

# SENIOR REPORTER

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 5

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MAY 2021

"Serving The Needs of Orange County & Long Beach Seniors Since 1974"

## Angela Lansbury

*"Here I am, I still go on,  
you know, like the tides".*

—Angela Lansbury



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H7501\_20AD005 (Approved 9/24/2020)



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# Haircuts

By Jim McDevitt

The COVID-19 effects are still being felt as I write this.

One thing that has changed has been no trips to the beauty parlor for my wife and no trips to the barbershop for me. The place I had been going to has been closed for months and I think they may not reopen when the time comes. So, to cope and not look like a gorilla out of his cage, I have been cutting my hair for months. I only cut a little bit at a time and wait to see if my wife notices the difference. If she doesn't then I know I am good to take a little more off my head the next day. I use the bathroom mirror and a handheld mirror at the same time to see where my next cutting attack will be.

Granted it takes me about three months to do the equivalent of one haircut at the barbershop, but I am saving money and that gives me an incentive and makes me happy no matter how I look. It came as a shock and surprise when my wife asked me to trim the hair on the back of her head. She did the front herself and then handed me the scissors. She asked me to take a ½ inch to ¾

of an inch off the back of her head. I set to work cutting here and there. I didn't need a mirror as I was standing behind her as she sat in a chair.

I was starting on my new career seeing income potential in the future. I thought of the enormous sum's women pay for haircuts. I always went to the cheapest barber, but women seem to not put a price on a good haircut. I cut away. After about 10 minutes the floor was getting covered in hair. When I finished cutting, I went and got a mirror for my wife to see my handy work. I held it up for her to look at the back of her head as she used a small mirror she had to see the reflection. Then she seemed to go into shock.

'It's crooked. It's not even,' she said. Well pardon me, I thought to myself. I didn't think I needed a leveler to do this. She ended up tracking down a hairstylist somewhere that was still open and going there to get everything corrected. I guess my income potential was being overly optimistic. I am still saving money though, cutting my hair even if it takes me three months to do one haircut. I figure that over a year, I will have saved a tidy sum.

There is no moral to this story. I don't think my wife will ever again ask me to trim her hair. As I said, I am still cutting my own a little bit at a time. I will not speed it up and take too much at a time and it still takes me three months to complete my haircuts.



## Mother's Day: Founding by Anna Jarvis

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.



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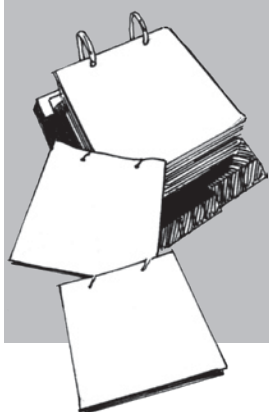
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# May Calendar of Events



*(ED Note: Please check with each venue or event before attending. Many events, classes and regular events have been canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in each city).*

## May Bockfest Anaheim

**Sunday, May 16  
12 to 5 p.m.**

The German League, The German American School Association, and the Phoenix Club are sponsoring this event with The Stubebuben, German food and beer, crafts, and activities for the kids. Shooting gallery, and traditional German entertainment for May. Adults \$8, Children 16 and under free. At, The Phoenix Club, 1340 S. Sanderson Ave. Anaheim.

## Scottish Fest Costa Mesa

### Memorial Day Weekend

The event features hundreds of bagpipers and drummers, Scottish and Irish food and vendors, Scottish clans, Highland dancing, and traditional Scottish events like the hammer throw, putting the stone, and caber toss. Part of the United Scottish Society, the festival was established in 1932 and was called a Highland Games in the tradition of Scottish heritage. At, OC Fair and

Event Center, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa.

## Spring Citrus Fair

### La Habra

**2021 - please check back to see the status of this year's event**

The La Habra Chamber of Commerce will produce its Annual Spring Citrus Fair — full of period charm — showcasing the history of the La Habra Valley. The event will include entertainment, carnival rides, local food, exhibits, and character mascots. Free admission. At, La Habra Boulevard between Euclid and Cypress streets. Call, 562-697-1704.

## San Clemente Micro-Brew Fest

### San Clemente

**2021 - please check back to see the status of this year's event**

Presented by Left Coast Brewing Co., features Micro-Brews from all over Southern California. Enjoy micro-brew sampling, homemade food provided by various non-profit organizations, and live entertainment. VIP guests enjoy tours of the Left Coast Brewery and premier samplings. At, Left Coast Brewing Co., 1245 Puerta Del Sol in San Clemente.

## Like Totally Music Festival

### Huntington Beach

2021 - please check back to see the status of this year's event. Bringing music, style, and memories to the beach. The event features national 1980s bands. Vendors, food trucks, and a full bar. Celebrity impersonators, an 80s themed costume contest, and more. At, Huntington State Beach, on the sand at PCH and Magnolia St., 21601 Pacific Coast Hwy, Huntington Beach.

## Open Garden Day

### Santa Ana

**2021 - rescheduled for June 2021**

Experience the inviting neighborhoods of West Floral Park and Jack Fisher Park in North Santa Ana. You are invited to stroll through a variety of gardens throughout the day. Tranquil spaces, unique planting ideas, and inspiring yard designs are open for viewing. This one-day community event offers an array of activities: lovely gardens to tour, water-wise front yard sidewalk tour, garden expert talks and demonstrations, vintage cars, vendors selling unique garden treasures, and gourmet food trucks. At, Neighborhoods of West Floral Park and Jack Fisher Park in North Santa Ana. Call, 714-836-9777.

## Ongoing Events

### Santa Ana Art Walk

#### Santa Ana

**First Saturday of the Month  
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Downtown Santa Ana offers a look at the arts on the first Saturday of each month when galleries, theatres, artists, and performers in the Artists Village host a monthly Open House for the public. There are typically more than 150 participating studios and galleries located in historic buildings in the heart of downtown Santa Ana.

The monthly event lets you buy original artwork from various artists. It also will have open viewings of working lofts owned by artists and designers all in an award-winning urban setting.

### Dachshund Races

#### Huntington Beach

#### Sundays

**3 p.m. (doors open at 2 p.m.)**

Come see the short-legged but swift 'wiener dogs' race to the finish line once a month at Old World Village. Arrive early and stay for lunch on the dog-friendly patio. \$3 admission fee for adults, \$2 for kids. At, Old World Village, 7561 Center Ave., Huntington Beach.

## Beach Cleanups

### San Clemente

### and Huntington Beach

**Held the first and second Saturday of every month.**

The monthly cleanup event helps keep beaches clean while learning about coastal conservation and marine debris. The cleanups are held on the first Saturday in San Clemente and the second Saturday in Huntington. At, Huntington State Beach, Lifeguard Tower No. 2; San Clemente State Beach.

## Beach Cleanups

### Seal Beach

**Held from 9 a.m. to noon,  
third Saturday of every month.**

At the community event, gloves, bags, and pickers are provided, you are asked to bring a reusable water bottle if you need one. At, 15 First St., (beach parking lot at the end of First Street, Seal Beach), Seal Beach. Call, (562) 884-6764.

## Bolsa Chica

### Conservancy Wetland Restoration Events

#### Huntington Beach

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*Continued on page 22*



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## ‘Ben and Fillmore: Two Hippie Bus Dudes’

By Randal C. Hill

In 1949, Dutch businessman Ben Pon became responsible for putting the first Volkswagen Beetle on America’s roads. But it wasn’t just the little German bug that captured Pon’s interest; he was also intrigued by the *plattenwagens* — small, utilitarian, rear-engine trucks that zipped around the VW factory.

With these vehicles in mind, Pon sketched a vehicle that, to some, resembled an oversized loaf of bread. But VW executives loved Ben’s brainchild, and before long they green-lighted the now-iconic, slab-sided microbus. Using the same low-powered, air-cooled rear engine as the popular Beetle, the first bus rolled out of the factory in 1950 and gave the world its first look at what was officially designated the Type 2 Transporter. (Type 1 was the Beetle.)

In essence, Type 2 became the first minivan.

The vehicle offered a cab-over configuration which placed the driver over the front wheels. As a design feature, this allowed for a wide-angle view of the road ahead, as well as leaving an extensive space behind the front seat for passengers and cargo. To many car enthusiasts, Type 2 served as a counterpoint to the bulky, chrome-laden, gas-slurping American autos of the time.

Originally intended to transport families and campers, the microbus was adopted by surfers and, later, hippies as something simple, efficient, and fun. Soon it was on its way to becoming one of the world’s most recognized (and coveted) vehicles. People quickly embraced its austerity. For example, interiors featured practical rubber mats, not carpeting, on the floor.

Before air-conditioning became commonplace, one appreciated early feature was the many windows that opened out around the Type 2.

To surfers, the VW microbus became the prized board-hauler of choice, preferable over a “Woodie” (a wood-paneled station wagon) or a delivery van. When the surfing fad faded, counter culturists adopted the vehicle. “The hippie movement fell in love with the bus for a few reasons,” proclaimed classic car expert McKeel Haggerty. “It was cheap to maintain, easy to work on, and big enough to live in.”

To which Stewart Reed, the chair of a California design college, added, “The bus flew in the face of traditional social culture. It was anti-style, anti-success, and rebellious in a totally new way.”

The main complaint about the

microbus was its speed — or lack of it. The first models offered a meager 25 horsepower engine. (One can only imagine such a vehicle trying to ascend mountains or challenging hills.) Eventually, the horsepower rating was increased to 40, but the vehicle still proved too slow for many drivers.

In Disney’s Pixar movie “Cars,” the Fillmore character — voiced by George Carlin — is portrayed as a well-used — but not used up — 1960s Type 2 with a license plate that reads 51237, Carlin’s birthdate of May 12, 1937. Fillmore’s name came from San Francisco’s Fillmore Auditorium, the home of numerous counterculture concerts.

Thanks partly to “Cars,” the peace-loving, organic fuel-dispensing Fillmore will ensure that the VW microbus will represent the ‘60s counterculture from now on.

