzzell (top left) assembled an eclectic array of artworks by established and emerging artists to benefit SPY

Pete Favat said. "We got about 300 people and 150 pieces."

Deutsch employee and photographer Benjmain Morris, who also happens to volunteer with SPY, was excited to donate one of his photographs to this year's benefit.

"When I heard that they were having an event here, and I work here, my worlds just collided and I was like, 'Well, I have to be involved," Morris said.

Over the years, the Favats, Ross and Buzzell have not only recruited artists and collectors from within local ad agencies to contribute to 100 Pieces, they have also invited artists from all over the Westside, Los Angeles and even Instagram to participate.

Todd Westphal, a photographer based in Mar Vista (or "East Venice," as he likes to call it), contributed a pastel-hued, aerial photograph of the Santa Monica Pier to

this year's show. Seeing homelessness abound on Rose and Pacific avenues in Venice, as well as volunteering with SPY, compelled him to donate his piece.

"SPY is a pretty awesome thing. They've been growing and doing some really amazing things for the community," Westphal said. "The idea of having my piece in somebody's house that they enjoy, that's butter on top of all of it." ■

Home for Christmas (Continued from page 15)

USSR states, the cuisine is different in each part of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Doma Kitchen offers a fusion of global flavors.

"We have the best home recipes from different regions around the world," says Corrente. "Southern Italy, Belgium, Russia, Ukraine. It's an eclectic menu.'

As Corrente tells it, there is a tasty dish to please every palate. Her list of recommendations is endless: chicken Kiev,



Herring Under a Fur Coat, a traditional Russian dish

lamb stroganoff, crunchy Bavarian garlic bread, charred Brussels sprouts, hot borsch, chicken pelmeni (dumplings).

"We attract foodies, internationals, locals, families, multiple generations," she says. "The younger people moving into the area who work at Google and YouTube. We are not your everyday Italian or French restaurant. People who come here want to experience more savory, homey, eclectic food." ■

Gender and Gentility (Continued from page 16)

interesting conversation. Consciously or not, Anderson found a timely way to tackle the timeless tug-of-war between being in a relationship and following your own path to self-actualization. Of course, as a woman, I would love to see the roles switched: the female of the couple playing the genius and the male struggling with self-definition, the story driven by a

feminine narrative. That would truly be a sign of changing times.

"Phantom Thread" opens Dec. 25 at The Landmark, 10850 West Pico Blvd., West L.A.

Terrazza Lounge at Hotel Casa del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way, Santa Monica. (310) 581-5533; hotelcasadelmar.com

WESTSIDE HAPPENINGS

(Continued from page 26)

Toasted Fridays Workshop Open House, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Improve your public speaking skills in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere with food and drinks at this weekly open house. Marina City Club Quasar Room, 4333 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. Mark at (562) 508-0260; facebook.com/ toastedfridays

SongWriter Soiree, 7 to 11:30 p.m. (Sign up at 6:30 p.m.) Show up and prove your talent, then stay to support your fellow singers and musicians during the open mic each Friday at UnUrban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. \$5 to participate. (310) 315-0056; unurban.com

Hot Jazz Fridays, 8 p.m. Brad Kay's Regressive Jazz Quartet plays early jazz and ragtime music, then DJ Jedi spins soul, funk, hip-hop, disco and dance music after 10 p.m in The Del Monte. DJ Anthony Valadez gets things moving in the Townhouse bar at 10 p.m. Townhouse & Del Monte Speakeasy, 52 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (310) 392-4040; townhousevenice.com

Saturday, Dec. 23

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous, 9 to 10:30 a.m. A 12-step program for anyone struggling with their relationship with food. Hulu Center, Colorado Center Community Room, 2500 Broadway, Santa Monica. Free. (310) 902-3040; foodaddicts.org

"Santa's Magic Key" Storytime, 11 a.m. On Christmas Eve a young boy realizes that his new house does not have a chimney. With the post office closed and Santa on his way, he has no way of telling Santa, until he finds a mysterious key that could solve his problem. Activities follow the reading. Barnes & Noble, 13400 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey. Free. (310) 306-3213; barnesandnoble.com

Artists & Fleas, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Established to bring together emerging artists, indie designers and vintage enthusiasts in an alternative retail setting, Artists & Fleas provides a community gathering spot and hipster haven each second and fourth Saturday of the month. Westminster Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice. Free. artistsandfleas.com

KJazz Champagne and Brunch

Cruise, noon to 2 p.m. Jazz lovers can enjoy this two-hour harbor cruise with live music, free-flowing champagne and sparkling cider and brunch buffet. Boarding begins at 11:30 a.m. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey. $\$6\bar{8}.95$; reservations required. (310) 301-9900; hornblower.com

Music by the Sea, 1 to 4 p.m. A scenic harbor view is the backdrop for a blues and funk concert by U.S. 99. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey. (310) 301-9900; visitmarinadelrev.com

"It's a Wonderful Life" Screening, 4 p.m. This holiday classic balances



Larry "Fuzzy" Knight leads the 11-piece Blowin Smoke Rhythm & Blues Band and the Fabulous Smokettes through a scorching-hot live set. SEE SATURDAY, DEC. 23.

pathos and joy for George Bailey (Jimmy Stewart), who believes the world would be better off without him. His guardian angel Clarence must convince Bailey that life wouldn't be the same for a whole town of people if he'd never been born. Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave., Santa Monica. \$12. facebook.

