

# WESTLAKE



**Westlake**  
MAGAZINE

7  
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SPRING FEASTS  
SATURDAY  
MOM2

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TODAY

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Special Holiday  
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• Premiering Two New Sections

18TH ANNIVERSARY

# PRESTIGIOUS PROPERTIES OFFERED BY BILL AND MICHELLE

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### THE PINNACLE OF PERFECTION

This state-of-the-art contemporary, at the top of Country Club estates, is set in a gated 1.7 acre compound. Designed by Michael Chan, nearly 16,000 sq. ft. of opulence beckons the connoisseur of classic art, wine, and automobiles. Amenities include a two-story rotunda entry, fabulous European chef's kitchen plus an extended caterer's kitchen, music conservatory, two-story professional THX theater, computerized 1200 bottle wine cellar and tasting room, two gyms, formal library, expansive master suite, 6 extra bedrooms and 7 baths, pool and cabana, 7 car garage, and massive motor court for guest parking.

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When "East Coast Sophistication meets West Coast Elegance", you then have a stunning Country Manor nestled on 5 acres in the prestigious guard-gated North Ranch Country Club Estates. Approximately 7250 sq. ft. of elegant living space with 6 bedrooms and 7.5 baths, custom detail throughout. The grand foyer has pillowed limestone flooring, family room with a stately pub. Open floor plan with views of the grounds everywhere you look. Tranquil park-like setting with total privacy.

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### PERFECT BEACH ESCAPE

The ultimate beachfront retreat on a wide sandy beach. Recently remodeled duplex boasts a private penthouse unit with 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, chef's kitchen with granite countertops, and private front and rear decks. Family room with stone fireplace looks over the surf. The lower unit offers a living room/game room, gourmet kitchen and two bedroom suites. This is a legal duplex w/2 addresses. Each unit is on a separate level with a separate entry. This is a fantastic income property or, combine the two to make it the ultimate get-away.

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### MAGNIFICENT CONTEMPORARY ESTATE

Stunning and Magnificent can only describe this Contemporary Estate- Newly constructed and completed in 2008, boasting over 8300 sq ft of luxury living, 5 Bedrooms, (2 of them are master bedrooms) 6.5 baths, The ultimate in luxury design, 30 foot ceilings, every amenity you can imagine. Fabulous entertainment area with pool/spa with guest house boasting a game room, backing to the 12th fairway of Spanish Hills golf course and Country Club.

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Rosemary Allison is a graduate of the Brokers Program at USC and resides in Santa Rosa Valley with her husband Jim and her children Jennifer, Cristina and Joseph

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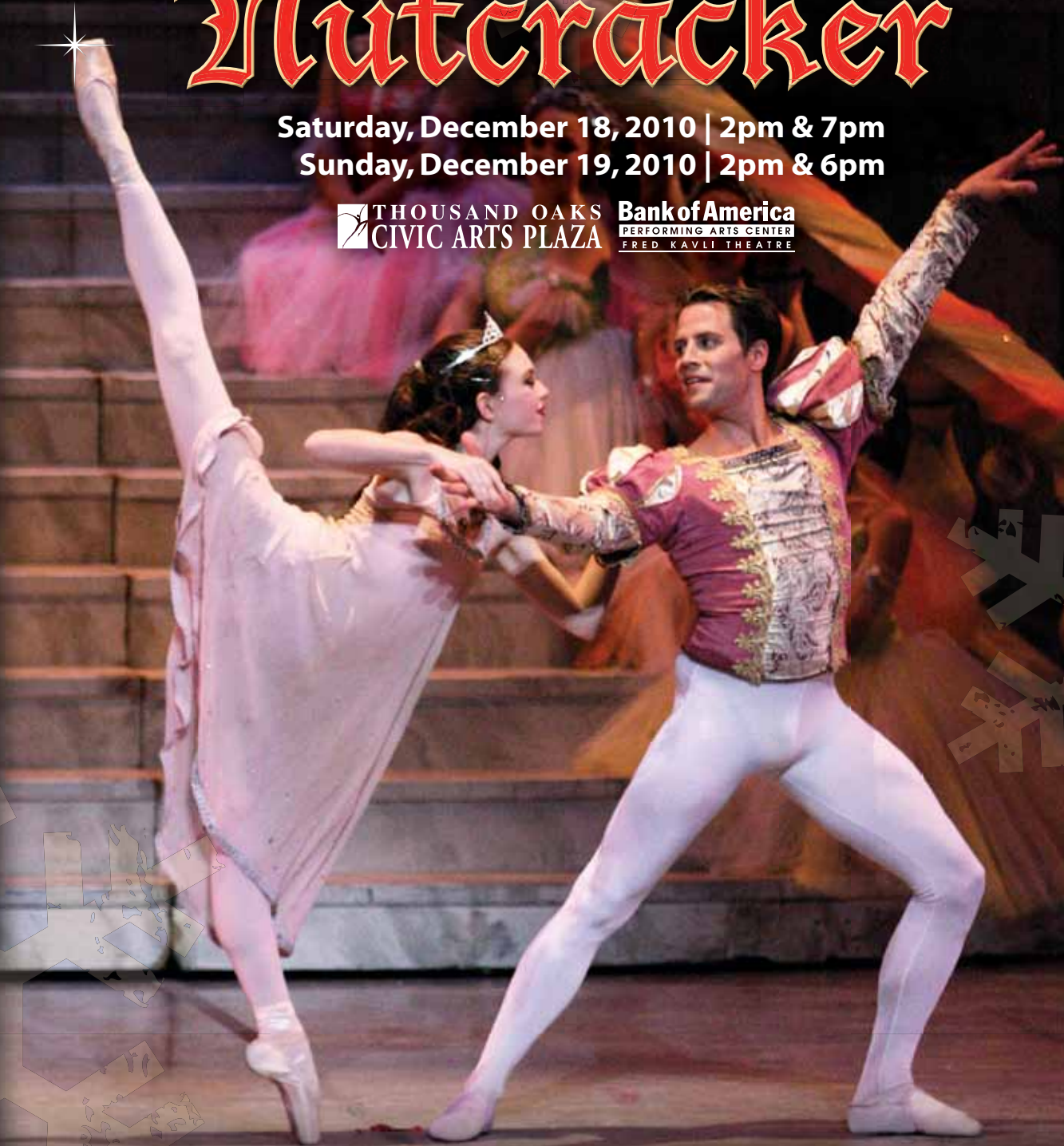
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White Jacket: Angelo Pecora  
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# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual DENIM & DIAMONDS

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Denim and Diamonds

BENEFITING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM  
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Lisa Gutman, 2010 Golden Cowgirl Award Recipient



Hosted by: Jerry Penacoli  
Entertainment Reporter, EXTRA TV



Hosted by: Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson  
Executive Director, ACT Today!

One in 110 children in America is diagnosed with autism. And one in 70 boys is affected. Autism is a complex developmental disorder that affects more children than pediatric cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined. Those affected have impairments in social interaction, language and communication while participating in restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, interests and activities.

What was once believed to be a hopeless diagnosis is now treatable and many children who have received the proper care and treatment have recovered from this disorder.

Autism Care and Treatment Today (ACT Today!), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, based in Tarzana, California, is one of the very few national organizations whose mission is to provide funding and support to families that cannot afford the treatments their autistic children need to achieve their full potential. ACT Today! is able to change lives TODAY because of generous support from the community and corporate giving. This year, ACT Today! is hosting its 5th Annual Denim and Diamonds for Autism premiere fundraiser in celebration of its successful outreach to autistic children in the community and around the nation.

Join ACT Today! on October 23, 2010, and help raise much needed funds for children with autism. The event is sponsored by TWIW Insurance. It will be an evening of love, compassion and hope with silent & live auctions, dinner buffet, live entertainment and dancing. The event is co-hosted by ACT Today's Executive Director Nancy Alspaugh-Jackson and EXTRA TV Entertainment Reporter Jerry Penacoli.

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*Welcome* to the 18th Anniversary issue of Westlake Magazine, the Conejo Valley's longest standing lifestyle publication. And while we celebrate the connections and achievements we have enjoyed over the years, we are even more excited about what lies around the corner for our magazine and you, its devoted readers.

**B**eginning with our next issue, Westlake Magazine will re-launch as a publication that embraces all things digital. In an age where technology is evolving rapidly, our magazine will employ the coolest tech gear available today, affording our readers a more interactive experience. If you're an iPad or mobile app user, get ready to engage in a brand new way with our stories, authors and advertisers.

In addition to our internal revival, Westlake Magazine is initiating a program of mass collaboration with publications that serve other luxury markets in suburban Los Angeles. Our new alliances will offer more value to readers by allowing advertisers and consumers to connect as never before.

But you don't have to wait until the Holiday issue to enjoy our magazine! This issue incorporates special aspects of its own. We have a slew of new writers and creative talent eager to deliver the best that our community has to offer, from spotlighting its incredible people to sharing the area's amazing features. We are also introducing an exclusive new section that celebrates the history and extraordinary details about Westlake Village and its surrounding neighborhoods.

And in keeping with our "all things new" theme, allow me to introduce myself as the new editorial director of Westlake Magazine. Having served in this capacity several years ago prior to returning to Pepperdine University to earn a master's degree in journalism and communication, I am back at this post for the sheer love of this magazine and my commitment to its continued expansion. I am also a longtime Westlake Village resident who is passionate about this community and its residents, many of whom are my cherished friends and neighbors. My goal is to uncover all that this region has to offer so we can all appreciate the Westlake lifestyle even more than we already do.

With so many exciting details planned for Westlake Magazine, we extend an invitation to you, our readers, to join us for an 18th Anniversary Champagne Celebration and Re-launch Party, hosted by Nieman Marcus Topanga. Look for your invitation in this issue and plan to join us November 3rd.

Until we meet, I encourage you to stay connected and invite you to e-mail me anytime at [Monique@westlakemagazine.com](mailto:Monique@westlakemagazine.com).

Looking forward...

Monique Reidy

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Dr. Virella is a graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (P&S) and a board-certified Diplomate of the American Board of Neurological Surgery. He is a graduate of the UCLA Neurosurgery Residency Program under the direction of one of the leading cerebrovascular neurosurgeons, Dr. Neil A. Martin.

Additionally, Dr. Virella completed his complex spine in-folding fellowship at the world renowned Cleveland Clinic Foundation with Dr. Edward C. Benzel, MD, followed by a second fellowship in Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery at the UCLA Comprehensive Spine Center.

Virella's expertise is the management of complex spinal disorders and rare and complex brain tumors. He is also considered a specialist in the management of cerebrovascular disease, including cerebral aneurysms and arteriovenous malformations (AVM's).

His specialty includes a focus on minimally invasive microsurgical techniques in treating spine and back prob-

lems, the benefit of which is not only less scarring and faster recovery, but faster return to work times. That, in short, means a better quality of life, post op.

In addition to specializing in a variety of spinal and cerebral disorders, Dr. Virella is a specialist in Gamma Knife Surgery--which despite what that name implies is an outpatient, non-invasive technology that can be used to treat a variety of neurological disorders, tumors and cerebrovascular problems.

As a nationally recognized specialist in the field who has authored numerous articles and lectured internationally in complex and minimally invasive spine surgery, he also has expertise in rare and complex brain tumors. You wouldn't expect a neurosurgeon with this kind of training and experience to also have a bedside manner but Dr. Virella is, in fact, very personable – a demeanor very similar to what you'd expect with a family physician.

After serving as the Director of Neurological Surgery at the Ventura County Medical Center from April 2005

thru June 2007, Dr. Virella began his private practice and has been on staff at Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center for four years.

He was born and raised in New York City prior to migrating out west for residency training. He and Renee Wilkins-Virella have an eight-year old daughter and three-year old identical twin boys that keep them on their toes. They also enjoy working closely with their church and travel to Guatemala donating his time and surgical expertise. Dr. Virella is fluent in Spanish.

Dr. Virella says, "The neurosurgeon you choose should indeed be properly qualified. Having confidence in your neurosurgeon's background and expertise is extremely important."

It appears that three vitally important qualities; skill, knowledge and compassion are all present in this young surgeon's foundation. **WM**

For more information on Dr. Virella, please call (805) 449-0088 or visit: [www.dr-virella.com](http://www.dr-virella.com)

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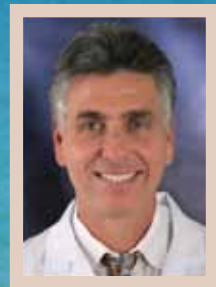
  
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# Travel Tips

By Linda Lang | Travel Editor

With the economy still shaky, the top luxury hotels, cruise lines, resorts and tour operators continue to offer great bargains now and for advance bookings made through 2011 and beyond. There are also new properties opening around the world and events that might peak your interest. Here are some of our most recent findings to keep you current on what's happening in the world of travel.

Silver Cloud moored at St. Barts.

## Cruise Specials

**Silversea Cruises** is offering up to **60% savings, free air and transfers plus a \$500 shipboard credit** on select Caribbean cruises departing December 2 – January 29. The luxurious, all-suite vessels include all meals, alcoholic beverages and tips. Shipboard credit may be used towards shore excursions, spa treatments, Internet Café, onboard boutiques and much more. Most departures are aboard the intimate, 296-passenger Silver Cloud. This is a great opportunity for the finest in small cruise ship luxury cruising at deeply discounted rates starting as low as \$2,798. 1-877-289-2101 or visit [www.Silversea.com](http://www.Silversea.com).

**Crystal Cruises**, voted “World’s Best Large-Ship Cruise Line” by the readers of *Travel + Leisure* for the 15th straight year, is offering its biggest savings on penthouse and verandah accommodations. Book by September 30, 2010 and save another \$1,000 or \$500 per person on select sailings round-trip from either Miami or Los Angeles. These **new savings are in addition** to the line’s exceptional **Two-for-One promotional fares and \$500 per person ‘All Inclusive – As You Wish’ shipboard credits**. 1-888-722-0021 or [www.crystalcruises.com](http://www.crystalcruises.com)



Ian Fleming's villa at GoldenEye in Jamaica.

