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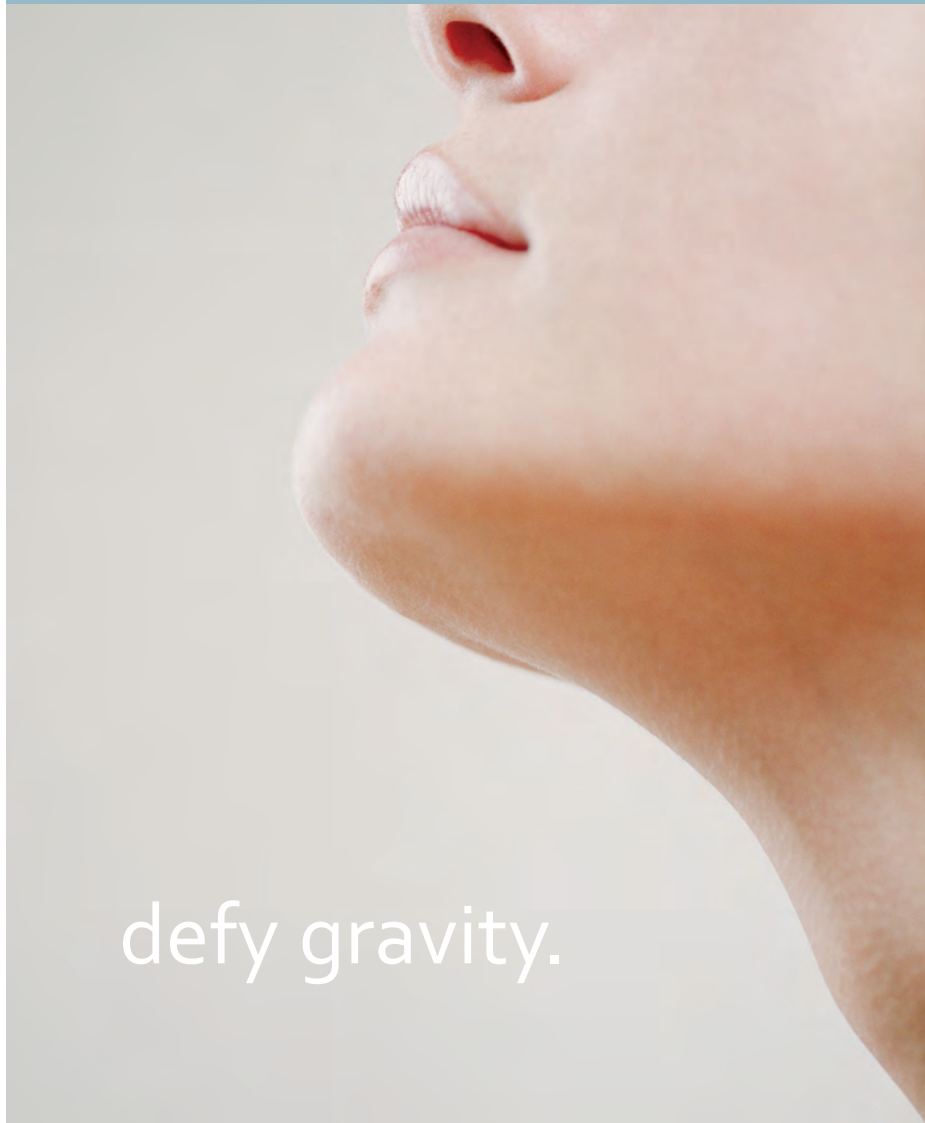


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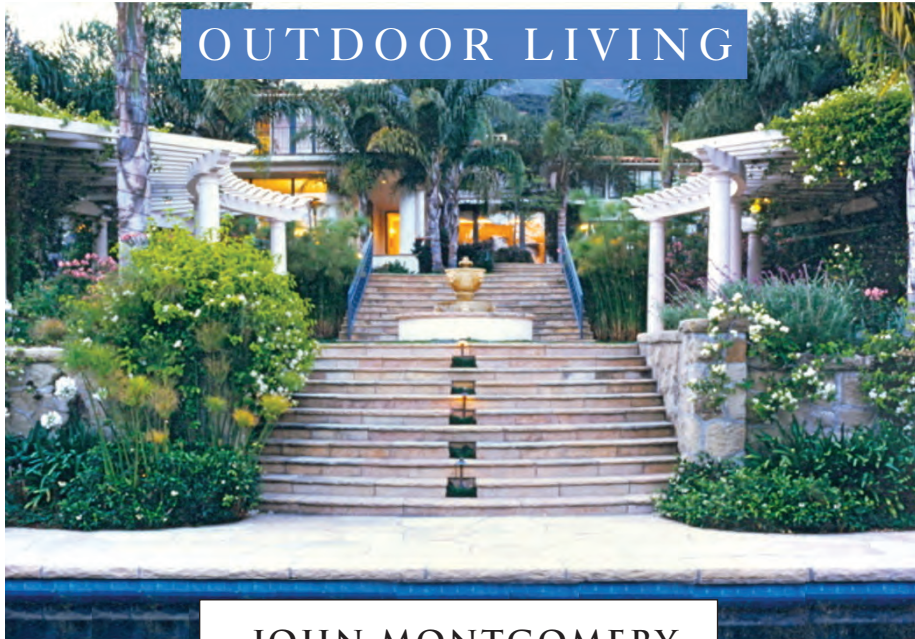
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# Editor's letter



This is a particularly special issue because of **Kevin and Sam Sorbo's** story. They met in New Zealand while Kevin was starring as the invincible demigod, *Hercules*, in the meteorically-successful television series '**Hercules: The Legendary Journeys**' (where Sam guest-starred). However, what many people don't know is that Kevin suffered 3 debilitating strokes on set - and the Sorbo's journey since then has been nothing short of a beautiful, miraculous love story in which their true strengths have shone through. Enjoy the in-depth Cover Story on Kevin and Sam Sorbo (Pg 44).

**Mike Lieberthal, Matt Franco and Todd Zeile** are hometown baseball heroes who've enjoyed illustrious careers in the game they love. Caleb Salas asks them insightful questions about the level of dedication required at that level of accomplishment (Pg 12).

Moving into summer we've highlighted some beautiful local homes - including gardens - because that's where families spend most of their time during the long summer evenings. **Malibu Nursery and Environmental Patterns, Inc.** showcase some exquisitely-beautiful gardens (Pg 30); **Jordan Cohen** has another selection of great homes on the market (Pg 68). On the same theme, check out our **Garage Envy** Showcase (Pg 74) - the ultimate man caves!

In this issue, we also cover the important topic of **public school education** (Pg 64) because of the increasing level of concern about preparing our children for a highly-competitive world.

In our Travelscapes section we cover beautiful **Tahiti** with its white coral sand beaches and shades of turquoise and emerald waters. Picture yourself in one of those bungalows on the water - with breakfast delivered to you via canoe by the local islanders - and you have some impression of what awaits you. The reality of actually visiting Tahiti, however, will far surpass any of your imaginings (Pg 94).

Finally, with the **2012 London Olympics** just around the corner - please consider supporting our local **Olympic Men's Water Polo** team (Pg 21) - who are currently working exceptionally hard to attain their long-term goal - the Gold Medal. Any support you can render would be most welcome: Text 805.807.7758



USA Men's Water Polo Team

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Diana





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# Portraits of Baseball



## Mike Lieberthal, Todd Zeile and Matt Franco Homegrown Baseball Heroes

By Caleb Salas

### MIKE LIEBERTHAL

Mike Lieberthal made a name for himself early on, when, in his senior season at Westlake High, he hit four home runs in a single game: a single, a two-run, a three-run, and a grand-slam. After graduating in 1990, Mike was selected 3<sup>rd</sup> overall by the Philadelphia Phillies in the 1990 MLB draft. Nine years later, Mike earned his first All-star selection and received a Gold Glove Award in 1999. In his fourteen MLB seasons, thirteen with the Phillies, at catcher, Mike compiled a career batting average of .274, with 150 home runs and 610 runs batted in. During the 1999 season, arguably the peak of his career, he bat .300, hit 31 home runs, and raked in 96 RBI's. Undoubtedly, Mike Lieberthal left an imprint and created a legacy with the Phillies organization, having caught more games in his career than any other Phillies catcher, a little more than eleven hundred games, and having hit 149 home runs at catcher, the most in team history. He signed and played with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the only other team he played for, in what would end up being the last season of his career. He has been retired since 2008.

**AFTER PLAYING FOR THE PHILLIES FOR ALL BUT ONE SEASON, DO YOU STILL FOLLOW THEM? IF SO, DO YOU THINK THAT THEY ARE PRIMED FOR AN EXTENDED POST SEASON RUN?**

**MIKE:** I follow the Phillies as well as the rest of the league through Fantasy Baseball League. I still have friends on the Phillies and go back to Philadelphia every year for alumni weekend. The 'Phills' still have the best rotation in baseball, so they are my pick to win.

**WHAT IS IT LIKE PLAYING IN AN MLB ALL-STAR GAME WITH THE WORLD'S BEST?**

**MIKE:** All-star game '99 was truly special with meeting Ted Williams and watching Mark McGuire in the home run derby; playing at Fenway was pretty special as well.

**YOU SPENT THIRTEEN SEASONS WITH THE PHILLIES; PLEASE DESCRIBE WHAT THE CITY AND ORGANIZATION MEANT TO YOU AT THE TIME AND WHAT THEY MEAN TO YOU NOW?**

**MIKE:** Philadelphia truly is one of the best sports towns in the U.S. They have an

incredible passion for their sports teams and they have the best baseball stadium. It's always great with their alumni's and I still love the cheese steaks! The organization has always been 1st class.

**IF YOU WERE SELECTED 3RD OVERALL COMING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, THEN WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PLAY IN THE MINOR LEAGUES FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE GETTING YOUR FIRST SHOT IN THE BIG LEAGUES? WHAT WAS THE HOLD UP?**

**MIKE:** I signed when I was 18 in 1990. I was then called up to the Big Leagues when I was 22 in 1994. That's a pretty fast rise even for a 1st round selection.



Mike Lieberthal



Todd Zeile, Matt Franco  
and Mike Lieberthal







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**OF YOUR GOLD GLOVE AWARD IN 1999, YOUR TWO-TIME ALL-STAR SELECTION IN 1999 & 2000, AND YOUR NL COMEBACK PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN 2002, WHICH ACCOLADE ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

**MIKE:** I'm definitely most proud of the Gold Glove Award because I've always taken pride in defense. It's also the Managers and Coaches who select the Gold Glove Award recipient.

**WHAT MAKES BASEBALL A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL GAME FOR YOU?**

**MIKE:** Baseball has given me so much in life - the ability to travel, the friendships, the passion - but to be able to play a game for a living is truly special. I feel blessed to have had the ability to play the best game in the world.

**THIS UPCOMING BASEBALL SEASON: WHAT CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO? WHO ARE SOME OF THE STANDOUT PLAYERS - NATIONALLY - WHO ARE GOING TO GIVE SPECTATORS SPECTACULAR MOMENTS TO WATCH?**

**MIKE:** This upcoming season, look no further than these selected teams: The Phillies, the Angels, the Rangers, the Yankees, and the Tigers. The picks to click are the Marlins, the Nationals, the Diamondbacks, the Brewers and the Braves. The players to watch: Kershaw and Pujols are my local stud choices.

**TODD ZEILE**

Todd Zeile graduated from UCLA, where he played catcher. He broke into the majors in 1989, playing for the St. Louis Cardinals under manager Joe Torre. He spent sixteen seasons in the MLB, playing for eleven different Major League teams, as catcher, first baseman, and third baseman. Todd played for the St. Louis Cardinals, the Chicago Cubs, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Baltimore Orioles, the Los Angeles Dodgers, the Florida Marlins, the Texas Rangers, the New York Mets, the Colorado Rockies, the New York Yankees, and the Montreal Expos. He compiled a .265 batting average, hit 253 career home runs, and collected 1,100 RBI's over sixteen seasons. Some fun facts include: Todd Zeile is the only player

in major league history to have hit a home run for over 10 teams. His final home run was the last home run hit off of an Expo's pitcher because the following season the team moved to Washington, DC and became the Washington Nationals. Todd retired following the 2004 MLB season. Since then, he has produced and acted in movies and television shows, respectively.

**OF THE 11 TEAMS THAT YOU PLAYED FOR IN YOUR 16-SEASON CAREER, WHICH DID YOU ENJOY PLAYING FOR THE MOST?**

**TODD:** That is such a difficult question to pick just one...so I won't. I loved playing at home for the Dodgers, but it was short lived, when I was traded mid-contract with Mike



Todd Zeile





**BOUNCING FROM TEAM TO TEAM IS TRAUMATIC THE FIRST OR SECOND TIME, BUT FOR THE PLAYER, IT BECOMES A PART OF THE LIFE OF BEING A BALL PLAYER. HOWEVER, THE NOMADIC LIFESTYLE OF A “JOURNEYMAN” PLAYER, LIKE MYSELF, IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT ON THE FAMILY. —TODD ZEILE**

Piazza. I enjoyed Texas and Baltimore for the great teams and playoff experience. But I think my best experience was with the NY Mets. Playing in New York in 2000 and 2001 was the best time of my career. I loved the city of New York, the players on my team, and the experience of a World Series. In 2001, I was also a part of rebuilding the spirit of the people of New York following 9/11 when they looked at baseball as a way to heal.

**WHAT IS IT LIKE BOUNCING AROUND FROM TEAM TO TEAM? MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IS SURELY A BUSINESS, BUT EXPLAIN THE EFFECT THAT THIS CONSTANT MOVING AROUND HAD ON YOUR FAMILY?**

**TODD:** Bouncing from team to team is traumatic the first or second time, but for the player, it becomes a part of the life of being a ball player. However, the nomadic lifestyle of a “journeyman” player, like myself, is much more difficult on the family. As a player, it’s a change of uniform and colleagues, but the job is the same. For a family, it’s a new school, strange apartment, and a foreign clique of wives.

**AFTER GETTING RELEASED FROM THE NEW YORK YANKEES IN 2003, YOU VOICED DISPLEASURE FOR THE ORGANIZATION. WILL YOU EXPLAIN, BASED ON YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE TEAM, THE TYPE OF ORGANIZATION THAT IT IS AND THE DIFFERENCES THAT IT HOLDS FROM ANY OTHER TEAM IN THE LEAGUE, IN TERMS OF THE WAY THAT IT FUNCTIONS AND FOLLOWS STANDARD MLB CONDUCT AND PROCEDURE?**



Matt Franco

**TODD:** For the record, I have nothing but admiration and respect for the Yankees and the people in the organization. I personally didn’t have a great experience there because of unforeseen circumstances. I came to the Yankees specifically due to my longstanding friendship with Joe Torre, and his hope to play me at first base following a trade of Nick Johnson. Due to an injury, the trade didn’t happen, and Nick played most of the time at first base,

showcasing his “trade value” to the rest of the league. Unfortunately, I was the odd man out, and had to accept an unfamiliar part-time role.

**AFTER RETIRING FROM BASEBALL IN 2004, YOU BEGAN PURSUING OTHER INTERESTS OF YOURS SUCH AS TELEVISION AND FILM, WHERE YOU ACTED AND DIRECTED IN SHOWS AND MOVIES. PLEASE EXPAND ON YOUR PASSION FOR FILM.**



**TODD:** I have always had an interest in film and television, and have wanted an avenue for my own creative expression. I have made some guest appearances on shows such as King of Queens and Saturday Night Live, but am currently trying to carve out a career behind the camera as a part of the new Charlie Sheen show “Anger Management”.

**YOU PLAYED CATCHER, FIRST BASEMAN, AND THIRD BASEMAN IN THE MLB. WHICH DID YOU ENJOY MOST?**

**TODD:** I was a catcher from 8 years old to my second Big League season, and continued to see the game from the catcher’s perspective even as a third or first baseman. As a catcher, I loved being involved in every pitch, and being the field general. For me, that’s the best position on the field.

**WHAT MAKES BASEBALL A PARTICULARLY SPECIAL GAME FOR YOU?**

**TODD:** Baseball has no clock...so it is, as Yogi Berra said, “never over, until it’s over.” Also, in my humble opinion, I think baseball combines some of the greatest true athleticism with some of the most refined special skills in any athletic endeavor.

