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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail before moving to New York to write for Rupert Murdoch's newly launched Star magazine in 1978; Richard later wrote for New York magazine's "Intelligencer". He continues to make regular appearances on CBS, ABC, and CNN, and moved to Montecito seven years ago.

Losing Our Sol

One of our rarefied enclave's iconic watering holes, Café Del Sol, closed its doors at the weekend after nearly half a century in business.

The popular Mexican eatery, started by 79-year-old **Jack Sears**, was launched in the upper village in the premises of Pierre Lafond's Wine Bistro before moving to its longtime location just a tiara's toss away from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

"We couldn't work out a long-term lease agreement with the new property owner, **Rick Sanders**, and the business needed a lot of financial investment to make it all worthwhile," says manager and Jack's heir apparent, **Alfredo Arroyo**, 51, who took over running the bustling spot in December.

"I think Rick wants to go in a different direction."



Alfredo Arroyo, Manny Tellez, with Café Del Sol patrons Patricia Hines and Margarita Lande (photo by Priscilla)

Sanders, a former owner of the Hotel Andalucia downtown – now renamed the Canary – bought the

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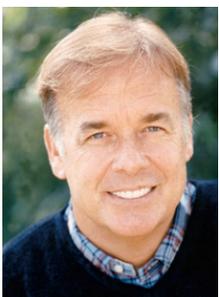
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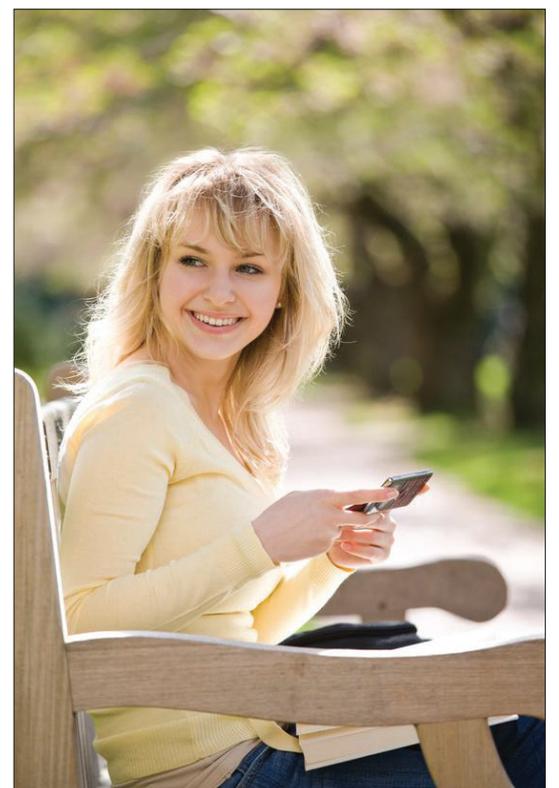
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Crowell Weedon is pleased to announce that **Phil Bugay** and his associate, **Patty Deck**, have joined our Santa Barbara office.



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Senior Registered Client Associate
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Phil Bugay

Senior Vice President, Portfolio Manager
pbugay@crowellweedon.com



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I am proud to share with you news that I have made the decision to join Crowell Weedon. I can be reached at my new phone numbers **(805) 618-3160** or **(888) 618-3160**.

I look forward to talking with you soon. — Phil

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VILLAGE BEAT (Continued from page 10)

School House Road for more than 40 years. In a statement she read to the MA board, she voiced concern over the placement of the cafeteria, which backs up to the property line that she shares with the school. "There is no protection of our semi-rural environment," she said. She added that odors from the cafeteria, as well as sound from the amphitheater and sound from delivery trucks, would be a burden on surrounding residences.

Murphy said that other placement alternatives, which proved to be non-viable, were discussed for the building, which stands 29 feet high at its apex. She also added that 17 trees have already been planted near the dry creek bed that separates the two properties, in an effort to help screen the new building. "There will also be more screening added," she said, adding that other neighbor concerns, including where the trash bins will be located on the campus, have prompted tweaks to the project.

Two major priorities of the MUS remodel are easing congestion on San Ysidro Road and having a more secure campus. Both main parking lots are being elongated, allowing for 70 cars to queue on the property, getting traffic off San Ysidro. A turning lane will also be built. The parking lot on School House Road, as well as the lot that runs through campus,

will both be eliminated, allowing for fewer access points.

Other issues brought up at the MA meeting included water usage, historic sensitivity to the main building and the adobe on the campus' south parcel (which is being converted to office space), noise pollution from the amphitheater onto the surrounding neighborhood, and delivery truck usage of School House Road.