## Hotel News & Deals

The new GoldenEye Hotel & Resort on Jamaica's North Coast will open on 10.10.10. Originally the home of author Ian Fleming (where he penned all 14 James Bond novels), the property was purchased in 1976 by Chris Blackwell, Jamaica-raised founder of Island Records. For decades, it has been an enchanting hideaway for Michael Caine, Kate Moss, Quincy Jones, Johnny Depp, Bill and Hillary Clinton and other

notables. Closed for a two-year overhaul, the 52-acre property re-opens in October with two new restaurants, spa, additional beach cottages and lagoon suites. The original Fleming villa, where his desk still resides, has been artfully refurbished. Private planes can land on the newly-extended runway in Oracabessa, a short 8-minute drive from the resort. Special opening rates, including breakfast, start at \$536, subject to availability, and are valid through April 30, 2011. [www.goldeneye.com](http://www.goldeneye.com).

Looking for a **free night in Beijing?** **The Opposite House**, one the city's finest boutique hotels, is offering the fourth night free with the purchase of three. Included is access to workout and pool facilities, guided cultural walk of Beijing on Saturday, complimentary mini-bar and Internet access, and more. Since opening in 2008, the Swire Hotels' property has earned several prestigious awards including accolades from *Robb Report* and *Condé Nast Traveler*. Offer is valid until December 31, 2010. [www.theoppositehouse.com](http://www.theoppositehouse.com).

**Good deals in Hawaii** include a fourth night free at the **Kahala Hotel and Resort on Oahu** with ocean-view accommodations and daily breakfast starting at \$545 per night until December 20. 1-800-367-2525 or [www.kahalaresort.com](http://www.kahalaresort.com).... **On the Big Island**, the luxurious **Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows** is offering a second room for \$99 with the purchase of the first at the best available rate. The resort has an endless menu of complimentary activities and a great program for kids. Offer valid through September 30. 1-800-367-2323 or [www.maunalani.com](http://www.maunalani.com)

## Spa Updates

**Bushmans Kloof Wilderness Reserve & Wellness Retreat** has almost doubled the size of its Spa and added a new Hip Spa menu exclusively for young guests, ages 10 to 17 years, to introduce them to the importance of healthy living, beauty and relaxation. At the foothills of the Cederberg Mountains 270km from Cape Town, this internationally-trendy retreat has consistently earned top honors from *Travel + Leisure*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and was recently named “Favourite Resort/Hotel Spa in Africa and

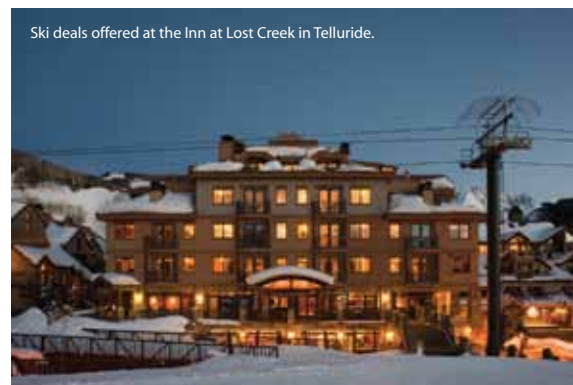


Outdoor treatment room at Bushmans Kloof Spa.

the Middle East” in *Spa Magazine's* Silver Sage Reader's Choice Awards. [www.bushmanskloof.co.za](http://www.bushmanskloof.co.za).

**Maui's Makena Beach & Golf Resort** welcomes a new level of luxury and rejuvenation with the opening of the **Makena Kai Day Spa**, the first on Maui operated by Hawaiian Rainforest Spa, which specializes in natural healing therapies. Services include exclusive massage therapies, facials, and body treatments utilizing indigenous botanical products. Indoor and outdoor treatments in two thatched-roof cabanas are available. Spa is open to guests and outside visitors. [www.makenaspa.com](http://www.makenaspa.com).

Recently named to *Condé Nast Traveler's* 2010 “Hot List,” **The Spa at Terranea**, part of the new world-class Terranea resort on the **Palos Verdes Peninsula**, is adding MoroccanOil hair treatments to its extensive spa menu. One of this year's hottest new beauty products and favorite of celebrity stylists, MoroccanOil treatments protect hair from environmental elements while providing shine and manageable texture. [www.terranea.com](http://www.terranea.com) or call 1-866-802-8000.



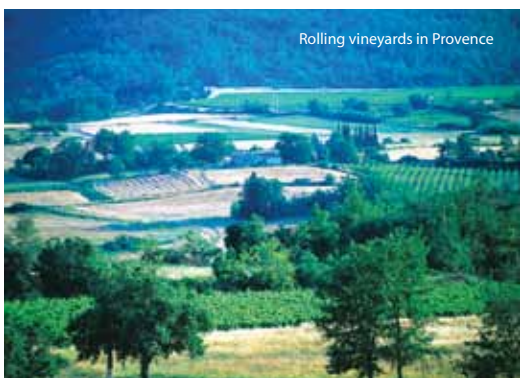
Ski deals offered at the Inn at Lost Creek in Telluride.

## Ski Specials

**The Inn at Lost Creek in Telluride** is offering a special Ski-BOGO promotion -- **buy-one-night, get-one-night free** from November 24 to December 22, 2010. With each night booked, this top-rated boutique hotel will match the

guest's booking with another complimentary consecutive room night in the same accommodation category. Choose from cozy studios to spacious two-bedroom suites with full kitchens, fireplaces, steam showers, jetted tubs and in-suite laundry. Early season booking rates start at \$295 per night plus tax. Other specials also offered. [www.InnAtLostCreek.com](http://www.InnAtLostCreek.com) or call 1-888-601-5678.

**Discounts of up to 60%** on 4- and 6-day and variety of seasonal **ski passes** are offered from **Telluride Ski Resort** now through October 29. [www.TellurideSkiResort.com/pass](http://www.TellurideSkiResort.com/pass).



Rolling vineyards in Provence

## Attention Oenophiles and Foodies

**Participate in an authentic Vendage** (wine harvest) this month in **France's colorful region of Provence**. The three-day package includes posh accommodations at the 32-room Hotel Crillon Le Brave, grape picking excursion, participation in the fermentation and blending process, wine and food tastings and more. Offered September 16-19 and September 30-October 3, rates start at €1300 per room, based on double occupancy. The hotel is also offering an **all-inclusive six-night cooking program** presenting foodies a great combination of culture, cuisine and learning to cook authentic Provencal fare. Offered October 10-16 and October 17-23, the program includes six nights' accommodations, all meals and wine, cooking classes with recipes to take home, wine tastings, excursions to local purveyors including truffle hunters, winemakers, cheese makers, bakers, and more. Space is limited to 8 participants per group. Price is €2900 per person, double occupancy. Cost for "non-cooking" companion is €1400 if sharing a room with a "cooker". "Non-cookers" may participate in all events and

meals outside of the cooking classes. For both programs, go to [www.crillonlebrave.com/main/en](http://www.crillonlebrave.com/main/en).

Also of note to wine aficionados is the **20th Boston Wine Expo** January 22-23, 2011. The largest wine event on the East Coast, featuring 400 wineries representing 13 countries, will be held at Boston's Seaport World Trade Center. Hotel packages to be announced soon. [www.wine-expos.com/boston](http://www.wine-expos.com/boston).



The fabled Orient-Express is now traveling in Southeast Asia. Photo by Ian Lloyd

## What's New

Ready for a Brit Break? **Charming cottages in the picturesque English countryside** and along the coastline are now available from **National Trust Holiday Cottages**. Perfect for families and groups, you can live like village locals with all the comforts of a fully-furnished home. Some 370 properties in prime locations are offered in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Weekly rates start at £463 low season; £1260 high season. [www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrustcottages.co.uk).

**The Eastern & Oriental Express** has long enabled travelers to revisit the Golden Age of train travel in the world's most exotic regions. In November, Orient-Express is introducing **Chronicles of Southeast Asia** -- four new journeys enabling guests to experience the region in depth. Highlights include Bangkok, Cameron Highlands, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Surat Thani, the historic Bridge over the River Kwai and Penang. Each trip is limited to 60 guests as only presidential and state carriages will be in use. Prices start at US \$3,900.

[www.orient-express.com/web/eoe/chronicles\\_asia.jsp](http://www.orient-express.com/web/eoe/chronicles_asia.jsp).

## Noteworthy Happenings

**The 39th Annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta**, October 5-8, is one of the nation's most photographed events. Hundreds of colorfully-decorated balloons fill the skies over the Sandia Mountains and Rio Grande, many in the form of floating trains, clowns, kissing bumble bees, and other whimsical characters. In addition to exploring the latest exhibits in the city's superb museums, galleries and historic haunts, it's a great time of year for shopping, dining and enjoyment of this marvelous mecca of southwest traditions. [www.balloonfiesta.com](http://www.balloonfiesta.com).

**The Museum of Fine Arts Boston's new \$465 million Art of The Americas Wing** opens in November with three key events: opening of the 133,491 sq. ft. Art of Americas Wing and interior glass courtyard designed by Sir Norman Foster; re-designed building orientation that enhances viewing of the entire museum collection; and the launch of more than 25 new exhibitions opening between November 2010 and April 2012. [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org).

**The historic Tel Aviv-Jaffa train station**, located between Neve Tzedek and the Mediterranean, has been transformed into a massive entertainment and leisure center following a 10-year restoration. The **new 49-acre Tachana Complex** has more than 20 historic buildings that will house exhibitions, festivals, outdoor markets, shops, variety of restaurants, cafes and bars. [www.tourism.gov.il/Tourism\\_Eng](http://www.tourism.gov.il/Tourism_Eng) WM



Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta fills sky with 600+ hot air balloons. Photo by Ron Behrmann



## Senior Concerns Presents Ultimate Dining at its Finest

By Carol Karm

Sunday, August 1, was one of those heartbreakingly beautiful days, deep blue sky with a benign sun and a bit of breeze to stir the umbrellas set up all around the garden at the Hyatt Westlake. Although it was the 25th time Senior Concerns had hosted its Ultimate Dining Gala Dinner and Auction, they topped themselves again.



The 400 or so guests that wandered in the garden, plate and glass in hand, were chatting, tasting, exclaiming with pleasure at all the tapas prepared for them by chefs from The Grill on the Alley, Westlake Village Inn, North Ranch Country Club and Atria Executive Dining. Participating wineries were Wedell Cellars, Herzog Winery, Cantarra Cellars and Mitchell Katz Winery. In addition to the tapas, May's Catering served a selection of savory appetizers. All services were donated to support the event.



Guests also had a chance to win a 5-night stay in the Ambassador Suite at the Hyatt Regency in Waikiki with a \$500 airfare allowance.



In the ballroom a beef tenderloin dinner with a gourmet salad and a selection of desserts was prepared respectively by the Hyatt Westlake Plaza, Tierra Sur and Let's Get Cooking.

Prior to dinner, guests were able to wander through the diverse selection of silent auction items, sipping champagne or wine and studying trip, jewelry, and other items available for bid. The excitement generated during the silent auction and raffle escalated during the live auction when a 5-night stay in Paris for two, along with airfare came on the block.

Ashley Wales, Senior Concerns' Development Coordinator, stated that this had been a challenging year. "We maintain an Alzheimer's resource center, Meals on Wheels, a Financial Abuse Specialist, Senior Advocates, a support group for caregivers, case management services and a much-used adult daycare center. Charitable giving has been down and the state funding portion of our budget has been cut, including a \$70,000 cut in day programming."

Wales was extremely grateful that their donors "...have come through like they



always have. We are so appreciative of the support and loyalty we receive from our individual donors and the community. It allows us to continue providing these much needed services for seniors." WM



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Rosemary and Jim Allison, Event Chair and Bronze Sponsors of the Joie de Vivre Gala



Congressman Elton Gallegly and his wife Janice are welcomed by Jim and Cindy Hawse. Jim and Cindy Hawse were honored by the American Cancer Society for their generosity in being the major sponsors of the event as well as the event hosts.

# Joie De Vivre

## Evening of Hope Gala, 2010

### An event to benefit the American Cancer Society



It was a privilege to stand as chair of the Joie de Vivre Evening of Hope Gala, 2010. THE PRELIMINARY total of funds raised at this event was \$213,491!!!! The Live Auction and Cancer Challenge was the highest EVER raised in this State!!!! "With cancer affecting virtually every family in Ventura County, this is one battle that crosses all societal and political boundaries, and I am so delighted with the overwhelming response to this event."

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our hosts, Jim and Cindy Hawse for offering their glorious home for this extraordinary event. As we embraced the festive ambiance of the French countryside, cuisine, and the exciting auctions, we did so knowing that we were contributing our part, standing with those doctors, researchers and care givers, who dedicate their lives to keeping our loved ones out of harms way.

The success of this year's American Cancer Society Evening of Hope Gala 2010 is a true testament to the philanthropic support of the community and individuals who are committed to making a difference in the fight against cancer. To the dynamic volunteer committee that gave countless hours of preparation ensuring the success of this stunning event, I give a breathtaking salute! I was thrilled to have had the opportunity to chair such a wonderful and inspiring celebration that will have a direct impact on the lives of cancer patients and caregivers. And now my friends, Profitez et que Dieu benisse! Enjoy and God Bless!

Sincerely,  
Rosemary Allison



#### Sponsors of the 2010 Joie de Vivre - Evening of Hope Gala:

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Jim and Rosemary Allison with newly elected Ventura County Judge Ryan Wright and his wife Christine. Ventura County District Attorney Greg Tottan and his wife Irene



Mark Burley and Janis Gardner, Santa Rosa Valley MAC



Tom Staben and Janet Kingsbery holding Eagle Bronze that they purchased in live auction for over \$11,000



Assembly Candidate Jeff Gorell with State Senator Tony Strickland, candidate for California State Controller



Jennifer and Chuck Burtzloff, Al and Peg Ludington, Rosemary Allison and Joe Marklewicz, Al and Peg Ludington were the lucky winners of the Lexus Raffle for a New Lexus Hybrid Car!



