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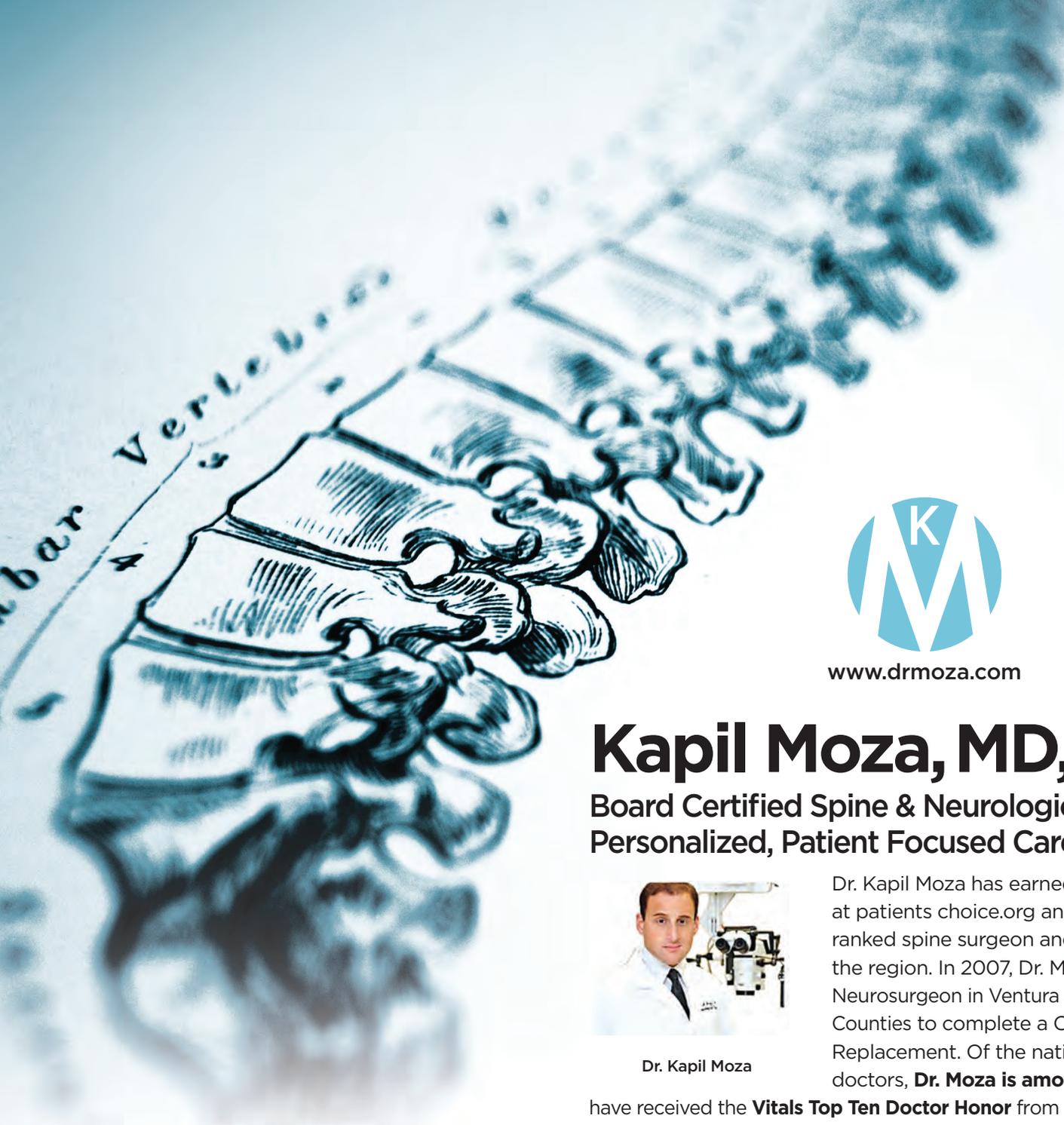
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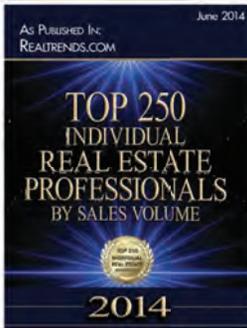
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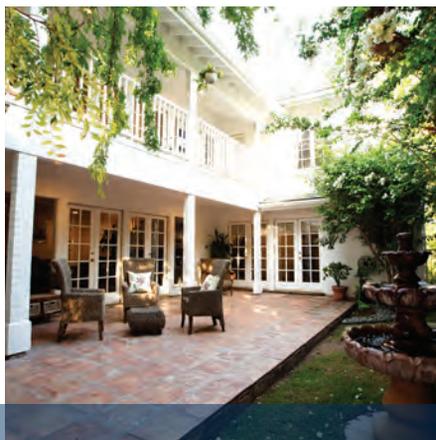
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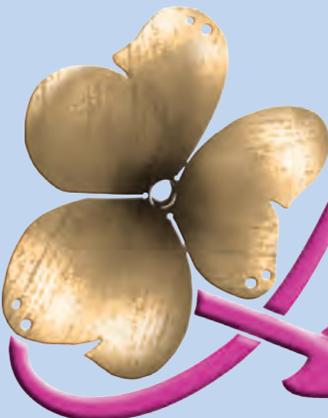
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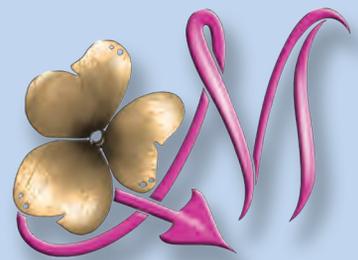
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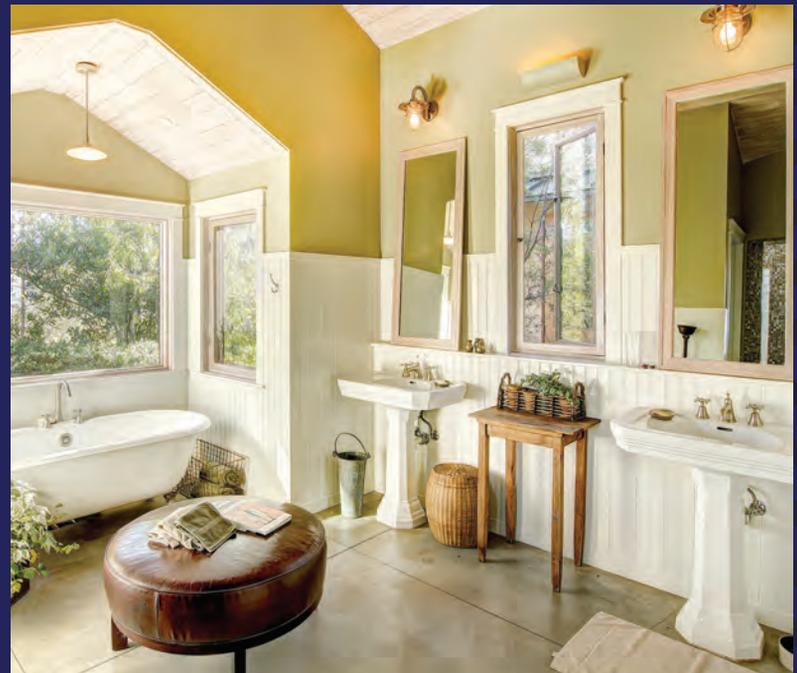


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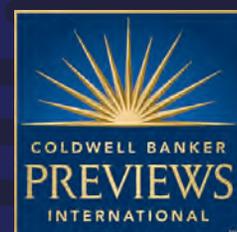


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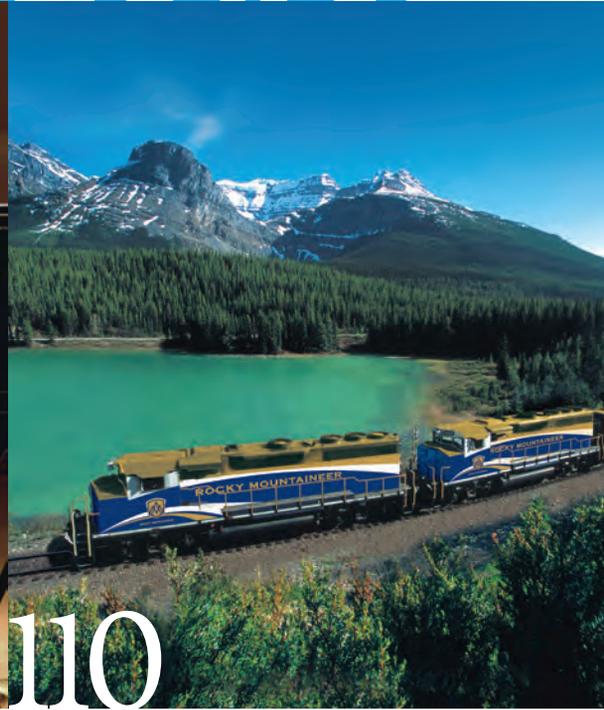
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Stephanie Romanov is a rarity: this strikingly beautiful American model and actress – who is of Russian descent – reminds one of the intoxicating power of cinematography because she is the quintessential picture of a supremely exotic woman – unfurling her long legs against the backdrop of a mysteriously sumptuous part of the world. That's just a seductive touch of her considerable repertoire. Enjoy reading Stephanie's illustrious story on page 46.

Football season and cozy fireside weekends watching it is a part of our Southern Californian winter culture. Fittingly, we covered the big clash between two of our local high school football teams on page 16. We hope, too, that during this winter season you'll find a lot more snow up at Big Bear and Mammoth Mountain than in previous seasons.

Kelly Emberg gives us 16 Gardening Resolutions for the New Year including how to nurture a drought-resistant garden as well as great tips on composting. You'll find that on page 22.

We always feature great properties in our area – marketed by hard-working Real Estate professionals who know the industry inside out. Enjoy meandering through those gorgeous properties starting on page 76.

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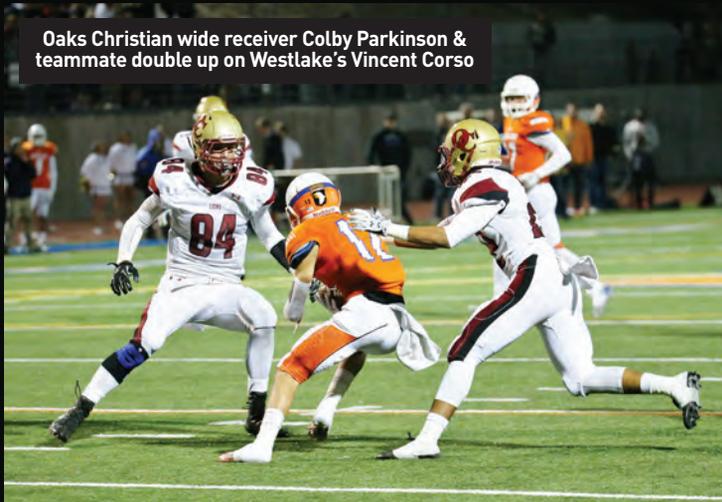


Oaks Christian School Clinches Marmonte League in Lions vs. Warriors Showdown

Photography by Marshall Haraden

Wide Receiver Michael Pittman holds off the defense





Oaks Christian wide receiver Colby Parkinson & teammate double up on Westlake's Vincent Corso



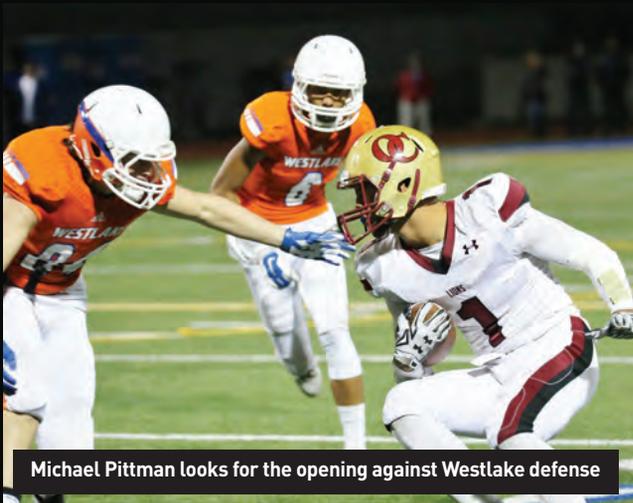
Oaks Christian defense takes down Westlake QB

It was billed as the “showdown” of the year: the first match-up between Westlake High School and Oaks Christian High School since OCS Football Coach Jim Benkert left the WHS Warriors last spring (after 26 years at the helm) to head up the OCS Lions football program. The Lions went into the game with a 9-0 record and they were looking to finish with a 10-0 perfect season and a Marmonte League championship title. The Warriors came in with a 7-2 record. The Lions 52-29 win over the Warriors clinched the title and Oaks Christian’s first perfect regular season since 2009. In prior match-ups, Oaks Christian was 1-5 against Westlake with the only win coming in the 2010 CIF Northern Division final.



Defensive linemen Cameron Townsend & Reese Silofau look for a takedown

SPORTSPURSUIT/ *Oaks Christian vs. Westlake*



Michael Pittman looks for the opening against Westlake defense



The Lions defensive live on the charge

The action started immediately as OC wide receiver and USC commit Michael Pittman returned the opening kickoff for an exhilarating 99 yards for a touchdown. He repeated another kickoff, long yard touchdown return, but it was disavowed on a penalty. He scored a total of 3 touchdowns. Sophomore Quarterback Matt Corral threw for 301 yards and 2 touchdowns and also caught an interception. Running back Gil'Scott Jackson rushed for 90 yards and 4 touchdowns, helping to secure the Lion victory.

The Warriors got on the board from their opening drive

as quarterback Grant Bunker connected with wide receiver Vincent Corso on a fabulous one-handed touchdown catch. The game tied when running back Chase Jasmin scored on a 21-yard run, followed by Corso catching the 2-point conversion. Then Jackson scored his first touchdown to make it 21-14, Lions. The Lions defense resulted in 2 consecutive second quarter turnovers and at the half they led 31-14. The Warrior offense had 2 late game touchdowns to wide receivers Shane Ho and Colton Rogers and an interception by cornerback Daniel Fox, but it wasn't enough to overcome the OC offense. 🔥

Quarterback Matt Corral on the handoff to running back Gil'Scott Jackson



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Oaks Christian School's Golf & Ladies Tennis Tournaments

Photography by Blanca Schnobrich & Michelle Menzel

The Oaks Christian School Annual Golf and Ladies Tennis Tournaments were a gathering of community, celebrities and OCS families in support of the many programs and new initiatives for OCS students. Nearly 200 participants enjoyed a day of fun and philanthropy that included raffles, swag bags, giveaways, a silent auction, helicopter ball drop and fabulous cuisine and beverages. OCS is grateful for the many sponsors and supporters, including our honorary chairpersons Wayne and Janet Gretzky.



