

CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER



On January 14, 1922, Pacific Palisades officially came into being when a group of Founders gathered under the oaks in Temescal Canyon and drew lots for their choice of homesites.

Photo: Clearwater Collection

~ From the Mountains to the Sea ~ *Pacific Palisades: 1922 - 2022*

Join us for a Free Centennial Celebration!

Saturday, January 15, 2022 • 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Simon Meadow in Temescal Canyon • In the Big White Tent

THIS EVENT IS OFFICIALLY SPONSORED BY THE PACIFIC PALISADES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We Will Honor the Spirit of Chautauqua

Chumash/Tongva Blessing and Methodist Prayer • Community & Distinguished Guest Speakers
American Legion • Music • Theatre Palisades Youth • Palisades Centennial Art Contest Winners

Community Open House • Founders Oak Island

Aldersgate/Seven Arrows • Woman's Club

Silent Movies • Theatre Palisades Performance of "Abie's Irish Rose"

Please Register to Attend on our Website • pacificpalisadeshistory.org

A Centennial Tribute to Betty Lou Young

By BILL BRUNS
Newsletter Editor

As our town's centennial celebration fast approaches, we are dedicating this Newsletter to Betty Lou Young, a gracious and much-admired woman who skillfully chronicled the history of Pacific Palisades and its neighborhoods in her six books.

Betty Lou, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 91, was a tenacious researcher and a graceful, meticulous writer who collaborated with her son Randy, a photographer and archivist, on behalf of the Historical Society.

Born in Minnesota, Betty Lou moved with her family to Long Beach in 1920, graduated from UCLA and then earned a master's degree from Smith College. She and her late husband, Thomas, settled in Rustic Canyon with Randy and his two sisters in 1954.

Betty Lou began her career as an historian in 1972, when the local homeowners' group recruited her to write a pamphlet on the city's plan to extend Reseda Boulevard right through Rustic Canyon. This turned into a two-year project with Randy (who was attending Pasadena's Art Center College of Design) and resulted in a 164-page book, "Rustic Canyon and the Story of the Uplifters."

After publishing "Our First Century: The Los Angeles Athletic Club, 1880-1980," the Youngs wrote the definitive history of Pacific Palisades: "Where the Mountains Meet the Sea" (1983), which they updated and republished in 2001.



Betty Lou and Randy Young in the Rustic Canyon stream channel that they helped save from cement paving in 1974.

They also produced "Street Names of Pacific Palisades and Other Tales" (1990) and "Santa Monica Canyon, a Walk Through History" (1997).

Betty Lou then wrote "Frontier Chautauqua: The Chautauqua Movement on the Pacific Coast," a 316-page opus

featuring an illuminating chapter on Pacific Palisades (with Randy as the book designer).

Always armed with their historical expertise, the Youngs were passionate in their defense of Pacific Palisades—its traditions, its historical landmarks, its canyons and its brush-covered foothills. They joined other activists to fight encroachment projects by shady developers and complicit city officials, while advocating for state gateway parks in Temescal and Los Liones.

When Randy received a Citizen of the Year award in 2001 for leading a team of local residents that saved and then restored lower Los Liones Canyon, he dedicated the award to his mother at the *Palisadian-Post* banquet.

"This is the one person who has given the community an identity," Randy told the audience. "Betty Lou deserves this award more than anybody I know."

Centennial Issue Seeks Businesses, Residents and Organizations

The Pacific Palisades Historical Society is working with an experienced publishing team to produce a special Centennial publication that will be mailed to every household in Pacific Palisades the week before our 100-year celebration in Temescal Gateway Park on January 15.

To pay the editorial, printing and mailing costs, we are seeking advertisers who choose to either sponsor a page in the magazine (\$1,000) or pay \$200 for a chronological ad (3" wide, 1.5" tall) that includes the year their business or organization was founded, and several lines of text. Page sponsors will receive a free chronological ad.

Residents are also invited to buy a chronological ad that states the year a family or individual moved to Pacific Palisades, past family members, and a particular accomplishment or role within the community. These ads (also 3" wide, 1.5" tall) are \$150 each.

The vintage Centennial issue will recount the town's history in feature articles plus vintage photographs from the Historical Society's collection. To advertise or donate, please contact Jeff Ridgway: jeffridgway@verizon.net.

Betty Lou's Final Book: "Frontier Chautauqua"



The Chautauqua Assembly Camp in Temescal Canyon, June 1922.

