

SANDPIPER

ROVING TEEN REPORTER

Class of '14 Words of Wisdom

Leila Zein-Phillipson | Torrey Pines Graduate Class of 2014

Temperatures rise as the countdown for the last day of school begins. Senior class attendance dwindles and can only be explained by the crippling self-diagnosed disease Senioritis. The only known cure: graduation.

On June 13th SDUHSD schools held commencement ceremonies for the graduating class of 2014. This class includes scientists, lawyers, doctors, writers, businessmen, artists, and leaders of the future. With 18 years of life under our belts we have obtained invaluable knowledge: how to succeed, and how to fail. We now want to share a few words of wisdom, words we wish we heard when we were the awkward freshmen walking onto campus for the very first time 4 years ago. "Don't go through life unnoticed. Leave your mark and be remembered," said graduate Chelsea.

Freshmen year we struggled to find our classes in a school that seemed made for giants. We believed the rumors of a pool atop the gymnasium and awaited the day when our PE teachers would finally take us to swim; little did we know that day would never come. We stayed on campus for lunches, enviously watching the upperclassman return with Cali burritos. We were the kids with braces, sprinting to class five minutes before the tardy bell rang. We were the freshmen class of 2011. "I've tried to wipe my memory clean of freshmen year,



On Friday afternoon, June 13, 2014 the Torrey Pines High School Class of 2014 joined the ranks of Torrey Pines High School graduates. Among them was Leila Zein-Phillipson, who has been the Sandpiper's Roving Teen Reporter for the last two years.

Leila's first contribution to the Sandpiper appeared exactly two years ago in the 2012 Sandpiper Summer Issue in an article Student Summer Sampler which included Leila's photo of the newly-minted 2012 TPHS graduates hurling their maroon mortarboards into the air. On June 13 Leila herself joined a similar jubilant throng.

The Sandpiper Editors congratulate you, Leila!

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PRESERVE AND PROTECT

Del Mar real estate is once again churning and, in the process, earning the City more property tax dollars. While this is good news, it creates an increased burden on what is arguably Del Mar's most important citizen's committee, the Design Review Board (DRB). While in the years following the economic meltdown the DRB agendas were relatively light, they have now returned to the "glory days" with upwards of 10 or more projects to review at each month's board meeting. Many of these projects propose scraping existing houses and replacing them with dream homes (or 2nd homes) for the new owners. While there's nothing wrong with that, problems can and do arise when new project proposals represent unwelcome impacts on neighbors and on the charm and character of our community that brought us here in the first place.

Del Mar has a specific set of Design Review Ordinances to make sure that new development reasonably fits the scale and character of the City. The DRB is charged with upholding these ordinances. While this may sound simple, there is inevitably room for interpretation as a basis for disagreement about issues such as impact, reasonableness,

and community character. As property values escalate, and higher prices drive ever more ambitious projects, the nature of such development becomes increasingly impactful for Del Mar's future.

Of late we have seen several development applications return to the DRB for three or more monthly meetings, each time with small incremental changes trying to gain project approval. This is a wasteful and time-consuming process that reflects a "cat and mouse" strategy typically wearing down the board until they finally approve. Not only does this increase the DRB load and the waiting time for new applications, but by allowing this to happen, the board weakens its own authority. The additional fact that currently there is a vacancy on the seven-member board creates the possibility of a tie vote on approval or denial of a project, and makes these exhausting iterations more probable.

This is a critical time for the Design Review process, and we need a full board of seven members, who will serve together to preserve and protect the cherished character of Del Mar. We greatly appreciate the people who volunteer the considerable time that it takes to make this process work -- as much as we appreciate the result of the hard work of the DRB over the years, that has given us such a beautiful place to live. If you want to help Del Mar, fill the vacancy on the DRB and have our community values firmly in mind. □



The Sandpiper is published by the Del Mar Community Alliance, a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to advocate the Del Mar Community Plan, to foster informed public and government decision-making regarding issues affecting the community of the City of Del Mar, and to encourage a social and political climate favorable to the protection of the community character of the City of Del Mar and its environs.

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All staff members and writers are unpaid volunteers. This publication depends upon the contributions of readers like you. Make checks payable to **Sandpiper**, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014

SUMMER READING CELEBRATION

Little Free Library, at the intersection of Stratford Court and Stratford Park Circle
Sunday, July 13th starting at 5pm

There will be a random drawing for a prize for adults (\$50 gift card to Jakes Del Mar) and a separate prize for children (\$20 gift card to Thinker Things). To be eligible for the drawing someone needs only to leave a book in the Little Free Library with their review/recommendation. Writing a review and leaving a book are just a bonus - the real reward is a stronger community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

- The Sandpiper welcomes readers' letters and articles.
- Material submitted must include the writer's name, street address, and phone number, and should not exceed 500 words.
- Material selected to be published may be edited or shortened.

Send to: The Sandpiper, Box 2177, Del Mar, CA 92014; or editor@delmarsandpiper.org

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

First, thank you so much for taking the time [in the *Sandpiper* June issue] to write about the Little Free Library Del Mar. As the goal behind installing the Little Free Library was to encourage and build community I can't help but think that any additional press about it is a good thing. However, as the steward for the Little Free Library in Del Mar I was saddened to read the disparaging tone of the article; it seems our little library didn't meet the writer's expectations and therefore, as a whole, falls short.

The "sidewalk library" movement is a growing movement not just across the country but across the world and almost all of these "sidewalk libraries" are installed on private property. There is an easement for



access through Del Mar Woods condo complex and while Stratford Court ends in a cul de sac just to the south of the Little Free Library it is quite easy to drive your car right up to the Library and stop to check it out. We have a regular cadre of walkers, runners, cyclists who pass the Little Free Library every day. It is through the sharing of books and ideas I hope that people will come to know one another, meet each other on the sidewalk and have a conversation (as apparently your writer did meet someone from the community who stops by the Little Free Library almost daily to see what might be new). This kind of face to face conversation (as opposed to online or electronic conversation) is what we hope to foster with the installation of the Little Free Library.

Kate Zimmer, Stratford Park Circle ■

ROVING TEEN REPORTER: CLASS OF '14 WISDOM

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but those God-forsaken Facebook pictures seem to always resurface," shared Cheyenne.