OCS Honorary Golf Tournament Chair Wayne Gretzky welcomes guests



OCS dad Eric Kerner, far left, with OCS Golf Committee members L to R Pete Kleinick, Jay Losi & Eric Gustavson



OCS Vice President of Advancement John Huffman, OCS parent Mark Kooreny and OCS parent and celebrity Chris Harrison



OCS Director of Admissions and Marketing Paul Long and golfer Viktor Hammer enjoy a spin around the course



OCS Associate Head of School for Advancement Jason McMaster with golf great Dustin Johnson



Miri Mizrahi, Theresa Parkening, Abbie Nelson, Beth Helfert



OCS Ladies Tournament Tennis Committee L to R- Cindy Campbell, Lisa Iezza and Pamela Cole

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A New Year's Way To Garden

By "Model Gardener" Kelly Emberg

We are always making resolutions for losing weight, nasty habits, saving money and clearing old messages out of our inboxes, but what about making resolutions for our garden? Here are some valuable suggestions for the 2016 gardener.

16 GARDENING RESOLUTIONS FOR 2016

1. PLANT A DROUGHT TOLERANT GARDEN

Turn your water intensive lawn and landscape into a drought tolerant haven for hummingbirds and beneficial insects. Change out your sprinklers to a drip system and save money. *(They are easier than you think to install and really don't cost that much.)*

2. GROW SOMETHING YOU CAN EAT THIS YEAR

For all those newbie gardeners, put a start date in your calendar now, for planting in the spring. The extra hours of light and the warm temperature will make your plants grow bigger and faster.

SIMPLE WORDS OF ADVICE:

- Start small so you don't get overwhelmed.

- Learn what you need to know about growing your favorite vegetables and herbs before you get started.

3. FOR THE SEASONED GARDENER... GROW SOMETHING NEW

Grow unique plants that you haven't ever grown before and you can't find in the grocery stores; it makes gardening so much more interesting. Some of my not-so-common favorites are:

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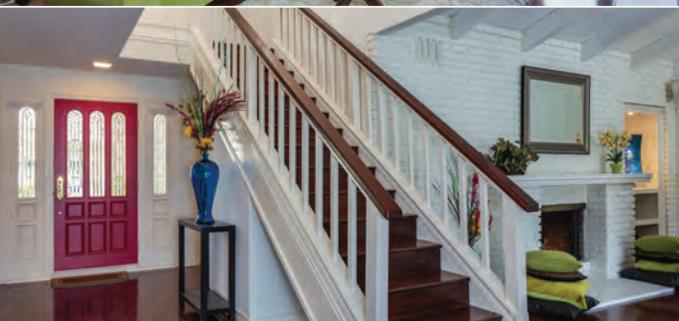
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4. CREATE YOUR OWN FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS FROM YOUR GARDEN

Think ahead and plant flowers you would like to use in the coming year. Use your imagination and don't be afraid to incorporate your bountiful harvest when creating a seasonal centerpiece. An artichoke will develop into a delightful, unique flower, so if you are late to harvest, put them in a vase instead. Squash, pumpkins, pomegranates, pinecones, peppers, apples, grapes and more can add some excitement to an ordinary arrangement. Use flowering herbs like dill, fennel, sage, thyme & rosemary. People will marvel at the intoxicating fragrance and the ingenious way you brought the outdoors in.

5. START A COMPOST PILE

Why buy compost when you can make it at home? It's not that complicated. Collect your grass clippings, fallen leaves and landscape waste; pile in an out-of-site corner of your yard and let it decay naturally. Once spring comes, you will have homemade compost waiting for you.

6. THROW OUT OLD SEED PACKETS

Don't waste your time planting old seeds. Most of them won't take or will be lackluster at best. Start out with new seeds for the New Year!

7. WEED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

Wow, I'll sure benefit from making this resolution! If you don't get weeds right away, they can bloom into a huge problem.

Try scheduling days every week just for weeding, to keep them at bay. Start mulching flowerbeds, veggie gardens, and around shrubs. Use pine straw or recycle fallen leaves, dry grass clippings, ground bark and wood products for effective weed control. They will keep your soil moist, prevent your soil from compacting, help moderate your soils temperature and dress up your beds!

8. AVOID CREATING A LANDSCAPE THAT DEMANDS MORE MAINTENANCE THAT YOU CAN POSSIBLY MAINTAIN

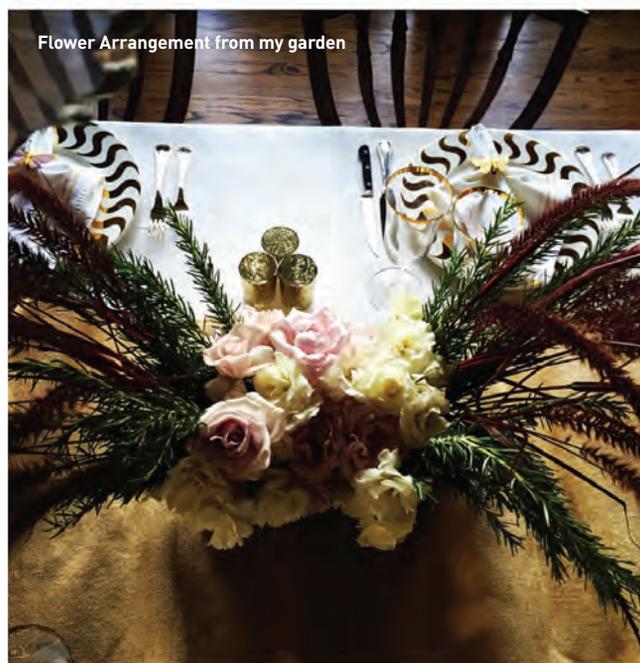
Plant things that don't need too much attention. Stick with shrubs that grow to the size you need and perennial plants that come back every year. Minimize your lawn and use more DG, gravel, river rocks or wood chips instead.

9. GET THE SOIL TESTED

A soil test can indicate what fertilizers are needed and the soil's pH, which can help with plant selection. Purchase soil test boxes at your local nursery; they cost around \$10 - \$50. Look for, *La Motte Soil Test Kit*, *Rapidtest*, and *Quick Soiltest*. If you would like a more analytical test, check your local Master gardeners website for soil testing laboratory services available to the public.

10. ATTEND AS MANY GARDENING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS AS POSSIBLE

Attend local gardening seminars. Your local Master Gardener program will have events coming up. Armstrong's Garden Centers have free classes. Call them, find out the schedule and put it on your calendar.



11. VISIT OUTSTANDING PUBLIC GARDENS IN YOUR AREA

Public gardens can teach us many lessons about design and plant materials. "The Gardens of the World", a striking 4 ½ acre monument to commemorate the various cultures of the world, is just around your corner. Bring a picnic and stroll down the ¼ mile meandering sidewalk.

Get a group together, call ahead and schedule a docent to accompany you. Spring is the best time to go; the roses and annuals will be in bloom again! Address - 2001 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks, Ca. 91362.

12. SEEK OUT ONLY GARDENING INFORMATION APPROPRIATE FOR WHERE YOU LIVE

The Internet is full of gardening information, but when looking for what to plant, common pest problems for your area and when to plant, it can get confusing. Look for gardening information focused on your HARDINESS ZONE. Visit www.plantmaps.com to find the appropriate zone for your zip code. Hardiness Zones are helpful in deciding which Trees and Plants will survive in a particular area.

13. TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOUR GARDEN TOOLS

I admit I'm truly the worst at taking care of my tools. Good quality garden tools should last for many years. There are three important points: avoid rust-inducing moisture, keep them sharpened, and occasionally wipe with linseed oil.

14. CORRECT SOME OF THOSE LANDSCAPE PROBLEMS AND MISTAKES YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH ALL THESE YEARS

Remove oversized shrubs that require constant pruning and replace them with something smaller. Create outdoor living spaces in areas that are not being used. Take out dying trees or plants and make a new plan for your garden.

15. EXPOSE A CHILD TO THE WONDERS OF GARDENING

Watch their eyes in awe when you show them where their food comes from. Involve your children, borrow a neighbor's child, and enlist your grandchildren to witness nature at its finest. Children love to eat from the garden; marvel at all of the diverse insects; dive into the rich, damp earth and experience how miraculous nature truly is!

16. TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT NATURE

When your garden is in its full glory, photograph your plants close up. You'll observe and appreciate things you've never noticed before.

The New Year's fresh beginning is a reminder that anything is possible. We get to leave 2015 behind and have one more chance to get it right.

Your next chapter is waiting to be written and I just hope you include a little gardening in it! 🌱

HAPPY 2016 & see you next year!

Kelly Emberg, the model gardener

For more gardening tips, follow me on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube & Twitter.

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Lessons from Paris Our Current Reality

By Diana Addison Lyle

ISIS' November 13, 2015 attack on Paris was a harsh wake-up call to the western world. Despite critics jumping onto social media – accusing the world of bias because they responded with seemingly greater compassion towards the massacre in France than they did towards recent Islamic fundamentalist attacks in Beirut, Nigeria, Mali and the West Bank – the simple answer to that is that when one of the most romantic and popular tourist destinations in the world is attacked with such ferocity – the spotlight on it is invariably much more symbolic. That's exactly how ISIS planned it: to shock the western world with their infiltration into one of the most illustrious cities.

The reason Europe is more vulnerable to ISIS massacres than the USA is due to 3 key reasons:

1) EUROPE'S PROXIMITY AND EASE-OF-ACCESS FROM SYRIA.

An ISIS fighter only has to enter next-door Turkey; then make his way to Greece, and once he's on mainland Greece, he's made into borderless Europe. Unfortunately, each country in Europe, despite its obligation to keep its neighbors safe by working cohesively and in unity with each other through information sharing that is designed to rout out terrorist activity – does not in reality measure up to those expectations. Greek intelligence is a joke next to British and German intelligence. So ISIS's young recruits move easily between Europe's porous borders – taking full advantage of the united continent.

2) THERE HAS BEEN A CULTURE OF TOLERANCE IN EUROPE –

particularly in countries like France, The Netherlands, Belgium and Britain, towards Islamic expressions of antipathy towards the west. While these Islamic extremists don't constitute the moderate majority – who seek to live in peace with their fellow Europeans - they are, however, a dangerous minority who take full advantage of the democratic principles of freedom of expression in their adopted European cities. Muslim clerics who have taken to the streets of London with carefully-worded speeches in which they frame the west as their enemy – have been carefully watched and are under surveillance – but it's clear from the recent Paris attack that the European Union's intelligence system failed here. The paradox of the borderless continent is that while both tourists and citizens of Europe can move freely across the continent – without having their passports checked once as they travel from country to country - informa-



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Candles read "peace" at a temporary memorial for the victims of the Paris attacks in Rennes, western France, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2015.

tion about them does not enter a cohesive, unified European database. There is no such thing as a European no-fly list because there simply is no European database of air travelers. People inside a 26-nation zone can speed from the tip of Portugal to the border of Russia without having their identities or their passports scrutinized. Many European Union citizens enter and exit Europe without ever being checked against a police database.

Belgium was harboring some of the worst ISIS militants and their link to the Paris attacks exposed the cracks and disconnects in the European Intel system.

3) THE ANGER THAT FERMENTS FROM YOUNG, TESTOSTERONE-FILLED MEN'S INABILITY TO CONJURE THE DREAM OF UPWARD MOBILITY IN SOCIETY.

The American Dream and the opportunities it affords - has long been the reason so many immigrants seek out its shores. Europe is more stratified - and for young Muslim men - who grow up in the economically disadvantaged areas of the inner cities of Europe - with fractured family lives - their anger overtakes their reasoning abilities - and with little concept of knowing right from wrong - they are easily persuaded to join the jihadist movement which offers them power, a pay check, a fictitious dream, and the fruitless promise of beautiful virgins after their martyrdom deaths. A lot of the recruits

to the ISIS War are unsuccessful young men whose failure in life becomes a source of discontentment. With too much time on their hands to ruminate about life's unfairness, they are easily lured into the jihadist trap - and they become rebels with a drastically flawed cause. Many jihadist recruits already have criminal records. They are not your magna cum laude university top tier who have promising futures ahead of them. They are mostly rudderless, angry young people at odds with their parents and society.

An interesting study has been done on the women who join ISIS. Once again, these are not successful, confident high school graduates who embrace the notion of women enjoying equality with men. They are largely women from chaotic backgrounds. The woman who was related to one of the Parisian attackers - and who was later blown up by an accomplice - grew up as a child in foster homes after her parents' divorce. Hardly a devout Muslim, she took to drinking and partying in her teenage years and joined ISIS despite the fact that she probably couldn't recite a single verse from the Koran. Women like Hasna Aitboulahcen often carry a deep sense of loss, failure and they're searching for new identities. The men of ISIS use them as agents for the purpose of smuggling arms and weapons across Europe, and they promise them a fictional narrative that never materializes. Despite the fact that the social welfare system in Europe is far

superior to that of the USA with free medical care one of the many societal perks - these young dissidents still flail against society and are the perfect bait for Jihadist recruiters across the world. They utilize the example of the genocide of Muslims in Bosnia fairly recently to fortify their argument that Muslims across the world are repressed - completely misrepresenting the dynamics in Eastern Europe that caused the genocide.

HOW DO WE RESPOND?

The Sunni and Shia Islamists have a long history of enmity towards each other. The Iraq War debacle that the U.S. caused this past 10 years exacerbated that problem after we overthrew Saddam Hussein and inserted Al-Maliki in power. His Shia-led government set out to systematically slaughter the Sunni - and the rising discontent in Iraq reached fever pitch. Out of the Al Qaeda jihadist movement - the splinter group named ISIS was born - and they blamed the U.S. for all Iraq's ills and chaos. Their recruitment numbers went up alarmingly as they capitalized on the U.S.'s presence and the aftermath of the USA's sanctioning of the Al-Maliki despot. Many experts on the Iraqi mess contend that if we had just left the Iraqi people to sort themselves out - without any intervention - inevitably the Sunni and the Shia groups would have gone at each other's throats and while it is a humanitarian crisis - this is a centuries' old battle that we should

never have involved ourselves in. However, we did and here are our choices in response to it and the ISIS recruitment drive:

1) The USA is at a distinct advantage geographically from Europe and we have sophisticated and effective intelligence procedures making it more difficult for Islamic extremists to enter the United States. We use the no-fly list to prevent known Islamist fundamentalists from boarding aircraft and it's been an effective system.

2) However, if we in the U.S. – who embrace the Statue of Liberty with its humanitarian words inscribed – “Give us your tired, your poor” resort to the Trump notion of banning all refugees from war-torn Syria – from coming into this country – we dismantle everything that American stands for. In the 1930s, when the Jews were persecuted in Europe by the Nazis, we adopted the “they can't come here” stance and sent thousands of Jews back where they perished in Nazi concentration camps. It is inhumane to deny war-ravaged refugees a lifeline. They are victims of war and as members of the human race, we have a responsibility to help when they are facing impending death. While we are aware that ISIS is using the refugee population as a weak target for their infiltration into Europe and the U.S., the responsibility lies with our security structures to do its due diligence in vetting every refugee that comes to the U.S. It goes way beyond mere finger-printing. The point is that two wrongs don't make a right. If we respond to our fear of ISIS by banning all refugees, we no longer hold the moral upper hand. Some people argue that the responsibility of the Muslim plight from Syria lies with other Muslim countries. They are perfectly correct in singling out the wealthy Arabic nations like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates – who have craftily side-stepped the refugee crisis. Pressure should be brought to bear on those nations to take care of their fellow Muslims. Their exoneration of responsibility is not acceptable. But it is inconceivable that we as a nation should isolate ourselves from compassion and dismantle the tenements of liberty, equality and fraternity - out of fear. That would be a travesty. Germany has taken in the most number of Syrian refugees these past few months, and yet, despite those vast numbers, they have not had a single ISIS terrorist attack. It speaks volumes for Germany efficiency in vetting

their immigrants. Angela Merkel will go down in history as one of Europe's finest leaders. It's particularly appropriate given the humanitarian guilt that the current generation of Germans carry after the Nazi travesty 72 years ago.