**DID YOU WATCH THE MOVIE MONEYBALL? IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT WERE THE GREAT ASPECTS ABOUT THE MOVIE? WHAT WERE THE ASPECTS THAT YOU WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY - IF YOU WERE DIRECTING?**

**TODD:** I saw Moneyball and thought, from an entertainment perspective, that it was one of the best baseball movies I’ve seen in some time. The film did a great job of capturing the internal dynamics of an organization, and the amount of people and analysis that may have an effect on the career of an individual player as well as the success of a franchise.

My only criticisms, from the perspective of a player that actually faced the A’s team of that era, would be the depiction of Art Howe as a person and a manager, and the deliberate “un-mention” of the major talents that actually guided that team to great success. In order to create a “David vs. Goliath” underdog sense of the A’s, the filmmakers depicted a team of Bad News Bears like misfits, and never mentioned that the pitching rotation was stacked with 4 of the best pitchers in the league (Molder, Hudson,

Zito, and Koch), as well as an All-Star / MVP caliber shortstop (Miguel Tejada).

**THIS UPCOMING BASEBALL SEASON: WHAT CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO? WHO ARE SOME OF THE STANDOUT PLAYERS - NATIONALLY - WHO ARE GOING TO GIVE SPECTATORS SPECTACULAR MOMENTS TO WATCH?**

**TODD:** This season is anybody’s guess. The talent around the league is well balanced, with some star players changing uniforms (Prince Fielder - Tigers, Albert Pujols - Angels) and improving the respective teams and their chances to win it all. I would love to see the Dodgers finally complete the epic year-long sale and return to winning baseball. Two of the game’s most exciting young players reside right here in Los Angeles, with Centerfielder Matt Kemp (who I believe should have been the 2011 MVP), and Clayton Kershaw, 2011 Cy Young Award winner. Can’t wait to dust off the old glove and head back out to the ballpark!

**MATT FRANCO**

Matt Franco also graduated from Westlake High School. He played nine seasons in the MLB as a first baseman for the Chicago Cubs, the New York Mets, and the Atlanta Braves. His MLB debut appearance was September 6, 1995 for the Chicago Cubs. He held a .267 batting average over nine seasons. The highlight of his career came during the 1999 season as well as when he came up with a two-run pinch hit single off of Mariano Rivera in Shea Stadium with only a single strike remaining in the game to lift the Mets over the Yankees by the score of 9-8. He currently holds the major league record of 20 pinch hit walks in a single season. Matt, along with Todd Zeile, was a part of the New York Mets team that reached the World Series in 2000. His last MLB appearance was on September 27, 2003 for the Atlanta Braves. From 2004 - 2006, Matt played for Chiba Lotte Marines (in Japan) under Bobby Valentine who currently manages the Red Sox.

**CONSIDERING THE RIVALRY, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FEELING THAT CAME WHEN YOU LED THE NEW YORK METS TO VICTORY OVER THE NEW YORK YANKEES DUE TO YOUR PINCH HIT, TWO-RUN SINGLE OFF OF MARIANO RIVERA, A FUTURE HALL OF FAMER.**

**MATT:** Every kid who ever played baseball has dreamt of being at the plate in the bottom

of the 9th with the bases loaded, two outs, down by 1. Now throw in Shea Stadium, to beat the New York Yankees, facing the greatest closer in the history of the game...I feel like I literally lived the dream.

**WOULD YOU ATTRIBUTE THIS TO BE YOUR GREATEST MOMENT? IF NOT, WHICH WOULD YOU ATTRIBUTE THIS MOMENT TO BE?**

**MATT:** Without question. How can you do better than that!

**WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE, IN TERMS OF COMPETITION, PLAYING IN THE NIPPON PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL LEAGUE OF JAPAN AND IN THE MLB?**

**MATT:** As far as the pitching and defense, there’s not much difference. Offensively, there are more power hitters in the MLB.

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO PLAY OVERSEAS IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY? HOW DIFFICULT WAS IT TO ADJUST TO THE CULTURE?**

**MATT:** It was completely awesome! Not difficult at all. I loved every place I ever played: 10 years in minor leagues, and 7 seasons in Mexico, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico.

**PLEASE EXPLAIN THE IMPACT THAT PLAYING SEVERAL YEARS IN THE MINOR LEAGUES HAD ON YOUR CAREER.**

**MATT:** Actually, I played 10 years in the minor leagues. It had a huge impact: It made me tough!

**WHAT DOES BASEBALL MEAN TO YOU? WHY IS IT SUCH A GREAT GAME - IN YOUR OPINION?**

**MATT:** Everything! Because the same guys hit .260 every year and the same guys hit .280 every year, and the same guys hit .300 every year. There is no such thing as luck in baseball. That’s genius!

**WHAT CAN SPECTATORS LOOK FORWARD TO THIS COMING YEAR? ANY STANDOUT, HOT PLAYERS WHO ARE GOING TO BE SCINTILLATING?**

**MATT:** That’s tough. There are so many great players. If I had to pick one, I really like how Jayson Heyward looks at the plate. 🍌



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# Scenearound

## Oaks Christian School's Annual Dinner Auction

Photography by Christopher Glenn

Oaks Christian School recently held their annual dinner auction - entitled 'Destiny - a Hope and a Future' - to benefit the financial aid program which provides assistance to almost 40% of the students at the school. The financial aid program is based on the belief that all students willing to meet the challenges of a college-prep education should be given the opportunity regardless of their financial means. The evening's entertainment included special performances from Ray Parker Jr., Jimmy Jam, Daniel Bedingfield and Cheryl Lynn. 'The Oaks Factor' talent included Monique Green, Greer Gustavson, Hayley Nelson, Brooke Randol, Christian Renard, Samantha Speer, and James Thomas II. 'Go West Creative' produced the entire event. (Continued on page 20)



Ray Parker Jr.



Cheryl & Bill Redell



Jericho Parker



Preston & Candi James



Eric & Judy Kerner



Kim & Jaime Ashton



Greer Gustavson, Brooke Randol, Hayley Nelson, James Thomas II, Monique Green, Samantha Speer



James Thomas II



Eric Gustavson & Jimmy Jam





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# Scenearound

## Oaks Christian School's Annual Dinner Auction

Photography by Christopher Glenn (Continued on page 22)



Brianna, Robin, David, Chalice Fischette



Dr. John Medders, Karen Coyle, Rick Coyle



Jeffrey Woodcock, David Price, David Moore



Fred Roggin



Chet & Cindy Huffman



David & Gigi Nelson



Daniel Bedingfield



Kim & Farshad Fardad





## Support Team USA Water Polo Going for Gold at the London 2012 Olympics



It's been 100 Years since Team USA Water Polo won the Gold Medal at the Olympics. In the Beijing 2008 Olympics, they beat all odds and brought home the Silver Medal. With the dedication and experience of head coach, Dr. Terry Schroeder, Team USA is going for the Gold at the London 2012 Olympics. To support and sponsor the team, please contact Jeannine Ostrander: 818.889.5572 or email: [jeannine\\_ostrander@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannine_ostrander@yahoo.com) or text @ 805.807.7758



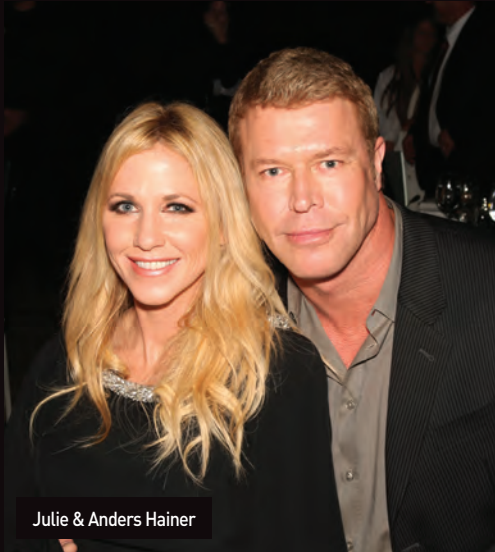




# Scenearound

## Oaks Christian School's Annual Dinner Auction

Photography by Christopher Glenn



Julie & Anders Hainer



Klaus & Jami Von Heidegger



Pamela & Rick Blosser



Peter & Tracy Kleinick



Christian Renard



Samantha Speer



Greer Gustavson



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# Motoring pursuits



## Steve's Pal

Cars, movies and important friendships make Moser a mellow mogul. **By Larry Crane**

**O**pening the front door to World Class Motoring was easy, getting through it and over the big Australian Shepherd—with, what appeared to be, a serious attitude—was the challenge. I reached down to scratch his ears, but got zero response, no sound, no eye movement. His eyes were focused on the parking lot and nothing was more important than what he was expecting to happen out there. Steve (McQueen) is his name and laconic was certainly his game that day. He was anxiously awaiting the return of his sidekick, Ted Moser.

Movie star good looks, an effortless 'Steve's-namesake' smile and a conversational comfort level that has more to do with a genuinely accomplished high achiever, than the 'confidence' of a carefully costumed pretender. Ted Moser started working on cars in his dad's gas station in Littleton, Colorado, as a teen and was soon given responsibility for the business. When he saw an opportunity to establish his own auto repair shop, the gas station was sold and an entrepreneurial fascination began.

Mechanical horsepower fed the family, but there were always horses on the family properties. Dale Moser (Dad) was a collector and restorer of horse-drawn carriages, and they were often contracted for Colorado-based Western film projects. During one such event Ted was asked to

double for an actor whose character was a wrangler and was required to rope a steer. Easy for Ted; he was a life-long horseman and competitive rodeo roper with the United States Team Roping Championships (America's cowboy sport) and often in Twisselman's Great American Cowboy Classic. When his hands were not busy trying to survive lariat abrasions, they were stroking the keys of a family piano or strumming an, always present, guitar. Western State College in Colorado broadened Ted's repertoire and took him closer to a teaching credential, but the moving-picture business continued to interrupt progress. Even his mom got involved when she was contracted to drive a motorhome for Tracy Nelson during the filming of "Father Dowling Mysteries." Ted's skills were added to the Moser contact list before he was contracted to maintain vehicles on the set of *Flashback* in Los Angeles in 1990 (starring: Dennis Hopper and Kiefer Sutherland).

Work on *Radio Flyer* (with Elijah Wood, Lorraine Bracco and John Heard) in 1992 required membership in Motion Picture and Theatrical Trade Teamsters Local 399. His name went public in the industry and his work ethic and devotion to detail began to pay off. The next year Ted was contracted as Transportation Captain on *Sister Act II* (starring Whoopi Goldberg, Kathy Najimy and a cast that included James Coburn and Maggie Smith). One movie per year allowed him to live in Littleton and commute to Los Angeles, but four productions in 1999, one that included the title "Picture Car Coordinator," made it obvious he had





1



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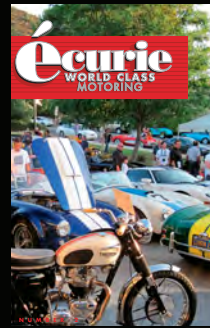
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6





to bring his family to the coast. After four years of locating movie and television cars by phone and subcontracting specialized modifications and preparation, he opened Picture Car Warehouse with 25 cars and “a few good men.” Between 1993 and 2011 Ted was being contracted as Transportation Coordinator for 34 films and Picture Car Coordinator on five more.

The Picture Car Warehouse now maintains over 800 vehicles in era-related sets and a fleet of auto haulers to commute them to film and television locations on time, on budget. The well-exercised heart of the system occupies a renovated Cadillac dealership in the San Fernando Valley. The facility includes three banks of service bays and a crew approaching 50 talented — and energetic — professionals endowed with the boss’s sense of urgency. Period correct restorations are standard operating procedure and can be delivered in multiples for use in various script requirements and often in different parts of the country. Movie modifications might include 6 operable rocket launchers, or simply 6 perfectly matched 1967 Pontiac GTOs—in a few days—in Louisiana—to replace the 6 Shelby Cobras just delivered and rejected for style. No one hints at making movies being easy. During a recent visit we watched the effective use of the full-house operation when a contracted automobile needed some service before filming the next day. A vehicle with a longer deadline schedule had to be pulled out to make room and the pressing schedule was met without drama. Concur-

**THE PICTURE CAR WAREHOUSE NOW MAINTAINS OVER 800 VEHICLES IN ERA-RELATED SETS AND A FLEET OF AUTO HAULERS TO COMMUTE THEM TO FILM AND TELEVISION LOCATIONS ON TIME, ON BUDGET.**

rently, a ‘which car’ telephone discussion was undertaken with a producer for another shoot the following day. The decision was made mid-afternoon and the car was prepared and delivered the following morning. Cars can even be scaled to fit actors. A Jaguar was modified so Justin Timberlake didn’t look too big for the vintage car’s famously elegant proportions. It took some work to rescale an armored car to fit Ben Affleck’s lanky frame. To date, no one has asked Ted to assemble a staff for resizing actors — stay tuned.

Along with the on screen talent that occupies critical file space in Ted Moser’s cellular phone book are a broad assortment of courageous and technically savvy stunt pros. Trust plays a vital part in both sides of that critical dialogue. Men and women who occupy that stratospheric realm of the industry have to know what they need to finish a project safely and be able to undertake the next one. Twenty years of devotion

to quality detail in both visuals and engineering performance puts Ted and his team high on the list of trusted Stunt partners.

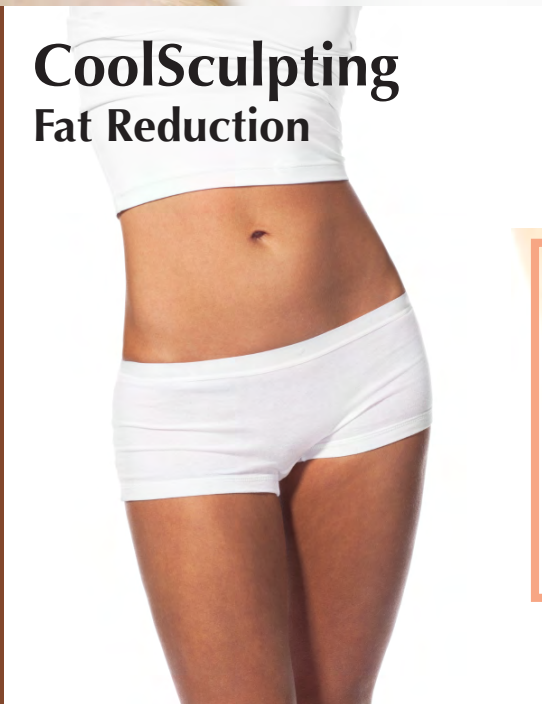
Tom Harper, master of motorcycle stunts, brought Ted to World Class Motoring for car nut therapy and the contagion took hold. Our guy Ted, sidekick of Steve, is famously mellow, soft spoken, even quiet most of the time - even when he is practicing his cerebral driving skills on the in-store racing simulator. Store owner, Fred LoBianco, tells us all bets are off when NASCAR is on the big screens in the store. Ted went so far as to complete a NASCAR racing school at the Auto Club Speedway and that has made him an even more vocal spectator.

Since old age took his roping partner, Cricket, the family horse ranches of Old Agoura and Bell Canyon have lost their usefulness. A new home on the shore of Lake Malibu brings a sense of calm to our movie motoring mogul. Even so, there are moments when the missing action of the roping arena has to be supplanted by an alternative, and his private collection of great American muscle cars serves that visceral requirement. A key difference lies in the memory of Cricket in full flight behind the flying hooves of an angry bull, when one was unlikely to encounter the wrath of an equally disturbed sheriff closing in from behind. Ted’s Bullitt tribute Mustang and Plymouth 440 GTX are canyon icons with the handsome face of an Australian Shepherd smiling into the wind. Steve loves every minute of life with his pal. McQueen probably would, too. 🍷





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# Scenearound

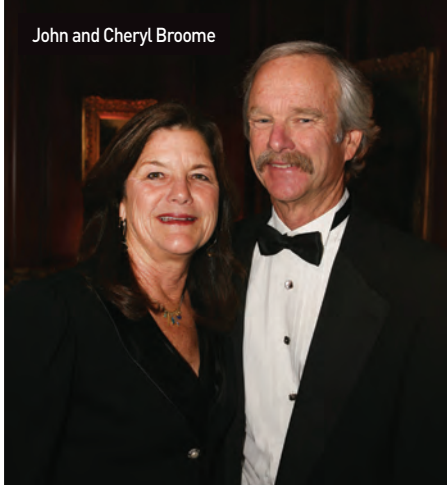
## Casa Pacifica's 2012 Angels Ball

Photography by John Moss

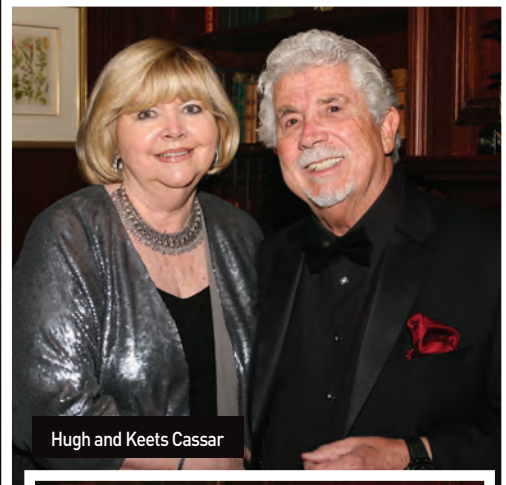
The 2012 Angels Ball, benefitting Casa Pacifica Centers for children and families, was recently held at Sherwood Country Club. The Angels Ball has been raising money to support this community agency that cares for abused, neglected, or at-risk children and youth. For more information about Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families please visit [www.casapacifica.org](http://www.casapacifica.org)



David and Linda Catlin



John and Cheryl Broome



Hugh and Keets Cassar



David Wood and Elizabeth Rice



Michelle Sievers and Marty Martin



Ed and Lynn Hogan



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# Chatroom



## Short Stories About Big People

By Bob Eubanks

**W**ell hello again and welcome to more short stories about big people. There are so many nice people in my business that when someone comes along that seems to think they are bigger than life, it really disturbs me. Here are some funny snippets of some big people (temporally) acting a little small.