Vicki Raven-Todd, Mona Hosseini, Shelley Aldrich and Rosemary Allison



Rick Quinn, Paso Robles Opolo Vineyards owner / winemaker served his award winning wine to guests. For more info: www.opolo.com



Cristina Marklewicz Public Relations Event Chair, Bill Kranz, Chris Kimball President of California Lutheran University & Elizabeth Kimball



Cindy Kaitel, Logistics chair



Bronze Artist David Spellerberg whose "Eagle Pride" bronze was auctioned off for over \$11,000 during live auction with Event Chair, Rosemary Allison and Sylvie Landon. His pieces can be viewed at: www.bronzaking.com



Dr. Sid Razi, Haady Lashkari, V.P. Community Memorial Hospital with his wife Anita



Danny and Allyson Weinberg



Supervisor Kathy Long, Supervisor Steve Bennett and Event Chair Rosemary Allison



American Cancer Society Chief Financial Officer Rose Simmons presents Platinum Sponsor Amgen Executives Scott Foraker and CIO Tom Flanagan, the Distinguished Visionary Award, for Amgen's continued support and contributions.



Joan Bergenetal, Jeff Berg and Sandy Berg. Sandy is the Community Services Director for the Ventura American Cancer Society



Jaime Allison, Adrian Fox and Jim Allison



Jennifer Marklewicz and Rose Errigo



Sue Chadwick, honored for her civic leadership, AC Society volunteerism and her role as a caregiver



Lively Jazz Band Round Trip



Renee Weider, one of the many sponsors of the gala





## ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® OF CONEJO VALLEY HOSTS KITCHENS AND COOKS TOUR

By Carol Karm

**The First Annual Kitchens and Cooks Tour**, sponsored by the Assistance League of Conejo Valley, made Sunday, May 16, a special day for those interested in taking a peek into other people's kitchens, looking for some dainty taste treats throughout the day, shopping with various vendors along the route or just looking for a pleasant Sunday outing that would help people in need.

Six area homes featuring kitchens both large and small, and one industrial kitchen, were on display. Each home offered elegant edibles from sources like Boccaccio's on the Lake, Let's Get Cooking, Leila's, Moz Buddha Lounge, Sweet Art Factory and Pierre's Catering.

Kitchens opened at 11 AM, manned by ALCV volunteers who were ready to greet a steady stream of guests and show them the high points of each kitchen. Members of the Assisteens, an auxiliary of ALCV, volunteered to outfit visitors in booties to tour each house. Armed with their maps, intrepid kitchen scouts made their way around the Westlake/North Ranch perimeter. While the regular tour ran from 11 AM to 4 PM, Grissini Ristorante Italiano, the industrial kitchen, was open from 3 to 5 PM with some mouthwatering pasta to sample.





As if this didn't make a complete day, a late afternoon event, Wine Tasting and Food Pairings, was held at a spectacular hilltop estate with fabulous views, built to accommodate entertaining on a large scale. Those attending tasted wines provided by Donati Family Vineyards, Opolo Vineyards O'Shaughnessy Vineyards, Vines on the Mary Crest and Wade's Wines. Hors d'oeuvres were provided by Pierre's Catering and cheese from Artisan Cheese Gallery with olive oils from We Olive. A silent auction also offered attendees a chance to bid on some great vacations and other special events.

All proceeds will go toward funding ALCV programs. To learn more about the work of Assistance League of Conejo Valley and about the 2nd Annual Books and Looks event October 20, 2010, visit [www.alcv.net](http://www.alcv.net). WM



■ **In 2009-2010, Assistance League® of Conejo Valley provided:**

- New school clothing to 1365 deserving area children from 13 schools through Target Shopping Nights
- CASEY bears to children and others in crisis at 10 facilities
- Clothing and toiletries to 2 hospitals and Safe Harbor East
- Emergency clothing kits to 36 local elementary schools
- 93 dictionaries to 2 schools
- 390 stuffed backpacks to children

Volunteers tutored 20 students. A personal safety program, "What if I'm Home Alone?" was presented by volunteers to 713 area third graders. SOS (Spotlight on Seniors), a volunteer ukulele and entertainment group, entertained over 800 seniors.

# Back to School, Back to Work

By Alisa Weinstein

**B**ack to school has always been a time to re-organize, re-prioritize and re-invigorate the promises and accomplishments that have somehow lost steam during the long hot summer. If you have children then, no doubt, you have been preparing for the school year to begin since the beginning of August; but even if you don't have children, this is the time of year that schedules do change and it's your opportunity to check your priorities and the name at the top of your list should be you.



### ➤ **Looking Out for Number One**

No matter if you have a family or you are a single business owner, today we all have responsibilities and obligations that take up much of our already overscheduled days; it is at the end of those days that you need to make yourself a priority. If you are so determined to get everything done and feel totally drained at the end of the day, only to dread the beginning of tomorrow, this is your wake up call to put you on the top of your list.

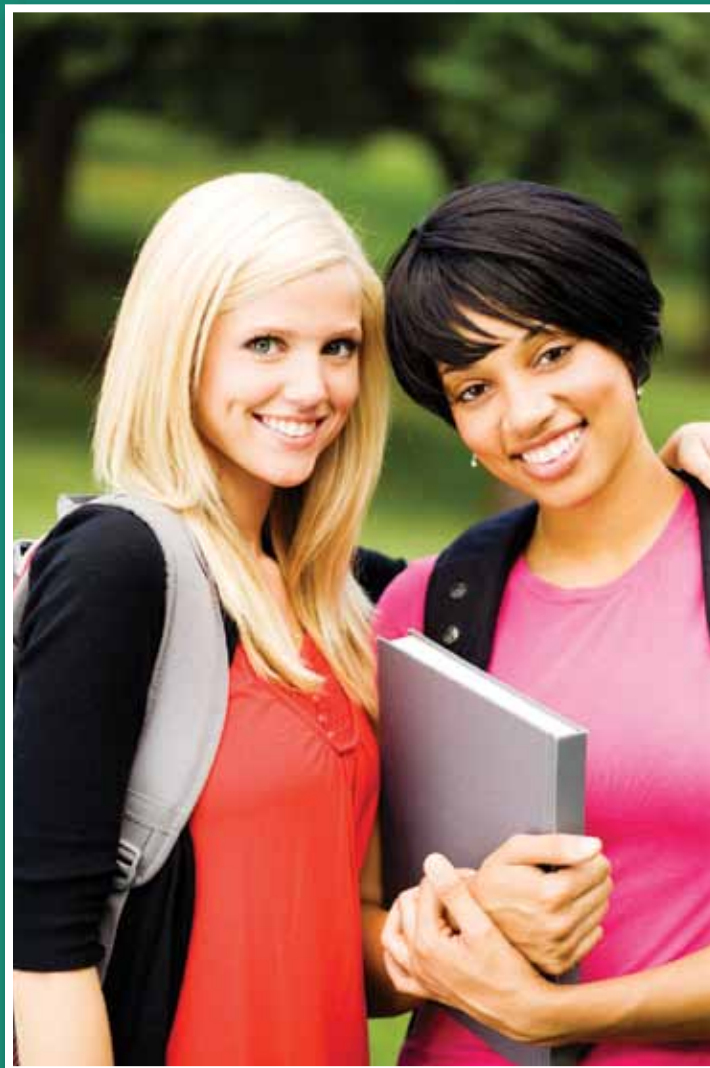
### ➤ **Scheduling 'You' Time**

When you schedule your day how much time do you schedule for you? Most people will say they just can't make the time, or worse yet, it's just not possible; but if they fall ill or were incapacitated for any length of time, somehow things would just work themselves out. Before you crash and burn, start scheduling You time. This means you may need to re-schedule a conference call, or cancel a play date for your kids. If you are not prepared to make yourself a priority, why should anyone else?

*"Don't be a time manager, be a priority manager. Cut your major goals into bite-sized pieces. Each small priority or requirement on the way to ultimate goal becomes a mini goal in itself." -Denis Waitley*

### ➤ **Compromise**

We all have the same 24 hours in each day, yet some days seem to fly by and our plate is just as full at the end of the day. We will never get to finish everything, call back everyone, complete our to-do lists for both work and home — well, not unless you're superhuman. You can, however, make compromises that will allow you to be highly effective at work and with your family. I had an associate whose son was delivering a speech for school and there was a major meeting at work he couldn't miss. The teacher allowed my associate to watch the sound check rehearsal, giving him the opportunity to support his son and still be available at the work meeting. Sometimes our schedules just don't allow us to be there for our families, but making the effort to compromise makes all the difference in the world and the memories much sweeter.



### ➤ **Developing your Support System**

There is nothing more comforting than to know there is a group of people who have your back. This includes your family, babysitters, dog walkers, virtual assistants, and all of those people who can and will support you and your family when your schedule just won't permit you to be in two places at once. This can be costly but in the long run it is well worth it to have your loved ones cared for while you are unable to be there.

This is also a time saver, so that when you do get to be with your family and loved ones, you are actually spending quality time with them rather than frenetically trying to get everything done only to rush off to the next appointment.

### ➤ **Learn to say 'No'**

We all multitask and often times over-commit ourselves in our careers as well as for our families. No one wants to be the bad-guy, or the heavy so agreeing to bake

60 cupcakes for our kids open house, or saying you'll stay late to help finish a project at work may seem like a minor inconvenience but winning those "points" will actually end up burning you out. Saying 'No' is about taking back your power and controlling your schedule.

So remember, it's not just the leaves that are changing this season; schedules are shifting with kids back in school and this means you need to make the most of your day by taking care of number one (you)!

*"Getting in touch with your true self must be your first priority." -Tom Hopkins WM*

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Alisa Weinstein is a longtime Westlake Village resident, a certified coach, business executive and entrepreneur. Visit her at [www.CoachingElement.com](http://www.CoachingElement.com), or e-mail [Alisa@CoachingElement.com](mailto:Alisa@CoachingElement.com).

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# HOME *on the* RANGE

WITH THE HORSES AND GRAPES

BY CAROL KARM | PHOTOS BY JOEL FLORA

This is an updated cowboy story. Start with the 1,000 acre Saddlerock

Ranch, once part of a 200,000 acre Spanish Land Grant, and add lots of horses, a horse boarding and training facility (stocked with trainers, arenas, trails corrals, paddocks), and 60,000 vines on 65 acres. In addition there are acres and acres of fruit trees, a tasting room, the capacity to accommodate a movie production shoot, sacred caves with ancient Chumash pictographs, various sites to host weddings and special events and weekend concerts. And did I mention zebras, camels, buffalo, peacocks, a collection of Airstream trailers and vintage farm wagons? You get the idea; an exhausting potpourri of things that would make even Will Rogers scratch his chin in puzzlement.





*Ronnie and Tami Semler*

I had the chance to sit down with Tami Semler, right-hand woman for her father, Ron Semler, who bought the ranch in 1979, after the devastating Malibu fire in 1978. The Semler family, with nine children, big and small, and grandchildren live at the ranch and, while it might seem like paradise, it must be said it is a working paradise. Everyone contributes. The day I was there one of the 10-year olds talked of working on the fences in the morning.

**Tami Semler:** When my father bought the ranch there was nothing on the land but a couple of oak trees, but I think my father was always a cowboy. At 16, living in Studio City, he would disappear up the hill in the very early morning hours everyday. His father was curious and followed him one morning to find that his son had built a makeshift barn and had bought a horse, stabling him in the barn. Every morning he went up the hill to ride the horse for a few hours before school.

**WM:** Are you a horse person too?

**Tami:** Admitting your problem is the first step to recovery. Yes, I've ridden for years and I am passionate about horses. As kids we used to saddle the horses and be off as early as possible. We rode all over the Santa Monica Mountains and my father knew I was home when my horse was back in the stable – but it did have to be before sunset. Now I train and breed horses. I used to show horses but I am convinced it is just cheaper to buy the gold medal!

**WM:** You mentioned you were a single mom.

**Tami:** I am a single mom with a 12-year old daughter, Sami, and she helps me out with all kinds of work around the ranch. She also loves horses. She is such a great kid and knows how to do so much. We don't have a television but love to read in the evening.

**WM:** Was the idea of creating a vineyard there from the beginning?

**Tami:** Not really. Horses were a big focus and we had extensive orchards with all kinds of fruit trees. In 1991 we had a massive freeze, losing over a million pounds of fruit and half of our trees. It was clear we needed another crop. In 1997 we



put in 14 acres of cabernet and merlot vines. We now have 65 acres of vines and hope to increase to 100 acres. We have eight varietals including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah, Malbec, Grenache, Mouvedre and Viognier. The last four of these are used for blending. From a business standpoint the grapes offered us a lot more options without so many middlemen taking a part of the profit. Malibu Family Wines is a joint venture between our family and the DeJoria family and we bottle wines under both the Semler and the Saddlerock labels.

**WM:** You certainly see a lot of vineyards driving down Kanan Road to the ocean. How has this come about so rapidly?

**Tami:** There are several areas in the Santa Monica Mountains with their own AVAs (American Viticultural Area) and each produces very distinctive wines. But it is generally a great place to grow grapes. This part of Malibu is ideal for growing premium wine grapes because we have hot days and cool nights, hillsides on which to grow the vines and we are high enough to be above the fog line. We want to grow great fruit to make great wine. And don't forget, it all starts with the fruit.

**WM:** You seem to have put a lot of thought in how to share the ranch with the public.

**Tami:** We do a lot of special events here and of course we have the tasting room, which is very popular. On a nice day it is great to drive out here and have a glass of wine under the trees and look out all over the valley. I spend a lot of time work

ing in the tasting room and really enjoy meeting all the people who drop by. During the summer we started Movie Nights on Thursdays. We have our CalFresco gourmet food truck and people can come out, grab some food, buy a bottle of wine and relax watching a classic film. A Kobe burger or truffled mac and cheese beats popcorn any day.