3) The U.S has been much tougher on Islamic fundamentalism than Europe has been, and a continuation of a process that has averted several calamities in the last decade – is the logical way to go.

4) It would also help if more Islamic clerics – who claim to be moderate and who have contact with many of their devout congregation who turn to the jihadist movement – used their influence and adopted a much stronger stance with their fellow brothers. If ISIS is as devoutly Muslim as they claim to be, these clerics would hold vast

power in their eyes. But therein lies another problem: most of ISIS's recruits are blood-thirsty murderers who have distorted their faiths for a sick narrative. Nevertheless, we're waiting for the Islamic moderates to stand up and be counted – in their numbers. So far their response has been underwhelming.

A united effort to stand together with our allies against ISIS is a psychological imperative that does not mean we send more American troops into Syria. We have surely learned from that mistake. That is exactly what ISIS wants us to do...get lured onto their turf to fight on their terms. Can you imagine the depths of depravity they'd stoop to in executing American prisoners of war? The battle is better won by working together with our international partners in cracking them technologically. That is what the United States excels in accomplishing. 



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1949 Delahaye by Saoutchik, Diana's sports car

Of Style

Swindon, Hollywood, Cannes and Courage

By Larry Crane

DELAHAYE IMAGES BY RON KIMBALL –
COURTESY OF RM AUCTIONS

Diana Dors was a gifted, well-trained British actress with award-winning performances on stage and in film in the olde country just after the end of WWII, but she arrived in Hollywood in 1956 as a platinum blonde Monroe look-a-like with a childlike face and beautiful conformation beyond which no one seemed to care. She was simply cast as the vision she created which was considerably less than the actress she actually was. But actors knew and watched and fell in love and invited her to Malibu.

The small town dreamer was born in Swindon, just east of the Bristol Channel and the blustery North Atlantic. It was a chilly late October Friday in 1931. When Diana Mary Fluck arrived she had been attempting to be born for a week and it was a traumatic affair. The infant was motionless and blue from near suffocation and the doctor simply pitched it onto a gurney in the next room.

An attending nurse refused to give up so easily and found life struggling to be recognized. Neither the nascent Diana nor her exhausted mom, Winifred, were doing well. Recovery came slowly, but as they gained strength and grew closer, the proud mother vowed the daughter she almost lost would have all the things she was never able to enjoy, the best of everything. From the age of 3, Diana and her mum shared regular afternoons at the cinema. By the age of 8 it became very clear to Diana what the best of everything should look like — Hollywood.

Lana Turner represented what a movie star should look like and was only 10 years older than Diana. Turner starred in a series of young people's films that reached England, was already famous and became an unwitting guide; blonde hair, beautiful clothes, swimming pools and boys — soon to be men.

Diana's mother took her from the tutors at Selwood House where math was a clear downfall — Diana was 13 — and famously told her frustrated husband, "what does



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it matter, just so long as she knows how to count up the few pounds she'll earn at the end of the week." A few pounds in deed! She enrolled her star-struck teen in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) to hone her acting skills. It was a short trip from classroom confusion to thespian mastery and multiple awards — at 15. She was the youngest in her class and by her second term was making her own money as a model and actress — she co-starred with a young man with promise named Richard Attenborough — pretending to be 17. Diana's father, an established municipal accountant, was made further uncomfortable by having his young daughter bringing home more in a week than he was after half a lifetime in a career. Between 1947 and 1948 she was cast in 13 films of ever increasing quality and on-screen time. Diana Fluck was soon

missing from the credits. A name change was encouraged by her LAMDA coach/manager, making her father still more uncomfortable, but mum suggested her mother's maiden name, Dors. And so it was. Personal history was disconnected from Diana Dors, but the future was being written on the faces of bank checks in ever more digits.

"I was the first home-grown sex symbol," she later remembered. "Rather like Britain's naughty seaside postcards. When Marilyn Monroe's first film was shown here (The Asphalt Jungle in 1950), a columnist actually wrote: 'How much like our Diana Dors she is.'" The British film press was soon calling her "... a pleasant version of Marilyn Monroe."

After her celebrated, and well funded, performance in "Lady Godiva Rides Again" her new husband, Dennis Hamilton, formed Diana Dors, Ltd. and leased a Rolls Royce in

her name; she was not yet 20, which made her the youngest registered (and unlicensed) owner of the iconic marque in England. Three years later—now with an actual driver's license—she treated herself to arguably the most beautiful automobile ever created, a French Delahaye 175S Roadster carrying the fabulous coachwork of Jacques Saoutchik of Paris. It was her signature on the Cote d'Azur as she became 'The Queen of Cannes.'

The best of everything is hardly worth the trouble if no one notices. Problem solved — fabulous should describe it all. From platinum blonde to platinum ride, the public persona of Diana Dors was never accused of being shy.

The Delahaye 175 series was the postwar reintroduction of the historic, celebrated marque. The exotic chassis included Andre Dubonnet's remarkable independent

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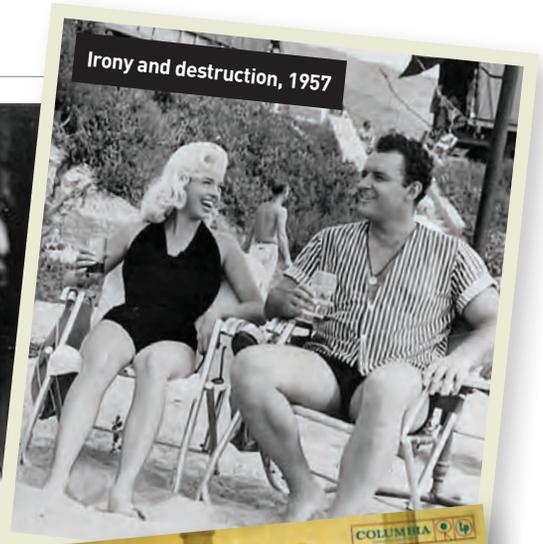


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With Rod Steiger, "Unholy Wife."

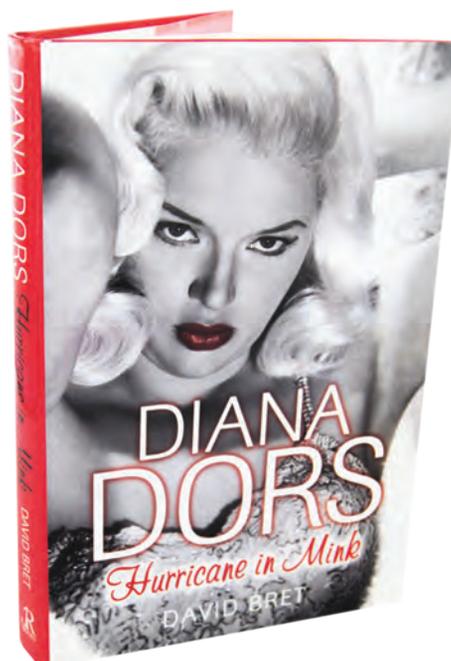


suspension units successfully licensed to Alfa Romeo and General Motors among a list of forward thinking manufacturers. The rear suspension was a de Dion style as old as the automobile idea. It had a transverse tube with a wheel at each end. The drive was taken from frame-mounted central differential to the wheels by half-shafts — very exotic, though reliable, at the time. Its 185 horsepower seemed impressive in 1949 (a concurrent Ferrari produced 120), it was produced by a simple overhead, valve six-cylinder engine, not unlike those delivered in every Chevrolet for decades. The French version did include 3 single-barrel carburetors and the transmission was an incredibly complex Cotal pre-select with which you selected the next ratio from a small lever, but the box did not make the change until you pushed in the clutch pedal some time later, usually as you were exiting a fast corner and both hands were busy. Delahaye had won a number of grands prix, the Monte Carlo Rally twice and the 24-Hours of Le Mans before the war, but the legendary Jacques Saoutchik's postwar handmade coachwork was nothing less than Diana's required fabulous.

The glorious roadster was purchased new by Sir John Gaul (curiously enough), a British Francophile and friend of Prince Rainier of Monaco, after it had been exhibited at both

the French and the New York auto salons of 1949. Our young starlet took possession of it in 1954, at the age of 23 for £5,000 — by this time having qualified for her driver's license and exceeded her mom's estimate of earning a few hundred pounds per week.

Hollywood finally called with a three-film contract with RKO in 1956, beginning with top billing for "The Unholy Wife" co-starring Rod Steiger, who came west for the filming,



leaving his family in New York. The industry ferrets uncovered the off-camera affair in the coastal wilds of Malibu and virtually ruined both lives. RKO cancelled her contract. There was no censorship, only code; morality in perception; pocket-sized tabloid as gospel; gossipmongers as scribes of holy text and audiences vulnerable to the hyperbole.

She was back in England by 1958 where she was adored. She developed a successful cabaret show, returning to her early training in voice and dance. America called again. It resulted in a fabulous show in Las Vegas and a marriage to Richard Dawson with whom she had a son and — finally — the fabulous life of which she had dreamed. She wrote five books and produced a lovely LP called 'Swinging Dors.' A recurring cancer took her from all she had gained in 1984. Thirty years later the blonde bombshell is remembered fondly in her home country. She had been called the 'British Marilyn Monroe' and the 'British Bridget Bardot', but, in response, she suggested, "I'd rather be known as the 'Hurricane in Mink.'" The title selected by David Bret for his sympathetic biography, published in 2011. A life-size bronze is a tourist attraction in Swindon and the glorious Delahaye changed hands again for over \$3,000,000 recently. Christmas is only weeks away and it remains no less a fabulous dream. 🌟

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Short Stories About Big People

By Bob Eubanks

Hello everybody! Welcome to short stories about big people.

In this particular case, it's a long story about a little person. The 2016 Rose Parade marks my 38th year of hosting for KTLA Channel 5 in Los Angeles. Stephanie Edwards and I decided a few months ago that it will be our last year. We both agreed it's best leaving under our terms and we wanted to go out on top. Our ratings over the last few years have been double the ratings of all the other channels combined. I want to thank all of the wonderful loyal viewers who have watched us over the years. The beautiful floats, marching bands, and especially the horses will be with me forever. I want to thank The Pioneer Broadcasters for their wonderful lunch honoring us, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors led by my friend Mike Antonovich were so kind. Finally, my beautiful wife Deborah, who, ever since I met her, has understood I had to go to bed at 8:00pm on New Year's Eve and get up at 3:00am.

I think I'll just hang around Westlake for a while. I love it here.

I like to feature some of the outstanding businesses in our area. There is a new massage studio owned by a lady named Debra Williams. She is a licensed masseuse with a college degree in Kinesiology. Her new studio is in Agoura Hills and from several people I've talked to, it's obvious she is really good. If anyone is interested in a quality massage I would contact her at 818.469.6591.

I heard a great line the other day from a well-known action star. He said for a while he felt like a little boy in a woman's body, and then he was born.

See you next time with more short stories about big people www.bobeubanks.com
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This January, Tierra Sur at Herzog Wine Cellars is open every Saturday night. The restaurant's normal hours have been Sunday through Thursday since they have been open to the public; but through the month of January, foodies from Westlake to Los Angeles can indulge their artful cuisine cravings on Saturday nights! The chefs have prepared a series of five specialty menus; one for each week, and each focusing on different ethnic foods - starting with French cuisine (no you're not dreaming, the chefs of Tierra Sur are doing French food!). Each of the Saturday night dinners are offered at an all-inclusive price, including all of the food, drinks, wine, tax and gratuity - all for only \$75 per guest / \$60 for members of the Herzog Wine Club. Doors open for ticket holders at 8:00pm each Saturday. This first ever dining series is going to be one that people talk about for a long time, and only available this January. For more event details, visit www.TierraSurAtHerzog.com



Photo credit: Tony Pinto – Chef Gabriel Garcia

J Girl Lingerie in Malibu

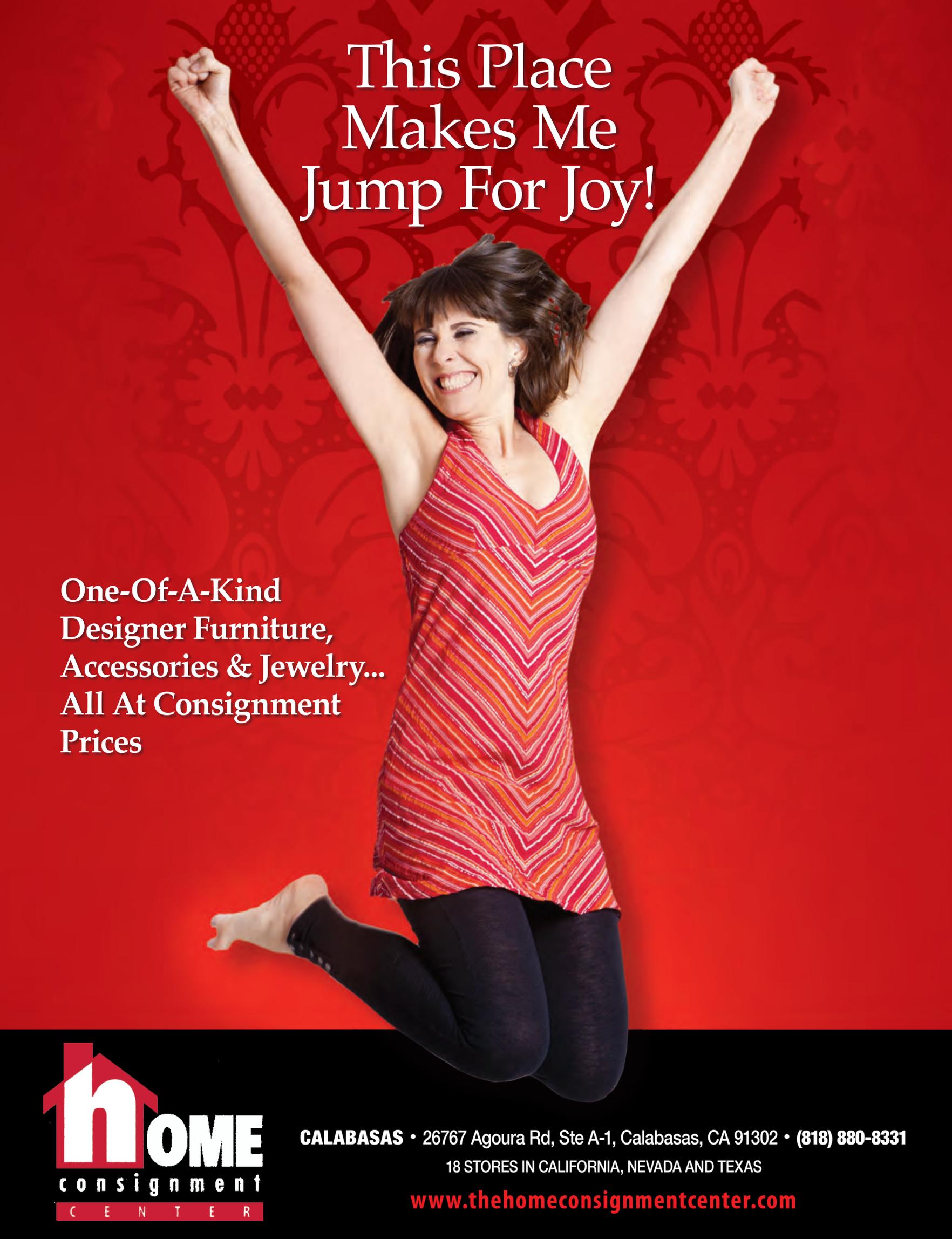
J Girl lingerie started as a dream of owner Jodye Marder in 2008. She opened her first location in Westlake Village and stayed in that location until 2013. Jodye's vision of the store was the same then as it is now: to help make all women of all age groups feel beautiful from the inside out. J Girl lingerie was created with the notion that "sexy isn't a secret" and that feeling sexy can start from a mind set the moment you get dressed to go to work, on a date, or simply reading a good book by your self. Wearing pretty lingerie, whether it be a lacy bra and matching panties to a beautiful bra to a robe that makes you feel comfy and cozy is the wonderful right of being a woman.