Groovy!

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# 'It Don't Come Easy'

Ringo Starr

By Randal C. Hill

His songs may have lacked the depth and social commentary of those of his fellow ex-Beatles, but Ringo Starr fans could usually count on having fun when hearing what he offered the world. Such is the case with *"It Don't Come Easy,"* Ringo's first Top 10 Apple Records single. Backed by chorus vocals and featuring a jam-band ambiance, Starr's initial solo hit almost sounds as if he had invited several friends into the studio and handed each a mic. Had that happened, one of those buddies surely would have been former bandmate George Harrison, who co-wrote the tune with Ringo and played lead guitar on the track.

Richard Starkey was born in Liverpool, England, in July 1940, and grew up poor in a neighborhood called the Dingle. Starkey, an only child, spent his youth in and out of hospitals, battling numerous diseases that kept him apart from home and school. To pass the time in various institutions, he learned to play drums and later explained, "I was in the hospital band ... That's where I really started playing. I never wanted anything else from there on."

Starkey spent little time on academics and was barely literate when he dropped out of school in his mid-teens. At home, he practiced drumming

by beating on a cookie tin with sticks.

In the mid-1950s, skiffle music (folk tunes performed on often-homemade instruments) became popular in the UK. In 1957, the future Beatle co-founded the Eddie Clayton Skiffle Group, in which he banged on a second-hand drum kit or raked a thimble across a washboard. By the next year, though, skiffle had been replaced by a new musical craze — American Rock 'n Roll.

He eventually became the drummer in Rory Storm and the Hurricanes, Liverpool's most popular rock outfit. It was there that Richard Starkey became Ringo Starr, so named for the several rings that glinted on the fingers of both hands.

Then, in 1962, he was hired to replace departing Beatles drummer Pete Best. While in the Fab Four, Starr was usually allotted one lead vocal track per album. That's him you hear on *"Yellow Submarine,"* *"Octopus's Garden"* and *"With a Little Help from My Friends."*

The Beatles reached the end of their professional road in 1970. By then, each band member had grown up, become married, and was following his musical muse. Successful solo careers were soon carved

out by George Harrison (*"My Sweet Lord"*), John Lennon (*"Instant Karma"*), and Paul McCartney (*"Another Day"*).

Ringo, though, stumbled out of his starting gate. His first two albums, *"Sentimental Journey"* and *"Beaucoups of Blues,"* were sales disappointments. But, in the spring of 1971, Starr released the non-LP single of *"It Don't Come Easy,"* which became a worldwide winner. During the next two years, he enjoyed success with six more hit 45s, including two — *"Photograph"* and *"You're Sixteen"*—that reached the peak of the *Billboard* charts.

In 2020, Ringo Starr was cited as the world's wealthiest drummer, with a net worth of \$350 million.

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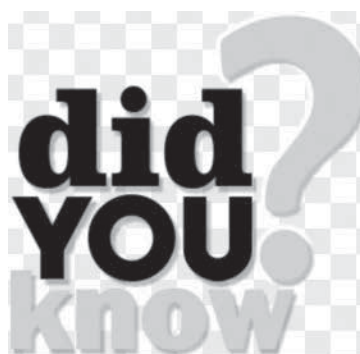
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➔ If you take an active role in managing your chronic kidney disease (CKD) you can live a longer, healthier life, says the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), which spearheads research to help improve kidney disease management and treatment. Learn more at [www.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.niddk.nih.gov).

➔ Nutritious and delicious, California Sweetpotatoes, are filled with plenty of vitamins and minerals, loaded with fiber and are heart healthy to boot. For recipes sweet and savory, classic and creative; facts and tips, visit [www.casweetpotatoes.com](http://www.casweetpotatoes.com).

➔ The Saver's Credit—an overlooked IRS tax credit available to eligible taxpayers—could make saving for retirement more affordable than many people realize, which points out the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies is a division of Transamerica Institute®, a nonprofit, private foundation. Learn more at [www.transamericacenter.org/SaversCredit](http://www.transamericacenter.org/SaversCredit).



## The Golden State aka California



The Golden State *aka* California is bordered by the Pacific Ocean in the west, Oregon in the north, Nevada and Arizona in the east, and Mexico in the south.

And more than 20,000 years ago, the first people arrived in what is now called the Golden State.

According to the "*Kids National Geographic*" website, "They walked from Asia, crossing on a strip of land that's now submerged under a body of water between Russia and the United States called the Bering Strait. For thousands of years, hundreds of Native American tribes thrived on this land."

The site also states Europeans landed in the 16th century, with Spanish explorers leading the way.

However, when Mexico gained its independence from Spain in 1821, it also got control of California.

But that didn't last long: in 1848, at the end of the Mexican American War, California became a U.S. territory.

Then when gold was discovered in 1849 at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, more than 100,000 people, nicknamed "forty-niners," headed to California to seek their fortunes.

A year later, in 1850, California officially became a state.

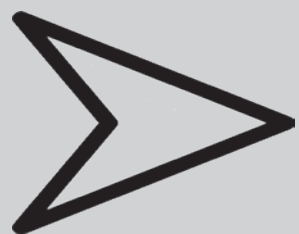
And if you wondered, the name California comes from a 16th-century Spanish novel that describes a mythical paradise called California.

Some suggest the "Gold Rush" probably helped earn California the nickname the Golden State, as did its golden poppies, the state flower.

Today the population according to the US Census as of 2019 was 39.51 people.

Source: [kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com)





# In The Spotlight

## Roy Uziel Moëd: Putting It All Down in Words

At age 67, Roy Uziel Moëd, founder of “*LifeBook*,” is creating enduring legacies for seniors by helping them craft their autobiographies.

The company, after doubling since the pandemic began, is now launching as “*LifeTime Memoirs*” in the U.S.

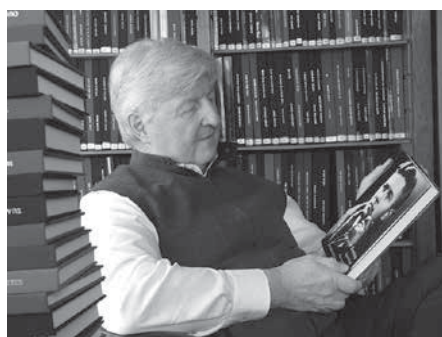
Roy’s father’s story became the first autobiography when Roy was seeking to bring back his appetite for life.

Since its UK launch in 2012, thousands around the world, in 40 different countries have created their books.

According to the American Psychological Association, reminiscing is extremely beneficial, having many positive effects on an aging adult and improving psychological well-being.

There are several reasons why the company has exploded during COVID. Older people aren’t spending their money on travel such as family reunions and cruises.

They are also alone more and depressed because of an increase in social isolation -- the process of working on their autobiography gives people tremendous purpose and companionship.



Finally, people have more concerns about mortality, which has fueled great interest in documenting one’s legacy.

Here’s more about Roy Uziel Moëd, and his fascinating background.

**Senior Reporter: Where were you born and raised?**

**A: I was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, left in 1960, and was raised in Jersey (the island between England and France) and London.**

**Q: Are you retired? From what?**

A: I retired from Pourshins Limited, an airline catering and logistics company which I grew from two people to 600 people before selling in 2007 to Gate Group.

**Q: Career aspirations as a kid?**

A: Many and varied — from a farmer to a veterinary surgeon — but always wanted to be an entrepreneur as my father was as well as an inventor. I had 29 jobs between the age of 19 and

25, as I was academically challenged and therefore I called this my UOL, University of Life.

**Q: What did your parents do?**

A: My father had to look after his mother after his father was killed in a car accident, so he had to leave school early. He ended up with numerous jobs in engineering and then started his own business — a tool shop in Johannesburg. This grew into an excellent enterprise and he invested in a car part manufacturer and property.

**Q: When did you come up with the idea for the book?**

A: I started with my father’s life book to give him a project to look forward to each week as he was blind and depressed. I soon found out that there were stories in the book that I’d never heard and decided that I wanted to find a way to be able to do this for other people — elder adults, around the world. My passion is to try to ensure that elder adults enjoy their lives just a little bit more and I’ve used my airline logistics experience to come up with ways to enable the project of creating a private autobiography anywhere in the world at an affordable price. The integrity and safety of visiting

elder adults in their homes was a fundamental requirement for me. After two years of work and research with the Baycrest Institute in Toronto, I came up with the concept of deconstructing the interviewer from the (ghost) writer. The interviewer would always be a local who passed FBI background checks and was able to be trained to interview whilst the writer could be anywhere in the world. As the only company using this process, we value the companionship that the interviewer can enjoy with our client, the author.

**Q: How many people have jumped on board with this project?**

A: There are currently over 10,000 people in the world who own a “*LifeBook*” or “*LifeTime Memoir*.”

**Q: Who is it appropriate for?**

A: A project of this nature is fun and interesting for everyone who values legacy and passing their values on to their children and grandchildren. We’ve also had several clients who were terminally ill and wanted to record their stories or have just retired and want to record the story from the working part of their life before they start to enjoy their retirement.



**Q: Where do people get the book or sign up to do this?**

A: People can go to the website <https://www.lifetimememoirs.com/> to learn more information and call 855.802.7413 to order a book. We like to provide the human touch of a phone call, particularly for seniors who may not be as comfortable making online purchases.

**Q: What’s the cost?**

A: The cost is \$12,000 and payable in six installments of \$2000 over the period of the project. There are no extra costs, and we are transparent with everything we do.