And on that last day of freshmen year, we only looked forward as we welcomed **Sophomore year**. We were wise fools. We were no longer the "fresh meat" on campus or the underdogs. We thought we had it all figured out until those AP classes we signed up for crushed our spirits. But they were lifted again when we got our driving licenses. We snuck off campus and our brown paper bag lunches, packed with love by our moms, turned into over-priced or over-caloric meals; until we got caught. We were the kids with bags under our eyes from lack of sleep, without any clue that this was just the beginning of all nighters. We perfected procrastination. We were the Sophomore class of 2012. "If you think you're cooler than the next guy, you're not that cool. Keep an open mind. Stay humble," shared Steven.

Junior year, deemed by everyone the hardest year yet, as well as the most important for college acceptance, loomed. We piled on the AP classes and memorized definitions of words bigger than "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" in preparation for the SAT/ACT. But we knew we could do it, because we were students of prestigious SDUHSD schools. We never slept, we sometimes ate and we always drank coffee. We compiled a list of colleges that included some of the top ranked schools in the country, until we received the results of our first standardized test scores and had to rethink everything. But through it all we never gave up. We were the junior class of 2013. "Stay strong, lol" shared Camilla when asked to give advice to a Junior.

Senior year finally arrived and we were the kings and queens of our schools. It was hard work as we finalized our college applications. Tears were shed when we were rejected and when we were accepted. It was hard work until it wasn't and we were second semester seniors, sick with Senioritis. We committed to schools, made our choices Facebook official and decorated the tops of our graduation caps with all the glitter we could get our hands on. And on Friday, June 13th of 2014 we graduated. We are the senior class of 2014. ■

DMTV PRESENTS Summer Showtime

Luana Karr | DMTV

Providing informational and educational shows is something the Del Mar Television Foundation strives to do. On Del Mar TV you can learn about volunteering in the community, how to prepare your family for a major emergency and what types of exercise can help to maintain our balance as we age.



We often partner with other community organizations to bring you these Informative videos. For instance, the series of "Are You Ready?" Videos help the viewers plan for a major emergency and make up a disaster kit for their family. Another of the videos deals with utilities. Do you know when, where and how to turn off your gas, electric or water if an emergency happens? Check out the video and it will explain it to you. What should you do during an earthquake? How do you prepare your home and yard in case of a major fire? These are important issues that we sometimes put on the back burner and then feel helpless when an emergency happens.

Well you can tune in to Del Mar TV and view these videos. We also have them streaming at any time on our Vimeo Channel where we also have our short videos of events in and around town. You can check out Community Connections new home or see some of the work the great volunteers do for our community.

Find out about some of the Children's Activities at the Del Mar Library where, by the way, you can pick up a DVD of most of the shows. There's a how-to of woodworking and a series on how to play the Piano. Tune us in and see what might interest you. And don't forget we broadcast your City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board meetings as well. You can check out our schedule at www.delmartv.com. ■

ASK DR. RICH!

Rich Simons | Upper East 11th Street

Every month, Rich Simons answers readers' most perplexing questions.

Q – I understand you have lived in Del Mar for over 40 years. Have you seen many changes in that time? – m.g.

A few. The Plaza and the Hotel got built, of course. Those were the biggies. But they weren't the ones that hurt. And as you might suspect, I'm now going to tell you about those.

To begin, my niece lives in a small town in Connecticut that could be a doppelgänger for Del Mar. It occupies about the same area as our little village (minus the fairgrounds), has about the same population (maybe a slightly younger demographic), same median income and same outrageous house/land prices. They are also in the middle of a larger county area, sprinkled with all the usual "big box" stores – your Whole Foods, your Walmarts, etc.

But there is something different about that little town up there in Connecticut, and it is this: within its boundaries it supports and has supported for as far back as anyone can remember: a grocery store, a pharmacy and a hardware store! Oh, the grocery store isn't huge but the produce is fresh and top notch. And as the now tired old quip goes: "If you can't find it there you probably didn't need it anyway." The same goes for the pharmacy, but they don't sell lawn supplies there, or Hallowe'en costumes. And if you can't make it down there some day to pick up your meds, the pharmacist will cheerfully drop them by your house on his way home. The hardware store is kinda cramped but it carries anything you might need that will fit into a hatbox. Of course they don't sell gas barbecues or lawn furniture, but if you want a stack of plywood they will have it dumped on your front porch first thing in the morning.

"How can this be?" I cried out to the niece. Old →



Photo illustration Art Olson

timers in Del Mar remember that we once had all those services here. All within walking distance. And a pretty decent gas station with a really good mechanic standing by. But they all left! And that, dear reader, is what I wanted to tell you about in response to your question - the big changes to this town over the years that have hurt the most.

Again I appealed to the niece: "What have you got that we haven't got?" The niece looked me in the eye and said "That's easy, Uncle. It's called CUSTOMER LOYALTY! It's also common sense. No resident of our town would think to blow a few bucks on gasoline to save a few pennies on Rice Krispies and a toothbrush. Sounds like you haven't got much of that C.L. out there in California, Uncle. Maybe not much sense, either." All I could say was "I guess not." ▣

RECRUITING RETAIL

Richard Earnest | Kalamath Drive

The Del Mar Village Association through its Business Assistance committee does everything possible to support and sustain Del Mar's businesses. With all of the new retail centers popping up around us, it's an increasing challenge for our local shops to thrive.

Last year we implemented a number of activities including a block captain program to get a better understanding of what additional help our business owners need - a restructuring/market analysis, retail & restaurant surveys, a holiday decorating contest and community activities, to name a few. We are currently working on an available real estate tracking program, and recruitment manual. We also offer help to our businesses who are not currently focused on electronic retail marketing.

One of our biggest challenges is simply communication. Regardless of how many times and different ways we try to get information to or from the establishments, there is still a disconnect with some of our proprietors and landlords. We recognize there has been a large number of →

vacancies in the downtown area, and we have done as much as we can to help facilitate the recruitment of new businesses. Unfortunately, there are limitations in our community that don't encourage the types of shops and stores that residents want to see.

We also realize we have very little control over what owners do with their property, and there are very few resources available to offer incentives enjoyed by other cities in the area.