J Girl lingerie offers all those wonderful items plus beautiful lacy bracelets, matching panties, boy shorts, lovely fitted bras, and a specialty service to fit the bras for the most perfect fit and size. J girl has yummy candles and diffusers for the perfect gifts as well as fun bedroom accessories for anniversary gifts and bridal showers. If you visited the

J girl location in Westlake Village than you already know how special this store is. Come in for a treat and have Jodye and her daughter Stevye welcome you. Feel free to call the store to set up a time for a personal visit or just pop in. Offering swimsuits, lingerie and fitness wear. Visit J Girl's 18 and over back room!

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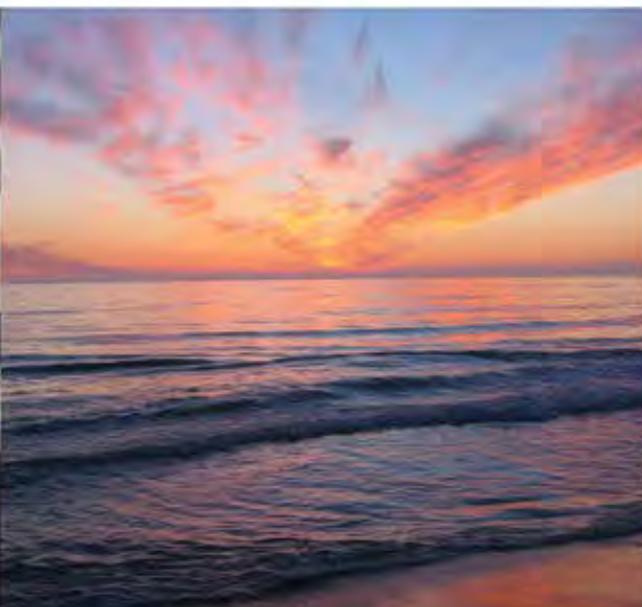


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Casa Pacifica Angels & Neiman Marcus Topanga Spotlight on Style Fashion Show and Luncheon

Photography by Photography by Marsha Randolph

On November 14, 2015, the Casa Pacifica Angels and Neiman Marcus Topanga put on a fabulous Spotlight on Style Fashion Show at Four Seasons Hotel, Westlake Village. Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families is a crisis-care and residential treatment facility for abused, neglected, or at-risk children in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The agency is the largest non-profit provider of children's mental health services in both counties and along with its campus-based programs administers a number of community-based programs which are designed with the intent to strengthen families and keep children in their homes. www.casapacifica.org or (805) 445-7800.



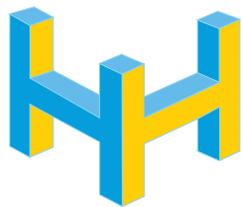
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THE SEDUCTIVE ATTRACTION OF STEPHANIE ROMANOV

STORY BY DIANA ADDISON LYLE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE HILL JOEHILLPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

MAKEUP/HAIR: CHRISTINA TURINO

Stephanie Romanov is a rarity: this strikingly beautiful American model and actress - of Russian descent - reminds one of the intoxicating power of cinematography because she is the quintessential picture of a supremely exotic woman unfurling her long legs against the backdrop of a mysteriously sumptuous part of the world. That's just a seductive touch of her considerable repertoire.

Discovered at age 15 by Elite Model Management founder, John Casablancas, Stephanie moved to New York, and her first professional modeling job was in Europe for Italian and French Bazaar. She also appeared in ELLE, Vanity Fair and French Vogue.

In 1993, Stephanie left modeling in favor of acting. She landed her first role as Teri Spencer on Aaron Spelling's **Models, Inc.** She's best known for playing Lilah Morgan on **Angel** over 4 seasons and 36 episodes from 2000-2003. She's also appeared in several films including **Spy Hard** and **Menno's Mind**. She played Jacqueline Kennedy in the critically acclaimed **Thirteen Days** alongside Kevin Costner. She was also in **The Final Cut** alongside Robin Williams.





A classically trained dancer, Stephanie possesses a remarkable treasure trove of talents and gifts. Married to award-winning film producer, Nick Wechsler (whose recent work includes Steven Soderbergh's *Magic Mike*, starring Channing Tatum and Matthew McConaughey), the couple tied the knot on December 26, 2001 in Cambodia, and are the proud parents of 10-year-old Lily Andreja Romanov-Wechsler, who joined us in this magnificent shoot on the family's Malibu Ranch. We particularly appreciated Stephanie's imaginative and creative direction as she transported us photographically to places that fired our imaginations.

Q: You mentioned that you come from a long line of healers; some in your family have psychic gifts and you seem to have inherited that gift. Tell us about it.

STEPHANIE: Yes. I come from a long line of doctors. My mother always had miraculous healing abilities that she attributed to growing up around medicine. As I got older I realized it was much more than just physical knowledge. My mother and I started on our spiritual journey in the 90's. We both received a master's degree in Reiki, along with my sisters. Also, throughout my life both my mom and dad would receive psychic information, though we didn't call it that at the time. I am not psychic in the way that they are, but I have always been very empathic and starting in childhood, I would guide people. I was born with a "knowing". As I got older and trained with various spiritual and psychic people, I came to fully understand what was happening. I communicate with a universal energy

that allows me access to guides through a meditative process.

These spirits or guides tell me things they would like to express when people they care about - or are interested in - are near me. At many points in my life I turned it off as I was focused on other aspects of my life. I understood innately it was an enormous responsibility and was not ready to embrace it at the time. I have since learned more about it and how to handle it. It is a big responsibility! It's a gift we all have to one degree or another; it just seems to be more pronounced with me. Over the years I have nurtured it and am now comfortable with my abilities - using it to help those at a cross roads in their life or in trauma.

It happens almost like a computer download: tons of information comes to me instantaneously. Then I sift through the information and present what is relevant to the person I am working with. A lot of the time I don't remember what I have said as it literally isn't coming from

me but through me. I think of myself as a conduit, kind of like copper. I'm an intuitive counselor and distance healer who believes 100% that it is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that they are difficult. It gives me great joy to help people and I know it is one of my reasons for being on the planet.

Q: Your modeling career: You were discovered at age 15 by John Casablancas at Elite and he rocketed you to New York. What was it like to leave home so young, and pursue an international modeling career?

STEPHANIE: It was very exciting. Modeling wasn't something I dreamed about or even thought about. I was a dancer and an actor. I "starred" in my first play in the first grade and started gymnastics that same year. I soon moved on to tap and my biggest love, ballet. By the time I was 10, my dream was to move to NY and dance with Mikhail Baryshnikov. I learned

I met John Casablancas in my home town of Las Vegas, and the next week, I was on my first plane ride...going to NY. Within a month I booked my first job for French and Italian Bazaar. My next plane rides were to Rome, Milan and Paris for the winter collections. It was a whirlwind that happened within a couple of months and I loved it!



everything I could about him; did book reports on him! A teacher suggested I needed something practical to fall back on, so I told her if I couldn't be a ballerina, I would be an actor. She gave me a disapproving smirk. My mom smiled at me and then said to my teacher, "that's right, if she can't be a ballerina, she'll be an actress." She believed in me and always told me if I wanted something badly enough and I was willing to work hard enough, there wasn't anything I couldn't do. I studied ballet 5 days a week as well as being on a ballroom dance team. I loved performing. But by the time I was 13, I was 5'8" and by 14 I was 5'9". I realized I was too tall to be a prima ballerina, but I was still desperate to move to New York. I met John Casablancas in my home town of Las Vegas, and the next week, I was on my first plane ride...going to NY. Within a month I booked my first job for French and Italian Bazaar. My next plane rides were to Rome, Milan and Paris for the winter collections. It was a whirlwind that happened within a couple of months and I loved it! I remember we worked all night as we waited for the runway shows to finish, and then they would bring the collections for us to shoot. It's been misquoted many times that I started in Europe. I was too young and my mother wouldn't let me stay in Europe. It was just for a few weeks for the collections. I lived in an apartment for young models in New York and we had chaperones (at least that's the lie John Casablanca told my parents).

'Thirteen Days' - working with Kevin Costner was a dream. The film was about such an important part of our history, and playing a beloved American icon was an honor.





I was very fortunate that my parents raised me with a strong sense of self and a strong work ethic. I handled the pressure very well. I had started working at 12 – babysitting. By 14 I was working for Saks Fifth Ave. doing their runway shows for designers who flew in from NY. I remember working for a young Marc Bower; he encouraged me to move to NY to model. My plan was to use modeling as a way to get into acting but it would be a few years before I had that opportunity.

Q: Would you recommend a modeling career to your daughter, Lily? What are your hopes for her?

STEPHANIE: I definitely owe a lot to the fashion industry. It opened up the world to me and afforded me opportunities I otherwise wouldn't have had. My parents were very well educated and passed on their love of learning. Unfortunately my father was a gambler, so we grew up poor but with a lot of love.

It's different for Lily. Luckily she has had more stability and options than I had. She has traveled with me and her dad. She has met many different people from all over the world and experienced many different cultures. That was my favorite part of my modeling days. I used the experience to get to know different types of people, and learn about their lives and their struggles. My empathic gift guided me towards people and situations where help was needed. This gift has also helped me get into different characters when I started acting.

Lily is definitely more into fashion than I was. She does enjoy doing photo shoots with me. She was such a beautiful toddler that people were

constantly pushing me to take her to auditions. I did take her to one when she was 2. It was a commercial for a hair product and she had the most amazing blonde curly hair. She booked the job. I didn't continue after that as I wanted her to have a normal childhood. When Lily was born, I stopped working so I could be a stay-at-home mom. I was older and was so thrilled at becoming a mom. My husband's career as a film producer requires a lot of traveling. We travel as a family. I had seen too many Hollywood relationships crumble because the couples basically lived separate lives. I chose to keep my family together and put my career on the back burner. Then, when Lily was 5, she said to me that it was time for me to start working again! A week later I got a call out of the blue to star in a movie. Once we started filming and the director met Lily, she wrote a part for her. Lily loved it but realized she liked me better at home - so I kept my focus at home. If she were tempted to follow in my foot steps, I would insist that she go to college first; she could model in the summer to try it out. If after that, she still wanted to model, I would support her decision.

Q: You transitioned into acting: What was the compelling aspect about acting that you particularly enjoyed?

STEPHANIE: I have performed since I was a child. I derived my love of movies from my mother. I have always been fascinated by people - their lives and their motivations. I am incredibly curious and have studied human behavior my whole life. I love researching a character and diving into their psyche, the way they move, the how's and why's.

Q: What is your favorite character you've played?

STEPHANIE: They have all been interesting for different reasons. I did have a lot of fun playing Lilah on the show 'Angel' with David Boreanaz. She was an evil character in a sci fi piece. That was an acting gift.

Q: What stands out as the favorite film in which you acted?

STEPHANIE: 'Thirteen Days'. Working with Kevin Costner was a dream. The film was about such an important part of our history, and playing a beloved American icon was an honor.

Q: That American icon is Jacqueline Kennedy (in 'Thirteen Days'). What was the preparation for that role like?

STEPHANIE: It was very exciting and something I felt like I was born to play. Both my mother and I were always compared physically to Jackie and I had always been fascinated with her. When the audition came up I already knew so much about her. I worked hard on her voice; she had an almost whispery, girlish voice - completely opposite of her character!

Q: Would you say that Jacqueline provided immense support to President Kennedy during that critical 13 days when the crisis between the USSR and the USA was at its breaking point?

STEPHANIE: In general, Jacqueline was a great partner to JFK. During the crisis, there was so much uncertainty

I feel like Lily is our miracle baby. She is a truly special person and I can't imagine my life without her. She has such an old soul and we have a very deep bond. She is the best of all that have come before her. Nick and Lily are very close – and she is absolutely the light of our lives.



that JFK actually moved Jacqueline and the kids to a safe house in case of a worst-case scenario.

Q: You are of Russian origin. Tell us a bit about your history.

STEPHANIE: I am a Russian Mormon from Las Vegas! My father came to the States when he was 11 from what was formerly known as Czechoslovakia. It was a few generations before him that my family came from Russia. My mother is from Utah and American all the way back. I have relatives who came over on the Mayflower. She is of Scottish, Swiss and English origin. I was raised as a Mormon. My father is Catholic. I was fascinated with religion as a child and went to every different church I could. I also went to CCD so I could learn about my father's religion. As an adult it lead me to spiritualism. I love the sense of community that religion offers but dislike the judgments and the guilt trips. In my healing treatments I have had to lead a lot of people away from unnecessary guilt - towards love and appreciation.

Q: Your marriage to Nick took place in Cambodia in 2001. Why the choice of that exotic location?

STEPHANIE: Nick and I were on vacation in Thailand when he proposed. At the end of that trip we were going to Cambodia. It was so magical and the idea of getting married in such an historical place with the most stunning temples was just too tempting, so we eloped. It was a beautiful ceremony. It was a typical Buddhist ceremony with 7

Buddhist monks at the Bayonne Temple in Anghor Thom (next to Anghor Watt), built in the 1100s. The ceremony was chanted completely in sanskrit! So of course we had no idea what they were chanting, which turned out to be magical as the beautiful melody of their chanting transported Nick and I to a magical realm. I will never forget that day. It was beyond anything I could describe.

Q: Lily's birth in 2005 was very special and you enjoy a very close relationship with her. What are you comfortable sharing with us?

STEPHANIE: When I met my husband he was pretty convinced that he never wanted children. I found out that until he met me, he said he never wanted to get married! So I married Nick thinking I would never have a child, but finding my soul mate was such a gift that I still felt blessed. It wasn't long after we were married that Nick told me he couldn't imagine me not having a child as he thought I would make a great mother. That was nice to hear. Still, knowing how he had felt I made us wait a few years to make sure he was ready.

I had difficulty getting pregnant so I turned to IVF. I was lucky and got pregnant the first try. I feel like Lily is our miracle baby. She is a truly special person and I can't imagine my life without her. She has such an old soul and we have a very deep bond. She is the best of all that have come before her. Nick and Lily are very close - and she is absolutely the light of our lives. Nick is an amazing father. I am so happy that

life gives us many surprises. Never say never!