My son Corey is one of the top stunt drivers in the movie industry. During his career he has doubled such acts as Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro and Tom Cruise. I remember watching the Jay Leno show and Cruise was talking about how he did all his own horse stunts in a movie called *Far and Away*. I almost went through the TV screen because I knew my son had risked his life during a reenactment of the Oklahoma Land Rush. Cruise did not do all of his own stunts in that film.



Corey Eubanks

Oh here's one for you, did you know that when Jennifer Lopez does a movie, the stunt man's call sheet states you are not to make eye contact with Jennifer? Can you imagine someone has the audacity to tell you where you can look?

In my world of concert promotion, there were many strange requests made by the acts in their contracts. One act insisted upon chocolate-chip cookies being flown in from New York City. One band insisted that if there were any 'little people' in the audience they would like them to be brought up on the stage.

Probably the most bizarre incident took place on the tarmac at the Las Vegas airport. The airport security wouldn't let us bring the limo where the band insisted. What took place next was not pretty. That was the last date I ever promoted the band *Yes*.

One of my favorite stories took place at the LA Forum. We had sold 18,000 seats and the lead singer told me he wasn't going to go on because

**IN MY WORLD OF CONCERT PROMOTION, THERE WERE MANY STRANGE REQUESTS MADE BY THE ACTS IN THEIR CONTRACTS. ONE ACT INSISTED UPON CHOCOLATE-CHIP COOKIES BEING FLOWN IN FROM NEW YORK CITY.**

the wine wasn't cooled at the proper temperature. I told him I would tell 18,000 kids why he wasn't going on and a bottle of wine splattered against the wall next to me as I left the room.

By the way, I'm working very hard planning a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatles at the Hollywood Bowl. It would need to take place the week of Aug 23, 2014. I think it would be fun reliving the memories of one of the most famous concerts of all time. I'll be sure to keep you informed.

Before I go, the world lost a really good guy when Al Wyatt Jr. unexpectedly passed away recently. Jr. was a wonderful person and a really good stunt driver. You probably have seen Al hundreds of times as he jumped the General Lee through the air in *Dukes of Hazzard*. The world was a better place when he was here.

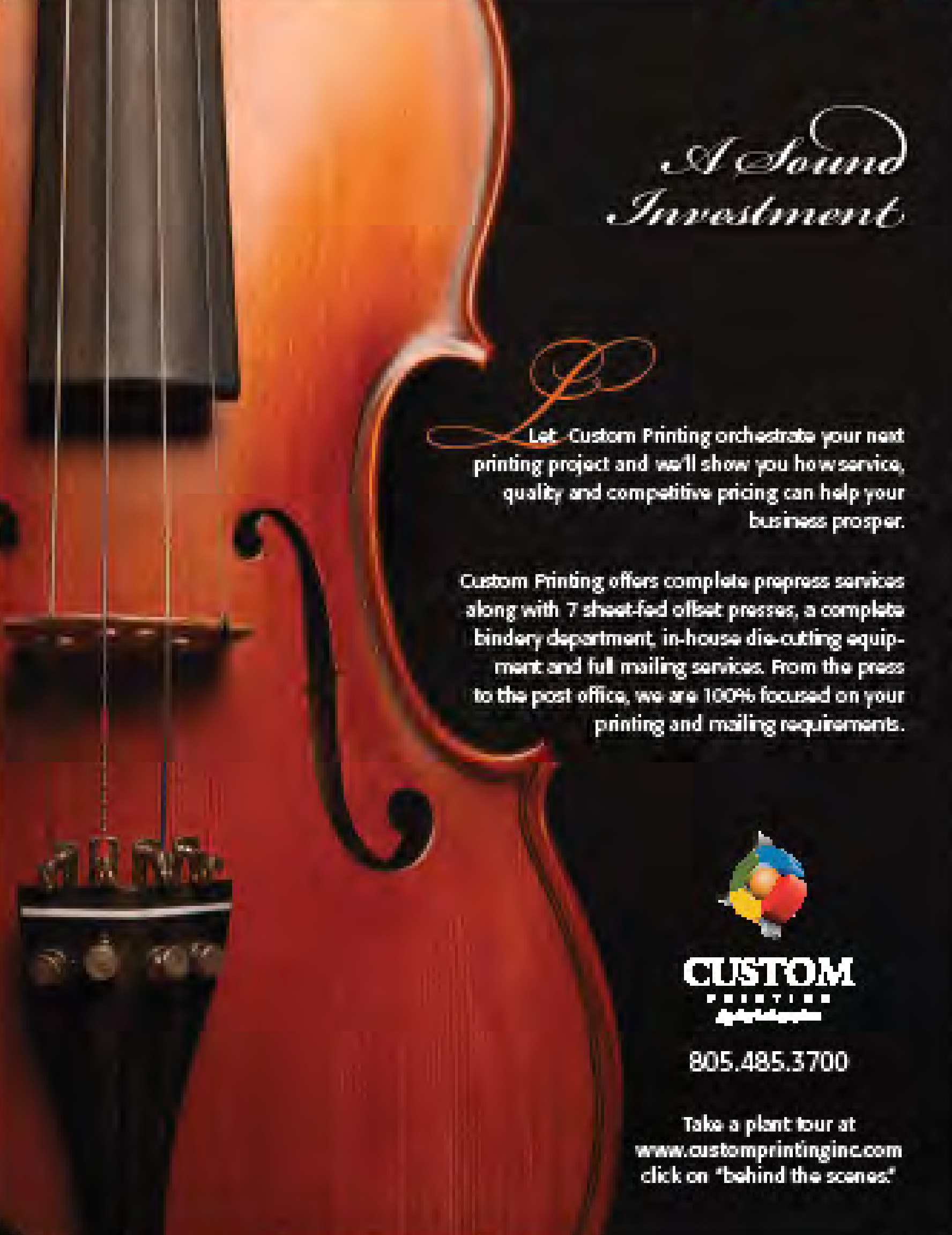


Al Wyatt Jr.

Well there you have it, more short stories about big people. As always I will leave you with a thought: *"If at first you don't succeed, sky diving is not for you."* 🍀

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In order to meet the needs of a fast-changing world, Oaks Christian School has opened a college preparatory online high school. The online school is for college-bound, 9th-12th grade students, and it has been built on the established best practices of the Westlake Village, on-campus school. Online students study college preparatory, honors, and AP courses at home, at their own pace, and with a flexible schedule. A wide range of part-time, summer school, and full-time courses is available, and full-time students earn an Oaks Christian Online high school diploma and receive a transcript that reflects the excellent reputation of Oaks Christian School.

Interested student families are invited to attend an **On-Campus Information Session** from 1:00-3:00pm on the following dates to find out more: Saturday, May 19 and Saturday, July 14. RSVP at [onlinewm@oakschristian.org](mailto:onlinewm@oakschristian.org)



Interested student families unable to attend an On-Campus Information Ses-



OCOS 10th grade student, Timothy Beccue, accepted while traveling the world

sion can also attend an **Online Information Session**, on the following dates: May 8, May 22, June 5, June 19, July 10, July 24 or August 7 at 9:00 am (PST) or 6:30 pm (PST). RSVP at [onlinewm@oakschristian.org](mailto:onlinewm@oakschristian.org)

To speak directly with a member of the Oaks Christian Online School admissions team, call 855.GO2.OAKS.

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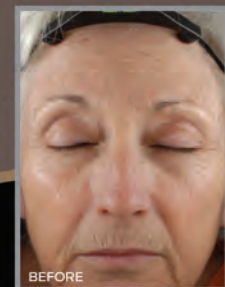
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# Portraits of Champions

## Roger Federer Wins Indian Wells BNP Paribas Open

One of sport's greatest ambassadors - Roger Federer - thrilled a capacity crowd at the Indian Wells BNP Paribas Open recently - and became the first player to win the tournament a record 4 times. The Swiss world number 3 tennis player commanded the game with his famous ability to control and mentally outwit his opponent, 6 foot 9 John Isner. After a nail-biting tie-breaker, Federer's trademark backhand pass down the line, became his winning weapon. Since his semi-final loss to Djokovic at last year's U.S. Open, Federer has been arguably the hottest player on the men's circuit, winning 39 of 41 matches.



Roger Federer lifts BNP Paribas Trophy for a fourth time



John Isner



Roger Federer



Vintage 1950's swarovski  
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**Sam:** Blouse: Lovers & Friends. **Jeans:** J Brand.  
**Jewelry:** T and A Indian diamond teardrop necklace. Hematite necklace. Rose-cut diamond and gold ring. Indian diamond bangles. T & A diamond bracelets on string. Pave diamond ball drop earrings. All from **TEMPT collection**.  
**Kevin:** Shirt: B.D. Baggies. **Jeans:** J Brand. Avail at Dungarees, Calabasas.

**Hair and Makeup:** Kathleen Hagan. kathleenhagan.com  
**Sam's Stylist:** Tracy Berkus Dekel  
**Kevin's Stylist:** Jake M. Warner





# THE TRUE STRENGTH OF KEVIN AND SAM SORBO

Actor, Producer and Director, Kevin Sorbo married Actress and Model, Sam Jenkins on January 5, 1998, just 4 months after Kevin had suffered 3 strokes from an aneurysm in his shoulder, while starring as the invincible demigod, *Hercules*. The popular television serial '*Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*' was being shot in New Zealand and Sam met Kevin in her guest-role performance. She says of that meeting: "He was the most incredible man I had ever met." They were engaged within six months, set to marry a year after that.

Kevin's lifestyle was working 14-hour days on the *Hercules* set, then hitting the weights for two hours a day, and generally moving at 100 m.p.h., making theirs a whirlwind romance. Then, while he was on a multi-city promotional tour for his first leading-role in the film '*Kull, the Conqueror*', he experienced one of life's not-so-grand ironies: 3 debilitating strokes at just 38 years old. The severity of his illness seemed inconceivable for a man who led such a hard-charging, charmed life and who was seemingly so healthy and physically active. In spite of an uncertain future, the couple married, and with the resolute Sam by his side, Kevin found his own true strength - refusing to cave in to the devastating effects of the strokes. In so doing, he blazed a trail for others who have suffered serious setbacks in their lives. *Hercules*, the number-one worldwide syndicated TV series at the time, ran from 1995-2000, but its latter years were marked by the producers frantically reworking scripts and revamping production to keep a struggling Kevin in his starring role with dramatically fewer hours.

After *Hercules* ended and Kevin's recovery was well underway, he went on to play the starring role of Captain Dylan Hunt in Gene Roddenberry's science-fiction drama series '*Andromeda*' from 2000 - 2005, and of course after that he continued to perform in television and film productions too numerous to detail here.

STORY BY DIANA LYLE • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER AMERUOSO



**Sam:** Sweater by Carolina K. Jeans by Adriano Goldschmied. CZ disc necklace \$108, long turquoise nugget necklace \$65, assorted turquoise and Tibet jewelry all from TEMPT collection prices from \$32 to \$125.

**Kevin:** Shirt by CP Shades. Jeans by Adriano Goldschmied. Sterling silver cross on suede cord \$68

**Hair and Makeup:** Kathleen Hagan.

[kathleenhagan.com](http://kathleenhagan.com)

**Sam's Stylist:** Tracy Berkus Dekel

**Kevin's Stylist:** Jake M. Warner







2011 was the hugely successful year of the international box office hit, *'Soul Surfer'* - about the real-life story of teenager Bethany Hamilton, whose arm was bitten off by a shark off the island of Kauai (one of the Hawaiian islands). The heart-wrenching movie resonated deeply with audiences worldwide. Kevin played the important role of Holt Blanchard in the movie - Bethany Hamilton's best friend's father - who was with her at the time that the shark attack occurred. It was Holt's quick, unselfish thinking that saved Bethany's life.

Sam Jenkins studied biomedical engineering at university but gave that up to pursue other, more diverse career options. She enjoyed immense success as an international model, living and working throughout Europe and the US. (She is currently with prestigious New York-based *IconicFocus*.) She also began her acting career in Europe but moved to Hollywood to appear in films such as *Bonfire of the Vanities* and *Twenty Bucks*, and episodic television, including several installments of *Chicago Hope*. Her life-changing moment was meeting husband Kevin in *'Hercules: The Legendary Journeys'*. When he became sick, she shifted her focus from career to caregiver, while continuing to dabble in acting along the way. She appeared opposite Kevin in many Hercules episodes as well as in episodes of *'Andromeda'*.

Marriage to Kevin has given Sam just what she was looking for: the substantially satisfying role of being a wife and mother to the Sorbos' three children. Eldest son Biwa (né Braeden) is 10; Shane is 8, and daughter Tavi (née Octavia) is 6. The Sorbo family travel extensively depending on where Kevin's filming commitments take them. Golf and skiing are family passions. Sam and Kevin also believe in philanthropy, with Dad serving as a spokesperson for *'A World Fit for Kids!'*, an after school mentoring program serving over 12,000 LAUSD kids, and Sam as board chair.

Kevin's book, *'True Strength'* is an inspirational read with endorsements and credits like this from *Ray Romano*: *"I've accepted that Kevin can beat me in golf, is better looking than me, and has the body of Hercules. Now I find out he can write a compelling book as well. Damn him."* Sam's considerable talents (which include writing) are also showcased in the book. We're now waiting for Sam's book. The Sorbos' happy home in North Ranch is filled with unbridled humor, Rex, the lizard, and Iggy, the perfect dog.

**WHAT ARE THE BEST ASPECTS ABOUT THIS PHASE IN YOUR LIFE?**

**Kevin:** There are a number of things but it starts with my kids. The most amazing thing to me is to watch them grow and change. I get sad sometimes when I look at their baby pictures because that stage went by so quickly. You hear it from your friends and parents, but until you've experienced it, you really don't know what it feels like. I have pictures of my kids on my office desk when they were 2 years old - and now they're 10, 8 and 6. The time goes by so quickly.

Business-wise, I am so much more relaxed about where I'm at in my life. I was lucky to have success with 7 years as Hercules and 5 years as Andromeda. Right now I'm fortunate to be shooting about 4 movies a year - so I really count my blessings. Of course I'd love to do even more. It feels good to be so much more relaxed about work; I don't sweat the changes like I used to and I'm more easy-going and flexible. At the same time I'm really busy with my own production company and I'm always looking for investors. I recently raised the capital for *'Abel's Field'* - which is due for release this coming summer. My passion, though, is acting, so if I had a choice between being behind the scenes versus in front of the cameras, give me acting any day. That's what I love to do. I've wanted to be an actor ever since I was 11 years old and if anything, that passion keeps growing. I don't like the politics of Hollywood - the egos,



the cooks in the kitchen and the negativity - and I think a lot of people would agree with me on that. It's a weird town when it comes to why you do or don't get work. But I've learned to have patience. At the end of the day you have to be comfortable knowing that you gave it your best, so that's what I strive for these days.

**SAM:** What's great about this phase of my life is that I am creating citizens for the future in my children - and in so doing, I'm also creating my future. My hope is to be fully involved in my kids' lives - as much as a parent should be. I plan to live vicariously through them so I hope they do fantastic things! This isn't something I really planned. I never thought of kids in this way, but when you get married, you start to accomplish things as a unit - with two people, rather than on your own. I had a part in Kevin's accomplishments, and now I share in my children's successes. I am truly blessed.

