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

Café Del Sol Sold

ne of Montecito's most iconic watering holes, Café Del Sol, has been sold.

The 3,400-sq-ft property, just a tiara's toss from the Andree Clark Bird Refuge, has been bought for \$1,350,000 by Santa Barbara property developer **Rick Sanders**, a former owner of the Hotel Andalucia, I can exclusively reveal.

The popular eatery has been leased by restaurateur **Jack Sears** and his wife, **Emilie**, from nonagenarian owners **Paul** and **Lilly Ceidow**, since 1989.

"We still have nearly two and a half years on the lease, so we're still going to be around," says Jack, who opened Café Del Sol in 1965 and was formerly located at the Pierre Lafond Wine Bistro space in the Upper Village. "But after that, who knows?

"It really depends on what Alfredo



Emilie (far left) and Jack Sears with Trish Davis at Café Del Sol (photo by Priscilla)

MISCELLANY Page 18 >

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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 6)

Arroyo, who has been with us for more than twenty-five years, wants to do. We can either close permanently or find another location elsewhere."

The new owner, who did not return calls regarding his future plans for the site, has developed and owns a variety of properties in Santa Barbara County, northern California and Phoenix, Arizona, including five mobile home parks, industrial properties, a hotel in Goleta, retail and office buildings in Santa Barbara, and raw land.

In 2004 he partnered with the John Tynan Group to develop the 197-room Hotel Andalucia, now the Canary, downtown.

He and his wife, artist Ro Snell, own a 20-acre property in Santa Ynez, which has been featured in the Los Angeles Times magazine. Stay tuned...

Thatcher's **Regular Visits**

As Britain commemorated the life of longtime Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with one of the grandest funerals seen since the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill in 1965, I learn the Iron Lady used to stay in our tony town.

"She would stay at the ARCO



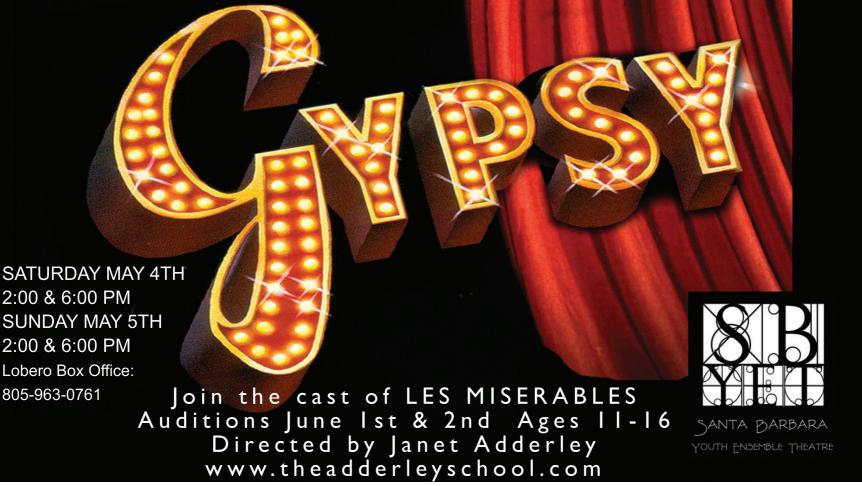
Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, the Kate Hepburn and Spencer Tracy of world politics

Conference Center, which the Atlantic Richfield Company purchased in 1978, on Channel Drive when she would visit President Ronald Reagan at his ranch here," says Trish Davis, whose friend, Bettie DeWitt, looked after the property. "I don't think the main house was big enough for guests and the security associated with them, so, like former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev, she was

MISCELLANY *Page 24* ▶

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MISCELLANY (Continued from page 18)

accommodated at the ARCO property a number of times.

"One particular occasion in 1990, when she had resigned as Prime Minister after eleven years in office, she received an invitation from both President Reagan and ARCO's chairman, Lodwrick Cook, to visit Santa Barbara to celebrate Reagan's 80th birthday. She had not been to California since 1969, so readily accepted and spent two nights with her husband, Denis, at the property before being flown in the ARCO helicopter to Los Angeles for a celebrity packed event."