Q: You went Safari'ing in Africa. Tell us about that experience.

STEPHANIE: I had dreamed of going to Africa since I was a teenager. I have always loved to read biographies and in the 80's I came across 'West with the Night' by Beryl Markham. She was a British-born Kenyan aviator, adventurer, racehorse trainer and author. During the pioneer days of aviation, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west. Her romantic descriptions of Africa along with the movie 'Out Of Africa' had me longing to go. I had a modeling job in South Africa, before Mandela was let out of prison. The tensions ran high. It was so sad and unsafe that I didn't go back to Africa until a few years ago when my husband and I were invited on Safari with a good friend of ours who owns a few homes there as well as an elephant sanctuary. It's hard to describe the beauty and danger of Africa. The endless skies, the dunes of Namibia; the lions just a few arms' lengths away. We tented in the most beautiful places; it was a very upscale safari adventure. We rode elephants, ate termites (not bad by the way, kind of smoky and crunchy). Africa is everything that you read about and more!

Q: Both you and husband Nick work in the same industry. What is that dynamic like?

STEPHANIE: There are many plusses and very few minuses. We share a love

Human and sexual trafficking is a serious world-wide problem. It is also the case here in California. I have worked with founder Dauphne Phung of CAS, California against Sexual Slavery. I worked on PSA's as well raising funds and awareness to push legislation that mandates law enforcement training on human trafficking.





of movies. It is the center of our lives. My favorite part is our “homework” which involves watching movies, documentaries and reading scripts. We speak the same language. We travel a lot for his work. I had seen a lot of relationships torn apart because the couples basically lead different lives and I wanted us to share our lives. Now that Lily is 10, she has told me it’s time to work again (she has also inherited the psychic gene; the last time she said I should work I received a call out of the blue for a movie)! This interview is kind of my coming-out party - both as an actor, model and as a healer. I think it’s time to literally come out of the woods.

Q: You did a movie with Robin Williams - ‘The Final Cut’. What was it like working with him?

STEPHANIE: That was such a joy! I have always been a huge fan of his and was so excited to work with him. He is an amazing actor, and we had a lot of fun working together. I played a very cold, cruel woman. I do like playing opposites. I remember after one scene, he literally jumped out of his chair and exclaimed, “That was amazing!” I couldn’t believe the great Robin Williams said that to ME. I will always cherish that memory. His passing has left a huge hole in the entertainment world.

Q: You live on a magnificent 33-acre ranch in Malibu. What is it about the land and the lifestyle that you particularly appreciate?

STEPHANIE: When I was a little girl, I drew a picture of where I wanted to live when I grew up. There was a

house on a hill and below - a stream that trickled by. It was surrounded by trees. When Nick was a little boy, he would have dreams of walking through orchards as an adult. This property is a combination of both of our visions. It reminds me more of Big Sur than Los Angeles. We live in the hills of Malibu surrounded by ancient oak trees. It is one of the old stomping grounds of the Chumash Indians. There are Chumash artifacts on the property. Under a 300-year-old Oak tree there are a cluster of the most beautiful gold and brown rocks; carved in one of them are 3 bowls that they would use to grind up acorns. The stream is near. Whenever I stand there I can picture families eating, laughing, children playing. It was at this magical spot where Lily had her blessing. All my relatives came. It was incredibly beautiful and spiritual.



A woman with long brown hair is sitting on a set of brick steps outdoors. She is wearing a dark navy blue blazer over a white collared shirt and dark pants. She is barefoot and has her right hand resting on her chin, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The steps are made of red bricks. To the left, there is a black metal railing with green vines climbing it. To the right, another black metal railing runs along the steps. In the background, there are trees and a stone wall with a hanging lantern.

*I love Thailand
- the food, the
beaches; it's
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got engaged.
Paris is my
favorite city. It's
so beautiful,
romantic and
rich in art and
history.*

I will always remember that day. The night before, my father had a dream where Lily came to him to tell him what she wanted him to say. Needless to say, we were all crying. Everyone except Lily!!

Q: What are the human issues in the world that you would like to see addressed?

STEPHANIE: This is both a difficult and an easy question! There are so many relevant and sad human issues all over the world. I am a news junkie and never shy away from the sad stuff. I think as a fellow human being we owe it to those who are suffering to hear them and do what we can, even if it's just a prayer. Human and sexual trafficking is a serious world-wide problem. It is also the case here in California. I have worked with founder Dauphne Phung of CAS, California against Sexual Slavery. I worked on PSA's as well raising funds and awareness to push legislation that mandates law enforcement training on human trafficking. It also requires criminal fines from convicted human traffickers to pay for services to help victims. The proposition was approved by 81% of voters, making it the most successful ballot initiative since California's ballot process began in 1914. There is still much work to be done. Please visit their site californiaagainstsavery.org. I also am passionate about childhood education and getting children off the streets, thereby creating opportunities for their future. A great local organization is Inner City Arts, inner-cityarts.org/. I believe it is all of our duty to contribute to our communities. It was a big part of being raised Mormon and my favorite part of church. There is also a lovely website femininecollective.com. It is dedicated to empowering women through different stories shared by different women. It is thought provoking and fun!

Q: Favorite indulgence?

STEPHANIE: Alone time with my husband....

Q: Favorite food?

STEPHANIE: Chicken Paprikosh

Q: Favorite place in the world (apart from home)?

STEPHANIE: I love Thailand - the food, the beaches; it's also where we got engaged. Paris is my favorite city. It's so beautiful, romantic and rich in art and history.

Q: Type of relaxation day that you relish?

STEPHANIE: Lying in the sun and swimming in the ocean in Kauai; going to the fresh markets and cooking and eating fish. It's the only place in the world I actually like fish. It has to be Ono and caught that day!

Q: Favorite movies?

STEPHANIE: Shawshank Redemption, Precious, The Sound of Music, and all of my husband's films!

Q: Pet peeve?

STEPHANIE: Bad table manners!

Q: Characteristics you most admire in others?

STEPHANIE: Honesty, humor and a quick mind.

Q: Any New Year's resolutions?

STEPHANIE: I make daily resolutions! I break most of them but never give up trying. 💧

To learn more about Stephanie's healing, go to stephanieromanovwechsler.com. For acting/modeling stephanieromanov.co

2015 National Charity League, Inc., Conejo Valley Chapter Ball

Ken Taylor Photography

The 2015 National Charity League, Inc., Conejo Valley Chapter Ball took place in the Grand Ballroom of the Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village. Thirteen debutantes were honored for their six years of philanthropic and volunteer activities. The 2015 class collectively contributed over 4,300 hours of community service.



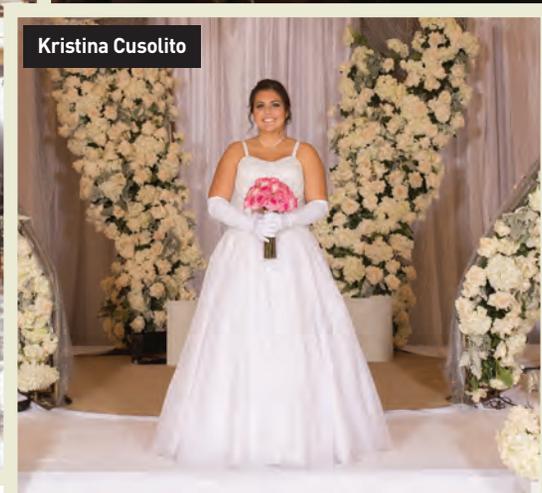
Debutantes waltzing with their Dads



Diane Pelino, Steven Pelino,
Kimberly Pelino, Thomas Pelino



James Wong, Erin Wong



Kristina Cusolito



Madison Schwartz



Dennis Morrison, Lauryn Morrison



Nicole Menges, Douglas Menges



Madison Schwartz, Lily Danziger, Erin Wong, Lauryn Morrison, Kathryn Pirzadeh, Kimberly Pelino, Riley Barkis, Kendra Woodruff, Nicole Menges, Abigail Chopp, Taylor Simonian, Madison Phillips, Kristina Cusolito





The Sequel to Finding Beauty Wherever We Are

By Magda Pescariu

Little did I know when I concluded my previous article wishing you a year of finding beauty wherever you are, but my heart was in the right place, or so it seems. Just a few days after I've sent in my fashion notes, I was offered the opportunity to participate (as an insider, mind you) in one of the most acclaimed international classical music festivals in Europe, a feast of magical encounters with several famous orchestras and hundreds of celebrated artists from all over the world.

Beauty flooded the Romanian capital in all shapes and forms. For three weeks Bucharest shed its insouciance and pettiness only to surf on the debris into a horizon of grace. The soundtrack of our life changed overnight, as the reverberations of classical music infused not only the concert halls, the streets and restaurants and cars and houses, but also our virtual space, our language and our dreams. At any hour of the day you could see people of all ages and from all walks of life heading to or coming out from a concert venue. Musicians casually dressed, carrying their instruments closely, would walk between elegant hotels and soundproof rehearsal rooms, chitchatting absorbedly. Hours later, the same artists would fill the sumptuous stages larger than life, hard to recognize in their concert attire, transfigured by their talent and more than ready to cast their magnificent spell on the bewitched audience.

It goes without saying, I was thrilled. Adjusting my schedule to fit in as many concerts as possible became a daily challenge and a delightful decision-game. I wanted to listen to them all, greedy to lose myself in the sea of lovely sounds, knowing that the long-awaited experience would come to an end much too soon and we'd be left to our lesser endeavors, fallen from heaven.

Of course I anticipated to be enthralled by some of the performances, as they were once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for me, as much as for the organizers or the city. Worldwide celebrated musicians were expected to come to Bucharest for the first time ever or for the first time after the Second World War, which was almost the

same thing for the general public.

Rivers of nicely-dressed people flew every afternoon and evening into the wide-open doors of concert venues. **Suits and ties, glittering dresses, silhouettes of summer flowers enlivening the waves of predictable black and midnight-blue, ruffles and vintage feathered hand fans, clutches and minaudières, high-heels strappy sandals and slim pumps, obsolete strenuous hairdos and bedroom looks, shirts and jeans** - all paid their respects and overflowed the halls in eager silence, waiting for the music to start.

Under the warm liquid light of the chandeliers, the soloists, conductors, and orchestras tuned up before the concerts, straightened up their exquisite attire for comfort in elegance, bowed to the audience, and then the music began and everything else stopped. Time itself was suspended until the first burst of applause, night after night more enthusiastic, immensely grateful, overwhelming, and insatiable. No one



Colorful and fashionably matched Romanian Youth Orchestra and Conductor Kristijan Järvi opening the 2015 George Enescu International Classical Music Festival, Bucharest

Opening page collage and photo editing by Dumitru Andrei - Clockwise from upper left corner: Conductor Yuri Temirkanov (by Catalina Filip - CF) * Conductor Zubin Mehta (by Vlad Eftenie - VE) * Pianist Elisabeth Leonskaja (by Andrei Gindac - AG) * Les Dissonances Orchestra (CF) * Violinist Alexandru Tomescu & Conductor Vasily Petrenko (CF) * Pianist Christian Zacharias (CF) * Conductor Andris Nelson (CF) * Pianist Lars Vogt & Conductor Ion Marin (VE) * Pianist Yuja Wang (VE) * Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas (VE) * Soprano Valentina Nafovnicu (VE) * Violinist Janine Jansen (VE) * Academy of Ancient Music (CF) * Sir Simon Rattle, Conductor (CF) * Pianist Piotr Anderszewski (VE) * Soloist Franco Fagioli (CF) * Violinist Deborah Nemteanu (AG) * Center - Elegance at the Romanian Athenaeum (CF).



Pianist Yuja Wang (Left - by Vlad Eftenie * Right - YujaWang.com)

baton of conductor **Vasily Petrenko**, both wearing their hearts on their sleeves, free and blissful - Alexandru Tomescu in a **Belle Époque jacket** and **Ascot tie**; Vasily Petrenko, the youngest appointed conductor in the history of Royal Liverpool Orchestra, gloriously talented, magnificently uninhibited, in a **tucked-out, button-down black shirt**, his blonde hair the best illuminating accessory. The same basic shirt style was favored by pianist **Christian Zacharias**, while taking no prisoners in a smashing recital with not less than four encores claimed by a frenzied audience.

Other daring artists sported **black Mao tunic suits**, like eminent **Sir Simon Rattle**, conducting the Berliner Philharmonic Orchestra in an out-of-this-world performance of Sostacovitch's Fourth Symphony

disappointed and no one was disappointed. The Festival's slogan *Magic exists!* proved to be more inspired and genuine with each performance and every encore, in a city from which magic seemed to have been completely wiped out a long time ago, by decades of communist regime dreariness.

Not any more, though; not this time. To my utter surprise, the enchantment came not only from the presence of so many illustrious artists or from their boundless talent, godsend call and majestic performance, but also from their fashion sense, unprecedentedly whimsical and forceful in numbers.

The traditional look for upscale classical music events, **white tie**, for sure the most formal evening dress code in the Western fashion history, was still visible. Legendary conductors **Yuri Temirkanov** and **Zubin Mehta** dominated the stage with their royal stance and led the Sankt Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, respectively, with leonine moves of the baton, while exquisitely **dressed in black tailcoats, Marcella waistcoats, impeccably starched white shirts and staple white bow ties**. Splendid in her **long glittering evening dress with matching jersey coat**, pianist **Elisabeth Leonskaja** brought on stage effortless grace, timeless beauty and unstoppable anima. Her serene smile and magnetic green eyes mesmerized the audience, in tears already at the end of

her rendering of Rachmaninoff's Concerto No. 2. **Black tie dress code** was also present. Orchestras' members favored it mostly, feeling at home in black **tuxedos** meant to reflect the style of music they were performing, always consistent, respectful and appropriate.

And then you'd see youthfulness making its artistic statements and lively personalities coming out on stage, in a magical space where, as violinist **David Garrett** said in an interview, 'you do not worry, you do not fear, you are just yourself, free and able to let go'. We saw violinist **Alexandru Tomescu** performing with the Royal Liverpool Orchestra under the

in premiere in Bucharest, or **Andris Nelsons**, while conducting the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam in the grand Final Festival Gala. **Elegant afternoon suits with black T-shirts underneath** made their way on stage as well, worn by pianist **Lars Vogt** in his special performance with the London Symphony Orchestra, or pianist **Piotr Anderszewski**, whose **jacket was matte leather with applied pockets**, if you have to know.

I was astounded to realize that the disruption from traditional fashion was mostly on the men's side. The **fashion revolution in classical music** was manly in spirit, as it was



Pianist Yuja Wang backstage at 2015 Enescu Festival (by Vlad Eftimie)

Thank You to Catalina Filip, Vlad Eftenie and Andrei Gindac - the official photographers of the George Enescu International Classical Music Festival, Bucharest, Romania, 2015 ~ A special Thank You to Mihai Constantinescu - Executive Director of the George Enescu Festival and to OMA Vision - the Communication Agency of the George Enescu Festival, without whom this article (and magical experience) would not have been possible.