There is live music from 1 to 3 p.m. throughout the year on Saturdays and Sundays and on Friday and Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. until mid-September, if the weather stays nice. The food truck is here Friday through Sunday and during the evening events we require a one bottle purchase for two to four people. One Saturday we clocked in over 11,000 visitors from opening to closing.

This is a great place to spend an hour or an evening. Come by yourself for some quiet relaxation, with your significant other or with a group. What ever your choice, you will have a good time. And, if you're lucky, Tami Semler will be at the Tasting Room to share some interesting wine information. Learn more about Saddlerock Ranch, Malibu Family Wines and upcoming events by visiting [www.malibuwines.com](http://www.malibuwines.com). **WM**



Malibu Family Wines, 31740 Mulholland Highway, Malibu, California 90265. The tasting room is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. No one under 21 can be admitted.





# FALL'S NEW YEAR

BY KATHLEEN MELTON

REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE “PROPER” CALENDAR SAYS,  
FOR MY FAMILY, FALL HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE START OF THE NEW YEAR.  
MORE SO THAN JANUARY 1ST, BIRTHDAYS, OR EVEN SPRINGTIME,  
FALL ALWAYS FEELS LIKE A TIME OF REGENERATION AND REINVENTION.

The anticipation of new teachers, friends and adventures at school.  
The chance to buy new clothes, sharpen new pencils, and open crisp, blank notebooks.  
Taking time to warm up our home with deep colors, lush carpets, comfy blankets and the enticing smells of saucy stews in the crock-pot.  
Joining or rooting for favorite sports teams.  
Signing up at the Rec center to finally learn the tango while the kids learn to make their own stop motion animation films!  
All of this and more reinvigorates and reinvents our lives and kicks off our New Year – Fall’s New Year.

Fall ushers in the opportunity to once again decide how we show up. From the trees literally shedding their leaves to each of us symbolically letting go of the first nine months of the year, fall represents the sloughing off of everything that has led up to this moment.

As the branches become bare, as the pumpkins and corn become ripe, and as costumes are created and festive tables set, this season’s events and family gatherings are a celebration and appreciation of the present and a forgiving of the past. The focus finally shifts once again to giving thanks for what we have, who we are, those who have blessed our lives, and the opportunities that lay before us.

The feeling generated in our community this time of year changes as significantly as our environments change - both inside and outside the home. The need to connect with and be with one another becomes a predominant factor in our social choices. From Halloween parades at the kids’ schools to reconnecting with neighbors at the farmer’s market and discovering new friends while raking giant leaf piles in the park, celebrating our neighborhoods and all they have to offer is what makes Fall feel like the time of year when you are truly home.

So gather with your friends and family, venture out and explore all that Westlake Village has to offer during this season. From the book clubs at the library to events at the local pumpkin patch, from exploring the Pentacheta Trail off Lindero to attending the high school homecoming football game, opportunities abound within this wonderful community for all of us to once again acknowledge what is most important – our relationships with others. Happy Fall New Year! **WM**

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Kathleen Melton offers personal branding, business and book development services. Her mission is to help others transform their careers and their lives by achieving the personal satisfaction and professional credibility associated with being, *The One Who Wrote The Book*.™ For more information contact [kathleen@LMNOP4U.com](mailto:kathleen@LMNOP4U.com) or directly at 818-262-9691.

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# WWM

westlake magazine

**18 Year Anniversary**



**California Dreamin'**  
special section

# WESTLAKE

THEN AND NOW | By Kathleen Melton

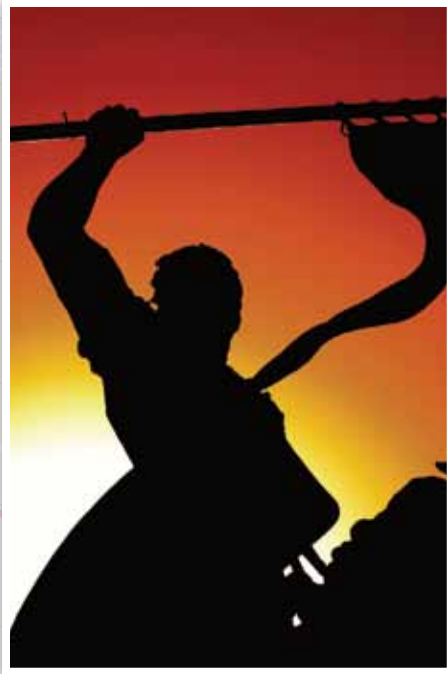
To know where we are going, we must understand where we have been. It is that understanding that inspires us to take the next step, to move to the next level, to create something new by building upon what has already been accomplished. Looking back through the pages of the last 18 years of Westlake Magazine, it is amazing how our world, our country, our city, our families and even our selves as individuals have changed. Amidst all of the obvious differences, however, there remains a similar constant —

A scenic view of a lake with houses and mountains in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds. The water is dark blue with ripples. The houses are white and grey, and the mountains are green and brown.

**the need to create and contribute to a larger community. Westlake Village has a rich history, one that is still being created by each member of collective neighborhoods today. It is the celebration of this ongoing history and the individuals contributing to that legacy that Westlake Magazine honors each issue. Please enjoy a look back through time as we prepare a successful launch forward into the future – the future of Westlake Village as chronicled and honored by Westlake Magazine.**

# WESTLAKE TIMELINE

*history*



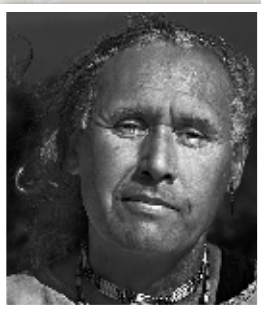
Captain Gaspar de Portola led a party of Spanish explorers who camped at a site believed to be present-day Westlake Village.

Land purchased for \$2.50 an acre by the Russell brothers for cattle ranching, became known as Russell Ranch.



**3,000**  
*years ago*

Chumash Indians moved into the region



**1770**

California admitted to the Union and the current Westlake Village site recognized as the central part of two Mexican land grants:



Rancho El Conejo and Rancho Las Virgenes.

**1850**

**1881**

**1921**

Filming of "Robin Hood" starring Douglas Fairbanks





Land area of present day Westlake Village sold to William Randolph Hearst.

Land area of present day Westlake Village sold to Fred Albertson.



Westlake Village Golf Course built.

1925

1943

1963

1964

1965



A-H



The American-Hawaiian Steamship Company paid \$32 million for the land and in partnership with Prudential Insurance Company, commissioned a master-planned community or "city in the country."

Actual construction of the dam and carving out of the lake started.

1966

1968

1969

1972

1981

Development of the lakeside community by the American Hawaiian Steamship Company.

Second portion of the Ventura County side of side of Russell Ranch was annexed into the City of Thousand Oaks.

First portion of the Ventura County side of Russell Ranch was annexed into the City of Thousand Oaks.



Westlake Yacht Club opened.

The Los Angeles County side, consisting of 3,456 acres, was incorporated as the City of Westlake Village.



# WESTLAKE TIMELINE



First issue of Westlake Magazine hits the stands in the fall.



Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza grand opening in October.



Westlake Village Civic Center opens, featuring both city hall and the library representing the governmental center of this community.

**1992    1994    1999    2002    2010...**

Sophia Loren graces the cover of Westlake Magazine.



Dole Food Company opens headquarters in Westlake Village.

Relaunch of Westlake Magazine, November 2010, new iPad version, iPhone app, digitag introduced.



WM



*You are Invited*

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18th Anniversary and Re-launch Party!**

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Wednesday, November 3, 2010**

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**Time: 5:30 pm**

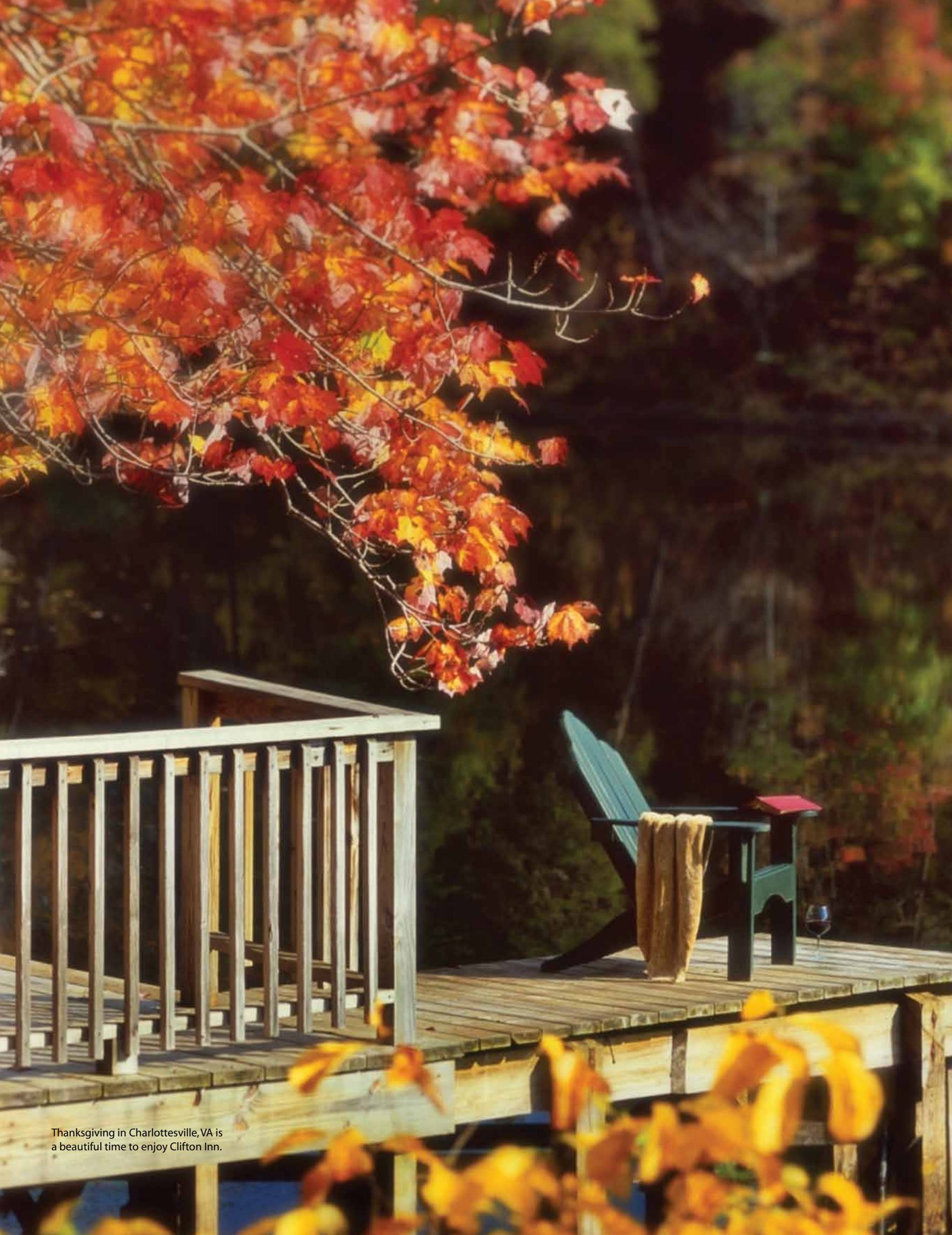
RSVP REQUESTED

**Email: [Anniversary@WestlakeMagazine.com](mailto:Anniversary@WestlakeMagazine.com)**

**Phone: 818.279.2773**







Thanksgiving in Charlottesville, VA is a beautiful time to enjoy Clifton Inn.

# AWAY FROM HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*By Linda Lang*

**T**hanksgiving and Christmas are times for celebrating traditions with friends and loved ones. Homes fill with aromas of turkeys and pies baking in the oven while football fans scope out their favorite spot around the TV for that all-important game. A week or so later, holiday lights begin hanging from eaves, mechanical reindeer light up front yards, and gifts start accumulating beneath scented or artificial pines sparkling with twinkling lights and shiny ornaments. It's a wonderful season of celebration, albeit sometimes stressful.

It's also a time when many families gather their generations and head for holiday getaways where the festivities can be enjoyed in new surroundings while others do all the preparation. Thanksgiving dinners are on the menu in many foreign hotels. A decorated Christmas or Hanukkah tree can be waiting for you in your room. A visit from Santa can be arranged. Yes, exciting options for creating holiday memories await you and yours in storybook settings around the world.

To jump-start your imagination, we've selected a few ideas beginning with a Thanksgiving feast and week of shopping in Paris; a New Year's carnival in South Africa that rivals our New Orleans Mardi Gras; sleigh rides, ice skating, and hot cocoa while caroling around the piano; a candlelight tour of Jefferson's beloved Monticello bedecked in holiday décor; or welcoming a water-skiing Santa ashore on a sunny Caribbean beach. And if you're looking for something closer to home, we've got a great getaway down San Diego way.



Hôtel Le Bristol in Paris is offering a special Thanksgiving package throughout November.

## Thanksgiving in the City of Lights

Paris is a great city to visit any time of the year. In late November, you sit inside, not outside the sidewalk cafés. The leaves have left the trees. A crispness in the air captures your breath as you stroll the streets enticed by shop windows artistically adorned for the holidays. The tourists are gone. This is Parisian's Paris and a great time to explore boutiques, shops, galleries and, of course, enjoy some of the world's finest dining. It's also the perfect time to shop, especially if the dollar continues to hold against the euro (around \$1.20 as of press time).

Le Bristol is one of those legendary hotels that has played a leading role in the glamour of Paris since opening during the height of Roaring 20s. Celebrating Josephine Baker, Sydney Bechet, the Charleston and carefree *joie de vivre*, the city attracted all the cultural and fashion icons including Rochas, Chanel, Picasso and Dali. On the corner of avenue Matignon and rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, you're within easy access to virtually every major fashion house in the world. The first Pierre Cardin shop opened in 1954 a few doors down at number 118 with others including Hermes, Larvin, Lacroix attracting such clients as Kim Novak, Rita Hayworth, and Charlie Chaplin. Like nearby Avenue Montaigne, the street remains dedicated to glamour and high fashion.