### **MARRIAGE AND PARENTHOOD TO YOUR 3 CHILDREN: HOW HAS IT ENRICHED YOUR LIFE?**

**KEVIN:** Marriage and fatherhood have made me much more appreciative of life. When you're alone there's a tendency to get caught up in your own little world. Having a family doesn't allow one to do that; I have 3 little kids who have their own little worlds, and they're competing with each other - so I'm like the world's policeman with them! Every day my kids make me laugh and they make me smile. I realized that years ago with my eldest son, Braeden (Biwa), who's now 10. When he was 2 he said something to me that had me laughing and from thereon I started to keep a log of those poignantly funny moments when your kids say the most hilarious things. I plan to put a nice book together for them when they graduate from high school, not just for them, but for other parents whom I'm sure can relate because of their own experiences.

**SAM:** Well, the kids bring their own brand of humor and shenanigans to my life, which is necessarily much less self-centered than when I was single! For another thing, when I was single I would never have gone to a restaurant alone to eat. But one day I was out with Biwa in the stroller, and I realized, I have a built-in date now! So the kids can be very useful, too. I can't say I'm lonely. And since you asked, it's really nice being married to Kevin. In fact, it feels so good that I'll consider keeping him for a while longer! (Laughter ensues)

### **KEVIN: YOUR BOOK, 'TRUE STRENGTH' IS ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY FROM BEING HERCULES TO THEN BEING A MERE MORTAL, AND HOW NEARLY DYING SAVED YOUR LIFE: TELL US ABOUT THAT:**

**KEVIN:** The book is about a huge chapter in my life and it only developed after a lot of encour-

agement from my wife who assured me that I had an amazing story to tell which could be very inspirational to people. I kept a log during those first couple of years after I suffered the strokes in 1997. In fact, I had them the weekend that Princess Di died. I was trying to find any glimmer of hope and any light in the tunnel - that there was improvement in my condition. The first year, that light wasn't very bright; in fact I was pretty much in darkness. It wasn't until the second year that I could start to see that things were beginning to get better and that instilled a lot more hope in me to push myself even harder.

The message I really wanted to get across to people who read the book is that they shouldn't let other people set your limitations. The doctors outlined my recovery - however much I might have - they gave it three to eight months. After that, I would be stuck with whatever symptoms I still had. No more improvement. Well, after eight months I still had the migraines, dizziness, nausea; I could only work like four hours a day, and even that left me drooling on the couch. If something like that can happen to 'Hercules' - a guy like me who's in peak physical condition - it can happen to anybody. The aneurism in my left arm was so severe that I almost lost the arm because of the blood clots - 3 of which went to my brain and caused the 3 strokes. I mean, I'm really lucky to be alive; it could have been so much worse; it could have killed me; I could still be in a wheelchair with drool coming out the left side of my mouth. There are so many things that could have happened to me and I am so appreciative of where I am today. I've been doing speeches and book signings around the country and I'm amazed at the number of people who have come up to me and explained that they've had a stroke, heart attack, car accident...and they respond to the book the way I was hoping they would and that is to find their own true strength...that place inside of us that simply doesn't give up. I called the book 'True Strength' because - playing Hercules - let's face it - that wasn't real strength. That was some stunt guys making me look pretty good. Oftentimes people want to give up and throw in the towel and I'm hoping that they'll gain the inspiration not to do that. The physical conditioning I had prior to the strokes was helpful, but equally so was the sheer will I had to get better. I've always been a strong-willed person who doesn't want to deal with the negatives in life.

There's also a love story in the book. I had Sam by my side who was a whip-snapper as much as I was. She wouldn't let me feel sorry for myself so I had the benefit of a double-whammy of trying to make my life better. We weren't married yet but we were planning to marry. She wouldn't give up on me even though we didn't know what the future held.







Kevin, Sam, Tavi, Shane, Biwa (Braeden)

**Sam:** Sweater by Carolina K. Jeans by Adriano Goldschmied. CZ disc necklace \$108, long turquoise nugget necklace \$65, assorted turquoise and Tibet jewelry all from TEMPT collection prices from \$32 to \$125.

**Kevin:** Shirt by CP Shades. Jeans by Adriano Goldschmied. Sterling silver cross on suede cord \$68

**Children:** All Clothes By: Scotch Shrunken by Scotch & Soda **Tavi:** Gold Dragonfly necklace \$38. Kids stretch CZ bracelets \$28 per group of 3

**Hair and Makeup:** Kathleen Hagan.  
kathleenhagan.com

**Sam's Stylist:** Tracy Berkus Dekel

**Kevin's and the Children's Stylist:** Jake M. Warner





**Sam:** Dress: Factory By Erik Hart. Jewelry: Pearl and diamond necklace. Rose-cut Indian pendant on black suede cord. Pave diamond earrings. Indian rose-cut and Pave diamond dome ring. 2 T and A pearl & diamond bracelets. Pave diamond bangle.

**Kevin:** Shirt by Scotch & Soda. Blazer by Scotch & Soda. Jeans by J Brand

**Hair and Makeup:** Kathleen Hagan. [kathleenhagan.com](http://kathleenhagan.com)

**Sam's Stylist:** Tracy Berkus Dekel  
**Kevin's Stylist:** Jake M. Warner





#### **WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?**

**SAM:** My kids. They delight me on a daily basis. I don't want to brag, but they are pretty nifty little people, so... When I was pregnant, Kevin would come home from a hard day of work, remarking about something that happened on set, and I'd say, "Ask me what I did today." And then I'd answer, "I created life..."

At the same time, parenthood has taught me so much. Kids break things down to simplicity with such ease. Who knew you actually had to give your kids the words to express themselves? 'Please' and 'thank you' are meaningless to them unless they can understand the entire context. I made a point of giving my kids the full sentence, "Thank you for helping me pick that up," so they have fluency with being polite, and it's paid off in spades. I taught my kids to compliment me, and I tell young parents, "Give your kids the words - all of them!" I'll never forget the time my two-year-old said to me (he was walking behind me on the way to the park), "Mommy, you have a nice butt." It's enough to make me blush with pride.

**KEVIN:** Professionally I'm most proud of Hercules; that really kicked it all off for me. I'm very fond of that character; I'm fond of my 7 years in New Zealand and the crew were like family to me. When that show finished I had recently experienced my 3 strokes so I had to work a limited schedule - down from 14 hours a day to 1 hour a day. I slowly worked my way back to 9 hours per day during the last season. It was a long road back and I hated having to go out that way. I also hated the fact that I couldn't be sociable the way I normally am. I love to hang out with people and chat but instead I had to go back to my camper to rest because I was suffering from constant migraines. That just wasn't me. Looking back, that show was a God-send to me. Especially after the strokes, it saved my life. Plus, I had a blast. I'm grateful to everybody involved. It was a wonderful experience.

Privately I'm most proud of my kids. When the strokes hit I thought I was dying that day. I knew that something was horrifically wrong in my brain and I thought that was it for me. That was before I even got married. To be able to get past that and still get married and have the 3 kids that I had always dreamed of having - ever since I was 16 - is to me a miracle. I said to Sam the day we met that I wanted 3 kids: 2 boys and a girl. That's exactly how it turned out. But after the strokes I wanted to call off the wedding because I didn't know if I could even walk again. However, the USC Neurologist advised me not to put my life on hold and those are words I've always remembered. Let's face it; many people might have walked from that situation - not knowing what they were going to be left with for a

husband - but Sam stuck by me 'for better or for worse'. That's why the book 'True Strength' is every bit as much a love story as it is about triumphs and second chances.

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN LIFE?**

**SAM:** To have integrity in my word and never take anything personally. It's not always easy, but worth it in the end.

**KEVIN:** My guiding principle is perseverance. Brad Pitt and I were in acting class together in '89/90 and we chatted about this. We were in Roy London's acting class and we had both dropped out of college because - certainly for me - I knew that I wanted to act. People advised me that I could always finish up my last quarter at college so that I would have something to 'fall back on' and that became like finger nails on a chalk board to me. I'm grateful for the 92% of college that I had but I was determined not to fall back on anything. I turned that frustration and anger into actively pursuing what I really wanted to do.

#### **KEVIN: YOUR EXPERIENCE MAKING 'SOUL SURFER': WHAT WERE SOME OF THE MOST IMPACTFUL MOMENTS WHILE FILMING THE MOVIE IN HAWAII? WAS BETHANY HAMILTON AN INSPIRATION TO YOU?**

**KEVIN:** Bethany was there on set with us every single day. She's a very strong Christian and she was steadfast in her resolve that there was a reason that the shark attack happened, and she was going to turn it into something positive by getting the message of Christ and God out to the world. She certainly achieved that. At 13 years old - to have that level of conviction and maturity - is incredible. I met Holt Blanchard, the guy that I played in the movie. Holt was Bethany's best friend's Dad who was in the water with her when the shark attacked. All the details of exactly what actually happened really display the incredible bravery of Blanchard. There he was in the water with a 15-foot shark that had just - with one snap - taken off the arm of this 13-year-old girl. In real life, Blanchard got his kids out of the water as fast as possible - and instructed them to call 911 immediately. He then pulled over to Bethany surrounded by this bloodstained water that would have produced a feeding frenzy for the sharks in the area. He figured that both he and Bethany were going to die that day...but he stayed in the water, swam over to one of the boards; held onto Bethany's one good arm and paddled 400 yards. That's about 4 football fields away from the shore. Bethany was on set every single day and to hear her confidence and the way she got the story out to a much bigger audience was pretty amazing.





#### **DID SOUL SURFER TURN OUT TO BE A HUGE BOX OFFICE SUCCESS?**

Yes it did; It was a \$15 million movie and I think we did \$50 million in the U.S. alone. In its first week out on DVD 1.5 million copies were sold. That's another \$30-40 million right there so it did pretty well overall.

#### **THINGS THAT TICKLE YOUR HUMOR BUTTON?**

**SAM:** I tend to laugh easily because I enjoy laughing so I look for reasons to laugh. But I also got a very funny dog, for when life is generally less droll.

**KEVIN:** I've always liked comedies and I've always liked to laugh. In fact, comedies became one of my strengths during those first post stroke years where just getting off the couch was difficult. While I was on the couch I sure didn't want to watch doctors' shows so I watched 'Mad About You' and 'Friends'. I'm a believer that laughter is the best medicine and it helped me tremendously. If you succumb to tragedy it will just eat you up.

#### **A FAVORITE PARENT MOMENT?**

**SAM:** I was going to write a book on things I never thought I'd hear myself say like, "A fart is never considered a correct response," or "We actually try NOT to make tidal waves in the bathtub."

Another thing I derive a lot of mileage from is asking people how much their twins weighed when they were born because my second child, Shane, probably weighed more than their twins combined. (He was 12.5 pounds!)

**KEVIN:** The birth of my first son. I openly wept when I saw this thing come out of my wife and start crying. I was blown away. What's amazing to me is that you don't know what that person is or what you've created with your wife. However, what I felt was this instantaneous, unconditional love so much so that I was ready to kill anybody who hurt him. Of course Braeden isn't a teenager yet - so I'll re-assess that later. (Kevin laughs)

#### **YOUR VIEWS ON MARRIAGE AND THE INGREDIENTS FOR AN ENRICHING RELATIONSHIP?**

**SAM:** Kevin and I were engaged and I was living in L.A., working full time as an actress and doing really well. Kevin was working in New Zealand at the time doing 'Hercules' and we had this dilemma of how our relationship was going to work with me still pursuing my career: 2 weeks here, 2 weeks on the other side of the world? What if I got a callback after the thirteen-hour flight to Auckland? Ugh! It was confusing and clearly problematic. Then Kevin almost died. He was in intensive care, fighting for his life, really, and it dawned on me: what

did I really want? The answer was so simple: him. I loved him and he needed me and the rest sort of just fell away, like when the sand is blown off a buried treasure trunk. Back when I was modeling, I was also studying biomedical engineering, so I was juggling modeling with being back at university. It's interesting that before modeling I put a lot of pressure on myself and as a result, I found the classes difficult, but after I had traveled all over the world, been successful in Paris as a model, and gained that world experience, I found that returning to study was much easier because I no longer felt that enormous, singular pressure. I had supported myself in the real world - I had options - so suddenly I coped far better with my classes and found them easier in spite of their increased level of difficulty. Eventually I realized that going to medical school was a complete undivided commitment, but with modeling I could do everything *else* I wanted to do including traveling the world and learning different languages. So I chose that, which was just a way of prioritizing, and it made me realize me that not all things, all endeavors, have equal importance. So when Kevin got sick, it was like another epiphany - it forced me to prioritize effectively. I said, "Oh... Clarity... I get it!" I was blessed to have that kind of lucidity, actually, because it simplified everything. What I really wanted was a healthy marriage and kids. Kevin is an incredible man. He was more valuable to me than anything else. (I had waited a long time to find him!) I understood that for his health and our marriage I would have to sacrifice my career, and life became suddenly uncomplicated again. I moved out of my apartment in L.A. - moved to New Zealand and we started our marriage with the 'for worse' part first. But everything only improved with time.

In terms of ingredients for an enriching, enduring marriage, I would say 1) love - obviously; 2) forgiveness 3) self sacrifice. (And I definitely had a crash course in that!) The illness slowed Kevin down and I've said to him that I don't know if we could have survived if he hadn't gotten sick. He was going full throttle, and for him that seemed fine, but I'm kind of shy when it comes to that frantic pace. In some ways the illness was a gift to both Kevin and me. I was forced into the position of being a caregiver and it brought me out of myself and made me focus on things that were more important. I used to volunteer in an emergency room and it was there that I learned to check my ego at the door. At the hospital I put my energies into other people's lives and struggles and when I got home, I found that my troubles had diminished markedly. So I was somewhat prepared to take on the responsibility of caregiver for Kevin.



**Sam:** Pearl and diamond necklace. Rose-cut Indian pendant on black suede cord. Pave diamond earrings. Indian rose-cut and Pave diamond dome ring. 2 T and A pearl & diamond bracelets. Pave diamond bangle.

**Hair and Makeup:** Kathleen Hagan. [kathleenhagan.com](http://kathleenhagan.com)  
**Sam's Stylist:** Tracy Berkus Dekel







**Sam:** Dress by Beyond Vintage. Long Moonstone necklace \$195. Sterling Silver Indian long necklace \$165. Rock N Roll CZ ring \$145. 2 T & A stretch stone bracelets with diamond beads. Large CZ hoop earrings \$65. Large lapis T & A string bracelet \$130

**Kevin:** Sweater by Gypsy 05. Pants by Adriano Goldshmiel

**Hair and Makeup:** Kathleen Hagan. kathleenhagan.com

**Sam's Stylist:** Tracy Berkus Dekel  
**Kevin's Stylist:** Jake M. Warner





**DID YOU EVER THINK THAT KEVIN WAS NOT GOING TO GET BETTER AFTER HE HAD HIS STROKES?**

**SAM:** I'll admit I was blessed with naivety. Even though he was very sick and I had the benefit of understanding a lot of the medicine involved, I just never doubted his ability to recover. The first year and a half, it wasn't very clear that he was getting better – certainly not to him, so I fell into the role of cheerleader. He had tremendous setbacks all the way through. I refused to let him dwell on the (numerous) disappointments that hit him. I'd remind him to look at how much he had progressed from the recent months. A lot of times it was hard to see, but there was a point where he surpassed even the doctors' expectations (they had set his recovery at eight months, tops, but he continued to improve beyond that), and after that his own optimism cautiously peeked through.

**WHO INSPIRES YOU?**

**KEVIN:** On a personal front it would be my parents. I'm fortunate to have them still. My Father grew up on a farm in Iowa and he had to work the land when he came home from school. I'm the 4th of 5 kids and we grew up in Minnesota where we played a lot of sports. Mom and Dad were always supporting us at all our games but they also taught us the importance of hard work. I delivered papers from when I was 9-years-old in 40-degree-below conditions 6 days a week. I will always be grateful for that strong work ethic they instilled in me - particularly with moving out to Hollywood.

On a professional front, Old Hollywood was always my inspiration. Cary Grant, Spencer Tracy and Jimmy Stewart were actors that I loved to watch. What sent it over the top for me were Paul Newman and Robert Redford. They had such charisma. What I like about the acting profession is to be able to draw emotions out of people - to make them laugh, cry, wonder, experience... I think we all love entertainment because frankly our own lives are kind of boring and films provide a means to escape into another realm that is more promising. I do like to make people think. I'm not a fan of negative movies. I think Hercules and Andromeda resonated because one was fantasy and the other was sci-fi; both take you away to another world. People also like a hero or a guy whose character is accessible enough for them to feel that they can sit down and have a beer with him. Many people have walked up to me in grocery stores and on the street and they've told me how much they loved the characters I played and I appreciate that. TV is in people's living rooms and kitchens and everywhere. Its power is enormous.