If Measure Q passes, work on the project – beginning with the parking lots – is slated to begin the day after school ends in June 2015. The cafeteria is slated to open for the start of the 2016/17 school year, and the entire project will be finished by 2020.

Two community meetings are being held on Thursday, September 25, and October 10 to learn more about Measure Q and the project as a whole. Check out the ad on page 25 for details.

Diane Pannkuk Honored

In part for her 19 years heading up the Village Fourth Independence Day festivities, the Montecito Board of Directors recognized former MA president **Diane Pannkuk** with the title of Honorary Director. Pannkuk

VILLAGE BEAT Page 26 ▶

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Equestrian facilities at the sprawling estate (photo by Jim Bartsch)

long oak bar. Below it is a badminton court.

The large master suite has wonderful ocean and mountain views and features a fireplace, period decor, an oversized bath tiled in a deco motif, and a large dressing room with numerous built-in closets.

Given the drought situation, one important feature is its uninterrupted access to water via seven agricultural water meters and three water-storage reservoirs. The property receives 50 percent of a water diversion system from adjacent Romero Creek that is piped directly into the reservoirs.

There is also a five-car garage and

extensive horse facilities, including an 11,250-square-foot covered riding arena.

Since Charles and Ann died, the family has maintained the property but hasn't used the main house as a full-time residence.

They are now selling, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, because they are spread out across the country and the ranch has become too difficult to maintain...

Read All About It

On the subject of our critical water shortage, local author **Ann Louise Bardach** has written a thought-provoking article in *Politico Magazine* on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Parched."

Montecito, she observes, has the geologic misfortune to have been built on land with precious little water – indeed, less water than any other part of the Central Coast.

An aquifer runs nine miles under southern Santa Barbara County, but only a tiny sliver extends into our rarefied enclave.

For the most part, residents have embraced new restrictions, writes Bardach, allowing our exclusive community to cut its water usage by 48 percent "and leaving vast aprons of yellowed lawns as evidence."

But in May, 827 defiant – or careless – residents coughed up \$520,000

in penalties, or a collective overage of about 13 million gallons of town water.

The Biltmore was levied a penalty of \$48,000 for using about one million gallons over its allotment in April, while a nearby private home was fined \$30,000 for a month of guzzling an extra 750,000 gallons.

Adds Bardach: "The district receives about 30 appeals a week. Those who do not pay their bills received shut-off notices, and about 400 were sent out last year."

The Montecito Water District admits it will rake in close to \$4 million in fines this year.

Beanie Babies tycoon and hotelier **Ty Warner**, who owns a six-acre estate overlooking the Pacific, is a perennial on the water district's top-10 users list, while others are paying as much as \$15,000 a month for trucked-in water, including TV talk-show titan **Oprah Winfrey**, according to neighbors.

Agriculture, adds Bardach, sucks up about 85 percent of California's surface water from rain or snow pack, as well as the lion's share of groundwater from wells, at discounted prices, though the industry generates less than three percent of the revenue in the state.

A fact to ponder...

What's Cookin'?

Montecito's Energy Twins, **Judi** and **Shari Zucker**, have just launched their latest tome, *The Ultimate Allergy-Free Cookbook*.

The enthusiastic follow-up to their best-selling previous book, *The Ultimate Allergy-Free Snack Cookbook*, the new title provides more than 150 vegetarian-vegan recipes made without eggs, cow's milk, soy, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish or shellfish – the eight most common allergenic foods, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"You can serve all these delectable dishes without fear of a reaction," says Judi.

"The book was two years in the making. After the success of the original book, our publishers wanted a follow up that went beyond just snacks. We've now included appetizers, main meals, sides, smoothies, and desserts."

Because pre-orders for the new book have been so high, they intend to con-



The Energy Twins launch another successful allergy-free cookbook

tinue the series. They are launching the book at Chaucer's on October 7.

Busy ladies...

Hooray for Hillary

It has been quite a week for Heal the Ocean founder **Hillary Hauser**.

She celebrated her 70th birthday and the launch of her new website, which has been in the making for the past 18 months, at the downtown headquarters of Oniracom, who specialize in web design, helping Hillary and loyal supporter, singer **Jack Johnson**, design their sites.

"Since the 60s, I've been on many underwater adventures, including Devil's Hole in Death Valley, which is now off limits to visitors, like a lot of places I've been to, so I wanted to make sure people could see them, along with a lot of interviews, including actor William Holden, Edmund Hillary, the first man up Mt. Everest, and conductor **Zubin Mehta**, and about 500 photographs taken over



Revelers Hillary Hauser and Jack Johnson (photo by Priscilla)

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Centered is Hillary Hauser celebrating her birthday while surrounded by many friends (photo by Priscilla)

the years," says Hillary. "In my eyes, they're priceless. I didn't want them ending up in the trash."