The good news is we have a strong working relationship with the Mayor, the City Council members and City staff and we are united in our efforts to improve the economic conditions in Del Mar. To that end, we are happy to report the opening of seven new businesses in the current year and we are only half way through! We have a good relationship with the new managers of the Plaza, and they are open to ideas as to how to enhance the experience and fill the vacancies there as well. There is still much to be done and the challenges are complex and not easily overcome but, with many new, enthusiastic volunteers with different skill sets, and many good ideas, we are looking forward to continued success in 2014 and beyond. ▣

TO THE SANDPIPER EDITORS:

At the recent Del Mar Civic Center community forum, I was encouraged by the breadth of enthusiasm and the strength of support for ideas like including a small coffee shop/bakery/sandwich shop where locals can gather and City Staff can have lunch and coffee breaks; a small theater and performing arts venue for special movies, plays, jazz, piano recitals, guitar concerts, poetry reading, book signing, TED-like talks by Del Mar residents; for ample outdoor space for the Farmer's Market, Easter egg hunts, and other kinds of public gatherings.

I was also pleased to see how much support there was for extensive underground parking beneath the entire site. The table where my wife and I were sitting discussed the idea of adding surface parking at the Fair Grounds and/or Southfair and for a village trolley or two-decker bus that would shuttle visitors between those sites and downtown. There was also a lot of support for encouraging village shop and restaurant employees to park in those lots. If that happened, the downtown parking problem and the need for visitors to park on residential streets would be alleviated.

It will be very interesting to see how well these ideas survive going forward.

Frank Chisari, Crest Road ■

TO THE DEL MAR CITY COUNCIL:

I believe the civic center process has been effective so far. There is a widely-held expectation that the entire community will get a chance to weigh in and now is the time if you want to protect the integrity of the process.

My suggestion is that you put out a mail ballot with three options:

1. Municipal uses, parking, plaza, financing strategy
2. Municipal uses, parking, plaza, commercial uses, residential uses, financing strategy
3. Municipal uses, parking, plaza, residential uses, financing strategy

A pamphlet with graphics explaining each option should be included.

With this vote you will have the backing of the



BRAINSTORMING

Bud Emerson | Klish Way

The City Council workshop on June 9 attracted more than 60 participants. Small group reports all agreed that the municipal uses outlined were appropriate, including city offices, meeting rooms, Council chamber, and a plaza large enough for the Farmers' Market as well as other public gatherings. All tables agreed that parking should be large enough to cover civic uses as well as relief for nearby neighborhood streets. A variety of opinions was expressed about potential commercial and residential uses. Unexpectedly, almost every small group recommended a site for cultural uses.

Based on the feedback received for this project, the City Council is now moving to the master planning phase. The Master Planning Phase would develop conceptual alternatives to address the various program possibilities and options, test the site to accommodate the necessary physical space, and develop alternatives for the community and City Council review and direction. Since there are a variety of alternatives still under consideration, the first effort will be to explore the various mixed-use and parking scenarios for community input. Conceptual site plans will be developed to illustrate potential ways of accommodating the various uses, and order of magnitude cost estimates will be prepared for the selection of a preferred direction and program. The intent is to finalize all the uses and programmatic elements for the site as well as a general arrangement on the site prior to development of a Schematic Design.

At the subsequent City Council meeting it was clear that all five members are committed to a community-wide vote to give all citizens an opportunity to express their preferences among the options. All Council members agreed that the November ballot would be too long for citizens to take the time to study options and make thoughtful choices. Timing of that city-wide vote has not been pinned down. ■

entire community and can proceed with the design phase with confidence and dispatch. Failure to do so now will undermine much of the good work that has been done.

Thanks for your consideration.

Bud Emerson, Klish Way ■



Panorama photo Art Olson

PASEO PRESERVES With Artificial Sweeteners

Ann Gardner | Via Latina

Carmel Valley Planning Board Chair Frisco White has tentatively scheduled two dates in July for their review of One Paseo's Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) based on information that the San Diego Planning Commission is scheduled to review the project on August 14. Although the FEIR was unavailable to the public by mid-June, the City of San Diego went ahead and put the controversial project on its Planning Commission's August 14 agenda, and the project is expected to go before the San Diego City Council for review and possible approval in September. The Carmel Valley Planning Board reviews, evaluates and advises the San Diego Council on proposed development in their area and is holding the public forums to inform and involve the public as much as possible before the Board takes a vote on the FEIR and the project. Their vote is required as part of the City's policy to recognize "...community input in the land use decision-making processes." There is wide-spread concern that the FEIR will continue to justify a 1.4 million square foot project that flagrantly ignores the Carmel Valley Community Plan, setting aside as "unfeasible" a smaller alternative supported by many nearby residents including the community organization What Price Main Street.

One Paseo, a mixed-use development proposed by Kilroy Realty first at almost four times the zoning allowed and then reduced to almost three times the allowed square footage, is proposed for the corner of El Camino Real and Del Mar Heights Road east of I-5 and across El Camino Real from the existing Del Mar Highlands shopping center. Plans call for up to nine story buildings in a low scale neighborhood resulting in "unmitigated visual effects and community character" and unmitigated traffic delays on Del Mar Heights Road to and from I-5. Developments with unmitigated environmental consequences have been approved based on "overriding considerations," or benefits that supposedly outweigh negative environmental impacts.

ALERT: The August 14th date and delayed release date of the FEIR jams the time available for the public to review responses to concerns submitted to the City when the Draft EIR and Recirculated Alternatives Section were released. The Final must, according to the California Environmental Quality Act, respond in writing to each submitted concern. Public and Community Planning Board review, →



*WARNING: One Paseo Traffic Jam may be mislabeled Main Street!
Graphic Virginia Lawrence*

LOCAVORES DELIGHT Duck Egg Saksuka

Di Holker | Coast Boulevard

On a recent trip to Australia my husband Bryan and I were introduced to Turkish food in a seaside town called Yamba at a restaurant call Beachwood. We were waited on by chef and owner Sevtap Yuce She, the setting and the food made for a 'Perfect' Mother's Day Luncheon.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. Eggplant (one large / two medium)
- 1 1/2 pound heirloom tomatoes - Smit Orchards - Valdiva - Heron Farm
- 2 medium or 1 large onion - Shaner Farms
- 2 long mild chilies (Anaheim or California)
- 1 cup chopped Kalamata Olives - Freskos
- 1 bunch parsley - Shaner Farms
- 1 head garlic - Shaner Farms - Ray Subtropical
- 1 lemon - Shaner Farms - Bernard
- 4 free-range duck eggs - Shaner Farms - Ray Subtropical
- 3/4 cup Olive Oil - Freskos
- Flake salt and pepper
- Turkish Bread to serve**

Directions:

1. Peel the eggplants in stripes (like they are wearing pajamas) and cut into 1/2 in cubes. Chop tomatoes, onions, and chilies.
2. Heat the olive oil in a large heavy-based frying pan. Add chilies and onions, fry over high heat for 5 minutes.
3. Add eggplant and tomatoes, Kalamata olives, and garlic cook for 10 minutes, season to taste.
4. Cook for about one minute, turn off and squeeze in lemon.
5. Using a spoon, make a little hollow in the tomato mixture for each egg. Break the eggs into the hollows. Cover and cook for 2 minutes or until egg whites have set but yolks are still soft.
6. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and flake salt.
7. Serve hot with Turkish bread.