Beanie Baby billionaire Ty Warner, whose principal home is just a leisurely jog away, purchased the property about 13 years ago for around \$16 million, reportedly with plans to remodel it into The Breakers Spa and Club.

Until recently it had a "For Sale" sign on it.

Pricey Place

Montecito is the third richest zip code in America outside of New York City, according to Coldwell Banker Real Estate's annual Luxury Market Report.

Beverly Hills 90210 leads the rankings with the most home sales over \$10 million last year, with a total of 21 opulent properties being snapped up.

Aspen, Colorado - 81611 - was second, but, despite the aprés ski, most millionaires - or billionaires - still prefer a place in the sun it seems,



Montecito, one of America's top zip codes for pricev real estate sales

with eight of the top ten, excluding the Big Apple, being found in either California or Florida.

Our rarefied enclave had 15 sales for ultra-luxury homes followed by 90077 in Bel Air, Los Angeles, where 10 properties sold for \$10 million or more.

These were followed, in order, by Miami Beach, Brentwood, Malibu, Atherton, Greenwich, Connecticut, and Miami.

"The activity we are seeing for trophy home sales speaks volumes about the value of these markets," says Budge Huskey, president and CEO of Coldwell Banker. "Overall, the luxury real estate market is doing incredibly well, giving us many markets to watch."

Clark's Last Abode

The last Manhattan apartment belonging to the late reclusive and eccentric heiress Huguette Clark is now for sale for \$7.2 million.

The final piece of the eighth floor



Huguette Clark's last Manhattan pad goes on the market for \$7.2 million

Fifth Avenue pad, overlooking Central Park, went on sale this month.

Clark, who owned the \$100 million 23-acre Santa Barbara ocean bluff estate, Bellosguardo, bought a floor and a half of the stunning Upper Eastside mansion after living there with her mother following the death of her father, Montana senator and copper baron William Andrews Clark, in 1925.



• The Voice of the Village •

Clark died in May 2011, weeks short of her 105th birthday, and spent the final two decades of her life in seclusion in New York's Beth Israel Hospital.

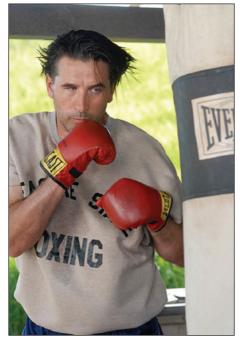
She wasn't ill – but it was her fear of illness and dying that saw her effectively give up her life 20 years before her death.

While she lived a solitary life in a hospital room her three sprawling homes, *Bellosguardo*, a \$24 million spread in Connecticut and the Manhattan apartments, sat empty.

Building Up Billy

Montecito-based actor **Billy Baldwin**, 50, gets high praise from his even more famous brother, 30 *Rock* star **Alec Baldwin**, in the May issue of *Vanity Fair*.

Billy, who lives in our Eden by the



Billy Baldwin (seen here in *A Plumm Summer*) lauded by his brother, Alec, in *Vanity Fair*

Beach with his singer wife **Chynna Phillips**, is one of Alec's three brothers, including **Stephen** and **Daniel**, but is described by Alec, 55, in the personally written article as "the easiest one to be around."

Plus points include him being a rabid sports fan, especially a New York Yankees supporter.

"He's also an endless source of innovative fund-raising ideas – from

working with the New York City marathon charity program to auctioning a walk-on role on *30 Rock* – for the many causes he supports, most notably the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund.

"He's also a great dad who has made sacrifices in his career and personal passions to raise three kids."

Alec, an Emmy and Golden Globe winner, adds: "When I'm with him, I can relax. We can say stupid things we said forty years ago and still make each other laugh... I know if I needed something and he had it to give, he would help... He is as bighearted as anyone you can imagine."