**SAM:** It goes without saying that my husband is hugely inspirational to me. When I met him, I was an actress who wanted her own TV show. Then I saw Kevin in action, and

on the plane ride home I said, "Okay, so I don't want my own show – that's way too much work!" His work ethic and tenacity is massive, and it keeps me motivated. I also have a great group of friends who I can go to for anything. I use them to keep me on a righteous path and they inspire me. A few of my friends are really urging me to write more, and I am so appreciative of them! Writing is the most challenging and fulfilling thing I do, aside from my kids.

**WHAT GIVES YOU IMMENSE FULFILLMENT?**

**KEVIN:** Garnering acting roles. I want another TV series. I've been so close on some. I say 'no' to characters or parts that don't interest me but there's no doubt that I like to work as much as possible. I like the grind and I'm sure my extra drive comes from the fact that I appreciate the second chance I've been given in life.

**SAM:** My kids and my writing. I also really enjoy the creativity that's involved in photography and modeling.

**SAM: YOU HOME SCHOOL YOUR CHILDREN. WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS ON HOME SCHOOLING?**

**SAM:** I'm an advocate for home schooling and I love it. First, it isn't as hard as you might think. If you help your kids with their homework, you're home schooling. I came to it because the kids wanted, needed to be with their Dad and he travels a lot for work. This put me in the position of substitute teacher, and you might imagine how that worked out for me! Since I brought the kids home they've grown so much closer. We all are. It's a really wonderful option and I'm very blessed to be able to do it!

**KEVIN: YOU'VE COMBINED YOUR GOLFING TALENTS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR WORTHY CAUSES. TELL US ABOUT THAT AND WHAT GETS YOUR ATTENTION?**

**KEVIN:** I've been the celebrity spokesperson for 15 years for our nonprofit, 'A World Fit for Kids!'. Each year, we work with approximately 10,000 kids at 11 inner city elementary, middle and high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District. Although we only provide direct afterschool program services in the Los Angeles area, we are expanding our impact by teaching other youth-service providers nationwide about our award-winning model and success strategies through our training division. We mentor the kids and prepare high-schoolers for the work force. Childhood obesity is one of our focuses. We're the most obese country in the world and we need to teach our children better eating habits. It amazes me what goes on with the N.E.A. (the Unions). They should be ashamed of how





they run our schools. We rank way down scholastically; California ranks below average in public education. Our brightest pupils can barely even begin to compete with Asian students. We've been electing the same officials in D.C. to represent us for the last 25 years, but things are steadily getting worse. Now we don't even have physical education in our schools, which is where we started targeting with our program. But it goes far beyond that. L.A. Unified School District has a 54% dropout rate - starting as low as 5th Grade. At our charity, 94% of students who completed the Teen Mentors in Motion training and 6-month internship program since 2003 have graduated from high school, and 64% of them improved their GPA compared to kids not in our program. We are achieving these results even while our budget is stretched to the limit. We'd love to be able to reach out to even more kids. The high school participants in our daily 3-hour after-school programs are improving their school attendance and the graduation rate was higher for seniors who participated in the after-school program compared to nonparticipants, and yet D.C. won't pay attention. The N.E.A has done everything they can to block us. The statistics speak for themselves. Our kids deserve more than this, and that's why I'm devoted to this program.

As for golf, we produce a golf tournament to benefit WHIT each year. The next one, which will be a golf and tennis tournament (we're expanding!), is October 12-13 in Las Vegas. Please check the website for details, to donate, and to play. It's a blast and it's for a great cause.  
[Worldfitforkids.org](http://Worldfitforkids.org)

**HOW DOES THE SORBO FAMILY RELAX, UNWIND AND HOW WILL YOU SPEND THE SUMMER?**

**SAM:** We really enjoy skiing and swimming as a family. We often visit Grandma and Grandpa, and we travel a great deal. We love to explore new places and learn about different cities. We plan to travel this summer, but we travel all year, so summer just means there will be a lot more kids around! Also, schoolwork is always part of the schedule. We have finally taken up golf as a family, now that our youngest can enjoy it, too, and I think tennis is also on the horizon.

**KEVIN: 'ABEL'S FIELD' AND YOUR OTHER CURRENT PROFESSIONAL PROJECTS : WHAT CAN WE LOOK FORWARD TO?**

**KEVIN:** *'Abel's Field'* is a Texas football movie that they'll release into theaters in August as the football season kicks in. I also did a western with the Hallmark channel called *'Shadow on the Mesa'* and that will air around July. I

also did a movie with Hallmark called *'Avenging Angel'* and I highly recommend that. I'm currently working on an independent feature with Matthew Perry, which is a comedy called *'The Whole Banana'*.

**WHAT HAS LIFE TAUGHT YOU AND DOES THE JOURNEY IMPROVE WITH EXPERIENCE?**

**KEVIN:** Life has taught me patience. I'm still a dreamer and I think that people should dream and follow their dreams, but I'm also a realist. My upbringing in Minnesota, though it was very humble with hardly 2 cents to rub together, gave me a fantastic springboard for life. My parents encouraged us to be inspired, to dream and to hope. As I progress on my journey, I am increasingly grateful for what I have and I'm very realistic about how life works. Success never comes easily; you have to work for it and there will be bumps along the road but that's life. Every successful person I know suffered failures along the way and the setbacks only taught them not to quit. Competition is a wonderful thing. It makes us work harder and it brings out the best in all of us.

**SAM:** The journey only improves if you let it. Happiness is a choice. I know people in wheelchairs who are happy and I know people in mansions who are not. Things can always be worse and things can always be better. If I've learned anything it's to make the choice to be happy in the moment and look brightly towards the future.

**WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?**

**KEVIN:** Sky-diving; I love to travel and I want to jog on the Great Wall of China. I love acting and still want to do a lot more; I love being on the set; the camaraderie of it; I love creating something from nothing. I also like the fact that we can use this industry for a lot of positivity; we can be informative and constructive. So...please, people...follow your dreams and eat your vegetables!  
**SAM:** More writing. Bringing my kids to Europe and showing them the world. Learning Russian. Visiting the holy sites in Israel. Running for public office. Going on safari in Africa and seeing elephants in the wild. It's endless! 🌊

[KevinSorbo.net](http://KevinSorbo.net); [www.facebook.com/samsorbo](http://www.facebook.com/samsorbo)



Kevin Sorbo's book *True Strength*

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# Fashionsense



## On Fashion, Art and a Greatful Heart

By Magda Pescariu

Today I received news that filled my heart with hope. This is not something that happens every day, and I sat in front of my computer for a long time, struck by a weird feeling: warm and victorious, mixed with a magical but selfish relief. So not everything in our life today has to be sad, or phoney, or aggressive, or futile, or industriously-stupid. Right under my eyes was the written proof that good things still happen, and they tend to happen exactly when we are ready to throw our hands in the air and “abandon all hope”, like Dante mercifully advised us to do so many lives ago.

A very elegant press-release from Salvatore Ferragamo announced on my screen a significant double-event for the upcoming spring-summer season: **“Salvatore Ferragamo is the exclusive sponsor of Leonardo da Vinci’s latest exhibition, “The Saint Anne, Leonardo da Vinci’s Ultimate Masterpiece”, on display at the Louvre from March 29 through June 25, 2012.”** The exhibition celebrates Leonardo da Vinci’s oil on wood entitled “The Virgin and Child with Saint Anne” - the famous masterpiece created between 1503 and 1519, which recently underwent a thorough restoration. **On the occasion of this exhibition, Louvre has granted for the first time the use of its historical and legendary interiors for a runway show: Salvatore Ferragamo will present its Resort 2012 Collection on June 12, down a unique runway under the archways of the Denon peristyle that frames the Louvre.** The vision of flowing beauty and ethereal art in living form, paying a graceful homage to the masterpieces adorning the museum’s walls, comforted my dispirited heart and unhinged my well-trained cynicism.

Hurried and exhausted with the worries of the last decade, I fear we lost the habit of *seeing* the beauty around us; we became stingy with the time spent

outside our business interests, and rarely invested our emotions, money or time in things that didn’t generate immediate and palpable results. “What’s in it for me?” is the present-day anthem and any creative endeavor is judged only by its potential to become a new “industry”. I remember myself laughing years ago when I came across a quote from Peter Ustinov: “If Botticelli were alive today he’d be working for Vogue”. Involved with fashion only as an amateur those days, much younger and less disheartened with life and its modern troubles, I found the idea trivial, but amusing and with little truth to it. It was later on when it didn’t seem so funny anymore, just sadly true and representative of the times we live in. That’s why the news from Ferragamo filled me with joy and hope. I love that somewhere in the world **people invest their passion, time and money in willing art to survive and prevail in all its blessed manifestations.** I love the idea of a spiritual human nature, wise and nurturing of our creative past and present, sharp and courageous, which never loses sight of what is vital for us. For we can live without many, many things - we know that now, “all the riches of this world” included. But could we ever live through the eternal absence of light?





# Q&A WITH FAMOUS DESIGNERS

## *Kevan Hall*



Kevan Hall during our interview at Neiman Marcus - Topanga, CA

**WML:** It is a wonderful opportunity for the readers of Westlake Malibu Lifestyle Magazine to get to know Kevan Hall, a renowned Los Angeles designer. Thank you so much for accepting this interview. I have just seen your Spring/Summer 2012 Collection and liked it a lot - it is feminine, sleek, sensual and glamorous, with a "classic meets romantic" touch. What was your source of inspiration?

**KH:** In this collection I look back to the '40s. It has a sense of modernism, but I like to reference also a combination of modernism and vintage. I found a few good materials to work with, like the pebble crepe or the hammered satin - which have a vintage look to them; and also I created the styles in great colors: face-powder, dusty aqua, gray and taupe. All these kept in line with that vintage feeling I love so much. (Smiles) You can't go wrong with that...

**WML:** It is known that you try to stay away from trends and fads in favor of a timeless signature look. How would

you define your signature look?

**KH:** I think that, for me, it always starts with an interesting color. I try to find colors that are slightly rare, maybe they haven't been used in a while... This way my styles become easily identifiable on any stage, so I'd say an unusual color defines my signature look. I also try to create things that are modern, with clean lines... There are, in fact, two schools of thought in my collections: first, there are the architectural pieces - they are all about the line and the cut; and then there is the flow of the fluid pieces, which are beautifully draped, with grace and volume, skirts in chiffon, everything with great movement and very sensual.

**WML:** Your styles are worn by many celebrities, including - most famously - Michelle Obama (in 2010), Virginia Madsen (at the Academy Awards in 2012), Charlize Theron, Sharon Stone, Vivica A. Fox, Salma Hayek, Renee Zellweger - to name only a few. Who would you like to dress in the future?



Kevan Hall with Neiman Marcus Model presenting styles from the Kevan Hall Spring-Summer 2012 Collection

**KH:** Oh, I enjoy dressing all these beautiful personalities. And the reason is that these stars receive incredible offers from the most famous designers in the world. And when they choose to wear a Kevan Hall creation - that is a great compliment to me, and it speaks volumes... Many times they will come back season after season, or in the next awards season, let's say, and wear something from my collections again. I'm always flattered; it's a great feeling...

**WML:** You knew you wanted to be a fashion designer by the age of seven. What would you tell now to the seven years old Kevan? What advice would you give him?



**KH:** *(nostalgic chuckle)* I would tell him that **fashion is an exhilarating world in and by itself**, and fashion design business is such an exciting business to be in ... Lots of opportunities lie ahead and **all you have to do is take everything in with curiosity and appetite for life - the world is your oyster.**

**WML:** **Is there anything you'd like to be different in the fashion world these days?**

**KH:** I think that when we live in such difficult times as we experience today, **it would be important for people to look at style instead of looking at trends.** When people do that, they buy clothes that are well-made, in classic lines, which last longer and are never dated; they acquire fewer *clothes* and more *timeless elegance.*

**WML:** **How do you see the modern woman of 2012? Is she much different today from a decade ago, when you launched your own signature?**

**KH:** I think that the woman of 2012 is really very fashion-conscious and savvy, and she is this way because there is so much exposure of fashion through media, that she gets massive information



Kevan Hall

without even looking for it. She doesn't *have* to follow fashion closely. The woman of today has developed a clear sense of what is out there and – from this incredible offer – of what suits her best, what presents her to the world precisely the way she wants.

**WML:** **So everything comes back to image; to understanding who we are, what we want to communicate about us and what image do we wish to project...**

**KH:** Well, you know, **image is becoming reality ... Perception is reality.**

**WML:** **Please share with WML's readers your philosophy of fashion. Is fashion important? What do you think that fashion does or means for us today?**

**KH:** I think **fashion gives us confidence; it can give a person a sense of belonging.**

As I said before, it is important how people perceive us, first impressions are so important; so how you present yourself can move you forward in your career, in your business or in your life. **But I think also that fashion, for the most part of it, does give you pleasure.** Women, men – they simply enjoy feeling good about themselves.

**WML:** **From all the great fashion designers in the world, who inspired you the most?**

**KH:** Madeleine Vionnet, the “**architect among dress-makers**” who created the **bias cut in the 1930s** - a very influential cut in the history of fashion design. I love the simplicity of this cut and the



Kevan Hall

fact that it **has changed everything, from the way fabrics were used to creating a whole new vision of femininity.**

**WML:** **Your words to live by?**

**KH:** I have to say – I'm thankful in everything, more thankful when the times are difficult. **A grateful heart will carry you a long way.**

**WML:** **And your word of fashion wisdom for the readers of our magazine is ...**

**KH:** **Be comfortable in your own skin, know yourself,** make a selection of garments that look good on you, **find your own style and then ... own it, carry it!** We are so obsessed with size and with the eternal youth, that it has become unhealthy. There is nothing more beautiful than a woman who has aged gracefully. **In the end, our look is a reflection of who we are and what we have experienced. Ultimately - of how we have understood our own life ...**

**WML:** **We better own it, then ...**

**KH** (smiles with a sigh): We better. 💧



# Things we love



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# Educational sense

## Our Children's Public Education Reality Check: California 2012

By Southey Addison

Once upon a time America ranked at the top of worldwide education. That impressive standing has been steadily dropping over the last few decades. Today, we are now ranked **15th in Reading, 23rd in Science and 31st in Math**. Are you shocked? You should be. It's also no coincidence that the countries who have overtaken us in world educational rankings - have fast-growing economies - leaving us trailing in our competitiveness. It's a well-known fact that when countries produce plenty of top-notch Engineers and Scientists, they become leaders in technological advancements. With our Math and Science rankings slipping markedly, we've lost the edge when it comes to that level of competitiveness. Let's take a look at one of these fast-growing economies: South Korea.

### THE SOUTH KOREAN MODEL

A few decades ago, this Asian tiger was mired in regional conflict but they've picked up the pieces, moved forward with heightened determination, and no surprise, their priority is their educational system. With laser beam focus, South Korea's students have outperformed the rest of the world for most of the last decade. On the most recent Pisa exam, the benchmark international test, South Korea ranked **1st in Reading and 2nd in Math** among all nations. The South Korean President, Lee Myung-bak, describes the parents of these South Korean children as "parents who (almost) care too much about their children's education!" The children spend long days in school (8:00am to 4:00pm); their school year is longer (205 school days in the calendar year), and there's a strong focus on standardized testing. Over the course of their academic careers, South Korean children will spend almost 2 more years in the classroom than their American counterparts.

