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# Palisadian-Post 90272

magazine

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### Things to do in Pacific Palisades



PHOTO COURTESY OF STREET FOOD CINEMA



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#### Tuesday, August 27

6 p.m.

The Art Association General Meeting will feature guest speaker Katy Krantz, who will discuss her work in painting, ceramics and her public works. Palisades Branch Library, paliart.org

#### Thursday, August 29

10 a.m.

Kids Club features The Wacko Show, a magician with a unique style that has made him a family favorite throughout California. Palisades Village, palisadesvillageca.com

#### Friday, August 30

8 p.m.

Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap" opens at Theatre Palisades. Performances take place Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through October 6. Pierson Playhouse, theatrepalisades.org

#### Saturday, September 7

8 p.m.

Street Food Cinema presents "10 Things I Hate About You." Will Rogers State Historic Park, streetfoodcinema.com

#### **Tuesday, September 10**

5 p.m.

Tuesday is Family Night at The Draycott with Balloons & Bubbles. Reservations suggested. The Draycott, thedraycott.com

#### 5:30 p.m.

The Pacific Palisades Woman's Club and Chamber of Commerce join together for a Social/Business Mixer for its September General Membership Meeting. Pacific Palisades Woman's Club, the ppwc.org

#### Saturday, September 14

8 p.m.

An evening of Luther Vandross, featuring Ruben Studdard. Pepperdine University, arts. pepperdine.edu

#### Sunday, September 15

2 p.m.

Blake Pouliot plays violin as part of a recital series. Pepperdine University, arts.pepperdine.edu

#### **Tuesday, September 17**

3:30 p.m.

Family story time for families to improve reading skills and learn rhymes. Palisades Branch Library, lapl.org

#### **Thursday, September 19**

Teen Culinary Hour, where tweens ages 9 to 18 can learn to make a cous cous salad. Palisades Branch Library, lapl.org



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARISSA HERMER



## FINDING A SOLUTION

Sheila Morovati is asking Palisadians to collect their crayons and cut out cutlery.

BY SARAH SHMERLING

ighlands resident Sheila Morovati has been making waves in Pacific Palisades and beyond since she launched her nonprofit, Crayon Collection, in 2009.

Now that the organization has broken a Guinness World Record by collecting more than one million crayons, Morovati is expanding her horizons: cutting out plastic cutlery.

"We convinced Uber Eats to launch this idea in 10 cities nationwide," Morovati explained to 90272 Magazine, "so that the norm would be that no one receives cutlery unless they opt in for it."

Morovati went on to explain that there are 40 billion pieces of plastic cutlery being thrown away and going into our oceans each year. Most of the utensils go unused because restaurants will automatically include them in to-go orders.

Through the recently launched Habits of Waste, an all-encompassing campaign of things that people can do to reduce waste, Morovati is encouraging community members to reach out to major food delivery services to request an opt-in option for receiving single-use plastic cutlery. Just one click will send the message to a handful of the biggest names, including Postmates and Grubhub.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHEILA MOROVATI

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"Our founder, Sheila Morovati, sees habitual waste throughout society and creates change to protect our environment," the Habits of Waste website reads. "She successfully spearheaded the ban on single-use plastic straws and cutlery in the city of Malibu." Morovati said that she knows many Palisadians who have a drawer full of plastic cutlery they received with food delivery service orders that they did not request and that they feel guilty throwing away.

"I believe that Habits of Waste is really here to come

up with system solutions to give people the chance to do better," Morovati shared. "We all want to do the right thing, but it feels like everything is going against us."

Next up, Morovati and her team will head to Sacramento, hoping to make it so that all restaurants are





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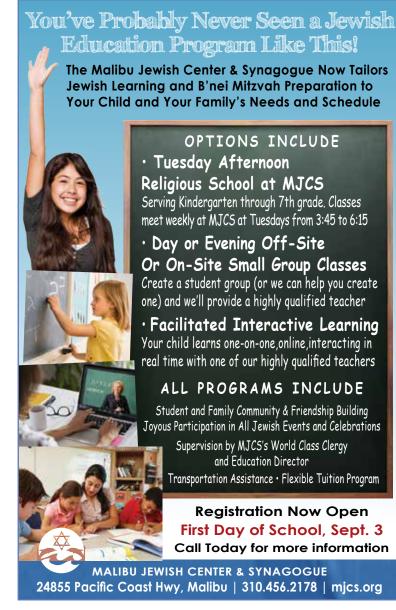
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We all want to do the right thing, but it feels like everything is going against us.

required to provide single-use cutlery only by request.