And, by coincidence, we all used to share the same New York agent, the late **J. Michael Bloom**, when we were starting our on-screen careers...

Magical Thinking

Author Joan Didion's book *The Year of Magical Thinking*, which chronicles the loss of her novelist husband John Gregory Dunne from a heart attack and, soon after, the death of her 39-year-old daughter, Quintana, after a long illness, was completed in just 88 days.

It translated wonderfully to a Broadway play in 2007, directed by **David Hare** and starring **Vanessa Redgrave**, and six years later has finally arrived in Santa Barbara with the Ensemble Theatre Company at the Alhecama, one of the last productions at the rustic venue before the company moves to the 300-seat New Vic.

Under longtime friend Jenny Sullivan's direction, Linda Purl is a mesmerizing one-woman tour de force in her first ever solo performance, which came about after the original choice, *One Day at a Time* actress **Bonnie Franklin** died from cancer at the age of 69 in February.

Purl, who appeared on HBO's *True Blood*, deals admirably with the many challenges brought in the haunting and poignant one hour and 45 minute intermission-free production, which brought a standing ovation from the packed audience.

MISCELLANY *Page 36* ▶









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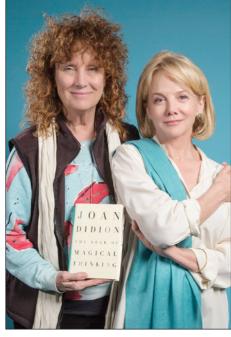
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In a republic, this rule ought to be observed: that the majority should not have the predominant power - Marcus Tullius Cicero



Ensemble Theatre director Jenny Sullivan and actress Linda Purl (photo credit: David Bazemore)



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Seasons at the Symphony

Santa Barbara Symphony's latest concert at the Granada created quite a colorful splash when scenic artist **Jett Green**, who began her career at movie producer **George Lucas**'s Industrial, Light and Magic, joined the talented musicians in painting her interpretation of the music on four canvases during the performance of Russian Alexander Glazunov's 1899 work, The Seasons, which was projected onto a large screen above the stage.

The seasons theme pervaded the show, which kicked off in grand style with Vivaldi's Four Seasons, with the orchestra under Hungarian guest conductor, **Gregory Vajda**, former maestro of the Oregon Symphony for seven years.

Soloist **Nigel Armstrong**, who recently came to international attention as a finalist in the 14th Tchaikovsky International Competition, played the work admirably in the penultimate concert of the symphony's 60th season.

Another evening to savor...

Creating a Buzz

"Bees Circling Heaven," a dance opera by Santa Barbara choreographer **Robin Bisio**, had fans swarming to Lotusland to catch the performance in the estate's theatre garden.

The show, performed in conjunction with the Nancy Gifford-curated exhibit "Swarm: A Collaboration With Bees," which opened in the Pavilion Gallery last month, featured Montecito quartet Weslie Ching, Bonnie Crotzer, Monica Ford and Kaita Lepore suitably costumed in bee yellow outfits designed by State Street Ballet's Anaya Cullen.

Accompanying the show was the band Ghost Tiger, with the musicians **Alixandra Macmillan-Fiedel**, **Emma Huston**, **Kevin Evans**, **Christopher Norlinger** and **Christopher Stansell** performing a number of original songs.



Nancy Gifford, Gwen Stauffer, Alixandra Macmillan-Fiedel, Robin Bisio, and Kaita Lapore at Lotusland (photo by Priscilla)

Afterwards guests, including Gretchen Lieff, Christopher Pilafian, Joanne Holderman and the garden's executive director, Gwen Stauffer, attended a reception featuring, appropriately enough, honey tastings and specialty drinks.

A buzzing occasion, to be sure...

Enchanting El Encanto

The new re-opened El Encanto's ballroom hosted its first charity event when the CAMA Women's Board organized "The Rite of Spring" lunch for 150 guests at the tony hostelry, raising around \$20,000.

