

Culver City

Neighbors



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March 2021
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Dear Residents. This is the birthday month of my precious mom who would have been 106 years old. Mom taught me how to make fried potatoes and onions . . . in bacon grease. (Not kidding. Don't do that anymore!), homemade apple pie, and, she taught me to always stop and count my blessings. So, in memory of my mom, I'm going to count a few of my blessings.

I am so grateful for the sponsors who have made this publication possible. They have placed their presence in this local magazine hoping that you will call upon them when their services are needed. I am also grateful to hear how many of you tell these sponsors that you saw their ad or read their article and decided to call them. Voicing this information matters! Keep doing it! It gives these sponsors the knowledge that their efforts and investment to be in *Culver City Neighbors* is beneficial to their business.

In fact, I welcome any reader to give a "Shout-Out!" about the great service they received from one of our sponsors. Make their day and bring joy to your own as you give gratitude for someone's efforts that helped you have a better way of life, no matter how big or little that "better" may have been. We'll publish it!

I also want to thank you, our readers, for stepping up to nominate residents for the monthly-feature story and for the articles that you are contributing. Keep them coming! This publication is for YOU.

This month, I want to thank Keith, Debbie, Austin, and Kenny Jones for being our featured family. You are in for a treat. This active family is all about their love for their various passions, the Culver community, and their love for each other. You will thoroughly enjoy their story.

EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS

Personal Injury Expert Contributor, Karen Gajewski, partner of the Law Offices of Gajewski & Baughan, writes about jury-duty experience, what it's like, and how it has changed with COVID.

Chiropractor Expert Contributor, Brigitte Rozenberg, D.C. of The Spine & Disc Center, educates us on the new and proven technologies that help you to become pain-free, naturally.

Hospital Expert Contributor, Southern California Hospital of Culver City, explains how Southern California Hospital Heart Institute is expanding to provide a higher level of care to Culver City and all of West Los Angeles.

BUSINESS PROFILES

Many of you know **Ed Wolkowitz**, past Culver City mayor (1996 and 2002) and proud Culver City resident for 43 years. Did you know that he is a partner in the **Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Brill, L.L.P. law firm?** LNBY&B is a premier insolvency boutique law firm. Be sure to read their Business Spotlight to learn more.

As always, I welcome your thoughts, articles, events, Shout-Outs!, and nominations for local families, residents, or couples to feature in upcoming *CCN* issues.

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Enjoy!

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Feedback/Ideas/Submissions:

Have feedback, ideas, or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of each month. Go to BestVersionMedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: CJameson@BestVersionMedia.com.

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7 HOME FIRE DANGERS

By Payam Lavi



Payam Lavi

1. COOKING FIRES are the **#1** cause of all residential fires.

2. Most fires TRIPLE in size every minute!

• **In just four minutes, the fire is 80 to 100 TIMES larger than when it started.**

and death from most fires has been smoke inhalation and **NOT** the fire itself!

• **SMOKE** is responsible for every 3 out of 4 fire deaths.

7. Most households don't have a proper Emergency/Fire Exit Plan in place.

• **Plan an exit strategy and practice it.**

3. Three issues most people have with Fire Extinguishers:

- The extinguisher is old causing it to malfunction.
- In a crisis situation they forget where the extinguisher is located.
- Not knowing how to properly operate the fire extinguisher.

4. Oil and grease fires are the most common types of kitchen fire.

- **Such fires can escalate to where they explode.**
- **Never pour water on a grease fire as it causes a dangerous splatter reaction.**

5. Today's home furniture is much more flammable than it was decades ago, and that reduces the time available to get everyone out to safety and call for help.

6. For the past 50+ years, the #1 cause of injury

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GAJEWSKI & BAUGHAN COVID COURTHOUSE JURY DUTY DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Karen Gajewski



Karen Gajewski

Like everything else, COVID has changed the way cases are tried. For those that haven't been through a jury trial, here is a synopsis of how the pandemic has changed trials.

JURY SELECTION

The first step in a trial is "voir dire," meaning "to speak the truth." During voir dire, attorneys for both sides question prospective jurors to try to determine their competency to serve. Jurors will be wearing masks so the task of "reading" the prospective jurors will be difficult.

Once the judge and attorneys finish their questioning, a jury is selected and sworn in. Before COVID, the jury was seated in a "box"

— two rows of seats on the side of the courtroom. During the pandemic, the jury is physically distanced throughout the courtroom, with counsel and clients in the middle at counsel table.

Juries used to be composed of 12 people. Now the parties are encouraged to stipulate to the use of fewer jurors due to the difficulty of getting enough jurors into the physically-distanced courtroom.

Some courts are even doing virtual jury trials. Those of you who are doing homeschooling know the pitfalls of Zoom, including losing connection and keeping the participants interested.

OPENING STATEMENTS

Next, the attorneys make opening statements during which each



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CLOSING STATEMENTS

Once all the witnesses have testified and crucial documents have been introduced into evidence, the attorneys give closing arguments: "tell them what you told them." This is the trial attorneys' last chance to persuade the jury to find for their client.

side tells the jury what it intends to prove. After telling the jury "what they are going to tell them," the attorneys next, as the old adage advises, "tell them" by presenting evidence through witnesses and by introducing documents.

In the midst of COVID, there are no longer documents for the jury to examine. The jury deliberation room is now outfitted with a document camera and flat screen TV to allow one juror to handle all exhibits and display them for all to see.

WITNESS EXAMINATION

Witnesses are almost always first examined by the party eliciting testimony in support of their own claims. This is direct examination. The other side then has an opportunity to cross-examine. Cross-examination is the formal interrogation of a witness called by the other party and is usually done to challenge the accuracy or credibility of that witness. No doubt it is more difficult to gauge witness credibility with everyone wearing a mask.

There are lay witnesses: those that actually observed something critical to the trial; and there are expert witnesses. An expert is used when their testimony is related to a subject matter that is beyond common experience, such as doctors for their medical expertise or an engineer to explain the physics of an accident. This is where COVID is proving to be a benefit as attorneys no longer have to pay travel time or have the witness waste time waiting to be called as testimony can be done remotely or videotaped.

After the attorneys give closing arguments, the judge instructs the jurors on the law. Sometimes these instructions are provided before the presentation of the evidence so the jurors have a better sense of what the applicable law will be as they listen to the evidence.

JURY DELIBERATION AND VERDICT

Once equipped with instructions, jury deliberations begin in the physically-distanced jury room. The jury foreperson now has additional duties as he/she is in charge of handling document presentation as well as presiding over jury deliberations. The jury then deliberates, or discusses in detail how the evidence presented fits with the law, and then renders their decision, which is called a "verdict."

The pandemic is here until we reach herd immunity. According to Mayo Clinic, experts estimate that 70 percent of the US population would need to develop antibodies, either naturally after surviving the virus or from a vaccine, to halt the epidemic.

Trials by jury must continue as they are a Constitutional Right. Like everything else, the court system has to adjust, especially as to the logistics of handling jury trials, and make their best effort to keep jurors and all participants safe.

Karen Gajewski is a local, Culver City personal injury attorney at the Law Offices of Gajewski & Baughan.

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How Do You Choose A Senior Living Community?

By Robin Rinke



Robin Rinke,
VP of Marketing
at Northstar
Senior Living

Photo by Glenda Lipp,
Glenda Marie Photography

If the pandemic has scared you away from looking at senior-living options, you are not alone.

I am here to put that fear to rest. The industry quickly pivoted and came up with strategic protocols to keep the residents and staff healthy. These protocols can help alleviate any concerns you may have while beginning your search to find a new home in a senior-living community.

During the pandemic, we have learned that the top four things people are looking for in senior living are:

- WebEx Doctor Visits
- In-Place Safety and Protocols

- Health and Wellness Programs
- Innovative Strategies to Secure the Health and Well Being of Residents

Independent-Living Communities

Most residents of independent-living communities don't need a lot of medical help; however, there are usually rounding doctors and physical therapists in these communities should residents want to use their services.

Residents Participate In:

- Social Events
- Hobbies
- Dining

This type of participation is advantageous to someone who feels isolated and lonely.

Housekeeping, utilities, and meal credits are included in the monthly costs.

Assisted Living

Assisted-living communities provide 24-hour care however, residents in these communities still have their independence. Assisted-living residents can often do many activities independently, but not enough to comfortably and safely live alone anymore.