The hotel has continued to expand over the years and in 2007 acquired an adjacent building. Last year, the new wing, Résidence Matignon, was unveiled, offering additional luxury accommodations and an impressive new restaurant, Le 114 Faubourg.

As in years past, Hôtel Le Bristol is offering a special Thanksgiving package throughout November. With a minimum stay of two nights, you can request up to three connecting rooms and/or suites and enjoy a Thanksgiving feast in Le 114 Faubourg highlighted by such delectables as pumpkin velouté, turkey supreme with sweet potato mousseline, and apple tart. Other perks are also included.

For details, go to [www.lebristolparis.com/?q=en#/](http://www.lebristolparis.com/?q=en#/)



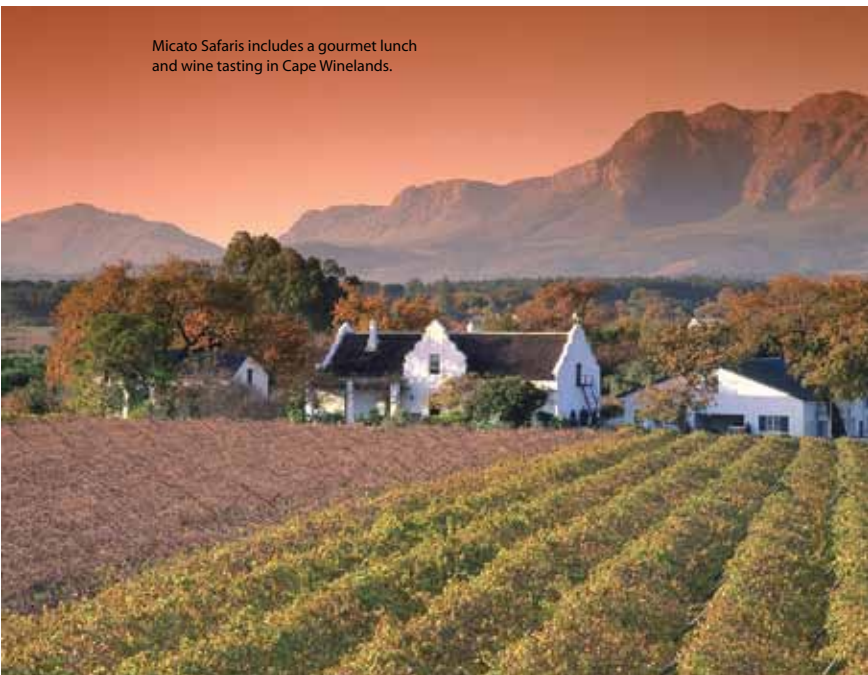
The elegant presidential suite at the hotel is furnished with every luxury.



The restaurant at the hotel is renowned for its fine cuisine and traditional elegance.



The Cape Town Minstrels Carnival rivals our New Orleans Mardi Gras.



Micato Safaris includes a gourmet lunch and wine tasting in Cape Winelands.

## Holiday Safari in South Africa

Micato Safaris has a unique luxury adventure for families seeking more than just the traditional bush camp safari during the holiday break.

The 11-day program begins with four days in the Sabi Sand Game Reserve at one of Singita's finest award-winning lodges for some of the best game viewing in Africa. Chances are excellent for spotting elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, antelope, and more. A visit from Father Christmas on Christmas Eve is followed by an elaborate Christmas Day barbeque in the bush.

Then it's off for five nights at the charming Cape Grace Hotel on its own private quay in Cape Town's Victoria & Alfred Waterfront and adjacent to the city's best shopping and attractions.

Excursions include visits to Cape Winelands with a gourmet luncheon and sampling of the varietals and vintages for which the region is known and a full day to Cape Peninsula with a stop at Boulders Beach. Here, as you meander along a protected boardwalk amid a large colony of African Penguins, you see them going about daily life in their natural habitat, squabbling as they march along seemingly aware they are constantly being observed and photographed.

You'll celebrate New Year's Eve with a picnic dinner and concert featuring renowned musical artists from around the globe at Cape Town's Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. A dramatic midnight fireworks display and champagne ring in the New Year.

One of the most colorful events is the Cape Town Minstrel's Carnival, which rivals our New Orleans Mardi Gras. You'll get a behind-the-scenes look into the preparations of one of the many minstrel troupes that will march in the spectacular New Year's Day competition. If you want to join in, you can actually march with a troupe to Greenpoint Stadium where more than 13,000 colorfully-costumed minstrels compete for the title of Best Minstrel Troupe.



The Sabi Sand Game Reserve offers some of the best game viewing in Africa.

Founded in 1966 by Jane and Felix Pinto, Micato Safaris is well-known for its personalized, luxury African adventures for the sophisticated traveler. Their programs are not inexpensive, but the experiences are far from ordinary. The company has also won the *Travel + Leisure* "World's Best Tour Operator & Safari Outfitter" award for an unprecedented seven years.

For more information, go to [www.micato.com](http://www.micato.com) or call 1-800-MI-CATO-1.



Twin Farms Quintessential Vermont Christmas Package features a five-night stay in a winter wonderland.

## Traditional Snowy Christmas in Vermont

Looking for a traditional New England Christmas with snow drifts, horse-drawn sleigh rides, ice skating parties and caroling around the piano?

Located on over 300 acres of meadows, forests and ponds, Twin Farms is a unique country estate blending Vermont tradition and gracious hospitality with every modern amenity. The original 1795-era farmhouse and lodge now house charming living and dining rooms and six elegant guest suites. Additional accommodations are found in 10 free-standing, individually-decorated guest cottages and four suites at the Copper Hill Farmhouse. All offer wood-burning fireplaces, spacious baths, full line of bath and body products, high-speed wireless Internet access, satellite TV, fully-stocked refrigerator with coffee and tea service and seasonal snacks. Featherbeds with the finest linens are covered with plush, down comforters and pillows. All but one have king-sized beds. Guests can also enjoy the handsome pub, full fitness center, spa, and four seasons of on-site recreation equipment.

Since opening in 1993, Twin Farms has earned the Forbes (formerly Mobil) Travel Guide Five-Star Award for the past 15 consecutive years, been named the #1 Inn in the United States by the Zagat Survey, and honored as a Grand Winner by *Andrew Harper's Hideaway Report*.

The Twin Farms Quintessential Vermont Christmas Package features a five-night stay with sleigh rides, ice skating parties, hot chocolate around bonfires while toasting marshmallows for s'mores, Nordic and Alpine skiing, tobogganing, snowshoeing, evening musical performances, delectable holiday dining, plus your own secret stocking from Santa and a Christmas tree in your room as well as common areas throughout the property. And you can even have a plate of your favorite cookies waiting upon your arrival.

For details, call 800-894-6327 or go to [www.twinfarms.com](http://www.twinfarms.com).



The original 1795-era farmhouse and lodge now house charming living and dining rooms and guest suites.



The Inn turns into a Christmas wonderland during the holidays.



Clifton Inn offers the perfect Christmas setting.



All guest rooms and suites at the Inn are individually decorated.

## Celebrating in Historic Charlottesville

Charlottesville, Virginia is pure Jefferson country. Here in the heart of Albemarle County, our charismatic founding father was born, raised, farmed, built his beloved Monticello and established a university that still ranks among the nation's finest.

A countryside of gently rolling hills, zigzagged with signature black fences and backed by Lovely Mountain vistas, creates a picture-perfect backdrop for Clifton Inn, which dates back to the days of Thomas Jefferson's father. Originally built as a 18th century commercial trading post, the handsome, white-columned clapboard house appears quite modest in comparison to nearby grand estates like Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier. Meticulously restored by the present owners, Clifton Inn now proudly stands as a luxurious Relais & Châteaux hotel which is also noted for its fine dining.

While many of the 18 rooms and suites in the main and outer buildings have fireplaces, each is totally unique.

All are individually furnished with American antiques set against the fine prints and strong stripes favored in the days of the Inn's origins. While the décor may be 18th century, you'll enjoy all the modern amenities including high-speed wireless internet and Bose sound systems.

Just minutes away are the many attractions of downtown Charlottesville as well as dozens of historic sites. During the holiday season, the area sparkles with festivities. If, for example, you are there December 3 - 5, you can attend "A Candlelight Christmas at Montpelier" and walk up the lantern-lit path for a tour of Madison's candlelit-mansion followed by refreshments and music in the Grand Salon. [www.innsatmontpelier.com](http://www.innsatmontpelier.com)

Clifton Inn also boasts one of the region's finest dining rooms. Chef Dean Maupin celebrates the local bounty with hearty breakfasts, afternoon teas, sumptuous three- to five-course dinners including, of course, traditional holiday prix-fixe menus with all the fixings.

A charming, intimate country hotel with world-class luxury nestled in rolling hills rich in our nation's history, Clifton Inn makes a great getaway for Thanksgiving or Christmas. [www.cliftoninn.net](http://www.cliftoninn.net)



Clifton Inn glistens in the evening countryside.



## Caroling in the Caribbean

Think Santa can't arrive by water skis on a sandy beach to distribute gifts to children in bathing suits and sun block? Think again. He never misses those waiting for him at the award-winning Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort on the sunny isle of St. Lucia.

The 60-acre property, in Mediterranean style with white-washed, red-tile-roofed villas, is nestled in a verdant hillside overlooking a splendid crescent beach. Its spacious, luxurious villas and suites are ideal for families. Each bedroom has its own bath and fully-equipped kitchens are available in most accommodations. The villas also come with private plunge pools as do the new Hibiscus Suites which feature private Jacuzzis.

A variety of beachfront and hillside restaurants featuring local specialties and international fare, bars, shops, and spa are just steps away from your villa. Kayaking, sailing and water skiing are on the endless menu of water sports, and adventures range from mountain biking and ATV trips to zip lining through the rainforest.

Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort is especially kid-friendly. The Jacquot Fun Club, for children ages four to 12 years, offers an ever-changing array of supervised games, arts and crafts and learning experiences. Open daily from 10 am to 4 pm and 6:30 pm to 10 pm, parents can plan their own activities knowing their little ones are enjoying themselves with their peers under expert supervision. Activities for teens, offered daily from 10 am to early evening, enable them to socialize and enjoy a wide variety of water sports, games, dances and parties.



For Christmas, the many festivities include caroling, Christmas Eve dinner, Christmas Day Brunch and Dinner Buffet – all highlighted by Santa arriving on water skis to present gifts to the kids on the beach.

During the holiday week, the Jacquot Kids Fun Club offers Christmas card making, ice cream treats with Santa, a Grand Christmas Treasure Hunt and caroling on the beach. Additional functions for the 12-and-under set include a Caribbean limbo show, balloon tossing, shell hunt, disco party, movie night with popcorn and talent show.

For teens, there's caroling around a bonfire, giant chess, beach cricket, limbo night, pool games, kayak races, water polo, beach volleyball, sunset party cruise, water ski competition and more.

For rates and dates, call 877-522-0722 or visit

[www.windjammer-landing.com](http://www.windjammer-landing.com)





Grand Del Mar in Northern San Diego is offering a two-night Grand Thanksgiving Retreat.

## Thanksgiving Getaway in San Diego

If you are looking for a short escape over Thanksgiving, the Grand Del Mar in Northern San Diego is offering a two-night Grand Thanksgiving Retreat.

Just five miles inland off the I-5 southeast of Del Mar, the resort's design is reminiscent of palatial Mediterranean retreats with elaborate interiors moving gracefully onto outdoor patios bounded by a lush mix of local and tropical flora, dramatic fountains and meandering walkways. Its backyard is the spectacular 4,100-acre Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which offers excellent options for biking, jogging and hiking.

The restaurant was included on Gayot.com's February Top 40 Restaurants in the U.S. list, and for the past two years, has earned Forbes (Mobil) Five Star and AAA Five Diamond awards. The resort has also been listed in *Travel + Leisure's* Top 30 Resorts in U.S./Canada and earned numerous accolades from *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Gayot*, and *The Los Angeles Times*.

Facilities include tennis courts, fitness center, four heated pools, private cabanas, poolside bar and snacks. Wired and wireless Internet access, bottled water, local and 800 number calls and overnight shoeshine are among the in-room perks.

For the children and teens, The Explorer's Club -- open daily until 5 pm (10 pm Fri. and Sat.), is filled with electronic, board and table games and offers arts and crafts, movies and environmental activities.

The rooms and suites at the hotel have every modern luxury.

The hotel also offers Christmas programs for friends and family.

In addition to two-nights' accommodations, the Grand Thanksgiving Retreat includes Thanksgiving Brunch for two, breakfast for two on the second day, unlimited children's programming at The Explorer's Club for up to two children (ages four to 12), and overnight valet parking.

Call 858-314-2030 or visit [www.thegradndelmar.com](http://www.thegradndelmar.com).



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# Bellini Osteria

BRINGS GLAMOROUS TOUCH  
OF ITALY TO WESTLAKE

BY CAROL KARM  
PHOTOS BY ARTEM ZUEV

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED A GREAT LOOKING NEW KID ON THE BLOCK ON SOUTH WESTLAKE BOULEVARD. THE INSPIRATION OF JOHN SPINA, OWNER OF JOHN OF ITALY, BELLINI OSTERIA INVITES ANYONE WITH AN APPETITE FOR DELICIOUS AND AUTHENTIC ITALIAN FARE AND BOUTIQUE ITALIAN WINES TO DROP BY.



Located at 951 S. Westlake Boulevard, this trendy restaurant and lounge combines both an elegant atmosphere with a casual vibe, making it the perfect place to come with your favorite date or group of friends looking to share a great evening.



The bar scene is lively, offering a happy hour complete with little taste treats, Monday through Friday, from 4 to 7 PM. Drinks are priced from \$3.50. The extra bonus is the after dinner happy hour on Friday and Saturday nights from 10 to midnight.