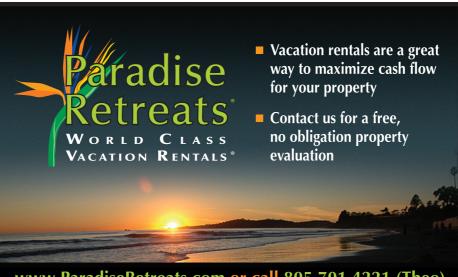
The bash, co-chaired by **Deborah Bertling** and **Ruth Matuszecki**, featured supporters, including **Chris Emmons**, **Carla Hahn**, **Betty Stephens**, **Ed Birch** and **Bob Montgomery**, in a Saks Fifth Avenue fashion show organized by **Bitsy Bacon**, **Beverly Hanna**, **Patti Ottoboni** and **Diana Phillips**.

Before the lunch, guests including Sara Miller McCune, Leni Fe Bland, Lee Luria, Catherine Gee, Tim Owens, Mary Garton, Sheila Bourke McGinity and Kimberly Phillips, quaffed champagne and oriental canapés from French chef, Patrice Martineau, who formerly worked at the Peninsula in Tokyo.

Classical guitarist **Chris Fossek** and harpist **Lynette Johnson** provided musical accompaniment.

A live auction, conducted by **Steve Epstein**, featured dinner for ten at a Montecito estate, an air tour to the Channel islands and a four-day stay in New York.

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Royal Ball

The Pacific Pride Foundation's second annual Royal Ball at the Bacara was undoubtedly the ritziest and creatively colorful shindig of the year.

Inhibitions most definitely left at the door, more than 600 guests garishly garbed in the most outrageous of outfits or next to nothing, partied the night away, with tickets to the boffo bash sold out months ago.

Montecito event planning czarina, **Merryl Brown**, pulled out all the stops along with Rrivre Works, draping the swank hostelry's massive ballroom in gray fabric with crystal chandeliers and crystal drops of varying length hanging throughout the room, which



Michael and Anne Towbes at the Pacific Pride Foundation's Royal Ball (photo by Priscilla)

had a series of royal boxes, each decorated in opulent European style with couches, chaises and oversized coffee tables, all with floating candles and fresh flowers.

"It really was a major party of contrasts," gushes Merryl. "Star and fire, elegance and humility, conservative meets eccentric. We wanted to create something visually unique and awe inspiring, with thought provoking and decidedly unusual eccentric elements."

Costumed stilt walkers, drag queens and go-go dancers only added to the vibrant gala, which was co-chaired by actor **Neil Patrick Harris** and husband, **David Burtka**, Iron Chef **Cat Cora** and wife, **Jennifer**, 20th Century Fox TV's chairman **Gary Newman** and L.A. talent attorney wife, **Jeanne**, actress **Jane Lynch** and her wife, **Lara Embry**, and actor and singer **Shaun Cassidy** and his wife, **Tracey**.

Among the guests, helping to raise more than \$100,000 for the cause, were **Mike Towbes** – fetchingly dressed in a leather studded dog collar –, and wife, **Anne** – in a gold and diamond studded bra –, **Lynda Weinman** and **Bruce Heavin**, **Scott Reed**, **Christopher Pilafian**, **Justine Roddick**, **Tab Hunter**, Jeff and Hollye Jacobs, Dewey and Stephanie Nicks, Ricardo and Dinah Calderon, Kendall Conrad, Andrew and Ivana Firestone, Joanna Kerns, Pat and Ursula Nesbitt, Gina Tolleson, Arlene Montesano and Betty Stephens.

It was definitely a night to remember – and recover from!...

Barbara's Back

Even at the age of 85, legendary ingénue **Barbara Cook** continues to impress if her UCSB Arts & Lectures performance "Let's Fall in Love" at the soldout Granada was anything to go by. Cook, who starred in major



Barbara Cook impresses at the Granada

Broadway shows like *Candide* and *The Music Man*, before beginning a successful cabaret career in the '70s, where I last caught her singing at Manhattan's Cafe Carlyle while regular, the late Bobby Short, was on vacation at his home in the south of France.