Marina Lights, Carolers and "A Christmas Story" Screening, 4 to 8 p.m. Stroll with the family and friends through a festive holiday light display in the park while The Wonderelles perform holiday songs in a '50s rock style from 4 to 6 p.m. "A Christmas Story" screens on a jumbo screen at 6 p.m. Burton Chace Park, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina Del Rey. mdrholidays.com

Saturday Dinner Cruise, 7 p.m. With unforgettable views, deejay entertainment, dancing under the stars and a four-course dinner, this two-and-a-half hour cruise makes for a quick romantic getaway. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rev. \$92.95; reservations required. (310) 301-9900; hornblower.com

Jazz Funk Fest, 7 to 10 p.m. In the tradition of the Venice West Café, local Venice musicians celebrate the rebellious liberation of tuneful creativity. Black Shoe Polish performs at 7 p.m. and Eric Ahlberg's Jazz Workshop begins at 8:30 p.m. UnUrban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 315-0056; unurban.com

Katalyst Jazz, 8 p.m. Inglewoodbased future funk, soul and jazz band Katalyst Collective brings their beats to the Del Monte Speakeasy, followed Dot Dot Dot dance party with DJ Canyon Cody. DJ Shiva spins soul, funk, hip-hop, electronic and dance music at 10 p.m. upstairs. Townhouse & Del Monte Speakeasy, 52 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (310) 392-4040; townhousevenice.com

Surfside Ugly Sweater Party, 9 p.m. Get into the holiday spirit. Bring out those hideous holiday sweaters for fun, laughs and a chance to win prizes. DJ Sean Q spins at 9 p.m. Surfside Venice, 23 Windward Ave., Venice. (424) 256-7894; surfsidevenice.com

Blowin' Smoke Revue, 9:30 p.m. Featuring St. Louis-style rhythm and blues hotter than St. Louis BBQ, Larry "Fuzzy" Knight and the 11-piece Blowin' Smoke Rhythm & Blues band perform music to make you get up and dance alongside the Fabulous Smokettes. Harvelle's, 1432 4th St., Santa Monica. \$10. (310) 395-1676; harvelles.com

Sunday, Dec. 24

Malibu Lagoon Field Trips, 8:30 a.m. Beginner and experienced birdwatchers join the Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society the fourth Sunday of each month for a two-to three-hour walk exploring the lagoon and coastal region in search of 40 to 75 bird species. A shorter walk for families follows at 10 a.m. Park near the intersection of Pacific Coast Highway and Cross Creek Road, and meet at the metalshaded viewing area next to the lot. smbasblog.com

Single Seniors Book Club and Potluck, 10:30 a.m. Seniors can make new friends while enjoying good food and good books. Address supplied upon request. Free. Alan Ross at alanzip@ gmail.com

Christmas Eve Champagne and Brunch Cruise, noon to 2 p.m. Celebrate the season with a festive lunch and holiday music on this twohour harbor cruise with free-flowing champagne and sparkling cider. Boarding begins at 11:30 a.m. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rev. \$68.95; reservations required. (310) 301-9900; hornblower.com

Venice United Methodist Church Candlelight Service, 5 to 6 p.m. Enjoy this Christmas Eve candlelight service at Venice United Methodist Church, 1020 Victoria Ave., Venice. venicechamber.net

Christmas Eve Buffet Dinner Cruise, 6 to 9 p.m. Eliminate the stress of Christmas Eve diner by enjoying a delicious buffet dinner with all the trimmings on the water and live entertainment. Boarding begins at 5:30 p.m. Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey. \$87.95;

reservations required. (310) 301-9900; hornblower.com

Christmas Eve Family Service, 7 p.m. The Church in Ocean Park celebrates with diverse readings and Christmas singalongs including people of all ages, ethnicities, abilities and lifestyles. Church in Ocean Park, 235 Hill St., Santa Monica. (310) 399-1631

Christmas Eve with DJ Vinyl Don, 9 p.m. Celebrate Christmas Eve with DJ Vinyl Don and fun festive dance music. Townhouse & Del Monte Speakeasy, 52 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (310) 392-4040; townhousevenice.com

Monday, Dec. 25

Laughtears Salon, 6 to 9 p.m. Politics, art, culture discussion. Café Pier, 212 Pier Ave., Santa Monica.