Serves 4 ■

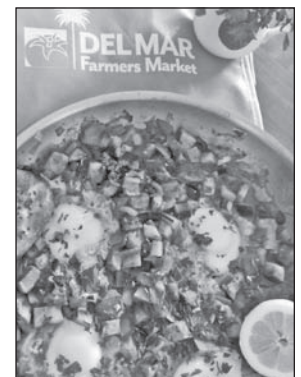


Photo Di Holker

particularly during the summer when many residents are on vacation and some Boards are on recess can be particularly difficult. **The tentative dates for the Planning Board meeting at Canyon Crest Academy are July 24 and July 31.** Be sure to check the Sandpiper, Carmel Valley Planning Board and What Price Main Street websites to confirm the time and location of the meetings and for access to the FEIR. ■

BOOK CORNER

Chop Suey and Apple Pie

Virginia Lawrence | Caminito Del Rocio

Unlike a biographer tracing a life from its beginning to its end, explains Mai-Lon, a memoirist seeks to capture moments, to crystallize events. Mai-Lon (pronounced May-Lon) Gittelsohn considers herself a poet/memoirist. In her newly-published book of poetry *Chop Suey and Apple Pie*, Mai-Lon conjures up her life and family history in the Cantonese/American Community of the Bay area.

San Francisco ~ The bleating of foghorns as the ... mist settles gently round our shoulders ~

Liniment ~ The fragrance of liniment ... growing stronger as the herbs, wormwood and myrrh warm on my skin ~

A dress ~ always brighter in memory – a criss cross of green lines on a field of pink cotton. I chose pink for happiness ~

The Chinese Opera ~ I long to escape the rumbling drums, the scratchy violins, the chatter of Cantonese voices, ... the “crunch of lotus seeds cracked between the teeth ~

Bitter tea ~

My sisters and I bend over cups of bitter tea, ... brown liquid so thick that twigs and leaves float upright adrift in a steaming, dark lake, ... me gagging from so much bitterness ~

My Godfather ~ You hold tight the hand of the little girl with the Chinese bowl haircut ... Did you know then she would grow up American, and you would leave to bury your bones in China? ~

Mai-Lon's grandfather, Jim Sing Wong, emigrated from China in the late 1860s at the time of the gold rush. He subsequently met and married Chin See, who had been born in San Francisco. Albert, Mai-Lon's father, also born in San Francisco, was 15 years old in 1906 when his birth certificate was lost in the great earthquake. The legitimacy of his citizenship was reestablished by the testimony of a man named Graupner. Albert and Violet Wong met through a match maker in China, when Albert travelled there in search of a bride.

Mai-Lon was the last of the five girls - Stella, Clara, Ermah, Marcella, and Alberta - born to Violet and Albert. →

TRACKING: News Updates

Reserves Up

City Council approved adjustments to the city budget recommended by finance director Teresa McBroom. Positive activity in the top three revenue categories (property sales, hotel occupancy, sales) in the first three quarters of the fiscal year resulted in a net increase of \$425,760. With expenditures holding steady the city's contingency reserve, required by policy to be at least 10%, is now projected to be 19.32%.

Shores Park Advisory Committee

At its first meeting the Shores Park Advisory Committee (SAC) elected Art Olson chair, Tom Sohn, vice chair and Piper Underwood, secretary. Piper and Judd Halenza will join City Council liaisons Sherryl Parks and Terry Sinnott on the city's selection team recommending a professional park consultant for Council approval. All SAC meetings are open to the public and will be held, with the exception of July 2, monthly at 8 a.m., every second Wednesday in the Annex Building. At its last meeting the City Council also appointed Lina Waage to fill a vacancy and two alternates to ensure future vacancies would not impact the Committee's progress.

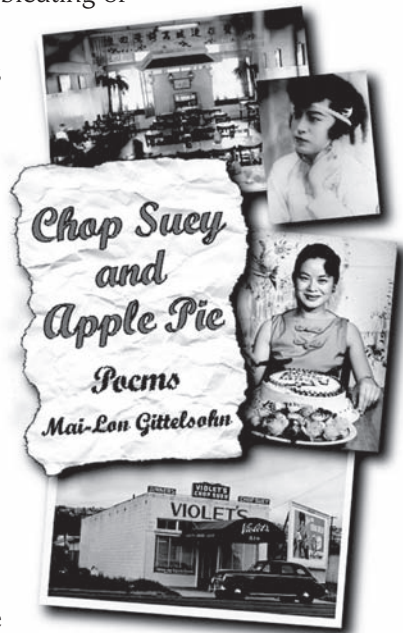
Eight SAC members were appointed in April to represent all segments of the community during a 12-18 month Master Plan process “to make sure [the process] is open, inclusive and develops a consensus among the many interests vying for use of the five-acre Shores Park.” Committee members learned that Winston School, a big fundraiser for the property and leasee of the buildings on the northwest corner of the lot (just over ¼ of the property) is also promised in their lease agreement use of a playing field on the property. Joe Sullivan, chair of Friends of the Park, also advised that some donors may be advocating for specific projects, such as a par course or as a location for the historic Alvarado House. A major task for the incoming consultant, selected from the top ten applicants in August, will be working with the Committee to gather community input.

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(According to custom, Chinese/American children were given both a Chinese name and an English name.) Alberta, as she was called by her family, most likely was named after her father. None of the family has ever been sure. When Mai-Lon was a child the family settled in Berkeley where her parents opened a restaurant – Violet's – named for her mother.

Ultimately, Mai-Lon graduated from Berkeley, married Marc Gittelsohn, and moved to Del Mar. For 23 years she was an elementary school teacher in the Del Mar school district. She now teaches Memoir Writing to Seniors at the San Dieguito Adult School. In 2012 she received her MFA in Creative Writing from Oregon's Pacific University, and is currently exploring flash nonfiction. Though she sings with a community chorus, and dances to Zumba music, “Chinese temple music echoes in my ears.”