### ATTRACTING THE BEST TEACHERS INTO THE PROFESSION

There are few professions where the importance of brilliance in craft - is as vital as in the teaching profession. An average teacher will achieve average results from a class of students - but a gifted, dynamic teacher - who knows how to light up children's bulbs in the classroom - will achieve infinitely better results. I recently asked an ex Westlake High School pupil how it was that he went on to excel in Math at Berkeley and his response was simple: "My calculus teacher at high school was really outstanding. He lit my bulb and I came to love the subject." In countries like Finland, Singapore and South

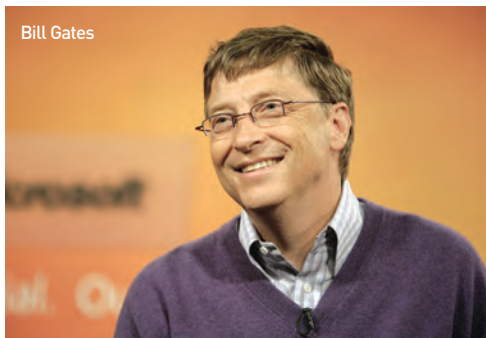
Korea - where educational standards are rocketing - becoming a teacher is a highly-prized status symbol in their societies. As a result, gifted teachers who truly have to fight hard to qualify for the teachers' masters programs, find themselves entering a profession where they have the full, unconditional backing of the parents and their community. Furthermore, the children they teach are exceptionally well-behaved in the classroom. From this mutual respect arises the perfect avenue for academic excellence. The results are enlightening and profoundly impressive. Bill Gates has repeatedly confirmed his view that hiring the best teachers should be a U.S. school district's number one priority. The Gates Foundation has launched a massive effort to figure out how America can foster great teaching. One of the ways is to grade teachers - just like they do students - and they're looking at different ways to reward and motivate good teachers. However, it becomes a controversial political battleground to start 'grading' teachers and the obstacles from the Unions and other die-hards make this a formidable ideal.

### EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA

In a perfect blue-skied Californian world - excellence in our state schools should prevail. However, the reality is that it doesn't because of a myriad of reasons. The only way to climb back and be highly competitive with the countries that are producing top marks on international benchmark tests - is to analyze the changes, how the changes have affected us, and what can be done about it. The cold reality is that excellence can only be attained when education truly is a priority in the hierarchical scheme of things. The best teachers have to be attracted to the profession - and the student/teacher ratio needs to be as small as possible so that



Bill Gates



**THERE ARE FEW PEOPLE LIKE GATES AND JOBS. FOR THE REST OF US, HAVING THE STRONG FOUNDATION OF A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION IS CRITICAL TO OUR SUCCESS. BILL GATES IS A FERVENT SUPPORTER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF GREAT EDUCATION, AND STEVE JOBS CERTAINLY ENCOURAGED HIS OWN CHILDREN TO REACH FOR THE STARS EDUCATIONALLY.**

each student can have one-on-one interaction with his/her teacher.

### FUNDING

Prior to 1978 and Prop 13, school districts in California were largely dependent upon property taxes, which furnished about 2/3 of public education revenues. Around the same time Prop 13 became law, the Serrano vs. Priest lawsuit challenged the fairness of the funding inequities that resulted from widely disparate property values and tax bases. The combined effect of Prop 13 and Serrano was to shift public school support from local property taxes to State general funds, thereby shifting the control from local authority to the State.

With this formula, California has fallen in per pupil funding to rank 47<sup>th</sup> amongst the 50 states, almost \$3,000 below the national average.

#### PER PUPIL SPENDING

National Average	\$11,764
Top State (Vermont)	\$22,115
California	\$8,908

Using Las Virgenes Unified School District as an example, here are the facts:

- Since 2006, LVUSD's budget has been cut by \$10 million
- Add to that the recent additional loss of \$535,000 in mid-year cuts for the 2011-12 year
- Plus a *minimum* of \$785,000 in 2012-13
- That adds up to over \$11,000,000 fewer dollars to LVUSD in just 5 years
- These cuts equate to less instructional days and fewer teachers and counselors so class sizes are larger and counseling programs are jeopardized

The problem is that in order for the State to properly fund the educational school system so that we remain competitive

internationally - our taxes will have to go up substantially (and most people are opposed to tax increases). Solution Number 3 is to pick up the responsibility as a community and cough up the extra dollars where needed. In Scandinavian countries where education is free up to doctoral level - people pay substantially heavier taxes than we pay in the U.S. The bottom line is that community-driven schools that have strong, supportive parents - are the ones that are most likely to succeed.

### BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

It was Steve Jobs who highlighted how much more effectively technology could be used in educating children. The U.S. has creatively spawned the world's technology powerhouses and it's time to inject that technology more effectively into schools. There are a myriad of creative, brilliant ways to augment the teaching process and we've only just begun to scratch the surface. There's so much more that can be done to turn our classrooms into dynamic multi-media powerhouses. Problem is that it does cost.

### SPENDING MORE MONTHS IN SCHOOL

Probably the hardest habit to kick is our addiction to those excessively-long summer vacations. The countries that are beating us in international benchmark tests have longer school days and their vacations are shorter. As mentioned earlier, South Korean children will have two years up on their American counterparts by the time they graduate from high school. We might want to seriously consider increasing the number of school days per year while becoming more efficient in the way we utilize our academic hours.

### U.S. UNIVERSITIES: STILL SUPERIOR

One area in education where the U.S. has not lagged behind is in its top universities. The Asian countries - in particular - know this - and there is a clamoring for their top students to gain places in American Ivy League Universities. Of course it costs substantial sums of money to attend

just one year at these elite institutions but the willing - who recognize the prize at the end - are willing to pay the price. It was the Singaporean Prime Minister who, in an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, said: "Singaporeans are going to American universities in significant numbers. We have many students in America in the best institutions." However, once these smart students graduate with PhD's, we seldom grant them permission to stay and work in the U.S. Surely we would want to keep other countries' brightest and most talented young people? The immigration of the world's talent is what has made America great in the past. It serves no purpose for us to give foreigners the best higher education in the world, and then tell them to go home and use their valuable skills elsewhere. That's a talent drain.

### CONCLUSION

Bill Gates and Steve Jobs were college dropouts. However, that doesn't mean they dropped out because they didn't have the ability to do brilliantly. They dropped out because they didn't have the patience to proceed with a degree that hindered the speed of their dreams. There are few people like Gates and Jobs. For the rest of us, having the strong foundation of a first-class education is critical to our success. Bill Gates is a fervent supporter of the importance of great education, and Steve Jobs certainly encouraged his own children to reach for the stars educationally. In a fast-paced, ever-changing world, having the skills to adapt readily to the new challenges - is going to be a critical survival tool. Having the best teachers who can educate future generations to lead the world with new innovations, new technology and new medical frontiers - is what is going to help America get back to the cutting edge. Our current Reading, Science and Math rankings speak for themselves and changes need to be made - fast - if we plan on being highly competitive again. 🌱

Acknowledgments: T.H.E. Foundation for providing data on State Funding. Fareed Zakaria and his documentary on 'Restoring the American Dream: Fixing Education'.



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In over 21 years of selling Residential Real Estate, Jordan Cohen has earned numerous awards including that of Number 1 Remax agent in California out of over 10,000 Realtors. He was also number 3 in the U.S. out of over 100,000 Realtors. In June 2011, Jordan broke a company record with over \$45 million in sales. He's represented over 40 professional athletes and numerous high-profile actors and entertainers - in their residential real estate sales. An expert in the industry, Jordan Cohen specializes in high-end Estates in Southern California.

**3200 Retreat Court, Malibu, CA 90265**  
**Offered at at \$13,500,000. [www.PremierMalibuEstate.com](http://www.PremierMalibuEstate.com)**





Spectacular and sophisticated Malibu compound with detached guesthouse in guard-gated Serra Retreat Estate





Recently completely rebuilt and remodeled with the absolute finest finishes!



Dramatic double island kitchen with zebra wood cabinetry



Over 9,100 square feet of living space on over 1.5 acres of resort quality grounds



Spectacular celebrity-filled, guard-gated Serra Retreat within walking distance to the premier high-end shopping and restaurants of Malibu. Recently rebuilt and completely remodeled with the absolute finest finishes! Extremely private location behind gates at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, a truly sensational setting for this sophisticated Malibu compound. Among the home's many attributes are a detached guest house, and a 5-car garage. Interior amenities include a state-of-the-art theater (currently under construction), beautiful hardwood and stone floors, dramatic double island kitchen with zebra wood cabinetry, two family rooms, soaring two-story ceilings and a wide open floor plan, perfect for entertaining. Over 9,100 square feet of living space with 6 bedrooms plus 9 baths on over 1.5 acres! The resort-quality grounds are second to none! An amazing pool with waterfalls and slide, full-sized lighted sports court, fireplace, barbecue center, enormous manicured lawns and mature landscape provide an awe inspiring backyard experience! This one-of-a-kind property will impress!



Spectacular outdoor water features including jacuzzi





**5196 Oxley Place, Westlake Village, CA 91362**  
**Offered at \$2,999,950, [www.NorthRanchViewEstate.com](http://www.NorthRanchViewEstate.com)**

Picture perfect North Ranch estate! Sensational golf course location in gated Emerald Forest. One of the best views anywhere! This model perfect home has sensational quality features throughout with over 7,200 square feet, 5 bedrooms plus 8 baths on approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre. Among the home's many attributes are soaring two-story ceilings, Spanish paver floors, expanded oversized 3-car garage, and an amazing master suite with marble bathroom and incredible balcony. The expansive open floorplan also provides a tremendous great room with wet bar, large home office and an awesome separate game/bonus room. The grounds are AMAZING! The Unobstructed views of the 7th fairway are breathtaking! In addition there is a beautiful pool, barbecue, pool bath, dramatic covered verandas and lush manicured lawns. This emotional estate is the best that North Ranch has to offer. Absolutely gorgeous!



For further information, contact:  
**Jordan Cohen**  
Estates Director/Top Company Producer  
Remax Olson & Associates  
[www.jordancohen.com](http://www.jordancohen.com)  
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Model perfect home has sensational quality features;  
Over 7,200 square feet, 5 bedrooms plus 8 baths



Soaring two story ceilings, Spanish paver floors & an amazing  
master suite with marble bathroom and tremendous balcony





# Garage Envy

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

Garage Envy is Southern California's most successful garage remodeling company and has been chosen for the second year in a row, as the official garage of the prestigious Pasadena Showcase Home of Design.

The company was founded 10 years ago with the viewpoint that the garage deserved to be more than just an empty space to store last year's junk.

Clean environment Garage for your Electric Vehicle











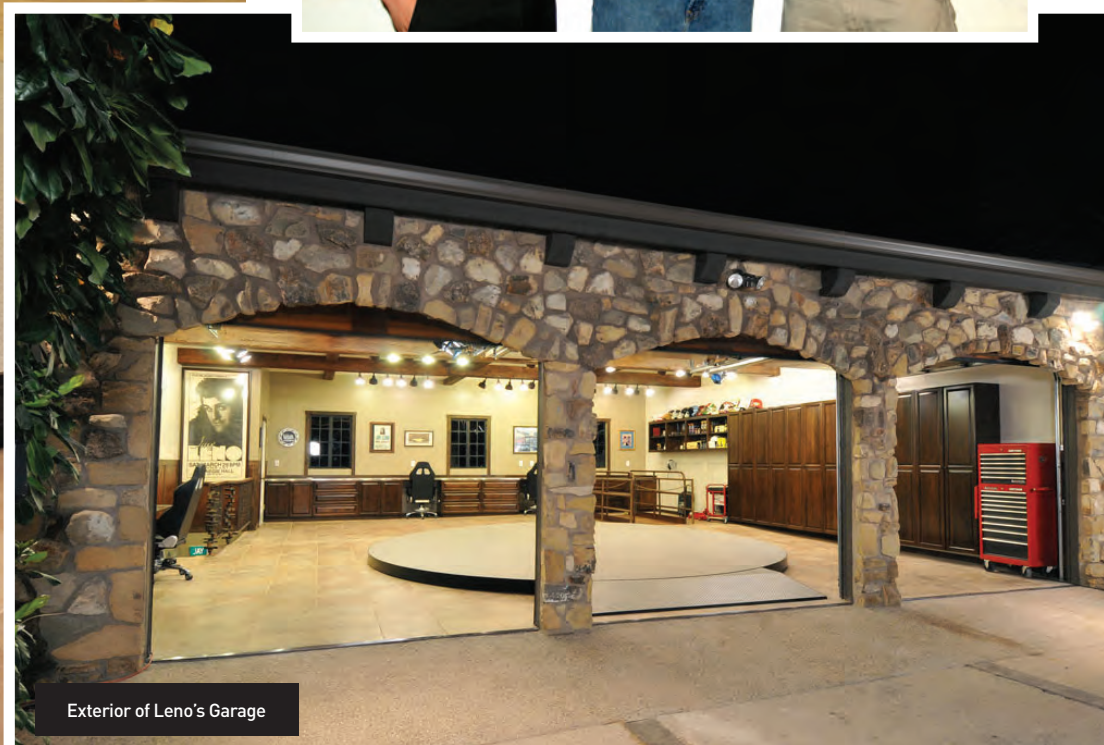


## Jay Leno's Garage

It's no secret that Jay Leno is a car aficionado - maybe one of the biggest. Garage Envy knew they had a big, exciting challenge with his requests especially because of his extensive memorabilia and collectables. They created a library for all his magazines and books and a comfortable lounging space for him to relax - freeing up some of the space to create a state-of-the-art showroom. The mechanical turntable they inserted allowed Leno to change the direction of his cars without having to struggle in his driveway - an issue with large wheelbase automobiles. Next came faux beams on the ceiling as well as Italian porcelain on the floor. Custom-stained, raised-panel cabinetry with stainless steel workbenches and exterior custom-welded railings were fabricated on site and made from actual piston rods - creating a one-of-a-kind space. New custom wood garage doors and high-tech lighting completed the space to accent a truly remarkable makeover which was completed in time and on budget!



Leno with Siler and Dieten



Exterior of Leno's Garage





Garage Flooring fit for a Porsche



Garages specifically designed for your needs



## Garage Envy

From celebrity dream projects to the simplest storage solutions, these guys do it all, including (as licensed general contractors) every aspect of construction, something their competitors have to outsource. And, unlike closet companies, Garage Envy designs and builds its storage and organizational products specifically for the garage, including:

- 1" thick adjustable shelving allowing homeowners to load deep cabinets with heavy, bulky items.
- Solid 1.5" thick Michigan Maple, straight-grain, knot-free butcher block counter tops.
- The finest hardware such as long-life stainless steel handles and Italian made hinges.
- 3/4" inch high-density wood backing designed to support the weight from the cabinet and its contents.
- Full drawer extension using 100lb glides and ball bearing construction not found in most drawers.

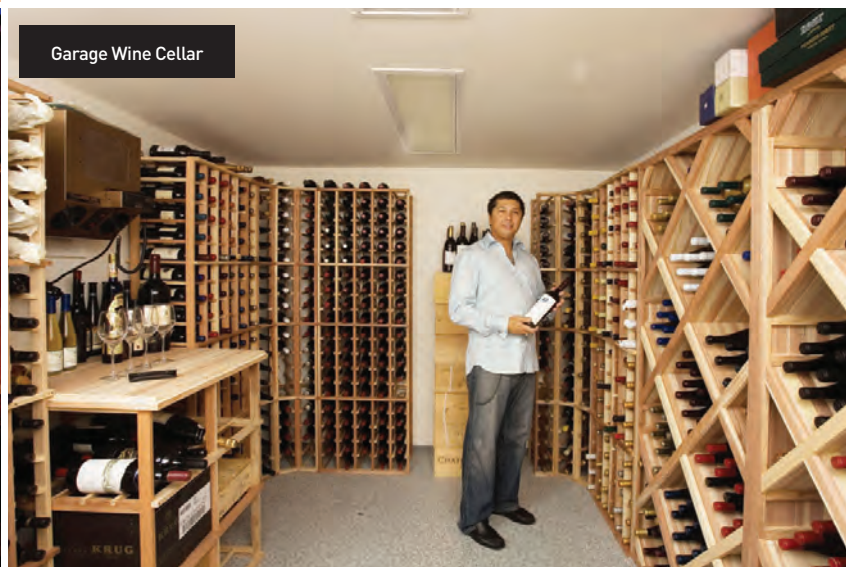
Everything is installed above ground, built toughly to endure moisture and dirt, and hold heavier loads. An array of flexible components including modular wall slatting, a huge variety of accessories for mounting bikes and surf boards, and overhead racks designed to hold the heaviest loads - are standard. Add a liquid granite, showroom-quality floor that comes in a variety of colors and finishes that forever covers cracks and eliminates oil stains - and within days a garage has never looked better.

How confident is Garage Envy your new garage is built to last? All of this comes with Garage Envy's one-of-a-kind lifetime warranty. Isn't it time you "Mastered the Mess?"