The intimately lit dining room shares the same lively vibe. Spina, often greets guests entering the restaurant by their first names, a testament to the years he has lived in the community and the number of his satisfied, longtime patrons. “I didn’t want this restaurant to disappoint in any way because these people are my friends,” he says.

For those who prefer a more tranquil dining experience, the beautiful patio provides the perfect setting to linger over dinner and drinks and good conversation. Spina had wanted to open a restaurant in Westlake and, when the Mandevilla property became available, he went full steam ahead, opening Bellini in four months. He previously had a restaurant in Westlake, Ritrovo, and sold it. This presented the opportunity to get back into a business he enjoyed and to bring to appreciative diners the tastes of Italy and introduce them to small boutique wineries, particularly some Italian ones.

The wait staff has been meticulously trained to anticipate diners’ needs, speak

knowledgeably about menu selections and suggest appropriate wine pairings. The menu is extensive and always offers specials. The food, under the creative guidance of Chef Gianluca Sarti, reflects the authentic Italian roots of the both Sarti and Spina. Sarti’s touch is light, attentive to the smallest culinary detail and true to the Italian heritage of cooking from the heart to delight the senses. Whether it’s a long, leisurely lunch or a relaxing dinner, every meal offers a wide array of classic and contemporary gourmet food at affordable prices.

Bellini Osteria offers fresh, imaginative salads, pizzas, risottos, numerous pastas and a full range of succulent meat, fowl



and seafood entrees. And if dessert is the reason you go out to dinner, you won't be disappointed. The restaurant is open all day for lunch and dinner with lunch service starting at 11:30 AM Monday through Friday, dinner from at 5:00 to 9:30 PM Monday through Sunday and extending to 10:30 PM on Friday and Saturday. An extra bonus is plenty of free parking. For reservations, call 805-497-8482 or go online at [www.OpenTable.com](http://www.OpenTable.com). **WM**

**TWO ORIGINAL RECIPES**  
*from*  
**CHEF GIANLUCA SARTI**



The Fregola "Sarda" is a perfect dish for a sultry summer day or evening and the StrozzaPreti is a unique handmade pasta, that is quite addictive.

## FREGOLA "SARDA"

**(Prepare one day prior to eating and keep refrigerated)**

2 lb. fregola (Italian barley)  
 1 ea. red, green and yellow bell pepper, English cucumber, yellow zucchini, red onion – all chopped fine  
 2 red tomatoes seeded and chopped fine

Boil barley in salted water for 1 hour. Drain and let cool. When cool, mix with vegetables. Make a dressing of extra virgin olive oil, salt and pepper to your own taste. Add 2 oz. of chopped chives and 2 oz. of julienne sliced basil. Toss all and let refrigerate until the next day.

## STROZZAPRETI

### Pasta

2 ½ c. unbleached all purpose flour  
 1 c. cold water  
 2 t. extra virgin olive oil  
 salt to taste

Put flour on a flat surface and make a well in the middle, placing oil, water and salt in the well. Gradually incorporate all the flour into the wet ingredients and knead until smooth. Put it in a ball and let rest ½ hour. Roll it out into a rectangle and cut into spaghetti. Put on a tray in the freezer and when ready to boil, take directly out of the freezer and put in boiling water and cook in salted water until it is al dente.

### Sausage Ragù

2 lb. bulk sausage  
 3 ea. onions  
 1 qt. whipping cream  
 ½ c. white wine  
 1 lb. can pureed tomatoes  
 1 whole carrot  
 salt and pepper to taste

Finely chop onions and cook on a gentle heat until they caramelize. Add sausage and sauté until broken into small pieces and browned thoroughly. Add wine and reduce. Add tomato and carrot and cook 20 minutes on medium heat. Remove the carrot as this was just to add a little sweetness to the sauce. Add the cream and cook at a low heat for 1½ hours. When finished, add cooked pasta to the pan along with parmesan cheese to taste and let the flavors combine. Serve and enjoy!

# Looking Your Best

## A Guide to the Mysteries of the Fashion World

By Carol Karm

Photos by Zac Rupprecht



Stella Campbell offers a suggestion to a client.

**Stella Campbell, co-owner, with husband Bruce, of Westlake's Sugar and Spice Boutiques, has been interested in fashion since childhood and employed in the field almost as long. "I fell into it," she said, "starting with designing for my paper dolls. I wasn't interested in sewing, just design." Taking this interest one step further, she realized her passion could be the basis for a business venture.**



The Campbells started their Westlake business in 1985, opening a boutique called Changes. Located in the Westlake Plaza where Kirk Jewelers and Blue are currently located, Changes was one of a group of stores that the Campbells owned up and down the coast. They sold these stores, changed the name to Sugar and opened in their current location at 982 South Westlake Boulevard. The opening of Spice came later, as the location at 966 South Westlake Boulevard became available, offering the Campbells an opportunity to carry a wider selection of fashion choices to serve more women.

"Now here is a cold, hard truth," Stella Campbell states. "If a woman wants to look her best, it's going to take work. It doesn't just happen. People get comfortable with styles and colors, even if the styles or colors don't suit them. A valuable

tool for a woman is one good friend who will be honest with her when she asks, 'What do you think of this outfit? How does it make me look?' Now, we know we aren't going to get that kind of honesty from boyfriends and husbands, and it's almost as hard to get from a girl friend."

Stella has always maintained that the three most important elements in looking good are color, style and fit. Her hobby over the years has been studying body types to find which wardrobe items and colors suit each woman, according to her natural coloring and body type. The hobby has translated to her employees through extensive training so they too can recognize a customer's most flattering garment style. This is also true with the issue of choosing appropriate colors for a customer. For the customer, this falls into that "priceless" category; having

someone honestly appraising what really works and looks great.

The expensive part of a woman's shopping behavior is when she buys things that don't suit her or are unflattering, that end up in the "unwanted" pile in her closet. They don't coordinate with anything she already owns so they aren't worn ... despite the fact they were a bargain or an upscale designer brand. Most women would admit there is a black hole in their closets filled with "onesies."

"I want to make women look their best, and I can if they are willing to be a little daring and change some preconceived ideas about how they dress. There are wonderful undergarments available now that help women look very sleek in their clothing – a necessary and worthwhile investment that makes all the difference



in how a garment fits and looks.” Stella is available to work with a customer to identify her figure type and put together the kind of fashion silhouette that will be most enhancing. “Our job is to take the fashion trends and interpret them for our customers so that they have the current look but in the colors and pieces that are best for them. This makes a customer’s purchase meaningful. With our help they can add pieces to their existing wardrobes to update their look and choose accessories to update any outfit, making it look like a million dollars.” Stella adds, “Any woman who wants to look good has to know her own personal style.”

**“ I want to make women look their best, and I can if they are willing to be a little daring and change some preconceived ideas about how they dress. ”**

One has only to visit either store to see the tantalizing array of beautiful clothing. Even if you were to go in once a week, you would always see new merchandise and displays. An excellent retail operation doesn’t happen by chance. Stella says wryly, “It is a bit like a chicken farm – you get up with it; it’s with you all day, every day; you go home and worry about it all night long and start again the next day. This is what it takes to be an entrepreneur. I go to market every week to get new items for our stores here and in Calabasas and we do special buys for customers when we can. We re-merchandise the stores every week so they are fresh.”



Sugar’s colorful displays tempt customers.

Bruce Campbell, a gregarious retail economist, handles all things entrepreneurial, the back rooms and the hiring.

The Campbells have six grandchildren for whom they babysit, take out to eat, take for rides on their boat and spoil in any way that they can. “The grandchildren are our treat and we take them traveling when we can. We are so busy with the stores so our two great pleasures are the family and the Yacht Club. We love the people and the events there and it is a great way to relax.” **WM**







*Moran*  
**ATLAS**

**NOT JUST ANOTHER RISING STAR**



PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEVIN FOLEY

## ACTRESS MORAN ATIAS models the hottest fall designer fashions for Westlake Magazine's celebrity photographer Kevin Foley at the Amazing Lobo Castle in Agoura Hills, California.

By Rebecca Gray Grossman

Former Dolce Gabbana model, Moran Atias recently wrapped the feature film, *The Next Three Days* opposite Elizabeth Banks and Russell Crowe. She is best known for her work on *Crash*, the TV spin off of the Oscar winning film about racial tensions in Los Angeles.

Born in Israel, Moran knew at an early age she wanted to be an actress after taking part in acting classes. Her first TV appearance was in the Israel youth show *Out of Focus*. At the age of 17, she moved to Germany to start modeling, quickly relocating to Italy to continue the profession. However, this young actress and model appears to have been blown by the winds of her destiny in a number of directions.

Moran, fluent in five languages, currently resides in Los Angeles and is actively involved in disaster relief and raising awareness for Haiti. She flew to Haiti twice in 2010 and assisted in saving 29 lives. "Visiting Haiti, as well as meeting and working alongside actor Sean Penn while addressing the tremendous needs in Haiti was a life changing experience" said Moran who is also a ISRAAID Good will Ambassador and an ambassador of APJ – Artists for Peace and Justice.

Moran, a stunning and talented young woman will, no doubt, rise quickly as an actress, however, more importantly, be known for her kind heart and passion to help those in need.





Tux Jacket and Hat: Ella Zahlan  
Sequene Skirt: BCBG

*Opposite*  
Black top and skirt: Grai  
Shoes: Talent's own Dolce Gabbana  
Cuff: Miles Mcneel



Dress: Petro Zillia ([www.petrozillia.com](http://www.petrozillia.com))  
Hat: Arturo Rios ([www.arturorios.com](http://www.arturorios.com))

Opposite  
Dress: Talent's own Dolce Gabbana





Black Dress and Shoes: BCBG  
Stylists own Hermes bracelet

Opposite  
Dress: Leila Hafzi, Style Yasmin  
Special order at [www.leila-hafzi.com](http://www.leila-hafzi.com)  
Ring: Miles Mcneel



**Photography:** Kevin Foley | [www.FoleyPhoto.com](http://www.FoleyPhoto.com)

**Makeup:** Christa Foley | [www.ChristaFoley.com](http://www.ChristaFoley.com)

**Hair:** Michael Canyon for Redken/[celestineagency.com](http://celestineagency.com)

**Styling:** Vanessa Shokrian for [celestinetalent.com](http://celestinetalent.com)

**Location:** [www.LoboCastle.com](http://www.LoboCastle.com)



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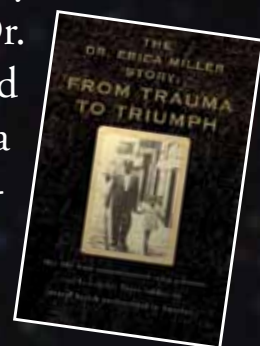
\* Century 21 Real Estate LLC December 2009 Individual Producers by AGC. These rankings reflect 2009 transactions with a close date of 2009-12-31 and a paid date of 2010-01-05



## THE DR. ERICA MILLER STORY: THE JOURNEY OUT OF DARKNESS

By Kari Rodems

I was deeply moved... inspired more than anything really, from my visit with Dr. Erica Miller. In her recently published book, *The Dr. Erica Miller Story: From Trauma to Triumph*, Jerry, her husband of 50 years described his wife by saying, "...she is a real survivor, a high achiever and exceptionally intelligent." I certainly echo that sentiment and add that she is a force to be reckoned with, and I am convinced she is nowhere near ready to slow down. Miller says the refrain of her life is "I'm still here!" It is this glass half full perspective that has seen her through some of the darkest moments ever inflicted on humanity.



As a child growing up in Rumania (modern day Ukraine) she was interned with her family under the Nazi regime and endured four years in a concentration camp. In 1944 the Russians liberated her entire family, and in 1949 they relocated to Israel where she later joined the Israeli Army. Then in 1958, Miller immigrated to the U.S. where she went on to not only raise her family, but earn her Ph.D. and open a series of successful mental health centers throughout Los Angeles and Orange County.

I was greeted warmly at the door of her expansive yet unpretentious ranch style home. After a fire destroyed the residence in 2005, every detail in her beautifully re-built custom Hidden Hills estate reflects her intensity of character and eye for finding beauty in the world around her. As we settled in her home office, Miller quickly began explaining the whirlwind of exhilarating adventures she is having surrounding her well-received autobiography. I asked her what the process of retelling her life's story was like, "I [may] come across heartless and very detached, nothing surprised me, nothing!"

Miller went on to explain that it is actually her ability to detach that served her well in her profession as a psychologist because it allowed her to offer wise counsel without being overwhelmed by the myriad of issues she would encounter throughout her career. When I asked why she chose her profession she recalled a distant memory that took place shortly after the Nazis had abruptly taken her family. She remembered mothers crying out for their loved ones, and literally writhing in anguish as they cried out for their children by name.

One woman in particular almost came undone before her eyes. Even at her young age, Miller very much wanted to reach out to her, believing that if she could just touch her, she might be able to lessen her pain and let her know she would be alright. Out of fear, her mother restrained her from reaching out, yet because of that memory she says, "I feel like I am on a mission to spread optimism, the joy of life; and I get a lot back, I heal myself through healing others." Though Miller's young life was forever scarred by traumatic experiences, she would be the first to tell you that your future is informed by your past, not dictated by it.

The groundwork for the book itself began a number of years ago, when a former colleague decided to start chronicling the life experiences of a variety of people. Miller, not one to share past experiences (unless directly asked), warmed to the idea and began spelling out a life most of us can scarcely imagine. Miller initially thought that after the transcription of her life story was completed, that would be the end of her process. Yet, as time went by, Miller decided she would like to leave a narrative recounting her life's journey (thus far) for her grandchildren. After hiring a number of writers to complete her memoir, she was disenchanted with the flowery language often interjected into the text. Miller's husband says his wife is someone who "comes straight to the point..." So, Miller decided the only way this work would be authentically conveyed was if she and her daughter worked together and delivered the final product.