Mai-Lon's Chop Suey and Apple Pie was printed by Finishing Line Press in Georgetown, Kentucky, and may be ordered through Amazon.com. ■



Top: interior of Violet's restaurant with its marbled pink Formica tables; 2nd down: Violet Wong; 3rd down: Mai-Lon on her 22nd birthday; bottom: Albert's maroon Packard in front of Violet's restaurant. Cover design Joanne Sharp.

HAIL AND FAREWELL

Carol Kerridge | El Amigo Road

Just for a minute, imagine how over the last 15 years we have taken for granted one of the most precious gems of our community, Del Mar Community Connections (DMCC). By providing a wide range of services and programs for maturing adults, DMCC has continued to evolve as one of the most premier non-profit organizations in our village.



From the left: Phyllis Mirsky, Alice Winn, Julie Iantorno, Karolen Linderman, and Carol German. Photo Susan Schelling

Although it has been run very efficiently during the last 15 years by salaried Program Directors, the real engine behind the program is the selfless helping hands of resident volunteers.

Some of these volunteers choose to take a further step by serving on the DMCC Board by helping to create, lead or administer one or more of many programs offered. These Board members serve three-year terms and attend monthly meetings to report their progress.

It's with a large bouquet of thanks and appreciation that we salute four residents who are now rotating off the Board — Julie Iantorno, Karolen Linderman, Beth Levine, and Carol German. Their kind and helpful hands will be sorely missed.

Luckily for DMCC, five more enthusiastic residents have appeared to replace the vacancies — Alice Winn, Maryka Hoover, Judy Schuckit, Felice Levine and Phyllis Mirsky. What a wide-range of talent and skills they bring!

We welcome them with open arms and look forward to sharing the DMCC vision with them. ■

TRACKING

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Summer Staffing

Summer is in full swing in Del Mar! With the fair and upcoming horse races, the City works hard to ensure it is well-prepared for the summer visitor crowds while continuing to meet resident needs. The City staffs beach lifeguards to ensure the beaches are safe, employs beach maintenance staff to clean up trash and ensure bathrooms are clean while Public Works staff are handling direct services to residents to minimize the impacts to the community from visitors, ramps up parking enforcement to ensure parking regulations are being followed, and works with the Sheriff and Fairgrounds on public safety issues.

Lifeguard Pay

Recommendations for pay adjustments for seasonal lifeguards and other personnel are being finalized by department head Pat Vergne and city manager Scott Huth for review by the City Council in July.



Parking lot is site of proposed Watermark neighborhood. Photo Bud Emerson

Watermark Update

Planning and design studies are continuing for the new residential neighborhood on Jimmy Durante Boulevard which is proposed to replace the currently approved office building complex.

A complete application is expected to be submitted to the city this summer. Once the application is submitted, a website and public outreach program will commence. ■



Summer Twilight Concert June 17, 2014. The Mighty Untouchables. Photos Bill Morris.



NUTS AND BOLTS AND STORY POLES

Art Olson | Avenida Primavera

Building or remodeling a structure in Del Mar is often perceived as onerous, a process which can pit neighbor against neighbor and result in protracted negotiations and unanticipated or unwanted changes in project design.



Photo Google Images

However, as we look around our city, we see the pleasant, human scale village in which we live. Del Mar has ambience and charm as well as property values that are the envy of cities near and far. This is no fluke, but rather is the result of a process and a group of dedicated volunteer citizens who serve on the Design Review Board.

The Design Review Board (DRB) is a committee of seven citizens selected by the City Council to serve a term of 4 years reviewing all significant property development within the boundaries of Del Mar. Its function is to carry out the intent and scope of the City's Design Review Ordinances (DRO). The ordinance chapter clearly spells out its purpose as follows: "...As a means to implement the Del Mar Community Plan intended to preserve and improve the City of Del Mar as a beautiful, pleasant, residential community in which to live, work, shop, and pursue leisure time activities, and in order to protect the property values, natural environment, primary scenic views and the aesthetic quality of the community, this Chapter is to be applied in furtherance of the health, safety, and general welfare of the City."

The DRO chapter contains 18 pages of procedures, definitions, and regulatory conclusions regarding the permitted nature and scope of property development in Del Mar. Within the context of these DROs, DRB members review each development application by reading the City

Planning Department's reports on the proposed project and the applicant's detailed plans and blueprints for the project. They also must review any correspondence pertaining to the project that is conveyed to the planning department. In addition, DRB members typically visit any project site that requires story poles depicting the envelope of proposed structures. These tasks can be difficult and time consuming. But, that's just the beginning. Each month the DRB meets to review the pending applications in order to make a determination as to whether the project complies with the Design Review Ordinances and should be approved for permits to be issued. To deny a project, the DRB must make "findings of fact" that the project violates one or more of the regulatory conclusions of the ordinance.

Many applications sail through the process with no neighbor objections or perceived violations of the DRO's. These typically will be put on the meeting's consent calendar and not discussed in public hearing. However if there is a request for the project to be discussed by anyone, a public hearing must be held. There is a relatively new mandated pre- DRB meeting procedure called the "Citizen's Participation Program" (CPP) in which neighbors can express their concerns on a project early enough so that equitable solutions can be worked out prior to the applicant's preparation and submission of final plans. However, there are still a growing number of applications that go to a DRB public hearing. Concerns over loss of scenic views, character of neighborhood, privacy, light and air and impacts of bulk and mass are some of the typical issues that are contended, discussed and weighed in these hearings. After deliberation of the Board a decision to approve, or deny can be made. The DRB may continue the

application to allow for a revised project to be presented at a subsequent DRB meeting if the applicant concurs. Project approval or denial can be appealed to the City Council within ten days of DRB decision. At least two City Council members must vote to hear the appeal before the Council takes it on as a de novo hearing in lieu of the DRB.



Photo Google Images

The DRB process has worked well for the city for over 30 years. It has guided the controlled evolution of Del Mar that has helped it retain the vision of the Community Plan. While it is easy to criticize a process that takes some control out of the hands of property owners for the sake of the broader community,

Del Mar would not be the place it is without it. For project applicants and project neighbors alike, there are a few things that can be done to make the process go as smoothly as possible: 1) Read the Design Review Ordinances before starting the design process (or even before buying a property); 2) Appreciate Del Mar's unique character, and try to harmonize with it. 3) Take the Citizen's Participation Program seriously and deal frankly with both plans and objections. The more discussion at an early stage, the fewer issues arise in the application process. Neither applicant nor neighbors should try to game the system by "moving the goalpost" after the CPP meeting. Remember, adversaries today, neighbors tomorrow. ■

MONSTER MORPHING

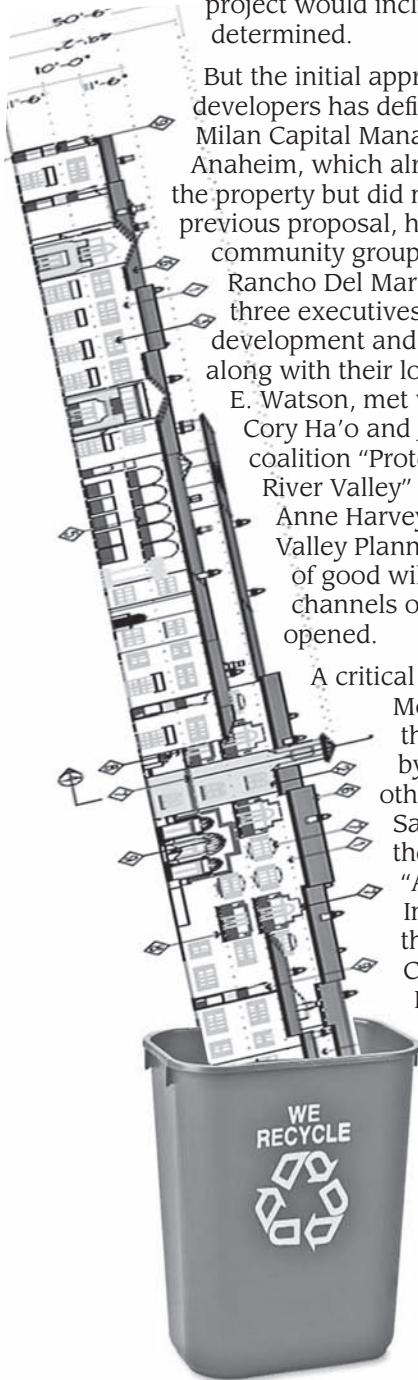
Jeff Barnouw | Amphitheatre Drive

Dubbed “an out-of-control Monster” by Pam Slater-Price (Sandpiper June 2012), the Rancho Del Mar project has been abandoned. New plans for a managed care retirement community on the nearly 22-acre floodplain lot between the Polo Fields and Via de la Valle will no longer call for 224 dwelling-units including 52 casitas. What the new project would include remains to be determined.

But the initial approach of the developers has definitely changed. Milan Capital Management of Anaheim, which already owned the property but did not head the previous proposal, has reached out to community groups who opposed Rancho Del Mar. In early June three executives of the land development and management firm along with their local lawyer, David E. Watson, met with Jay Powell, Cory Ha'o and Jeff Barnouw of the coalition “Protect San Dieguito River Valley” and Jan Fuchs and Anne Harvey from the Carmel Valley Planning Board. Signs of good will were exchanged, channels of communication opened.

A critical issue raised by the Monster project was the attempt, abetted by planning staff and others at the City of San Diego, to bypass the 1985 Proposition “A” Managed Growth Initiative voted by the people of the City of San Diego.

Prop A requires that rezoning for such a project on agriculturally zoned land go to a popular vote. We’ll see whether the eventual proposal will be acceptable to the point that the developers would risk such a vote, or try to finesse it once more. Stay tuned. ■



Rancho Del Mar elevation in bin. Graphic Virginia Lawrence

TAKE A TURN

City Advisory Committee Vacancies

Interested in volunteering in your City? The City of Del Mar invites its residents to volunteer on a board or commission to provide input in a variety of areas. The City is currently soliciting for interested persons to fill the following committee vacancies:

Business Support Advisory Committee: Two (2) Vacancies - 1 hotel owner/operator and 1 retail establishment owner

Sustainability Advisory Board: One (1) Vacancy – Committee Member

Traffic and Parking Advisory Committee: One (1) Vacancy - Commercial Retail Member

Interested citizens should complete a Citizen Interest Form and submit it to the City of Del Mar’s Administrative Services Department.

Visit www.delmar.ca.us/volunteer to complete the form and see the deadlines. Forms should be submitted to the City of Del Mar, Administrative Services Department, 1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014.

POLITICAL SCUTTLEBUTT

Bud Emerson | Klish Way

Two seats on the Del Mar City Council will be filled by voters in November. Those seats are now held by Terry Sinnott and Mayor Lee Haydu. Haydu has let it be known that she will not run for re-election for personal reasons. Sinnott has indicated his intention to run for re-election. Because one incumbent has decided not to run, the filing date will be extended to August 13.

Other potential candidates are considering running. One certain candidate is long time resident Dwight Worden. Worden has an excellent state-wide reputation as an expert in environmental and municipal law.

Nate McCay, DMCC President has been urged by some to run. Some are urging Shirley King to run. There is sentiment in town that we need someone from a younger generation to step up, high on their list is Nicole Holliday. Other names rumored on the street are Sharon Hilliard and Robin Crabtree.

All five of Del Mar’s Council were elected without facing any opposition. Because we have not had any election campaigns for eight years, many in the community believe that a contested election would be an important way to get citizens involved in conversations about current and future issues.

Interested citizens can learn how to file one’s candidacy on the city website at www.delmar.ca.us. ■

DEL MAR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Highlights for SUMMER 2014

This month's calendar was compiled by
Shelby Weaver, a Torrey Pines High School Junior.

Del Mar Farmer's Market: Every Saturday, 1-4 p.m. City Hall parking lot. Purchase fresh, locally grown produce, flowers, eggs, and many other products.

Summer Twilight Concerts: Tuesday, July 1st, 6:00p.m, Back to the Garden with special guest Eve Selis. Opening Act Berkley, Hart, Selis and Twang.

DMCC: Tuesday Lunch Connection, Tuesday, July 1st and July 17th, 12:00-1:30 p.m. Come socialize and share a healthy meal with friends. Transportation available. Reservations required, #858.792.7565

Del Mar Library: Yoga for adults with certified instructor Lynn Truong, Tuesday, July 1st 12:00 p.m. Plz. bring a mat and towel.

Del Mar Library: Sage Investment Group, Sponsored by Del Mar Community Connections. Thursday, July 3rd and 17th at 10:00 a.m.

Del Mar Library: Come play Bridge! Thursday, July 3rd, 12:30 p.m. Experience necessary. Table and cards provided.

Happy Independence Day!! July, 4th-

Young Del Mar: Friday, July 4th, 9:30am-10:30am, Powerhouse Park, Del Mar.

DM City Council Meetings: Monday, July 7th and Monday, July 21st, 6:00 p.m., 240 10th St.

DM Planning Commission: Monthly meeting, Tuesday, July 8th, 6:00 p.m. 240 10th St.

Del Mar Library: Gaston's Puppet Show presents "The Tortoise and the Hare" with marionettes and hand puppets for toddler and pre-school children. Wednesday, July 9th, 10:30 a.m.

DMCC: Encinitas shopping trip on the DMCC van, Monday, July 14th, 9:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Reservations required. #858-792-7565 or dmcc.dmcc.cc

Del Mar Historical Society: Monthly meeting; Tuesday, July 15th, 5:00pm, conference room at 225 9th street; Public invited.

DMVA History Committee: Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, July 16th, 5:00 p.m., 1104 Camino Del Mar #1

DMVA Business Assistance Committee: Monthly meeting, July 16th, 8:30a.m-9:30a.m, 1104 Camino Del Mar, Suite 1

Del Mar Fairgrounds: Opening Day at the Races, Thursday, July 17th.

City of Del Mar: Summer Recyclables Drop-off Event! Saturday, July 19th, 9:00 a.m. to noon, upper city hall parking lot: bring up to three standard office boxes of documents for confidential shredding. Also, drop off old fluorescent tubes and bulbs; syringes; used batteries; and non-controlled medications.

DMF Summer Book Club with the Del Mar Library: Gone Girl, by Gillian Flynn (registration required), Saturday, July 19, 10:00am, Del Mar Public Library Community Room.

Summer Twilight Concerts: Tuesday, July 22nd, 6:00pm, The Heroes. Opening Act Michael LeClerc, Powerhouse Park, Del Mar.

Del Mar Library: Pajama Story Time: Wear your PJ's to the library for story time! Wednesday, July 23rd, 6:30pm (4th Wednesday of the month)

Design Review Board: Monthly meeting, Wednesday, July 23rd, 6:00 p.m, 240 10th St.

DMVA Design Committee: Thursday, July 24th, 11:00 am, 1104 Camino Del Mar, Suite 1.

DMCC: SDG &E Outreach with Dan LaMar, Thursday, July 24th, 11:00 a.m. Come learn conservation strategies and how to save money on your utility bills. Reservations required. DMCCB Conference room, 225 9th St. dmcc@dmcc.cc

Del Mar Rose Society: Monthly meetings held the last Thursday of each month. Thursday, July 24th, 6:30 p.m., Powerhouse Community Center.

Friends of San Dieguito River Valley: Monthly meeting, Monday, July 28th, 7:00 p.m., Del Mar City Hall Annex

EXTRA COPIES OF THE SANDPIPER

are available at: City Hall, the Library, the Del Mar Community Building, the Powerhouse, and the Carmel Valley Library; The Gym at Del Mar on Jimmy Durante Blvd; the Solana Beach Library and the Solana Beach Community Center.

WAKE UP, DEL MAR!

Evolution of a Climate Action Plan

Anthony Corso | Stratford Court

Cities often find themselves hopelessly confronting issues in absence of recognizable solutions. The issue is frequently of such magnitude that immediate action is called for. An unprecedented number of scientists and elected officials nominate “global warming” as a formidable global issue- one that must be immediately addressed.

World-wide emissions of greenhouses gases are building up in the atmosphere with a disastrous impact upon the climate, environment and local inhabitants.



Google Images

The San Diego Foundation climate study, “A Regional Wake-Up Call” assesses climatic change in San Diego County, including Del Mar. If current trends were to continue, to a projected 2050, the following disturbing description would characterize the San Diego Region- contributing to a sense of hopelessness:

1. San Diego’s Climate will be hotter and drier. Average annual temperatures will rise between 1.5 and 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit, with higher increases in the summer. Heat waves will increase in frequency, magnitude, and duration.
2. Sea level will be 12- 18 inches higher. Rising sea levels will have a major impact on the San Diego region’s environment and economy. Beaches will shrink and some will disappear completely. Fragile sea cliffs will collapse. More high waves and rough surf will increase the potential for significant damage.
3. We will face a severe water shortage. San Diego is a major urban area built by importing water from hundreds of miles away into what is essentially a desert environment. Our major sources of water from far-off rivers could shrink by 20%; extended and more frequent droughts will diminish local water supplies.
4. Wildfires will be more frequent and intense. We have one of the worst wildfire conditions in the country and the situation will worsen with climate change. Warmer weather will make the fire season longer and more intense.
5. Public health will be at risk, especially among our elderly and children. Increased heat, air pollution, →

ROLE MODEL CHULA VISTA

Shirley King | Avenida Primavera and Anthony Corso | Stratford Court

As evident from the accompanying article, Global Warming offers a vast number of challenges to communities particularly to those in the Southwest Region of the United States where heat waves are becoming more common, fire seasons seem extended and the threat of drought magnifies. The response has taken two paths: instituting action to reduce carbon emissions and mitigating the impact of global warming upon the man-made and natural environment.

Activities regarding these concerns have come under the title “Climate Action Planning.” It is a planning process that has achieved sponsorship and endorsement under every level of government and which can be seen in President Obama’s Climate Action Plan and within the hundreds of climate action plans developed by communities and cities. Unlike past models of planning, Climate Action Planning places an emphasis upon strategic action, finding and implementing solutions and emphasizing collaboration among neighboring communities.

For 15 years Chula Vista has been a nationally recognized leader in addressing the threat of local climate change. Its efforts are second to none amongst the 19 local jurisdictions including the City and County of San Diego engaged in designing and implementing climate change initiatives. The secret to its success is its ability to take advantage of its community’s resources – energetic citizens and business owners and an open-minded and progressive City management that welcomes outside input. This highly motivated stakeholder group, the “Climate Change Working Group,” is chaired by a representative from the

continued on page 13

wildfires, and infectious diseases will cause illness and death in San Diego County, especially among the elderly, children and the chronically ill.

6. Native plant and animal species will be lost forever. Some plants and animals will migrate to new habitats and others will become extinct. There will be increased loss of trees and forests from wildfires, drought, and insect attack. Entire ecosystems will be challenged.
7. We will not be able to meet our energy needs. Warmer weather and a growing population will translate into big challenges for the San Diego Regions’ energy supply by 2050. The main impact will be higher demand for electricity as a result of the greater need for summer cooling, especially in the inland areas.

If there is a sense of hope in the proceeding scenario of climatic change, it is perhaps contained in another Foundation document, “Climate Action Planning Progress in the San Diego Region.” The report is a manuscript acknowledging the efforts and commitment of groups in the public and private sectors to create programs and plans pledged to reducing greenhouse gas. Forthcoming issues of the Sandpiper will explore their responses, particularly communities such as Chula Vista (see above) which have led the way in terms of the inventiveness of their actions, and Del Mar whose Sustainability Board has only recently given it priority of attention. ■

ROLE MODEL CHULA VISTA

continued from page 12

City's Resource Conservation Commission, has been assembled over the years and derives its purpose from the City's Strategic Plan, the latest iteration completed in 2014.

Chula Vista's 2014 City Strategic Plan includes five core goals: operational excellence, economic vitality, healthy community, strong and secure neighborhoods and connected community. Within the goal of 'Healthy Community', climate action planning rests snugly - "to protect resources and environmental health for both current residents and future generations; to foster the health of our physical environment through balanced, connected and sustainable land uses." Its citywide strategy is 'to develop and implement strategies and programs that restore and protect natural resources and promote sustainability'. Here the City's CAP is anchored to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission (mitigation) and making the community more resilient to local climate change impacts (adaptation).

Many of its mitigation measures have particular applicability to Del Mar:

- 100% of the replacement vehicles for the municipal fleet must be high efficiency (hybrid) or alternative fuel vehicles
- Businesses with storefronts or offices need to participate in a no-cost energy and water evaluation of their premises when a new business license is issued every 3 to 5 years.
- California Green Building Standards Code in all new development;
- Solar and Energy Conversion program: help facilitate energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits in the community and at municipal facilities.
- Help residents and businesses replace turf lawn areas with "Water Smart landscaping."
- Collaborate and react to the possibility of rising ocean levels and the impact this would have on beaches and ocean front homes along the waterfront.

No doubt Del Mar will closely examine Chula Vista's "Best Practices" embodied in its Climate Action Plan and determine what it might emulate as its Plan evolves. We will learn more about Del Mar's progress in this continuing series on Climate Action. ■



*City of Chula Vista assistant city manager Gary Halbert accepts award from Beth Craig, director of the EPA's Climate Protection Partnerships division.
Google Images*



JULY 2014

SDG&E Outreach with Dan LaMar

Little known tips for lowering your utility bills will be offered by Dan LaMar, customer relations representative at SDG&E, during a 10 a.m. July 24 presentation at the Del Mar Community Building, 225 9th St.

"Lots of people are not aware of the different programs available to lower their gas and electrical bills," LaMar noted. Since increased rates are coming for residential customers, LaMar said he will outline various tools to help people analyze their usage and make changes. Reservations required. Call 858 792-7565 or dmcc@dmcc.cc

Senior Legal Clinic

Interested persons may schedule a meeting at the Del Mar Community Center with a representative of Elder Law July 17 between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Reservations required. Call 858 565-1392, Ext.208.

Elder Abuse Speaker

A talk on pitfalls for seniors to avoid in buying or selling a home will be presented by Ron Greenwald, MBA, a specialist dealing with elder abuse in estate transactions, during a meeting at 12 noon July 17 of the Tuesday Lunch Connection at the Del Mar Community Building. Transportation is available. Reservations required. Call 858 792-7565.

Leaving the Board



Del Mar Community Connections thanks Karolen Linderman, Beth Levine, Julie Iantorno, and Carol German for their years of service on the DMCC Board of Directors.

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This month's complete issue **plus** web exclusives, colored pix, photo essays, useful links, alerts, and much more!



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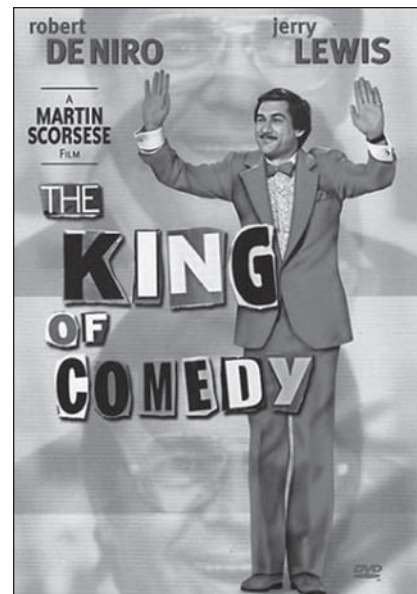
We don't see many black and white films in the cinemas. A good one is playing at Landmark La Jolla Village. Unfortunately "Ida" may be gone by the time this issue of the Sandpiper appears – a congenital defect of this column. Netflix will have it eventually, however.

"Ida" is set in Poland in the '60s and evokes the tragic history of a country brutalized by Germany and Russia (the great novelist Joseph Conrad fled Poland to escape the fate of his parents – both martyred by Russia in the cause of Polish nationalism – to his eternal anguish). Ida is a young novitiate in a convent. She's about to take orders as a nun when the mother superior asks her to visit her one remaining relative, her Aunt Wanda. Wanda is a tough, hard drinking judge – the very opposite of Ida's faithful innocence. Wanda reveals that Ida is Jewish and that her parents were probably murdered and their land taken by local anti-Semites. The two embark on a journey to discover the burial sites.



This journey is filmed in stark, black and white and gray images with a restrained minimalism that makes it all the more powerful. Wanda bears the full burden of Polish history; she's cynical to the point of nihilism as she carries out the edicts of her Soviet overlords. She refuses to mock Ida's innocence, however, because she loved her sister so much. Ida's fate can be likened to the fate of Poland in this period. Her return to the convent, having experienced Wanda's tough worldliness, seems to say that in one of its darkest moments the country can be sustained by the shadowed spark of Polish Catholicism. "Ida" is a film not easily forgotten.

For home viewing try "The King of Comedy."



As in so many of Scorsese's best films Robert DeNiro was instrumental in suggesting the script and then providing a superb performance as Rupert Pupkin the manic celebrity pursuer. The film is a study of our celebrity-obsessed culture and, rather than provide light-hearted laughter, takes a bracing, harsh view of that culture. Di Niro's rendition of Rupert manages to evoke his likeableness as well as his craziness and dangerousness. It's a performance on a par with his angry father in "This Boy's Life" and reveals that his recent efforts, like Scorsese's, have tended to the ordinary.

Nyce taught literature and film at the University of San Diego and wrote "Satyajit Ray" and "Scorsese Up Close." ■