Garage Envy

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Garage Wine Cellar









# Moneysmart



## Do I Have Enough? Is Different Than How Much Is Enough?

Doug De Groot, MBA, CFP®

**A**ccording to the White House Council of Economic Advisors, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men who reached the age of 65 in 2007 can expect to live to at least 90 years of age. Man, “I hope I have enough,” is the first thing that goes through my mind. Yet, while

many of us strive to make sure we secure our future, the law of averages is working against us in many ways. Think about this: According to the very same White House Council, 50% of Americans have less than \$10,000 saved for retirement. What will their quality of life be and how will that affect you? Even scarier is the number of pensions that are underfunded

in both the private and public sectors. According to the Federal Government, 31 out of 50 states have less than 80% of their pension obligations funded. Where will that money come from? Will benefits be cut, taxes go up, or both?

Recently, CNN Money asked the question in their February 12, 2012 article, “Will \$4 Million in Retirement Savings be Enough?” It sounds like a lot, but when we consider inflation and taxes, it is really not as much as one may think. If you consider 2% inflation over 30 years that reduces your \$4 million to \$2.2 million in purchasing power and 4% inflation reduces it to \$1.2 million. The article goes on to say that the lump sum number is far less important than the income it can



generate. If one takes the rule of 4%, the \$4 million would generate \$160,000 per year in income. Yet, 30 years from now with 2% inflation that is only \$88,000 in today's dollars and with 4% inflation that would be the equivalent of \$49,000. It does not sound like very much does it? Our nation's retirees face what some are calling "Money Death". This is a term used in a contrarian study about strategies that help people avoid outliving their assets. The only issue is that the results of the study force people to take far more risk than many are willing to take or should.

In 1995, Raymond DeVoe Jr. of Legg Masson wrote, "**More money has been lost reaching for yield than at the point of a gun.**" Today investors seem more determined – or even desperate to generate income than ever before.

In a Brandes report titled, "Boomers Behaving Badly: A better Solution to the "Money Death" Problem", Brandes Institute asked - are we asking the "Wrong Question"?

- Wrong question: What investment can generate the x% yield that will pay me the income I need? (x% generally being materially higher number than the risk-free rate)
- Right question: "How can I take the needed amount of my portfolio every month without ultimately depleting my assets?"

Essentially, Brandes is reshaping the question and in doing so changes the structure from a "risk-return trade-off" that puts the investor into a situation to take increasingly higher risk with their investments.

#### WHAT WILL AFFECT MY OUTCOME?

While the Federal Reserve continues its "Zero Interest Rate Policy" through 2014, many investors may find themselves feeling the potential sting of higher taxes, weakening dollar, the continued fall of the housing market, and poor employment testing their resolve and the return of their principal on their investments if they choose to chase yield.

Recently, Weiss Research put out their news letter titled, "Money and Markets".

## WHILE MARKETS WILL REACT TO THE SHORT-TERM EFFECTS OF FEDERAL STIMULUS AND CALL IT A TREND FOR THE FUTURE, THIS TREND IS NOT CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING ITSELF WITHOUT THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND WASHINGTON'S CONTINUED AND GENEROUS HELP.

It highlighted the recently passed "Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012." This is the extension of last year's reduction in FICA tax from 6.2% to 4.2%. **In their letter they go on to rename it, "We Hope U.S. Voters Are Too Uninformed to Recognize That We Simply Stole Money From Their Failing Retirement Program to Buy Votes Act."** The letter focuses on the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) annual report of the Social Security and Medicare Trustees that will be out in April. **The CBO now says that Social Security will be bankrupt by 2022 rather than 2036 when reported just one year ago.** By reducing FICA to 4.2% for the last two years, we have essentially cut the life of Social Security by 14 years according to the CBO. We are destroying the only program we have to help the majority of our retirees whose sole income is from Social Security. It is likely we will see legislation a lot earlier than we thought. But will legislation be enough? The questions are numerous and will include an array of issues like: Won't there be higher taxes, lower benefits; will this cause inflation or is this deflationary? Will this cause more volatility in the economy and affect our social fabric?

#### WHAT IS IN A NUMBER?

While markets will react to the short-term effects of Federal Stimulus and call it a trend for the future, this trend is not capable of sustaining itself without the Federal Reserve and Washington's continued and generous help. The government and Federal Reserve have been doing everything they can to prop the economy and insure a soft landing. The only issue is that the numbers do not provide the real facts or soften the hard landing many Americans are actually feeling. With faux interest rates, QE, QE2, Operation Twist, etc., housing prices

are not recovering and face huge issues. Just last quarter, another 400,000 homes went underwater on their mortgages. According to Investor's Business Daily article dated March 1, 2012. this brings the total to 11.1 million homes that are now worth less than what is owed on them and does not include the ones the banks have already taken back.

Unemployment numbers continue to paint two very different pictures. The official number is measured by U-3 and is currently 8.3 percent. Yet, the real number of Americans capable of working but who are actually out and have given up looking - is measured by U-5 and that number is 9.9 percent. The U-6 number that is kept by the Department of Labor and Statistics - includes all of the above and people unemployed less than 365 days and currently not looking for work but who are ready, willing and able (think college graduates and high school graduates living at home with mom and dad). If we use that number, the rate soars to 15.1 percent. Here is the chilling number. If we include people who are out of work for more than 365 days, the number rises to 22.5 percent according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics. Among Hispanics, African Americans and people under 30, the number is over 30 percent.

#### DEPENDENCY IS AN ADDICTION

Today we have 6 million fewer people participating in the job market. Yet, according to every study in America and the Census Bureau, the population has been growing every year. At the same time, according to the Investor's Business Daily article titled, "If Economy's Improving, Why Is Dependency Growing?", dependency on the government has increased from the end of 2007 to 2010 by over 8 million people and growing.

I believe in helping people who need





help, but of this year's \$3.8 trillion budget, \$2.3 trillion goes to entitlements and more than 50 other government programs like food stamps. **How can an economy prosper when fewer and fewer people contribute to it?** I truly believe we will work this out and get the government working for the creators and providing the safety net when needed and the kick in the pants when necessary. But until then, we may find ourselves seeking refuge and looking to protect what we have from a legislative body that is trying to protect what they have...Over 50% of the population not contributing and almost as many getting something for nothing.

#### ROA

While money will always flow like water to areas of least resistance to better returns in time of abundance and back to safety and return of principal in times of fear, human emotion will continue

to fight reality and cause many of us to buy high and sell low. Something I learned long ago from a business coach was that with everything there is an ROA. No, not Return On Assets, but Rhythm of Action. As an investor, business owner and entrepreneur, I am constantly influenced by what I can control and suffer from thoughts of grandeur by the very idea of controlling what I cannot. I guess it is my way of recognizing my own reality. Yet, we can control our outcome. As an investor or business owner, you have the ability to control certain actions. These actions are influenced by your beliefs that ultimately drive actions which create results. In the end, those actions define your reality.

Your ROA is simply what you do, how you do it, when you do it and who you do it with. Be persistent and consistent with your ROA. Investing is no different. Yet, it is one of the few areas in life that when there is a sale,

no one really wants to buy and when things are most expensive, folks are willing to double up. The hardest thing to do is to look honestly at your goals and objectives and to be able to match them with your capabilities. Yet, once you can define who you are, your ROA will be much better and more consistent with whom you want to be and the financial life you desire. 🌱



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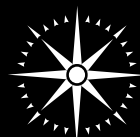
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# MoneySmart



## A Sporting Chance

By Robert Katch

**O**ver the past two years we have seen government deficits soar and government interest rates sink. The more our government borrows, the lower its cost to borrow seems to go. As with all popular investing mega-trends, be it tech stocks, real estate, or even government bonds, the end result is always ugly.

Government bond yields peaked just over 30 years ago and have since fallen 80%. Back then you could have bought a 30-year U.S. Treasury zero coupon bond and locked in a 15% compound annual return. This simple bond investment

would have turned \$16 million into \$1 billion as of last year when it matured.

The problem was that not many investors wanted to invest in government bonds in 1981 because they'd lost so much money during the previous 30 years as interest rates rose to those high levels. Now, with 30-year interest rates at a low 3.3%, government bonds are very popular and we're about to start the cycle all over again!

With rates so low, even corporations are taking advantage of the situation. Last year, Norfolk Southern borrowed \$250 million at 5.95% for 100 years and IBM borrowed \$1.5 billion at 1% for 3 years! Both of these events set modern day low

yield records and highlight the presence of bond fever.

The U.S. Treasury now has \$11 trillion of bonds outstanding. At an average cost of 2.0%, our government will find it very difficult to pay its bills when interest rates begin to rise again. If interest rates merely go back up to 5%, the annual cost to our government would more than double from \$220 billion to \$568 billion.

"The national budget must be balanced. The public debt must be reduced. The arrogance of the authorities must be moderated and controlled. Payments to foreign governments must be reduced if the nation doesn't want to go bankrupt. People must learn to work instead of living on public assistance." – Cicero, Roman politician (106 BC – 43 BC).

Like ancient Rome, our government has made a mess of things. We know our government will eventually pay off its bond debts in dollars, but we are very concerned about what those future dollars will be able to buy since the easiest way for our government to get out of its mess is to inflate. However, while we remain bearish and concerned about our government's bonds and the state of public finance, there are always avenues to prosperity.

To have a sporting chance at beating the U.S. Government at its own inflation game, investors will need to own real assets that appreciate while they inflate. Avoiding government bonds and adding dividend paying stocks, select real estate, desirable commodities, and investing outside the U.S. in healthy and growing economies will be important tools in protecting your standard of living. 🌱

This material provided for general and educational purposes only, and is not legal, tax or investment advice. For each strategy or option mentioned, there are detailed tax rules that must be followed.



Robert J. Katch is the founder of Manchester Financial, an Investment Counsel/Wealth Management firm located in Westlake Village. For more information call 805 495 4405





# SITTING IN CASH?

We know you're nervous about the economy. That doesn't mean you have to sit on the sidelines and only earn half a percent. It's time to take some proactive steps and make your money work harder for you.

**Manchester Financial can:**

- *Safely earn you a higher return*
- *Help you keep what you earn*
- *Prepare for coming inflation*
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Continuing changes demand that you have an expert to help you stay ahead of the game. Call Manchester Financial today for a complimentary consultation at (805) 495-4405.

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# Yourhealth

## The Health Benefits of Becoming a Vegan

“Scientific studies supported by the American Dietetic Association have confirmed that vegan and vegetarian diets are associated with lower cholesterol, lower risk of heart disease, lower blood pressure, lower risk of hypertension and Type 2 diabetes, lower body fat, and lower overall cancer rates,” the site states. “In fact, studies have shown that a vegan diet can actually reverse diabetes, heart disease and even cancer.”

30 years ago, people used to think of vegetarians and vegans as fringe eaters whose passion for animals outweighed sensibility. However, medical studies have proven that there are significant health benefits in becoming a vegan or vegetarian. A healthy, balanced vegan or vegetarian diet not only ensures a host of health benefits but it also helps in the prevention of major diseases.

Pumpkin risotto with sage and parmesan





## NUTRITION

All of the following nutritional benefits come from a vegan diet full of foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts, beans, and soy products.

1. **Reduced saturated fats.** Dairy products and meats contain a large amount of saturated fats. By reducing the amount of saturated fats from your diet, you'll improve your health significantly, especially when it comes to cardiovascular health.
2. **Carbohydrates.** Carbohydrates provide energy for your body. When you don't have enough carbohydrates, your body will burn muscle tissue.
3. **Fiber.** A diet high in fiber (and a vegan diet usually is) leads to healthier bowel movements. High fiber diets help fight against colon cancer.
4. **Magnesium.** Aiding in the absorption of calcium, magnesium is an often overlooked vitamin in importance to a healthy diet. Nuts, seeds, and dark leafy greens are an excellent source of magnesium.
5. **Potassium.** Potassium balances water and acidity in your body and stimulates the kidneys to eliminate toxins. Diets high in potassium have shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases and cancer.
6. **Folate.** This B vitamin is an important part of a healthy diet. Folate helps with cell repair, generating red and white blood cells, and metabolizing amino acids.
7. **Antioxidants.** For protection against cell damage, antioxidants are one of the best ways to help your body. Many researchers also believe that antioxidants help protect your body against forming some types of cancer.
8. **Vitamin C.** Besides boosting your immune system, Vitamin C also helps keep your gums healthy and helps your bruises heal faster. Vitamin C is also an antioxidant.
9. **Vitamin E.** This powerful vitamin has benefits for your heart, skin, eyes, brain (think Alzheimer's Disease). A diet high in grains, nuts, and dark leafy greens is full of Vitamin E.
10. **Phytochemicals.** Plant-based foods provide phytochemicals, which help to prevent and heal the body from cancer, boost protective enzymes, and work with antioxidants in the body.
11. **Protein.** That protein is good for your body is no surprise. It may be a surprise to learn that most Americans eat too much protein and in forms such as red meat that are not healthy ways of getting protein. Beans, nuts, peas, lentils, and soy products are all great ways to get the right amount of protein in a vegan diet.

## DISEASE PREVENTION

**Cardiovascular disease.** Eating nuts and whole grains, while eliminating dairy products and meat, will improve your cardiovascular health. Studies have shown that a vegan diet reduces the risk for heart disease and Type 2 diabetes.

**Cholesterol.** Eliminating any food that comes from an animal and you will eliminate all dietary cholesterol from your diet. Combating bad cholesterol is key in preventing heart disease.

**Blood pressure.** A diet rich in whole grains has numerous health benefits, including lowering high blood pressure.

**Type 2 diabetes.** A vegan diet is a significant barrier to Type 2 diabetes.

**Prostate cancer.** Studies have showed that men in the early stages of prostate cancer who switched to a vegan diet either stopped the progress of the cancer or may have even reversed the illness.

**Colon cancer.** Eating a diet consisting of whole grains, along with fresh fruits and vegetables, can greatly reduce your chances of colon cancer.

**Macular degeneration.** Diets with lots of fresh fruits and vegetables, especially leafy greens, carrots, pumpkin, and sweet potatoes, can help prevent the onset of age-related macular degeneration.

**Arthritis.** Eliminating dairy consumption has long been connected with alleviating arthritis symptoms, but a new study indicates that a combination of gluten-free and vegan diet is very promising for improving the health of those suffering from rheumatoid arthritis.

**Osteoporosis.** Bone health depends on a balance of neither too much or too little protein, adequate calcium intake, high potassium, and low sodium. With a healthy vegan diet, all four of these points are a good platform for preventing osteoporosis.

## PHYSICAL BENEFITS

**Body Mass Index.** Studies show that a diet without meat leads to lower BMIs—usually an indicator of a healthy weight and lack of fat on the body.

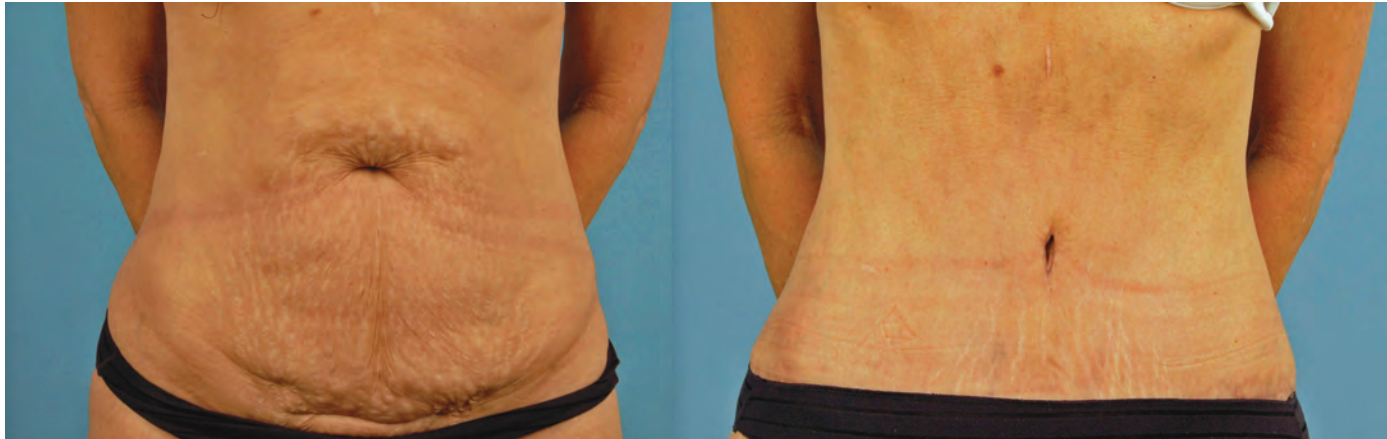
**Weight loss.** A healthy weight loss is a typical result of a smart vegan diet. Eating vegan eliminates most of the unhealthy foods that tend to cause weight issues.