**Q: How do you stay young at heart?**

A: I never stop. I have a lot of interests and a passion for projects. I’m involved as a mentor with YPO and other organizations, with the home-

*Continued on page 22*



# May Crossword Puzzle

### Across

1. Indian nursemaid
5. Charged
10. Chicken cordon \_\_\_\_
14. Without full use of a leg
15. French school
16. Teen follower
17. Are you \_\_\_\_ out?
18. More tender
19. Witnessed
20. Woman who rides horses
23. Convent dweller
24. Actress Turner
25. Halogen element
29. Skip
31. Drunkard
32. Also
33. Knowledge of a future event
37. Tree trunk
40. Singer Garfunkel
41. Hostelries
42. Indifferent
47. Sleep stage
48. Holds
49. Comfortable
53. Textile worker
55. Circle of light often seen around the head of saints
57. ATM maker
58. LSD, e.g.
61. Currency unit in Western Samoa

64. Block
65. Osteologist's concern
66. Matures
67. Use a soapbox
68. Ticks off
69. Rock's Motley \_\_\_\_
70. Horse locks
71. Bridge seat

### Down

1. Foreigners
2. Yankee
3. Quantity
4. Roll call call
5. Say again
6. Nut of an oak
7. Water wheel
8. Away from the wind
9. Triad
10. Stationed
11. Bigger than med.
12. Extra-wide shoe size
13. Pot used to contain the ashes of a dead person

21. Insult
22. Don't look at me!
26. Pack \_\_\_\_ (quit)
27. Midday
28. Seemingly forever
30. Not closed
31. Cpls.' superiors
34. Autos
35. Bauxite, e.g.
36. Periodic movement of the sea
37. Oxidize

38. Draft classification
39. Lamé movement
43. Take \_\_\_\_ Train
44. Territory of a noble
45. Clubfoot
46. English public school
50. Goat hair fabric
51. Views
52. Writer Hemingway
54. Aspect
55. Pertaining to people
56. Sharp

59. Dr. Zhivago's love
60. Off-Broadway theater award
61. Tic \_\_\_\_ Dough
62. Cabinet dept.
63. Romanian coin

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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69					70						71			



# Fabulous Finds

By Debbie L. Sklar

## Spring Is Here and It's Time to Celebrate

Are you enjoying the lovely weather and getting outside? May is certainly one of the best months to have fun in the Great Outdoors. It's also perfect for checking out new **Fab Finds** to improve nails, skin, hair and add to your beauty routine. Here's some new items to help!

### Scrubski & Balmer Lip Exfoliator and Lip Balm



Scrub away dead skin and hydrate lips altogether with **Scrubski & Balmer Lip Exfoliator and Lip Balm 2-in-1** kit. Formulated with essential nutrients and antioxidants, this kit will have lips feeling fruity-fresh, and soft all day. Price: \$6; available at [rudecosmetics.com](http://rudecosmetics.com).

### Flume's Sleep Supplement: DRIFT

Sleep is an essential component of recovery after exercise and overall mind-body wellness. Stress, or an overactive mind, is one of the most common causes of sleeplessness. But a sore, overused body can also stand in the way of a good night's rest. **DRIFT** was scientifically formulated to soothe the mind and body and is es-



pecially helpful for those with an active lifestyle.

Plant-based, free of melatonin (which can cause next-day grogginess) wake up feeling energized and ready to find your flow. Key actives include: Ashwagandha, California Poppy, Hops, and Ocean Magnesium.

Rooted in responsibility: 100% recyclable aluminum containers, responsible sourcing, proud members of 1% for the Planet, POW (Protect Our Winters), Sustainable Herbs Program partnership with "National Geographic" photographer, filmmaker, and nature conservationist, Pete McBride. Price: \$39.99; available at [withflume.com/collections/frontpage/products/drift](http://withflume.com/collections/frontpage/products/drift)

### Luscious Lips

**Noyah** is a USDA-certified organic lip care line based in NYC that specializes in chic



lipsticks, lip glosses, lip balms, and food-grade cosmetics that are both eco-friendly and sustainably made with ingredients you know.

The brand's mission is to be the leader in beauty innovation that benefits both health and the planet because whether you like it or not, you are ingesting pounds of lip care products throughout your life.

### Vanilla Lip Balm

Noyah's lip balms are nature-making love to your pout! Being natural, they are different from the synthetic lip balms you're used to. They don't contain petrolatum which is made of petroleum (oil) and a key ingredient of many synthetics. They will feel less oily and more textured. Not only will your lips get all the feel-good moisture they need, but you'll also feel good knowing you're using a lip balm that's friendlier to your body and the planet. Price: \$6.



### Good-Grade & Natural Peppermint-Vanilla Lip Scrub

Organic sugar and vanilla gently exfoliate, while organic extra virgin coconut oil, cocoa butter, and olive oil soften, leaving you with smooth, supple lips (aka the perfect canvas for your favorite lip color). Top off with your favorite organic lip balm! Made with organic ingredients and USDA Certified Biobased (translation: independent labs did carbon radio-decay analysis showing 100% of the carbon in this lip scrub is natural). Free of preservatives, gluten, parabens, and sulfates. Packaged in eco-friendlier bamboo and glass. Price: \$20.00

### Natural Lipsticks

Made with natural ingredients, minerals and formulated with

the likes of coconut oil, shea butter, and skin-protecting vitamin E, hydrating lips while adding a punchy pop to your pout. Available in a range of 10 shades from a vibrant red to flirty pink, versatile enough to take you from daytime chic to a fun-filled, sultry evening look. All lipsticks come in stunning earth-friendly bamboo packaging that not only looks good but also results in a 60% reduction in plastic. Price: \$18. All available at [Ulta.com](http://Ulta.com) and Ulta stores.



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# Life After Mother

By Lyn Jensen

*"Exploring probate and estate issues from personal experience."*

## Crash Course in Estate Taxes

When tax documents started arriving for income my mother earned in 2019 — before her death late that year — I put the information — about social security, stocks, pension, and interest earned — into a manila file folder and went to a major tax preparation company.

They determined my personal income for 2019 was too low to require a tax filing, while my mother's tax filing turned out to include a refund.



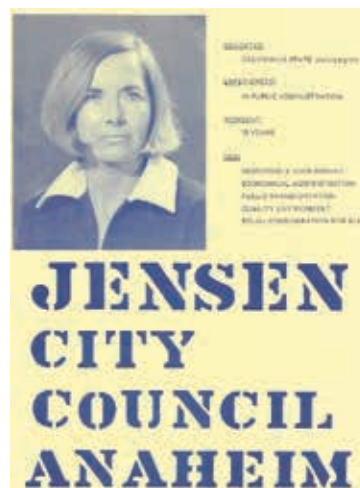
When the time to pay 2020 taxes rolled around, funds her estate had accumulated during the year were being deposited in an estate account, and I wasn't sure if I owed tax or not.

My first plan was to look up a tax accountant my mother and I had both used when she had a talent agency license, and I wrote for music magazines. That guy, a specialist in the entertainment field, was still in business but he wasn't taking any new or returning clients, and he was referring such requests to another accountant whose fees were at the level



of top entertainment industry accounts.

So, I put on my face mask and went back to the company that handled the 2019 taxes. The man looked at the tax documents I showed him and determined I didn't owe any taxes for 2020. Then he looked at the documents for my mother's estate and said, 'I need an EIN. You need to get the EIN and come back.'



Instead of saying, 'What's an EIN?' I said I'd contact my estate lawyer and get back to him. Browse the Internet and find 'EIN' stands for 'Employer Identification Number.' It's a number the Internal Revenue Service commonly assigns employers for employment tax reporting, but it's also used for

trusts and estates. The taxman probably should have more properly asked for a Taxpayer Identification Number, since usually that's what the number is called when it's used for estates.

When I contacted the probate lawyer about an EIN, he didn't tell me what the EIN was. Instead, he said he'd sent my information to a tax accountant he regularly referred clients to, and I should contact her, and she'd take care of everything.

I felt as though I were living in a Martin Scorsese movie, 'I know just the lady for you, you'll like her. She'll fix you up nice, trust me.'

So, I made an appointment with the accountant my lawyer sent me to, and she did take care of the estate tax filing and for a modest fee. The payment was handled from the estate account. The account's supposed to come out of probate in a few months. I've been hearing that for more than a year now.

American Heart  
Association





# Angela Lansbury: A Legend, She Wrote

By Les Goldberg

We – and I am referring to most of our “*Senior Reporter*” readers – will always associate Angela Lansbury with her iconic TV mystery series, “*Murder, She Wrote*,” and her role as the fictional writer and whodunit sleuth Jessica Fletcher.

However, how many of us know the vibrant, highly successful 95-year-old actress whose professional career was as complicated as her life away from stage and screen?



For instance, did you know that she was born into an upper-middle-class family in London, that her father was a wealthy English timber merchant and politician who was a member of the Great Britain communist party and a former mayor?

Her mother, who was born in Northern Ireland and became a well-known actress Moyna Macgill, had the most influence on Angela’s life because, at the age of nine, her father died of cancer. Facing financial difficulty, her mother remarried and moved the family



to an English suburb where she graduated high school in 1939.

Despite her formal high school education, Angela has always considered herself largely self-educated, learning from books, theater, and cinema. She became a self-professed “movie maniac,” visiting the movies regularly and imagining herself as certain characters.

For a time, she lived in Ireland during her preadolescence, where both she and her sister attended acting school. During



German air attacks during the London Blitz, Lansbury, her mother, and two younger brothers fled the war and emigrated to the United States in 1940, settling in New York.

## The Blossoming of Angela

In New York City, she received a scholarship to study drama at the Lucy Fagan school. Her mother took a job with a Canadian production and instructed Lansbury to move to Los Angeles, where the fledgling actress worked in a department store before landing her debut film role.



She appeared in 1944’s “*Gaslight*” opposite Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer. Playing the housemaid Nancy, Lansbury held her own against established stars and earned an Academy Award nomination for Actress in a Supporting Role.

She was nominated again the next year and won a Golden Globe for playing dance hall lady Sibyl Vane in “*The Picture of Dorian Gray*.”

Lansbury landed other major roles early on in her career, in-



cluding that of Elizabeth Taylor’s older sister in “*National Velvet*” (1944) and opposite Judy Garland and Cyd Charisse in “*The Harvey Girls*” (1946). Lansbury was often cast as supporting characters and became known for roles where she played figures considerably older than her real age.