Both of her children and her husband were interviewed independently to garner their thoughts on the real Dr. Erica Miller, as mom and wife. Her return to finish her degree when her son was in 1st grade was a sacrifice for the entire family. They unanimously agree that her decision to earn her Ph.D. in Psychology was a rough patch in the family's dynamic but respect her drive and dedication to her calling. Considered the family disciplinarian, Miller's no nonsense sense of order and responsibility is only matched by her zest for all that life has to offer. She is unabashedly proud of her children, noting they have grown into incredible adults, immensely capable people and wonderful parents. The day I was visiting, an annual summer theater group for young children, run by her granddaughter, was slated to perform in the Millers' 100-seat theatre. The theatre, complete with curtains and a stage, is attached to the guest house that Miller artfully re-designed after the fire.

Though she was quick to say she doesn't need lots of friends and tends to be a loner of sorts, there was a distinct delight that was evident when she talked about the families that would be coming to enjoy the performances taking place over the next three evenings. She was beaming as she described the scores of parents and grandparents that would be filling the aisles and enjoying refreshments with the cast in the theater and plush garden area after their performances. What she is able to provide for a new generation of her community's children is a far cry from her own experiences of a childhood that was marked more by survival than gala events.

With two scheduled book signings at Barnes and Noble this August and multiple opportunities for speaking engagements, the next chapter in Dr. Erica Miller's life has yet to be written. These days I think Miller's cup appears more than half full, in fact it seems to runneth over. When asked what she wanted to do next, Miller's eyes lit up as she explained that she'd love to have her own column in a newspaper or magazine and her book turned into a screenplay with Barbara Streisand playing her! So Barbara if you are available... For more information on book signings or speaking engagements visit [www.dreicamiller.com](http://www.dreicamiller.com) or visit the Dr. Erica Miller Story on Facebook. **WM**



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Meet the Cassars | By Niki Chopra Richardson

## *Hugh and Keets Cassar*

have been a part of this community since 1969, when Westlake Village was nothing more than the First Neighborhood.

A self-made man, Hugh Cassar was born and raised in the Republic of Malta, Europe's smallest island country situated in the Mediterranean. His family migrated to Toronto, Canada when he was 15. He graduated from University of Toronto at the age of 29 and by then he already had three children and had been married for nearly 10 years.

After graduation he left Toronto for San Francisco in search of more opportunities. Along the way, he became an expert in hospital administration and was brought on to Cedar Sinai in Beverly Hills to manage the hospital in a business-like fashion. From there he was recruited to help build and manage Los Robles Hospital, which he did for four years prior to the sale of that hospital to HCA. For many years he traveled all over the world managing hospitals in different countries. Hugh's entrepreneurial streak led him to different industries until he eventually launched what is now a successful international business headquartered in Moorpark, California in 1983. When he's not running his ever-evolving business, he is enjoying the company of his six children, 11 grandchildren, four birds and two dogs.

For the past decade The Cassars have hosted a charity golf tournament to benefit different local and national nonprofits including Make a Wish Foundation, American Red Cross, Special Olympics, Casa Pacifica and most recently Senior Concerns. They created this tournament with the vision to not only give back to the community but to encourage others to do the same. They believe that this tournament has inspired others to become more charitable, and they apparently have a lot of fun doing it. Vendors and suppliers who do business with their company sponsor the tournaments and golf alongside members of the community for a fabulous afternoon of golf, good food and great camaraderie. This has become such a sought after event that they actually had to turn people away this year. According to Hugh, what started out with small sponsorships of one or two holes of golf has snowballed into entire 18-hole sponsorship with people flying in from all over the country to participate in this two-day golf extravaganza.

The Cassars have a beautiful ranch in Hidden Valley, the interior

of which is entirely designed by Keets herself who has an incredible eye for design. She has put this talent to good use and has won the Angels of the Alliance table decorating contest in the professional category three years in a row. Hugh and Keets take pleasure in sharing their home with the community, opening it up to various charitable organizations; most recently the New West Symphony's "The Pleasure of Your Company" event, which was dubbed "the best one ever." Theirs is still the most talked about home on the holiday home tour organized by the Wellness Community Valley/Ventura. For three years in a row Hugh and Keets hosted Casa Pacifica's Angel's Ball. Keets currently serves on the Executive Committee of Casa Pacifica, where she has also served as Board Member for the past two years, and is current Chairperson of the Programs and Oversight Committee; she serves on the advisory board of Senior Concerns. They have also sponsored the Casa Pacifica Angels 18th Annual Wine & Food Festival. Their community mindedness doesn't end there.

**"It amazes me that the Wellness Community uses only 13% of their budget for administration, the rest goes directly towards client services. Now that's impressive!" said Keets.**

They have contributed to Wellness Community's new Garden of Hope and most recently made a generous contribution to the Alliance for the Arts. They are also supporters of UCLA Medical Center.

The Cassars say that even though their business has been affected by this economic downturn, their charitable contributions have probably more than doubled or even tripled. "When you real-

ize how many people are impacted by this economy, you realize how fortunate you are. You feel like you have to give back to the community, you absolutely must!" said Hugh.

Their commitment to contribute their money as well as their time and talent is evident in all that they do for the local nonprofits. "Our focus these past few years has definitely turned toward our local charities..." said Keets. "We feel it is our responsibility and that of others who have the means to support charities that function on shoe-string budgets with a dedicated staff of underpaid, overworked people. These nonprofits are providing services to those in need and we must support them and help them do the best job they can."

Another reason the Cassars like to contribute to local charities is because they can witness the impact of their contributions. They can see the way it is helping the charities directly change peoples' lives. "It amazes me that the Wellness Community uses only 13% of their budget for administration, the rest goes directly towards client services. Now that's impressive!" said Keets.

The Cassars were introduced to most of the charities they currently support through friends they know and trust and now they're paying it forward. They believe you should be able to recommend your favorite charities in the same way you would refer a good restaurant or movie to a friend. This is a great way to expose charities to people who otherwise would not know of them or may not be inclined to give.

It's no secret that word of mouth referrals from people who care about the mission and cause of a nonprofit is the most powerful form of advertising, as well as the most effective form of fundraising. "We know that what we do is just the tip of the iceberg, but it takes many drops to make an ocean and if we band together as a community and make a commitment to support these charities, they can continue to provide services to those that need them the most," said Keets, "then we can continue to be proud to live in this little piece of heaven that we are all so blessed to call home. " WM

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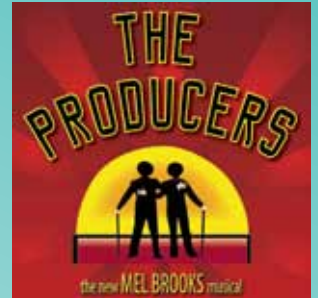
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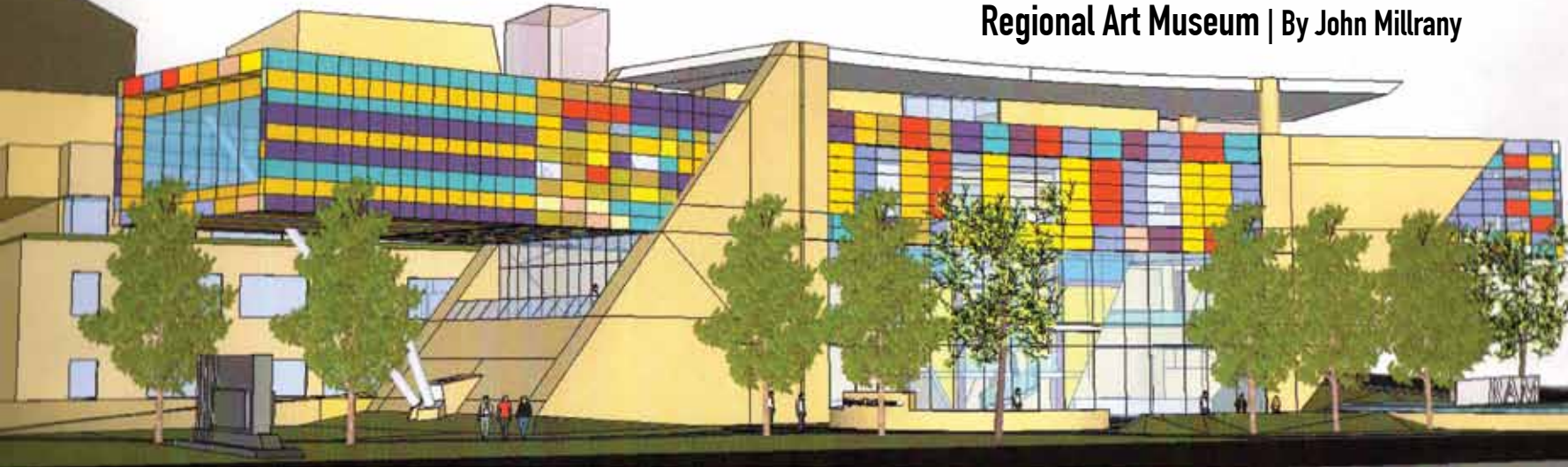
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Art aficionados along the Highway 101 Corridor are beaming with pleasure now that official sanctions have paved the way for

## the area's first and only Regional Art Museum.

After several years of brainstorming, organizing and planning, RAM's movers and shakers have assumed the attitude: "Let's get this done!"

**F**or these RAM acolytes, "Are we having fun yet?" can appropriately segue to "Now the fun begins," for to say their work has just begun isn't at all hyperbolic. The green-light moment occurred June 23 when the Thousand Oaks City Council voted 5-0 to "approve in concept a regional fine arts museum to be located in downtown Thousand Oaks on city-owned or provided land."

*Voilà! Fait accompli* on a more than tepid topic that has long stirred many passions among the regional art community.

"This (council approval) gives us the foundation needed to publicize and solicit donors for the building," says enthused Diana Malmquist, RAM vice president and spokeswoman. She and other RAM compatriots went next door from the Civic Center to celebrate at the Claim Jumper restaurant. "This dream is really happening!" was a thematic element in the celebration.

### RAM History

One of the most respected community agencies in a region justifiably proud of its community lay leadership is the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation. In 2008 CLVFF recognized the proverbial elephant in the room and took on a project soon known as RAM. First order of business was to form a task force to investigate the need. Beginning with telephone interviews of local arts organizations, the need for a RAM was duly noted.

The CLVFF committee continued with an outline questionnaire sent to artists, community leaders and politicians and other interested citizens. Data collected from the surveys reflected a strong interest for an art museum in the 101 corridor that bifurcates the cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills Westlake Village and Thousand Oaks.

Next up was a conference hosted by CLVFF to discuss housing for the visual arts with the early responders and other interested par-

ties. The 65 participants were nearly unanimous in their agreement that a rigorously designed regional art museum was needed to move the project forward. An executive task force was constituted and Frank Schillo, former Ventura County supervisor and ex-Thousand Oaks city councilman, was appointed chairman.

In 2009 architect Francisco Behr, AIA, of Behr Bowers Architects, was recruited by Chairman Schillo to assist in search for a RAM location and produce an analysis of the physical needs for such a facility. Events clicked steadily as the Thousand Oaks City Council responded favorably at Schillo's request to establish a goal for 2009-2010 to assist in the project's development.

At its March 24, 2009 meeting the council approved an art museum as a "top priority" for 2010-2011, acknowledging the need for a permanent location for the visual arts and pledged to participate in its fulfillment.

Schillo and Behr met with



representatives of the adjoining 101 corridor. Agoura Hills City Manager Greg Ramirez and Mayor William Koehler indicated their support of the museum and requested a presentation to their city council. Calabasas City Manager Tony Coroaalles met with Schillo and expressed interest in meeting with other supportive cities. Westlake Village City Manager Ray Taylor and Mayor Mark Rutherford also indicated their enthusiasm for the nonprofit RAM.

As a formality, “The name REGIONAL ART MUSEUM, an initiative of the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation” was selected by the task force to identify the project.

Subsequent meetings early in 2010 with Thousand Oaks City Manager Scott Mitnick, Mayor Dennis Gillette and other council members revealed city interest in locating RAM adjacent to the Performing Arts Center at the Civic Arts Plaza, prompting a RAM spokesperson to comment: “This positive step supporting the project is an inspiration to continue our project.”

Architect Behr studied the proposed location at the corner of Thousand Oaks Boulevard and Dallas Drive and produced a number of conceptual drawings of the

visual arts facility. Meanwhile, a pastiche of committees continued to form including Marketing, Education, Events, Membership, Website, Public Relations, Finance, Theme Timeline (long-term scheduling) and Case and Feasibility. The task force mapped out four principal methodologies: build public awareness, initiate a membership drive, schedule events and prepare for fundraising.

The all-important issue of seed money for initial expenses was accomplished with a generous donation from Michael Lee, local art patron and RAM board member. Another committee member, Chair Richard T. Johnson, created the well-received RAM Progress Report, a full-color brochure detailing the project and nicknamed “A prestigious art museum...in our community!”



## Mission Statement

“The vision of RAM is to become a vital cultural resource for the City of Thousand Oaks, its neighboring communities and visitors to our region. RAM will exhibit the traditional visual arts as we know and understand them (genres, styles and materials used) and expand to those new exhibits that include new techniques—contemporary and futuristic—to include video, digital, website and electronic art and other forms yet to be developed.

“RAM will build its collections; recruit donors to build and support the museum; and with a professional curator—and partnering with other art museums—train docents to share knowledge about the exhibits with the public. Educational programs will be developed in cooperation with the local school districts and universities to support cultural and art studies and elementary, middle, high school and university students. Adult education programs will be diversified in scope.

“In planning its exhibits, RAM will be responsive to community needs and interests. For more than 15 years, the region has enjoyed and supported world-class performances at the Civic Arts Plaza. The RAM located adjacent to the Civic Arts Plaza Theaters will offer enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts.”