Violinist David Garrett (by Chris O'Donovan)

meant to break down the barriers between the musicians and the audience, and to free the musicians to wearing physically and psychologically comfortable outfits. **Franco Fagioli**, singing the part of Cesare in Vinci's *Catone in Utica*, with Il Pomo d'Oro Orchestra, cheered up the stage in **white pants, long white tunic with floral prints** and **matching colored suede shoes**. And conductor **Michael Tilson Thomas** directed the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra dressed in a **Grand Father clerical jacket**, with **collarless French cuff shirt** and **baby-blue pocket hankie**. Oh, but who paid any attention to him after the first part, when the soloist came on stage to play Béla Bartók's Concerto No. 2? Twenty-eight-year-old pianist **Yuja Wang** erupted before a crazed crowd, in **high-heels Christian Louboutin pumps** and a **light-green, one-shoulder, long evening gown, with a slit up to the gazoo and cut-bare midriff**. The simple gesture of bowing to the audience sent everybody into a riot. She was beautiful and whole, faultless in a way that only gifted youth can ever be. And then she started to play. Broken strands of pearly sounds rained over the awestruck public. She was a joy to listen to. She was a delight to watch. Pressing the piano pedals, her long bare legs were telling a story that completed what music was only whispering. A force of nature, a tornado of talent, she could have been naked for all we cared. The absolute embodiment of splendor and magic, **Yuja Wang** was there to prove we can find beauty wherever we are, whenever we breathe, wherever we open our eyes. Of course

I was aware of her well-known fondness for **riskily short and clingy dresses**, often criticized and equaled by critics to 'a Times Square hooker's style', but I sympathized with her, understanding a natural inclination for dressing her age and an honest impulse to just be true to herself. I left the concert elated and relieved.

And then, when the musical substance is there, indelible and unparalleled, one may wear anything that fits, anything expressing personality and uniqueness. Cases in point were also violinists **Janine Jansen** and **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, with their established **strapless colored gowns**; soprano **Valentina Nafornita**, wearing a **delicately embroidered ivory Romanian ie dress**; or violinist **Deborah Nemteanu**, in a **black evening dress with cap-sleeves and a sumptuous, deep V-back décolletage**.

I left **David Garrett** at the end of my plea, but he is by no means the least. At his recital, the Romanian Athenaeum Concert Hall was literally the nightmare of any fireman, overflowing with people - ageless, genderless, bias-less - occupying all seats and corridors and doors and boxes. A thrown needle would have surely floated over the crowd with no spot to land on. With his unruly mane of blonde hair temporarily subdued, he played his violin like a wizard keen on his utmost hex, painfully there with us yet miraculously extricated into another world. His **skull silver ring** and **big-cross necklace** in place, his smile bent on driving us into complete submission, **David Garrett** showed us how boundaries can disappear, erased by talent and passion. Who gave a damn about his V-neck T-shirt or his boots? Who even saw, really, how he was

dressed? In the Enescu and Bruch-infused atmosphere, when his violin was crying on our hearts' shoulder, who had the interest to trivially assess his attire?

Later on, at the press conference, while he was answering each and every question with patience and charm, I noticed he changed into **jeans with back-pocket chain** but didn't have the time to pay attention to detail. Following a reporter's request to play for the media reps left out from the concert hall without the chance to hear him playing live, he got up, picked up his Stradivarius violin, and began to play. I like to believe about myself that I'm pretty jaded, been there, done that, several times and then some. I like to believe that I'm not so easily impressed anymore and react with enough cynicism at life's usual cutesiness. Well, maybe not always. I enjoyed David Garrett's performance and appearance, hook, line and sinker. I was totally sold.

All the while, I got also to know and work with the team who came up with the *Magic exist!* slogan - young lads of an elegant mind, with a gorgeous sense of humor, enjoying life and the human spirit with both gusto and class. Rooting for each underdog in sight. Fighting for what is right, worthy to be said, applauded, recognized. No wonder they recognized magic. No wonder they breathed life back into this classical music feast. What can I say? This Festival proved me right.

For as beauty is in the eye of the beholder, magic is in the human heart. We shouldn't be afraid to recognize it and accept it in our lives. We shouldn't be afraid to live the magic. Don't roll your eyes, please. Try. Apply. Enjoy. Repeat. 🌟



Violinist David Garrett (Getty Images)



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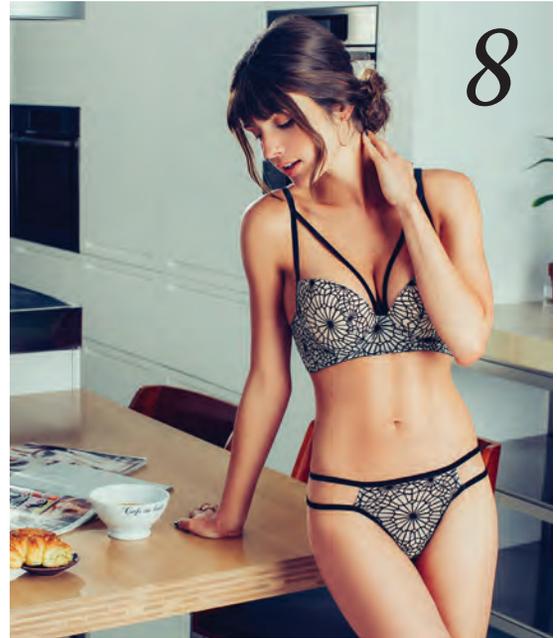
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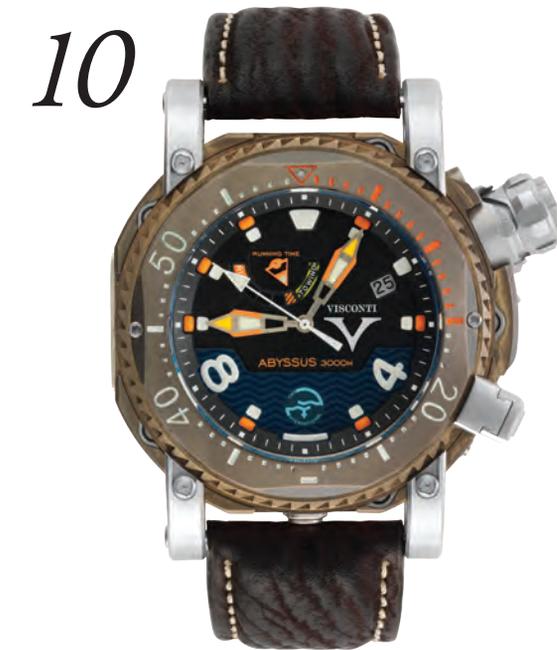
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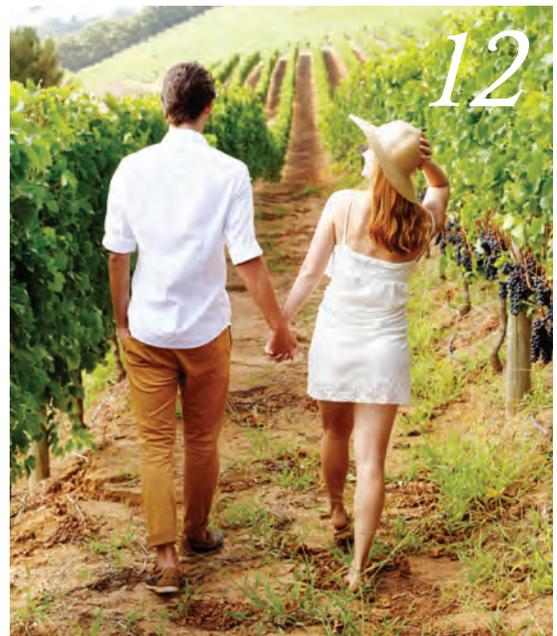
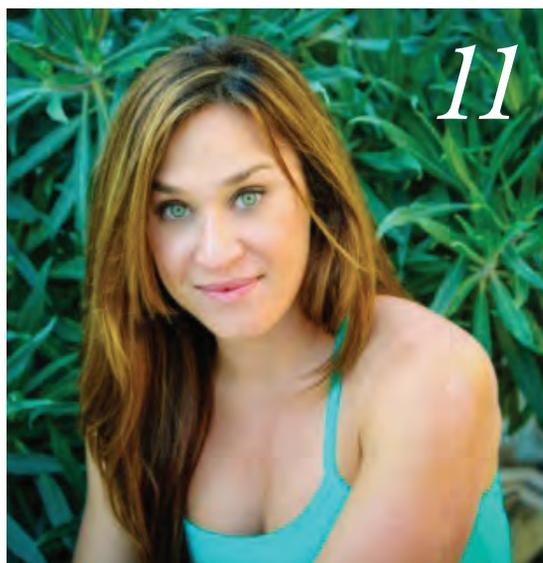
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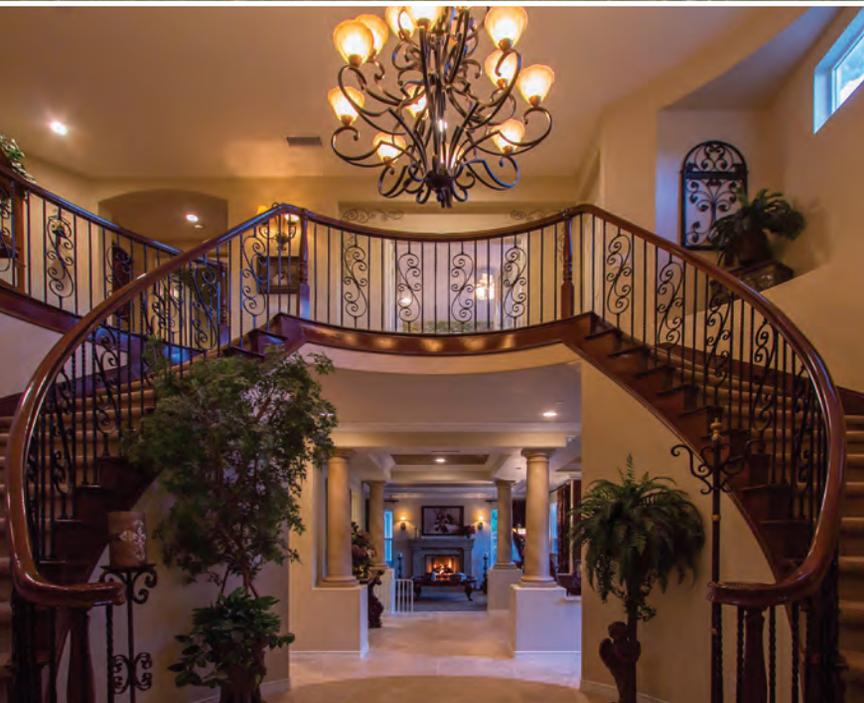
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The Bigger Baby Boom

By Robert F. Katch

We're all familiar with the basic storyline of the Baby Boom, when post-World War II birthrates doubled during the span between 1946 and 1964. All of us benefited from the increased economic production and consumption brought on by the 75 million "Boomers" who were added to the population. In fact, America still feels the impact of our Baby Boom.

The effects of the Baby Boom have truly been profound. Our economy expanded rapidly over the past six decades as corporate America provided an ever-increasing level of goods and services to the Boomers at every stage of their life-

journey. As companies grew their revenues and financed that growth through our capital markets, the U.S. economy expanded to become the world's largest.

Most financial pundits in the U.S. lament the end of this era as our Boomers

transition from their productive earning years into retirement and subsequently begin the drawdown of their retirement savings. As the economic impact of this trend begins, however, an even bigger baby boom is just over the horizon. How big is it? The 75 million "American Boomers" pales in comparison to the middle class of 1,000 million (1 billion) estimated to be created over the next decade by the emerging global economies. And China, India, and Indonesia are leading the way in this population explosion.

Just as our 20th-century "American Boomers" created investment opportunities, so too will the 21st-century "Emerging Boomers" over the next 50 years. However, our national pride clouds the filter through which we analyze the events taking place outside our borders. Admittedly, it is often hard to be happy for another country's good fortune. This

is not just an American phenomenon and explains much of why the rest of the world seems to enjoy our travails.

Nor is this just a 20th century phenomenon. History is replete with stories of jealousy, often played out through war, as countries jockeyed for the economic lead. This financial angst is fueled by the misguided belief that prosperity is a zero-sum game; that for every unit of prosperity someone else enjoys, there is one less unit of prosperity for us.

Perhaps there are unique moments in time when this is temporarily true. Take Bill Gates' story, for example. His early success surely thwarted the similar efforts of other talented people. However, think of the many jobs created by Microsoft and the growth of our economy due to his innovations! If economics were a zero-sum game, then global wealth would still be stuck in the stone-age. Thankfully, it is not and never will be.

Growth will continue even if America no longer produces the lion's share. However, this does not mean we won't grow, too. To illustrate this, picture a simple pie – any flavor you like. Most people perceive the American slice to be shrinking. We surmise if Asia's piece is growing, ours must be getting smaller in exchange. But in reality the entire pie is growing! Yes, Asia's piece is growing faster, but our American slice continues to get bigger, too.

In 2010, the U.S. middle class made up 35% of global consumption, but is expected to make up only 20% by 2025. While many will look at this as a sign of America's decay, it is not. It is merely the result of the emerging world's large population, along with their rapid economic development. In 2025, our 20% of a much larger pie will be greater than 35% of 2010's smaller pie.

Like the American experience, the

middle-class is growing rapidly in most of the emerging countries and these new consumers will fuel strong economic growth. Local and global companies are competing to position themselves in front of this demographic wave. As with all corporate activities, companies must spend and invest now in order to reap the benefits down the road. Costs always precede profits! Don't take your eyes off the investment prize being created by the emerging consumer of the Bigger Baby Boom. 



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

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Creating a Budget for Retirement

It only makes sense – yet many retirees live without one.

Presented by Tim Tremblay of Tremblay Financial Services

THE IMPORTANCE OF BUDGETING

You won't be able to withdraw an unlimited amount of money in retirement, so a retirement budget is a necessity. Some retirees forego one, only to regret it later.

RUN THE NUMBERS BEFORE YOU RETIRE

Years before you leave work, sit down for an hour or so and take a look at your prob-

able monthly expenses. Perhaps you decide that you'll need about 75-80% of your end salary in retirement. Perhaps closer to 65-70%. There's no "right" answer for everyone. Online calculators may help you get at least a basic understanding initially, but remember—a qualified financial professional is likely going to be able to take more into account for you than a simple calculator could.

You first want to look for changing expenses: housing costs that might decrease or increase, health care costs, certain taxes, travel expenses and so on. Next, look at your probable income sources: Social Security (the longer you wait, the more income you may potentially receive), your assorted IRAs and 401(k)s, your portfolio, possibly a reverse mortgage or even a pension or buyout package.

While selling your home might leave you with more money for retirement, there are less dramatic ways to increase your retirement funds. You could realize a little more money through tax savings and tax-efficient withdrawals from retirement savings accounts, by reducing your investment fees, or by having your phone, internet and TV services bundled from one provider.

BUDGET-WRECKERS TO AVOID

There are a few factors that can cause you to stray from a retirement budget. You can't do much about some of them (sudden health crises, for example), but you can try to mitigate others.

- Supporting your kids, grandkids or relatives with gifts or loans
- Withdrawing more than your portfolio can easily return
- Dragging big debts into retirement that will nibble at your savings

BUDGET WELL & LIVE WISELY

A carefully-thought-out budget—and the discipline to stick with it—may make a big difference in the long run. 