Lansbury continued making films into the next decade, including “*The Manchurian Candidate*” (1963), which brought her a third Academy Award nomination for supporting actress.



Other film appearances during the ‘60s included “*Blue Hawaii*” (1961) with Elvis Presley, “*The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders*” (1965), and the biblical “*The Greatest Story Ever Told*,” with the latter

co-starring Charlton Heston and Max von Sydow. After appearing in “*Mister Buddwing*” (1966), she starred as a countess in the comedy “*Something for Everyone*,” opposite Michael York, and then in the partially animated Disney movie musical “*Bedknobs and Broomsticks*” (1971), playing the witch, Miss Price.



## “Murder, She Wrote”

Lansbury alternated between film, television, and the stage for years, finding success on the small screen by the mid-1980s.

Beginning in 1984, she played sleuth Jessica Fletcher in the popular TV mystery series “*Murder, She Wrote*.” As the diplomatic, kind and clever Fletcher, Lansbury earned Emmy Award nominations in the Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series category every year from 1985 to 1996, eventually taking over production duties for the show as well.

*Continued on page 25*



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## Making Life More Fun

# Baby Boomers Still Playing Together Even 'Party Games' on Zoom

Over 70 million Baby Boomers grew up playing board games and watching game shows together—and they still love doing both.



*The Boomer generation knows how to have fun—such as with a new pop culture trivia game about the days of their youth.*

A new pop culture trivia game is taking Boomers on a nostalgic road trip back to the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Designed to be played by two teams, Boom Again features thousands of questions drawing upon Boomer's memories of advertising slogans and jingles, politics and social movements, movies, music, television, and more.

Groups of Baby Boomers are laughing their way through memories on a wide variety

of their experiences: from The Twist to Disco; *American Bandstand* to *Soul Train*; Doris Day all the way to Janis Joplin, and on to Steve Martin; Hula Hoops to The Pill; and poodle skirts to mini-skirts. And they are singing their way through all the music of their youth, too.

This game is clearly not an S.A.T. Test with questions like:

- Name three of the most popular episodes of “*I Love Lucy*.”
- Name the original main courses from Swanson's TV Dinners.
- What did Silly Putty have to do with the Sunday comic strips?

The wide array of material is organized into easily remembered categories:

**Things We Heard**—Music, jingles, famous speeches, lyrics, catchphrases

**Things We Saw**—TV shows, movies, commercials, magazines, sporting events

**Things We Learned in School**—The “3 Rs,” clubs,

dances, school yard games

**In The News**—Politics, sports, world events, Sunday comics, murder, war

**Stuff We Learned On the Street**—Toys, fashion, cars, social movements, dances, etc.

### A Box Full of Memories

The game comes packaged in a “cigar box” familiar to Baby Boomers who stashed their stuff in those as kids. It has two boxes of cards with 2,244 questions, and Boomer era tokens including a Metal Skate Key, a “Students For Kennedy” button, a center insert for a 45-RPM record, and more.

There's even a “Boomers' Little Helper” magnifier in case someone forgets their readers.

### An Antidote to Pandemic Isolation

Apparently nothing can keep a social Baby Boomer from hanging out with their friends. Party games have always brought people together. Now, even when friends and families haven't been together in person, they have been playing Boom Again together on Zoom. It's become known as a Boom Zoom!

### Learn More

For further facts and to order the game, go to <http://www.boomagain.com>.

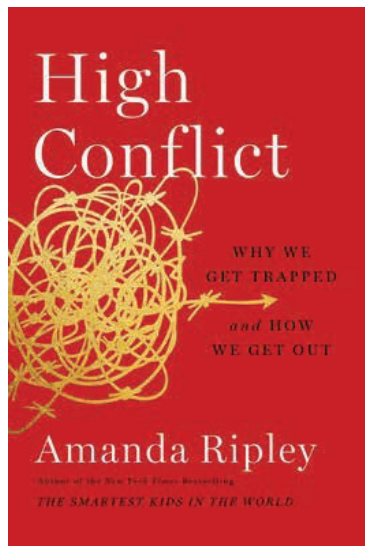


# May Book Club



In between spending times outside enjoying the warmer temps and honoring those moms in your life or special ladies, take time to read a good book this month. Check out these titles below and enjoy!

## High Conflict Why We Get Trapped and How We Get Out By Amanda Ripley



“When we are baffled by the insanity of the “other side”—in our politics, at work, or home—it’s because we aren’t seeing how the conflict itself has taken over.

“That’s what ‘high conflict’ does. It’s the invisible hand of our time. And it’s different from the useful friction of healthy conflict. That’s *good* conflict, and it’s a necessary force that pushes us to be better people.

“High conflict, by contrast, is what happens when discord distills into a good-versus-evil kind of feud, the kind with an *us* and a *them*. In this state, the normal rules of engagement no longer apply. The brain behaves differently. We feel increasingly certain of our superiority and, at the same time, more and more mystified by the other side.

“*New York Times* bestselling author and award-winning journalist Amanda Ripley investigates how good people get captured by high conflict — and how they break free.

“Our journey begins in California, where a world-renowned conflict expert struggles to extract himself from a political feud. Then we meet a Chicago gang leader who dedicates his life to a vendetta — only to find himself working beside the man who killed his childhood idol. Next, we travel to Colombia, to find out whether thousands of people can be nudged out of high conflict at scale. Finally, we return to America to see what happens when a group of liberal Manhattan Jews and conservative Michigan corrections officers choose to stay in each other’s homes to understand one another better.

“All these people, in dramat-

ically different situations, were drawn into high conflict by similar forces, including conflict entrepreneurs, humiliation, and false binaries. But ultimately, all of them found ways to transform high conflict into something good, something that made them better people. They rehumanized and recategorized their opponents, and they revived curiosity and wonder, even as they continued to fight for what they knew was right.

“People *do* escape the high conflict. Individuals — even entire communities — can short-circuit the feedback loops of outrage and blame if they want to. This is a mind-opening new way to think about conflict that will transform how we move through the world,” according to Publisher Simon and Schuster.

## Big Summer A Novel By Jennifer Weiner

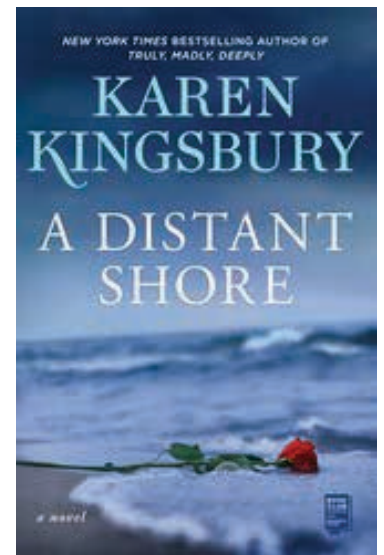


“Six years after the fight that

ended their friendship, Daphne Berg is shocked when Drue Cavanaugh walks back into her life, looking as lovely and successful as ever, with a massive favor to ask. Daphne hasn’t spoken one word to Drue in all this time — she doesn’t even hate-follow her ex-best friend on social media — so when Drue asks if she will be her maid-of-honor at the society wedding of the summer, Daphne is rightfully speechless.

“Drue was always the one who had everything — except the ability to hold onto friends. Meanwhile, Daphne’s no longer the same self-effacing sidekick she was back in high school. She’s built a life that she loves, including a growing career as a plus-size Instagram influencer. Letting glamorous, seductive Drue back into her life is risky, but it comes with an invitation to spend a weekend in a waterfront Cape Cod mansion. When Drue begs and pleads and dangles the prospect of cute single guys, Daphne finds herself powerless as ever to resist her friend’s siren song.

“A sparkling novel about the complexities of female relationships, the pitfalls of living out loud and online, and the resilience of the human heart, *Big Summer* is witty, moving story about family, friendship, and figuring out what matters most,” according to Publisher Washington Square Press.



## A Distant Shore A Novel

By Karen Kingsbury

“She was a child caught in a riptide in the Caribbean Sea. He was a teenager from the East Coast on vacation with his family. He dove in to save her, and that single terrifying moment changed both their lives forever.

“Ten years later Jack Ryder is a daring secret agent with the FBI and Eliza Lawrence still lives on that pristine island. She’s an untainted princess in a kingdom of darkness and evil, on the brink of a forced marriage with a dangerous neighboring drug lord, a marriage arranged by her father.

“This time when Jack and Eliza meet, there’s a connection neither of them can explain. Both their lives are on the line, and once again, the stakes are deadly high. Can they join forces in a complicated and dangerous mission, pretending

*Continued on page 22*



# Is Air, Sea, Bus & Rail Travel on the Horizon?

By Shana McCann

If you are like me, you are tired of being cooped up in your home for more than a year. You are itching to travel somewhere further than the grocery store or doctor's office. Your car or access bus is failing to satisfy your urge to get away from the pandemic-forced restrictions.

You can't wait to resume the adventure that your retirement had promised before COVID-19.

As this is written, your wait may be getting shorter.

For this story, I wanted to find out when air travel, cruising, train, and bus excursions might be revving up, especially as we head into the year's prime time travel season. So, I went to one of the more knowledgeable travel agents in Southern California, the Automobile Association of America's Truly St. Bonore in Costa Mesa.



Here's what she told me:

"Business is really picking up right now. People are anxious to get out and do what they did before COVID – travel with their family.

"Throughout the past year, I



have been booking airline and cruise travel in anticipation of the pandemic restrictions being lifted, only to have to cancel those reservations multiple times."

She added, however, that there is light at the end of the tunnel. More people are being vaccinated, the economy is slowly opening up and the airline and cruise ship companies are preparing to begin limited operations under the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) protocols by late summer or early fall.

While there is cautious optimism that you may be able to take your long-awaited vacations this year, the CDC is warning that the U.S. and other parts of the world are far from being out of the pandemic woods just yet.

It continues to recommend postponing travel and staying home as the best way to protect yourself and others.

It is telling us it is better to be safe than sorry. According to the CDC, "air travel, for instance, requires spending time in security lines and airport terminals, which can bring

you in close contact with other people, some of whom may not be wearing masks or complying with the COVID safety guidelines.

"Social distancing," it reminds us, "is difficult on crowded flights, and the risk of exposure to the virus is higher."

If you are willing to take the risks, also keep in mind that some overseas or border-crossing destinations require COVID testing which, if proven positive for the disease, can result in quarantine and delays in returning to the U.S.

Apparently, according to St. Bonore, many people are willing to take the risks and right now she's busy booking flights to mostly southern region beach destinations in Hawaii, Mexico, and the Caribbean.



"Seniors are lining up for cruising," she said, adding that "some of the cruise lines have announced they are going to start operations as early as next month with embarkations out of the Caribbean, not out of the U.S. which has not yet been cleared by the CDC. The major ports for departure are Nassau in the Bahamas and Saint Martin Island, another popular tourist destination 190 miles east of Puerto Rico.



"Carnival cruises, for instance, do not expect to return to the Port of Los Angeles for embarkations to Mexico and Baja until at least July," she said.

However, St. Bonore tells us that the cruise lines want to sail with full ships, and are offering some unprecedented promotions, depending on sailing times and availability.

"My experience has shown that anybody who previously booked an inside cabin or an ocean view cabin has been upgraded to a balcony cabin," she said. "The cruise ships are preferring to leave the below-deck cabins empty as a safety measure."

Another perk for early travelers is the rapidly dropping rates by the airlines.

"I am getting ready to go to Peru in September and my mom is coming with us," she said. "The economy airfare is only \$650 round trip! And, for the first time, we can fly to Peru out of John Wayne Airport."

St. Bonore also told me that flights to Hawaii, once costing between \$500 and \$600 round trip before the pandemic, are now as low as \$220 if you fly out of LAX, and \$370 if you leave from John Wayne or the Long Beach Airport where Hawaiian Air is adding Maui to its destinations.

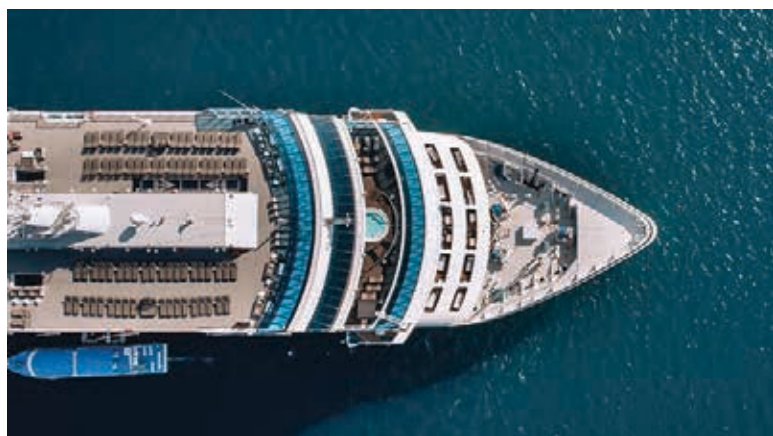
She reminds us, however, that these low rates are fleeting and

*Continued on page 19*



# Is Air, Sea, Bus & Rail Travel on the Horizon?

*continued*



will be raised again by the end of the year. "They always do," she said.

If you are more inclined to stay closer to home, and closer to the ground when traveling, train and bus travel are attractive options, not just for their lower costs but for their ability to allow customers to see the country up close and personal.

St. Bonore said Amtrak is offering vacation trips that include hotels and sightseeing tours. For instance, due to Canada's restrictions, the Rocky Mountain Railroad has moved its popular three-day luxury train to Colorado.

I, for one, am a huge fan of trains and the pandemic is making riding the rails even more attractive to more and more people.



According to Amtrak, you can travel to most cities in the U.S. with much lower fares than the airlines, unless you ride in a bedroom car. If you travel in-

state or to a neighboring state, your ticket might cost as low as \$15 to \$40.

Amtrak travelers also are quick to point out a couple of their most important reasons for taking the train: You can show up at the station only 30 minutes to an hour to catch your train, you don't have to drive across town to get to an airport and at certain stations, you can check up to four bags, the first two for free. And, there are no liquid restrictions.

With several stops between stations, train travel is designed for people who are in no hurry to get anywhere, want to relax on the way, and see the countryside from the ground level, often away from the nation's highway system.

My recent trip from Santa Ana to San Luis Obispo, for instance, included a route along the central California coast where cars and trucks were nowhere to be seen. The scenery was breathtaking and the experience was a memory-maker.

And let's not forget to "hop on the bus, Gus."

Ever since the first bus companies launched bus routes connecting various American cities in the 1910s, hopping on a bus continues to be a great way to explore the country. It not only stands for cheap and convenient travels but it is also eco-friendly and safe for passengers. CDC guidelines apply at all bus stations and onboard.

Inter-city bus travel has come a long way during the last century, even more so in the digital age. In addition to the modern coaches with restrooms, airplane seating, Wi-Fi, and air-conditioning, smartphone apps like CheckMyBus make it easier to navigate bus companies, their schedules, and compare prices. It is free to download.

I checked out the app and found that a roundtrip ticket for a five-hour ride to and from Las Vegas from Los Angeles is \$40.

Finally, what about old-fashioned road trips in your car, pickup, SUV, or RV?

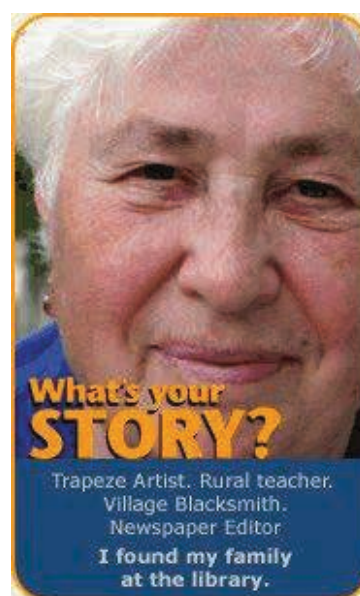
Hitting the open road with your family is the ultimate in social distancing since you are protected by your vehicle while driving, keeping together at sanitized hotels or motels, and carefully selecting where and how you eat.

Visit this space each month and we will offer suggestions



for you to leave your home safely in whatever mode of transportation you choose.

*"Shana McCann is a frequent travel columnist in Southern California."*

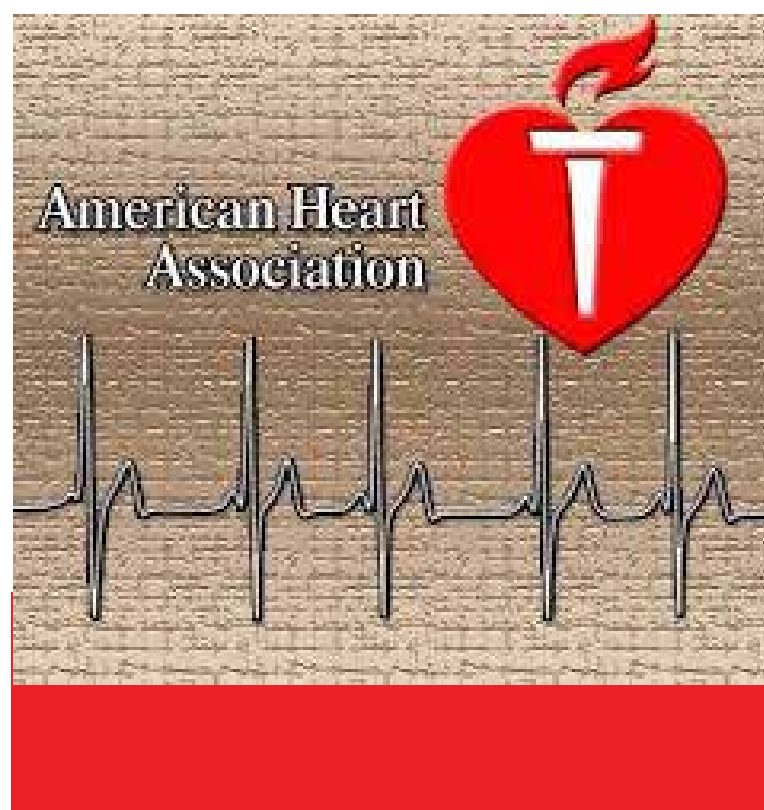


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## Cooking Corner

# This Spring Promises an Abundant and Flavorful California Avocado Season

Springtime in California brings a plethora of vibrant, local ingredients, including fresh California avocados, for home and professional chefs alike to elevate their seasonal dishes. This year, the California Avocado Commission (CAC) anticipates an abundance of fruit, available now through summer, and encourages consumers to take advantage of locally grown California avocados to help enhance every meal for any occasion.

The visionary behind some of the most well-known restaurants across Southern California and beyond, such as Herb & Wood, ANIMAE and Herb & Sea, Chef Brian Malarkey joins CAC in celebrating the season kickoff by developing a fresh, coastal recipe inspired by the heart-healthy superfood.

“During my time living on the West Coast, I developed a strong appreciation for fresh, local produce and ingredients, which you’ll find throughout my menu offerings at my restaurants,” said Chef Malarkey. “When California avocado season rolls around, I seek out these delicious avocados to shape my cuisine, adding vibrant color, creamy texture and one-of-a-kind flavor to my dishes. There’s comfort in selecting foods that are locally sourced because they’re freshly picked and at their richest

flavor, all while supporting the local community.”

Chef Malarkey’s love of fresh, coastal cuisine is highlighted in his Dungeness Crab Stuffed California Avocado recipe, which pairs a Pacific seafood delicacy with delicious in-season California avocados. To view more of Chef Malarkey’s recipes or learn about California avocados, visit [CaliforniaAvocado.com](http://CaliforniaAvocado.com).

## Dungeness Crab Stuffed California Avocado

*Recipe created by Chef Brian Malarkey for the California Avocado Commission*

Serves: 4

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Total time: 20 minutes

### Ingredients:

2 small shallots  
2 Tbsp. avocado oil  
1 cup cherry tomatoes, whole  
1/4 cup sherry vinegar  
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil, divided  
1 Tbsp. sea salt flakes, divided  
2 sprigs tarragon  
4 sprigs dill  
8 chives, chopped  
medium lemon  
12 oz. lump Dungeness crab meat  
2 ripe, Fresh California Avocados, cut in half, seeded and peeled

### Instructions:

1. Remove the outer skin of the shallots, and slice them crosswise into thin rings.
2. Heat a medium skillet over medium high heat with avocado oil.
3. Add the cherry tomatoes and shallot slices to the skillet, and cook for about 5 minutes, or until caramelized and shallot is translucent.
4. Transfer the tomato-shallot mixture into a blender and puree by slowly adding the sherry vinegar and half of the olive oil until it becomes an emulsified mixture. Season with a bit of the sea salt to taste. Set aside.
5. In a small bowl, pick the tarragon and dill off the stems, and add half of the chopped chives. Zest the lemon on top of the hand-picked herbs. Set aside.
6. Segment the lemon by cutting off one end so it sits flat. Then trim the peel off the sides, removing the pith and seeds (reserve the peels, do not discard). Cut the lemon into six pieces and set aside.
7. There will be leftover lemon juice on the cutting board from segmenting the lemon. Add this juice, along with the juice from the reserved peels to the bowl with the herbs.
8. Add the crab meat and re-



*Dungeness Crab Stuffed California Avocado*

maining olive oil to the bowl. Gently toss together until combined. Add a little sea salt to taste.

9. To plate the dish, sprinkle a little sea salt over each avocado half, and spoon a generous amount of the tomato vinaigrette on top (you will have leftover vinaigrette). Add the crab mixture to each half and garnish with lemon segments, remaining chopped chives and remaining sea salt to taste.

\*Large avocados are recommended for these recipes. A large avocado averages about 8 ounces. If using smaller or larger size avocados adjust the quantity accordingly.



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Telephone  
**(714) 975-6345**  
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Rate is \$28.00 per year.

Guest articles, commentaries  
and photographs are invited,  
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discretion of the editor

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## May Book Club

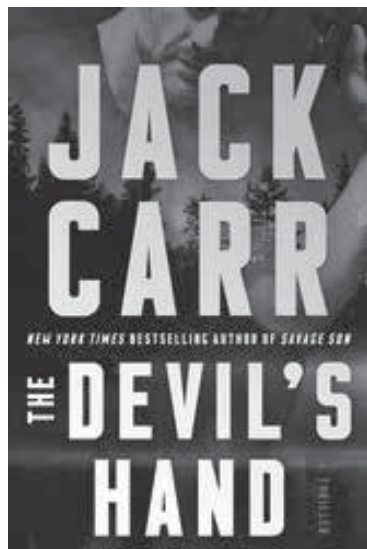
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to have a breathtaking love ... without really falling?

“Sometimes miracles happen not once, but twice ... along a distant shore, according to Publisher Atria Books.

### The Devil's Hand A Thriller Book No. 4 of Terminal List

By Jack Carr



“It’s been 20 years since 9/11, two decades since the United States was attacked on home soil and set out to make the guilty pay with their lives. In the shadows, the enemy has been patient—learning and adapting. And the enemy is ready to strike again.

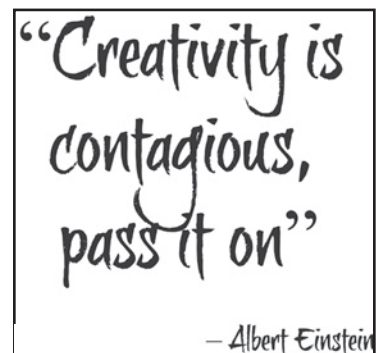
“A new president offers hope to a country weary of conflict. He’s a young, popular, self-made visionary ... but he’s also a man with a secret.

“Halfway across the globe, a regional superpower struggles with sanctions imposed by the

United States and her European allies, a country whose ancient religion spawned a group of ruthless assassins. Faced with internal dissent and extrajudicial targeted killings by the United States and Israel, the Supreme Leader puts a plan in motion to defeat the most powerful nation on earth.

“Meanwhile, a young Ph.D. student has gained access to a bioweapon thought to be confined to a classified military laboratory known only to a select number of officials. A second-generation agent, he has been assigned a mission that will bring his adopted homeland to its knees.

“With Jack Carr’s signature ‘absolutely intense’ (Chuck Norris) writing and ‘gripping authenticity’ (*“The Real Book Spy”*), *“The Devil’s Hand”* is a riveting and timely thriller that will leave you gasping for breath,” according to Publisher Atria/Emily Bestler Books.



## May Calendar

*Continued from page 5*

ly. Service includes restoration of native plant communities through non-native plant removal and cleanup efforts. Wear close-toed shoes, layered clothing, protection from the sun and bring water. Ages 6 years—Adult (Kids under 14 need to be supervised by an adult). Donations of heavy-duty trash bags, work gloves, and bottled water are appreciated. At, Bolsa Chica Conservancy Interpretive Center, 3842 Warner Ave., Huntington Beach.

### Visitor Night at UCI Observatory



UCI Observatory is open to the public, around five times per year. Visitor Nights are free of charge, although a donation per family is suggested to defray the costs, and there is a campus parking fee. Please check the website before attending. Weather conditions may cause the event to be canceled. At, The Observatory, University of California, Irvine.

## In The Spotlight

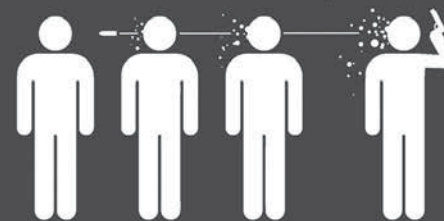
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less. I enjoy wine, I took up playing polo when I turned 50 after never having been on a horse, I took up flying when I turned 40 and then did a race in a small airplane from London to Sydney in 2001. So, as you can see — I try to stay very young at heart.

Q: Spare time? Hobbes? Family?

A: I have been with the same partner for over 40 years. No kids, I love dogs, but they have all passed on and we both love horses and have a few in the garden.

I do a lot of public speaking around the world on ‘inspiring your parents a project to live for’ and ‘the value of legacy, not money!’ I enjoy doing this as it opens the minds of a lot of the children of 80 and 90-year-olds. We spend a lot of time thinking about the next generation but very little time thinking about the last generation. This is my mission.



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# Tinseltown Talks

By Nick Thomas

## Ruta Lee Put the 'Pro' in Professional

While some entertainers are renowned for their personal and professional demands while working, Ruta Lee never aspired to be a diva. Acting nonstop in film, TV, and theater since the early 1950s, she tackled projects with professionalism.

"There was no time to throw fits because you had to work quickly as you rapidly went from job to job," recalled Lee from Los Angeles.

Off-screen tasks were also approached with her trademark zeal. In 1964, she called the office of the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to secure the release of her 90-year-old Lithuanian grandmother held since World War II in a Siberian internment camp.

A decade earlier, Lee approached her first film role as one of the brides in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" with similar resolve.



Matt Maddox and Ruta Lee in a still from "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." Photo courtest MGM.

"During the dance audition, the producers and director asked me to show them something folksy. Because of my Lithuanian descent, I danced

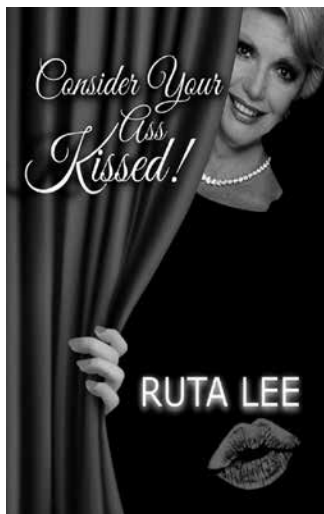


Ruta Lee receives her star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2006. Photo courtest Lee's publicist.

up a storm with a polka and got the role."

She was paired with gifted dance partner Matt Mattox in the beloved MGM musical and remembers one rehearsal.

"He lifted me high off a bench and I sprained my ankle when I landed. So I learned most of the choreography from a sitting position, but still managed to do most of the dancing in the big barn-raising number."



Cover, Ruta Lee autobiography. Published April 2021

Many stories from the actress's career and life can be found in her April 5 autobiography "Consider Your Ass Kissed," the edgy-sounding title merely

reflecting the genuine gratitude she feels for the people she worked with. She also celebrates a birthday this month, turning 86 on May 30.

A quick study, Lee learned an early valuable lesson in on-set protocol when she boogied her way into one of her first TV roles – a 1953 episode of "The Adventures of Superman."

"It was a short dance scene in a café and I decided to rehearse during lunch hour," she explained. "But when I plugged in the record player, someone grabbed me and said, 'you can't do that, you don't belong to the electrician's union!'"



Ruta Lee at far right front with the cast of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers." Photo courtest MGM.

Lee went on to make hundreds of appearances in TV series, as well as games, shows such as "Hollywood Squares" and "High Rollers" (as Alex Trebek's dice roller), but westerns were a favorite (see [www.rutalee.com](http://www.rutalee.com)). And while many cowboys chased her, only one came close to catching her off-screen.

"Most of the dating I did was for publicity purposes and never had any real romances with actors except Eric Fleming from 'Rawhide.' What a darling man, but the most he got was a goodnight kiss!"



Ruta Lee and Alex Trebek, hosts of "High Rollers," photo courtest NBC

Her serious relationships were always with businessmen, she said not show businessmen. During her rising career, Lee met Texas restaurant executive Webster B. Lowe, Jr., and the couple soon married. They were together for 46 years until his death last year.

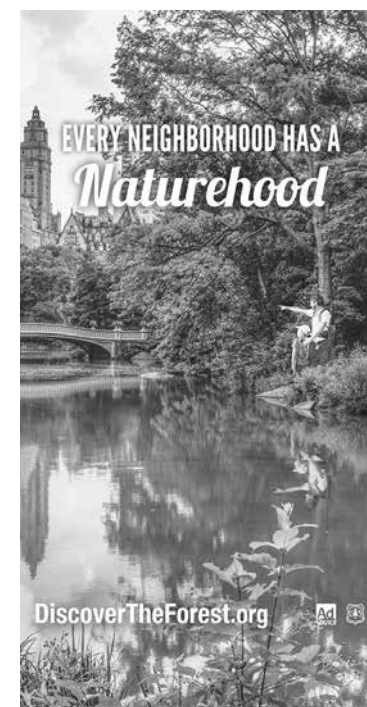
Lee has also been a tireless voice for charitable organizations such as the Thaliens raising millions of dollars through her leadership role to support people with mental health problems, including returning veterans (see [www.thaliens.org](http://www.thaliens.org)).

And then there was that phone call to Khrushchev's office to rescue her Siberia-bound grandmother.

"Within 48 hours we were flying over to bring her back to America. So I've had an interesting life and I'm always

involved with something. It's been a long, wonderful, and fruitful career."

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala., and has written features, columns, and interviews for over 850 magazines and newspapers and is the author of "Raised by the Stars: Interviews with 29 Children of Hollywood Actors."





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1868

Crossword Puzzle Answers from page 12

1	A	Y	A	H		5	R	A	N	A	T		10	B	L	E	U		
14	L	A	M	E		15	E	C	O	L	E		16	A	G	E	R		
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61	T	A	L	A				64	D	A	M	U	P		65	B	O	N	E
66	A	G	E	S				67	O	R	A	T	E		68	I	R	E	S
69	C	R	U	E				70	M	A	N	E	S		71	E	A	S	T



## Angela Lansbury

*Continued from page 15*

After the show ended, Lansbury appeared in television movies, including some “*Murder, She Wrote*” specials and feature films. She has also made TV guest appearances. She made a notable appearance on “*Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*” in 2005, which earned her an Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Drama Series. She has voiced several animated characters as well for films, including “*Beauty and the Beast*” (1991) and “*Anastasia*” (1997).



Lansbury landed the lead role as the titular character in the musical production “*Mame*” (1966). This was followed by her part in “*Dear World*” (1969), “*Gypsy*” (1974), and “*Sweeney Todd*” (1979). Lansbury won Tony Awards for Actress in a Musical for all four of these productions.

In 2007, she returned to Broadway after more than two decades, performing in the show “*Deuce*” as a former tennis pro. Other starring stage roles included “*Blithe Spirit*,” for which she earned the Tony for

Featured Actress, tying her with performer Julie Harris for a record five Tony Award wins, “*A Little Night Music*” with Catherine Zeta-Jones, and in “*The Best Man*.”

Her most recent film role was the “*Balloon Lady*” in the 2018 movie “*Mary Poppins Returns*.”



### Personal Life

After a brief marriage to actor Richard Cromwell, she later married British actor Peter Shaw, who would go on to become her manager and launch a production company that would be heavily involved in “*Murder, She Wrote*.” The couple was together for more than five decades and had two children, Anthony and Deirdre.



### A Tony Winner, Too

In addition to her screen work, Lansbury is regarded as one of the most iconic stage performers of all time on both sides of the pond. She made her Broadway debut in 1957 with the play “*Hotel Paradiso*.” A role in the drama “*A Taste of Honey*” (1961) and the Stephen Sondheim musical “*Anyone Can Whistle*” (1964) followed.

A powerhouse vocalist, Lans-

### Entertaining Ideas

## Understanding the Tradition of ‘Trooping the Colours’



*Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain gets a colorful birthday celebration—but not on her birthday.*

Imagine if you had to celebrate your birthday not on the actual day but on one decided by the government.

Surprisingly, that’s just what happens to one of the most celebrated women in the world: Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II. Although she’s 95 years old as of April 21, her “official” birthday celebration is not until June. Why? Well, blame the unpredictable English weather. If you’re going to celebrate with thousands of well wishers, it’s certainly better to do so in the sunshine of June than in the middle of April showers.

At least Her Majesty gets a delightful ceremony. Each year, the Queen’s official birthday celebration is marked with a 260-year-old tradition known as “Trooping the Colours.” This simply means that the various regiments of the British Army—distinguished by the different color flags and insignia representing each of the units—go on parade in tribute to the monarch.

Historically, the principal role of a regiment’s “colours” was to provide a calling point on the battlefield. Without modern communications back in the earliest days of the British Army, it was easy for troops to become disoriented and separated from their unit during conflicts, so the distinctive color associated with each regiment’s unit provided a key identifier. Young officers would march in between the ranks of troops formed up in lines with the colours (flags) held high. This is the origin of the term “trooping.” Therefore, the great traditional parade we see every June began as a vital and practical exercise designed to aid unit recognition before a battle commenced.

The ceremony of Trooping the Colours is believed to have been performed first during the reign of King Charles II (1660-1685). Then, in 1748, it was decided this parade would be used to mark the official

*Continued on page 28*





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ADMIT ONE

By Randal C. Hill

# Movie Preview

## 'Cruella'

In Disney's 1961 animated feature *"101 Dalmatians,"* based on a 1956 novel by Dodie Smith, we meet Cruella de Vil. (Could there be a more perfect first name to represent evil?) As a pampered and glamorous London heiress, her character became a symbol of greed, vanity, and evil on her way to becoming a pop-culture icon. In 1996, Glenn Close portrayed Cruella in Disney's *"101 Dalmatians"* remake, as well as in the 2000 sequel *"102 Dalmatians."*

Now Disney is bringing Cruella back in a bound-to-be-a-hit film of the same name and starring Academy Award- and Golden Globe recipient Emma Stone in the titular role. There's also two-time Oscar earner Emma Thompson as the Baroness and the UK's Mark Strong as Boris.

The latest offering explores the backstory of Cruella — the Queen of Mean — in this prequel to the six-decades-old original Disney movie. Fashionista de Vil didn't start as an evil-fueled grifter, yet she was always aware of her place in society as a scrappy underdog.

"From the very beginning, I realized I saw the world differently than everyone else. That didn't sit well with some

people. But I wasn't for everyone. I guess they were always scared that I'd be a psycho."

Wanting to prove her worth and become the brightest star in the glittering world of fashion, she befriends a pair of young streetwise thieves who enjoy Cruella's penchant for mischief. Eventually, de Vil comes face-to-face with a most formidable competitor, the debonair fashion legend Baroness von Hellman, who wants to team up with Cruella for a fashion industry takeover.

Uh-oh. We must keep in mind that Cruella, who comes to us here as a '70s punk-rock designer with gaudily two-toned, Lady Gaga-like hair, admits, "I was born brilliant, born bad — and a little bit mad. I'm Cruella."

When the women become a formidable team, their relationship sets in motion a course of events and revelations that will cause de Vil to embrace her wicked side and become a raucous, emotionally pained, and revenge-seeking character who proclaims, "I am woman, hear me roar!" Not exactly a sympathetic character, you might think. But later, when we hear her side of the story, we can't help but root for her.

Directed ably by Craig Gillespie (*"I, Tonya; Fright Night"*), *"Cruella"* counts among its executive producers none other than — ready for this? — Glenn Close. The feature promoted as a family film but one that may be a bit edgy for some impressionable youngsters is slated for nationwide release on May 28, the pandemic situation permitting.

## Pass The Love On

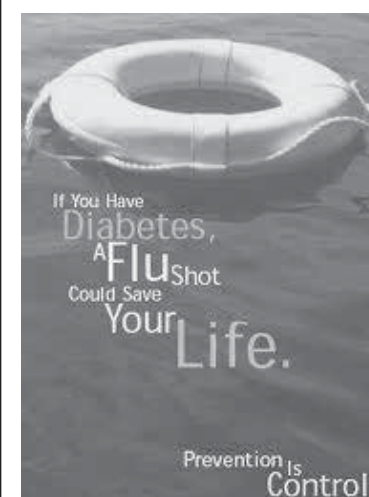


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# The Gadget Geezer

By Les Goldberg

## Tech Helps Your Garden Grow

Now that spring has sprung in Southern California, many of us are yearning to get our hands dirty, smell the fragrance of fresh flowers, plant veggies and enjoy our little outside home oasis. But before we visit the nurseries to buy the plants, seeds, and trees, it is a good idea to make sure you are equipped with the tools to do the job right.

First, you will need the basics – gloves, watering can, garden hose, hoe, rake, spade, hand trowel, garden fork, pruning shears, and the proper soil or mulch, depending on what you plan to grow.

Unlike our parents, however, our gardening chores have been made considerably easier with the advent of modern technology. Here are some ideas to add to your planting toolbox:

### Plant Monitor



To be informed of your plant's condition, the Parrot Flower Power wireless sensor is a necessity.



This wireless smart plant sensor monitors sunlight, soil moisture, fertilizer, and ambient air temperature and alerts you on your iPhone or iPad through a free app when it needs your attention.

The sensor uses Bluetooth 4.0 Low Energy technology to speak with the app which also gives growing advice on over 6,000 plants, trees, and vegetables, sets up To-Do lists, sends out alerts, and more based on the wireless readings. Price: \$60 on Amazon.

### Garden Cam



The Brinno GardenWatchCam is a 1.3-megapixel time-lapse digital camera that can be set to snap photos and videos at intervals from one minute to every 24 hours. Just stick the camera in your garden and watch your garden grow.

It is built with a High Dy-

namic Range (115dB) image sensor making the creation of high-quality Time Lapse Videos a snap! With Brinno ready-to-view technology, it allows uploading the photos or video to YouTube or Vimeo without delays.

Other features include the ability to capture bright images in low-light situations and the ability to change lenses for every situation. Price: \$230 on Amazon.

### Bosch Isio



Since you will need pruning shears, you may as well get the best that money can buy. That is why you should consider buying the new Bosch Isio handheld multi-tool. It is designed to trim your bushes and hedges with ease – without stalling when the cutting work gets rough.

The lightweight design incorporates a lithium-ion battery that allows almost an hour of work on one charge. Bosch's one-handed device is great for keeping small bushes under control with regular trims or trimming the edges of your lawn. Price: \$62 on Amazon.

### Garden Plan Pro iPad



If you need help figuring out what to plant where in your garden, the Garden Plan Pro iPad app can help.

With flexible drawing tools and an extensive database of plants and varieties, Garden Plan Pro makes it easy to design the perfect garden layout, rearrange plants, and track progress.

As you add crops, it automatically spaces them correctly. Crop rotation advice is shown for subsequent plans and you can plan succession sowing month-by-month to get the most from your plot.

And, by knowing a little about your climate, the app adapts its planting and harvesting advice to your location. Price: \$9.99 at the App Stores.

### Cordless Pole Saw



One of the most challenging tasks in gardening, most experts will agree, is trimming tall tree branches.

A welcome product to meet that challenge is the G-Max pole saw from GreenWorks. Its cordless design features an eight-inch bar and chain for easy cutting. A lithium-ion battery retains memory after power is depleted, so you don't have to program it twice.

A collapsible shaft extends from five to eight feet to reach a variety of trimming heights.

It features a 40V battery system that can power multiple tools for a complete yard system (it includes the battery and charger), a 20-inch steel dual action blade for optimal performance and durability, and an automatic oiler that applies oil to the bar and chain when needed to ensure durability and optimal use with a translucent oil tank for a clear view of oil levels. Price: \$170 on Amazon.

### The VegiBee



Of all the new gardening gadgets on the market, this one – the VegiBee – takes the cake!

It promises to increase the production of your crops – flowers, plants, vegetables – by 30 percent by “imitating the

*Continued on page 28*



## The Gadget Geezer

*Continued from page 27*

high-frequency vibrations of a bee's wings during pollination."

The VegiBee Garden Pollinator is a five-speed rechargeable garden pollinator that creates 29,000-44,000 sonic vibrations per minute to harvest excess plant pollen.

It gently releases pollen from the flower onto a specially designed collection spoon. In a matter of seconds, enough pollen is collected to pollinate four to five flowers by dipping the flower stigma from the same plant into the collected pollen.

VegiBee eliminates the need for bees or the wind to pollinate vegetables in a greenhouse, hydroponic, aquaponic as well as home food gardens while helping to overcome low crop yields caused by shrinking bee populations and home gardens sheltered from the wind.

With VegiBee, gardeners will enjoy an abundance of fresh homegrown produce, for a fraction of the cost of vegetables purchased at the store. The product is ideal for use on all tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas, eggplants, and strawberries. Price: \$29.99 on Amazon.

### Electronic Owl

Unlike previous static owls and traditional "scarecrows," the Garden Defense Electron-



ic Owl features movement and sound. Not only does it look like a great horned owl, but when its sensors detect that garden pests are near, it will turn its head in that direction and hoot, scaring the critters away. Price: \$45 on Amazon.



## Understanding The Tradition Of 'Trooping The Colours'

*Continued from page 25*

birthday of the Sovereign and it became an annual event after George III became King in 1760.

In modern times, over 1,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians participate in the Trooping the Colours parade.

Before the global pandemic struck, the streets were lined with crowds waving flags along the parade route, which starts at Buckingham Palace and travels down The Mall to Horse Guard's Parade with members of the Royal Family on horseback and in carriages and on the famous balcony at The Palace. Unfortunately, the parade is canceled this year, as it was in 2020; however, the Royal Family will no doubt find other ways to celebrate in June.

You can learn all about the colours and other fascinating facts in the history of the British Royal Family and monarchies around the world on a subscription service called True Royalty TV. Visit [www.trueroyalty.tv](http://www.trueroyalty.tv) for a 7-day free trial and over 400 royal documentaries to discover.



## The Cleaning Season — It Is Time to Spring

Spring isn't just when we spring forward in time, it is also the time when we spring into action to clean those places that likely haven't been cleaned at all: your heating and cooling air ducts.

That can be a problem because that's where dirt, germs, mold, mildew, pet dander and other allergens like to lurk.

A six-room house can generate as much as 40 pounds of dirt, chemicals and pollutants in a typical year—which this wasn't for many families. The contaminants make the heating and cooling system work harder, use more energy and wear out faster. That can get expensive. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, 25 to 40 percent of the energy used for heating or cooling a home is wasted.

Fortunately, there's an easy answer. Get the air ducts cleaned by a member of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA). They possess general liability insurance, are trained and tested, agree to a code of ethics, and clean and restore your heating and cooling system following NADCA standards, so they provide results with a high level of safety and security.

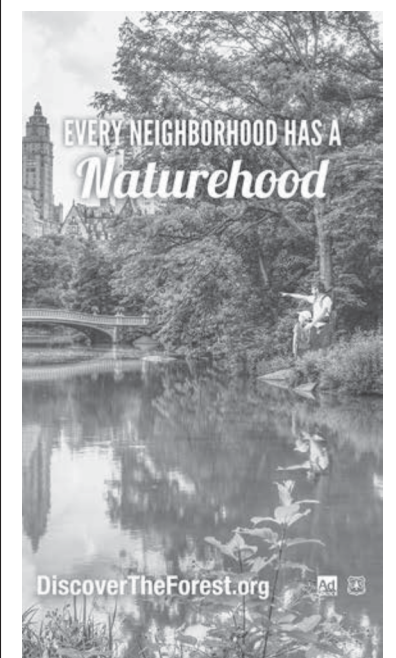
### Learn More

For more information, visit [www.BreathingClean.com](http://www.BreathingClean.com).



*When Spring arrives it's time to have your heating and cooling air ducts cleaned.*

You can also find a nearby NADCA member at <http://nadca.com/en/prosearch/all> and enter your zip code.







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The individuals pictured above are models and are not actual therapist and patient.



# Busy Boomers

By Les Goldberg

## The Exciting Life of Liveaboards

“Where else can you have an ocean view in pricey Newport Beach without owning waterfront property?” asks Ben Frizzell who, along with some of his full-time live-aboard neighbors in Southern California’s popular marinas, is part of an endangered species.

Amid the thousands of recreational boats that are slipped or moored along the California coast, with the largest concentration in the marinas and harbors between Orange and San Diego counties, the dwindling number of people who call their seagoing crafts home continue to fight for the lifestyle they love.

Newport Beach has an estimated 10,000 commercial and recreational boats in the harbor, making it one of the largest marine playgrounds in America.

When I asked a group of boat owners who actually live full-time on their vessels why they decided to choose the lifestyle, they all beamed big smiles and cited the benefits which include:

- Freedom to travel – at sea with easy access to seaports and land sites
- Social activities that come with belonging to a unique group of neighbors, yacht



club membership, and making friends with like-minded people

- Less stress from homeownership
- The overall adventure of ocean living – sightseeing, fishing, sailing

In Frizzell’s case, it is obvious that he and his wife Debbie are grateful for what they have. Both live aboard a 38-foot catamaran moored in Newport Harbor and “commute” to shore in a dinghy.

Since they got married 10 years ago, the couple’s love of the seagoing life has been at the core of a plan to eventually lift anchor for good and cruise the Pacific, down to Mexico and South America, then across to Australia and New Zealand.

To finance their dream, they sold their home in Huntington Beach and purchased a slightly used 38-foot long, 22-foot-wide catamaran “that is outfitted with everything you can imagine -- even the linens, solar panels, water maker, and silverware.”

The “salon” area features a panoramic wraparound window, top-deck galley, two “heads” or bathrooms, a shower, two queen-sized berths, and a full-sized berth and desk area for the couple’s laptop computer.

Noticeably missing from the entertainment area is a TV.

“We don’t own one -- haven’t had one in years,” he explained. “We’re both crossword junkies and we like to read. Debbie is fluent in Spanish and she is teaching me the language so I will be prepared for our first cruise to Spanish-speaking countries.”

While the Frizzells and their liveaboard neighbors prefer the solitude and more inexpensive mooring arrangement, others enjoy the convenience and sense of community afforded by a slip or dockside position in a private marina.

“The idea of schlepping my laundry and groceries in a dinghy is not for me. I’m spoiled,” admits Willa Crockett, who lives aboard her well-appointed Tiara Cruiser with her husband, J.C., a sales manager for a national food chain.

No, the Crocketts are very comfortable living on their 40-footer that is slipped near 15th Street on the Newport Peninsula.

“For us, it is a pleasure thing,” she said. “We all owned boats when we were young and we both lived in Newport most of our lives. With their children grown and moved away, the couple decided to sell their big duplex home and look for a boat that they could live on. “Our days consist of whatever I want to do. I have someone wash and wax the boat, but we keep our expenses to a minimum. I love to cook, so we don’t eat out. Every Saturday and Sunday morning you can routinely find from eight to 10 people here to enjoy the hospitality.”



The Crocketts, although they love living onboard, do not venture too far off from home, occasionally cruising up to Ventura, across to Catalina, or down to Dana Point and San Diego.

Even with the slip fees, insurance and maintenance costs, etc., their life on board a boat is less expensive and more hassle-free than homeownership. “We estimated our monthly expenses with a house at \$4,500, and now we’re paying less than \$2,000 per month.”

Being a liveaboard in the Shelter Island Marina in San Diego

is a major lifestyle change for Jim and Chrystel Showalter who both decided before they got married that “life is not all about work and money and white picket fences.”

Today they live on a 48-foot wide-body Kha Shing yacht which “is like a first-class resort.”

Palm trees, flat-screen TVs, Bose surround sound, and an all-electronics galley complements the three levels of living space and high-tech marine equipment.

To support their lifestyle, both earned licenses to become towboat captains in the Port of San Diego, rescuing periled craft in the giant harbor. Jim is no stranger to the sea; he is a Vietnam veteran who served in the Navy before becoming a professional musician and working with several big bands, including the one that discovered singer, Paula Abdul.

If there is one thing that I gleaned from this story, everybody agrees that it takes a special person to live aboard a boat.





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