

SEASIDE MATTERS

Newsletter of the Seaside Neighborhood Association (SNA)

Education Edition

- 2020 SNA Scholarship Winners
- Distance Learning: Students' / Teachers' / Parents' Viewpoints
- Where are they now? Previous Scholarship Winners Check In

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- Torrance Theater Co.
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- Kathie Reis' Art Show

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2020 SNA Scholarship Winners

KELLY WEDEL: “This year the Seaside Neighborhood Association Scholarship Committee received eighteen commendable applications from high school Seniors that plan to continue their education after graduation. Because of our generous sponsors and memberships, we were able to award two \$1500. scholarships. Our recipients are Megan Hulsy and Lauren Krause. Congratulations!”



MEGAN HULSY took 11 Advanced Placement (AP) classes at SHS, played in the band and volunteered weekly at Pugnation and Friendship Foundation. She states: “I plan to major in the study of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics at UCLA.. I discovered this field of study in my work as a clinical research intern at Harbor UCLA Medical Center under the direction of Dr. Miller. I hope to contribute to the study of antibiotic resistant organisms such as MRSA and to be part of a scientific team aimed at understanding these pathogens. I love the study of Biology and I am eager to begin life as a student at UCLA.”

LAUREN KRAUSE, whose academic ranking was #17 in her RUHS class of 741 students, was a student athlete at BMHS and then at RUHS, as well as League of Women Voters Student Representative. “I am so thrilled to receive one of the SNA's scholarships this year,” she writes. “I have lived in the Seaside neighborhood my entire life and have grown to love the community and its festivities. Throughout my years in high school I played varsity basketball and was involved in ASB. I cannot wait to attend UCLA to study Cognitive Science, a combination of Psychology and Computer Programming. Go Bruins!”



We Our BUSINESS PARTNERS!

The SNA is grateful for our Members and Business Partners that sponsor the Seaside Neighborhood Association's programs. Their generosity helps make this possible, and we invite you to thank and support them. Please visit our website for information on how to become a Business Partner.

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Cultural Offerings and City Council Meetings



As her way of spreading comfort during the quarantine period, Portrait Artist **Kathie Reis** displays a different piece of her artwork every day in her front yard on Reese Road. To see more of Kathie's work, go to **kathiereisart.com**

TORRANCE THEATRE COMPANY

Play-at-Home

ENJOY FREE THEATRE ONLINE!

The Torrance Theatre Company is thrilled to present a series of staged readings and virtual performances that you can enjoy in the comfort of your own home. Simply register on our website to attend the show, and then jump online and watch a PLAY AT HOME!

SLOW FOOD

Sunday, June 14 at 6:00 pm

Written by WENDY MACLEOD

Directed by PERRY SHIELDS

Featuring: GLENN KELMAN, CINDY SHIELDS, DANIEL TENNANT

A vacationing couple celebrates their anniversary at a Creek restaurant in Palm Springs—but will the marriage survive the service? As a needy waiter insinuates his way into their meal—and their lives—the couple examines their past and their future together.



GLENN KELMAN



CINDY SHIELDS



DANIEL TENNANT

For more information and to register:
TORRANCETHEATRECOMPANY.COM



The Torrance Theatre Company is a program of the Cultural Services Division of the Torrance Community Services Department. www.TorranceCA.Gov. Sponsored in part by Friends of Torrance Theatre Company.

City Council Watch

TRICIA BLANCO, SNA PRESIDENT

“During the City’s first-ever district elections, Incumbents Mike Griffiths and George Chen and newcomer Sharon Kalani were voted into the City Council on March 20, 2020. Chen’s win as District 2 representative left vacant his previous at-large position on the Council.

Following City Charter directive, from a field of 12 applicants, the City Council and Mayor selected former Councilwoman Heidi Ashcraft to fill Chen’s at-large seat until March, 2022. Board members cited Mrs. Ashcraft’s Council experience as the deciding factor in her favor. In 2022, Seaside and the other odd-numbered districts will select their Councilpersons. A new Mayor will be elected also. City business continues during the quarantine. Council meetings are held virtually, and citizens are actively participating by viewing the meetings live on CitiCable, and by calling in to comment on agenda items and during the public forum segment.”

Torrance Theater Company’s ‘Slow Food’ features Seaside’s own **Cindy and Perry Shields!** PERRY is SNA’s Secretary.

SNA Matters! On-going Activities

Spring Green Thumb Awards

PAM JENSEN, SNA SOCIAL MEDIA VP

“The water-wise, tasteful and colorful juxtaposition of succulents and wild flowers in the yards of homes at 4807 Reese Road, and 22715 Evelyn Road, caught the eyes of our judges and merited each of them the SNA Spring Landscaping Award. Thank you, Sannes and Klein families, for brightening our daily walks.”