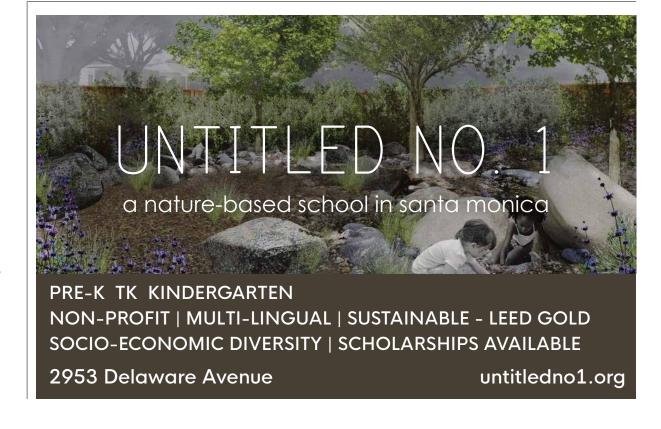
Morovati is still hard at work on Crayon Collection as well, which is celebrating National Crayon Collection Month this August.

"We did that because we realized that teachers are expected to spend a yearly average of \$900 on school supplies out of pocket and we know that restaurants are throwing away 150 million crayons per year," Morovati explained. "So why not use the resources that we have around us nationally to then support each other?"

Morovati is encouraging Palisadians to save their crayons, because on September 8, she is hosting a party with Palisades Village where party-goers can enter with a donation of crayons.

In mid-August, Morovati also spearheaded a donation of 50,000 crayons to children at the border through Border An-

"We just want the support of the community that we're born into," Morovati explained. "There's a huge organization growing right in our little tiny community that's affecting millions and millions of children."





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## FRESH FALL FACES

Tips and tricks for putting your best face forward as summer comes to an end.

BY JENNIKA INGRAM

fter a fun-filled summer of beach days and extensive activities, you may find your skin is in need of a little pampering or extra care.

90272 Magazine spoke to local skincare professionals for their tips, best products and treatments to help you put your best face forward.

"Don't stop wearing your SPF," said Lovely Laban, clinical director at Skin By Lovely. "This one should come as no surprise. We don't want to stop protecting our skin from UV damage just because the hot summer days are behind us."

Laban added that wearing and reapplying sunscreen on a daily basis protects skin from sunburns and skin cancers, and protects against premature aging, such as wrinkles and sunspots.

One sunscreen she recommends is Total Defense and Repair Broad Spectrum Sunscreen SPF 34 by SkinMedica.

Fall is the perfect time to add retinol into a nightly skincare routine because people start to spend less time outside, Laban said.

"Retinol is a powerhouse anti-aging product that encourages cell turnover to help diminish and prevent fine lines and wrinkles," she explained. "Use vitamin C during the day, and if your skin feels uneven, blotchy or rough, consider scheduling an appointment for a chemical peel."

"Exfoliation is big for fall," said Cassandra Sepulveda-Scenlona, a team representative for Botanica Bazaar in Palisades Village. "Acid-infused essences and masks are a great way to keep your summer glow throughout the fall."

Her first recommendation is the Prism Exfoliating Glow Potion by Herbivore, a lightweight serum with natural fruit acids that you put on after cleansing.

"It helps to reduce redness, makes the skin super glowy, exfoliates and sloughs off any dead skin," she said.

Sepulveda-Scenlona also suggested the Resurfacing Mask from Tata Harper.

"This one has pomegranate enzymes and pink clay," Sepulveda-Scenlona shared.

Another important aspect of skincare? Staying hydrated.

Laban explained that the upcoming cooler air may make your skin feel more dry than it has been.

She advocated using a thicker moisturizer than usual, and said, "Listen to your skin."