Photo: The Clearwater Collection



Betty Lou Young

Photo: Young Family Collection

In 2006, after years of tenacious research, Betty Lou Young published "Frontier Chautauqua: The Chautauqua Movement on the Pacific Coast," the culminating book in her decades-long role as the historian of Pacific Palisades. She had traveled all over California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada, visiting library archives and numerous former Chautauqua sites, while also drawing on Palisades Historical Society resources that she and her son Randy had gathered as they produced their books on our town's history.

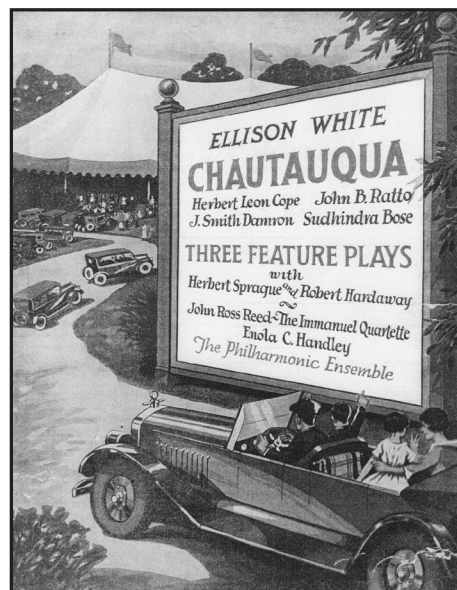
In the Introduction to "Frontier Chautauqua," Betty Lou writes:

"So, what exactly is or was a 'Chautauqua?' Basically it was a movement started in 1874 by John Vincent, a Methodist minister, and Lewis Miller, a Methodist layman, originally to bring an opportunity for learning to Sunday school teachers of various Protestant faiths, who often had little formal training or education. The first such summer gathering was held in western New York state on the shores of Lake Chautauqua, a Native American word with a choice of meanings... The courses were mainly

teacher-oriented, concentrating on methods and Bible study, but the students responded with enthusiasm.

"Each year, as the summer assemblies grew in popularity, their scope was expanded to bring a wide range of educational opportunities to ordinary people of all ages—men and women alike. In the mid-1880s an important outreach plan offered correspondence courses through local 'circles' and fostered the establishment of 'independent' Chautauqua assemblies all across the country. Participants could either attend the summer assemblies or subscribe to year-round reading programs or both, and thereby earn a diploma. Finally, in the early 1900s an unrelated system of privately financed "tent Chautauquas" came into being, so that by 1924, an estimated 32 million people took part in some sort of Chautauqua program."

In the summer of 1922, Pacific Palisades bravely entered the ranks of independent Chautauqua communities, down amidst the oaks and sycamores in Temescal Canyon, and went on to set a record for excellence through 1933.



Through the Years



Building the Business Block, 1924. Photo: PPHS Collection/Zola Clearwater Archive



Skateboarding, 1965. Photo: PPHS Collection/Palisadian-Post Archive



Vaccinations by Dr. Robert Kahn, 1962. Photo: PPHS Collection/Palisadian-Post Archive



Ronald and Nancy Reagan after voting, 1970. Photo: PPHS Collection/Palisadian-Post Archive



Beauty pageant judging by local celebrities, circa 1955. Photo: PPHS Collection/Arnie Wishnick Archive



Goldwater for President volunteers, 1964. Photo: PPHS Collection/Palisadian-Post Archive



Seasons Greetings from two beauty queens, 1964. Photo: PPHS Collection/Palisadian-Post Archive



Killer landslide closing PCH, 1958. Photo: PPHS Collection/Zola Clearwater Archive



Beach campfire, 1929. Photo: PPHS Collection/Zola Clearwater Archive



Councilman Marvin Braude starts lifeguard contest, 1967. Photo: PPHS Collection/Palisadian-Post Archive



Beverly Boulevard grading, 1924. Photo: PPHS Collection/Zola Clearwater Archive



Hill & Dale school on Marquez, 1953. Photo: PPHS Collection/Zola Clearwater Archive

Ernie Marquez, 97, Publishes His Sixth Book



Ernie and his sister, Dolly, are dressed for the Canyon School Fiesta in 1930.



The crowded beach at Santa Monica Canyon in 1925. Photos: Ernie Marquez Collection

By LIBBY MOTIKA
Courtesy Circling the News

Historical Society member Ernie Marquez, at age 97, has published an impressive book that, through prodigious research, documents the fascinating story of his family forefathers and the history of early California.