**Energy.** When following a healthy vegan diet, you will find your energy is much higher.

**Healthy skin.** The nuts and vitamins A and E from vegetables play a big role in healthy skin.

**Longer life.** Studies indicate that those following a vegan or vegetarian lifestyle live an average of three to six years longer than those who do not.





## What is the skinny on Mommy Makeovers?

By Kouros Azar, M.D.

**I**n my years of practice as a surgeon, even operating sometimes late at night, I have always recognized that there is one job much harder than mine...being a mom. You devote so much of yourself and your resources to your children. You constantly expend physical and emotional energy knowing that every sacrifice is more than worthwhile to keep your family healthy and happy. But sometimes in all you do as a mom, your own well being gets lost. What if you could take great care of yourself and raise your children too? That's the philosophy behind having a mommy makeover. In my practice, I have seen this type of treatment enhance mothers' lives by reversing the unwanted effects of childbearing and age. In a community like ours where most women have advanced education, many are having children at an even later age. This can compound the effects of pregnancy, childbearing and breast feeding on the body.

Recognize that how you feel as a mom is integral to the strength of your family. It is simply not self-centered or vain to take care of yourself or to want to feel youthful, sexy, and self-confident. Having a positive self image certainly benefits you, but also can improve your interactions with loved ones. Once you have decided to devote some attention to improving yourself and getting back to your pre-pregnancy body,


the positive cycle begins. In this segment we will focus on the ravages of motherhood that can only be corrected by surgery.

During pregnancy, there are both hormonal and mechanical changes in the body that are reversible only with the surgical procedure known as the tummy tuck. The most common change we see every day is a laxity or bulge of the abdomen from the overstretching of the connective tissues of the abdomen from pregnancy. This connective tissue is between the muscles and cannot be tightened without surgery no matter how many sit-ups a woman does. Even women who have seemingly perfect bodies after having children will show the buldge from the acquired weakness of the abdomen as they age. The amazing transformation of the tummy tuck is to tighten the abdominal tissues while removing unwanted loose skin and stretch marks. The change is dramatic and is reliably able to get a woman back to the shape and contour of her waste and belly that she had before pregnancy at any age. The procedure usually also involves a limited amount of careful liposuction above the belly button and along the waste and love handle region for contouring. Most tummy tuck procedures take approximately 2 to 3 hours in surgery and require about 2 weeks away from work and travel to heal. Most patients will be back to a full and normal exercise routine within 4-6 weeks with a

new body and a new body image.

For safety and convenience, I perform the tummy tuck and liposuction procedure in a full hospital designed for outpatient surgery using a board certified M.D. for anesthesia and one night overnight stay. This allows us to provide personalized care and maximize safety and educate the patient on her post-op care the next day before she leaves the facility.

Another concern many moms have are the changes in the shape of their breasts after pregnancy and breast feeding. Treatment usually involves a breast lift or combination breast lift and augmentation with implants. There are many new advances in breast surgery including minimal scar lifts, tear-drop-shaped implants, and even breast augmentation using injection of your own fat without implants.

Most of my patients will say after looking at their before and after photos: "I wish I would have done this years ago." I have personally witnessed hundreds of women in my practice undergo the transformation of heightened self esteem and the return of a youthful quality after mommy makeover surgery. Seek the advice of a surgeon certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery who is also a member of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. 



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# Malibu Beach Inn

Where the majestic Pacific meets the golden sands of Malibu.

**L**ocated along the strip of seashore nicknamed “Billionaire’s Beach”, this unique boutique hotel offers you complete relaxation, from their 47 well-appointed rooms and suites, each with a private balcony, to the breathtaking views and magical sunsets you’ll enjoy while having an executive chef create the only beachfront gourmet dining experience of any of the Malibu beach hotels. Enjoy the tranquil on-site spa services and feel yourself shift into that “Malibu moment.”









Carbon Beach Dining Room



### **MALIBU LANDMARKS AND HIGH-END BOUTIQUES AROUND THE CORNER**

While enjoying the tranquility and sound of the ocean at the Malibu Beach Inn, you may also wish to venture a few steps to the Malibu landmarks and high-end boutiques that are just minutes away.

### **HEALTHY PURSUITS**

There are an array of healthy activities that you can enjoy including hiking the rugged trails of Malibu - to wild watersports - to paddleboarding. All these activities are within minutes of the luxury Malibu inn.

### **CONVENIENTLY LOCATED**

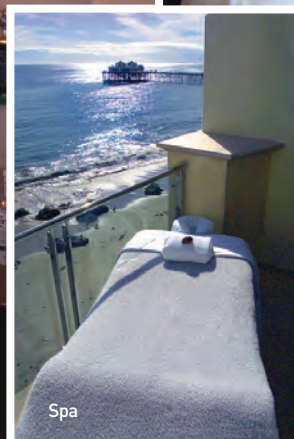
Conveniently located, and within short drives to Santa Monica, Beverly Hills and Los Angeles International airport, this is the destination for Malibu hotels if you're seeking a unique venue for all your meetings and event needs. Corporate retreats, board meetings, beachfront weddings; our discreetly professional staff will create a world-class unforgettable event for you.

**Malibu Beach Inn, 22878 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, CA 90265. For more information, please call us at 310.456.6444 or visit our website at [www.malibubeachinn.com](http://www.malibubeachinn.com)**





King Beach Suite



Spa



Spa



Queen Oceanfront View Room





# TAHITI

THE WORLD'S DEFINITION OF PARADISE





The island paradise of **Tahiti** is an easy eight-hour, non-stop flight on *Air Tahiti Nui* from Los Angeles to Papeete (the capital), which is on the same time zone as Hawai'i. Seeing pictures of Tahiti and visiting it are two very different things: the actual personal experience of landing there and imbibing the allure of the islands with their pure white sands and aquamarine waters will be forever etched on your Top Three List of life experiences. There is no other beauty like the Islands of Tahiti with more than 100 islands scattered over 200 million square miles. What you'll find is a visual, sensual feast in the colors of nature, from the brilliant sunsets to the array of tropical flowers. Tahiti is the world's definition of paradise—an utterly unique place that will find a home in your soul forever.





### ONCE YOU'VE LANDED IN PARADISE

The starting point of your journey into French Polynesia is the island of **Tahiti**. Dine with the locals at the Roulettes, explore the Public Market in search of local handicrafts, or visit the world-famous Gauguin Museum. It's no wonder that this famous painter found so much inspiration on these islands. You'll find the pearl factories irresistible with their selection of exquisite black pearls.

### MOOREA

A 30-minute ferry or a 10-minute flight from Papeete lands you in **Moorea** with its wide, shallow lagoon that surrounds the island's vertical mountains. The peaceful meadows and cool waterfalls of Moorea make this a gentle, unforgettable paradise with pastel-painted houses surrounded by gardens of hyacinth and birds of paradise. Ride a quad through the majestic mountain ranges, snap postcard-perfect images of Cook's Bay from **Belvedere Lookout**, or swim with the dolphins. Offering a wide variety of activity options, this island indulges every taste.

### BORA BORA

A 30-minute flight from Papeete takes you to the picture-perfect

lagoons of **Bora Bora** with the sky-piercing Mt. Otemanu as a backdrop. Lush tropical slopes and valleys blossom with hibiscus while palm-covered motus circle the lagoon like a delicate necklace. The beaches are Johnson's baby powder soft—the perfect complement to the calm, turquoise waters that hug the shore. The coral gardens play home to a vast variety of beautifully colored marine life. Indulge your sense of curiosity and adventure by feeding sharks and stingrays (don't worry—they're safely monitored) for a memorable thrill. Jet Ski excursions are another popular vacation activity at Bora Bora, and there's an array of unique dining venues such as **Bloody Mary's**. Honeymooners and romantics from around the world have laid claim to this island with reports of it being more beautiful than words can adequately express (have to admit that we agree!).

### TAHITI'S HIDDEN PARADISE

The islands of Taha'a, Raiatea, Huahine and the Tuamotu Atolls are Tahiti's best kept secret, featuring a more traditional Polynesian experience. A rich, sweet aroma perfumes **Taha'a** with its rich soil and bountiful harvest of vanilla, melons and bananas. **Raiatea** is the center of religion and culture, where you can visit a 'marae' to





learn about the history of the people. A deep, crystal-clear lagoon surrounds the two islands while exquisite bays and white-powdered beaches add another feast for your senses. Relaxed and friendly, **Huahine** offers an ideal escape with isolated coves, multi-colored lagoons, coral inlets and archaeological sites. The **Tuamotu Atolls** are the true “hidden gems” of these low-lying islands—perfect for divers and water lovers or those wanting to escape from it all. After a day full of activities,



Bora Bora Pearl Beach Resort & Spa



Hilton Bora Bora Nui Resort & Spa





it's time to unwind at the luxurious resorts that will re-define your expectations of perfection.

### MARQUESAS ISLANDS

The Marquesas Islands are where Tahiti began. Their isolation from other lands has created a fascinating and undiscovered culture. Thousand-foot waterfalls cascade down sheer volcanic cliffs, and because the islands have no coral reefs or lagoons, the ocean crashes directly against the rocky coast indented with fjord-like bays. Fittingly, this is Paul Gauguin's final resting place—where imagination and artistry are given ample room to flourish.

### CRUISES

Can't decide on which island to visit? A cruise vacation effortlessly brings several to your doorstep. Options range from an intimate, four-cabin catamaran that can be privately chartered to a unique working freighter with spacious cabins. A **Paul Gauguin cruise** vacation affords the ultimate experience, sailing year-round and remaining finely in-tune with the rhythms of the Polynesian islands

and the openhearted people who inhabit them. In addition to comfortable accommodations, cruise vacations also include onboard meals, entertainment and activities.

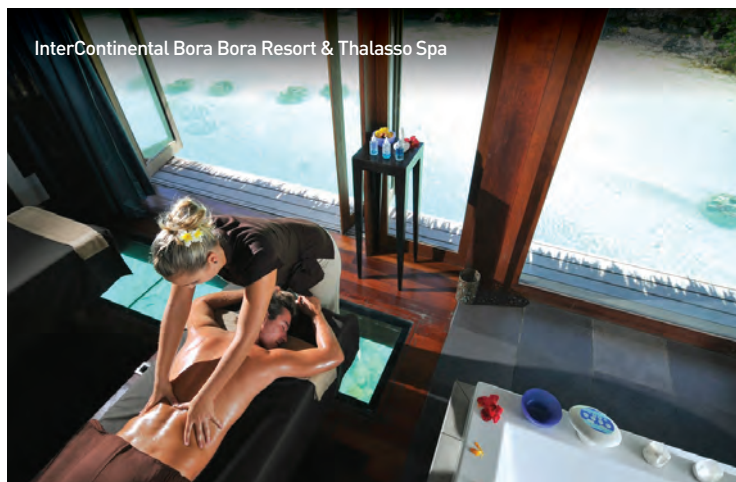
### ROMANCE

Tahiti is the perfect setting for romance vacations and honeymoons. Couples can begin their special getaway by upgrading to first class air on *Air Tahiti Nui*. They can also enhance their romantic escape with unique touches such as canoe breakfasts or romantic dinners on the beach. A private **motu picnic** is another luxurious, secluded option.

An ideal setting for destination weddings and vow renewals, Tahiti offers wedding ceremonies legally recognized in the United States. Say "I do" in a overwater wedding chapel with an amazing view or renew your vows on a palm-fringed beach at sunset.

### PAMPER YOURSELF ISLAND STYLE AT THE SPA

Luxurious spa facilities abound at the resorts in Tahiti with treatments infused with indigenous products such as monoi oil and vanilla. Try an outdoor Vichy shower, a water massage or **couples' treatments** that enhance your time together. Some spas even feature







**Overwater Therapy Rooms** with glass viewing panels strategically placed so you can watch an endless array of marine life swimming in the vibrant waters below—all from the relaxed comfort of a massage table. Looking for a permanent memento of your stay? Many spa resorts also feature local tattoo artists who skillfully create traditional Tahitian tattoos with modern equipment.

#### WHEN TO VISIT TAHITI

Cooled by gentle breezes, the climate is ideal year-round. Being tropical yet moderate, you'll discover sunny, pleasant days and an average annual air and water temperature of 80° F. Summer is from November through April, when the climate is slightly warmer and more humid. Winter is from May through October, when the climate is slightly cooler and dryer.

#### WHERE TO BEGIN

If all this sounds wonderful, but a little overwhelming—relax! Trust the Tahiti travel experts at **Pleasant Holidays**. They've created customized vacations for more than 50 years and know these islands very well. Whether creating the ultimate five-star honeymoon experience



Shark & Stingray Feeding Safari

or a family-friendly vacation, their size and scope enable them to provide exclusive offers that make this paradise affordable.

#### RECOMMENDED TRAVEL PROVIDER

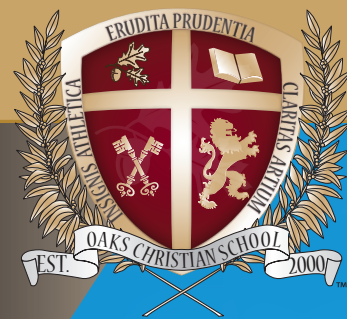
**Pleasant Holidays** can create the perfect Tahitian vacation:

- Hotel choices range from garden bungalows with private plunge pools to family-friendly hillside villas to indulgent overwater two-story presidential bungalows
- All overwater bungalows have viewing panes in the floor to see the fish and most have lights under the bungalow to illuminate the viewing area at night
- Breakfast is included at most of the resorts
- Most of the resorts offer a meal plan, making the destination more affordable
- Cruise options feature intimate sailing vessels offering itineraries from three to 13 nights 🍹

**For more details on special offers and vacation packages, visit: [PleasantHolidays.com](http://PleasantHolidays.com) or see your travel professional Pleasant Holidays, Westlake Village, CA 800.448.3333**



# OAKS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



## SPORTS CAMPS

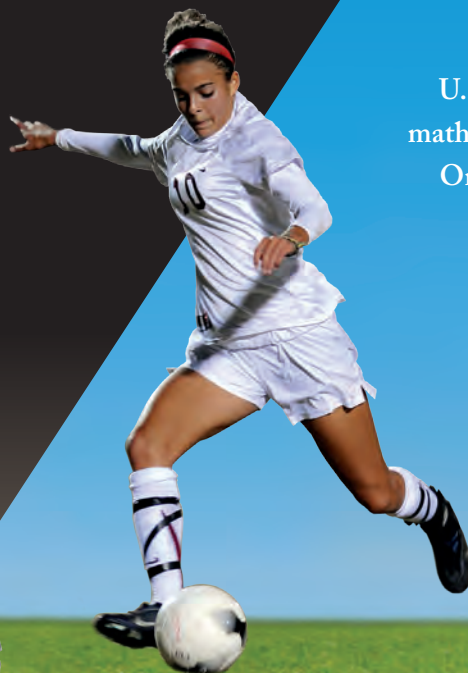
The Cardinal & Gold Summer Camps provide expert instruction from outstanding coaches. Each camp will be held on the Oaks Christian School campus, utilizing athletic facilities which are among the finest in the nation.

Camps: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Speed & Agility, Swimming, Tennis, Volleyball and Specialty Skills camps.

For information about our summer school and summer camps, please visit our website at [www.oakschristian.org](http://www.oakschristian.org) and click on "Summer Programs."

## PERFORMING ARTS CAMPS

Dance, Guitar, Digital Recording, Jazz Lab, Musical Theatre, Percussion, Strings, Technical Theatre, Vocal/Choir, Rock and Roll High, Junk Yard Rhythm, The Indy Project (music creation).



## SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school programs are taught by excellent faculty and include academic, fine arts and enrichment courses, as well as courses for academic skills refreshment and refinement.

### Sample Courses

U.S. Government, Chemistry, Sports Medicine, mathematics courses, Creative Writing, Rocketry; Online courses to include Government, Health, Psychology, Game Design, Economics and Academic Technology. Also, over 60 online enrichment and remediation courses can be started at any time.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To dedicate ourselves to Christ in the pursuit of academic excellence, artistic expression, and athletic distinction while growing in knowledge and wisdom through God's abundant grace.™

Oaks Christian is a registered trademark of Oaks Christian School.

**A COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL SERVING STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12**

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# THE STONEHAUS

SIP | TASTE | DISCOVER

Opening this summer, The Stonehaus will serve as a lifestyle meeting place, offering knowledgeable sommeliers and baristas, with signature baked goods and diverse wine and cheese tastings. We will feature our Vintage Room which can be used for private tastings, corporate board meetings or special events. The surrounding gardens will transport you to the Tuscan countryside where one can meander through our vineyard and discover the beauty of The Stonehaus.



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