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Heroes Park Beautification

JENNA CHRISTENSEN, SNA MEMBERSHIP VP

“We are awaiting word on when we can resume our monthly beautification which was suspended due to COVID-19 distancing rules. Anyone interested in helping out, please reserve June 13th between 8-11am and watch for news on Nextdoor, our FB and Instagram pages. Parks and Rec must reduce their budget by \$600,000 and will lose 4 employees. We will need more help than ever to keep our park beautiful, so we can continue to honor our fallen heroes. Any questions, call Jenna Christensen, 310.920.9387”



[Seaside Heroes Park Facebook page](#)

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Holiday Lights Committee

MIKE SHORT

“The Holiday Lights Committee has been quiet during the pandemic 'lock-down'. Now that the City is opening up it is perhaps time to get back to figuring out what we are going to ask Torrance to do for this year's light display. If you have ideas or would like to join the lights committee please contact me.

mshort365@gmail.com”

MELISSA WRIGHT, SNA TREASURER

“Treasurer’s Report from 3/12/19 to 5/29/30: Beginning Balance was \$2825.05. Total Deposits \$2,333.65, total Receipts, including 2 scholarships, \$3,127.20 bringing our ending balance on May 29, 2020 to \$2031.83 . We tripled our membership in 2019. Thank you!! Your Membership Donation is now valid for 12 calendar months. Is it your time to renew?”

seasideneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com

Where are they now? Previous Scholarship Winners Check In

NATALIE IBARRA, 2019 WINNER, is majoring in Business Public Policy and Public Service at Arizona State, Tempe. “Moving out of state was very hard. It was my first time away from home, and there was the immense Arizona heat. Despite the initial shock, I had an amazing experience. I took a large course load from the start since I intend to graduate in 2 ½ years.



I made the Dean’s List both semesters and also landed a student job as a Vice President for the Residential Hall Association. I have become involved in student life/organizations on campus and next year plan on being a facilitator for one of our introductory business classes. I’ll also be working with NextGen USA as a civic engagement officer, continuing in Greek life, and I was elected to be a Senator for our Undergraduate Student Government! I am so thankful to all those in SNA for giving me the aid to pursue my dreams.”

SAMMIE KUO, 2019 WINNER: “During my freshman year at UC Santa Barbara, I got involved with campus ministries such as Cru and Asian American Christian Fellowship early on, and am so blessed to be a part of such grounded faith communities. I even got to do Bible studies with my roommate in a hammock by the ocean! I also played volleyball through UCSB’s club volleyball program. I discovered that I really enjoy communication classes, so plan to pursue that as a double major along with Sociology. Being home for Spring Quarter keeps me growing in time management and self-motivation, and I’m thankful for all the friendly neighbors that share yummy treats with my family! At this time last year, I was scared to leave my family and this lovely neighborhood. But I was surprised at how fitting UCSB is for me. I am thankful for the many friends I made and the many ways freshman year pushed me to grow.

I also want to say a huge thank you to the Seaside Neighborhood Association for being a part of my freshman experience, and for helping make college possible for me and many others throughout our neighborhood.”



Continued: Where are they now?

COLE ROSSI, 2018 “While this year has been hectic with all of the Covid-19 stuff, school has still been great. It’s taken a while to adjust to online learning, but I still feel like I am getting a good education. I love UCSB and I can’t imagine myself anywhere else. I’d like to thank SNA again for all of the support in my education! It really means a lot to me knowing my community has my back.”

JACOB DOWNEY, 2017 “After settling on majoring in Computer Science, I’ve been getting more involved in some organizations at San Diego State University. I was elected as an Associated Students representative, where I serve as the voice for students in the College of Sciences to our student government. In addition, I’ve been getting more involved with the Artificial Intelligence club and the 3D Game Programming club where we were able to make some awesome projects recently. This summer I am excited to have a software engineering internship at Google. (I get to work from the best neighborhood since it’s remote!) I am looking forward to continuing to grow and learn and am immensely thankful for all the support I have been given from my family and SNA.”



NICK LOFGREN, 2015, graduated from Cal Berkeley in May 2019. “I ended up switching majors from Energy Engineering to Industrial Engineering and Operations Research (IEOR) at the beginning of my second year, and am very happy I made that decision. IEOR turned out to be a great fit for me, as its focus on applying math and stats to business scenarios gave me a new lens to assess real world problems with technical skills. Additionally, I joined the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity my freshman year, and a consulting club called Berkeley Business Society my sophomore year. With strong friend groups in my major, as well as these two organizations, there was no shortage of fun things to do or friends to hang out with. It was definitely bittersweet to graduate knowing that this was the last time most of my friend groups would all be in the same place. However, moving to San Francisco after graduation made for an easy transition as a large portion of the graduating class tends to make that move. I am now working for First Republic Bank as a quantitative analyst on their risk analytics team, helping bank management assess their risk appetite through a collection of metrics. I live with a good friend from both South High School and Cal, work (when we actually are in the office) in the Financial District, and am loving all of the culture the city has to offer.”

Distance Learning: Teachers and Parents Adjust

LISA NICHOLS, Sharynne Lane. “As a parent and a high school teacher in Torrance, I see first hand the challenges that our children are experiencing during these difficult times. As a parent, I see my three kids missing their friends and teammates, yearning for playdates, and struggling getting used to online learning. As a high school teacher, I see my students grieving over the loss of so many milestone celebrations, struggling with the workload of online classes, and missing their friends and teachers. I know that this road hasn’t been easy, but I commend our youth. A lot has been asked of them and so many of them are rising to the challenge and are making the best out of the situation. In a world where much is unpredictable right now, one thing is certain, our children are strong and brave. I am so proud of them and they deserve much congratulations! The 2019-2020 school year will be one they never forget! “



The Nichols family at school, from far left: Jackson, 5th grade; Mason, 3rd grade; and Cooper, kindergarten.

ELISA CORBIN, Gaycrest Ave., Mom of 3 sons, ages 8 yrs., 5 yrs. and 3 months.

“I think (the quarantine) has forced our family to really get back to basics and realize what is important in life and what was just keeping us busy. My kids have never played outside as much as now, and they also have never been closer, or fought more!

I also think necessity has made my family work as a unit like never before. We all have to pull our weight to make this work. My husband, Jon, usually signs in the kids to their zoom meetings and keeps track of their video conference schedules. I have been pleasantly surprised at the kindness of my Seaside neighbors and friends. People have bent over backwards to drop off things or check in on us.

It is challenging to keep (the kids) on track with their schoolwork, but I try to just do my best, and know that this too shall pass. The teachers are trying also, but being in front of a computer is not ideal for young minds. I feel most days like I am failing at homeschooling because I don’t have the time to spend with my kinder son, practicing letters, or helping my older son with his fractions. It is hard not to panic. But I think (this experience) has made us stronger as a family, and for that, I am grateful.”

SNA Scholarship Winner Becomes New TUSD Teacher

JORDYN CRAMER, 2015 WINNER

“In Dec. 1018, I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Azusa Pacific University. In Spring 2020 I completed my studies with a Master of Arts in Education: Learning and Technology, and a California Teaching Credential in Math. In April, I started a long term substitute position at Torrance High School teaching Algebra 1 and Precalculus online until the end of the school year. It is tough to get to know students on an individual basis online. I find that students are more resistant to participate during Zoom meetings and often stay muted with cameras off for the entire class. I set up break out rooms so students can collaborate on their work and share their thoughts. Yet sometimes when I join into their group, no one is communicating and webcams are turned off. My next step is to search locally for a Math Teacher job for the fall. And, I’m planning to be married in the summer of 2021! “

A New Experience for an Experienced TUSD Teacher

STEFANIE ELWOOD, Robert Rd.

“Teaching is just as time consuming as ever, but setting up for virtual instruction was *incredibly* so: selecting and learning an online platform, getting different tools installed on my laptop, setting up a broadcasting station *all over* my living room, redesigning curriculum for drastically shortened class time, figuring out how to prepare students for the AP Lit test, and the hours-upon-hours of creating

instructional videos, which I dearly hope will compensate *somewhat* for lost class time. But are students viewing? Are they even paying attention in virtual classes? Distance learning reduces a room full of wonderful humans to rows of icons. And it is oh-so-easy to place your icon in the virtual meeting and wander away. In real class, teachers engage students who drift off. I once invited freshmen to jog around the room because Joe was sleepy. Several students joined as he did three laps. The rest cheered them on. A silly, spontaneous moment solved a small problem productively. In real class, I can also quickly grab yet another resource or tell a story to inspire empathy and comprehension. Anecdotes are funnier amidst other people’s laughter. On line, there’s no one to laugh with. And a story teller needs to see the audience in order to gauge pacing. Teachers also measure instructional timing through observation. Online classes are dry and kind of lonely. If we continue remote instruction next year, teachers will have a very difficult time developing relationships with their students, who will in turn have a difficult time feeling engaged. This might have been a reasonable Band-Aid, but it is not sustainable. Because real interaction is imperative to rich learning, I am grateful that I had the time to get to know my students and to provide extensive analysis, writing, editing, grammar, and vocabulary instruction before the shutdown. I hope it will be enough. I wish the class of 2020 the absolute best!”

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