## Design Concept

At first blush, the architectural challenge took on Architecture 101. Let’s say, 25,000 to 30,000 square feet. If you get the nod to cozy it up to the Civic Arts Plaza, you could go for three levels plus an accessible roof deck punctuated with a sculpture garden. Here’s how it could look:

**LEVEL ONE** – The main lobby and entrance facing Thousand

Oaks Boulevard. An adjacent gift shop, multimedia art theater, administrative and security offices and RAM cantilevers over Dallas Drive and Plaza landscape with supportive walls of dynamic angles that complement the Civic Arts Plaza structure. Use of color glass tiles decorate the exterior of the upper story.

**LEVEL TWO** – Starting with stairs and elevators, the building is curved to embrace an entrance court featuring a foundation and small outdoor amphitheater.

**LEVEL THREE** – Main gallery with enough area to hold three smaller-size exhibits or a single large one.

**LEVEL FOUR** – Roof deck with garden and event gathering areas designed for fundraising events and special openings.

## Charter Membership

The first annual membership drive is being planned to build participation in RAM with charter members from Newbury Park to Calabasas. The new visual arts building will house paintings, sculptures, traveling exhibitions and offer educational opportunities for students of all ages.

A variety of membership levels are offered with benefits tailored to each. Individual Memberships at \$50 will receive a newsletter and e-mail updates of all scheduled events and news of progress on the museum building. Free admission to sponsored exhibitions and openings, and discount on classes, workshops and events are included.

Family memberships at \$60 will receive the previous benefits and a second membership card for a spouse or second adult in the family. Children under 18 will be admitted free. For \$100 as Sustaining Membership will provide all the benefits of the previous levels, plus free admission to exhibits and lectures for two guests. Patron Membership at \$150 will add the benefit of reciprocal membership discounts and admissions to other facilities including the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, along with contemporary museum publications.

For their membership investment, Angel Members at \$250 and Golden Circle Members at \$1,000 receive all above benefits plus four guest passes to exhibitions and lectures. Golden Circle Members will be acknowledged on an inscribed lobby plaque and additionally have



the opportunity to host a private museum party.

Enrollment information should include name, address, phone and e-mail contacts. Fees can be paid by check or with VISA/MC cards. Application and payment may be sent to Regional Art Museum, PO Box 4709, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359. For more info, call RAM at 805-409-3598.

## Task Force

The RAM Task Force of the Board of Directors includes Margaret Fieweger, PhD, Frank Schillo and Michael Yee. Officers are Schillo, CEO and president; Diana Malmquist, vice president; Erin K. Tenner, secretary; Lori Marie Barlow, treasurer; Michele DePuy Leavitt, executive director, and Edward A. Lemma, campaign consultant. Committee members include Francisco Behr, AIA, Cate Brown, Earl Duryea, Naomi Finkel, Gisele Friedman, Len Freedman, Irish John Gore, Patricia Grant, Lawrence Janss, Richard T. Johnson, Philippa Klessig, John LaRocca, Judy Lazar, Mary Elva Lussier, Darlene McBane, Ricki Mikkelsen, Kathleen Rogers, Helene Ross, Carol Salak, Lis J. Schwitters, Margaret Travers, Joe Wertheimer and Beverly Eaton Wilson.

The group meets monthly in Westlake Village. **WM**



# WESTLAKE BY NUMBER

By Kathleen Melton

5.6

Number of square miles that represents the land area of Westlake Village.

5

Number of parks in those 5.6 square miles.

125

Westlake Lake surface area in acres.

9.8

Miles of shoreline along the lake in Westlake Village.

8

Average depth, in feet, of Westlake Lake today.

10

Average depth, in feet, of Westlake Lake when it was completed in 1969.

22

Annual average in inches of rainfall that Westlake Village receives.

37

Annual average in inches of rainfall nationally across the United States.

45.9

Median age of the population of Westlake Village.

37.6

Median age of the population of the US.

32.7

Percentage of adults in Westlake Village's population who have children.

25.4

Percentage of Westlake Village's population who are children under 19 years of age

Kathleen Melton, offers professionals personal branding, business and book development services. Her mission is to help others transform their careers and their lives by achieving the personal satisfaction and professional credibility associated with being, The One Who Wrote The Book.™ For more information contact [kathleen@LMNOP4U.com](mailto:kathleen@LMNOP4U.com) or directly at 818-262-9691.

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- Empty Trash





# A Halloween Costume

By Sandy Francis

**As far as I'm concerned, every kid in America from three to 18-years-of-age looks as if he's walking around in costume. So what's so different about Halloween?**

**F**or me, Halloween night most always begins the same way. First of the troops are the youngest “trick or treaters.” Their parents or nannies (who also feel the need to dress in costume), typically accompany them and are not one bit shy to grab for the candy. I'm so tempted to say “this isn't for you.”

The little girls are inevitably fairy princesses, and the little boys, pirates or dragon slayers. The parents, however, don rubber werewolf masks or worse, rubber Obama masks. I don't know why they think they're so funny. Next come the hoards of pre-teens girls. We never dressed like this. Their costumes vary from black fishnet hosiery underneath playboy bunny outfits, or black slinky dresses and long black wigs, ala Elvira, and I don't want to forget to mention the five-inch stilettos (Ouch!). The final group of teen boys, who usually show up at the end of the evening, seem to love wearing horrifying rubber masks of frighteningly authentic mutilated skulls. (A little too authentic for me.) Some of the boys dress like rappers, with pants that are falling off their teen age “booties.” As a matter of fact, I had the displeasure of viewing the “cracks” of some not-so-appealing behinds. The not-so-funny thing is that these guys dress like this everyday. Therefore, I don't consider this a costume.

I shouldn't have even doled out candy to them if they couldn't have come up with something more original like a pinstriped suit and tie. And talk about nerve... this same group actually refused to take my candy because I was out of Reese's Peanut

Butter Cups. Can you imagine??? Well, he didn't have to like my candy, because I didn't like his costume but, HELLO, a simple thank you after pilfering the entire bowl of candy and then flashing me his tukas as he traipsed off into the dark shadows of the night, would have been nice.

Maybe I was a weird kid because, as opposed to other kids, I didn't like Halloween. I felt utterly ridiculous dressing in costume. In those days we didn't have costume stores. You had to creatively come up with your own. For Halloween parties, my mother always dressed me as a gypsy; tons of jewelry, a peasant blouse, a flared cotton skirt and way too much lipstick. I looked as silly as I felt. I hated that costume. The next time I went to a Halloween party was thirty years later. I knew I wasn't going dressed as a gypsy. Maybe I could come up with something more inventive. Aha! I knew just what I was going to wear. I borrowed a Girl Scout uniform, stuck a pillow in it, and went as a pregnant Girl Scout. I thought I was a winner, but alas, I only won fourth prize. The third prize was won by a portly man (...actually obese), who dressed as baby, wore a diaper and sucked on a pacifier. Second prize went to the girl who dressed as a Hassidic Rabbi. I suppose after myself, I would have voted her the winner. She was, after all, original. However, to my chagrin, and dressed in a colorful flared skirt, peasant blouse, golden earrings to her shoulders, ten necklaces, eight bracelets on each arm, and a banded scarf around her forehead, the winner was.... The gypsy! Now I ask you, what are the odds? **WM**

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Juliet Isako-Richardson

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## A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER...



PHOTO BY RAYMOND OCCAMPO

## Let All Who Are Discouraged Take Heart

By M. Dayle Thomas

**W**hat is the greatest loss we deal with in our broken world? Is it lost job? A shaky marriage? A serious illness or loss of a loved one? No, it is none of these. It is the loss of hope; the quality that lifts up a troubled heart.

Life is filled with tough times that can leave us feeling feeble and helpless. But hope can help us triumph over pain, uncertainty and fear. Hope gives us an inner strength to hold on when we feel like giving up. It helps us to believe there will be another job and another house. It gives us comfort and courage to handle grief and loss. One of life's toughest assignments is to re-ignite the hope that has become dim and fractured. As in most re-launch efforts, the hardest step is the first one. Here are three ways to help you get started.

- Take A Journey back in time in your life experiences and recall the ways that hope walked you through the hard times. Knowing this has worked for you in the past gives you courage to believe it can work yet again.
- Hope requires faith in someone to make it real to you. It is my opinion that your Creator, the one who designed you special and unique from all others, knows the pit falls and celebrations you will encounter in the future. With God as your "forever guide," your eyes and imagination will be opened. Then, when you see a beautiful apple you are able to imagine an orchard. An acorn will eventually be a spectacular oak tree. Don't you already feel empowered knowing your personal life guide made it all?
- Keep your focus on what you have in life rather than what you don't. You have feet to take you where you need to go. You have eyes to see a sunset in glow. You have ears to hear what you need to know. You are surely blessed and hope is in store to light your way.

Congratulations. You can now be on your way to reclaim your lost hope. You do not need to be discouraged.

God Bless,

P.S. Those who are familiar with the Bible will recognize the title of this article as a statement taken directly from the Psalms in the Old Testament.

# PENCILS, PUPILS, PUMPKINS, AND POULTRY

WESTLAKE NUMBERS | FALL 2010

By Kathleen Melton



- **2 Billion** | Number of pencils that are made in the United States each year.
- **14 Billion** | Number of pencils that are produced in the world each year.
- **\$50** | Cost in labor and materials for you to make a 10-cent pencil by yourself.



**\$10,844** ▪  
Expected national average expenditure per public school student for the 2010 – 2011 school year.

**\$9,683** ▪  
Actual expenditures per public school student for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

▪ **49.8 Million**  
Number of students attending public elementary and secondary schools this fall.

▪ **5.8 Million**  
Number of students expected to attend private schools this fall.



▪ **71.5%** | Percentage of female high school graduates enrolling in college this fall.

▪ **65.9%** | Percentage of male high school graduates enrolling in college this fall.



**1,140** ▪  
Weight in pounds of the largest pumpkin ever grown.

**2,020** ▪  
Weight in pounds of the largest pumpkin pie ever baked.

**12** ▪  
Diameter in feet of the largest pumpkin pie ever made.



▪ **46 Million**  
Number of turkeys consumed on Thanksgiving Day in the United States.

▪ **235 Million**  
Number of turkeys consumed annually in the United States.

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*A*s a Ventura County resident, Realtor, small business owner, and mother of three, I have a vested interest in restoring California to the state that brought jobs and prosperity to millions. I am proud to join Ventura County civic leaders in endorsing Meg Whitman for Governor and Tony Strickland for Controller.

I endorse Meg Whitman because I feel that she has the best plan to address California's greatest challenges and the ability to get it done. Ventura County has suffered greatly in the last few years and I cannot stand by and watch another client, friend or neighbor shoulder the devastating burden this economy has dealt them because their employer has decided to move their company out of state, or they have lost their job to the extensive layoffs, or because they cannot support their household due to the dire financial difficulty affecting their small businesses.

Meg Whitman states, "I'm tired of losing pioneering California companies such as Northrop Grumman to other states. I've been a Fortune 500 CEO and I know how to get business to stay here or move to California. My administration is going to listen to their concerns, align our policies to make them more competitive and aggressively recruit their counterparts in other states to bring their good-paying jobs here."

When former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice announced her endorsement of Meg Whitman, she called her a "proven leader" who will do what's necessary to get California back on track. "California is my home and there is only one person running for governor who can lead the way toward rebuilding our state," Rice said. She "is a proven leader who developed a small start-up company into a global economic powerhouse and encouraged entrepreneurialism at all levels of society. Meg will do what is needed to get California back on track."

In Meg's words: "I want to build A New California, a state that will reward hard work and entrepreneurship, a state that has the best schools in the nation, the smartest government, and above else, the highest quality of life in the world." I wouldn't want to stake my future on anyone else, would you? Please join me in supporting Meg Whitman for Governor.

*Rosemary Allison*

Rosemary Allison  
Century 21 America - Director, Fine Homes & Estates  
CA DRE # 00545184



*Rosemary Allison supports Meg Whitman for California Governor*



[www.megwhitman.com](http://www.megwhitman.com)

If you are interested in finding out more about Meg Whitman and her policy agenda for California, go to: [www.megwhitman.com](http://www.megwhitman.com) and download her "Meg Whitman's Plan for Building A New California".

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*Meg Whitman and Tony Strickland*

# TONY STRICKLAND

★ STATE CONTROLLER 2010 ★

The office of controller has the power to audit every phase of state government and to expose government waste at every turn. *Indeed, John Chiang's office knew or should have known of the Bell*, California spending scandal and did nothing about it. Tony Strickland is the ideal candidate to win the office of Controller.

As an Assembly member, Tony Strickland sued then Governor Gray Davis because Davis refused to disclose the details of the awful energy deals he signed. Those terrible deals were costing Californians billions and until Strickland stood alone – Davis was getting away with it. Strickland won his lawsuit, forced disclosure of contracts, and with that you can trace not only the end of those rip-off Enron energy contracts but also the end of Gray Davis' political career. California desperately needs a Controller like that today as opposed to John Chaing who is resisting government reform at every turn.

Simply stated, Meg Whitman understands that the key to changing the national dialogue from how to feed government to making government accountable to the money it already has is to open the vault of the Controller's offices around the Country and especially in California where waste occurs on a grand scale. That effort must start with the election of Tony Strickland for California State Controller. I applaud Meg's choice and endorse Tony Strickland.

## Vote Tony Strickland for Controller 2010

*Tony Strickland needs your help to compete against the unlimited resources of the special interests opposing fiscal reform in this state.*

*Rosemary Allison*



*Rosemary Allison supports Tony Strickland*

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PHOTOGRAPHY





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Rosemary Allison is a graduate of the Brokers Program at USC and resides in Santa Rosa Valley with her husband Jim and her children Jennifer, Cristina and Joseph

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~ Richard L. Quinn, Broker/Owner of Century 21 America

Rosemary Allison has 34 years in the Real Estate industry and has been with the Century 21 system for 26 years. Rosemary's Competitive Intelligence, Professionalism and Dedication has made her a valued and trusted real estate source for the Ventura County community.



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## Rosemary Allison endorses Meg Whitman for Governor



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