Drawing on his prized collection of text materials and photographs, Ernie's book is titled "Rancho Boca de Santa Monica: The 1839 California Mexican Land Grant, A History." He is the lineal descendant of Mexican land-grant ranchers who owned the 6,650-acre Rancho Boca de Santa Monica, which has evolved into Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades and Topanga Canyon.

Born in 1924, Ernie grew up on ranch land in Santa Monica Canyon, which by that time had been sold off by his ancestors. While career and family life took him away from his beloved canyon, he harbored a deep-seated curiosity about his family and his place in the world.

Although an amateur historian, Ernie applied curiosity, doggedness, study and sleuthing to complete the picture of his family. He gathered material culture, documents and

photographs that he unearthed in swap meets, estate sales and other collections. He studied genealogy to understand his extended family tree and successive regimes that occupied the land: New Spain, the Republic of Mexico and finally the United States. He was able to access special collections at UCLA, USC and Berkeley's Bancroft Library.

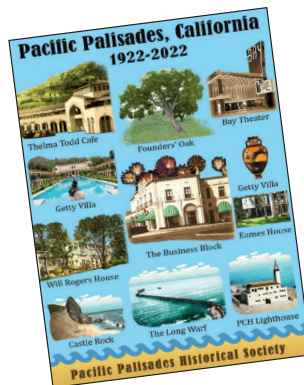
In his book, Ernie adds factual and fascinating commentary on rancho life, even including many colorful handed-down tales. Accompanied by over 100 photos and documents from the Ernest Marquez Archive at the Huntington Library, the text describes how the slow dissolution of the once vast rancho began

accelerating as the area -- once considered the hinterlands -- gained value for recreation and real estate development.

On September 25 this year, family and friends celebrated the completion of Ernie's 50-year project by gathering at the Marquez Family Cemetery property on San Lorenzo in Santa Monica Canyon.

Ernie's book is not sold in stores, but can be easily ordered online (\$40) from Angel City Press (visit: angelcitypress.com). His other books include "Noir Afloat," "Santa Monica Beach," "Memories of Canyon School (1930-1936) and two books about the Port of Los Angeles.

Pacific Palisades: 1922 ~ 2022 Celebrating 100 Years



Commemorative Blanket

100% multicolored woven cotton 60" x 80"
Made in North Carolina, USA

Highlighting Palisades Landmarked and Popular Sites:
Castle Rock, The Long Wharf, Palisades Lighthouse,
Eames House, and more!

Available January 15, 2022

Order online: <https://www.pacificpalisadeshistory.org/>
\$100 each plus shipping

Designed & Sponsored by Pacific Palisades Historical Society

Meet Our History Scholarship Winner

By ANTHEA RAYMOND
PPHS Board Member

This past June, the Palisades Historical Society honored Issac “Ethan” Hamid with its annual scholarship. Ethan was feted along with others on Zoom, with President Emeritus Eric Dugdale on the call, and received his \$300 check by mail, due to COVID.

The PPHS founded the scholarship as part of its mission to encourage the teaching of local history. Winners are selected each year by Palisades Charter High School college advisors based on strong academic performance in history and civics.

This year’s winner grew up in Brentwood and attended Paul Revere Middle School. His parents came to the United States from Iran in the early 1980s, and he has two siblings: Abby, a PaliHi junior, and Eli, a freshman.

Ethan was captain of the JV basketball team at Pali, and then played on the championship varsity team. He has also been a leader in other settings, most notably as someone credited with single-handedly reviving The Bianca Foundation chapter at Pali. The organization connects teens with life coaches. Ethan also received the Congressional Bronze Medal for his community service, fitness and personal development. He speaks four languages, including Hebrew, which he taught himself.

Currently a freshman at USC, Ethan is studying pre-medicine. He will be a featured speaker at the Historical Society’s Centennial celebration program at Simon Meadow in Temescal Canyon on January 15.

Recently, he took time out of his busy schedule to answer a few questions for us:



Issac “Ethan” Hamid

What classes are you taking at USC?

I’m taking Advanced General Chemistry, Advanced General Biology, Art History: Foundations of Western Civilization, Freshman Seminar: How We Speak, and an ultra-close look at the Hebrew Bible.

Who were your favorite PaliHi teachers and classes?

Pali has many remarkable teachers and I had a very positive experience with most of them. My favorites were Dr. Ngo, Mr. Miller, Ms. Steinman, Ms. Benke, Mr. Burr, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Mashbaum, Ms. Perez, and Mr. Kung.