Hawaii-based Jack, who recently performed at the Santa Barbara Bowl, was at the boffo bash, along with 90 of Hillary's friends and fans...

Bravo for Avo

It may be nearly a month away, but the 28th annual California Avocado Festival had an early kick-off party and the unveiling of the event's new poster by Tucson, Arizona, artist Charles West at the Union Bank in Carpinteria.

This year's three-day Avo Fest is

scheduled for October 3-5 with more than 100,000 people expected to invade the small oceanside town to go green.

West's poster was chosen out of 21 entries by an eight-person jury.

Last year, the festival raised more than \$70,000 split between 24 non-profits. This year's chair is Eydie Kaufman with a new advisory committee consisting of Annette Fisher, Tom Cocha, and Stephanie Birch-O'Donnell.

As well as avocado beer, featuring cilantro and lime juice, brewed by the

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Montecito Union School District
**Invites the Community to Attend a
Facilities Outreach Meeting About Measure Q**



FACILITIES OUTREACH/INFORMATION MEETING – MUS AUDITORIUM
Thursday, September 25th, 2014
6:00-7:00 PM

Please join Roesling, Nakamura and Terada Architects
as they share the Facilities Master Plan outlined in Measure Q.
Measure Q, the Local School Improvement Measure on the November ballot.



Mike Lazaro, Anthony Stall, Gregg Carty, Gary Dobbins, Eydie Kaufman, Leo Fortunato, Geri Carty, and Debra McCarty (photo by Priscilla)



Ellie and Alex Patterson of Here's The Scoop (photo by Priscilla)

Angel City Brewery in Los Angeles, the bash had delicious avocado ice cream from Here's the Scoop in Montecito, concocted by owner **Ellie Patterson** and daughter **Alexandra**.

"It's one of the largest food festivals in California and just goes from strength to strength," says **Debra McCarty**, executive officer...

Thanks a Yacht

A tidal wave of generosity swept over the Santa Barbara Yacht Club for its 10th annual Yachts of Love regatta, which raised a record \$175,000 for the 106-year-old Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care, a commendable increase on last year's \$156,000.

The nautical jolly, which since its inception a decade ago, has raised more than \$1 million, was chaired by **Robyn Parker**.

"It's fun, different, and very colorful," says Robyn. "People get to go on some lovely boats and be part of the action."

Before the first gun starting the races went off, harbor patrol boats did a ceremonial "Water Dance" complete with fire hoses, to send the 50-plus racers on their way, as I watched, for a second year, from Serengeti, the

55-foot cruiser of **Jack and Karen Byers**.

Among those enjoying a day on the waves in impeccable weather, ending with a bountiful barbecue, were **Bill and Trish Davis, Roger Chrisman, Terry and Pam Valeski, Patricia Hinds, Steve and Caroline Thompson, Sam Tyler, Victoria Hines, Candy Logue, and Alan Porter...**

Great Taste

There was a great deal of food for thought when, for the second year, the 33rd annual Taste of the Town held its Connoisseurs' Circle separately at the El Encanto Hotel for 200 gourmand guests, 48 hours before the bustling sold-out Riviera Park Garden fest.

The tony hostelry's chef, **Leo Andres Ayala**, joined **Sylvain Desbois**, executive chef at the St. Regis Punta Mita Resort, a 1,500-acre paradise near Santa Barbara's sister city, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to prepare the three course menu of king crab ravioli, filet of beef with Pasilla chili sauce and spinach cannelloni, and brownie chocolate fingers, after cocktails and canapes around the Belmond hotel's lily pond.

All were accompanied by vintages



Pam Viera, 2014 culinary host; executive chef **Leo Andres Ayala** of Belmond El Encanto; lead chef, executive chef **Sylvain Desbois**, St Regis Punta Mita Resort; Mike Viera with medical honoree, **Timothy Spiegel, M.D.**; and youth honoree, **Kendall Viera** (photo by Priscilla)



Event Honorary co-chairs **Richard Yates** and **Tina Takaya** with **Thekla** and **Richard Sanford** of Sanford Winery (photo by Priscilla)

Rock and Write

Dee Elias, who conducts wine tours in the Santa Ynez Valley, is a longtime Beatles fan.