Assisted Living Offers Assistance With:

- Bathing
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- Transferring (the ability to get in and out of bed)
- Continence (control of bowels)
- Feeding
- Mild Cognitive Impairment

If you struggle with cleaning your house, cooking meals, driving, and have limited socialization, these are indicators that assisted living is for you. All meals, housekeeping, utilities, and activities are included in your monthly costs.

Memory Care

There are many forms of Dementia (memory loss), and, at its more advanced stages, it can cause individuals to become immobile. In general, a sign of whether a loved one needs memory care is when they begin to wander. There are many different forms of care based on the severity of the disease.

Memory-Care Communities Offer:

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- Redirecting

- Activities
- Socialization
- Security
- Memory Care usually has options to choose from, such as compatible suites and private suites.

Steps Families Can Take to Prepare:

- Research 5-7 Memory-Care Communities' Webpages
- Set-up a Virtual Tour of the Community
- Visit Their FB Page
- A Deposit on an Apartment That Fits Your Needs
- Read Their Marketing Packets

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Robin R. Rinke is the Vice President of Marketing at Northstar Senior Living.

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LAW OFFICES



A Premier Insolvency Boutique Law Firm

By Thomas Fitzgerald



Ed Wolkowitz

The law offices of Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Brill (LNBY&B) has been a leader for more than 25 years in the rescue and rehabilitation of companies and individuals facing financial challenges.

A premier insolvency boutique law firm, LNBY&B's extraordinary lawyers have earned a reputation for finding innovative ways to handle a client's financial problems. The firm's attorneys employ proactive strategies to expertly resolve highly-complex legal matters in an expedited and cost-effective manner, and individually-designed representation ensures each client receives personal attention.

The practice celebrated the selection of 15 attorneys to the 2020

Southern California Super Lawyers list. Nine of those attorneys have been selected to the Super Lawyers list for more than 15 years.

Ed Wolkowitz is a partner at LNBY&B. A Culver City resident for 42 years, Ed was born in a displaced-persons camp in Germany after World War II. He arrived in the US with his parents when he was 3-years-old. If the name sounds familiar, that's because Ed was elected to two terms on the Culver City city council and served two years as your mayor.

"Culver City is a solid community but individuals get into trouble," says Ed. "Sometimes the economic trouble becomes more than someone can handle. Bankruptcy is a solution available under law, and if a person is eligible, they should take advantage."

FOCUS AREAS

- Small-Business Reorganization
- Bankruptcy
- Insolvency
- Commercial Law
- Debtor-Creditor Matters
- Commercial Litigation

According to the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), the 37,688 consumer-bankruptcy filings in October 2020 represented a 41 percent decrease from the 64,279 filings in October 2019. Ed attributed this dramatic drop in consumer-bankruptcy filings to government relief via direct-assistance programs.

In these difficult times, many small businesses remain in financial distress and face an uncertain future. "If a business owner gets to the point where they believe their business is not worth saving, they can close the doors and walk away but that's not necessarily a solution. Taxing agencies like the Franchise Tax Board will continue to levy their taxes," says Ed. "Bankruptcy will generally terminate a taxing agency's ongoing assessment of taxes."

LNBY&B represents a diverse range of small-and large-business clients, including debtors, creditors' committees, equity-holders' committees, trustees, purchasers, and principals.

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LNBY&B also has extensive experience representing assignees and buyers in assignments for the benefit of all creditors, state and federal court receivers, and other parties involved in commercial litigation.

The thought of being insolvent and filing for bankruptcy is an unpleasant one. There are many reasons why a person or business may find themselves in such a misfortunate predicament. If you find yourself in this position, the Law Offices of Levene, Neale, Bender, Yoo & Brill are experts in finding innovative ways to address your financial challenges.

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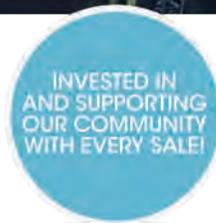
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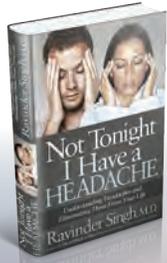
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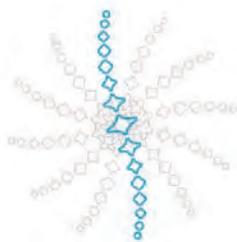


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Be Pain-Free, Naturally

By Brigitte Rozenberg, DC



Dr. Brigitte Rozenberg,
D.C.

As a chiropractor for over 25 years, my objective and purpose continue to be finding alternative and science-based solutions for treating severe-spinal conditions and other pain-related injuries such as:

- Herniated-and Bulging-Disc
- Spinal Stenosis
- Sciatica
- Muscle Spasms
- Sprain/Strain
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- Headaches
- Neuropathy

All of these conditions can be treated naturally. In most cases, and with so many new medical discoveries, surgery is now considered an "option" or a "last resort" rather than a necessity.

Neck and back pain is, for the most part, not a life-threatening condition but mainly life-altering and -disabling

conditions. It affects a person's lifestyle and livelihood.

My main goal is to educate my patients on the options that are available to them so they can make an informed decision and understand what each treatment entails.

In my practice, your peace-of-mind and overall body health are our first priorities. This is why we may use a combination of proven treatment solutions to solve even the most challenging back or neck injuries.

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Before treating a patient, a complete review of your medical records and a thorough examination must be done to determine which method of treatment is best for you.

It should be noted that some modalities in the natural pain-relief space are contra-indicated with certain conditions. For example, someone who has a pacemaker would not be a candidate for electrical modalities. Additionally, there are certain spinal conditions in which decompression can't be used. That is why it's extremely important to have your thorough medical history taken prior to treatment and an MRI to determine if you are a candidate.

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In addition to a comprehensive evaluation, every treatment that we provide includes an application of Mineralgia, a natural, pain-relieving cream that I created for my patients 15 years ago as a first step to achieving immediate, long-lasting relief from aches, pains, muscle- and joint-soreness associated with arthritis, sprains, minor injuries, and overexertion. The powerful ingredient that it contains is sea salt, sourced from Israel's Dead Sea, which is known for being rich in healing minerals. Salt acts as a magnet to inflammation.

The opioid crisis has increased the urgency to explore natural approaches to pain relief. *According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, almost 450,000 people died from an overdose involving prescription- and illicit-opioids between 1999 and 2018. That's a clear indicator that drugs have become more of a problem than a solution.

Granted you can always take medication or go under the knife, but



it's worth taking advantage of recent advances in science and technology to employ a more natural solution first. This is the reason I offer a free consultation for anyone who would like me to review their diagnostic results to see if they would be a candidate for our non-invasive spinal-decompression treatment thus avoiding opioids and possible surgery.

The body is a complex machine, however, when providing the right environment, it has the ability to heal itself and restore itself to its original function.

*[cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html)

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4062 BLEDSOE AVE	4	2	1,678	\$1,589,900	4244 REVERE PL	6	7	4,100	\$3,495,000
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4157 HARTER AVE	6	5	2,960	\$1,895,000					
4201 JACKSON AVE	4	4	2,875	\$2,099,000					
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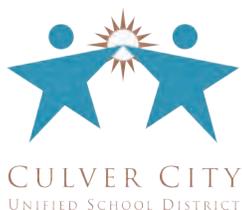
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CCUSD LEADER OF THE MONTH

Casey Chabola – Principal, Lin Howe Elementary

By Geoff Maleman



Casey Chabola

Casey Chabola's first year as principal has been, perhaps, the most tumultuous in the history of education. Like schools across the nation, Lin Howe Elementary is working hard to overcome the new reality of a world with COVID-19.

"Really, the biggest challenge is communication," said Chabola, adding that each communications connection, whether it's parent-teacher, student-

teacher, principal-teacher, has been profoundly impacted by social distancing and distance learning. "Not being able to have face-to-face conversations means we have to make sure the message is getting out in a way that's clear and understandable. Something that might before take a two-minute walk and a quick chat in the classroom or out on the playground with families, now requires emailing back and forth to set up a Zoom and then a Zoom that's still not as effective as face-to-face."

But Chabola is up to the challenge.

After all, his family has been part of CCUSD for decades. His father, Jerry, was a teacher and the longtime athletic director at Culver City High School, where his name is on the stadium. His sister, Janice Beighey, was an elementary school teacher at both La Ballona and Farragut. And his wife, Kim Redmon, is a teacher at El Rincon.

A longtime youth- and high-school-athletics coach, Chabola said his love of coaching is what brought him to education. "Growing up, I wanted to teach and coach," he said. "Becoming a teacher in the classroom would allow me to do that and impact a different level of students in that way as well."

A product of CCUSD schools, he was hired by the District in 1997. He has taught elementary school and has been an Administrative Designee since 2013. Chabola has also served as Linwood E. Howe's Title I and School Improvement Coordinator, a member of the teacher's union negotiation team, a member of CCUSD's Certificated Advisory Council, and the school's lead teacher for the High-Performance Learning Consortium. He is also a member of CCUSD's reopening task force and has earned the PTA's Honorary Service Award three times.

In addition, Chabola is steeped in the rich athletic tradition of CCUSD. In 2000, he co-founded the Culver City High School boy's lacrosse team and has served as head coach of the team ever since, earning Ocean League Coach of the Year honors three times.

At Lin Howe, Chabola said his primary focus is getting through the pandemic, while at the same time making strides in diversity, equity, and inclusion. "My main vision is to continue to evolve as society is continuing to change and to make sure we are looking out for the social/emotional impact this pandemic has had on our students and



Back: Wife, Kim Redmon, and Casey. Front (LrR): Sierra, Joey, and Kayla.

families, as well as keeping up with social issues," he said. "A lot of that effort is educating ourselves so we can then have conversations about these important issues at the elementary level."

Chabola earned a Bachelor degree in health, physical education, and recreation, with an emphasis in sports management from St. Mary's College of California. He earned a Master degree in education (Multiple Subject Teaching Credential) from Loyola Marymount University and a second Master degree in education administration from Concordia University. He lives in Culver City with his wife, Kim, and his three children: Kayla, 21, who currently attends University of Colorado, Boulder; Sierra, 18, the 2019-20 CCHS Athlete of the Year who now attends San Diego State University; and Joey, a recent recipient of his Eagle Scout ranking, who is a member of the CCHS Class of 2022.

"The biggest thing for me has been the support my family has given to me in this job and on my whole journey," he said.



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Heart Institute Expands to Provide Higher Level of Care to West Los Angeles

By Meeri Kim

Southern California Hospital at Culver City (SCHCC) has launched a number of new initiatives focused on improving the technology and services offered by the Heart Institute. Despite the recent challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, the Heart Institute has continued to move forward with upgrades to its cardiac care, such as a novel treatment system for heart failure and construction of a new catheterization lab.

"The goal has been to provide a higher-quality level of care for the citizens of Culver City in a well-established hospital," said Dr. Ernst von Schwarz, medical director of the Southern California Hospital at Culver City Heart Institute. "We want to offer the full spectrum of cardiovascular diagnostics and therapies to our community."

A Breakthrough for Heart Failure

Back in April, Dr. Schwarz became the first doctor in California to implant a new device to treat patients with heart failure. The Optimizer® Smart System monitors the heart's activity and delivers electrical signals to cardiac muscle cells at the right time to ensure the heart pumps enough blood to the body. It received a Breakthrough Device designation by the FDA in 2019, which speeds up the approval process and gives patients faster access to potentially life-saving treatment.

"We are the forefront of applying new devices such as the Optimizer®. I even have patients traveling 100 miles to have this procedure done," said Dr. Schwarz. "We've performed the implantation on a small number of patients so far, but it's definitely growing, and we've seen excellent results from these initial cases."

While close to six-million Americans suffer from heart failure, those with advanced disease who are already taking medication can't do much else, aside from having an open-heart surgery to implant a mechanical pump. Implanting the Optimizer® is a minimally-invasive procedure that gives patients with chronic, moderate-to-severe heart failure a much-needed, safer option for treatment.

State-of-the-Art Cath Lab

SCHCC broke ground on a new cardiac catheterization lab in July, with plans to open by autumn 2021. The upgrade will eliminate the need to transport patients to a different hospital for more complex and critical procedures, where every second counts. It will be fully equipped with advanced imaging and computing instrumentation for both diagnostic and interventional procedures, which include coronary angiography, coronary angioplasty, stent placement, and electrophysiology testing.

The new lab will also feature a state-of-the-art medical imaging



Dr. Ernst Schwarz (pictured top center) and the Heart Institute staff.
Photo Courtesy Southern California Hospital

system called the Siemens Artis Q.zen, which provides enhanced visualization of blood vessels with a much lower dose of radiation than traditional X-ray machines.

"We are proud to provide top-notch interventional cardiology procedures, even for critical cases. In fact, we have become a referral center for many outside hospitals that reject patients who are considered high-risk," said Dr. Schwarz.

Serving the Community with Telemedicine

Since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, Dr. Schwarz has offered telemedicine appointments for patients who feel more comfortable staying at home instead of coming to the hospital.

People with existing medical conditions, including heart disease, remain at higher risk for coronavirus. Those with conditions like coronary heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure may be more susceptible to catching COVID-19 and developing more severe symptoms. Although the Heart Institute takes all appropriate protections for staff and patients, having a telemedicine option limits potential COVID-19 exposure for this high-risk group even further.

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Austin, Keith,
Debbie, Kenny

Keeping Up With The Joneses

By Kelli M. Larson | Photography By Robert Staley

For Keith and Debbie Jones, martial arts isn't just their family passion, it's also what led to their love story and the Culver City business that they have owned for the last 23 years. While growing up as the youngest of four who often found himself on "the short end of the stick" when it came to conflicts, Westchester, California-native Keith had been enamored by movies starring the likes of Bruce Lee and Chuck Norris. He first took up martial arts himself in middle school, and even biked four miles each way in order to study under his future mentor/father figure, Master Ki. Choong Han.

Twist of Fate

Keith grew up to become a certified public accountant after graduating with his Bachelor degree in business economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. "Sadly, Master Han died after being hit by a car, and his family was going to close the school," he reflects. "I didn't want to see the community lose such a great resource, so I made a deal to take it over." Changing careers

in 1988, he became a full-time instructor of Tae Kwon Do, Muay Thai, and Krav Maga and went on to both compete at the national level and train for the US Olympic team. He's now known by his students as Master Jones.

The other Master Jones – Debbie — entered the picture when after growing up in the small town of Hutchison, Kansas (where she developed the vocal prowess that led her to sing opera) she moved to Los Angeles. "I started taking martial arts for self-defense, and that's how we met," she explains. Having learned of her background in public relations and her advertising degree from Kansas State University, Keith enlisted her help with designing marketing materials for the school.

Their Romantic Wedding

"We then shared seminars and friends in the martial-arts community and struck up a common interest in teaching martial arts — we were off and running!" Keith recalls, smiling. We collaborated on curriculum and systems for running the business as well as

developing a leadership and instructor team. In 1994, the happy couple chose a beautiful beach on the Hawaiian island of Kauai to exchange wedding vows. Since their respective families were so spread out, they celebrated with receptions in Kansas, San Diego, Washington, and in Marina Del Rey with their students. "For our 25th anniversary in 2019," Keith adds, "we went back with our kids to show them where we got married."

Culver City appealed as a place to settle down and raise their family, which now includes Austin (15) and Kenny (11). "We were looking for someplace that would provide the hometown comforts I grew up with: good schools, knowing our neighbors, and being able to take quiet walks in the evenings," Debbie offers. "One of the reasons that I adapted so well to Los Angeles is that we found [this town]." For Keith, an additional appeal came from the easy accessibility of the local mayor, city planners, and chief of police, some of whom they've enjoyed as neighbors and friends over the years.

¡Ellos Hablan Español!

The Joneses had also desired for their children to benefit from the unique education provided by Culver City's El Marino Immersion Language School. "We wanted our kids to be bilingual," Keith reveals, "and we liked that our martial arts students that we saw go through it seemed to have a better grasp of the world." The family has since hosted students from Guadalajara, Mexico, in their home as part of the exchange program that sent Austin there during 5th grade. He now attends high school where he participates in the lacrosse and cross-country teams and plays saxophone in the jazz band.

Hot on big brother's heels, Kenny also plays lacrosse, but adds basketball and piano to his lists of talents. "School has been 100 percent online this year, so sports and music have been great outlets," observes Debbie, who is active with the Parent Teacher Association. "Kenny also loves history, so he reads and writes about it as entertainment... we're really trying to use this time as an opportunity to find new things that he'll enjoy."

All Together Now

Of course, both boys were introduced to the martial arts from an early age and have developed their own appreciation for it. Austin is a Junior Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and helps out as a junior instructor at the family business. This year, Kenny will also be testing in the hope of obtaining that same rank. Currently, he serves on the leadership team that helps younger students and assists the instructors.

Keith and Debbie spend mornings developing curriculum and managing administrative tasks, then head to their school in the afternoons and all day on Saturdays to teach classes (which of late, have been livestreamed on Zoom). They are also preparing to publish their book, *Black Belt Parenting: How to Raise Courageous Kids in a Safe Space World*. Recently, Debbie added health coaching to her plate in order to help others learn about nutrition, lose weight, and develop good habits. "Our motto at Marina Martial Arts is: 'Find Your True Strength,'" she says. "So everything we do revolves around that."

Debbie has also contributed locally as one of the original members of the city's homelessness committee and as a developer of a detailed anti-bullying program that became used at schools throughout L.A. During his 20 years as a member of the Culver City Rotary Club, Keith served as president and is currently on the board of its foundation. He's also a member of Culver City's financial advisory committee to the city council and sits on both the board of directors and the executive



Austin



Kenny





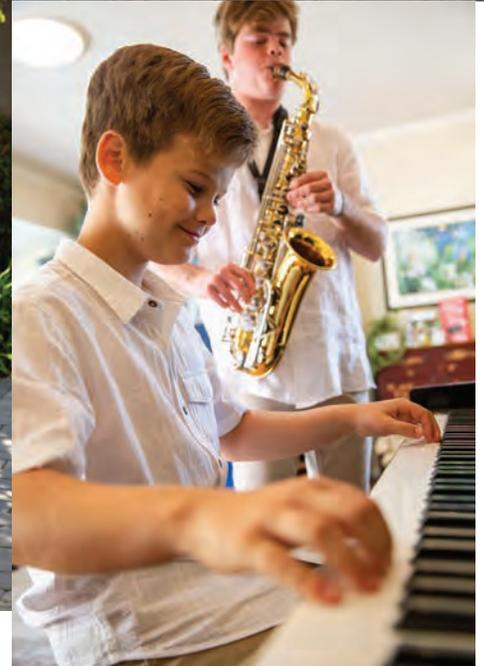
committee for the Chamber of Commerce. "If you're not involved here, you're really missing out," he insists of the tight-knit community. "There's no way that you could make such an impact anywhere else in Southern California."

Keep Your Eyes Peeled

When they have an opportunity to get out as a family, the Joneses can often be found at the Metro Cafe and George Petrelli's Steakhouse, where great meals and nice connections are made with the friendly owners and staff. "We also love Sorento Italian Market for sandwiches — my kids are always bugging me to get them a meatball sandwich!" Keith laughs.

The Joneses also enjoy local traditions like the Fiesta La Ballona and the Screenland 5K, in which they participate annually. Any chance they get, they'll head to the High Sierras to ski Mammoth Mountain, fish, hike, and bike. But if it's a Sunday? They like to surf and go Boogie Boarding. "I'm from Kansas," Debbie reminds, "so to me, any day at the beach is a day in paradise!"

Since their own extended family doesn't live nearby, these Culver City residents appreciate the strong bonds that they've built over the years with their local students. "Many of them have grown up and now bring their children to us," Keith confides. "We're often attending their weddings and birthday parties. We've developed a real community."



Kelli M. Larson is a longtime entertainment journalist who is best known for feature interviews that highlight the accomplishments of actors, authors, producers, directors, screenwriters, and outstanding community contributors.



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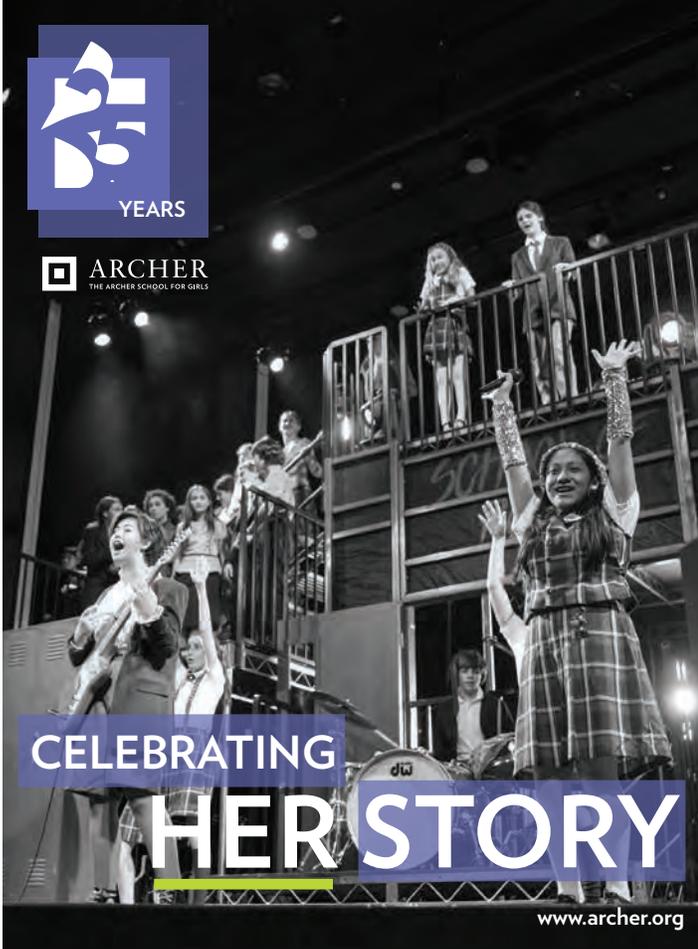
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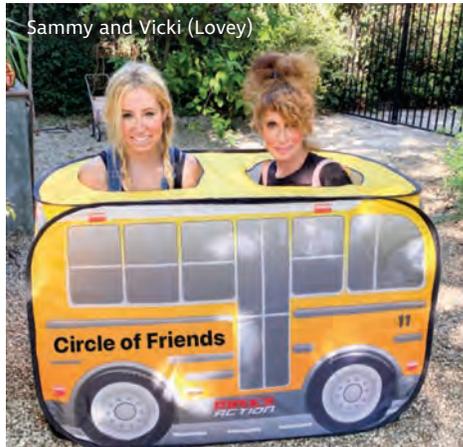


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Circle of Friends Featuring Mother-Daughter Duo

By Lacey Bauer



Lacey Bauer

(affectionally known as "Lovey") a former preschool and special education teacher."

Circle of Friends fosters language development through simple songs, repetition, and multisensory approaches. It models multiple ways of learning—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic (physical activity). Specifically, hand motions and props are used during songs to provide visual, auditory, and kinesthetic input.

Sammy says, **"We teach basic preschool readiness concepts such as colors, opposites, and following one or two-step directions. We focus on expressive and receptive language development with an emphasis on auditory comprehension, verbal skills, and listening and speaking vocabulary. We also promote social and emotional development by teaching emotions, introducing verbal and non-verbal greetings, and encouraging social interactions within the group."**

Vicki says, **"Through music, story time, dramatic play, and direct instruction, we incorporate lots of movement and parent interaction and participation while trying to increase the children's ability to sit and remain engaged for short periods. The children have so much fun they don't even know they are learning!"**

My two kids have thoroughly enjoyed learning through Circle of Friends. It has been a way to bond with my 17-month-old son, Max, from the comfort of our home. My 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Mara, also loves to join in the fun. It is a joy to see them both

respond and react to the interactive songs, nursery rhymes, and scavenger hunts for toys which are the color of the week. We love making virtual friends and smiling at Sammy and Vicki.

Circle of Friends has given us a calm-down yoga technique to transition from active movement to being quiet and focused. It can also be used before bedtime to calm active bodies and clear busy minds. We "crisscross-applesauce" our legs, take deep breaths, and hum to quiet our bodies.

To foster ongoing learning, Sammy and Vicki suggest weekly craft projects or homework activities. For example, one week can be helping mom with laundry with an emphasis on using the week's target vocabulary words and color during this activity to reinforce the learning.

One of the things I love most about Culver City is how small businesses bring us together to share with old friends and make new friends. I had been wanting a Zoom class tailored to Max since Mara is enrolled in preschool. When I discovered Circle of Friends, I knew this support system would be perfect for our family.

