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MONTECITO MISCELLANY

by Richard Mineards



Richard covered the Royal Family for Britain's Daily Mirror and Daily Mail, and was an editor on New York Magazine. He was also a national anchor on CBS, a commentator on ABC Network News, gossip on The Joan Rivers Show and Geraldo Rivera, host on E! TV, a correspondent on the syndicated show Extra, a commentator on the KTLA Morning News and Entertainment Tonight. He moved to Montecito 11 years ago.

Great Scott! It's Bellosguardo



Bellosguardo,
site of *The Great Gatsby*
bash

Bellosguardo, the 27-room former home of the late copper heiress Huguette Clark who died in 2011, aged 104, is ready for its close-up!

But access to the 9-bedroom, 10-bathroom, 22,000-sq.-ft. 1933 home on 24 acres with 1,000 feet of ocean frontage overlooking East Beach will cost you.

The Bellosguardo Foundation is hosting the first celebration on the impressive property in more than 60 years with a *Great Gatsby*-themed blast, which showcases the estate's history and potential, with the hope it becomes a focal point for art and culture in generations to come.

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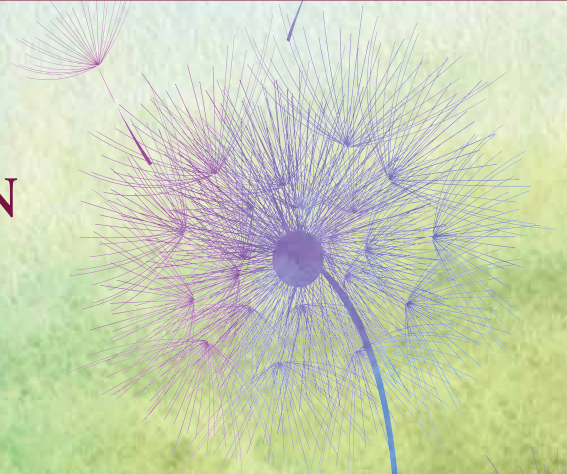
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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 6)

Montecito event planner extraordinaire **Merryl Brown** is designing the super sunset soirée, which takes place on October 13 under co-chairs **Sandi Nicholson** and **Josh Conviser**, with tickets at a number of levels, including \$50,000 for 20 guests, \$25,000 for 14 and VIP tickets for two guests at \$1,500. Individual tickets will also be on sale "pending availability."

Former mayor **Helene Schneider**, who put together the foundation's board which is chaired by mega TV producer **Dick Wolf**, describes it as "the beginning of a new adventure to create a community resource for all to enjoy."

"The Huguette Clark story is a strange, sad, and peculiar one, filled with mystery... Now, finally, our community can celebrate this amazing space as a place to foster and promote the arts. This is a new chapter in this fascinating story."

Author Josh adds: "Guests will have the opportunity to see many of the gorgeous rooms and experience the magic of the grounds overlooking the Pacific."

"Beyond food, drinks, and danc-

ing under the stars, the event will also include a highly curated auction of unique experiences to be held at *Bellosguardo* in the future."

Sponsors already lined up include **Leslie Ridley-Tree**, **Michael Hammer**, **Kim** and **Andy Busch**, **Sharon Bradford**, **Richard** and **Lucille Janssen**, **Gary** and **Susanne Tobey**, and **Bill** and **Sandi Nicholson**.

F. Scott Fitzgerald, who wrote the 1925 novel on the Roaring Twenties on which the bash is based, will be mortified he's missing it, particularly because the event is now sold out after a ticket feeding frenzy at the weekend.

Grand Brand

Social gridlock reigned at Arnoldi's when Santa Barbara TV game-show host **Rebecca Brand** marked the 17th anniversary of her 40th.

Rebecca, who turned a small business hosting dinner parties and teaching French impressionist oil painting at her home into a culinary and travel TV show empire, says: "I just wanted all my friends to be gathered to mark this moment."

She is now hosting Turner



Don Schafer, Diane Waterhouse, Rebecca Brand, Ralph Waterhouse, and Dick Dickens (photo by Priscilla)



Bob Berian, Tamara Peace, Michelle Higgins, Maitland Ward, Rochelle Mirabello, Elana Cantrell, Rebecca Brand, John "J.P." Palminteri, Elle Bentley, Mary Stark, Claire Flores, Oscar Flores, Jan Dermo, and Hiba Hamdan (photo by Priscilla)



Celebrating Rebecca's birthday at Arnoldi's (1st row) Mary Minoore, Jan Dethro, Richard Auhll, Martha Smilgis, Theresa Kuskey Novak, Jen Dethro, Alexis Guerrer, Misty Fetko, Ryan Perry, Aidan Goodman; (top row) Arvind Shah, Danette Estrella, Mindy Denson, Mary Stark, Elle Bentley, Rebecca Brand, Mary Stark, Veronica Novoa, Maranee Landau, Elana Cantrell (Salon Montecito), Mel Mobley, and Dave Pintard (photo by Priscilla)



Enjoying an Arnoldi's dinner are owners Jim and Dede Nonn with Maitland Ward, Rochelle Mirabello, and Mike Bowker (photo by Priscilla)

Broadcasting's first-ever game show – a remake of the 1950s show *Dialing for Dollars* that is airing out of the Cartoon Network's Burbank studios, which is Channel 54 locally on Cox.

Next year Rebecca, a UCLA graduate who lives at Hendry's Beach, will be hosting yet another new show – *Travel With Me! French Impressions!* – where she invites 40 friends on an 11-day tour of France with a VIP trip to Paris, Provence, Cannes, and Monte Carlo.

Among the tony torrent helping the birthday girl celebrate were **John Palminteri, Mindy Denson, Charles Ward, Lisa Amador, Cindy Travis, Mary Minore, Elle Bentley, Mary Stark, Cory Bream, Heidi Stilwell, Tamara Peace, and Mark Golden.**

High Note



Marge Cafarelli with Scott Reed, CEO and president of Music Academy of the West, and Jan Hill (photo by Priscilla)

It couldn't have been a more splendid end to the Music Academy of the West's 71st annual summer fest

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Mashey Bernstein, Kerin Friden, Annette Caleel, and Brooks Firestone (photo by Priscilla)



Centered is Grant Gershon, artistic director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale; with members Katia Gruzglna, Steven Harms, Michael McDonough, Meredith Pyle, and Leslie Inman Sobol (photo by Priscilla)



Michael Hayes, Gretchen Lief, Miles Hartfeld, and Erik Shinn (photo by Priscilla)

summer pops program to the enchanting venue.

For Art's Sake

As is tradition, the John E. Profant Foundation hosted a colorful Fiesta Finale gala at the historic El Paseo restaurant, with a record 174 guests raising more than \$50,000 for art

birthday bash five years ago, played a selection of keyboard classics, and classical guitarist **Chris Fossek** performed while his wife, **Leila Drake**, a former principal with the State Street Ballet, danced along with another SSB member, **James Folsom**.

Other performers included **Heidi Gielisch**, **Ricardo Chavez**, **Lakshmi**

when the Academy Festival Orchestra, under Los Angeles Philharmonic conductor **Gustavo Dudamel**, in his academy debut, performed with the L.A. Master Chorale, under artistic director **Grant Gershon**, at a sold-out Santa Barbara Bowl.



Music Academy of the West 2018 Summer Festival concert with Gustavo Dudamel, conductor, Moshier guest artist; Susanna Phillips, soprano; Michelle DeYoung, mezzo-soprano with the Academy Festival Orchestra; Los Angeles Master Chorale; and Academy Voice Program Fellows (photo by Priscilla)



Domantas Karalius, Michael Sihich, Janey Cambell, Jon Bishop, Manuel Arellano, Scott Reed, Ana Papakhian, and Andre Sun (photo by Priscilla)

Soprano **Susanna Phillips** and mezzo-soprano **Michelle DeYoung** added their superb voices to Mahler's rousing 1894 Resurrection Symphony No. 2 and the 200-plus performers on stage for the special "community concert," with many tickets at a nominal \$10.

It was an evening to remember, much like three years ago when the New York Philharmonic brought its

scholarships.

Brother **Rhyan**, 13, and **Zeyn Shweyk**, 14, played piano, while the **Martinez Brothers**, who've been entertaining at fiesta for three decades, provided the band.

Kristen and **Serge Chmelnitzki** performed the Paso Doble and the rumba, while veteran pianist **Gil Rosas**, who entertained at my 60th

Basile, **Eddy Luevanos**, and **Kambiz Pakan**.

Costume contest winners, judged by *Journal* colleague **Lynda Millner**, were **Gary Simpson** and **Jill Nida**, and **Erik** and **Angelique Davis**.

Among the fans at the energized fiesta fest were **Sigrid Toye**, **David Bolton**, **Erin Graffy**, **Peter** and **Gloria Clark**, **Craig Case**, **Dana Hansen**, **Bill Brown**, **Ana Papakhian**, **Toni Simon**, and **Madison Richardson**, **Gillian Launie**, **Larry Gosselin**, **Riley** and **Dacia Harwood**, **Jon** and **Bonnie Henricks**, and **Gregg Hart**.

Sip-Top Condition

Santa Barbara Polo Club hosted its first Sip and Shop event for 250 guests next to the hallowed Holden Field.

With seven vendors and a stall providing Moët & Chandon's new champagne – with a slightly higher sugar content that can be served over ice – the fun fest was the brainchild of

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SB Polo Club president John Muse, owner of Lucchese, with former supermodel Erin Wasson (photo by David Lominska)

Kathryn Lenihan, owner of the club's eclectic boutique.

Former Victoria's Secret supermodel and Ojai-based **Erin Wasson** introduced her new shoe line for Texan manufacturer, Lucchese, whose owner, **John Muse**, is the club's president.

"It's Texan style with a street vibe," says **Mario Vega**, a company marketing executive in El Paso.

Also showing off her wares was Bahamas-based **India Hicks**, granddaughter of the late Earl Mountbatten, last Viceroy of India, after which she was named, whose godfather is the **Prince of Wales**.

India, the daughter of the late London interior designer David Hicks and 678th in line to the British throne, has broadened her design base with jewelry, handbags, fragrance, and skincare.

Checking out the wares were **Tara Gray**, **Amanda Masters**, **Mindy Denson**, **Dana Hansen**, **Mike and Claudia Uretz**, **Leigh Brecheen**, **Paige Beard**, **Lisa Wengler**, **Judy Foreman**, **Sandy Robertson**, **Gina Tolleson**, and **Dan Walker**.

Goop Scoop

Montecito actress **Gwyneth Paltrow's** *Goop* magazine has reached the end of the road with New York publishing giant Conde Nast.

The Oscar winner says her lifestyle brand's collaboration with the company, which publishes *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, has fallen apart after just two issues.

She says the project has ended because of "old-school rules" on making sure all claims are scientifically verified.

"I think for us, it was really like we work where we are in an expansive space," says Gwyneth, 45.

"Somewhere like Conde, understandably, there are a lot of rules."

After two \$14.99 print editions of the quarterly magazine, which was first published in September 2017, Goop parted ways with Conde Nast and is now produced in house.

Shame Game

Former Montecito Union School student **Gigi Hadid** says her wealthy and privileged background left her feeling "guilty."

The Victoria's Secret star, 23, who is one of the world's highest-paid models, says she was determined not to rely on her family fortune to make it in life.

"I've always had the guilt of privilege," she admits. "It started in high school, and I was determined not to be defined by it, or being pretty."

Instead Gigi valued herself for her skills as a volleyball player and "great" grades.

Gigi, who dates former One Direction singer **Zayn Malik**, is the daughter of property developer **Mohamed Hadid**, whose worth is estimated at \$400 million, and former model and reality TV star **Yolanda Foster**.

Gigi says she always saw her wealth "as my parents' money" and started paying her own bills and living independently when she was 18.

Three of a Kind

Celebrated guitarist and composer **Chris Fosse** was in fine form at the New Vic when he joined three other like-minded musicians on the Ensemble Theatre's stage for a sold-out show.

Chris's wife, former State Street Ballet principal **Leila Drake**, performed a solo and duet with fellow dancer **James Folsom**, both choreographed to his original music.



Chris Fosse entertains (photo by Carlos Mascherin)

With a unique blend of classical and Spanish and Macedonian folk music, with rock overtones, Chris, who normally performs in the Biltmore's Ty Lounge, was in his element with **Peter Slocombe** on sax, Music Academy of the West Fellow **Paul Merkelo** on trumpet, and percussionist **Nate Keezer**, adding to the sparkle.

We'll Always Have Carys

Actor **Kirk Douglas's** 15-year-old granddaughter, **Carys Zeta-Jones**, admits she hasn't had the easiest of rides growing up.

Carys, the daughter of former Montecito resident **Michael Douglas** and Welsh actress **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, says fellow students at school bullied her over her father's age.

Michael is 73 and Catherine 48.

"When I was younger, I didn't like having this name attached to me, this kind of 'Douglas dynasty' stuff," she tells *Town & Country* magazine.

"I think what bothers me the most is that people think I didn't work hard for it, that I don't need to work hard for it. That anything I do gets handed to me.

"When, honestly, I feel like it's the opposite. I feel I need to constantly prove myself to people – that I am not just my parents' daughter."

London Falling

Former Montecito funnyman **John Cleese**, as part of his forthcoming move to the island of Nevis in the Caribbean, has put his London home up for sale for \$1.6 million.

The 78-year-old Monty Python star is selling his one-bedroom pad, just off Sloane Square in Chelsea, where he has lived with his fourth wife, jewelry designer **Jennifer Wade**, 32 years his junior.

By coincidence, the airy apartment

on Culford Gardens, parallel to the oh-so trendy Kings Road, is just yards from where I used to reside in Culford Mansions when I worked for the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Mail* in the 1970s.

On the House

Santa Barbara warbler **Katy Perry** has shaved another \$350,000 off the price of her extravagant Los Angeles compound in a bid to offload the property she originally put on the market in September.

The former Dos Pueblos High student is willing to accept \$8.85 million for the Mediterranean-style property, which encompasses a 4-bedroom, 6-bathroom, house, a guest cottage, security buildings, separate fitness studio, and an enormous outdoor pool.

Katy, 33, originally listed the estate in the exclusive Outpost Estates area 10 months ago, but a lack of interest has resulted in the modest reduction from the original \$9.285 million valuation.

She originally purchased the house from oil heiress **Aileen Getty** for \$8.2 million.

Sightings: Actor **Don Johnson** enjoying the clambake at the Bluewater Grill...Facebook founder **Mark Zuckerberg** noshing at Wildwood...*News-Press* co-publishers **Wendy McCaw** and **Arthur von Wiesenberger** at Loquita

Pip! Pip!

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

To reach Priscilla, email her at priscilla@santabarbaraseen.com or call 969-3301.

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