Why is it important for young people to study history and civics?

Studying history and civics allows the younger generation to learn from the mistakes of the past and to progress as a society. Besides this, it is vital for an educated individual to be well versed in history and civics no matter the field

they wish to pursue. I always knew I wanted to study medicine, yet history was never something I pushed aside. In today’s interdisciplinary world, the most abstract and seemingly polar subjects can connect and lead to evolutionary insights into any given field of study.

How can a group like the Palisades Historical Society make history come alive for younger generations?

Although I do not live in Pacific Palisades, I still feel a strong tie to the community and consider myself lucky to be part of it. Preserving Palisades history is preserving my history, and my family’s history (many of whom attended PaliHi). Both students and the Palisades Historical Society could greatly benefit if the students knew about the Society. Maybe members could speak to students at school, spread flyers, invite students to events, or start a club at Pali.

What is the most important event that has happened in your lifetime and why?

It’s too difficult for me to pick one specific event, so I’ll emphasize a series of important events. These by far were when my parents and family would sit down with me and teach me values, morals, and how to have a work ethic. They did this through stories of my immigrant grandparents, through kind lectures, and by leading as an example. If it wasn’t for the values and discipline they instilled in me, I wouldn’t be where I am today.

Support the Historical Society

Enclosed is a remit envelope to renew or begin an annual membership or to make a special Centennial donation to the PPHS. Our website has a pay button for even more convenience. Please include your email address so you can receive our e-newsletters and program notices, especially as we emerge from the pandemic. All contributions enable the PPHS to continue community outreach by presenting free programs, providing historic photos, and archiving and researching our town’s history. We appreciate your support! View our website at www.pacificpalisadeshistory.org or visit us at board@pacificpalisadeshistory.org.

Our Historical Society's New Leader: Barbara Kohn

By SUE PASCOE
Editor, Circling the News

Barbara Kohn, who has been an active resident and community leader since moving here in 1965, became president of the Pacific Palisades Historical Society on July 1. She succeeds Eric Dugdale, who held the position for 10 years and is now president emeritus.

Kohn and her HS board members are now busy planning and overseeing the town's 100th birthday celebration next January 14-15 and the organization's 50th anniversary, also in 2022.

Barbara, who majored in business at UCLA, taught school for five years and then founded and operated Grandma's Antiques & Collectibles in Santa Monica for 20 years.

Her long-time advocacy work in the Palisades, supporting and fighting various campaigns with equal fervor and commitment, started with a street sign.

When she moved here with her husband Ben and two-year-old son, there were no street signs in their new residential neighborhood adjacent to what is now the Getty Villa. "When our family and friends wanted to visit, we had to explain how to get here," Barbara recalls. "My neighbor suggested that I contact our City Councilperson, Marvin Braude, to get street signs." She did and the signs were installed.

The Kohns were the 13th family to move into Pacific View Estates, with many homes still under construction on the hillside above PCH.

"We started the Pacific View Estates HOA with some

neighbors in order to oppose a proposed road at the top of our hill," Barbara said. "The road (from Sunset to Topanga Canyon) would have removed Blue Sail Drive, a new street with new homes."

In 1973, she joined the Pacific Palisades Residents Association, an influential activist group, and later served as president for 20 years.

As the mother of two boys, Russ and Ken, Barbara was actively involved in their schools (Marquez Elementary, Paul Revere and Palisades High). Yet in 1974, she volunteered to become the chief financial officer for No Oil, Inc. and the Save the Coast Foundation, which together waged a tough 20-year campaign that blocked Occidental Petroleum from drilling for oil below the Via de las Olas bluffs and banned off-shore drilling at Will Rogers State Beach.

A member of the Community Council board from 2000 to 2012, Barbara served as president for two years. She also chaired the Palisades Design Review Board in 2014 and still holds an appointed position on that board.

When the Getty Villa wanted to expand and build adjacent to Pacific View Estates, Barbara founded the Getty Villa Community Relations Committee in 2003. This group has enabled neighbors to work harmoniously with museum officials to ensure that traffic, after-hour celebrations and noise are kept to a minimum.

Watching Barbara in meetings knitting quietly, one might underestimate her intelligence, her city/government acumen and her decades of experience. That would be a mistake. Although soft spoken, she has a determination and a tenacity to always do the right thing.



Barbara Kohn



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