PHOTO BY JENNIKA INGRAM

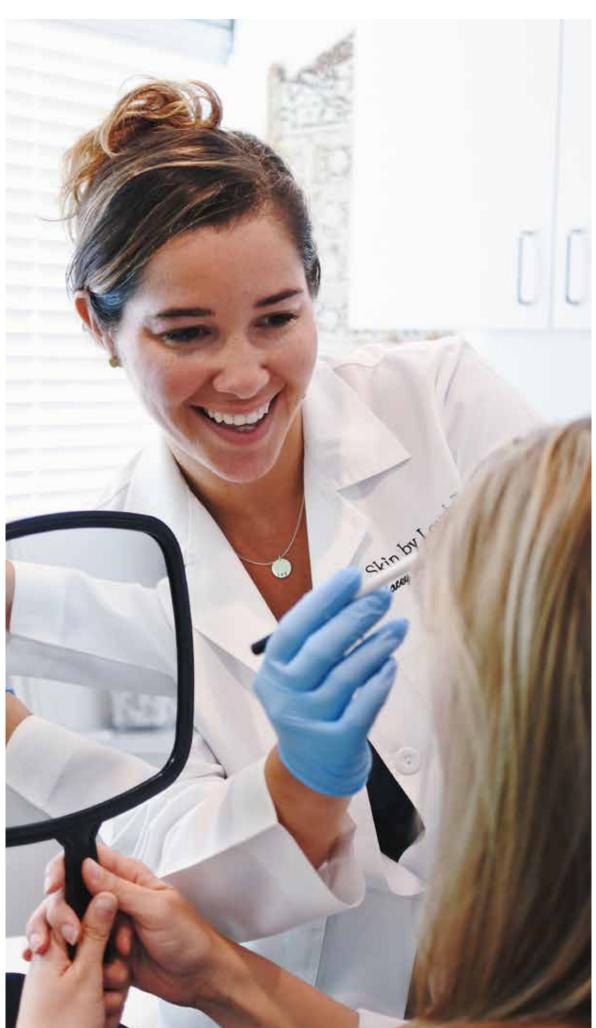
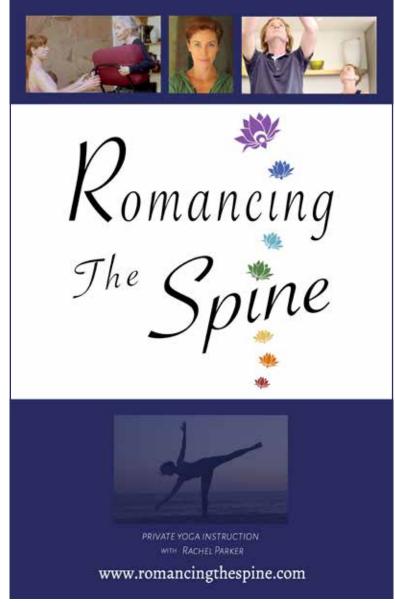


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Views from Los Liones Trail

### HIT THE TRAIL

Back to school season can also mean back to health with one of these local trails.

BY SARAH SHMERLING

e're lucky in Pacific Palisades because, apart from a handful of days, the weather stays perfect for hiking year-round. But for those of us who were too busy (or lazy) this summer to take advantage of local trails, now is a great time to get back out there.

"Hiking outdoors provides enormous health benefits," Lisa Taitelman, Palisadian and founder of Finding Your Trail, shared with 90272 Magazine. "For starters, you can get your dose of vitamin D for an immune booster. A hike through nature in just 90 minutes is proven to lower stress, and boost motivation as well as brain health."

Taitelman added that hiking also gives people a sense of purpose and clarity, increasing positivity, improving heart health, lowering cortisol levels and releasing serotonin.

"It gives you a sense of strength in yourself that you didn't know you had," Taitelman continued. "You feel grounded and connected. It gives you an enormous sense of accomplishment as well as takes you out of your comfort zones, physically and mentally. It makes you think you are stronger than you think you are when you get to the top of a mountain."

Taitelman shared that she always feels better after a hike.

"Just imagine how much

better you will feel when you are actually experiencing nature in all its glory," she shared, "feeling the sun on your shoulders, breathing in fresh air with dramatic views, clear blue sky above, maybe even spotting a deer or two and feeling the earth beneath you, grounding you."

Here are some of the hikes Taitelman suggested in the Palisades:

#### Los Liones Trail

The Los Liones Trail weaves up the canyon at the south end of Topanga State Park, one mile from the Pacific Ocean. The 2.6mile trail—out and back—takes approximately 1.5 hours and has



Paseo Miramar

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After 1.3 miles of hiking, the trail arrives at a clearing that offers sweeping views of Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica and the Pacific Ocean. Along the hike, there are ample views of the Santa Monica Bay.

At the top of the trail, hikers who want to extend their trip can take East Topanga Fire Road, which continues to the Parker Mesa Overlook.

The entrance to Los Liones Trail is located on the right side of the cul-de-sac at approximately 580 Los Liones Drive.

#### Paseo Miramar Trail

Paseo Miramar is a 4.9-mile moderately trafficked, out-andback trail, which takes anywhere from one to three hours to complete.

The trail, which follows Los Liones Trail for the first .9 miles, has been described as one of the "most iconic California" trails, with many options to extend the trek for those who are interested.

It is recommended to tackle

this trail early in the morning, when not only temperatures are lower, but finding parking nearby is easier.

#### **Temescal Canyon Trail**

Temescal Canyon Trail is a 2.9-mile loop that has been described as "moderate." The trail, which is primarily used for hiking, walking, trail running and bird watching, is accessible yearround and features a waterfall. The trail includes an elevation gain of 875 feet.

Some trail reviewers recommend taking the loop counterclockwise to be out in the open while it was cooler and shaded on the way down.

Temescal Canyon Trail offers views of the Santa Monica Mountains, Pacific Ocean and Pacific Palisades throughout the trek.

The entrance to Temescal Gateway Park is located at Temescal Canyon Road and Sunset Boulevard.

#### **Trailer Canyon Trailhead**

Described as a lightly traf-

ficked, out-and-back trail, Trailer Canyon Trailhead features ample wild flowers and boasts a moderate rating.

The 4.3-mile trail, which weaves along a fire road, includes an elevation gain of 925 feet and features "great views" of the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounding canyons. The wide road provides easy travel, with an option to extend the hike to Temescal Peak.

Though dogs are not welcome, horses and mountain bikers are able to use the trail.

"We are so lucky to live in this beautiful place, surrounded by the Santa Monica Mountains and the Pacific Ocean," Taitelman shared. "It is in this place that I feel most alive, and we are blessed to have some of the most incredible hiking trails in North America."

And for those looking for a group to explore the trails with, Finding Your Trail has a six-week session starting in early January. For more information, visit lisataitelman.com.



Temescal Canyon

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALL TRAILS



Los Liones

PHOTO COURTESY OF YELP



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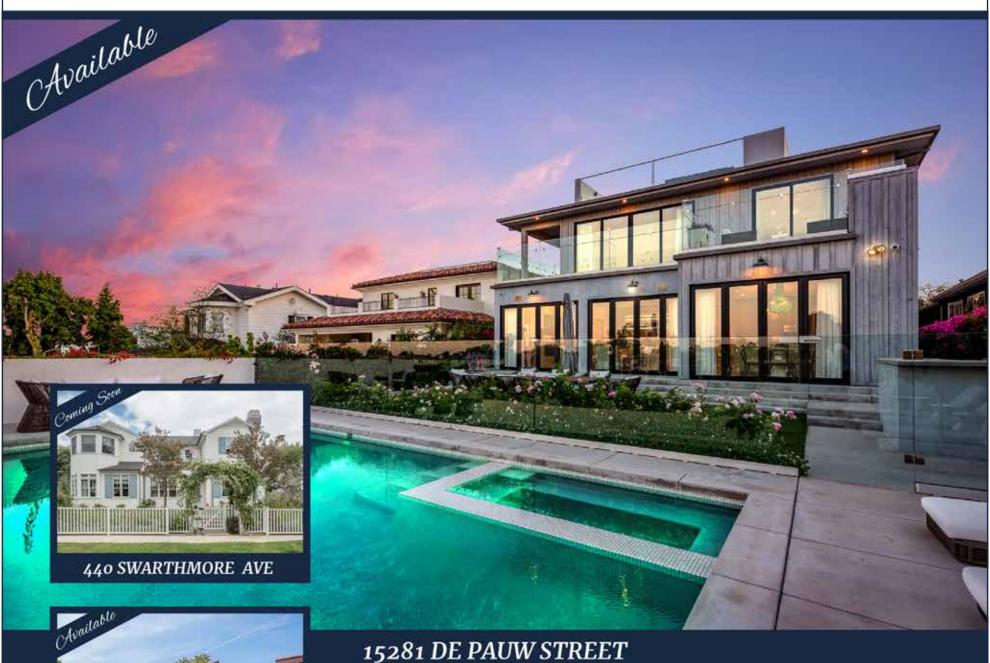




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### DEAR VANY

Junior Reporter and local fifth-grader Vanessa "Vany" Masterson answers questions in her latest advice column.

BY VANESSA MASTERSON



Dear Vany,

I'm starting at a new school this year and am scared. How can I make friends?

—Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It's pretty easy to make friends with the people you are going to see five days a week, seven hours a day.

On the first day, you will get your seats and you might sit across from someone who looks like a nice person. Maybe they like the same type of clothes as you or have a shirt with your favorite animal.

Go up to them and say, "Hi, I'm new. Could you show me where the cafeteria tables are?" Then, very causally, sit down with him/her and ask more questions about school.

Questions are GREAT ice breakers. Maybe later that week, say to her, "I honestly don't understand the math. Fractions are impos-

Find out their opinions on things. People will be hearing your name at roll call, and they will wonder who you are and want to hang out with you.

I promise you, lots of people will want to be friends by the end of the year. You will be fine. I hope this helps!

Sincerely, Vany

#### Dear Vany,

My mom won't let my friends use their cell phones when they come over for playdates. I feel angry and embarrassed about it. What should I do?

—Amy in 4th Grade

Dear Amy in 4th Grade,

My mom does this too sometimes. If your mom asks you and your friend for your phones as soon as you walk through the door and you feel embarrassed, just say to your friend, "Sorry, my mom is like that. We can do something else."

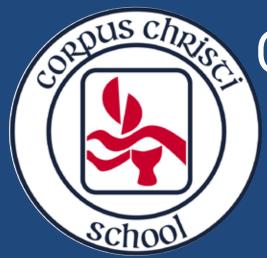
Before the playdate, tell your friend that your mom is little weird about phones and try to plan other things to do during the playdate. Maybe you could also go up to your mom when she is in a good mood and say, "Mom, do you think that for just 10 minutes of my playdate, we could use our phones?"

Also, promise you will do something productive for the rest of the time. If you have an activity, like a bath bomb making kit, you could promise to make them and then use the phones afterwards.

I hope all of this has helped! Thanks for writing and if you have any other questions make sure to just ask.

Sincerely, Vany

If you have a question for "Dear Vany," please send it in to mypost@palipost.com for consideration. \_



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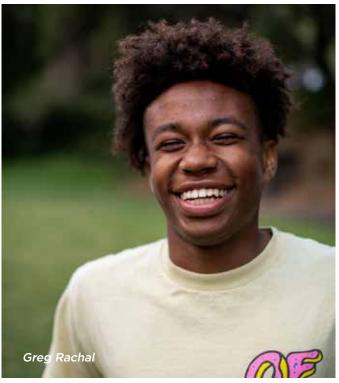














## THE FUTURE STARTS NOW

90272 Magazine sits down with the Pali High Ambassadors.

BY CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA

t wasn't hard for the Pali Ambassadors to wake up early on the first day of school after sleeping in all summer.

Because if anyone knew that the secret to life was getting out of bed to make what they had been dreaming about reality, it was these high-achieving students in the advanced ages of their teens.

Formed not only to help first-timers on campus, but also community members throughout the Palisades, the Pali Ambassadors spend close to 10 hours per week on club-related business, from giving new students campus tours to representing students at the after-hours meetings of the Pacific Palisades Community Council

and the Chamber of Commerce.

"It has to start with a drive," said Kavla Hayempour in an interview with 90272 Magazine when asked what it takes to become a Pali Ambassador. "When I first went on my tour as an incoming freshman, the second I saw the Ambassadors and what they were doing, I was like, 'Yes, this is totally what I want to do when I get to Pali."

But motivation is just the first step, as prospective Pali Ambassadors are required to undergo a three-step application process—a written prompt, a video entry and an in-person interview-all while keeping up with the high demands of being a student at Palisades Charter High School.

For the determined, the juggling act is possible and, in some cases, preferred over the educational structure of other schools.

"A lot of my friends go to other high schools like [Santa Monica High School] and a lot of them complain that they don't have a block schedule," said Willow Saxon, a senior. "So I feel like, even though sometimes Pali's classes are more rigorous, it's like your work is spread out because you have only certain classes every other day.

"I like having the time to think about

things, and I feel like my friends at other schools don't get that so much, they're kind of always overwhelmed."

#### **An Inside Perspective**

Palisadians might associate Pali High students with the pesky teenagers who infiltrate the village every afternoon when school lets out or kids in Supreme T-shirts, kickflipping their skateboards down Temescal Canyon.

While the stereotypes of high school might be fed by those anecdotes, it's much more complicated on the inside of that teenage bubble.

"I think that the way high school is



portrayed in movies is definitely not accurate to how it actually feels," senior Sharla Steinman said. "I think a lot of high school movies are focused on the social life and the parties, and all the fun stuff that comes with high school.