Nearly 50 years ago, she had a burning desire to meet the Fab Four, as **John, Paul, George, and Ringo** were dubbed, and has now written an amusing book on her efforts, *Confessions of a Beatlemaniact!*

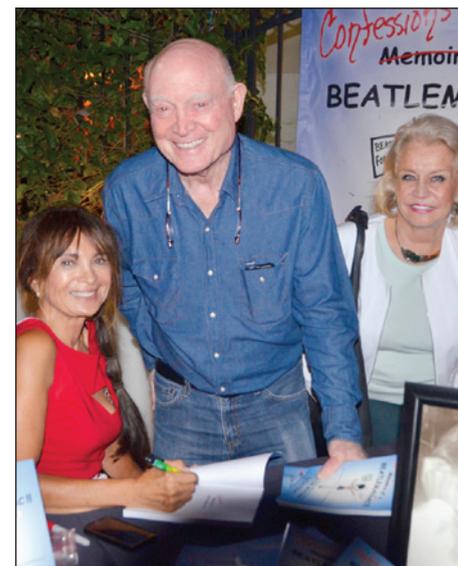


Jacques Habra and Jennifer Jaqua Connoisseurs' Circle co-chairs (photo by Priscilla)

from a number of local vineyards.

Among the guests at the dinner, co-chaired by **Jacques Habra** and **Jennifer Jaqua**, and emceed by former KEYT-TV anchor **Debby Davison**, were **Mike Towbes** – wife **Anne** was suffering cracked ribs after a camping accident – **Hiroko Benko, Ralph and Diana MacFarlane, Asher Garfinkel, Janet Garufis, and David Starkey**.

With both the dinner and the fest – co-chaired by **Richard Yates** and **Tina Takaya** of Opal – which boasted 80 wineries and restaurants, the Arthritis Foundation expected to raise around \$140,000, a record...



Beatlemania author **Dee Elias** signing for **Ken Sherman** and **Anne Rydfors** at Blush (photo by Priscilla)

"I broke all the rules," she told me at a book-launch bash at Tecolote, the bustling bibliophile bastion in the upper village, while a Beatles tribute band played outside.

"I wrote a diary on my escapades when I was growing up in Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of 13 in 1964. I fell in love with them. Life was simpler then. We were younger and full of dreams."

Dee, who says she still loves the group and the music, eventually achieved her dream of meeting the mop-top lads from Liverpool.

"I was a nobody from a farm town in Ohio, but a friend and I pretended we were reporters from the *Cleveland Press* and sneaked into their hotel, meeting Paul first. Then I managed to snap a photo of George on the phone, which I cherish to this day."

After the book signing at Tecolote, a release party was thrown at Blush, the downtown restaurant on State Street...



Catherine Gee and her designs on fashion models (photo by Priscilla)

Designing Woman

Catherine Gee, former head of the Arts Fund, has turned her creative abilities in another direction – fashion.

For the past few months, the willowy beauty has been studying at the De Marcos Fashion Academy and showed the fruits of her efforts at a fashion show at the Orfalea Foundation downtown center, joining other designers, including **Wesly Johnson, Danille Rocha, Susan Tompkins, Bridget Mitchell, Kevin Valencia, Joanna Reyes, Saul Olivas, and Kat Zisser.**

“I like modern silhouettes and use a lot of silk in my work,” says Catherine, who garnered rave reviews for her designs...

Remembering Rivers

On a personal note, my late friend and colleague **Joan Rivers**, who was taken off life support at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York last week, had a star-studded funeral on Sunday.

The ceremony at Temple Emanu-El, the Westminster Abbey of Manhattan synagogues – just a short distance



Designer Catherine Gee with Jodi De Marcos of De Marcos Fashion Academy and designer Bridget Mitchell (photo by Priscilla)



Richard, dressed as a pilgrim, with Joan Rivers on her Thanksgiving Day TV special, with a gaggle of other gossips, including Bill Zwecker of the *Chicago Sun-Times* and Janet Charlton, former columnist on *Star* magazine

from her Upper Eastside home – was attended by veteran newswoman **Barbara Walters**, fashion designer **Carolina Herrera**, **Donald Trump** and his daughter, **Ivanka**, **Whoopi Goldberg**, **Geraldo Rivera**, **Hugh Jackman**, and **Sarah Jessica Parker**, among a tidal wave of bold-faced names.

Even **Prince Charles** and his wife, **Camilla**, sent condolences, since Joan, 81, was a great favorite of the couple, even attending their wedding at St. George’s Chapel in Windsor in 2005.

Through her friend, **Robert Higdon**, who was the head of the Prince of Wales Foundation in Washington, D.C., for 14 years, Joan enjoyed charity dinners at Highgrove, HRH’s country estate in the Cotswolds, and Clarence House.