After 23 years absence, she returned to the Great White Way three years ago in *Sondheim on Sondheim*, which garnered her a Tony nomination, some 53 years after getting her first award for *The Music Man*.

Singing an eclectic selection of songs, including, of course, Cole Porter, her silvery soprano and warm tones couldn't fail to please...

Blood, Thought, Muscle & Grace

Over at the Hatlen Theater it was UCSB's Department of Theater and Dance that impressed with "Blood, Thought, Muscle & Grace," under concert director **Mira Kingsley**.

The seven-part performance kicked off with "Submarine Races," an amusing piece choreographed by **Molly McCord** featuring several female dancers paying apparent homage to a cut out of a body builder, with the first half wrapping with "Requiem of Bubbles," an aquatic and acrobatic delight about a boy's grief over the death of his goldfish arranged by **Christina McCarthy**.

The show ended with Jose Limon's Suite from "Psalm," which debuted in 1967 at the American Dance Festival in New London, Connecticut, which was designed and re-constructed by **Alice Condodina**, cutting the original length in half.

A religious experience, indeed...

Sabor Latino

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art was heaving when it threw its latest popular Atelier event, Sabor Latino.

The intimate evening featured Afro-Cuban rhythms and folk musicians, performances inspired by the current exhibition, "Myth and Materiality: Latin American Art from the Permanent Collection, 1930-1990."



Patsy Hicks, Kee and Paul Flynn at SBMA's Atelier event (photo by Priscilla)

The SB Garden Club once again paired with the venerable institution to create colorful floral displays inspired by the art on view.

A blooming good evening, to be sure...

Cheers, Catherine

A nearly one-hour long Schubert work Quartet for Strings in C Major filled Camerata Pacifica's lunchtime concert at the Music Academy of the West's Hahn Hall, the penultimate show of the current season.

Longtime violinist **Catherine** Leonard, who makes her final performance with the chamber group next month before moving back to her native Ireland, joined fellow violinist **Ara Gregorian**, violist **Richard Yongjae O'Neill**, and cellists **Ani Aznavoorian** and **Zuill Bailey**, a regular with the symphony orchestras of Los Angeles, Chicago and Toronto, among many others.

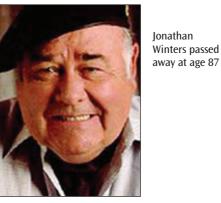
An entertaining, highly energized concert...

Rest In Peace

On a personal note, I mourn the loss of rubber-faced comedian **Jonathan Winters**, who has left us at the age of 87.

Known for his improv work that inspired a host of contemporary stand-up comedians, including **Jim Carrey** and **Robin Williams**, Jonathan was never off stage, "performing" to complete strangers, be it at the Montecito Coffee Shop, one of his favorite hangouts, or in front of millions on the *Tonight Show* with Jack Paar and Johnny Carson.

Fortunately his memory lives on in notable roles in such '60s films as *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* and *The*



Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming.

Jonathan was an enormously jolly character who will be very much missed...

Sightings: *Saturday Night Live* alumnus and Minnesota senator **Al Franken** noshing at Trattoria Mollie... Former *Sopranos* star **Michael Imperioli** downing a vegetarian sandwich at Three Pickles on East Canon Perdido... Author and interior designer **Barclay Butera** lunching with artist **Tom Mielko** and wife, **Eileen**, at Tydes

Pip! Pip! for now

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

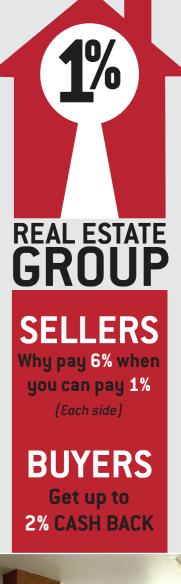




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