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If you are interested in an account not listed below, please contact us for more specific details. Also, with most types of accounts, we offer check writing privileges, a debit card, and online access to your account upon request.

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–Defined Benefit –Profit Sharing
–Money Purchase
- NON-PROFIT
- TRUST MANAGEMENT
- THIRD PARTY
–Performance Based –Separate Account
- 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS

The mission of Tremblay Financial Services’ team of highly qualified Registered Representatives is to offer products and services to investment clientele using the highest standards of ethics. Tremblay Financial Services professionals continually educate themselves as they work to assist clients in accumulating, preserving and passing on their wealth.

Investing involves risk and is subject to market fluctuations and market loss. Past performance is not indicative of future results.

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Autism and Toxic Chemicals During Fetal Development

A recent paper written by Arjun Walia has received over 100,000 shares on social media as we try to grapple with the alarming increase of autism in the last 30 years. The increase is partially due to the fact that it's now being diagnosed correctly – whereas in previous decades it was swept under the carpet and hidden from society. Also, doctors have expanded the autism spectrum to include many symptoms that were not previously considered to be autism.

While the cause of autism is still not conclusive, a new study conducted and published in the journal *PLOS Computational Biology* – from researchers at the University of Chicago – shows that autism and intellectual disability rates are linked with exposure to harmful environmental factors during congenital development. The findings concur with the fact that the majority of children with autism are males.

“Autism appears to be strongly correlated with rate of congenital malformations of the genitals in males across the country; this gives an indicator of environmental load and the effect is surprisingly strong. The strongest predictors for autism were associated with the environment; congenital malformations on the reproductive system

in males. During pregnancy there are certain sensitive periods where the fetus is very vulnerable to a range of small molecules – from plasticizers, prescription drugs, environmental pesticides and other things. Some of these small molecules essentially alter normal development.” – *Andrey Rzhetsky, Professor of Genetic Medicine and Human Genetics at the University of Chicago.*

Data from individual states and more than 2,100 counties were used. What they discovered is that fetuses, particularly males, are sensitive to multiple toxins such as environmental lead, medications, and a wide variety of other synthetic molecules, like pesticides, mercury, and more. Exposure to these toxins during critical stages of development is thought to explain a large portion of congenital reproductive malformations.

“We know that one of the ways to show that there is a problem with pollution is to show through the presence of these reproductive defects and we know that there is a relationship between the presence of these defects and the presence of autism related disorders.” *Dr. Harbut, Providence-St John Environmental Medicine Expert.*

This isn't the first time that scientists have linked autism to the environment. In 2009, Hertz-Picciotto and Lora Delwiche of the UC Davis Department of Public Health Sciences analyzed 17 years of state data that tracks developmental disabilities.

Our environment is full of neurodevelopmental toxins, which means they alter how the brain grows. Mercury, polychlorinated biphenyl, lead, brominated flame retardants, and pesticides are some examples. And let's not forget about insecticides and herbicides.

Another recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* compared brain autopsies of autistic children who had died from unrelated causes to those of normal ones. The autistic brains demonstrated abnormal patches of disorganized neurons that disrupted the usual distinct layers in the brain's cortex. The study suggests that abnormalities occurred in utero during key developmental stages between 19 to 30 weeks gestation. It's not just the toxin; it's the timing of the exposure as well.

In the United States alone, autism rates have risen from 1:10,000 in 1981 to 1:68 in 2014. Multiple studies point to the prevalence of toxins in our environment being a significant link – amongst many. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that autism rates in Europe, Australia and Japan have remained steady over the last decade. All the countries in the European Union, as well as Australia and Japan, adhere to significant restrictions or complete bans on the production and sale of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and the pesticides that accompany them.

In the United States, government agencies have approved massive amounts of pesticides, completely overriding the link to numerous health ailments. Not long ago, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently raised the allowable concentrations of Monsanto's glyphosate, also known as "Roundup," on food crops, edible oils, and animal feed. Although we don't know for sure, it's important to at least consider the large increase in Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) and the massive amount of chemicals (pesticides and herbicides) that are dumped on them every year. These pesticides have been linked to many significant health problems.

A group of scientists put together a comprehensive review of existing data that shows how European regulators have known that Monsanto's glyphosate causes a number of birth malformations since at least 2002. Regulators misled the public about glyphosate's safety, and in Germany, the Federal Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety, told the European Commission that there was no evidence to suggest that glyphosate causes birth defects.

This study was published by Earth Open Sources, an organization that uses open source collaboration to advance sustainable food production. The report was headed by Dr. M. Antoniou, Head Gene Expression and Therapy Group, from the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics at King's College London School of Medicine, UK. Dr. Antoniou was joined by 6 other doctors who have a similar biography. The report provides a comprehensive review of the peer-reviewed scientific literature documenting the serious health hazards posed by glyphosate and Roundup herbicide formulations.

“Our examination of the evidence leads us to the conclusion that the current approval of glyphosate and Roundup is deeply flawed and unreliable. In this report, we examine the industry studies and regulatory documents that led to the approval of glyphosate. We show

that industry and regulators knew as long ago as the 1980s and 1990s that glyphosate causes malformation – but that this information was not made public. We demonstrate how EU regulators reasoned their way from clear evidence of glyphosate's teratogenicity in industry's own studies (the same studies that BVL claimed show the safety of glyphosate) to a conclusion that minimized these findings in the EU Commission's final review report.”

Another study that shows glyphosate can cause abnormalities - was published in 2010 by the American Chemical Society. The research was conducted at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

“The direct effect of glyphosate on early mechanisms of morphogenesis in vertebrate embryos opens concerns about the clinical findings from human offspring in populations exposed to glyphosate in agricultural fields.”

Another study outlines how glyphosate toxicity leads to suppression of critical enzymes, and as a result, links the Western diet to heart disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, autism, and more.

The brain of an embryo, fetus, or infant is at risk for significant and permanent damage from exposure to chemicals. Not long ago, a study published in the *Journal Reproductive Toxicology* successfully identified the presence of pesticides – associated with genetically modified foods in maternal, fetal, and non-pregnant women's blood. They also found the presence of Monsanto's Bt toxin, and warn about toxin exposure during critical stages of development.

The study concluded that, apart from pesticides, Monsanto's Bt toxins are clearly detectable and appear to cross the placenta to the fetus.

Multiple studies outline the need for further research when it comes to GMOs before we can say they are 100 % safe for consumption.

“Given the potential toxicity of these environmental pollutants and the fragility of the fetus, more studies are needed, particularly those using the placental transfer approach.”

In Late 2013, the European Food Safety Authority determined that pesticides, like neonicotinamides (linked to killing millions of bees) may negatively affect the development of neurons and brain structures in unborn babies.

“Given the ubiquitous exposure to many environmental toxicants, there needs to be renewed efforts to prevent harm. Such prevention should not await detailed evidence on individual hazards. Toxic exposure to chemical pollutants during these windows of increased susceptibility can cause disease and disability in childhood and across the entire span of human life.” From the world's foremost pediatricians, toxicologists, environmental scientists and epidemiologists at a conference held in 2007. 

Acknowledgments:

<http://www.ploscompbiol.org/>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2581663/Growing-evidence-autism-linked-pollution-babies-283-likely-suffer-condition-compared-birth-defects.html>
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/autism-rise-driven-by-environment/>
<http://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/15/4/1416https://www.uclm.es/Actividades/>



SKI RENO AND STAY AT THE PEPPERMILL

For more than 40 years, the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno, Nevada has been the local headquarters for ski enthusiasts and snow aficionados alike. This year, with heaps of powder, flurries and snowfall on the horizon, the AAA Four Diamond Peppermill is proving itself yet again to be the summit resort to all Reno-Tahoe ski destinations.







LOCALSCAPES/Peppermill Resort Spa Casino

With ski resorts like Alpine Meadows, Boreal, Heavenly, Northstar, Mt. Rose and Squaw Valley, Reno-Tahoe knows snow and Peppermill knows skiers. After spending the day hitting the slopes, take off those well-worn ski boots and relax in Spa Toscana, a state-of-the-art spa specializing in old world tradition with a modern emphasis on health and wellness. Unwind in a luxurious suite at Reno's premier resort, offering breathtaking views and European-style soaking tubs. Indulge in some retail therapy at Peppermill's three designer boutiques. Sit back and enjoy the iconic Fireside Lounge, as well as 14 other lounge, pub and bar stops, before savoring some of the best cuisine Reno has to offer at Peppermill's 10 award-winning restaurants, including Bimini Steakhouse and Romanza.

Luxury, adventure and fun await you this winter, so put the chill in your winter vacation and let the Peppermill handle the rest. 

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

With the Rocky Mountaineer
and Town & Country Travel

Written by Heidi Creed



Plunging cliffs. Blue-green glaciers. Roaring rapids. The most remote parts of the Canadian Rockies are a vast, pristine land inhabited only by wildlife and an endless tide of timber. They are not accessible by road, only by rail, and only one company is authorized to share the transcontinental tracks with the freight lines that traverse the region, making it a unique experience only a fortunate few get to enjoy. No crowds, no traffic jams, no road rage, no road trip slop disguised as food.

Rocky Mountaineer First
Passage to West Route

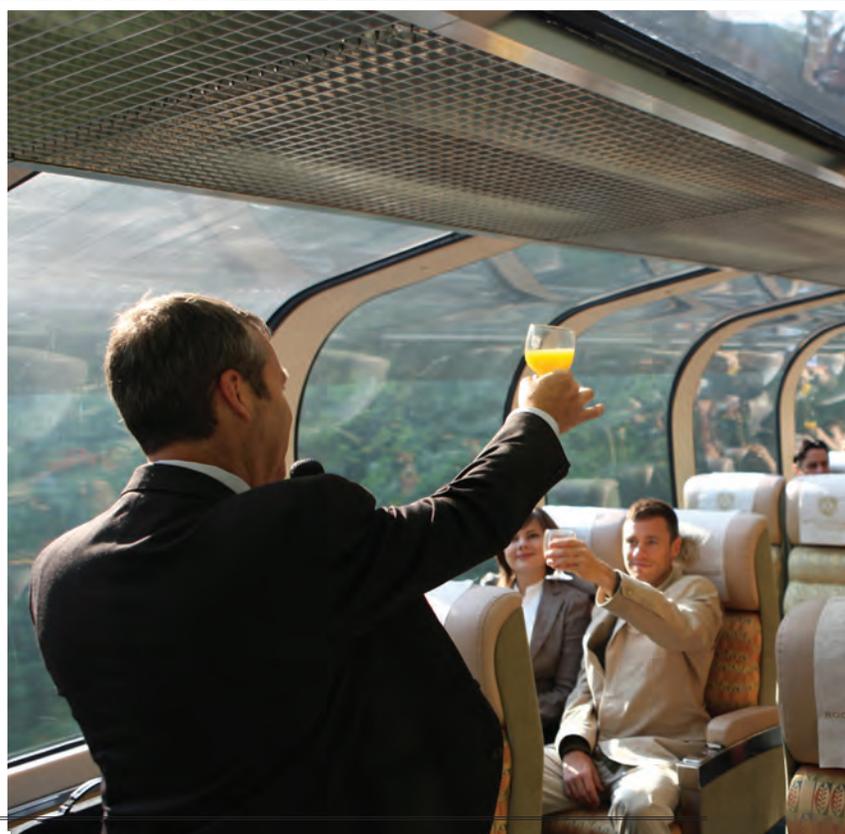




The only passenger train operating through the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia and Alberta is the Rocky Mountaineer, a privately held luxury train operator. The Rocky Mountaineer recently celebrated 25 years of making this blissfully remote region accessible to travelers, and has done it in a way that is full of class, service and a commitment to the environment and communities it serves.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINEER EXPERIENCE

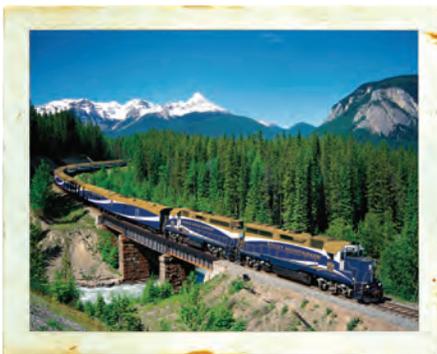
Exploring the Canadian Rockies was a lifelong “bucket list” trip for Town & Country Travel clients Glen and Barbara Slensker, whose Canadian dream started with Barbara seeing a picture of the breathtaking Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise hotel as a young girl. “The Rocky Mountaineer for us was an ultimate experience,” she said. “There is just no other way to experience this area. You just can’t believe the beauty and the vastness that is just so amazingly remote. It was sensational. All of it.”



Scenery along Rocky Mountaineer Desert Route



THE ROUTES Rocky Mountaineer offers more than 65 Canadian vacation packages and four unique rail routes: three train journeys through British Columbia and Alberta - to Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper and Calgary, and one train excursion from Vancouver to Whistler. The vacation packages include self-drive or motor coach tours that supplement the train ride, or you may pair your land adventure by train with a sea adventure by ocean cruise.



FIRST PASSAGE TO THE WEST

VANCOUVER | KAMLOOPS
LAKE LOUISE | BANFF

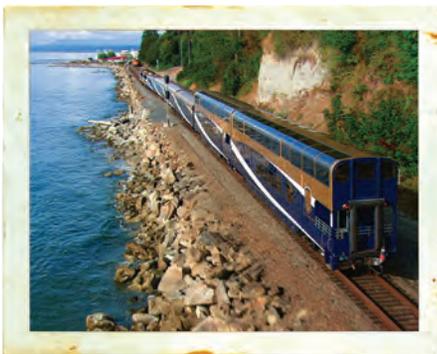
Traverse the Continental Divide and pass by monumental landmarks from the early days of the railway. This legendary route is famous for uniting Canada's east and west, and most recently, for The Spiral Tunnels, a true engineering marvel.



RAINFOREST TO GOLD RUSH

VANCOUVER | WHISTLER
QUESNEL | JASPER

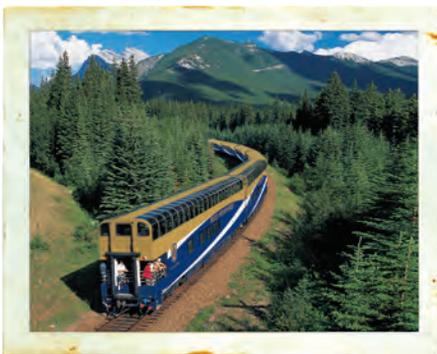
Carve through Canada's extreme landscapes and see some of the most breathtaking and varied rail scenery found anywhere in the world on this route: the largest temperate rainforest in the world, the rugged desertification of the Fraser Canyon, and Mount Robson, the highest peaks in the Canadian Rockies.



COASTAL PASSAGE

SEATTLE | VANCOUVER
CANADIAN ROCKIES

This unique rail experience travels along the Pacific Ocean's sparkling coastline and connects the cosmopolitan cities of Seattle, Washington and Vancouver, B.C. to the breathtaking Canadian Rockies.