Christmas Day Mahalo, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Alton Clemente, DJ Vinyl Don and Record Surplus take over the Townhouse with live entertainment. tiki cocktails, Hawaiian and Polynesian vinyl, plus special guests. Townhouse & Del Monte Speakeasy. 52 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (310) 392-4040; townhousevenice.com

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Go Club Beginners and Open Mic **Komedy,** 7 to 10 p.m. Learn to play Go with Santa Monica Go Club who meet here every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Open Mic Komedy begins at 9 p.m. Sign up at 8:45 p.m. UnUrban Coffee House, 3301 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 315-0056; unurban.com

Surfside Trivia Night, 9 to 11 p.m. Win prizes and impress your friends with your trivia skills. Happy hour drink prices all night. Surfside Venice, 23 Windward Ave., Venice. (424)

Coryell Trio hard grooves for two sets 396-9010; tripsantamonica.com

Free. (310) 306-7330; laughtears.com

256-7894; surfsidevenice.com

Tuesday Night Jazz, 9:15 p.m. Every Tuesday night The Julian of organ trio jazz at TRiP, 2101 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica. (310)



The Wonderelles perform holiday songs in the style of '50s rock before a screening of "A Christmas Story" at Burton Chace Park. SEE SATURDAY, DEC. 23.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

Toastmasters Speakers by the Sea Club. 11 a.m. to noon. In this workshop to develop better presentation skills, Toastmasters present the fundamentals of public speaking in the relaxed, enjoyable atmosphere of a Toastmasters meeting. Pregerson Technical Facility, 12000 Vista del Mar, Conference Room 230A, Playa del Rey. (424) 625-3131; toastmastersspeakersbythesea@gmail.com

Open Temple: Tea and Torah, 1 to 2 p.m. Enjoy tea with Rabbi Lori and special guests. Open Temple House, 1422 Electric Ave., Venice. opentemple.org

Unkle Monkey Show, 6 to 9 p.m. Local favorites perform acoustic music and comedy each Wednesday in the Tiki Bar with special guest appearances including an Elvis impersonator. The Warehouse Restaurant, 4499 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. No cover. (310) 823-5451; mdrwarehouse.com

Del Rey Neighborhood Council Community Services/Health and Wellness Committee, 6:15 p.m. The committee meets at the MOA Wellness Center, 4533 Centinela Ave., Del Rey. delreync.org

Grand View Market Open Mic Night, 7 p.m. Each Wednesday night, anyone can sign up to do a four-minute comedy set or perform two songs. Grand View Market, 12210 Venice Blvd., Mar Vista. (310) 390-7800

Rusty's Rhythm Club Swing Dance, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Start New Year's Eve early with the high-octane, foot-stomping tunes and sassy vocals of Aileen Quinn and the Leapin' Lizards, performing live after a half-hour beginner swing dance class (no partner needed). A practice ball-drop countdown happens at 11 p.m. Westchester Elks Lodge, 8025 W. Manchester Ave., Playa del Rey. \$20 cover, includes the class. (310) 606 5606; rustyfrank.com

Pop Quiz Team Trivia, 8 p.m. Each Wednesday, take part in a friendly game of trivia while enjoying a burger and any of 20 beers on tap. Tompkins Square Bar & Grill, 8522 Lincoln Blvd., Westchester, No cover, (310) 670-1212; t2barandgrill.com

Venice Underground Comedy and Bootleg Bombshells Burlesque, 9 and 11 p.m. Start the night with some of L.A.'s best comics, and finish it with a burlesque show featuring Bootleg Bombshells. The Townhouse & Del Monte Speakeasy, 52 Windward Ave., Venice. No cover. (310) 392-4040; townhousevenice.com

Thursday, Dec. 28

"Tupperware!" Screening, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A funny, probing film narrated by Kathy Bates, the PBS documentary "Tupperware!" explores the unique history of the product in 1950s America. Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library, 4533 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey. Free. (310) 821-3415; colapublib.org

(Continued on page 30)

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WESTSIDE HAPPENINGS

Death Café, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Death is not an easy subject to talk about, yet everyone is touched by it. This is an opportunity to talk about feelings, fears and anything else on topic without judgment or expectations. Venice Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice. Free. (310) 821-1769; lapl.org

Venice Neighborhood Council Land Use and Planning Committee, 6:30 p.m. The committee meets on the first and last Thursdays of each month at Oakwood Recreation Center, 787 California Ave., Venice. venicenc.org

Galleries & Museums

Foster Art, through Friday, Dec. 22. Give the gift of art to a foster child in need. The Venice Institute of Contemporary Art is collecting art supplies for children in the Los Angeles County foster system. Drop off unwrapped art supplies for children ages 5 to 18 during business hours at BG Gallery (Bergamot Station G8A, 2525 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica) or Beyond Baroque (681 N. Venice Blvd., Venice), or call (310) 957-7037 to arrange a pickup. facebook.com/ VeniceICA

"The Gottlieb Native Garden: A Closer Look" and "Designed Environment," through Saturday, Dec. 23. Photographer Scott Logan presents his macrophotography providing an in-depth look at insects and plants native to the Los Angeles area. Group photography exhibit "Designed Environment" explores apophenia, the human tendency to perceive and assign meaning to patterns in our environment. The G2 Gallery, 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice. \$10. (310) 452-2842; theG2gallery.com

"Happy Sculptures," through Jan. 5. International conceptual artist Dimitris Korovesis presents 40 sculptures, using iron and acrylic colors to reveal a lively, traditional Greek character. Studio 106 LA, 3021 Airport Ave., #106, Santa Monica. (310) 999-5681; studio106la@gmail.com

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