"But there's no movie about how hard AP classes are or social anxiety, because it's not fun and it's not entertaining to watch obviously."

For Eva Trevisan, a senior, the stresses of high school really go unseen and their time off is often mistaken for down time.

"I think that people would be shocked to know the amount of time students spend working doing homework, stressing and dedicating their time to school," Trevisan said. "I think a lot of people are under the impression that, once kids are out of school, it's time to relax and hang out with friends ... but in reality, I feel like a lot of kids are always thinking about school, always working really hard and always have a ton of work to do."

Unfortunately, the stresses of high school don't stop at the grades and college applications, as 2018 is

currently the worst year for gun violence in American schools. And while Pali High administrators have gone far out of their way to increase on-campus security, every student still enters the classroom looking over their shoulder.

"I feel safe at my school, but I feel more cautious," senior Greg Rachal said. "I'm always aware of my surroundings."

Avani Desai, a sophomore, said it is angering to have to think about gun violence at school.

"You look at statistics and this isn't happening anywhere else in the world, and it's upsetting," she said. But the school's efforts and safety awareness have made her feel comfortable in her coastal school.

Regardless of the many challenges facing students, one trend became clear: Pali High, in one form or another, has thought of it and made an effort to address it, with the Pali Ambassadors as one of those solutions.

"I'm confident that myself and all of my other senior friends really have the skills needed to thrive and survive in the real world," Pali Ambassador President Eli Safaie-Kia said.

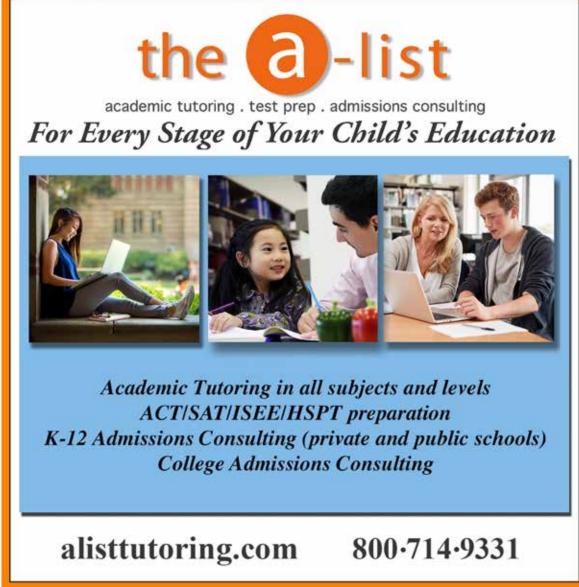
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-Eva Trevisan

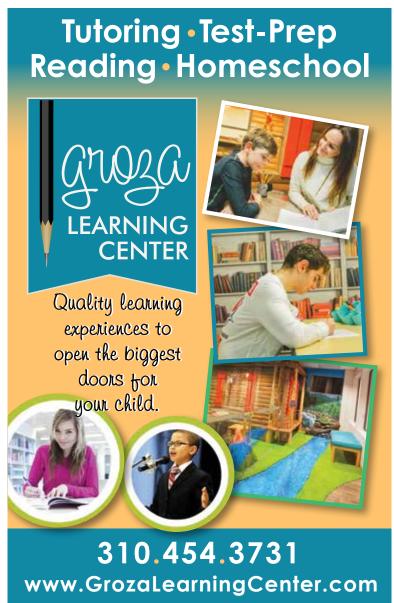


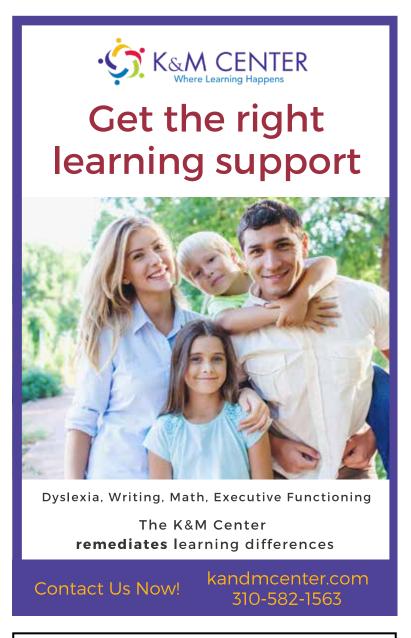
PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN MONTERROSA















## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many famous faces have graduated from Pali High—here are a few of the biggest names.

BY JARED HAMM

J.J. Abrams Class of '84



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

J.J. Abrams is a household name, with countless filmmaking credits on his resume. After attending Pali High, Abrams planned to go into dentistry but changed his mind and studied film at Sarah Lawrence College—following the steps of his producer parents.

One of his first movie jobs was at 15 years old, writing the music for Don Dohler's "Nightbeast" while still in high school. His senior year, he teamed up with Jill Mazursky to write his first feature film: "Taking Care of Business."

In the early 2000s, Abrams founded Bad Robot, the production company behind "Alias" and "Lost." Abrams made his feature directing debut in 2006 with "Mission: Impossible III," which sparked a revival of the franchise.

Following a 2009 "Star Trek" reboot and "Super 8," Disney and Lucasfilm revealed that Abrams was their choice for director of the first episode in the new Star Wars trilogy, "Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens." He returned to direct "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker," the third in the trilogy he started in 2015.

> Jeanie Buss Class of '79

Pali High grad and former Miss Palisades Jeanie Buss has made her name as a sports team owner.

Buss, the daughter of sports team owner Jerry Buss, started at the age of 19 as general manager of the Los Angeles Strings, a professional tennis team, while she was studying at USC.

"Basically my dad bought me the team," Buss has been quoted as saying.

The next team she worked with was roller hockey, owning the Los Angeles

After Buss' father passed away in 2013, she and her five siblings each received a share of the Lakers, with each sibling receiving an equal vote. Buss, who is controlling owner and president of the Lakers, has been called one of the top 20 most influential women in sports.



PHOTO BY RICH SCHMITT

Jay Schroeder Class of '79

Jay Schroeder is an NFL legend with a Super Bowl championship and a bright shining career of victories—and it all started at Pali High. After graduating, Schroeder played football for UCLA, where he only started one game, but became famous for a game-winning pass against future-NFL star Freeman McNeil.

After playing for UCLA, Schroeder was picked in 1984 in the third-round by the Washington Redskins. Schroeder came off the bench after an injury by Joe Theisman, and during that game, he threw for a 43-yard pass and eventually



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

won the game.

Soon after, Schroeder won a Super Bowl game against the Denver Broncos. The season after, he was traded to the Los Angeles Raiders, where he played for five seasons.

After he retired, Schroeder had a brief career in minor league baseball and was inducted into the Kinston Professional Baseball Hall of Fame.

> **Ted Stryker** Class of '89

Ted Stryker attended Paul Revere Junior High and Pali High before beginning a career as an American radio personality and disc jockey.

Stryker, whose on-air name comes from Robert Hays' character in the movie "Airplane!", began his radio career while attending the University of Arizona, working at 92.1 KFMA in Tucson, Arizona.

The first show he ever hosted was called "Who Knows the Band."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEDSTYKER.COM

Stryker eventually moved back to Los Angeles, where he began working at KROQ 106.7, which he called his "favorite radio station growing up," in 1999.

Throughout his career, Stryker has interviewed countless famous musicians, including MUSE, Jared Leto, Dave Grohl, Seth Macfarlane, Mark Hoppus, Tom DeLonge and more.

> **Forest Whitaker** Class of '79



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Since graduating Pali High, Forest Whitaker has become known as an American actor, producer and director who has earned a reputation for intensive character study work.

Whitaker was originally a football star, but gave up a sports scholarship to attend acting college. He began his career in film as a football player in "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

Whitaker also appeared in "The Color of Money" and "Platoon," with a role as the co-star in "Good Morning Vietnam."

He has won many awards for his acting, including a best actor award at the 1988 Cannes Film Festival and a Golden Globe nomination for his performance in Clint Eastwood's "Bird."

In 2006, Whitaker won an Academy Award, BAFTA Award, Golden Globe, National Board of Review Award and others for his performance in "The Last King of Scotland."



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## COOKING UP SOMETHING GOOD

Laura Lee and Renee Slama share tiny treats through Thimble Cakery.

BY SARAH SHMERLING

alisadian mom Laura Lee and longtime friend Renee Slama are cooking up something sweet, tiny and delicious.

"Having small kids, I want to reduce the amount of artificial dyes they consume, as there are so many harmful ingredients in kids' foods," Lee explained.

Rustic Canyon resident Lee, who recently moved to the Palisades, has two sons who attend Canyon Charter Elementary School.

"We were inspired to start Thimble Cakery because we both love to bake," the two shared. "We were both double majors in college and held down part-time jobs, but we always found time to cook and bake. We would make from-scratch apple pies and cream puffs in our tiny kitchen in Berkeley and invite friends over."

The two moms, who met when they were roommates at University of California, Berkeley, started Thimble Cakery so that their kids could enjoy tasty, portion-controlled desserts with no added preservatives or artificial food coloring.

Lee and Slama shared that as mothers to young children, they noticed that at parties, most kids did not finish their cake or cupcake, and that it was very messy to eat. When they planned parties for their children, they also noticed that they always had to provide plastic forks and plates to each party-goer if cake was being served.

"It was so wasteful," the two added. "We also noticed that almost all bakeries used artificial food coloring and we had many conversations about how artificial dyes may be harmful."

So, insert Thimble Cakery: made from the mom duo's love of delicious, made-from-scratch treats and their children. The business was started a little over a year ago.

"Our bite-sized treats are freshly baked, mom-tested and kid-approved," their website boasts. "Kids and adults alike will love popping our delectable, colorful and delicious morsels."

Slama, who lives in south Orange County, explained that their kitchen is in Long Beach—the mid-point between the Palisades and O.C.

"Our cupcakes are made from scratch, with only natural ingredients," Lee and Slama said. "We use no artificial dyes or flavors."

Thimble Cakery features sprinkles that have



been imported from Europe, as well as plantbased dyes. For example, their red dye is made from beets and red cabbage.

"And because our cupcakes are so small," they said, "you don't have to limit yourself to one flavor. Or you can limit yourself to one flavor, if you want to control your portion, your waistline or your kid's sugar intake."

Thimble Cakery cupcakes feature a range of 12 flavors, including strawberry, chocolate, mochi green tea and salted caramel. Their most popular flavors include red velvet, s'more and vanilla, though their personal favorites are the fruit cupcakes: orange, lemon and strawberry—which are all made with fresh fruit.

The two shared that being mothers is "tantamount to being business owners," but they try to keep a good balance by adhering to a schedule for Thimble Cakery's production and conference calls.

"We also support each other by being good friends," the pair added. "We talk shop, but we also make sure we take time to have lunches and not talk about work, as well as having playdates with our three respective children."

Lee and Slama said that they often will text about what they are cooking for their

And, Lee is settling into her new home in the Palisades just fine.

"The Palisades is a tight-knit community," Lee shared. "Even though we are in the heart of Los Angeles, the vibe is small-town. Everyone is friendly and it is an idyllic place to raise children."

Each week Slama and Lee sell their bite-sized treats at the Pacific Palisades Farmers Market.

"The PPFM is great because of the variety and quality of the vendors," the two said. "We joke that we take our Thimble Cakery sales and spend it on the fresh fruits and fish, breads, and guacamole from Guacamole King every week."

Anyone interested in ordering tiny treats from Thimble Cakery can email thimblecakery@gmail.com.



PHOTOS BY RICH SCHMIT





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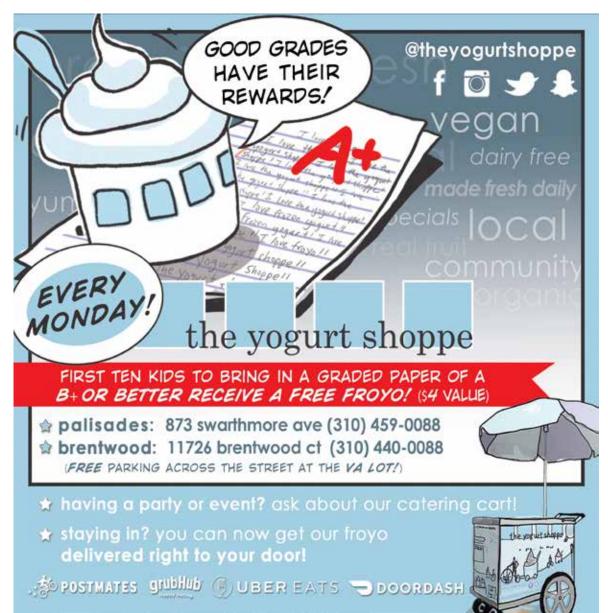
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### PICTURE-PERFECT PALISADES

Palisadian-Post/90272 Magazine intern Bita Adel-Zadeh captured a beautiful summer day in Pacific Palisades. To send in a photo for consideration in the next edition of Picture-Perfect Palisades, email mypost@palipost.com.