JOURNEY THROUGH THE CLOUDS

VANCOUVER
KAMLOOPS | JASPER

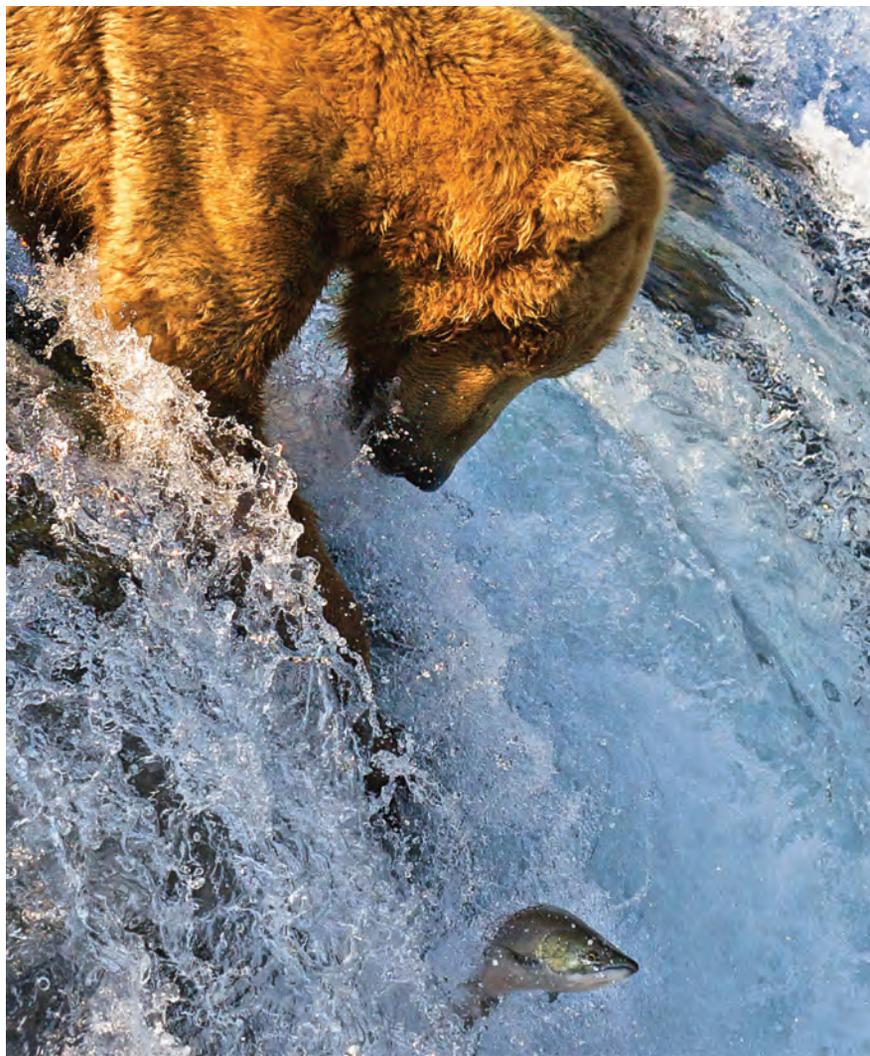
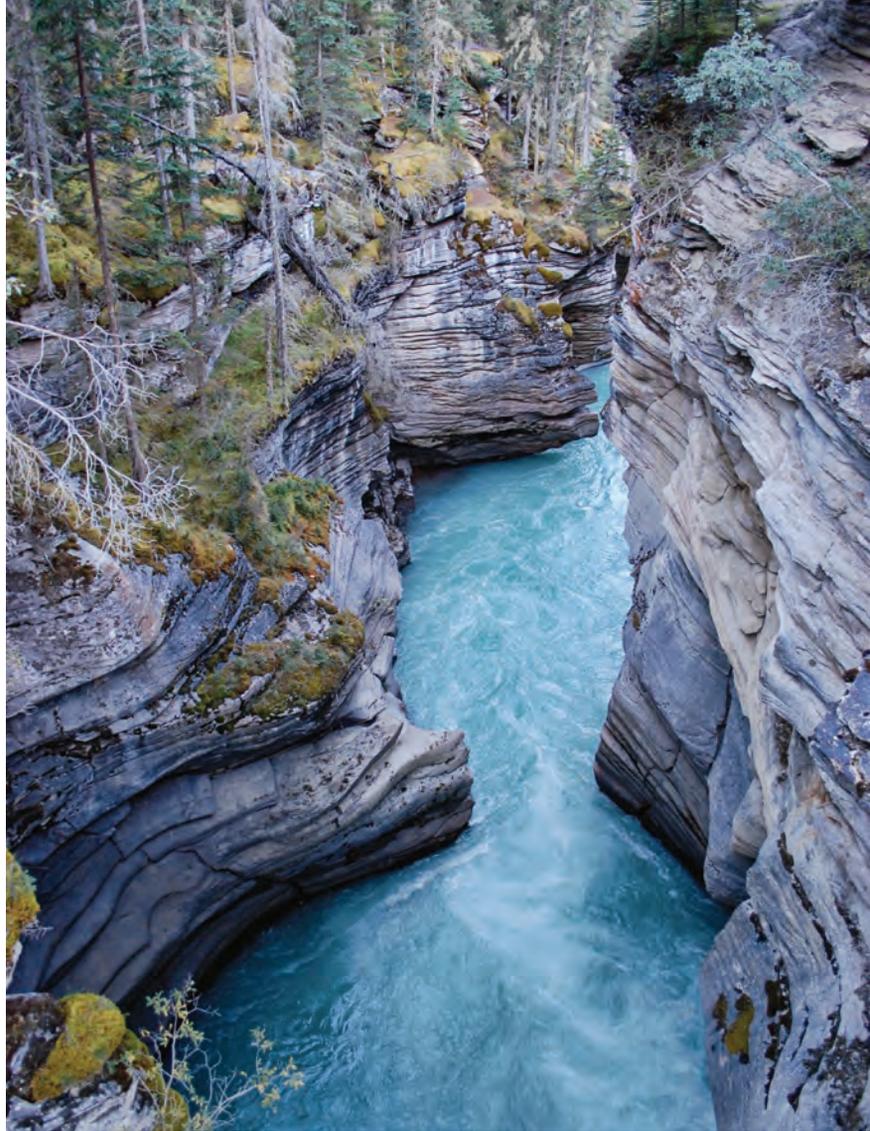
Travel through scenic valleys, the Coastal Mountain Range and the Fraser Canyon with its spectacular white water and dramatic landscape. This route takes you through some of Canada's most remote and stunning vistas.

Onboard Group Toasting





PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRMONT HOTELS



The Slensker's weren't the only ones to describe this as an "ultimate experience." The Rocky Mountaineer has earned its share of accolades over the years:

- Reader's Digest's list of "World's 10 Best Train Journeys"
- Seven-time winner of "World's Leading Travel Experience by Train" by World Travel Awards
- "World's Leading Luxury Travel Product of the Year" by World Travel Awards
- "Top 5 trains in the world" by Conde Nast Traveler
- "One of the World's Best Life Changing Trips" by Travel + Leisure magazine

Travel is done during daylight hours, and the pre-arranged hotels along the routes are iconic Fairmont and other select local luxury or upscale hotels. As you travel, you get to relax and enjoy exceptional service, gourmet food & wine and panoramic views through the glass domes of their famed two-story GoldLeaf Service coaches. Uninterrupted views provide ideal opportunities to witness the likes of an eagle dive for salmon in the Fraser River, a mother bear familiarizing her cub to the world, and the splendor of waterfalls cascading from a glacier cradled high in the mountains.

When you aren't enjoying the wildlife, you might wish to enjoy the social life. "We met so many great people. It was a smart and international mix which always made for interesting conversation - especially when the cocktail hour started!" said Slensker.

The professional onboard hosts share rich tales of the surroundings, giving highlights of the history and wildlife. "The host did a great job telling you about what you're seeing. It was a wonderful blend of the right information at the right time," said Slensker.

Upon arrival to each destination, your bags appear to be magically ushered away. "The service was impeccable. We didn't want for a thing," said Slensker. "We never had to worry about our luggage, it would just arrive at our room. The logistics of the whole program were really impressive."

Depending on the route and destination, optional excursions range from the active and adventurous such as kayaking, helicopter tours and glacier expeditions to the more tranquil experiences like soothing thermal springs and spa treatments.

TOURISM WITH A CONSCIOUS

Travel simply changes lives. It opens your eyes to a world outside of your own daily reality; but more than that, it impacts the places you visit economically and environmentally. The Rocky Mountaineer company embraces this inevitable reality, and has turned it into an opportunity to develop innovative sustainable programs that are kind to the environment and generous with the local communities along the routes. From sophisticated recycling programs and smart low-emissions engines, to robust local partnerships, this is a way of traveling you can truly feel good about supporting; an experience that is bigger than you, and deeply embraces everything about why, where and how you're traveling.



FAIRMONT CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE

Surrounded by soaring mountain peaks, Victoria Glacier and a glistening emerald lake, the iconic Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise hotel is located in Alberta's Banff National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is recognized globally for progressive environmental stewardship and responsible tourism.

Originally built as a base for outdoor enthusiasts and alpinists over 100 years ago, Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise is a year-round luxury mountain resort offering guided mountain tours, world-class skiing in the winter, scenic hiking and canoe activities in the summer, kid's camp, a luxury spa, and exceptional dining experiences.

Contact Town & Country to receive special offers and amenities at this and other Fairmont properties.

ALL ABOARD!

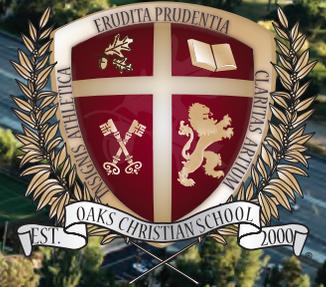
The Rocky Mountaineer operates between April and October, when it can best showcase the colors and wildlife of the region. So whether as a crowning extension to a cruise program, or as a standalone vacation, the Rocky Mountaineer offers no better way to experience the spectacular scenery and rich history of the Canadian Rockies.

Contact **Town & Country Travel** at (805) 495-9888 or visit www.countrytravel.com to plan your next dream vacation. 



Travel simply changes lives. It opens your eyes to a world outside of your own daily reality; but more than that, it impacts the places you visit economically and environmentally.

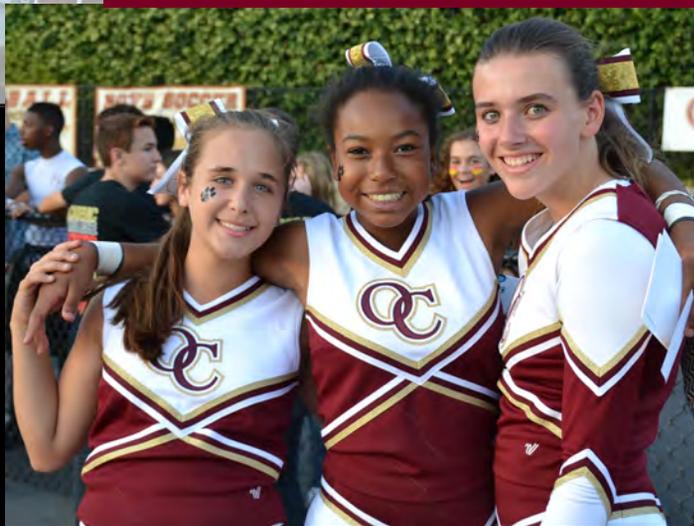
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Please visit our website at www.oakschristian.org to RSVP and to learn more, or call us at 818.824.9492 for additional information.

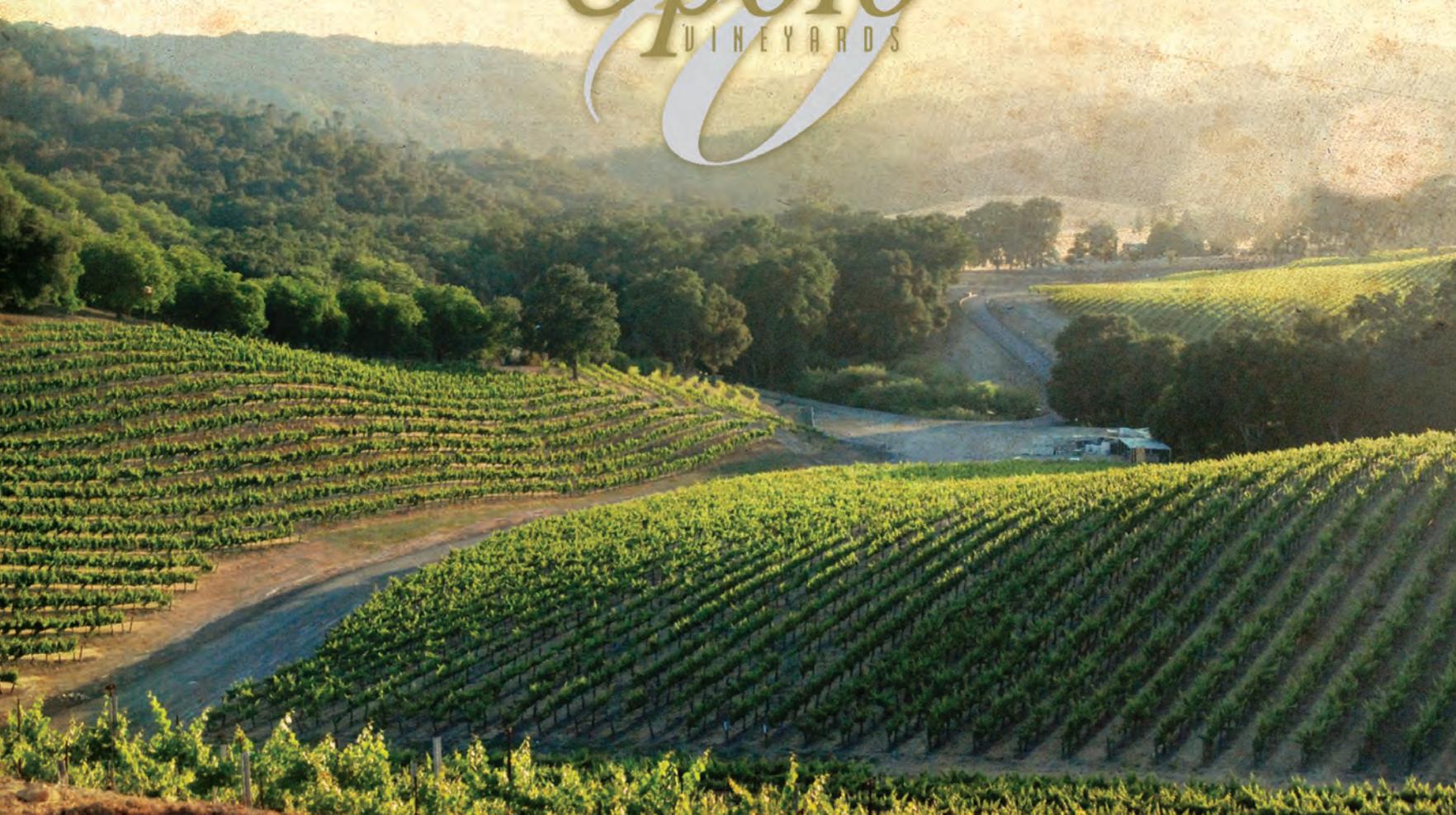


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Open 10am-5pm daily. For details please visit www.opolo.com or call (805) 238-9593.



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