CircleOfFriends.me

Circle of Friends is an online interactive toddler-enrichment program. Co-Founder, Sammy Iwamoto earned her Bachelor degree at Washington University in St. Louis and a Master of Science in communication disorders at Emerson College in Boston. She has been practicing as a speech-language pathologist for 10 years.

Co-Founder Vicki Sussman, worked as a preschool teacher for over 30 years and as a special-education teacher in a full-inclusion program, helping children with special needs.

Lacey Bauer is a Culver City Real Estate agent and mom of Mara, age 2 years and 8 months, and Max, age 17 months. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in neuroscience and a Master degree in healthcare management.



Janet Hoult

Culver City's First Honorary Artist Laureate for Poetry

By Thomas Fitzgerald

Janet Hoult was spoken to in rhymes as a little girl. "My grandfather would speak to me in couplets about anything and everything, including the pecan tree I climbed when I visited," says Janet, Culver City's first Honorary Artist Laureate for Poetry (2015-19).

Her father was an Interior Department Foreign Service officer with the Point Four program in Iran, where Janet graduated high school. There, she fell in love with Persian poetry after hearing poems by Rumi, a 13th-century Persian poet.

A Fulbright scholar, Janet trained teachers at Cal State LA and around the world – China, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Philippines, Mexico, Costa Rica, Germany, and Egypt – how to teach languages. "Every country I lived in, I learned about that nation's poetry," says Janet.

As a contestant on the TV quiz show, *The Joker's Wild*, Janet bested a gourmet chef on a food question to take first place. "When I heard the question, 'What is the fruit of Kirschwasser?' I thought, 'That's the end for me,'" recalls Janet. "My opponent answered, 'Orange.' I knew that 'Kirsch' is 'Cherry' in German. I won a car, money, and oddball things like a case of beef-flavored Rice-A-Roni."

Janet has authored several books. *Body Parts: A Collection of Poems About Aging* contains her poems that she read at city council meetings in the early 2000s. Next came *Body Language: Another Collection of Poems About Aging*.

Proceeds from both books go to a scholarship endowment for biology students in memory of Janet's son, David, a marine biologist who died in 1999. "Poetry helps deal with loss and grief," says Janet. "Poetry opens the heart and soul and helps us move on."

Proceeds from *Going to the Dogs and Other Critters* are donated to the Boneyard, Culver City's only dog park. Proceeds from *Culver City's Centennial Poetry Collection* go to the Culver City



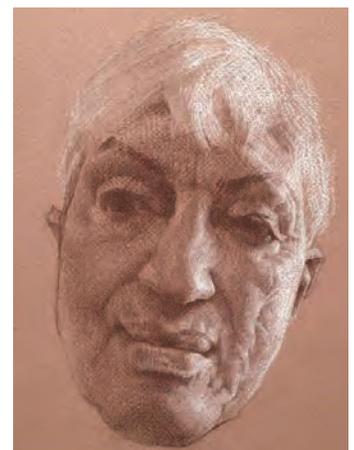
Keyhole Sunset - Photographed from a hot air balloon above San Elijo Lagoon near Del Mar, October 2006.

"Shape Poetry," is shaping the poem to mirror the image of what is being written about.

Keyhole Sunset

by Janet Hoult 12/2013

The sun,
balancing
on the horizon,
filters through
a dark marine haze
and resembles
a keyhole
waiting
for
some
one
to
open
the
sky



Dr. Janet Cameron Hoult
Painted by Alexey Steele, Culver City's
Artist Laureate 2020-22, as part of the
"Love My Neighbor" project.

Historical Society.

Fans of the solar eclipse, Janet and her late husband, Charley, travelled the world to witness nine of them.

Experiences from Mexico, Peru, Egypt, and at sea in the Caribbean and the South Seas inspired the book, *Where Did the Sun Go? Myths and Legends of Solar Eclipses Around the World Told with Poetry and Puppetry*. Proceeds benefit FOTO - Friends of the Griffith Observatory

For the Great American Eclipse in August 2017, Janet set up a reflecting telescope at a Culver City park. "Hundreds of children looked at the eclipse through my astroscan. I may have inspired a few future astronomers out of that bunch," says Janet. "I'll do anything I can do to further good things that happen in this town."

WordPainting.net

FRESH FROM CCHS



Sascha Goldsmith

Journalism Club: Adapting and Enduring

By Sascha Goldsmith

For decades, the journalism program at CCHS has amplified student voices. Once a monthly student newspaper, it now consists of a dynamic student news website – **CCHSCentaurian.com** – a new monthly podcast on Instagram – **@cchscentaurian** – and a partnership with *Culver City Neighbors* magazine.

CCHS senior and Journalism Club President Brandon Kim mentors writers, facilitates meetings, and helps write podcast scripts. “As a writer who is passionate about contributing to ideological diversity, I have a responsibility to deliver truth and inform people in the community,” says Brandon. Inspired to pursue journalism and writing in college, Brandon hopes to become a staff writer for his future university’s student news outlets.

Freshman Sofia Pezo embraces Journalism Club as an opportunity for growth as a writer. “I hadn’t previously had the opportunity in middle school to write about my perspectives and have them read by peers, administrators, and Culver residents,” says Sofia. Provided with this platform, Sofia is able to enjoy the freedom she is given to express perspectives on relevant issues as well as write articles that encourage her to interact with her community.

When interviewing peers for Arts & Entertainment and opinion pieces, freshman Hana Varsano has been able to engage with several different perspectives and even become aware of new campus events. “When I interviewed [Dance Director] Carol Zee for an article about how Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) programs

had been coping with new virtual norms, I was fascinated to learn of their new dance studio and dance concert events. I not only felt more deeply connected to the life of CCHS students but also to the lives of peers in the AVPA dance department,” close neighbors to Varsano’s own AVPA Theatre Department.

The Journalism Club’s advisor for the past 20 years, Penny Schulte, described the evolution of the program from a class that met daily and produced a monthly newspaper to a club that meets weekly at lunch and maintains a website and podcast, and contributes a monthly story to *Culver City Neighbors* magazine. “As newspapers disappeared, participation in the program waned,” she laments. However, “the pandemic has brought a renewed interest in writing for the website and this year we have one of the most active staffs ever.”

This year’s four editors (Brandon Kim, Allyn Matheson, Caitlin Polesetsky, and myself) founded *Centaurcast*, a podcast that brings controversial and engaging anecdotal experiences of fellow students to a broader audience. Through our carefully crafted episodes, we hope to interconnect our student community, sharing the diverse culture and backgrounds of our peers especially during a time when we have been unable to interact in person for the past year.

The first episode of the podcast featured the prevalent yet unspoken issue of ideological conformity on campus (political and otherwise), coined as Silencing Culture, in which Brandon Kim and I co-moderated

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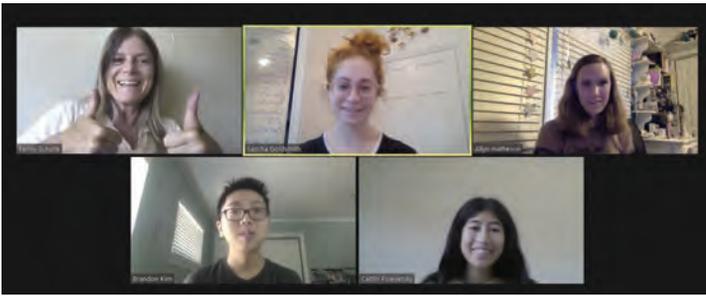
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Clockwise from upper-left: Penny Schulte (Adviser), Sascha Goldsmith (Publicist), Ally Matheson (VP), Caitlin Polesetsky (Copy Editor), and Brandon Kim (Pres).

interview-discussions and personal anecdotes with a variety of diverse students. Other episodes include the experiences of student-immigrants and environmental issues in Culver City, all through the eyes of Culver's youth.

Through the club's partnership with *Culver City Neighbors* magazine, students are able to amplify perspectives beyond the scholastic community. Copy Editor Caitlin Polesetsky says, "When I wrote an article for the magazine about the SOUP club, I was able to talk to people in my school's community, learn about how they come together to talk about heavy political topics and engage in civil discourse."

Journalistic outlets for students are vital, according to freshman staff writer Jonathan Kim, especially considering the "Iron curtain-like" barrier (quarantine) that has inhibited the growth of our personal



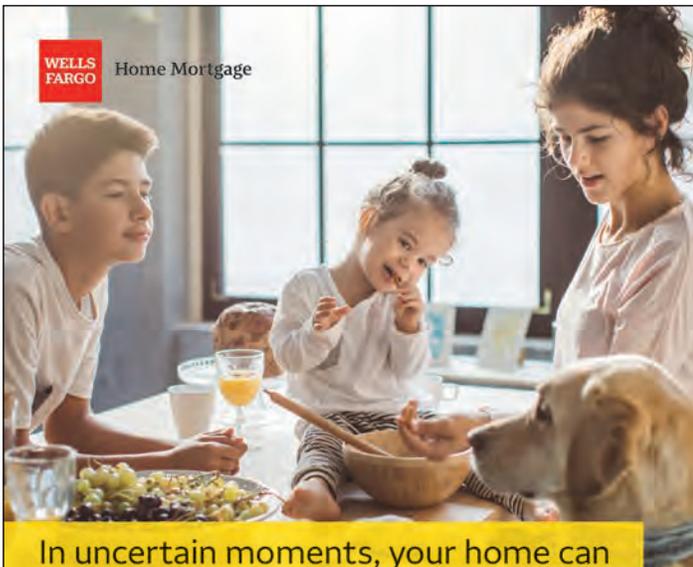
Top row: Penny Schulte, Sascha Goldsmith, Brandon Kim, Caitlin Polesetsky, Diana Miguel; Middle row: Alice Lewicki, Maggie Blaisdell, Jonathan, Kim, Lila O'Reilly, Annika Budhwani; Bottom row: Naomi Saldanha, Sofia Pezo, Ella Zare, Hana Varsano

communication skills. "Regardless of the career I choose, learning how to eloquently deliver my words is a valuable asset to have," Jonathan says.

Perhaps, the Journalism Club's growing roster of writers and new platforms will poke holes through that isolation barrier, further allowing us to engage in the lives of the people in our community.

The Centaurian: CCHSCentaurian.com
Centaurcast podcast on Instagram: @cchscentaurian

Sascha Goldsmith is a fourth-year member of the Journalism Club and is currently the publicist, media editor, and a moderator for the new "Centaurcast" podcast. She enjoys writing news and opinion articles and is interested in astrophysics and engineering.



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CULTIVATING COURAGE WITH CHAILLE

Perfectionism

By Chaille Defaria, PCC, CDWF



Chaille DeFaria

Shame is the birthplace of perfectionism. In the back of your mind, do you focus on what others think of you? Do you worry how the world might perceive you? If so, you may be a perfectionist, like me.

It's a process of addiction. When I try to get it "perfect," I never win. That voice, the one that criticizes my every move, is right there on my shoulder reminding me that I could do it better next time.

We are convinced that if we work harder, try harder, are the perfect parent, and have the perfect body, we can avoid shame, blame, and criticism. Not true. It keeps us from being seen. It holds us back from being who we want to be.

We must stand in a new perspective so we can change our behavior. To make this shift, we must understand and practice the opposite of perfectionism, which is *striving for excellence*.

Working hard and striving to be our best self is internally motivated and *not* externally motivated. As humans, we are made of strength and struggle. We are imperfect. We each have a story. We are enough right now, here in this moment.

I have lived and breathed perfectionism. I believed if I stopped pulling out my lashes and brows that my life would be perfect. I would over-prepare and review things a million times so I would not make a mistake.

Not anymore! I get anxious when I face my perfectionism, so now I pause and ask myself if I am being motivated from the inside out or the outside in? I remind myself that it will not be perfect because it never can be. I will make mistakes, and when I do I know that I may have given someone else in the room permission to fail, and I know that I am not alone.

This practice has opened up so much opportunity for me. I lean into my strengths before the fear arrives, and I play big instead of playing small. And the greatest take away: I have fun. I stay present and away from comparison.

Comparison is the thief of happiness.

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Chaille DeFaria is a Certified Professional Co-Active Coach, Professional Certified Coach, Certified Neuroscience Coach, and a member of TLC board of directors.

She coaches adults, young adults, teens and parents around the world virtually.

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Discovering Art in Culver City Gardens Strawberry Candy Reblooming Daylilies

By Francia Turner Fate



Francia Turner Fate

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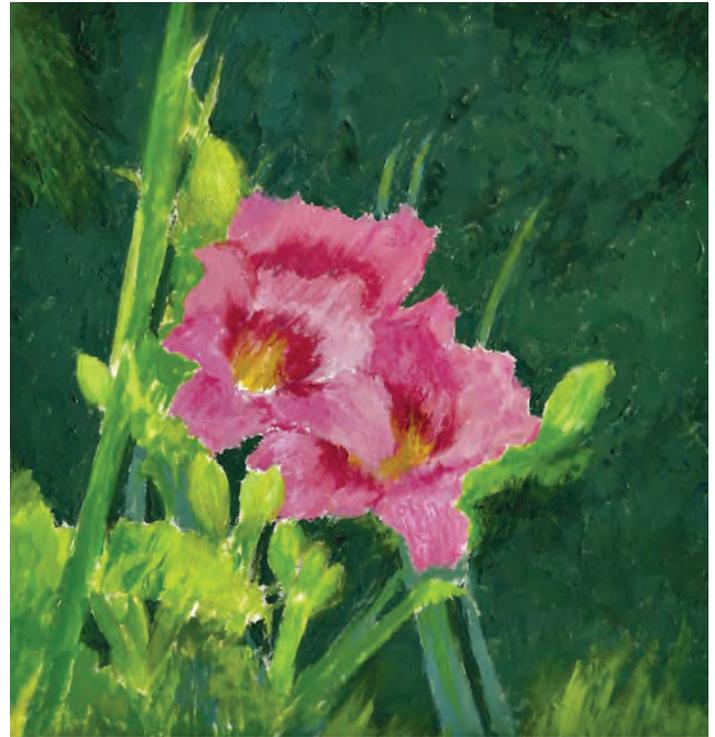
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Francia Turner Fate is an award-winning author and artist of both children's and art travel books. She received her Bachelor of Fine Art and Master of Arts degrees from Oxford University.



Strawberry Candy Daylilies, Painting By Francia Turner Fate

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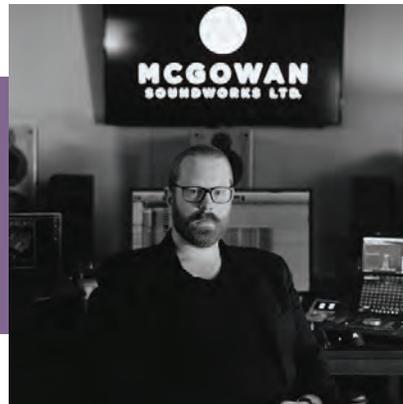
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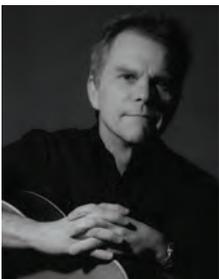
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Phil McGowan

Photo by Brian Wertheim

By John DeFaria



John DeFaria

Phil McGowan is an accomplished music engineer and scoring mixer. Owner of McGowan Soundworks LTD, he specializes in music recording, mixing, and score production for film, television, and video games.

Growing up in Maine, Phil took a keen interest in music at a young age. His parents played keyboards and inspired him to take piano lessons in grade school.

Later, he developed a fascination with recording techniques and music technology.

Phil enrolled at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston. During his tenure at Berklee, Phil made a few fact-finding trips to LA where he toured studios and made acquaintances based on his professor's connections.

When he left for the trip, Phil believed that his professional goal was to become a composer. Upon returning to Boston, that was no longer the case. Phil's LA experience modified his ambition and he discovered that he preferred work as an audio engineer and mixer for the Hollywood film and TV business – what became his "dream job."

In 2009, Phil earned a Bachelor of Arts in music production and

engineering. In 2010, he moved to LA and landed an assistant-engineer gig his first week here. He and his wife, Leanne, moved to Culver City from Mid City in 2019. They immediately fell in love with Lindberg Park and bought a house in the neighborhood.

Nominated for a 2020 Primetime Emmy in the category of Outstanding Sound Mixing For A Comedy Or Drama Series (One Hour) for his work on the successful Netflix show *Ozark*, Phil has engineered and mixed a long list of television and film projects – *Vikings*, *Helstrom*, *Cobra Kai*, *The Outsider*, *The Banker*, *Fear the Walking Dead*, *American Gods*. and *The Borgias*.

These days, Phil has been working on his pilot's license at the Hawthorne Airport. He says, "My dream as a kid was to join the military and learn to fly, and then become a commercial pilot," says Phil. "If I could be a part-time pilot and a score mixer, I would do that!"

McGowanSoundworks.com

John DeFaria is a composer/guitarist who's recorded and toured with Gloria Estefan, Kenny Loggins, Jon Anderson of Yes, Kitaro, and Ambrosia. He continues to compose and place music on TV shows for the Discovery Channel, Warner Bros., ABC, Bravo, and Lifetime.

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By Michael Fate, ESQ

New Family Rights Act Expands Family Leave Protections

Senate Bill 1383, the Family Rights Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2021, extended family-leave protections to employees at California businesses having five or more employees. Previously, only businesses having 50 or more employees were required to provide family leave. The new law also significantly expanded the state's existing family and medical leave entitlements.



The Act requires companies with five or more employees to allow those employees up to 12-weeks of unpaid job-protected leave during any 12-month period to care for a newborn or newly adopted child or a sick family member for certain covered reasons. It expanded the definition of "family member" to include grandparents, grandchildren, siblings, and in-laws and also assures that the employees' jobs will be waiting for them after their leave.

The Act contains other significant changes. It requires an employer that employs both parents of a child to grant up to 12-weeks of leave to each employee. Under prior law, the employer only had to give both employees a combined total of 12-weeks of leave. It also added a qualification related to covered active duty or a call to covered active duty of an employee's spouse, domestic partner, child, or parent in the United States Armed Forces.

The employer must maintain and pay for the employee's coverage under a group health plan for the length of the leave at the level and under the same conditions that coverage would have been provided if the employee had remained in continuous employment for the length of the leave.

Under the Act, to qualify for family and medical leave, employees will still need to meet eligibility requirements, including 12-months of service and 1,250 hours worked for the employer in the previous 12-month period.

The foregoing discussion is intended solely as a general overview of the law, is not to be considered as legal advice and may not apply to the reader's particular case. Readers are cautioned to consult with legal counsel of their own selection with respect to any specific situation. Copyright ©2021 by Michael Fate - MichaelFateLaw.com



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Culver City Rotary Plaza

By Carmela Raack

Culver City Rotary Club members reflect with pride on the largest undertaking in club history: the sponsorship and building of Culver City Rotary Plaza, dedicated April 30, 1986. This 100-unit low-income housing for senior citizens and disabled persons was accomplished through a collaborative effort.

Social gatherings have not been permitted since COVID. During the pandemic, strict safety measures and precautions were successful in keeping the facility COVID-19 free. The vaccine became available for residents in early February.

During normal times, groups play Mahjong (tile rummy) or cards. Others visit in the Community Room or enjoy a snack. Jigsaw puzzles would be put together. Sometimes there would be a delicious potluck. Some would knit or crochet while watching TV with other residents. There are several meeting areas, a gym, and laundry rooms on each of the four floors. A shuttle bus, donated by Culver City Rotary, takes residents to the grocery store, medical appointments, or shopping.

To build Rotary Plaza, the Rotary Club applied for a loan from HUD, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Culver City's City Council and Redevelopment Agency made land available at the corner of Virginia and Overland Avenues. The Retirement Housing Foundation was selected to be a partner for Culver City Rotary Plaza.

The HUD application was approved in 1983, for a \$4.7 million loan. The balconies, landscaping, and a fountain were funded through the Redevelopment Agency. Thirty-years after the plaza's dedication, the entire complex was totally updated and remodeled with the rededication in 2019. Rotary Plaza has a waiting list of over 1,000.

Culver City Rotary, the Culver City High School Interact Club, and Girl Scout Troop 7965 have provided "cheer" by delivering flowers, Halloween candy bags, activity books, handmade cards, and a Holiday gift bag. The residents loved their hot traditional



L-R: Phil Tangelakis, Culver City Rotary; Meghan Sahli-Wells, Culver City Vice Mayor (Former); Chuck Perelman, President Culver City Rotary Community Foundation and club member when the plaza was built; Lyn Caron, Rotary and President of the Board of Rotary Plaza; Rev. Dr. Laverne Joseph, President and CEO Retirement Housing Foundation.

Photo by Club President Rod Miyata

Thanksgiving meal! The Girl Scouts gave out Valentine cards this year as they did last year. One resident told a Girl Scout that the Valentine was the first one that she ever received! Efforts to keep in touch will be planned and continue throughout the year.

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For information about how you can be a part of Rotary's efforts, email CulverCityRotay@gmail.com or call Janet Chabola, 310.621.7137



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Culver City Airport Part III – Final Words

By Hope Parrish



Hope Parrish
President, Culver City
Historical Society

Did you know...

I cannot seem to figure out who actually owned the land where the Culver City Airport was located and who leased it over the years to various aviators. Perhaps it was privately owned or even part of a Spanish land grant.

After Aviatrix Margaret Perry's one-year lease on CC Airport ownership expired in the mid-1930s (Part II – February issue), she returned to New York, and Paul "Pete" Leaman showed up.

A WWI veteran with a passion for flight, Pete got his pilot's license in 1928 and took over the airport operations and flight school.

I came across his 1942 WWII draft card. It states that he was employed at Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica and he and his wife, Harriet, resided at 4054 Madison Ave. Apt C in Culver City. Some researchers suggest he may have purchased the airport property in 1941, but this is not clear.

Just two miles from the center of Culver City, Pete taught celebrities, local residents, and city officials how to fly. Pete's protégé and airport flight instructor, Beryl Erikson, would later become a noted test pilot for Consolidated and Lockheed. They also helped famed aviators with their flying careers.

As the airport continued to grow, Pete sold new and used planes and provided hangar space for a fee. The airport developed a nickname,

Photo Courtesy Larry Leaman



Culver City Airport circa late 1940s.

Photo Courtesy Michael De Marquette



CC Airport location superimposed upon map of Culver City today.

"Lach Leaman" ("Lake" in German) due to the flooding when it rained.

In the spring of 1949, the Goodyear Blimp offered aerial sightseeing from the Culver City Airport. A 25-minute flight cost

\$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. But this was short lived.

In 1950, post-WWII developers Richard Diller and Irving L. Kalsman began developing affordable homes across Southern California and the nation for our returning GIs. Locally, they developed in Beverlywood, Whittier Estates, Van Nuys Gardens, Encino Gardens, Sunkist Gardens (Compton), and Sunkist Park in Culver City.

Diller and Kalsman purchased the airport and its adjoining properties for \$6.5 million and created our Sunkist Park community. Here they built 602, two and three-bedroom homes with five different floor plans at a price tag of \$10,700 - \$11,100.

Veterans purchased these homes with an \$840 down payment plus impounds. Monthly payments started at \$55 for principal and interest. FHA was available for non-vets. This brought major changes to town, lots of housing, a Mayfair market (Big Lots), bowling alley, (Dollar Tree property), local businesses, and restaurants.

My research leads me to conclude that I would have to say "Yes," many of my Sunkist Park friends live on the old airport property.



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Curious about something in Culver City's past? Send your query to Culver City Historical Society President Hope Parrish at ccprops@earthlink.net and you might read her answer to your history question in *Culver City Neighbors*.

Native and third-generation Culver City-resident Hope Parrish is the Culver City Historical Society president. CCHS Archives & Resource Center (ARC) is closed until further notice.

Photo Courtesy Culver City Historical Society



Paul "Pete" Leaman



Photo Courtesy Larry Leaman



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A Minute With The Mayor

By Alex Fisch, Mayor of Culver City

Happy New Year, friends and neighbors! As 2021 takes shape, the end of the COVID-19 emergency is beginning to come into view. "Normal" is still a ways off, won't arrive all at once, and might not look quite the same as we remember the pre-pandemic world, but it's coming. In the meantime, Culver City is working hard to help you thrive in adversity.

Working Toward A Local Vaccination Site

Although Culver City does not have its own health department like some cities, we are working hard to receive approval from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to provide a site for a Medical Point of Dispensing, or MPOD, where residents can be vaccinated conveniently.

Supporting Local Arts

The City is also working to sustain the arts and keep you culturally stimulated. Culver City's musicians, dancers, actors, and arts organizations are going virtual with online music, theatre, and dance

performances. You can see shows that are supported by the Culver City Performing Arts Grant Program and the Cultural Affairs Commission on the City website at CulverCity.org/Explore/Arts-Culture/Events. Sign up for the City's email list, or follow us on Instagram and Facebook to find out when in-person performances resume. You can also enjoy performances by Vox Femina and the Culver City Symphony Orchestra on YouTube.



Buy Local Culver City

We are also calling on residents to think local first and #ChooseCulverCity when shopping, dining, or requiring services. Buying local keeps businesses open, stimulates the regional economy, provides jobs, and maintains the community character and quality of life that makes Culver City such a special place.

Now is the time to support local businesses to ensure their survival and success. If you're not comfortable going into a store, you can still shop local! Many of our businesses offer online shopping, shipping, home delivery, and curbside pickup. Just ask!

When you choose Culver City, you choose community! CulverCity.org/News/Choose-Culver-City-Buy-Local-Campaign

It is a great privilege to serve as mayor. I look forward to seeing you in person again soon.

Sincerely,
Alex Fisch

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All Together Now... Investing in Art's Power to Uplift and Inspire, When We Really Need It

By Jennifer Caspar



Jennifer Caspar
Photo by Jack Zellweger

This time last year, as the country went into lockdown, the Culver City Arts Foundation (CCAF) responded quickly by creating a community art project that serves two purposes: quickly getting grants into the hands of artists, and uplifting the community through public art.

In an effort to find comfort and connectedness through art, architecture, and design, CCAF partnered with Helms Bakery to launch *Projecting Possibilities*, a video installation featuring a new artist each week for 52 weeks. It's an entire year of rotating digital art exhibitions that celebrates, nourishes, supports, and promotes artists. It's also free, socially safe (viewed from the sidewalk), accessible, innovative, and uplifting.

"Art and creativity are essential to our resilience as a community," says Foundation Chair Kathy Sue Holtorf. "This past year has been so difficult. The amount of impact the local creative industry has had and the amount of resiliency we've witnessed has been truly phenomenal.

"Our mission is to give grants to all types of artists," continues Holtorf. "Dubbed the Creative Capital of the U.S., the power that arts have in our city is unparalleled. This program helps sustain our economy – we're supporting 52 artists with small grants. A little

drop in the bucket in one person's hand stimulates the economy immediately. We're also uplifting the community as a whole."

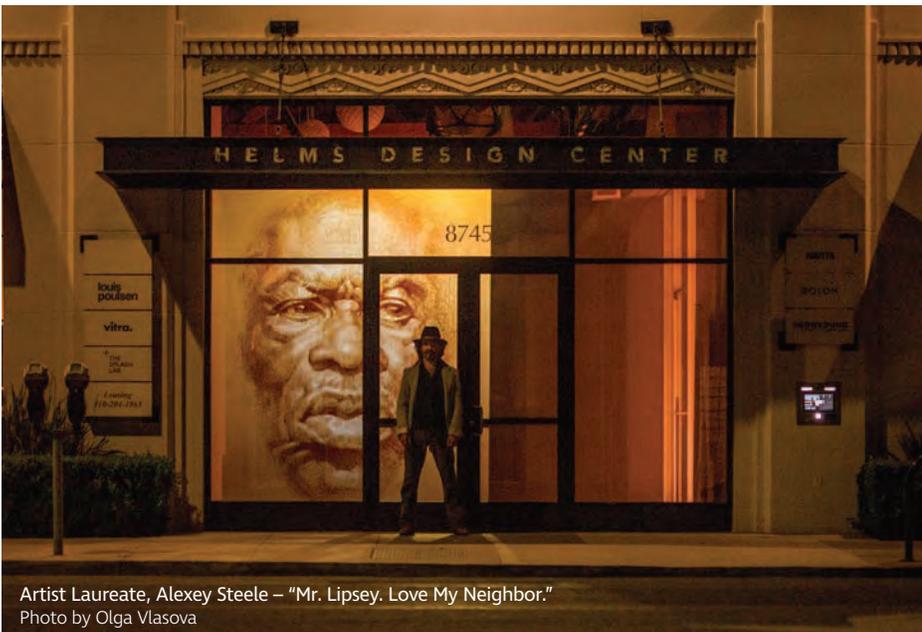
The inaugural featured artist, painter Alexey Steele, Culver City's Artist Laureate, says, "*Projecting Possibilities* carried a particular significance to me as an artist. It's a groundbreaking way to present art directly to the public while cultural institutions are shut."

CCAF recently launched the Artists Emergency Resiliency Fund campaign to raise funds for arts and artists in our community via the sale of #culvercityresilient lawn sign and creative digital events.

"The art that happens in our city impacts all of us; and the art that is made here is shared internationally," adds Holtorf. "We're affecting people globally and promoting resiliency around the world through our art and actions, from right here in Culver City."

CulverArts.org / #culvercityresilient
HelmsBakeryDistrict.com/projecting-possibilities

Jennifer Caspar is owner of Village Well Books and Coffee, a general-interest bookstore and gathering place in Downtown Culver City. She brings her 30 years of experience in nonprofit community development to the space and uses it to highlight social causes and the organizations working to make our community better for all its members.



Artist Laureate, Alexey Steele – "Mr. Lipsey. Love My Neighbor."
Photo by Olga Vlasova

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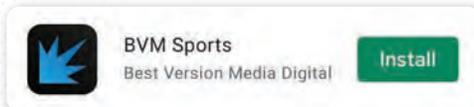
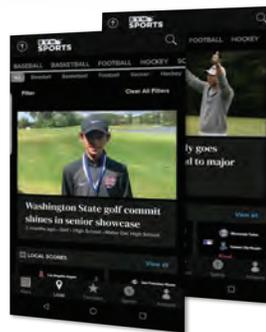
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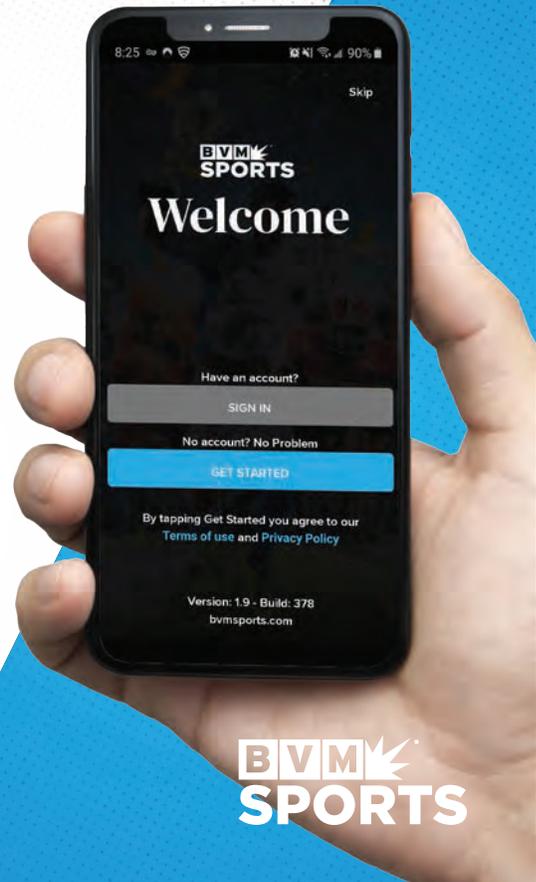
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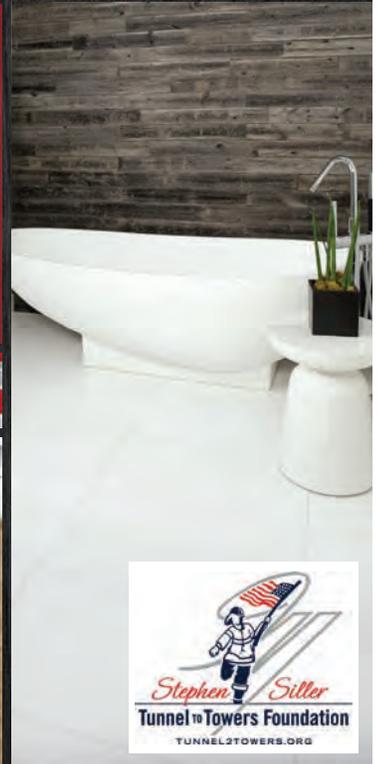
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