Three years ago, she recalled the time she was with the royal twosome and made a toast against all protocol, say-

ing: “I just want to say this is for all you b.....s in the room who married your husbands for money: I know who you are and Charles knows, too, because I pointed you out to him,” leaving the royal hosts in fits of laughter.

Joan Rivers, an absolute hoot, to the very end....

Sightings: Actor **Don Johnson** checking out the scene at Pierre Lafond...**Ellen DeGeneres** shopping at Lazy Acres...**Christopher Lloyd** enjoying a java jolt at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

Pip! Pip!

Readers with tips, sightings, and other amusing items for Richard’s column should email at richardmin-eards@verizon.net or send invitations or other correspondence to the *Journal*. ❧

93108 OPEN HOUSE DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

If you have a 93108 open house scheduled, please send us your free directory listing to realestate@montecitojournal.net

ADDRESS	TIME	\$	#BD / #BA	AGENT NAME	TELEPHONE #	COMPANY
1398 Oak Creek Canyon Road	2-4pm	\$13,650,000	6bd/6.5ba	Shandra Campbell	886-1176	Village Properties
165 Middle Road	1-4pm	\$9,250,000	6bd/6ba	Lloyd Applegate	570-4935	Village Properties
848 Park Lane	2-5pm	\$8,848,000	5bd/7ba	Jesse Benenati	448-7936	Village Properties
1567 East Valley Road	1-4pm	\$6,395,000	6bd/5ba	Andrea Shaparenko	455-4945	Coldwell Banker
640 Stonehouse Lane	2-4pm	\$5,850,000	4bd/6ba	Susan Pate	895-9385	Village Properties
603 San Ysidro Road	1-4pm	\$4,995,000	4bd/4.5ba	Lori Ebner	729-4861	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
1475 Bonnymede Drive	By Appt.	\$4,950,000	3bd/3.5ba	Kathleen Winter	451-4663	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
1066 Toro Canyon Road	1-4pm	\$4,700,000	4bd/3.5ba	Scott Westlotorn	403-4313	Coldwell Banker
2170 Ortega Ranch Lane	1-4pm	\$4,675,000	3bd/3.5ba	Andrew Petlow	680-9575	Sotheby's International Realty
226 East Mountain Drive	1-3pm	\$4,395,000	4bd/3.5ba	Amie Strickland	570-7677	Sotheby's International Realty
260 Penny Lane	By Appt.	\$4,195,000	4bd/5ba	Susan Burns	886-8822	Coldwell Banker
715 Ladera Lane	2-4pm	\$3,995,000	3bd/4.5ba	Cristal Clarke	886-9378	Sotheby's International Realty
900 Park Lane West	2-4pm	\$3,795,000	4bd/5ba	Don Hunt	895-3834	Village Properties
880 Buena Vista Drive	By Appt.	\$3,695,000	3bd/5.5ba	Kathleen St James	705-0898	Sotheby's International Realty
1424 East Valley Road	12-4pm	\$3,400,000	3bd/3ba	Thomas Johansen	886-1857	Village Properties
131 Palm Tree Lane	12-4pm	\$3,184,000	5bd/4.5ba	Arthur Kalayjian	455-1379	Sotheby's International Realty
1853 San Leandro Lane	1-3pm	\$2,995,000	3bd/3.5ba	Sandy Stahl	689-1602	Sotheby's International Realty
1157 Glenview Road	1-4pm	\$2,575,000	4bd/3.5ba	Joe Boudier	319-5364	Sotheby's International Realty
1372 Plaza Pacifica	By Appt.	\$2,549,000	2bd/2.5ba	John Holland	705-1681	Sotheby's International Realty
1053 Camino Viejo	11-6pm	\$2,395,000	4bd/3ba	Ron Harkey	886-9871	Village Properties
195 Sheffield Drive	1-4pm	\$2,200,000	4bd/5ba	Paul Mueller	315-1515	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
280 West Mountain Drive	1-5pm	\$2,200,000	4bd/3ba	David Hekhouse	455-2113	Village Properties
190 Cedar Lane	1-4pm	\$1,495,000	3bd/3ba	John Holland	705-1681	Sotheby's International Realty
532 San Ysidro Road B	12-3pm	\$1,299,000	2bd/3ba	Brooke Ebner	453-7071	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
830 Chelham Way	1-4pm	\$1,199,000	4bd/3ba	William Reed	896-3002	Sotheby's International Realty
1032 Fairway Road	By Appt.	\$1,075,000	2bd/2ba	Bonnie Jo Danely	689-1818	Coldwell Banker
645 Circle Drive	2-4pm	\$920,000	2bd/2ba	Robert Johnson	705-1606	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices