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FLOWER POWER
Botanical Gardens at Huntington
Library in San Marino

Twenty years ago, my husband and I were newlyweds living in a townhouse in West Hollywood. We felt like we lived in the center of the world. But then we had a child and realized we wanted something less chic and more chill.

Having grown up in the leafy Chicago suburb of Oak Park, I wanted a small-town vibe. So, we chose Pasadena. We moved our small family into what was, for us, the unknown. But over time, I met folks from all walks of Pasadena's life. Our house, and our city, quickly became a home.

We now have two children in college and a third entering high school in the fall. The college kids are always excited to come home, and while we like to think it's because they love their parents, we realize it's largely because they love Pasadena. It's a town we've all come to love.

Pasadena is full of small blessings. Some of my favorites include strolling around Huntington Gardens on a spring morning, lazily wandering through the galleries at the Norton Simon Museum, and going to football games, concerts, and kids' sporting events at the iconic Rose Bowl as the majestic San Gabriel mountains watch over us.

On my birthday, I treat myself to the butter cake from Nick's, while my kids devour "bundtinis" from Nothing Bundt Cakes. Friday



**Some of my
favorites include
strolling around
Huntington
Gardens on a
spring morning.**

dinner is dumplings from Dan's Chinese or Luna-sia. A good Saturday ends with the guacamole and some churro ice cream at Mercado, or the cucumbers at Din Tai Fung. We celebrate special events at the incredible Smith Brothers restaurants — Arroyo Chop House, Smitty's, and the Parkway Grill.

Because Pasadena is essentially a small town, I get to frequent amazing places owned by friends, like Harmony Nails and Bravo Salon. My kids have all had their teeth straightened by Hambleton & MacFarlane Orthodontics. Magnolia House, Gus's BBQ, and Pez Cantina are owned and operated by some of the nicest people in town. And if I ever want to sell or buy a house, we have so many amazing real estate firms to choose from.

It's an honor to work at *Pasadena Magazine*. I get to interact with and promote this small, cozy, friendly city right outside Los Angeles that I love so much. What else could anyone ask for?

JENNIFER GUNN
Associate Publisher
jgunn@pasadenamag.com



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When I first moved from Santa Monica to Pasadena in 2007, I thought I'd live here for a couple of years and then hightail it back to the Westside. I was a beach girl. I wore flip-flops that always had sand caked on the bottom. There was no ocean in Pasadena. I thought I had landed on the moon. Where were the seagulls? But then life took over along with two kids and preschools, and here I am in 2024. Admittedly, while I would never have planned it, Pasadena turned out to be not only a city I call home, but a city I truly *love*.

What do I love most about Pasadena? So many things. So many places. And, yes, so many people. What comes to mind first is the friends that I have made. The first thing I did when I arrived in Pasadena—honestly, it might have been 10 minutes before I pulled into my driveway—was call the local Chabad, the synagogue on the corner of Walnut Street. I had a 13-month-old, and I needed to make some friends. Within days, I was sitting on the floor of Chabad of Pasadena with my little boy at a meet-up of local parents. Twelve years (and another kid) later, that same little boy, Boaz, became a bar mitzvah at Chabad. I've made friends there that I will have for life.

Putting together our Best of Pasadena issue has been a way to celebrate so much of what I adore about this city. From leisurely walks with my dogs across the Caltech campus (its turtle pond is my favorite go-to spot), to the Dunkin' on South Lake Street where I always order a large, iced tea, Pasadena really has everything



ALL IN THE FAMILY
Saval, photographed with her two children, celebrates her son's 2019 bar mitzvah at local synagogue Chabad of Pasadena.

The first thing I did when I arrived in Pasadena—honestly, it might have been 10 minutes before I pulled into my driveway—was call the local Chabad.

one could ever need. I've spent so much time at the Langham hotel, it's practically my second home, and Tortas, a little mom-and-pop owned Mexican eatery on Fair Oaks Avenue, has the best vegetarian tacos in L.A. County.

In choosing a cover subject for this month's issue of *Pasadena*, Dr. Drew Pinsky felt like the perfect choice. The famed internist and TV and radio personality grew up here, went to Polytechnic and, later, was a staff doctor at Huntington hospital. His beautiful home in the Pasadena hills, with its sweeping backyard views of the Arroyo Seco below, is a reminder of what makes this city so great.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Pasadena* as much as we did making it come to life. Happy reading!

Malina Saval

MALINA SAVAL
Editor-in-Chief



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BEST OF PASADENA
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PHOTOGRAPHED BY JEN ROSENSTEIN
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→ Carole Dixon's work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Robb Report*, *Modern Luxury*, *A FAR*, *PureWow*, *Wallpaper*, and the *Beverly Hills Courier*. Favorite projects include producing *Food for Thought* in London with the legendary A. A. Gill, launching *The Feast* for NBC L.A., and penning the *Wallpaper City Guides*.



Kelly Hartog

→ Kelly Hartog is an award-winning journalist, editor, and book coach. Born in the UK, she has led a peripatetic life, with stints in Australia, Israel, and now America. She survived an Al Qaeda suicide bombing while on assignment in Mombasa, Kenya for *The Jerusalem Post*. Her work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, NBC, *The Daily Mail*, *The New York Post*, *TheWrap*, *Specialty Fabrics Review*, and the Writer's Guild magazine *Written By*, among others. She lives in Los Angeles with her Golden Retriever puppy, Posy.



Sara Smola

→ Sara Smola has been managing editor of *Pasadena* magazine since 2016. She began her career in reality television casting (and dabbled in half a dozen other fields) before embarking on a writing career. She has contributed to the *L.A. Times*, *Los Angeles Magazine* and *Pasadena Official Visitors Guide*. She also was a featured guest on CBS Radio's *Eye on Travel*.



Lina Lecaro

→ Lina Lecaro is an award-winning journalist born and raised in Los Angeles. She has covered entertainment, pop culture, and events for over half her life, first as the *LA Weekly*'s nightlife and music columnist, then as an editor. She has also written for the *Los Angeles Times*, *Variety*, *Billboard*, *Vice*, *Playboy*, and many more. She's written two books, including a guide to L.A.'s best dive bars. She is currently a senior editor at *Los Angeles* magazine.

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NEWS + NOTES

SUMMER FUN

From cheeky bikinis to cinema under the stars, **Pasadena** has it all

BY SARA SMOLA

MOVIES UNDER THE STARS

Cozy up in One Colorado's courtyard during the free "Movies Under the Stars" screening series featuring feel-good flicks including *Pitch Perfect* (July 13) and *Legally Blonde* (July 27). Films start at 8:30 p.m. Bring chairs, blankets, and snacks. onecolorado.com



1


1. RELOVI SUGARING

Prep for the pool with an appointment at Relovi, Pasadena's new sugaring hair removal studio. With Instagram-worthy interiors by designer Nataly Karavay, the stylish space exudes tranquility so you can bliss out while getting your Brazilian. relovi.com

2. HUNZA G

Suit up in swimwear from Hunza G, available at San Marino boutique Serafina. The sustainable label, with its signature crinkle fabric, stretches to fit sizes 2-12. Whether you opt for a sleek one-piece or a cheeky bikini (\$280 each), Hunza G's one size fit approach caters to a range of body types. shopserafina.com

3. PLAYLAB BEAUTY

Savor a moment of self-care at newly opened PlayLab Beauty at One Colorado. Owner Vanessa Nabhani curates hard to find makeup and innovative skincare products from Korean and Japanese-based brands including Beauty of Joseon, Cosrx, Round Lab, Haruharu Wonder, and TonyMoly. playlabbeauty.com 



2



3

1.: COURTESY RELOVI SUGARING; 2.: COURTESY HUNZA G; 3.: COURTESY PLAYLAB BEAUTY

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AND MANUELA VILLA | LIC. #01900049

THE COACH HOUSE



1215 S. GRAND AVENUE | PASADENA | \$3,850,000
MAIN HOUSE 4,746 SQ. FT. | GARAGE 3,987 SQ. FT.
19,613 SQ. FT. LOT | POOL
CO-LISTED WITH GREG KRAPPMAN | LIC. #02165302
CO-LISTED WITH ASHLEIGH RADER | LIC. #02159992

PRIVATE 1917 CRAFTSMAN HOME



1125 E. MARIPOSA STREET | ALTADENA | \$2,365,000
5 BEDS | 2 BATHS | 2,744 SQ. FT. | 17,217 SQ. FT. LOT
CO-LISTED WITH ASHLEIGH RADER | LIC. #02159992



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The night was filled with unforgettable moments, from heartfelt speeches to spontaneous dance-offs on the dance floor.



SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE

Pasadena co-owner Ben Meiselas weds longtime love Xochitl Marin

BY ALLY SAMMARCO

On May 18, *Pasadena* magazine co-owner Ben Meiselas married longtime partner and love of his life, Xochitl Marin. The two exchanged vows at Hummingbird Nest Ranch in Simi Valley.

As guests arrived at the ranch, the elegant Spanish architecture, the lush gardens, and the surrounding serene beauty of the mountains greeted them. The ceremony, which took place at The Terrace, opened with the Mariachi Cielito Lindo band playing classic Spanish music while guests awaited the bride and groom's arrival.

Against the backdrop of the ranch's stunning scenery, Xochitl gracefully walked down the aisle, her makeup and hair elegantly done by Karla de Lira. Ben and Xochitl pledged their love to each other, while the officiant, a former judge, kept the crowd

simultaneously laughing and holding back tears.

2EZDecor created a drink wall for The Gazebo, which treated guests to a cocktail hour after the ceremony. The Wall was lined with shot glasses and name cards for each guest that read: "Take a shot and find your seat." The mariachi band added a lively energy to the cocktail hour with its vibrant Spanish tunes.

The guests then proceeded to a lavish reception at The Fountain, where they enjoyed fabulous food, laughter, music, and dancing. The elegant decor with tables garnished with fresh flowers crafted by Il Floral Design complemented the ranch's rustic charm, and the mouthwatering food was provided by Anoush Catering. Among the dishes were teriyaki glazed oven-roasted salmon, beef short ribs, and truffle mac and cheese, and Porto's Bakery designed the

ERNESTO OLIVARES



two-tier vanilla wedding cake.

The night was filled with unforgettable moments, from heartfelt speeches to spontaneous dance-offs on the dance floor, courtesy of DJ NJOY. An almost 10-foot-tall dancing robot helped bring the energy and those on the dance floor were given balloons to fist-pump.

Guests included NFL star Colin Kaepernick, former CNN anchor Don Lemon, *Pasadena* co-owner Mark Geragos, CNN legal analyst Karen Friedman Agnifolo, and co-host of MeidasTouch's LegalAF podcast Michael Popok.

Wedding planner Tanairy Felix reflected on her time working with the couple on their special day. "From the moment we had a first call, we instantly vibed, and from that point on I knew their

WEDDING PARTY

Clockwise, from top left: Ben and Xochitl get playful with pups Taquito and Chaquito. Guests gather for the ceremony. The bride beams in a lace gown. News anchor Don Lemon and NFL star Colin Kaepernick celebrate the couple.

wedding would be a special one. I wasn't wrong. Seeing them enjoy their special evening was so rewarding," Felix said.

Hummingbird Nest Ranch Deputy General Manager Nicole Olshever said, "The wedding was beautiful. The thing that struck me the most about them was how laid back they were. They were so easygoing and had such a great attitude about everything."

Ben and Xochitl celebrated their love surrounded by those who matter to them most, their closest family and friends. It was a special night that will never be forgotten. **P**

The Story Behind

1746 Pasadena Glen Road

I first met Debbie and Antolin Chang after helping Antolin's sister sell her lovely Pasadena home. She had moved to Boise and now the Chang Family was interested in doing the same.

"I wanted our kids to grow up close to their family," Antolin explained. "So when my sister moved to Pasadena we bought a home nearby. It was really great for the kids. But after just a few years, she moved to Idaho."

Antolin and Debbie had planned to make 1746 Pasadena Glen their forever home. I could tell immediately that they had poured their hearts and souls into the place. It was charming. Stylishly renovated from top to bottom, and nestled in the woods alongside a babbling brook. This was the perfect home to raise a family.

There is so much we love about Pasadena, and so much we will miss. But after visiting my sister in Idaho, we fell in love with the state. Time is flying by so quickly. Our kids are only 6 and 8, but we want to spend as much time with them as we can, before they become teenagers and, you know, start to ignore us!" Antolin laughed. "With the slower pace of life there, the proximity to family, and my having just retired, we saw this move as a great opportunity."

"This was a tricky property."

I love helping families. And you can see how deeply Debbie and Antolin care for their own. I wanted them to have as smooth and stress-free an experience as possible. So now I just needed to figure out how.

The first serious challenge to overcome was the lack of "comparables" in the area. An agent would typically use these to set the price. But this was a unique property, in a secluded neighborhood, and accessed only by a private road.



I decided to make the home an off-market listing first, as a test. I then used the feedback we received to fine-tune the pricing and marketing strategy for the home. It ended up being very effective. First challenge - solved.

"I was really surprised at how on top of things Eva was!" Antolin exclaimed. "This was a tricky property. There were questions about fire insurance, the easements, and a general lack of clarity in terms of who owns what in this neighborhood. And I was really impressed how Eva was able to root out the details and navigate the nuances of all those issues."

"Something we had never experienced before."

Buying and selling a home is stressful. Issues come up that can't be avoided. And my team and I make it our duty to anticipate and prepare for those issues so that our clients can feel at-ease, and excited about their sale.

"Working with Eva was an amazing process. She knows so much about the area, the market and the challenges we would face. And she freely shares that information." Antolin continued, "But more importantly, she has this incredible team who kept us informed, made all the arrangements, and checked in on us at every step. That was something we had never experienced before."



“The offer... was way above our expectations!”

I am incredibly proud of the level of service and care we provide our clients. But at the end of the day, Antolin and Debbie came to me to sell their home. And it was my responsibility to get them the best price I possibly could.

“We were ecstatic!” exclaimed Antolin. “The offer we accepted was way above our expectations.”

“But it was exactly what Eva predicted.” added Debbie.

I priced the home at \$1.8M. This was a little less than what Debbie and Antolin expected, but I needed to drive foot traffic into the house. This was a special property and it really needed to be experienced in-person. After a strong turn out and a number of competitive offers, we accepted a price of \$2.14M, which was \$340K over asking!

“I couldn’t imagine an easier experience...”

“Eva was amazing to work with from A to Z. She and her team were always available to us. And if she didn’t know the answer, she would get it for us right away. I couldn’t imagine an easier experience selling our home.” Debbie smiled.

“So, we’re off to Boise!” Antolin continued, “Debbie and I are excited that our kids will be able to live near their cousins and extended family. And we are really looking forward to a life that’s a little bit slower, and more importantly, focused on family and spending more quality time together.”

If you are interested in learning more about us, our Concierge Services, or want to speak with me directly, please reach out to linrealtygroup.com or call us at

626-807-6581.

EVA LIN.

To learn more about the story behind 1746 Pasadena Glen Road, please scan the QR code to watch the video interview.



WATCH
VIDEO

PASADENA PARTY TIME

BY SARA SMOLA



WOMEN'S DAY
Pasadena Editor-in-Chief Malina Saval (far right) moderates a panel with honorees, including skincare guru May Lindstrom.

PASADENA'S WOMEN IN BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Pasadena magazine, together with Keck Medicine of USC, hosted its annual Women in Business Luncheon at NOOR on April 10. A networking hour kicked off the event with retailers Eyes of the Marina, The RealReal, and Elite Beauty Bar, personalized poems from Haikuists, a bouquet bar and signature cocktails courtesy of Hendrick's Gin, and sips from Tullamore D.E.W. Irish whiskey, Yes Way Rose, and Doña Paula Estate Malbec.

Later, attendees headed inside NOOR's ballroom where *Pasadena*'s publisher Christopher Gialanella welcomed guests, and Shawn Sheffield, Keck Medicine of USC's chief strategy officer, gave opening remarks. Guests enjoyed a catered lunch by NOOR, "bundtinis" from Nothing Bundt Cakes, and cookies from Rose Villa Cookie Company.

Later, *Pasadena*'s March cover star, filmmaker Lulu Wang, delivered a video message. *Pasadena* Editor-in-Chief Malina Saval moderated a Q&A session with entrepreneur May Lindstrom, Jana Dickter M.D. (City of Hope), Marissa Goldberg (Doheny Eye Institute CEO), Karen Hofmann (ArtCenter College of Design president), real estate agent Sarah Rogers and Keck Medicine of USC cardiologist Helga Van Herle M.D.



ASK THE EXPERT

JONATHAN PRAEGER, MD, FACS

Associate Director of Mechanical Circulatory Support
Surgical Director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit

Keck Medicine of USC

What's your top advice for a patient with atrial fibrillation (AFib)?

Don't ignore it! AFib comes with real risks. For example, AFib increases your risk for stroke by five times. Additionally, strokes caused by AFib tend to be more severe and devastating. AFib can also lead to heart failure.

Symptoms of AFib can be minimal to life-threatening. If you feel like your heart is fluttering or pounding, lightheadedness, or shortness of breath, talk to your doctor. The earlier you catch it, the better.

When and why do you recommend the TT-maze procedure?

The totally thorascopic maze procedure (TT-maze) is an effective treatment for AFib. Most of the time it's hybrid procedure where I work on the outside of the heart and an electrophysiologist works on the inside. Treatment with an endocardial approach alone can be very difficult and time consuming and typically takes multiple attempts.

My usual TT-maze patients have been in AFib for a long time and do not have other cardiac issues that need to be addressed. Often, they have had at least one endocardial ablation that hasn't worked, but it doesn't have to be that way. If a patient has had persistent AFib, especially for over a year, it's worth thinking about a TT-maze early on. There's no reason to delay and risk the complications of AFib.

How is a TT-maze different from a standard maze procedure?

The standard maze (one that is performed with an open chest) is typically done for patients who have AFib along with another kind of heart disease such as coronary artery or valvular disease. In these cases, it is done at the same time as the other cardiac procedure. The outcomes are very good, but that's a much more invasive approach.

The TT-maze is done for stand-alone atrial fibrillation. It's a minimally invasive procedure—I work through incisions that are less than a centimeter long. Because I don't open the chest, pain is significantly less, and wounds heal with minimal scarring.

Is this a situation where you would take the place of an electrophysiologist?

No. I believe that the best chance for success is to work in partnership with an electrophysiologist. One of the advantages of USC is that there is great and easy collaboration between cardiac



surgeons, cardiologists, electrophysiologists, and vascular surgeons. I have excellent close working relationships with electrophysiologists who are at the top of their field. This truly is a combined effort, and that team approach gets the best results.

What kind of results are typical?

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WIGGLE WAGGLE WALK & RUN

Pasadena Humane's 26th annual Wiggle Waggle Walk & Run took place at Brookside Park on April 21. Over 1,600 people and their furry friends walked the Rose Bowl loop, watched demonstrations by the Pasadena Police K9 unit, visited over 70 vendors, and, most importantly, raised over \$315,000 to benefit Pasadena Humane's services and programs. In 2023, the shelter helped over 47,000 animals through adoptions, foster care, animal ICU, its pet food pantry, and its wildlife helpline.



LUMINAIRES GALA CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

More than 220 Luminaires and guests gathered on March 14 at the Jonathan Club in Downtown Los Angeles to celebrate their golden anniversary and support Doheny Eye Institute's vision research. They raised over \$150,000. Luminaires President Fran Biles and Benefit Co-Chairs Jinny Dalbeck and Linda Moore greeted guests with a champagne toast and Doheny Eye Institute Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Deborah Ferrington thanked the Luminaires for their decades of support. Following lunch, a fashion show took place, featuring designs from Robert Ellis Boutique. **P**



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GO FISHING

The menu at Kaviar abounds with delectable sushi rolls and sashimi served in a moody, romantic space with Japanese-inspired artifacts.



INGREDIENT

KARATS AT KAVIAR

Sushi topped with smelt roe and **gold flakes** are de rigueur at this Pasadena sushi eatery

BY MALINA SAVAL

About 80 percent of the people who come here tell me it's their first time trying caviar," says Tigran Oganessian. "Most people who eat here are not caviar connoisseurs"

Oganessian speaks with *Pasadena* from a rounded corner booth of Kaviar, his upscale sushi restaurant on Raymond Avenue. With dim lighting and a glass enclosure featuring three Samurai warriors, the space, designed by Albanian-American luxury consultant Aureta Thomollari, recalls a scene out of *Shōgun*: moody, dark and romantic.

Oganessian opened Kaviar in February 2020, a month before Covid-19 shut the world down. Over four years later, the restaurant is thriving, featuring an expansive menu of mouthwatering victuals, from buttery-soft sashimi and sushi rolls (the kanpachi and yellowtail options are to die for) to wagyu beef tacos made with wonton crisp taco shells and a jalapeño guacamole. Also to die for.

Kaviar's executive chef, John Hans Yeo (who goes by Chef Hans), notes that while there's an intended "correlation in the name" and many of Kaviar's dishes are garnished with

delectable dollops of roe, "Caviar isn't a focal point on the menu.

"We use a lot of caviar elements throughout the menu, but I think the food would be more accurately identified as elevated Japanese. It's globally inspired Japanese cuisine," adds Chef Hans, a veteran sushi chef who, as a one-year-old, emigrated from South Korea with his parents. (Those looking to make their own sushi can enroll in one of his classes at Kaviar).

Oganessian's favorite dish is the truffle toro with "black caviar and gold flakes on top and truffle oil."

"A lot of Japanese chefs would try to burn me at the stake if I gave credit to the best bluefin tuna, which is of Spanish origin. But it is," says Chef Hans. "It's a fact. The best bluefin is from Spain, and we get the best Spanish bluefin.

"We dress it up with a little bit of truffle oil, Himalayan salt crystals, black caviar and edible gold," he continues. "It's just as much a feast for the eyes as it is for the palate. Flavor profile wise, it represents the pinnacle of what we do here at Kaviar."

kaviarrestaurants.com 





TRENDS

SPILL THE TEA

Rose Tree Cottage brings a British tradition to Pasadena

BY KELLY HARTOG

As a British-born kid, my birthday (June 13), often falls on the official Queen's Birthday weekend—now the King's—the second weekend in June. I always felt honored to celebrate my birthday with the monarch. Now, living in America, I usually host a birthday afternoon tea in my garden that weekend, complete with cucumber sandwiches, and my homemade scones with jam and clotted cream.

The COVID-19 pandemic and other catastrophes have occasionally put the kibosh on these at-home celebrations. So, two years ago, while my mother was visiting from overseas, we headed to Pasadena's Rose Tree Cottage for the most scrumptious afternoon tea hosted by elegant and erudite fellow Brit, Edmund Fry, and his American-born, Anglophile wife, Mary.

I recently returned to Rose Tree Cottage where Edmund, dapper as ever, met me

at the front door dressed in black slacks, a blush pink jacket, a white shirt, and a black bow tie. He also wore de rigueur white gloves and a white flower pinned to his buttonhole. After wandering through the teahouse with its souvenir shop stocked full of British goodies, including bone china and elegantly laid tables, we headed into the whimsical garden. There, Mary joined us for a homemade blend of tea, scones, jam, clotted cream, shortbread, and sticky toffee pudding.

The Frys opened Rose Tree 40 years ago and have been at their current location on South Pasadena Avenue for 20 years. Before opening the teahouse, Edmund and Mary worked in retail. They met “around 1970,” says Edmund, at the now-defunct Robinson's department store.

“The tea rooms in [the United States] were marvelous,” Edmund declares, “but

PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA WILSON FOR EW.COM. STYLING: JESSICA WILSON. TEACUPS AND SAUCERS: COURTESY ROSE TREE COTTAGE. HOME: INSTAGRAM.COM/TEGGSY_ADVENTURE. CUSTOMER: INSTAGRAM.COM/SSWINKINGMA



GREAT BRITON

British-born tea aficionado Edmund Fry and his American wife, Mary, opened Rose Tree Cottage in Pasadena 40 years ago.



a week in advance over the phone only. During tea, guests are not allowed to use cell phones or take photos.

"It's so much better to sit and enjoy and really *talk* to people," Edmund says. "People don't do that nowadays. We want to make sure everyone enjoys their afternoon. We go out of our way to do that. We're here seven days a week and we'll keep doing this until we're dead."

The business also funds the Frys passion project, the Rose Tree Cottage African children's foundation, Bloom Where Planted.

They founded the nonprofit in 2003 following a trip to Kenya on a tea-seeking mission. The nonprofit serves students at Longonot Township Primary School in Nakuru. The Frys will travel again to Longonot in September to deliver additional school supplies, including sewing machines.

"This is the most important thing for us," says Edmund. "This is why we continue with Rose Tree. We've met so many children and helped so many and we want to keep doing that."

Rosetreecottage.com 

I couldn't get a good cup of tea there."

That set the couple off on a journey to create their blend of tea that would ultimately lead them to Kenya, and onto a whole new adventure.

Born in London in 1940, Edmund moved to Los Angeles in 1965, "for the oranges and the sunshine." Figuring out a new tea blend— still served at Rose Tree to this day— felt inevitable to the soft-spoken entrepreneur who once worked in the tea department at the renowned London emporium Fortnum & Mason.

It's that personable, friendly, British touch that has drawn people from around the globe to Rose Tree. The Frys rise daily at 4 a.m. to prepare for customers.

"We're traditional," says Mary. Adds Edmund, "And we care about people from all walks of life."

Reviews of Rose Tree have popped up

in both local and international magazines, and customers have sent myriad cards and letters. At one point during my visit, Edmund pulls out a beautifully embossed card from Buckingham Palace. "From Charlie," he beams. Meaning: King Charles.

But customers don't just come for the tea, which includes the cottage's signature elderberry cordial. They come for the sticky toffee puddings, Yorkshire puddings, and the insanely popular homemade scones, all made in an Aga stove.

"We've sold probably over two million [scones]," says Edmund. "There's nothing like Rose Tree."

Customers can book afternoon tea

"We've sold over two million scones. There's nothing like Rose Tree."

—EDMUND FRY



PART OF THE CLUB
A weekly meetup of younger moms helped author Anna David ease into parenthood.

THE OLDER MOM SQUAD

Anna David became a first-time mom at 53. A new moms meet-up group taught her that when it comes to babies, age is just a number

BY ANNA DAVID

I'm a first-time mom in my 50s, but I've acclimated to the idea that my friends' kids are in college. I'm not fazed by the words "my" and "grandchild" coming from acquaintances my age. I've imagined being the sole gray-haired mom at school pick-ups.

So, I was shocked when I heard that my 49-year-old friend, Noam, was pregnant, and she was due to give birth a few months before our son was due. I thought it was misinformation – like Rizzo's alleged "bun in the oven" (as a child of the '70s, I can contextualize virtually anything around the movie, *Grease*). I texted Noam and gingerly enquired if she was indeed pregnant. I expected her to ask if I was insane, but she said yes, she was seven months pregnant with a donor embryo and she was fully geared up for single motherhood.

After my son Ben was born, I discovered my friend Amanda had given birth to her son, Carlin, a couple of months before me. Carlin and Alfie (Noam's son), were two months old, which translated to

COURTESY ANNA DAVID

Pasadena

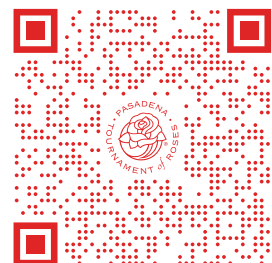
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two years in my mind since aren't new mom years kind of the same as dog years (just different because it's not multiples of seven)? Noam told me she knew other women—acquaintances and friends of friends—who had recently given birth and she suggested a new mom meet up.

The phrase “New Mom Meet-Up” conjured visions of women in dresses from the 50s—like a G-rated *Valley of the Dolls*—all sharing recipes, complaining about their husbands, and discussing their baby's poop in detail. Mostly, I figured, these meetups were comprised of women silently judging each other. Isn't that a scene in every new mom movie? I was already judging most things I was doing, convinced that every time I ignored one of my son's cries, I was scarring him for life. I certainly didn't need anyone giving me the side-eye because I wasn't breastfeeding.

At the same time, new motherhood had me spinning. I was wholly unaccustomed to spending most of my time around someone who couldn't speak and who expected me to wipe his butt. Suddenly, I no longer knew who I was.

I decided to attend the meetup after receiving Noam's WhatsApp invite, which included 12 new mothers. The meet-up was in a park, so I figured Ben and I would be able to easily escape if the experience felt clichéd and annoying. Then it occurred to me I should invite Amanda.

The day of the meet-up was sunny and Bennie and I had cabin fever. Taking him out was new to me, and extremely complex. Other moms made connecting and disconnecting the car seat and stroller look simple, but for me, they were decidedly not, so I left way too early. We were the first to arrive at Pan Pacific Park.

One by one, the ladies showed up, some with their babies in carriages, others bravely wearing their infants in their baby bjorns. They plopped down next to us in the shady grass and laid their babies on their respective blankets.

All the other women seemed more comfortable than me, transporting their precious cargo with confidence, whipping out bottles and feeding tiny mouths with no need to focus intently. At the same time, being in the presence of women going through the utterly otherworldly experience of new motherhood made me feel like I could finally exhale after weeks of holding my breath.

The hour passed in what felt like a minute. As I was packing up our things, I heard myself say, “Can we meet again next week?”

The following week, only I, Noam, Amanda, and a friend of a

friend of Noam's, a woman named Valerie, showed up. The week after that, six women attended. And the week after that, we were back to our original four. Over time, that initial WhatsApp group of 12 women transitioned into a text chain among the four of us.

Although my baby is the only one that a surrogate carried and Amanda's is the only one that was conceived naturally, our differences don't matter. Maybe I've just become what I'd always judged—a mother passionately discussing baby poop.

Instead of feeling like a cliché, I'm grateful for the support and information from my fellow moms. Valerie is a fount of knowledge—a walking Wikipedia with facts about babies, minus the errors Wikipedia entries tend to have.

Amanda is a “bougie mom” influencer and is obsessed with organic products. She offers a steady stream of recommendations for everything from adorably overpriced clothes to the best coconut oil for dry baby skin. All three women offer an astounding amount of comfort.

One day, when we were sitting in Griffith Park, a man with a guitar wandered out of the woods and asked if he could play a song for our babies. We felt a wood nymph had blessed us. When his friend started videotaping us and we realized our adorable babies were being used for content, we just laughed.

Topics on our text chain range from links to the best baby bouncers and commiserating over sleep deprivation, to stroller class workouts and pictures of a chateau in France for sale and a request that we all escape there together.

One Saturday, when it rained, we gathered at Valerie's. She served donuts and gave each of us portable baby feeding kits. Amanda showed up another time with ridiculously expensive-looking diaper bags for us she insisted were on sale. Noam has given each of us tiny balls that project light shows onto the walls, and mini screwdrivers for all the toys that seem to demand them. I gave them all framed photos of their babies. On a night when I had a speaking gig at an event, they all showed up, babies in tow. Were these mommies potentially more thoughtful than the friends I'd always had?

Even though Valerie and Amanda are more than a decade younger than me, we are all at least a decade older than the standard “new moms.” It might be why we're the opposite of the 1950s judgmental mom group I initially envisioned. We're all against-the-grainers. We certainly aren't conservative. Besides, judging other people is exhausting and moms our age need to conserve our energy. **P**



I'm grateful for the support and information from my fellow moms.

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GIRL TIME

Founded by Menucha Hanoka in 2015, Camp Yeka Girls has created a safe space for Jewish girls in Ukraine to connect with peers.



A SUMMER ESCAPE FOR UKRAINIAN GIRLS

Camp Yeka Girls provides orphaned children a respite from war

BY ESTHER D. KUSTANOWITZ

In 2015, when Pasadena resident Menucha Hanoka was 18, she volunteered to help girls in a Ukrainian orphanage run by Rabbi Yossi and his wife Sara Glick of the Jewish outreach movement Chabad-Lubavitch. According to Hanoka, children in Ukrainian orphanages are predominantly from parents who are still alive but unable to care for them because of poverty, disability, or abuse.

“A year living with those kids really changed me in every way,” says Hanoka. “I was their mom for the year, and I saw their struggles.

That same year, Hanoka’s experience prompted her to co-found the nonprofit Camp Yeka Girls in Dnipropetrovsk in eastern Ukraine. (In 2016, the authorities

officially renamed the city Dnipro).

They named the camp after Yekaterinoslav, the childhood village of the late Chabad leader Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, and created it for orphan girls to connect with peers in a safe, Jewish environment.

Over the last decade, Hanoka and Camp Yeka Girls co-founder Hindy Levy, who also helps run Chabad of Buenos Aires, Argentina, have served about 600 girls. “We do a lot of things the girls will enjoy and let them choose workshops such as art, sports, baking,” says Hanoka. “We also do a lot of camo group activities such as swimming, hikes, a lot of Jewish learning, Shabbat prayer

“A year living with those kids really changed me in every way.”

—MENUCHA HANOKA
Founder of Camp Yeka Girls

services and challah baking.”

The first summer, 110 children registered for camp, some arriving for the three-week session holding their belongings in a plastic bag.

“We became these girls’ families, so they knew they were loved and cared for,” says Hanoka, a mother of three who also serves as the youth director and Hebrew school director at Chabad of Pasadena.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, the camps became an even more vital link, as Hanoka and the leadership team helped however they could, from buying supplies and clothing for the campers to wiring cash or sending other lifesaving aid to the girls’ families.

The camps shifted their locations depending on safety and demand, moving from Ukraine to Israel, Hungary, and Poland. This summer there will be one camp in Ukraine’s Carpathian Mountains and one in Israel, with about 130 girls aged 5-18 at each. Each camp also has 20 to 25 volunteers and an onsite therapist. The Israel camp even has a therapy dog,

Many camp alumni become staff members, Hanoka reveals.

“They come back and give back all those years that they were campers. Many have families now and keep in touch via WhatsApp and Zoom.”

With Ukraine still under fire, these children are still in crisis, Hanoka says, noting that one girl who had been displaced from Ukraine and is now in Israel asked her, “Why does war follow me wherever I go?”

“They need us to be there for them,” Hanoka says. “So, we’re going to.” yekagirls.com



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PASADENA AFTER DARK

Long-running retro 80s thrift shop **MeowMeowz** keeps alternative music and fashion alive

BY LINA LECARO

For the past 15 years, Pasadena has been home to one of the coolest alternative spaces—a retail and live music hub called MeowMeowz that harkens back to the indie spirit of Melrose Avenue in its heyday. Punk-goth music lover Veronika Sorrow owns the colorful shop, which draws inspiration from vintage stores that catered to L.A.’s rocker community before the internet revolutionized edgy fashion.

From band t-shirts and jewelry to sunglasses, patches and buttons, Sorrow, who’s originally from Alhambra and went to Pasadena City College, has accumulated a vintage oasis that in many ways is a dying breed.

“It’s an homage to Retail Slut,” says Sorrow, referencing the famed punk shop where L.A. got its spiked belts and crazy color hair dye in the 80s and 90s. “We’re new and vintage clothing focusing on retro 80s fashion. I’m trying to recreate that experience of shopping in the past.”

Not a square inch in the store is wasted in that pursuit. Posters—many from Sorrow’s childhood—cover the walls and ceiling, stickers adorn the counters, and racks are packed with curated clothing and an ample stock of t-shirts designed by Sorrow, many of which mesh old with new. A recent design features a cat meme juxtaposed with



“We do rock ‘n’ roll, but not anything hardcore.”

—VERONIKA SORROW
Owner, MeowMeowz

the logo of UK legends Siouxsie and The Banshees. Sorrow is in a Siouxsie tribute band. And speaking of cats, they are everywhere. A winking green cat head is the store’s mascot and logo.

MeowMeowz has been hosting band performances since it opened, and it’s become a true “scene,” especially for underage music fans and acts who can’t go to clubs. While punk rock makes

sense aesthetically, Sorrow says the store environment necessitates less aggressive genres like emo, indie and alt-rock.

“As much as we love heavier music, we don’t have the space, and the kids want to come and mosh,” she says of her weekly Friday and Saturday night shows, which are alcohol free and cost \$8, with bands paid for their draws. “We do rock ‘n’ roll, but not anything hardcore.”

MeowMeowz also hosts other events including new wave icon book signings. Dale Bozzio, lead singer of Missing Persons, did a signing for her biography, *Life is So Strange*.

Those who know about MeowMeowz return again and again, but Sorrow says her store is still one of Pasadena’s best-kept secrets.

“Every day someone comes in and asks me how long I’ve been here and says they’ve never heard of it, or they’ve been driving by for years and just noticed us,” she says. “Every day!”

Those same people tell her they’re glad she’s keeping the original flashback culture alive via her merchandise and the live acts. “Most people who come,” she says, “end up being customers for life.” youtube.com/@Meowmeowzclub



THE CAT'S MEOW
Vintage finds from shirts to shoes abound at MeowMeowz.





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BUILDING A LEGACY

Nature has played a key role in the works of renowned architect Ralph Lewis Knowles.

CLIMATE CONSCIOUS

Architect **Ralph Lewis Knowles** discusses his lasting impact on environmental design

BY SARA SMOLA

“If you pay attention to nature in design, the results will be beautiful,” says Ralph Lewis Knowles, former interim dean and professor emeritus of the University of Southern California School of Architecture.

Currently, the renowned architect and his wife, Mary, are surrounded by both nature and beauty at his residence at MonteCedro, a picturesque eight-acre resort-style senior living community in Altadena perched on the edge of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Nature played a key role in the architect’s designs and innovations, which can be traced back to Knowles’ childhood in rural Ohio where he spent long hours playing outside “absorbed in the rhythms of nature.”

As an undergraduate at North Carolina State University, Knowles studied with innovators such as R. Buckminster (“Bucky”) Fuller who inspired Knowles to think outside the confines of the

COURTESY RALPH LEWIS KNOWLES

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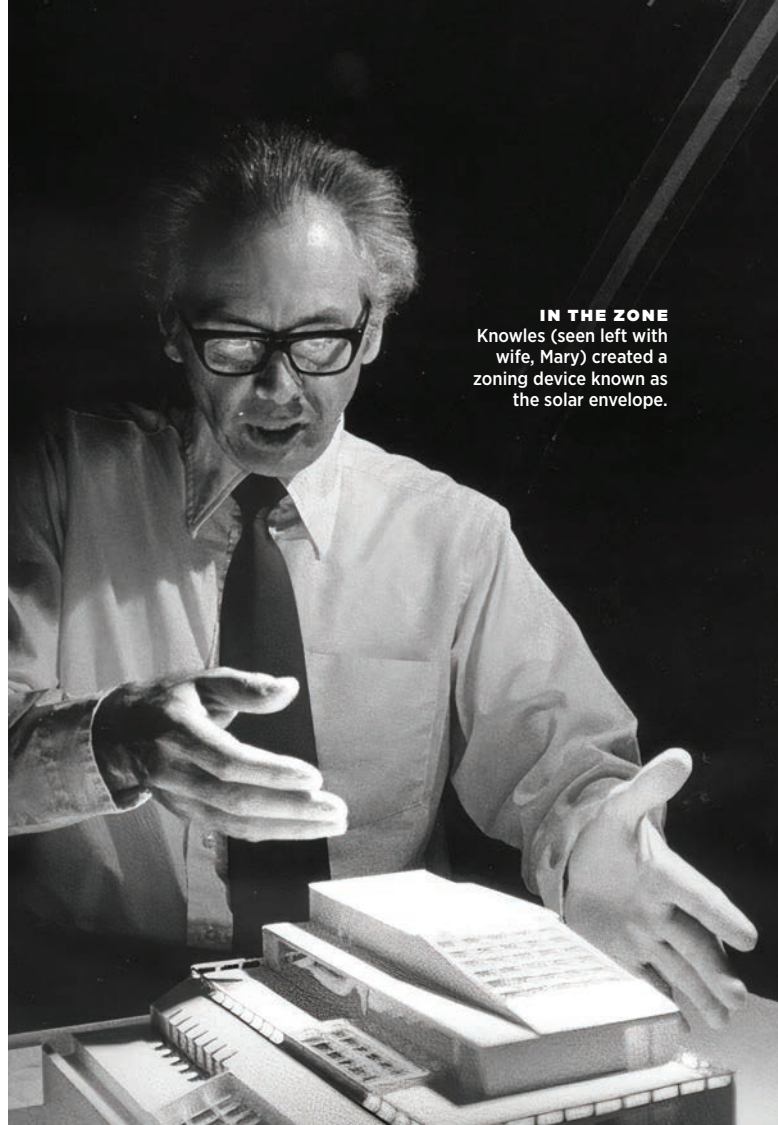


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IN THE ZONE
Knowles (seen left with wife, Mary) created a zoning device known as the solar envelope.

profession. Post-graduation, when Knowles began practicing architecture, he “felt stifled by being confined to an office and the ‘normal’ standard design of that time.”

“I saw the inklings of other possibilities and had questions I wanted to answer,” he says.

After obtaining his Master of Architecture degree from MIT, Knowles sought out a career in academia with flexibility to pursue those possibilities. He joined the faculty at the USC School of Architecture in 1963, where he taught for 40 years.

At USC, Knowles began to research nature’s impact on buildings and founded the Natural Forces Laboratory to study structures within the context of their surroundings. “We were interested in how buildings responded to the elements such as sun, wind, rain, and earthquakes,” explains Knowles. The testing lab served as a “kind of forerunner” to USC’s building science program and helped launch the school’s interest in sustainability.

Knowles’ work with his students included solving design challenges within nature-inspired parameters. For the lay person, this means designing for a specific location instead of just for aesthetics.

“A building designed for the flat desert will not look or perform

“I saw the
inklings of other
possibilities.”

—RALPH LEWIS
KNOWLES

like one located on a wooded mountain side in the temperate zone,” says Knowles. “Different latitudes will exhibit different characteristics, unlike our sealed, machine-heated and cooled buildings of today that eat energy.”

To date, Knowles is the author of seven books and more than 50 articles. He has received myriad accolades, including the American Institute of Architects’ Medal for Research and the Passive Solar Pioneer Award from the American Solar Energy Society.

In 2023, Knowles was included in New York City’s Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) publication “Emerging Ecologies: Architecture and the Rise of Environmentalism,” featuring design pioneers and projects that explore the connection between architecture and environmental sustainability, further cementing Knowles’ impact and influence in the field.

Knowles’ most notable accomplishment is his invention of the “solar envelope,” a zoning device method wherein buildings in urban areas maximize solar access. This was a radical idea at the time of invention in the late 1960’s.

“Designing within the envelope guarantees access to the direct rays of the sun within certain times of the day for light, heat, energy, and the quality of life,” says Knowles. **P**

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The Art of Possibility



MEET THE MAYOR

Victor M. Gordo chats about education, recreation, and his favorite local restaurants

BY MALINA SAVAL

Pasadena Mayor Victor M. Gordo is hard-pressed to pick his favorite local restaurant. “I think we have a great array of food and entertainment,” says the lifelong Pasadena resident, who immigrated from Zacatecas, Mexico with his parents as a young child.

In grade school and throughout his teens, Gordo worked as a paperboy for the *Pasadena Star-News*. He graduated from Pasadena High School and enrolled in Pasadena City College before transferring to Azusa Pacific University, becoming the first person in his family to attend college. He later went to law school at La Verne College of Law.

Elected for his first mayoral term in 2020, Gordo has since clinched his second term in office.

“My family has a handful of places we like to visit in Pasadena, but I would encourage people to explore a bit more the restaurants that have popped up in and around

our city,” says Gordo. “Some of the smaller restaurants—and businesses—that are independently owned are truly amazing.”

Below, Gordo talks with *Pasadena* about key issues affecting the city.

A lot of street vendors—from coffee kiosks to fruit stands—have popped up in Pasadena over the past year or so. Can you speak to this trend?

> Over 20 years ago, the city adopted a street vendor ordinance. At that point, we were ahead of our time. Now, some people have just discovered this ordinance for the first time and more and more people are utilizing it to establish small businesses. So long as these vendors follow the dictates of the ordinance and follow the rules set out by the Health Department, these businesses can add both labor and economic

opportunity to our city pool. I know some of the food vendors myself, and they are creating economic opportunity.

Finding permanent homes for the unhoused in the Pasadena area remains a pressing issue. What is the local government doing to help solve this crisis?

> The homeless population has decreased over the last few years, but regrettably, there are still people who find themselves homeless and we are continuing to utilize our entire team to address these issues. Our team comprises police officers, social workers, medical workers, firefighters, paramedics, and mental health workers. One of the challenges that we’re facing is that some of the chronically homeless people that we are trying to assist are also struggling with other issues. Sometimes it’s mental health, sometimes it’s substance abuse, and sometimes they present with a dual diagnosis where they have both substance abuse and mental health issues. And that makes it very complicated. We are also working with local housing developers to construct and provide more permanent supportive housing for individuals in need.

What is the city doing to reduce gun violence in Pasadena?

> We’re taking a comprehensive approach to gang violence, and most of the crime [in Pasadena] is perpetrated overwhelmingly by gang members, so there’s the [law] enforcement component. We also need to do prevention and intervention, and that means keeping people away from gangs, and



PEOPLE PERSON

(Top) Mayor Gordo rides a Rose Parade float with actor Danny Trejo. (Left) West Pasadena Little League opening day in 2023



increasing opportunities for individuals to be productive, contributing members of our community. That means job training and job opportunities, recreation opportunities, and other social activities. There's no question that there are too many guns on the streets, and in the hands of the wrong people.


“We’ve seen people stand up to racism and bigotry and I would encourage each of us to do so in our everyday lives.”

—MAYOR VICTOR M. GORDO

Going forward, what will you do as mayor to support Pasadena’s public schools?

> The school district is governed by a separate, elected board of directors. That said, I firmly believe in supporting our public schools. I like people—parents, and students—to be active participants in that discussion because we all have to do everything we can to ensure that kids who are in the public school system, as I was growing up, have every opportunity to be successful and contributing members of our community.

Rates of antisemitism in America have spiked over the past several years. What can we do to combat antisemitism, and racism of all kinds?

> Antisemitism simply isn’t acceptable anywhere, particularly right here in our community. And I will continue to lend my support to all communities, particularly those that are feeling the impacts of what’s happening in other parts of the world, and that includes the Jewish community. I denounce antisemitism and will do all that I can to stop it. Having said that, Pasadena is a very welcoming and embracing city. We’ve seen people stand up to racism and bigotry and I would encourage each of us to do so in our everyday lives. Take a moment to get to know your neighbors. Take a moment to get to know people. Take a moment to say hello to strangers as you go about your daily lives. I think we all have a desire to get along with each other and ensure that our community is safe and welcoming to everyone. 

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PAYING HÖMAGE

Store Owner **Jill Pearson** stocks gifts with an independent spirit

BY DENISE QUAN



Tiffany has its signature blue gift box, Crate and Barrel its white box with black lettering. At Pasadena's beloved shop Hömage, they embellish presents with a sheaf of colored ribbons in poppy red, Clementine, or California sunsets.

"When I see somebody walking down the street from afar with an orange ribbon sticking out of a bag, I pretty much know it's from Hömage," says Jill Pearson, owner of the artisanal gift store that has anchored the corner of Fair Oaks Avenue and Holly Street in Old Town Pasadena since 2019 — four years after opening in a smaller space next door.

Whimsical ceramic houses that fit in the palm of your hand, glass candles the color of Easter eggs, and birthday cards with just the right amount of sass are among the curated enchantments in the 800-square foot establishment. And because Pearson began her career as a jewelry designer, there's always an extensive collection of earrings, necklaces and bracelets from local craftspeople.

I arrive at Hömage ready to interview Pearson and discover construction taking place in the space next door. "Do you know who's going in here?" I ask as Pearson comes out to greet me.

"Yes," she says. "Me. We're expanding into the storefront where we first started."

It's the perfect segue into a conversation about the origins of Hömage.

PASADENA MAGAZINE: What inspired you to open Hömage in 2015?

JILL PEARSON: The whole idea was to bring the type of gift store I felt was lacking in the area. So, the big concept was to bring a little bit of hipness you were seeing in Silverlake and Highland Park and do it Pasadena-style.

PM: What is Pasadena style?

JP: It's a classic style, and it's a tasteful style, but it also reflects diversity and an independent spirit. When my first business Wasabi was just starting out, I was poor, and I would stay with a friend downtown in her SoHo walk-up when I went to New York on buying trips. I could really see the progression of things. Of course, I was going to Barney's and stores like that where fashion was really being dictated, but

you would also see a vendor on the street, and then six months later you would see that merchandise in a store. So, when I was ready to open a store, I was really informed by all those things.



PM: Is there a story behind naming your store Hömage?

JP: Growing up, my sister and I were always doing some sort of craft with my mom, who was super creative. We did everything from sewing to macramé and découpage, to painting and ceramics. We were always



JILL PEARSON

INSTAGRAM.COM/HÖMAGEPASADENA

salvaging materials. We would get trim from somebody who owned a manufacturing business. We were shopping at factory outlet stores when it was a true outlet connected to the factory. So, the store is an homage to my mom, and all the creative spirit she brought to me. But it's also an homage to smaller artists and other creatives. Unfortunately, both my parents passed away before the store opened, so it's bittersweet. I think that deep down in my heart I know that they would be really proud. Especially my mom. She would be flaunting it all over town. She'd be in here every weekend saying, "This is my daughter's store!"

PM: How do you find unique merchandise for the shop?

JP: I have so many different outlets, from traditional showrooms and trade shows to craft fairs, the internet and Instagram. Then you have people who come in here on a regular basis saying, "Hey, I'm an artist!" I get hundreds of emails and DMs each month. I try to answer everybody, or at least the ones that are more personalized. It's really hard, but I've been in the position of being the maker. I try to be very careful about how I word my responses.

PM: What's been the most fulfilling aspect of Hömage?

JP: That customers come in and tell me their stories that are very personal, because that means they trust us. People say, "I just wanted to come in and tell you that my dog died," or "My mom passed away," or "My daughter's getting married." Those things mean a lot to me.

PM: What's the secret to being a successful retailer?

JP: We're doing this thing where we talk about our favorite book in the store, and mine is "Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life." Basically, *ikigai* is about finding your passion, and living it through your work. In the book, there's no word for "retirement." And if you're living in a state of *ikigai*, you never feel like you need to retire. I feel like this is my *ikigai*.

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LOCAL FAVORITES
Coach Lisa S. Thomas enjoys hikes in nature and Tex-Mex food at HomeState.

LISA S. THOMAS / FOUNDER, DIRECTOR, AND HEAD COACH OF MOVE YOUR FEET

Lisa S. Thomas, a local sports legend, achieved outstanding success throughout her athletic career in both basketball and tennis. The Chicago South Side native made the final cut for the 1976 Olympic basketball trials, was drafted by the Chicago Hustle in 1979 as part of the first professional women's basketball league in the U.S. (a precursor to the WNBA) and was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018. As a tennis player, Thomas won American Tennis Association singles and doubles national titles in the 35 & Over and 40 & Over categories, as well as two World Team Tennis national championships.

Currently, the Pasadena resident runs Move Your Feet, a tennis program she founded, which is dedicated to making the sport accessible to the community. Move Your Feet operates at four locations: Eaton Blanche Park, Hamilton Park, Washington Park, and Pasadena High School. The program offers beginner to advance classes for anyone aged 4 and over.

"I've been a tennis instructor for decades and I noticed there were not a lot of kids on the courts here," says Thomas. "The City of Pasadena had a call for proposals to run programs in their parks, so I wrote a proposal and won the contract to teach tennis."

Thomas' favorite courts are at Hamilton Park in Hastings Ranch, where she plays recreationally and coaches. "It is one of the most

beautiful parks in Pasadena, surrounded by the foothills. It's a great place to come and learn the game," she says.

When she's not coaching, Thomas competes with her two energetic labs, Phoebe and Latte, in search challenges known as "scent work," and trains her dogs at the Scott-Fox training facility in Altadena. "They host a lot of competitions, and we always participate," says Thomas. "You learn how to be a team with your dog."

A self-professed "outdoors person," Thomas enjoys hiking Eaton Canyon and Angeles Crest, noting that her favorite is the Gabrielino Trail. "There are streams along the walking path and my dogs get to play in the water."

Tex-Mex eatery HomeState is one of Thomas' go-to dining destinations, as well as President Thai on Rosemead for fish cakes and pad Thai. "I usually go to President Thai on Friday or Saturday night.

Sometimes my friends and I eat in or order takeout and eat at my house and watch tennis or basketball on TV."

Thomas has called Pasadena home for over 30 years but says she will never forget her Chicago roots. "I grew up in a very multi-cultural community called Hyde Park," she notes, "and when I first came to Pasadena, [it] most reminded me of the community I grew up in. I think that's what made me fall in love with Pasadena and move here." —SARA SMOLA

"I wrote a proposal and won the contract to teach tennis."

—LISA S. THOMAS



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A portrait of a woman with short, curly brown hair, smiling broadly. She is wearing a black turtleneck and a gold chain necklace with a padlock. The background is a plain, light color.

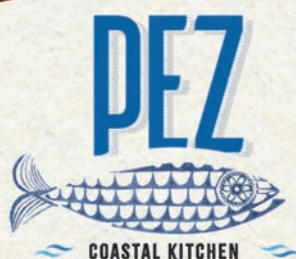
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makes me grateful for that. Youth is for the young for a reason. The best thing you can do is lead by example. Be proud of yourself for embracing who you are as you are. Be kind to yourself and maybe it will inspire

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SAMANTHA KNIGHT'S SHINING ARMOR

South Pasadena designer creates jewelry with special meaning

BY MALINA SAVAL

Samantha Knight has spent the bulk of her career as an interior designer, but about a decade ago, the South Pasadena-based mother of four turned her attention to jewelry.

"My kids have gone through school in Pasadena, and I've always loved jewelry," says Knight. "So, I would style myself with jewelry pieces, and then my friends would ask, 'Can you keep a lookout for this and that?' And then I decided I can make a business out of this."

Knight began by curating vintage and antique jewelry but soon realized there were "certain pieces" she wanted to make for herself. Samantha Knight Fine Jewelry was born.

"Getting into jewelry from the perspective of an interior designer, I decided I wanted everything to be very personal and meaningful," says Knight of her line, which features cosmic stone bracelets with colorful beads, solid gold disc pendants (the Make Your Mark design comes engraved to commemorate a special month and date; \$1,695.00), and custom-made love letter pendants in solid 14-karat gold (diamond accents available on request).

Here are a few of Knight's favorite pieces from her line.

Samanthaknightjewelry.com



Stepping Stones (\$795)

> These bracelets, made of gold and gemstones such as moonstone and sapphire, came about during the COVID-19 pandemic when Knight and her four children began making them during lockdown. "We were making crafts—you know, traditional beaded bracelets—and I loved them," says Knight. "But then I kept thinking, how can I elevate this? So, I started working with gold beads and semiprecious gemstones and took these bracelets to the next level."



SAMANTHA KNIGHT



Love Letters (\$995)

> Designing the solid 14-karat yellow gold letters, Knight says she is partial to Old English-inspired fonts with a twist of "'90s hip hop girl.' The fonts really matter to me. Everything I do with the initials really matters. I like adding more funk to the classics, even if that's a signet ring. I'm not going to do a regular script on anything."

Jersey Number (\$595)

> "I'm all about the lucky numbers," says Knight of these 14-karat solid gold number charms. "They also stack really well with the love letters. When designing, I always think about what works well together, because I like to stack different sizes and different shapes. I love to mix it up. It adds an extra level of interest."



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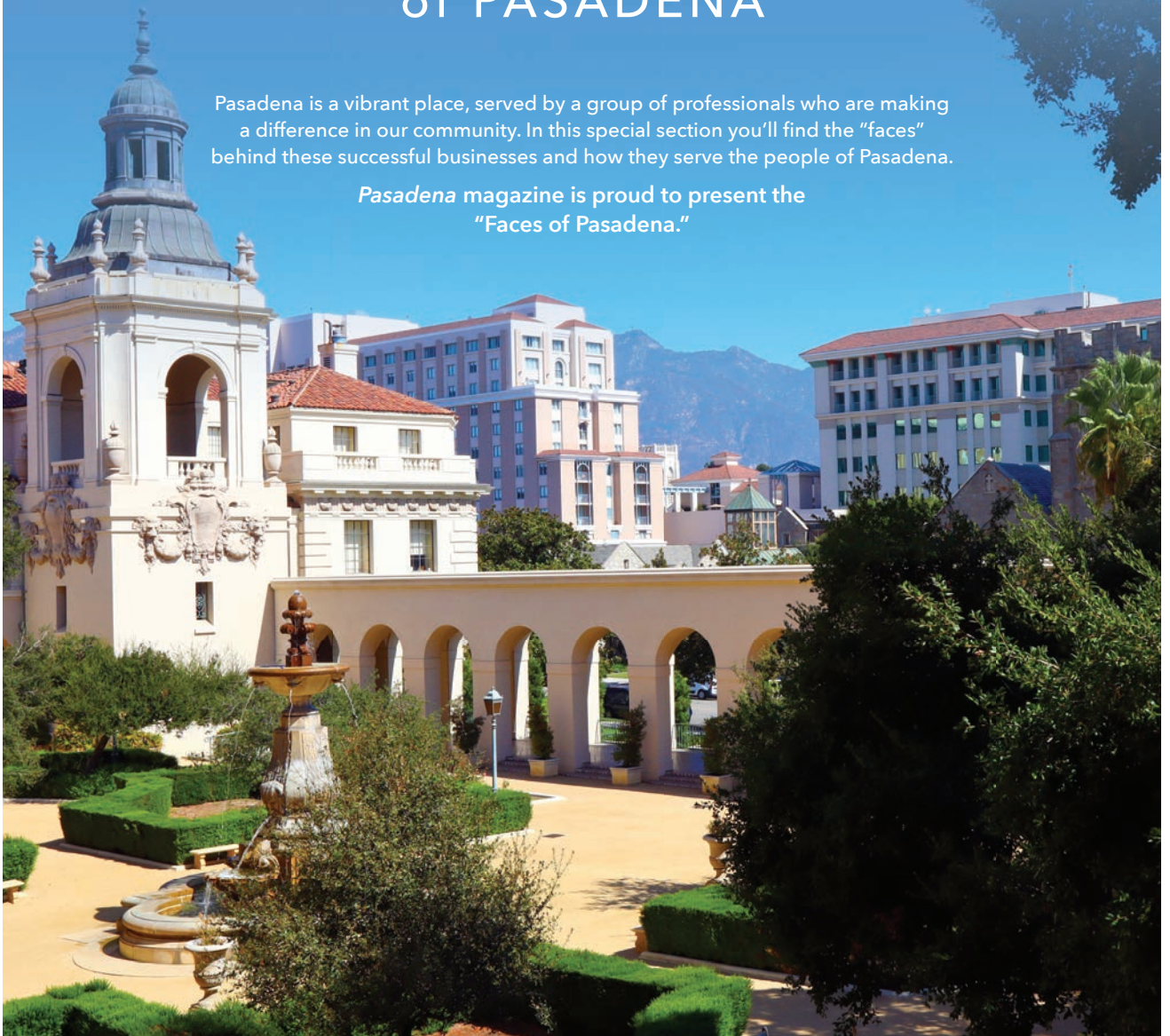
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2024 FACES of PASADENA

Pasadena is a vibrant place, served by a group of professionals who are making a difference in our community. In this special section you'll find the "faces" behind these successful businesses and how they serve the people of Pasadena.

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Dr. Rebecca Weightman, as the current owner of practice, is dedicated to providing superb surgical care within a welcoming environment that puts patients at ease. “We are committed to assembling an outstanding team that prioritizes patient well-being above all else,” Dr. Weightman says. She and her team also place great importance on patient education and cultivating long-term dental care relationships.

Echoing this sentiment, Dr. Nerisa Limansubroto, or Dr. Lim, emphasizes patient-centered care and the crucial role of education in preserving teeth, such as through root canal therapy. She stresses that raising awareness and educating patients are essential duties for dental specialists.

Dr. Clarence Lee, another esteemed periodontist within the practice, elucidates their focus on the foundational structures of teeth: gums, roots, bone, and implants. “Our name, Foundation Dental Specialists, reflects our unwavering commitment to ensuring the strength and health of your smile,” he asserts.

Since its inception in 1974, the practice has prioritized top-tier periodontal care. In 2022, they expanded to include endodontic services, promoting collaborative care for better patient outcomes.

Dr. Ryan Park, a seasoned periodontist at the practice, emphasizes the synergistic nature of their work. “As specialists, we collaborate to provide comprehensive care that exceeds what we could achieve individually,” he explains.

Renowned for their integration of advanced technology such as CBCT imaging, microscopes, and lasers, the practice prioritizes precision and effectiveness in treatments. “Constantly evolving and embracing new technologies allows us to better serve our patients,” highlights Dr. Jackson Partin, an esteemed endodontist at the practice.

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Trained at Harvard, Yale, UCSF and UCLA, Dr. Moelleken has pioneered procedures from LiveFill®, autologous fat-fascial grafts, to short incisionUSIC® & LUSIC® cheeklifts, to the natural-appearing 360 Facelift® and more. "While true perfection can never be achieved, through constant innovation—new procedures, new equipment, and attentive, responsible care—results continually improve," says Dr. Moelleken, pointing to the LBAM, an implant-free breast augmentation using viable tissue rather than injected fat, and his Hybrid Tummy Tuck®, a short incision tummy tuck for fit moms.

Touting a surgeon's ability to fix a patient's specific issue within several hours and "change lives for the better," Dr. Moelleken is uniquely positioned to do just that. He is one of only three specialty-trained surgeons in the world to complete the year-long Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship at UCLA, with the results of his protocols published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and presented internationally.



"Continue to improve by innovation in every aspect of life," advises Dr. Moelleken, who in addition to offering his patients world-class patient care and outcomes, is actively involved with disenfranchised communities. He started the About Face Surgical Foundation to serve children and young adult victims of accidents and crime and volunteers at the VA Hospital, assisting veterans with complex wound and cancer issues.

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Dr. Sasaki, a Clinical Professor at Loma Linda University Medical School, is an academic surgeon and graduate of Yale Medical School and Plastic Surgery Residency. He previously served as full-time faculty of plastic surgery at Parkland Hospital (University of Texas Southwestern) and chief at Los Angeles County Hospital (USC). The Sasaki Advanced Aesthetic and Regenerative Medical Center in Pasadena is a university-affiliated private practice since 1985.

Q: What is unique about your practice?

The Center is a dynamic educational center for aesthetic regenerative surgery. Dr. Sasaki teaches courses, panels, and symposia at national plastic societal meetings and at international congresses and federations for over 30 years and has been invited as a Visiting Professor to 32 countries. As President-Elect of the Aesthetic Stem Cell Society, Dr. Sasaki continues to publish manuscripts, chapters, and books in recognized journals and publishing companies to advance aesthetic plastic surgery and regenerative medicine. In 2024, Dr. Sasaki was awarded by readers in the San Gabriel Valley as the Best Plastic Surgeon, Best Cosmetic Surgeon, and medical director of the "Best Medical SPA and recognized as one of the "Best Doctors in Los Angeles and America."

Q: What are the technologies that are transforming your active surgical practice?

Dr. Sasaki provides advanced technologies for fat grafting with the patient's own mechanically derived regenerative cells, platelets, and exosomes. As a recognized expert in the aesthetic field, his hair stimulation programs have combined established FDA-approved drugs with more complete PRP technology and their exosomes. Dr. Sasaki is initiating controlled studies on the treatment of



stretchmarks and vitiligo with newer technologies. Recently, he was privileged to be an Investigator/Consultant and Advisory Board Member with a Mayo Clinic-affiliated aesthetic regenerative company.

Q: How would you describe your approach to patients?

Our office treats all patients with respect and compassion. Our large and dedicated staff enables us to individualize care and to build trusting and long-lasting relationships with our patients in their aesthetic and surgical journey.



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THE DOCTOR IS IN THE HOUSE

DREW PINSKY REFLECTS ON HIS STORIED 40-YEAR CAREER

BY MALINA SAVAL  PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEN ROSENSTEIN

.....



**ALWAYS
ON CALL**

Dr. Drew Pinsky
blazed a trail in the
1980s bringing medical
advice to the masses as
the host of the radio
show *Loveline*.





A LITTLE PASADENA TRIVIA that not a lot of people know, but Las Encinas was originally a tuberculosis sanitarium.”

Drew Pinsky — known professionally as Dr. Drew — and I are sitting in the backyard patio of his tony Pasadena manse, our view a panoramic vista of the Lower Arroyo basin. The famed addiction medicine specialist-cum-juggernaut media maven, who broke ground as the long-running host of KROQ-FM’s call-in show *Love-line*, is waxing nostalgic about his days at Las Encinas Hospital. Pinsky spent three decades on staff in the facility’s department of chemical dependency services, overseeing treatment for patients suffering from the disease of addiction. It was this experience that helped inform the creation of *Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew*, the landmark VH-1 reality series that sparked a national conversation about the ethics of addiction medicine played for small-screen fare and made Dr. Drew a star.

“A lot of silent film stars, this is where they spent their last days,” notes Pinsky of Las Encinas. “Later, it was taken over by a group of psychiatrists and in the 1930s, ’40s and ’50s, it was *the* psychiatric facility for Hollywood.”

Seated around an outdoor table, our soundtrack is the gentle rustling of leaves and the hypnotic swish of the swimming pool’s waterfall. Susan, Pinsky’s wife of over 30 years and the mother of

their three grown children (triplets), walks the length of the pool’s edge, checking for lizards beneath the cushion of a chaise lounge. Reptiles are common in this part of the Pasadena hills, and several tiny ones dart across the grass. Then we spot a bunny. The scene is a perfect reminder of why Pasadena is one of the most serene pockets of L.A. County and why Pinsky, who grew up in the City of Roses, continues to make it his home.

“I’ve done all these things here — all my businesses, my podcasts — not just because I love Pasadena, but because I’ve always told people I need to be left alone here to practice medicine,” says Pinsky. He no longer practices full-time, but when he did, he confesses, “was really a bad workaholic.”

“Whatever we did outside of my practice, it had to be in close proximity.”

Pinsky has always held a keen interest in psychiatry, with an unwavering passion for what makes humanity tick. He talks at length about hot-button topics ranging from cannabis use amongst teens (“We are seeing more psychotic episodes”) to the neurological impact of hallucinogens.

“I worry about the deleterious effects of any Psilocybin,” says Pinsky. “I’ve treated people who were in rock bands in the ’60s and did a fair bit of acid. They ended up so impaired that, as a young

**ON THE AIR**

Pinsky (below, middle) was a third-year medical student at University of Southern California when he became host of *Loveline* on the Pasadena-based radio station. KROQ-FM.



adult, I had to put them in a nursing home.”

Pinsky comes by his profession honestly. Born into a family of doctors, Pinsky’s father, Morton, the son of Russian-Jewish immigrants, spent 50 years in private practice as a family physician in the San Gabriel Valley and was a staff member at Huntington Memorial Hospital.

“My father was not a nihilist, but he was extremely cautious

stuff. I like singing Offenbach’s *Tales of Hoffman*.” No stranger to the stage, during his senior year at Polytechnic School, he played the lead role of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Ultimately, Pinsky followed in his father’s footsteps. He graduated with a degree in biology from Amherst College and received his medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. Pinsky became chief resident of Hunting-



“When I first arrived at Las Encinas as a moonlighting resident, I was just fascinated.”

—DREW PINSKY

with medicine,” says Pinsky. “He would hammer into my head how dangerous medications are.”

Pinsky’s mother, Helene, was an opera singer and film noir actress from an upper-class family in Philadelphia. Pinsky is what you get as the next step. He inherited his father’s proclivity for medicine and his mother’s talent for music.

“I sing opera,” Pinsky says. “I’m a baritone. I sing all the Verdi

ton Hospital and opened a private internal medicine practice in South Pasadena.

But it was his tenure at Las Encinas that laid the foundation to Pinsky’s future.

“When I first arrived at Las Encinas as a moonlighting resident, I was just fascinated,” he says. “Because I was a biologist and dealing with the whole issue of [drug] withdrawal, I spent a lot of

LONGTIME LOVE

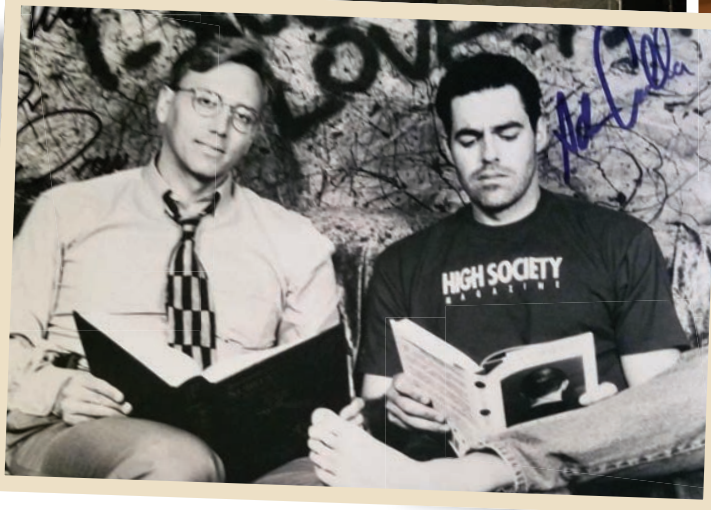
For 20 years, Drew Pinsky and his wife, Susan, have volunteered at HillSides, a Pasadena nonprofit providing children with behavioral health services. "It's an amazing organization," says Susan.





FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Clockwise from top left: Pinsky with Marc Maron and Mark Consuelos. The Pinskys party at a Hillside gala. Pinsky preps for *Loveline* with co-host Adam Carolla.



time there. We saw a lot of Hollywood celebrities. And nobody knew. We were the most discreet place ever. It still is to this day.”

Were it not for KROQ-FM, a little terrestrial radio station on Los Robles Avenue in Pasadena, Pinsky might have remained as under-the-radar as that rehabilitation center.

“I was a third-year medical student, and I got this call from a friend,” Pinsky recalls of that fateful moment in 1984. “He knew that I lived on Euclid, which is just a block and a half away from the station. And he goes, ‘Some guys are starting this show late at night called *Loveline* and they want you to come on and do a segment called ‘Ask a Surgeon.’ It’ll be fun. Use big words.’”

Pinsky showed up toting gynecology and infectious disease textbooks from class, sat behind a microphone, and answered a flurry of phone calls from young people across America.

“I was blown away that young people were bringing their most significant health issues to FM radio,” he says. “And just to contextualize this history, this was before most people had heard of AIDS. At that point, it wasn’t even called AIDS — it was referred to as GRID, or Gay-Related Immune Deficiency.”


Loveline became a wild success, syndicated nationally and

broadcast live from SoCal four nights a week until its final episode in 2016. Pinsky also co-hosted, along with Adam Carolla, *Loveline*’s attendant weekly talk show that ran for five seasons on MTV. Then came *Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew*, which charted the treatment of celebrities diagnosed with alcoholism and drug addiction at the Pasadena Recovery Center. A slew of spin-offs followed, including *Sober House* and *Sex Rehab with Dr. Drew*, and Pinsky was the go-to host for MTV’s *Teen Mom* reunions, during which he moderated testy exchanges that would have made Jerry Springer proud.

A slate of best-selling books and podcasts followed — Pinsky records almost everything in his home studio, with Susan as his go-to producer. From there, he dials in as a recurring featured expert on every major news network and is a frequent guest on the *Howard Stern Show*. In an iconic 2009 segment, Pinsky confronted stand-up comedian Artie Lange on his drug use.

“I consider myself a Stern superfan,” says Pinsky. “Howard is a never-to-be repeated phenomenon. But terrestrial radio? That’s sort of done. It just doesn’t have the cultural impact it used to. Those early days at KROQ were like lightning in a bottle.”

Pinsky currently serves as chief patient officer of the chief medical board of Wellness Company, an online resource for tele-health and products such as a travel emergency kit stocked with prescription antibiotics.

Asked if he’s thinking about retirement, Pinsky doesn’t flinch. “That word just doesn’t exist,” he demurs with a shake of the head. “I honestly wouldn’t know how.” drdrew.com 

“I was blown away that young people were bringing their most significant health issues to FM Radio.”

—DREW PINSKY

WE PASADENA

PASADENA MAGAZINE PICKS THE BEST PLACES TO **EAT, DRINK, UNWIND, ENTERTAIN, EXPLORE AND SHOP**. CHECK OUT THESE TOP SPOTS IN THE ROSE CITY FOR FOOD, FUN AND RELAXATION

BY CAROLE DIXON, SEAN FITZ-GERALD AND SARA SMOLA

EAT

DOS BESOS

◆◆ This cozy Spanish spot feels like a little slice of Europe in Old Town thanks to Barcelona-born chef Alejandro Llobet. Tuck into tapas made with jamón ibérico, Manchego cheese, albondigas meatballs, and pan con tomate, and enjoy a glass of wine. Hearty

entrees include Mediterranean sea bass baked in rock salt and seafood paella for two.

» [Dosbesospasadena.com](https://dosbesospasadena.com)

LUCKY BOY BURGERS

◆◆ A fast-casual, walk-up counter and drive-through eatery with two locations in Pasadena. Lucky Boy Burgers has built a cult following for its massive breakfast burrito loaded with bacon, eggs, and potatoes, served all day. The juicy ¼ pound char-broiled burgers, chili dogs

and pastrami sandwiches are also delicious.

» luckyboyburgers.com

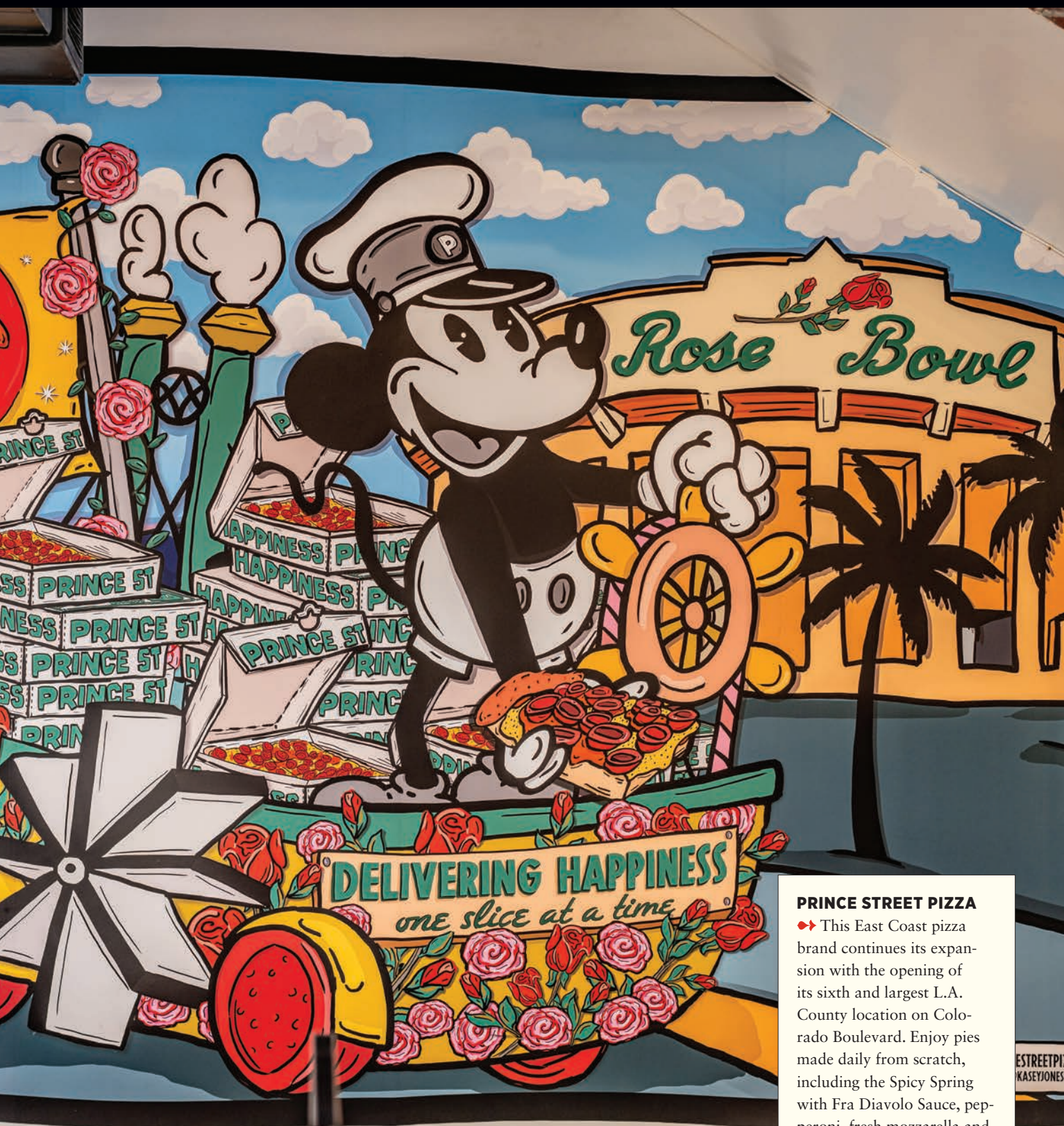
LA GRANDE ORANGE

◆◆ The eatery features an array of dishes from lemon ricotta pancakes and green chili burgers to pizza and swordfish tacos. Plus, the 1934 Del Mar train station setting feels as if you're stepping back in time as you mingle between the LGO Cafe, Luggage Room Pizzeria, and the Otis Bar.

» lgostationcafe.com



COURTESY PRINCE STREET PIZZA/IRA EDELMAN



PRINCE STREET PIZZA

◆◆ This East Coast pizza brand continues its expansion with the opening of its sixth and largest L.A. County location on Colorado Boulevard. Enjoy pies made daily from scratch, including the Spicy Spring with Fra Diavolo Sauce, pepperoni, fresh mozzarella and pecorino romano. Go early to avoid the evening lines.

» princestreetpizza.com

ESTREETPI
KASEYJONES

PIE 'N BURGER

◆ An old-school burger joint, with a side of nostalgia including wooden swivel counter chairs. Established in 1963, this beloved retro spot is a perfect place to sit with a cup of coffee, a fresh fruit or meringue pie and linger with the newspaper.

» pienburger.com



PIE 'N BURGER

COLETTE

◆ An unassuming spot nestled in a mini mall, Colette is where friends and families gather for some of the city's most innovative

Cantonese-influenced cooking. Sit on the patio with a spread of dim sum, stuffed chicken wings with sticky fried rice, and crispy honey shrimp.

» Colettepasadena.com

BAR CHELOU

◆ A French-inspired bistro and bar in the Pasadena Playhouse courtyard. With chef Douglas Rankin at the helm, Bar Chelou has established itself as a key spot for upscale bites from cauliflower with Sichuan au poivre to Iberico pork chops and rainbow trout with corn rice. Perfect for a pre-theater meal or post-play cocktail.

» barchelou.com

PEZ COASTAL CANTINA

◆ Chef Bret Thompson and Lucy Thompson-Ramirez



BAR CHELOU: CHEF DOUGLAS RANKIN

of Pez Cantina in downtown L.A. have opened Pez Coastal Cantina in the old Slater 50/50 space on N. Raymond Avenue. Showcasing expert skills in curing, smoking, and dry-aging meats and seafood, highlights include a black kale

Pez Caesar salad with nori crisp, steelhead trout rilette, Kingfish crudo and whole fried fish.

» Pezpasadena.com

OSAWA

◆ Sushi and shabu shabu reign supreme at this



PEZ COASTAL CANTINA

family-owned business run by Sayuri Tachibe and chef Shigefumi Tachibe, the former CHAYA executive chef. The restaurant was also a favorite of the late great food critic Jonathan Gold. For a picnic, try a Bento box loaded with sashimi, sushi, ribeye steak, and miso-marinated salmon.

>> theosawa.com

TORTA'S MEXICO

◆◆ This tiny spot on Fair Oaks Avenue features delicious recipes from the owner's hometown of San Juan Yucuita — a small pueblo in Oaxaca's No-chiztla'n District. It also serves the best vegetarian tacos in Los Angeles. Torta's is also a top locale for breakfast and, of course, the tortas (grilled Mexican sandwich)

on crusty bread with various fillings, including chorizo.

>> tortasmexicopasadena.com

HOWLIN' RAY'S

◆◆ Lines of customers snake around the corner of this eatery, which serves Nashville-style spicy chicken with a perfect crunchy crust. If you're not a fan of spicy food, try the "country" option or order the chicken and waffles. The stark, bold fluorescent décor by Preen exudes a high energy vibe.

>> Howlinrays.com

SUGARFISH

◆◆ Thanks to master sushi chef Kazunori Nozawa and his son, Tom, fans of Sugarfish are well-acquainted with the art of "trust me" sushi ordering. Omakase meals with sake have become a way of life. Celebrating 15 years, Sugarfish remains one of the top choices for excellent quality Japanese nigiri, sashimi, hand rolls and uni.

>> Sugarfishsushi.com

PERRY'S JOINT

◆◆ Continually voted the "best sandwiches in Pasadena," this sandwich spot offers everything from turkey and tuna salad sandwiches to "fusions" with hot roast beef, pastrami, and a toasted hot link. Perry's also serves an array of hot dogs and loaded nachos to munch on while listening to jazz and looking at pictures of Duke Ellington.

>> Perrysjoint.com

UOVO

◆◆ This authentic Italian pasta bar concept in the courtyard of the Pasadena



HOWLIN' RAY'S



SUGARFISH

Commons hand makes its own fresh pasta daily—in Italy and flies it in overnight. The three tasting menus feature dishes including tonnarelli in a signature pomodoro sauce with imported tomatoes from Basilicata and sprinkled with 24-month-aged parmigiano reggiano.

>> Uovo.la

SAUCY CHICK GOAT MAFIA

◆◆ Where Mexican meets Indian fare on Rosemead



SAUCY CHICK GOAT MAFIA

Boulevard. This restaurant merged its cuisines following a successful pop-up run at Smorgasburg on Sundays at The ROW DTLA. Expect Indian Mexican rotisserie chicken dishes with traditional Mexican goat birria tacos.

>> saucychickgoatmafia.com

THE TERRACE AT THE LANGHAM HUNTINGTON

◆◆ Driving past the stately grounds and porte-cochere at this grand hotel feels special. Equally divine is the outdoor terrace restaurant, open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner featuring a bounty of vegan and vegetarian options such as crispy lollipop kale, vegan meatloaf with garlic jasmine rice and root vegetables, plus truffle fries. Save room for dessert.

>> Langhamhotels.com



ROSE GARDEN TEA ROOM

◆◆ This famed tea room at the Huntington museum features a high-end selection of teas, house-made scones and savory options such as smoked salmon, dill cream cheese and caviar sandwiches. Cocktails and champagne are also available by the glass.

» huntington.org/tea-room



GINGER AND SPICE NOODLE & GRILL

◆◆ Whether picking up a Vietnamese coffee or Boba tea, this neighborhood favorite also serves a delicious all-day breakfast burrito. Other customers flock here for the Pho noodle soup (including veggie options), teriyaki rice bowls, spring rolls, and chicken wings — all great for catering your next party.

» gingerandspicenoodle.com

CELESTINO

◆◆ This Italian family restaurant, owned by the Drago brothers, has been a fixture on Lake Avenue for over a quarter of a century. Executive chef Calogero Drago

remains at the helm. Expect mushroom truffle balls with fontina cheese fondue and chopped salad with grilled shrimp. Other favorites include baked pasta dishes and osso buco with risotto.

» Celestinopasadena.com

THE RAYMOND 1886

◆◆ Gather at a table for brunch or dinner by an indoor or outdoor fire at

this historic Craftsman-style eatery. The restaurant serves some of the best cocktails in the city, as well as seasonal salads, roasted artichoke with forbidden rice, and seven-hour braised short ribs.

» Theraymond.com

UNION

◆◆ Marie Petulla is the co-owner and visionary of this award-winning Northern Italian restaurant, which sources many of its greens and veggies from local farmers. Since opening in 2014, UNION has collaborated with Pasadena Community Gardens and John Muir High School, both of which grow produce for the

restaurant's ever-evolving seasonal menu items.

» unionpasadena.com

MAESTRO'S

◆◆ Those in the know flock to Old Town for this upscale Mexican restaurant's staple dish of braised bone-in lamb shank and the zesty citrus summer salad with guava vinaigrette, queso fresco, roasted beets and quinoa. Take a seat at the small indoor bar or the outdoor patio for a margarita, chips and salsa.

» Maestropasadena.com

ARROYO CHOP HOUSE

For over 40 years, this Pasadena institution has been a must for any celebratory event or special date night. Owned by Gregg and Bob Smith, the prime steaks and chops are the primary draw, but don't miss the table side dessert presentation of signature chocolate or Grand Marnier souffles.

» Arroyochophouse.com

PERLE

◆◆ Classic French dishes get a modern California seasonal spin by owner and executive chef Dean Yasharian, who

worked in Michelin kitchens in New York and London before winning Food Network's *Chopped*. The menu features meat, seafood, vegetarian and plant-based dishes.

» Perlrestaurant.com

THE ARBOUR

◆◆ Farm-to-table fine-dining takes center stage at the Arbour, owned by chef Ian Gresik, who's worked with local legends Joachim Splichal and Celestino Drago. Gresik cooks upscale, comforting California fare including beet salads, and roasted tomato soup and shrimp penne. One highlight is the Instagrammable spicy beef chili candle made from animal fat that you dip into with toast.

» thearbourpasadena.com

LUNASIA

◆◆ Originally an Alhambra locale, the Pasadena outpost of this dim sum house on Colorado Boulevard features Shanghai pork soup dumplings and steamed BBQ pork bao. If you are dining with a group of friends, try the extremely rich Macao-style roasted pork belly.

» lunasiadimsum.com





BASIN 141

DRINK

BASIN 141

◆ A modern American gastropub in Montrose with an all-ages location in Monrovia, the elevated bar food ranges from cast iron chicken tortilla soup to truffle mac-n-cheese. The drinks are craft cocktail focused, with local and global breweries represented. Bottomless brunch is available on Saturdays and Sundays.

» Basin141.com

T. BOYLES TAVERN

◆ Down an alleyway and behind the rustic brick façade, this popular sports bar on Catalina Avenue features a full selection of cocktails and beers on tap at reasonable prices. If you get peckish during a game, order the pickled eggs, pulled



pork, or fish and chips and, of course, another round of drinks.

» facebook.com/TBoylesPubPasadena/

AVIGNONE'S

◆ This dimly lit, seductive bar-lounge screams date night, but no-one will judge you for pulling up a stool solo and sipping a citrusy Cosmo from the original craft cocktail menu. For a classic cocktail, try the stiff vesper with vodka and gin. Avignone's also makes seasonal, rotating farmer's market concoctions, or just grab a wine or beer.

» avignones.com

THE MIXX

◆ For stiff martinis, sweet sangria, and contemporary American fare from flatbread to salmon or rib-eye, this is one of the few places where you can also see a variety of live acts from pop and rockabilly to Latin jazz. The Mixx also hosts a Taco Tuesday. Who doesn't love a \$5 happy hour?

» Themixxclub.com

MAGNOLIA HOUSE

◆ Owned by the Bicos Brothers from San Marino (John and Chris, who also own Gus's regional BBQ), this popular modern bar in a 100-year-old Craftsman bungalow is a cool place to grab a craft beer, glass of wine or cocktail, and share small plates of food.

» Themagnoliahouse.com

MONOPOLE BY WINERX

◆ Imbibers gather around wooden communal tables amid racks of old-world

wine bottles while partaking in blind tastings, learning about boutique producers from various regions and nibbling on cheese. Located in Pasadena's theater district, patrons spill out onto the sidewalk after a tasting.

» facebook.com/monopolewine



KINGS ROW GASTROPUB

◆ With a cozy brick interior and a British pub vibe, this is one of the best stops for a burger and a brew. Check the chalkboard behind the bar for what's on tap. There's also ample patio space for seating on a sunny afternoon. kingsrowpub.com

DESSERTS

21 CHOICES

◆ You can count on daily fresh choices—all 21 of them—but the frozen yogurt will also satisfy your sugar cravings. Toppings include Hostess cupcakes, chocolate chips, crushed-up Oreo cookies and cold brew coffee.

» 21choices.com

LARK CAKE SHOP

◆ From wedding cakes to cupcakes, Lark makes one of the best carrot cakes with fresh carrots, nutmeg and cream cheese frosting. Lark does not use nuts or raisins. If you want to test a flavor out before committing to an entire cake, try the cupcake version.

Larkcakeshop.com

YVONNE'S KITCHEN

◆ This cozy new dessert café in Old Town features vegan cupcakes, cookies, donuts and best-selling buttercream layer cakes, also sold by the slice. Creative recipes include the Ube loaf, rice crispy treat pops, and chocolate chai tea cookies made with garbanzo flour and sweetened with coconut sugar.

» yvonesvegankitchen.com

LITTLE FLOWER

◆ Tucked away at the quiet end of Colorado Boulevard, Little Flower is one of the best places for a strawberry-rhubarb muffin made with sour cream batter, fruit compote and a crisp topping. Or try

the strawberry almond tart. Known for its crafted caramels, the kitchen also makes seasonal vegan pumpkin and buckwheat banana muffins and serves an array of gluten-free cookies and bars.

» Littleflowercandyco.com

AGNES RESTAURANT & CHEESERY

◆ Perfect for a French-style dessert, this cheese store-slash-restaurant-slash-bar, offers a wide selection of dairy products inside its historic 1922 building. Sit on the patio and order dessert wine and a cheese board with crackers, jam, honey,



AGNES RESTAURANT & CHEESERY

and nuts. Expect familiar fromage choices plus a few surprises, including Spanish Manchego, Croatian sheep's milk, comté and gruyère.

» Agnesla.com

AMARA CAFE

◆ For long, skinny, crunchy churros that you can dip

into melted hot chocolate, check out this fast-casual café on S. Raymond Avenue, which celebrates the old-world ritual of drinking thick cups of steaming chocolate. Marshmallows and whipped cream are also a must-order treat.

» amaracafe.com

MOTHER MOO CREAMERY

◆ This Sierra Madre shop serves a to-die-for matcha green tea ice cream sandwich smashed between two freshly baked cinnamon Snickerdoodle cookies. Other delectable treats include Sparky's root beer float and the waffle cone with brownie swirl. Mother Moo also caters to non-dairy customers, serving cotton candy or chocolate-dipped bananas covered in sprinkles.

» Mothermoo.com



MOTHER MOO CREAMERY

lemon to tiramisu.

» Dotscupcakes.com

SUSIE CAKES

◆ With an aesthetic that feels like you are in a throw-back kitchen from the 1950s, the vanilla "celebration cake" with pale blue icing is a fan favorite. Susan Sarich is the founder of this addictive SoCal bakery staple, which opened its 24th location on Lake Avenue.

» susiecakes.com

FLOAT

◆ More than just a fancy coffee shop with sweets, Float is a great spot to grab a pastrami banh mi or a pesto chicken sandwich while waiting for the main event—a soda pop float with ice cream or an affogato with gelato drowned in espresso.

» floatcoffeeshop.com

AFTERS ICE CREAM

◆ Unique flavors abound at this Green Street ice cream spot, from Milk and Cereal to the bright blue Cookie Monster and the lavender-hued Jasmine Milk Tea. Take home a pint or two of your favorite flavors.

» aftersicecream.com



NOTHING BUNDT CAKES

♦♦ The bundt cake is alive and well at this mainstay for birthday bashes. Fans flock here for the best-selling lemon-blueberry, red velvet and rich chocolate chip versions. For those who can't decide, order a round of the bundtinis — mini cupcake-sized versions.

» Nothingbundtcakes.com



PLAY



ICE HOUSE COMEDY CLUB

◆◆ This 60-plus-year-old comedy club has hosted plenty of laugh-out-loud acts, including legendary comics Robin Williams, David Letterman, Jim Carrey, Jay Leno, Howie Mandel, Jerry Seinfeld, Billy Crystal and Steve Martin.
 >> icehousecomedy.com

ROSE BOWL STADIUM

◆◆ Nicknamed “America’s Stadium,” this National Historic Landmark is the site of the Rose Bowl Game and has been the home of UCLA football since 1982. Throughout the year, the stadium hosts public tours, food festivals, concerts, and a monthly flea market.
 >> rosebowlstadium.com

PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

◆◆ The official State Theatre of California has welcomed thousands of original productions since its founding in 1917, including works by Tennessee Williams, Eugene O’Neill and Suzan-Lori Parks. In 2023, the Playhouse received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater.
 >> pasadenaplayhouse.org

BOSTON COURT

◆◆ Founded in 2003, this innovative, boundary-

pushing theater produces more than 100 exciting performances each season, including an Emerging Artists Series and a New Play Reading Festival.
 >> bostoncourtpasadena.org

LINEAGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

◆◆ This nonprofit hosts a variety of dance and theatrical productions, as well as performing arts-based classes for

kids and adults. To promote accessibility, the center’s For Joy program offers a series of free acting, dance, and voice classes for people with neurological challenges such as Parkinson’s, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, Alzheimer’s and dementia.
 >> lineagepac.org

LANDMARK PASADENA PLAYHOUSE

◆◆ Thanks to a remodel



MONTROSE BOWL

in late 2022, this seven-screen movie theater is a prime date night spot or weekend hangout, with plush reclining seats, a well-stocked concession stand, and a lobby lounge with a full-service bar and signature cocktail menu.

» landmarktheatres.com

PASADENA CIVIC AUDITORIUM

♦♦ The center of Pasadena's cultural life since its opening in 1932, this performance hall has hosted several community events including the Rose Queen ceremonies, graduations, and television programs including *American Idol*, *So You Think You Can Dance* and *America's Got Talent*.

» thepasadenacivic.com

AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM

♦♦ Called the "Carnegie Hall of the West" because of its top-tier acoustics, this auditorium is the resident home of the Pasadena Symphony and has hosted performances by the Colburn School, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Youth Orchestra.

» afpasadena.org

MONTROSE BOWL

♦♦ The retro bowling alley, founded in 1936, is one of the oldest in the area and still offers a striking good time with eight lanes, several event and entertainment spaces, and an on-site vegan restaurant, Never Caged.

» montrosebowl.com

KIDS



CREATIVE LOUNGE ART STUDIO

♦♦ Kids and teens can freely express themselves through the Montrose studio's classes, workshops, and camps. Owner Armineh Havan, a certified person-centered expressive arts therapy facilitator, encourages creativity as well as personal growth and healing through art.

» creativelounge.biz



ROSE BOWL AQUATIC CENTER

♦♦ The world-class facility's two Olympic-sized pools, diving well, and therapy pool, provide year-round aquatic and fitness programming for youth, including swimming and diving lessons, open swim sessions, and a recreational swim team for those with special needs.

» rosebowlaquatics.org

FLY HIGH ADVENTURE PARK

♦♦ Altadena's indoor trampoline playground offers 7,000-square-feet of fun, including a zip line, ninja warrior obstacles, slides, ball pits, an arcade, and a party area.

» altadena.flyhightrampolinepark.com

PASADENA ICE SKATING CENTER

♦♦ Easily the coolest place in town, the rink's public skate sessions (open to all ages and skill levels) are the perfect activity to beat the summer heat. Aspiring Olympians can sign up for figure skating

and hockey lessons.

» skatepasadena.com

MOONLIGHT ROLLERWAY

♦♦ This old-school Glendale roller rink has been in operation since 1950 and still has its original maple wood floor. Great for birthday parties, lessons for all



ages, and nightly skating events, including Thursday Throwback, K-pop Night, and Disco Night.

» moonlightrollerway.com

NEON RETRO ARCADE

♦♦ Whether you're in the thick of childhood or reliving it, Neon Retro Arcade's 40-plus arcade games and pinball machines offer a dose of nostalgia. The rotating lineup of '80s and '90s games includes beloved classics like Pac-Man and Mario Kart as well as lesser-known novelties like Root Beer Tapper.

» neonretroarcade.com



HOTEL DENA

◆ Designed to be the ultimate artists' retreat, this 311-room hotel caters to the creative set with a communal screening room complete with a vintage projector that plays classic silent films. Guests can borrow "broadcasts kits" which include Lume Cube cordless ring lights to create content on-the-go.

» hoteldena.com

STAY

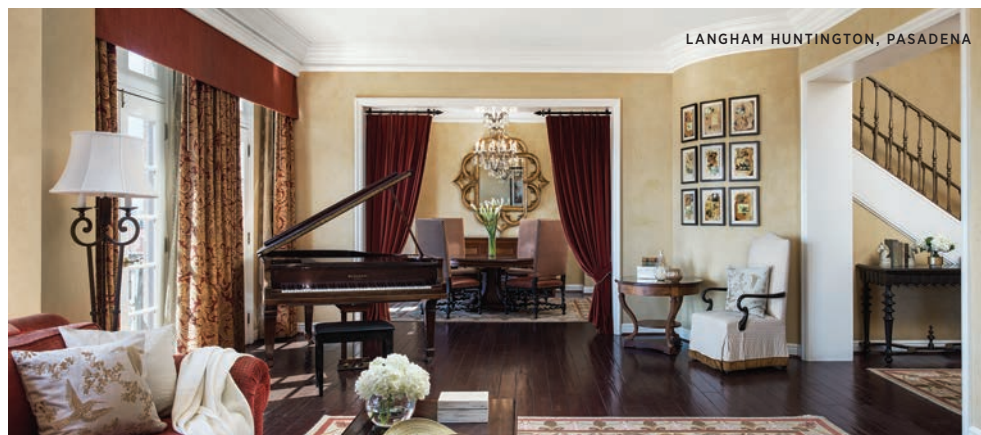
THE HOTEL AT THE ATHENAEUM PRIVATE SOCIAL CLUB

◆◆ The Athenaeum at Caltech has 24 guest rooms and four suites for members and their sponsored guests. Spend your stay living out your *Big Bang Theory* fantasy in the Einstein Suite, named for Albert Einstein, who was a visiting scientist at the institution.

» athenaeumcaltech.com

PASADENA HOTEL & POOL

◆◆ California cool meets old-world charm at this 161-room historic hotel, known for its prime Rose Parade viewing location, as its route goes past the hotel's Colorado Boulevard entrance. Enjoy a cocktail at the hotel's Comet Club or splash



LANGHAM HUNTINGTON, PASADENA

around in the rooftop pool.
» pasadenahotel.com

HYATT PLACE PASADENA

◆◆ Hyatt has work/life balance down with spacious guest rooms that include separate “cozy corner” seating areas. There’s 24/7 on-site dining for those with the midnight munchies, and the complimentary breakfast goes beyond stale pastries and cereal with breakfast tacos, cage-free scrambled eggs, breakfast potatoes, and DIY parfaits.

» hyatt.com

LANGHAM HUNTINGTON, PASADENA

◆◆ Spanning 23 acres, this luxe staycation destination offers a bevy of on-site activities, including a fully equipped fitness studio with TechnoGym equipment, the award-winning Chuan spa, yoga and Pilates classes, and complimentary bicycles to explore the neighborhood.

» langhamhotels.com/pasadena

THE WESTIN PASADENA

◆◆ Guests can work up a morning sweat in the

WestinWORKOUT fitness studio, spend the day lounging around the heated outdoor rooftop pool with stellar city views, and then sink into the hotel’s signature “Heavenly” bed (a plush dog bed version is available for pets) for a sound night’s sleep.

» marriott.com/laxpw

COURTYARD LOS ANGELES PASADENA OLD TOWN

◆◆ Courtyard gears its spacious suites toward business travelers by providing free and fast Wi-Fi, HDTVs, and work desks. The suites also cater to families with easy access to entertainment and kid-friendly fun just blocks away.

» marriott.com/laxot

RESIDENCE INN PASADENA

◆◆ A home-like feeling in the heart of the city. Each suite comes equipped with a full kitchen, making it a go-to choice for longer stays or those with families. Start the day with the hotel’s free hot breakfast buffet and end it relaxing by the pool.

» residenceinnpasadena.com



PASADENA HOTEL & POOL



PAMPER

MISSIONWELL COLLECTIVE

◆► Celebrity hairstylist Jamal Hammadi believes in “beauty with a conscience.” The Eagle Rock native has turned cuts into tailor-made art for Selena Gomez, J.Lo, Drew Barrymore, Scarlett Johansson, and Heather Graham. He can do the same for you (\$150 for men, \$300 for women), at his posh Mission Village salon.

» missionwellcollective.com

SUGARED + BRONZED

◆► What started in 2010 as a Santa Monica apartment

operation is now an aptly named multi-state enterprise that uses sugaring for body hair removal and DHA



bronzer for airbrush tanning (\$69 each). At S+B’s beachy South Lake oasis, you can book both services in one appointment—a convenient one-stop shop.

» sugaredandbronzed.com

THE SALT STUDIO

◆► Husband and wife Reza and Lizzie Samadi run this inviting East Walnut Street spa, where the exfoliating Himalayan salt scrubs and nourishing Dead Sea mud wraps (\$75 each) are must-tries. For maximum rejuvenation, combine either service with an hour-long massage (\$180 total).

» saltstudiopasadena.com

CHEEKS + CO

◆► This Old Pasadena spa specializes in non-invasive facial techniques, including dermaplaning, gua sha, and microderm. The goal, per founder Christina Uzzardi, is to offer a safe space to unwind and leave with “happy, healthy skin.” For an orientation, try the thorough, 60-minute “Undecided” facial (\$136–\$169).

» cheeks.co



STRIDE FITNESS

◆► This treadmill gym boasts empowering cardio. Its COMBO (first class free) is a total body hour that will have you sweating out intervals on a Woodway treadmill before stepping off to mix in leg, shoulder, and core reps. Think of it as a more accessible Barry’s-meets-Soul Cycle, with an ultra-supportive community.

» stridefitness.com

GLOSS NAIL SPA

◆► If you want to make a statement at your next outing, try this uplifting S.



CHUAN SPA

◆◆ Trips to this luxe outpost—tucked inside the Langham’s Carriage House—soothe mind, body, and soul with personalized treatments inspired by traditional Chinese medicine and the “five elements theory.” Ever-popular is the Chuan Harmony massage (\$230), which incorporates tension-releasing acupressure and aromatic ritual oils to restore balance.

» langhamhotels.com

Raymond Avenue spot’s bespoke, hand-drawn nail designs. Check out their designs on their Instagram and then see for yourself when you make your appointment, which begins with a



GLOSS NAIL SPA

complimentary mimosa.
» [@glossnailspa](https://www.instagram.com/glossnailspa)

WELL STUDIO

◆◆ After struggling with stubborn autoimmune symptoms, Colette Connor found success with lymphatic drainage. Now, at her serene Green Street studio, she offers similarly inspired treatments, all of which—like the energizing 70-minute Transcendent Revival (\$235)—use the Icoone machine, an Italian import that sculpts and detoxifies the body.

» wellstudiola.com



BURKE WILLIAMS

BURKE WILLIAMS

◆◆ This elegant Old Pasadena spa has been a staple since 1998 thanks, in large part, to its über-customizable stable of assets. One of its newer remedies is

the dreamlike Tranquility service (\$300–\$380), an immersive Swedish massage that, together with Nepalese sound bowl therapy, melts away stress.

» burkewilliams.com



LOST BOOKS

◆ Journey to The Last Bookstore's sister shop in Montrose and lose yourself in a spellbinding labyrinth of books, vinyl, and tropical plants. The handmade shelves, under a ceiling of moss, showcase new titles, old classics, and used books, which make the verdant adventure feel like a treasure hunt.

» @lostbooksla

SHOP

VROMAN'S

◆◆ Stop by the Playhouse Village's flagship bookstore to sip a "Paradise Sauced" at The 1894—a literary bar named after this indie bookselling legend's founding date—before trolling the shelves for the staff's reading recommendations. With a second floor packed with children's books and toys, and a wide selection of classic fiction and non-fiction, Vroman's is a story lover's dream.

» vromansbookstore.com

GORJANA

◆◆ This airy One Colorado jewelry store drops dainty gold pieces at two primary price points: solid 14-karat items in the \$165–\$200 range, and 18-karat plated pieces for \$65–\$70. Both

glimmer brilliantly in the SoCal sun and beg to be layered.

» gorjana.com

GOLD BUG

◆◆ Walking into Gold Bug is like *Alice in Wonderland*-ing onto the shelf of a giant curio cabinet. Natural history specimens, sparkling fine jewelry, and sui generis prints by inventive indie artists elevate the odd and reward the bold, meaning this is where you go for that wildly cool thing you won't find anywhere else.

» goldbugpasadena.com

TUCK PASADENA

◆◆ Mary C. Hodgen used to combat the cookie-cutter redundancy of department stores by selling haute hand-picked women's clothing from her garage. Today, the erudite industry veteran ("Tuck" is her maiden name), does so from this more formal operation on Green Street, with unique pieces from small, very fine



European and American lines.
» tuckpasadena.com

NIX MARIE

◆◆ This Montrose boutique stocks mainly American-made finds that co-owner Amanda Nix calls "stylish, but as easy to throw on as your favorite old T-shirt." With kindred jewelry, candles, lotions and bags also on hand, you'll delight in treating yourself—or a friend.

» nixmarie.com

SERAFINA

◆◆ At Corina Limon Madilian's lifestyle haven in San

Marino's Mission Village, you'll find racks of "California chic" clothes, plus jewelry, accessories, and even presents for newborns. Her staff relishes building enduring relationships with clients and are keen to flag incoming pieces they think will elevate your wardrobe.

» shopserafina.com

HÖMAGE

◆◆ Jill Pearson's hip HöMAGE, part of the Shops on Fair Oaks Avenue, hawks eye-catching goodies crafted by prized small businesses.



With colorful mushroom lamps, cute ceramic cats, a gleefully punny photobook of snails, and Pearson's own handmade pearl lariats, you can find gifts for anyone.

» homagepasadena.com

JENETTE BRAS

◆◆ These bras support D-cups and above for those "who were previously invisible to the mainstream stores," says founder and *Aliens* actress Jenette Goldstein. She also refers to them as "the overdeveloped and underserved." Head to her mid-century modern Old Pasadena spot for a fitting and a light-as-air lace blessing from France, best described as "magic."

» jenettebras.com





THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

EXPLORE

DESCANSO GARDENS

◆ A trip to La Cañada's lush attraction (\$15) feels like dropping into a fairytale amid ponds with goslings and turtles, and gardens of unforgettable tulips, camellias, and roses. Mini train rides and seasonal

events—including the can't-miss, holiday-pegged Enchanted Forest of Light, add to the magic.

» descansogardens.org

CHANTRY FLATS

◆ This easily accessible recreation area in Big

Santa Anita Canyon has winning views of the San Gabriel mountains, making it a prime spot for picnics. Visitors can also take nearby trails to Sturtevant Falls.

» fs.usda.gov

ROSE BOWL RIDERS

◆ On six oak-sheltered acres within Hahamongna Watershed Park, this almost 80-year-old social club can accommodate affordable horse-riding dreams. Members (\$310 per year) can

enroll in jumping classes, challenge themselves in adjudicated shows, and ride trails in the Arroyo Seco and Angeles Forest.

» rosebowlriders.org

CHERRY CANYON

◆ La Cañada's "urban rustic" canyon has several trails that are beloved by runners, cyclists, birders, horseback riders, and hikers. Neophytes can enjoy the 3/10-mile-long Sister Cities Friendship Path right beside Descanso Gardens, and maximalists can take the 12-mile City Loop. There are also plenty of other trails of different levels of difficulty.

» lcftrails.org

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

◆ This San Marino institution has 16 pristinely manicured gardens, from the otherworldly Desert Garden to the arresting Chinese Garden. (\$25–\$29). Enjoy the recently renovated Rose Garden Tea Room, and check out the abundance of rarities at the art museum and library.

» huntington.org



ROSE BOWL RIDERS

COURTESY THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS; COURTESY ROSE BOWL RIDERS; EATON CANYON; EDIE TYEBKIAN FOR VISIT PASADENA



EATON CANYON

➡ The main trail of this rugged canyon leads to a 40-foot waterfall in the Angeles Forest—a picturesque, roughly three-mile round trip best enjoyed on a less-crowded weekday. For the curious explorer, Eaton's Nature Center has free exhibits on the surrounding flora and fauna, including terraria with live snakes and lizards.

» ecnca.org



HERITAGE SQUARE MUSEUM

◆◆ Hiding in Montecito Heights is this jaw-dropping feat of Victorian-era home preservation. On weekends, you can tour select building interiors (\$16) with a docent fluent in the history and customs of 19th-century Los Angeles. Special events, including ghost hunts and the immersive *Little Women Ballet* are also worth checking out.

» heritagesquare.org

LEARN

THE AUTRY

◆◆ This museum of the American West (\$18) has an extensive firearms collection, including Annie Oakley's gold-plated, mother-of-pearl-gripped pistols. The diversity and depth of the museum's total offerings are impressive, including subversive "western" film lectures, paens to Native art and activism, and a sleek new exhibition on the evolution of survey science. >> theautry.org

NORTON SIMON MUSEUM

◆◆ This storied museum (\$20 entry fee) has plenty of artistic star power, including works by Raphael, Rembrandt, Monet, Matisse, Degas, van Gogh, Rodin, Goya and Picasso. Marvel at the masters—and Norton Simon's impressive scale—*gratis*, from 4 to 7 p.m. on the

first Friday of every month. >> nortonsimon.org

USC PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM

◆◆ This museum (\$15, or free every second Sunday of the month) showcases exquisite art from Asia and the Pacific Islands, including must-see Edo-period samurai gear. The recently installed *Searching for Home*, by Pakistani wood sculptor Humaira Abid, showcases potent reflections on the global refugee crisis. >> pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu

PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

◆◆ This cherished hyper-local museum is located on the two-acre grounds of the Fényes Estate with an antique-filled, Beaux arts-style mansion you can tour (\$17). As part of its centennial, PMH just opened *Lights, Camera, Action!*, an illuminating look at Pasadena's role in the world of filmmaking. >> pasadenahistory.org



USC PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES HOUSE


◆◆ The memorabilia stored in this Italian Renaissance-style mansion, including Rose Parade float dioramas and Rose Bowl Game trophies, will make history lovers and college football fans swoon. Tours through this iconic building, once owned by gum magnate William Wrigley Jr., are free. >> tournamentofroses.com

THE GAMBLE HOUSE

◆◆ Architecture as fine art. That's the allure behind touring this custom-built Pasadena masterpiece. That, and it was Doc Brown's house in *Back to the Future*. The hourlong docent-led trip

(\$15) takes patrons through three levels, with a focus on the symbolism and functionality behind its thoughtful, Japanese-inspired craftsmanship. >> gamblehouse.org

ARMORY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

◆◆ Housed in a former California National Guard Armory, this Old Pasadena museum/school hybrid is known for its social justice lens and Studio program, in which students of all ages can learn everything from painting to stop-motion to printmaking. Visit Friday–Sunday to glimpse the free, thought-provoking exhibitions in their main gallery. >> armoryarts.org 



NORTON SIMON MUSEUM

MAKE TIME FOR PASADENA

Whether your idea of the perfect weekend getaway looks like brunching with friends al fresco, hiking the scenic San Gabriel Mountains, or scoring the next great thrifting find, Pasadena has you covered. There's so much to do, one weekend is just never enough. See for yourself!

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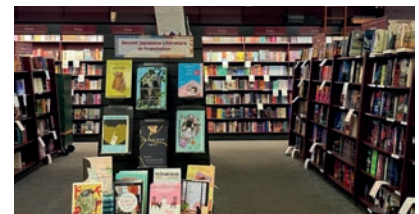
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ORIGINS STORY

A rainforest resort awaits in the wilds of **Costa Rica**

BY MALINA SAVAL

➔ PERCHED ON A mountainside in the lush, remote rainforest of Upala, Costa Rica, Origins Luxury Lodge, 25 miles northwest of Liberia, is an escapist five-star resort fantasy sprung to life. Immersed within the rugged, jungle-blanketed wilderness, a green-ery-swathed cocoon of tranquility, you might arrive stressed out, beaten down from the *Sturm und Drang* of the real world, but will depart with an invigorating sense of Zen.

At Origins, there is nothing to distract you save for mother nature — ocelots, sloths, and the turquoise waters of Rio Celeste are just a few examples of the area's majestic ecosystem. The internet is shaky at Origins, and that's more than OK. It's a blessing. You will fall asleep to the reverberating hum of cicadas and the midnight chorus of croaking tree frogs, and wake to the Gregorian-like screeches of Howler monkeys swinging in the trees. You will lounge on the daybed of your villa's outdoor terrace and read a paperback while soaking for hours in your private fire-heated bath. You will stare lazily out at the bright orange beak of a toucan as rain patters softly on a tangled expanse of tropical green leaves. You will nap. You will *breathe*.

Later, you will swim long, languid laps in the infinity pool on the edge of the property while sipping an ice-cold iced tea. You will rest your

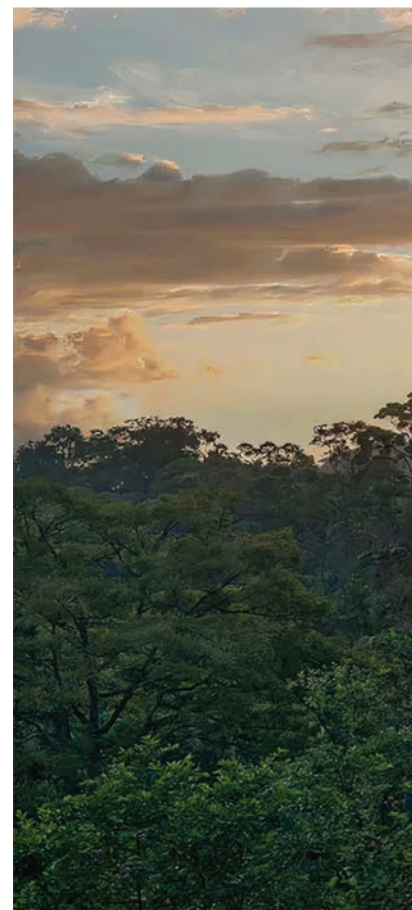
head on the pool's rounded cement edge and marvel at the sweeping views of Costa Rica's breathtaking volcanic terrain. You will snack on crisp tortilla chips and homemade guacamole

and get a cacao massage and full body wrap at Origins' full amenities spa.

You will eat well at Origins Lodge—and often. Michelin-starred chef Yann Berger will walk through the resort's garden, plucking melons, other fruit, and bunches of mint-green lettuce that he will use in the dishes he serves fresh daily. He will serve you four-course meals, including bowls of mushroom risotto with savory diced tomatoes and towers of cacao macarons. You will walk back to your dreamy villa needing an afternoon nap, and a butterfly will land on your arm.

When the urge to venture out takes hold, you will horseback ride, take a yoga class, and go rafting on the nearby Nicaragua River. You will scrape your knees during a hike to a serene waterfall

at the edge of the hotel property and drag your fingers across a moss-covered rock. You will traipse across the property's lush jungle at midnight, spotting ants beneath your sandaled feet, and shine a flashlight on the frogs jumping across patches of grass that encircle a network of ponds. You will gape at the glowing white moon. You will wonder why you live in Los Angeles. And vow to return to Origins. originslodge.com

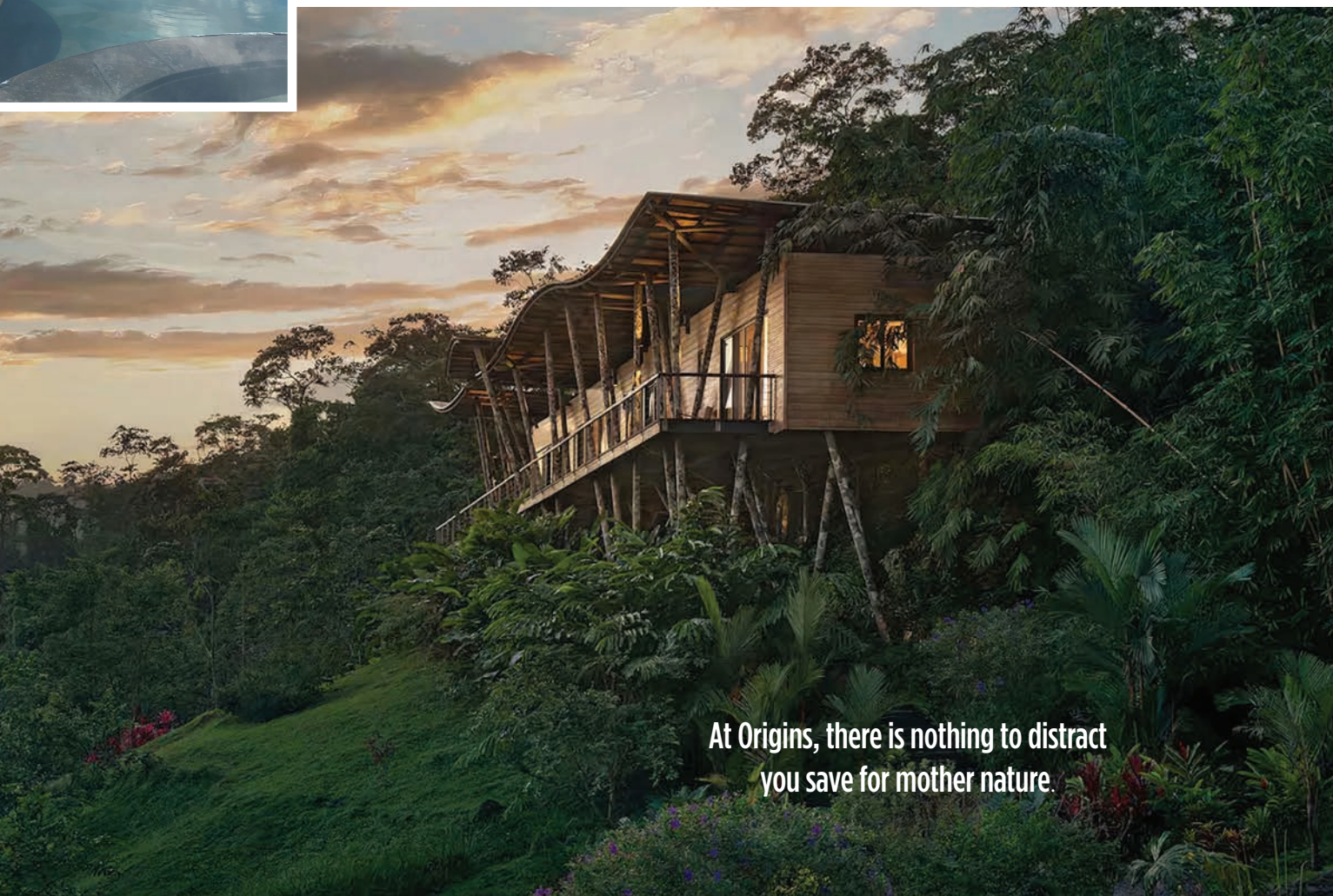


ALL IMAGES: MALINA SAVAL, EXCEPT FOR BOTTOM RIGHT: COURTESY ORIGINS LODGE



WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Nestled within a lush expanse of the Costa Rica mountains, Origins is a luxe hideaway featuring amenities such as an infinity pool with sweeping views, a Michelin-starred restaurant and spa.



At Origins, there is nothing to distract
you save for mother nature.



A REALLY GOOD BET

Durango Casino & Resort is the perfect Vegas escape for people who don't love Vegas

BY MALINA SAVAL

➔ I'M NOT the biggest fan of Vegas. It's dizzying and loud, the casinos are windowless and filled with smoke, and there's a collective air of desperation and delusion amongst the minions who gather at slot machines and



craps tables betting the farm on winning a windfall of cash.

But I love the desert. I love the heat emanating from the dusty Nevada landscape. I love pools and palm trees and the sun. It's for all these reasons that my two-night stay at the Durango Casino & Resort, located a short 12-minute drive from the Vegas Strip, felt like I had discovered the perfect perch for a Vegas naysayer craving a relaxing weekend away.

The only reason I was in Vegas was for the Bruce Springsteen concert in mid-March. I am a devout Springsteen fanatic and had

secured killer press seats for his Vegas show. I road-tripped from L.A. with my musician friend Hubert, a French-born California transplant for whom kitschy Americana still holds significant appeal. Vegas, with its blinding lights and food court culture, not to mention its obscenely large portions of barbecue ribs and spaghetti and salads in every restaurant, is still such a novelty that it makes Hubert laugh.

But at the Durango, newly opened in 2023, we encountered a sunlit expanse of clean, white space, luxury five-star accommodations in

A PLACE IN THE SUN

(Left) The pool at Durango beckons. (Below) Musician Hubert Moste gets ready to rock out.



the way of spacious suites, and a sparkling blue poolside oasis called Bel-Air Backyard, featuring plush pastel-colored striped towels, rows of palm trees, and private cabanas and chaise lounges arranged around the shallow perimeter of the pool so you can sunbathe while dipping your feet in the water. The atmosphere is peaceful, chill—dare I say, serene. Durango's casino even has windows, letting in bright natural light. Its Eat Your Heart Out food hall comprises a dozen or so eateries, including Prince Street Pizza and Yu-Or-Mi Sushi, where for dinner one night Hubert and I gorged ourselves on buttery soft seared tuna sashimi and yellowtail sushi rolls. Later, we drank espresso martinis at the hotel's Oasis Lounge, awash in cream and light brown decor. We slept soundly in our noise-proof room, the beds as comfortable as puffs of clouds.

By the time Sunday came around and it was time to depart, Hubert and I decided we'd absolutely return. We came for a place to sleep for a concert that happened to be in Vegas. We got a retreat—a tranquil desert escape. durangoresort.com **P**

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UP AT BAT

An **Altadena rescue organization** saves one of Mother Nature's most misunderstood winged creatures

BY VIVIEN MEJIA

NIGHT FLIGHT

14 species of bats currently live in the trees and sky above L.A. County, but their numbers are on the decline.





Many animal-loving Angelenos have dabbled in wildlife rescue, from feral kittens found in the garden to injured seagulls discovered on the beach. However, it takes a special soul to jump at the chance to rescue a bat — those flying foxes that haunt your nightmares with their erratic flight patterns at dusk that give spiders a run for the money in the phobia department. Los Angeles County, it turns out, has a plethora of bats — 14 species at last count.

In 2017, Altadena resident Chumi Paul realized these maligned creatures needed her help. She was volunteering at South Bay Wildlife Rehab when a bat biologist named Jill Carpenter contacted the rehab's director looking for an organization willing to take in bats. At that time, there were no wildlife rehab organizations in L.A. or Orange County rescuing bats. Animal control picked them up and immediately euthanized them.

"I thought, 'I can make a difference here'," Paul recalls. "Bats need help. Most bat populations are on the decline and they're keystone species." (ecosystems can collapse without their presence).

Paul jumped in blindly alongside Amy Spencer, her rehab partner in Manhattan Beach. Together, and on their own dime, they flew to Texas for a weekend training workshop on rehabilitation at the intriguingly named Bat World.

"Bat World is the oldest and largest bat rehabilitation center in the country," says Paul. "They teach people how to rehabilitate bats and they also educate the public about these misunderstood animals."

Back in Southern California, Paul and

Spencer set up the nonprofit Los Angeles Bat Rescue, which is permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Being around bats meant they both had to get rabies vaccines, and they periodically receive boosters.

Paul built a sturdy outdoor flight cage in her back yard, and injured and recovering bats from far-flung corners of SoCal soon populated it.

When it comes to rescuing bats, "We're in Bat World's directory," says Paul. "If people Google 'bat rescue,' they'll find me and Amy." The women will then put out a group text to their team of volunteer bat transporters, many of whom are wildlife biologists, to help collect the bats. Sometimes those who find them are willing to drive them in.

"We tell them to use gloves and put them in a cardboard box with an old t-shirt so they can hide," Paul explains. "And we tell them to seal the box because the worst thing that can happen is a bat getting loose in someone's car."

During storms, the Hoary bat and the red bat, which are L.A.'s tree bats, sometimes get blown out of trees while they're

sleeping, and they often continue hibernating on the ground, where people then find them. In the late summer when bat mothers are weaning, sometimes the pups aren't quite ready for life on their own. Paul lets them practice flying for a few weeks until they become strong enough to be released near where they were found.

Paul usually doesn't get to sleep until after midnight in the summer. "It's like a full-time job, because that's when we get most of our patients," she says. "They're having babies and are very active, so they're going to get injured more frequently. It's hard. Every summer I'm like, 'I can't do it another year.' But then I think if I quit, bats will die."

She sighs. "They're such amazing creatures. They're so intelligent. When I get a wild bat, within two days it figures out I'm not a threat, and it's as tame as can be. They're also the only mammal capable of true flight and they vibrate when they're happy. It's really cute. They'll vibrate when you pet them. It's kind of like a purr."

They purr?

Okay, maybe I can be a bat person too. [@LABatrescue](http://Losangelesbatrescue.org)



PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION

**Turn-of-the-century
listing is a South
Pasadena stunner**

BY SARA SMOLA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIK GRAMMER

**TRUE BLUE**

The seven-bedroom manse features a backyard dark-bottom pool and a bucolic expanse of grass.

A seven-bedroom Prairie-style residence currently on the market at 1000 Buena Vista St. is a crown jewel in the community. Located in one of South Pasadena's most desirable neighborhoods just north of Mission Street, and within the city's coveted award-winning school district, the magnificent home has plenty of curb appeal and is perfect for entertaining.

The property is being listed by realtor Dhari Thein, whose Pasadena pedigree goes back five generations on her grandmother's side. Thein's in-depth understanding of the local neighborhoods, community, and culture, as well as her sales expertise, made her the top choice for the home's sellers.

Robert Farquhar Train and Robert Edmund Williams of Train & Williams (the duo also designed downtown Los Angeles' Angels Flight Railway and South Pasadena's first Carnegie Library) built the residence in 1903. The home has been lovingly maintained and still reflects its original character and charm. It was originally constructed for Charles Phelps Williams, a retired stockbroker and philanthropist who sought out South Pasadena's warm climate as a respite from frigid East Coast winters.

There's no shortage of gathering space in the multi-level home, which spans 7,323 square feet.

"It was built for entertaining," says Thein, noting the large common rooms on the main floor and ease of flow. The sellers, who have a large family, entertained around the pool in the backyard, and hosted events and fundraisers in the front yard under the trees.

Despite its expanse, the home is warm and inviting, thanks to old-world details and craftsmanship, including rich wood floors, box beam ceilings, five decorative fireplaces, elaborate handcrafted woodwork, period hardware, opulent fixtures, and antique lighting. The home also features marble and travertine finishes.

"It's been updated without losing the grandeur of the turn of the century when the house was built," says Thein. "You just don't see [details] like this anymore."



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL
Clockwise from above: The first floor features a living room, a sun room and a family room; there are five bedrooms on the second floor; the dining room features wood-paneled wainscoting; the office comes with built-in shelves; light pours in through the bathroom.

The first level includes a living room, a family room, an office with built-in shelves, a sunroom, a sitting room, a mud room, a dining room, and a kitchen with a breakfast area and a deep walk-in pantry. The dining room with wood-paneled wainscoting and a coffered ceiling is one of Thein's favorites. "It is incredibly beautiful because of the woodwork and Batchelder tile fireplace," she says.

Upstairs, the second floor has five bedrooms, including a primary suite with a marble fireplace and seating area. The third level has two additional bedrooms, a study, and a room to make crafts, as well as ample storage and closets. The home's 577-square-foot basement has a private entrance and is spacious enough to serve as a den or a billiards room.

Outside, there is a three-car garage, manicured hedges, and a lush lawn. Towering trees surround the backyard for optimum privacy. The backyard also boasts a dark-bottom pool, a spa, and a seating area for lounging. Both the yard and the pool are "great for celebrations and sunbathing and relaxing," says Thein. "You feel like you've been transported to a resort."

She adds that these types of homes "just aren't built anymore, and it's such a blessing that this one has been preserved so lovingly. It's a forever house for someone. Hopefully, the new owner will carry on the legacy." **P**



HISTORIC HALLS

Built in 1887 as a luxury resort, Castle Green is now a beloved, coveted apartment complex.



CASTLE GREEN FETES 125TH BIRTHDAY

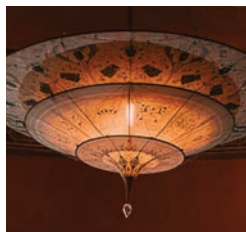
The **famed landmark** toasts its storied history

BY SARA SMOLA

Many passersby can't resist a glimpse of Pasadena's storied Castle Green, the gated seven-story Moorish and Spanish-style structure perched on the corner of Raymond Avenue and Green Street. The beloved building, one of the oldest standing landmarks in Los Angeles County, appears in the National Register of Historic Places and has also received the designation of a state historical monument.

The structure first opened in 1899 as an expansion of the Hotel Green, a luxury resort built in 1887 that served as the city's social center. In its heyday, the popular hotel was home to the Tournament of Roses and the Valley Hunt Club and hosted its share of vacationing tycoons and presidents. (Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd U.S. president, visited in 1891).

In the 1920s, the hotel closed and a group of



The structure first opened in 1899 as an expansion of the Hotel Green, a luxury resort built in 1887.

investors remodeled the building into 50 individually owned apartments and renamed the property Castle Green.

Despite its public acclaim, Castle Green still maintains an air of exclusivity and mystery as opportunities for nonresidents to walk the grounds are limited mainly to twice-a-year open house tours, private events such as weddings (by renting the Castle as a venue), or photoshoots. However, this spring, the Castle opened its gates for its 125th anniversary gala to raise funds to restore its domes. Attendees had exclusive access to the entire ground floor, including the Grand Salon, Moorish, and Turkish rooms. For those who were unable to snag a spot on the guest list, we suggest befriending a Castle resident for more than just a glimpse beyond the gates. **P**

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